

FLOOD 1
THE AGE OF NOAH

GENESIS 6

"When men began to increase in number on the earth and daughters were born to them, the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful, and they married any of them they chose.

PRELIMINARY CONDITIONS.

Humanity begins to multiply

Women became plentiful (as did men)

Choices were made on appearance.

Choices were not made – “any of them”

Bigamy and polygamy become a norm

MEANINGS FOR “THE SONS OF GOD” AND “THE DAUGHTERS OF MEN”

THE SONS OF GOD AND ANGELIC BEINGS.

Based on:

An erroneous interpretation of 2 Peter 2:4

"For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment;" (2 Peter 2:4, NIV)

- The text seems to be in the context of Noah
- More accurately the context is a list of God's hard judgments.

A quote in the apocryphal book I Enoch 6:1

And it came to pass when the children of men had multiplied that in those days were born unto ² them beautiful and comely daughters. And the angels, the children of the heaven, saw and lusted after them, and said to one another: 'Come, let us choose us wives from among the children of men ³ and beget us children.'

- Since Enoch is quoted in Jude, some gave the theory credence.

The existence of the *Nephilim* in verse 4

"The Nephilim were on the earth in those days—and also afterward—when the sons of God went to the daughters of men and had children by them. They were the heroes of old, men of renown." (Genesis 6:4, NIV)

- points to the angelic offspring as people of great stature (giants).

Critique:

The *Nephelim* (considered a formal title here, the word means giants) verse is far enough from the flow of the idea in the context to make the interpretation questionable.

While the phrase “Sons of God” might be interpreted as angels it is the least common use of the term used only in the book of Job and some question that usage.

Jesus says that angels do not marry.

The text in Peter points more distinctly to the fall of angels, whenever that may have been – but not in Gen 6.

NO ONE accepts the book of Enoch as inspired.

THE SONS OF GOD ARE THE DESCENDANTS OF SETH AND THE DAUGHTERS OF MEN ARE THE DESCENDANTS OF CAIN.

Based on:

A common use of the term “sons of God” as a statement of those who maintain a relationship with God.

"You are the children of the Lord your God. Do not cut yourselves or shave the front of your heads for the dead," (Deuteronomy 14:1, NIV)

"He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he. They have acted corruptly toward him; to their shame they are no longer his children, but a warped and crooked generation." (Deuteronomy 32:4-5, NIV)

"If I had said, 'I will speak thus,' I would have betrayed your children." (Psalm 73:15, NIV)

"Yet the Israelites will be like the sand on the seashore, which cannot be measured or counted. In the place where it was said to them, 'You are not my people,' they will be called 'sons of the living God.'" (Hosea 1:10, NIV)

Assumes that descendants of men are evil, therefore the children of Cain.

Critique

This is a great text for teaching not to intermarry with unbelievers. Unfortunately, it isn't the intent of the text and should not be used (abused) that way.

As mentioned before, the genealogy of Cain is terminal in its structure. It is written to imply that it does not continue.

Implies that evil does not exist in the line of Seth and that the origin of evil is in the line of Cain. All men are sinners.

THE SONS OF GOD ARE THE MONARCHICAL CLASS.

Based on:

Common usage in parallel literature

- Ancient Sumerian texts (Pre Moses) refer to kings as "The sons of god"
- Tablets found at Ugarit also use the term for royalty.

Biblical references also point to the usage

"Of David. I will praise you, O Lord, with all my heart; before the "gods" I will sing your praise." (Psalm 138:1, NIV)

"May all the kings of the earth praise you, O Lord, when they hear the words of your mouth." (Psalm 138:4, NIV)

"I said, 'You are "gods"; you are all sons of the Most High.' But you will die like mere men; you will fall like every other ruler.'" (Psalm 82:6-7, NIV)

Contemporary usage (to Moses) pointed to the Divinity of royalty

- Pharaoh was supposedly a descendant of Rah, the Egyptian sun god.
- Philistine kings are called Abimelech (see Gen. 21:22) or “son of the King” – in this case the king is their god Molech.

Luther translated the word Nephilim as “tyrants” which would fit with the theory that these were rulers of some kind.

Critique:

Relies upon external knowledge to gain this interpretation.

WHAT IS THE SIN?

Bigamy and polygamy

- The leaders are not limiting themselves but choosing any.

Inequity

- The rules are different for the Sons of god – they have no regard for others.
- Some have conjectured that they even take the wives of other men if they so choose.
- Women are reduced to objects of status

Superficiality.

- The determination of these men is based solely on the beauty of the women.

GOD’S STATEMENT OF JUDGMENT

Then the Lord said, “My Spirit will not contend with man forever, for he is mortal; his days will be a hundred and twenty years.”

While interpreted as the Holy Spirit above, the word spirit is here most likely the sense of “emotion” or “reason”

The object of this end of debate is the pre-diluvian man.

Paraphrase: I will not wait for man’s change forever, they are not God.

The 120 years is the time remaining to judgment, not the maximum age of individuals from this time onward.

CAUSE OF JUDGMENT #1

The Nephilim were on the earth in those days—and also afterward—when the sons of God went to the daughters of men and had children by them. They were the heroes of old, men of renown.

THE NEPHILIM

Word is translated “giants” in the KJV

Might have this translation because of Numbers 13:33 "We saw the Nephilim there (the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim). We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them."

Word comes from the Hebrew word meaning “Fall upon”

Luther translated this as “villains” or “rogues”. They were those who ruled by force and by falling upon others.

The text defines them as heroes – the society revered evil leadership that ruled by force.

They may also have led the “objectification” of women that leads to repeating the offence within this context.

CAUSE OF JUDGMENT #2

The Lord saw how great man’s wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time.

The measure of man’s wickedness (note the absolutes)

- Every inclination – all of man’s choices
- The thoughts of his heart – their deepest desires and plans
- Only evil – are always bad
- All the time – without change

THE EXERCISE OF JUDGMENT

The Lord was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain. So the Lord said, "I will wipe mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth—men and animals, and creatures that move along the ground, and birds of the air—for I am grieved that I have made them."

THE EMOTIONAL GOD

KJV says; "It repented God that He had made man"

This translation was poor because we think of repent as "to change one's mind" and God is "not a man that He should change His mind" (numbers 23:19; 1 Samuel 15:29; Psalm 110:4)

What God changes is His attitude or emotion

See Daniel 3:19 as an example in humans.

"Then Nebuchadnezzar was furious with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and his attitude toward them changed. He ordered the furnace heated seven times hotter than usual" (Daniel 3:19, NIV)

Note also that the language of the text is emotional, not intellectual.

Note also that character of God

- He is grieved.
- He is filled with pain.

THE JUST GOD

Man's actions deserve death

Even in their sin their likeness to God is evident - whom I have created

The ramification of their sin is to make the entire creation suffer.

Compare to

*" I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time."
(Romans 8:18-22, NIV)*

But God extends Grace

But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord." (Genesis 6:1-8, NIV)

Noah becomes the example of what true grace is.

He finds favor, not, he was the only perfect person.

He stands in contrast to the world in which he lives.

"By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that comes by faith." (Hebrews 11:7, NIV)

"who disobeyed long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water," (1 Peter 3:20, NIV)

"if he did not spare the ancient world when he brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others;" (2 Peter 2:5, NIV)