

Understanding Genesis 6:1-4

Sons of God ~ Nephilim ~ Mighty Men

(Part 3)

ANGELOLOGY // 28



Genesis 3:15 (ESV)

"I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."

“sons of God” // “daughters of man” // “Nephilim”?

- 1. Sethite-Cainite line view: Intermarrying between lines of Seth and Cain**
- 2. Polygamous kings**
- 3. Angel view: fallen angels impregnating human women**

Why the Angel View?

1. Moses' precise use of words
2. "sons of God" in Job
3. Septuagint
4. blameless/perfect Noah
5. Rampant pre-flood evil
6. Necessity of the flood
7. NT references (1 Pet. 3:18-20; 2 Pet. 2:4-5; Jude 1:6-7)
8. Tradition

Answering objections to the Angel View (Gen. 6:1-4)

1. Angels don't marry
2. Angels are exclusively spiritual creatures
3. Nephilim are mentioned in the post-flood world
4. 'Abnormal' men
5. It can be replicated any time

Matthew 22:29–30 (ESV)

"But Jesus answered them, 'You are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God. (30)For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.'"

Hebrews 1:14 (ESV)

"Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?"

Genesis 18:22 (ESV)

"So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom,
but Abraham still stood before the LORD."

Genesis 19:1 (ESV)

"The two angels came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw them, he rose to meet them and bowed himself with his face to the earth"

Hebrews 13:2 (ESV)

"Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares."

Jude 6 (ESV)

"And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day—"

Numbers 13:32–33 (ESV)

"So they brought to the people of Israel a bad report of the land that they had spied out, saying, 'The land, through which we have gone to spy it out, is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people that we saw in it are of great height. (33)And there we saw the Nephilim (the sons of Anak, who come from the Nephilim), and we seemed to ourselves like grasshoppers, and so we seemed to them.'"

Genesis 6:4 (ESV)

"The Nephilim were on the earth in those days ['before the flood'], and also afterward ['after the flood'], when the sons of God came in to the daughters of man and they bore children to them. These were the mighty men who were of old, the men of renown."

Genesis 6:3–4 (ESV)

"Then the LORD said, 'My Spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years.' (4) The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of man and they bore children to them. These were the mighty men who were of old, the men of renown."

Genesis 6:11-13 (ESV)

"Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with violence. (12)And God saw the earth, and behold, it was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth. (13)And God said to Noah, 'I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence through them. Behold, I will destroy them with the earth.'"

Genesis 7:19–23 (ESV)

"And the waters prevailed so mightily on the earth that all the high mountains under the whole heaven were covered. (20)The waters prevailed above the mountains, covering them fifteen cubits deep. (21)And all flesh died that moved on the earth, birds, livestock, beasts, all swarming creatures that swarm on the earth, and all mankind. (22)Everything on the dry land in whose nostrils was the breath of life died. (23)He blotted out every living thing that was on the face of the ground, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens. They were blotted out from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those who were with him in the ark."

2 Samuel 21:20 (ESV)

"And there was again war at Gath, where there was a man of great stature, who had six fingers on each hand, and six toes on each foot, twenty-four in number, and he also was descended from the giants."

Deuteronomy 3:11 (ESV)

"(For only Og the king of Bashan was left of the remnant of the Rephaim. Behold, his bed was a bed of iron. Is it not in Rabbah of the Ammonites? Nine cubits was its length, and four cubits its breadth, according to the common cubit.)"