

Today we are going to be looking at the Sons of God. Who or what are they?

The sons of God saw that the daughters of man were attractive. And they took as their wives any they chose.

(Gen 6:2)

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.

(Gen 6:4)

So what do we know about the sons of God in this passage and what is taking place?

Who were the Nephilim?

Were they the offspring of angels and men?

4. נפילים *nepilym* “assailants, fellers, men of violence, tyrants.”

It is clear that they were violent men who served themselves and their own interests and did not obey God.

There are those who believe that these are the children of angels and men, partly for the use of the word giants and for the use of the same phrase ‘Sons of God’ that is used to describe angels in:

Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them.

(Job 1:6)

Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them to present himself before the LORD.

(Job 2:1)

In both instances, the ‘Sons of God’ is used to describe angelic beings. There are those who believe that the Sons of God are the children of angels because of these passages that are clearly describing angels. Those who hold to this view will also site an obscure passage found in Jude.

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--  
(Jud 1:6)

Until properly evaluated, there seems to be some merit to the claim that this is an accurate accounting of who the Nephilim are, however this interpretation has some serious doctrinal problems.

The Jude passage says that the angels did not stay in their proper rank of authority and says nothing about having sexual relations with the daughters of man. Making such an assumption is a great leap.

Is it even possible for angels and men to engage in sexual relations? It would seem that Jesus says that it is not:

**For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.**  
(Mat 22:30)

Jesus is using the example of the angels who do not marry or are given in marriage to explain that when a person dies they will not have a mate in heaven.

Nowhere in scripture does it ever say that angels are getting married and having children. They are a race of created beings who were created once for all time and do not procreate. There are the same numbers of angels today as there has always been. If angels had children, they too would need to come to the Lord Jesus the same way each new generation of humanity does for the forgiveness of sin. And there is no description of how an angel can be redeemed from sin anywhere in the word of God.

The next question is: are angels the only ones who are called 'Sons of God'?

We will look back at the Job passages in a few moments, but first let's look at a few other times the word of God talks about the Sons of God:

**"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God."**  
(Matt 5:9)

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.  
(Rom 8:14)

For they cannot die anymore, because they are equal to angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection.

(Luke 20:36)

So are angels the only ones who are called 'Sons of God'?

According to the word of God, what are the characteristics of those who are called the 'Sons of God'?

Do these describe the characteristics of fallen angels who have disobeyed God?

Let's look back at those passages in Job one more time:

Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them.

(Job 1:6)

Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them to present himself before the LORD.

(Job 2:1)

As we look at these passages, what distinction is made?

Is Satan called a 'son of God' or is he listed separately?

Satan is clearly not a 'Son of God'. In fact, all who follow Satan are not sons of God either.

Let's look at what Jesus says concerning those who choose to live in rebellion against God:

Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me.

Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word. You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

(John 8:44)

Jesus says that anyone who does love God is not a son of God, but is rather a son of the Devil.

Let's go back to where this lesson started.

The sons of God saw that the daughters of man were attractive. And they took as their wives any they chose.

(Gen 6:2)

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.

(Gen 6:4)

The term 'Sons of God' cannot be used biblically to describe anyone, angel or man, who are not led by the Spirit of God. So know that we can see that sinning angels do not fit the biblical description for the title of 'Sons of God'. The next question is, if not angels then who?

Actually we did not need to go very far to find our answer; actually we already read it earlier in Genesis:

Then Cain went away from the presence of the LORD and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden. Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and bore Enoch. When he built a city, he called the name of the city after the name of his son, Enoch.

(Gen 4:17)

Cain went away from the presence of the LORD and all of his children who followed him. They desired to exalt self rather than God. They made their names great. They were ruthless, skilled, and the desires of their hearts were on sin all of the time. They were the men of renown, well known for their own reputations.

To Seth also a son was born, and he called his name Enosh. At that time people began to call upon the name of the LORD.

(Gen 4:26)

At that time people began to call upon the name of the Lord! Seth was like his brother Abel before him. He walked in the fear and admission of the Lord as did his children: most notably,

Enoch, who walked with God and then was taken to heaven without dying, his son Methuselah who lived longer than anyone else in history, and also Noah.

It is with Noah that we see why God had to destroy the earth with a flood and why we are told about the Sons of God and the Daughters of Men:

When man began to multiply on the face of the land and daughters were born to them, the sons of God saw that the daughters of man were attractive. And they took as their wives any they chose. Then the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years." 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. The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the LORD was sorry that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. So the LORD said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them." But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD. These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God.

(Gen 6:1-9)

The descendents of Cain were marrying into the descendents of Seth and soon no one would be calling on the name of the Lord. God was losing his witness on the earth and soon there would no longer be 'Sons of God'.

This is why it was so important that Noah walked with God. Through him men would continue to know and call upon the Lord and seek his will for their lives.

What of you?

Do you walk with God?

Are you a child of God?