

The last time we were together we started looking at fallen angels and their progeny: the Nephilim or giants. Genesis 6:2-6

We saw that this whole angels and giants thinking was corroborated by most ancient cultures

--Remember, only 8 people survive the worldwide catastrophic flood, and from them come all of our ancestors.

--Nearly all ancient cultures spoke of supernatural creatures with various titles in like **Netjeru** (Egypt), **Olympians** (Greece), **Apkallu** (Sumerian)= **Watchers** (one of the most prominent titles and which is also a biblical title for angels) -- these were all blamed for creating half breed monsters that terrorized nearly every culture.

--**Numbers 13:33; Deuteronomy 2:10-11; 3:11; I Samuel 17:4-7**

--They infested all the cultures in the Promised land, and the indication is that this was true all over the world no matter what people or culture.

2. Why did the angels do this? Did it just happen, or was this planned?

--Were they breeding an army? Every time we hear of these giants they are acting as enemies of God and His people.

--I cannot give you a definitive answer because the Bible doesn't give it to us.

One of the rules of Bible interpretation is that when the Bible raises a question that the Bible doesn't answer, then we should assume there isn't an absolute answer.

--Word of God is absolute authority on whatever it addresses and whatever it doesn't address is something less than that.

Another rule of Bible interpretation is that we are not coming close to the right interpretation until we understand the issue from the perspective of the original hearers.

--What did the original hearers, the Jews, believe and understand about these events of Genesis 6 and the giants that were in the world after the flood?

--They believed the promise of a Messiah through the seed of the woman **Genesis 3:15**.

--"**enmity between you and the woman**" -- Makes sense that the devil should go after women in general.

--"**between your seed and her seed**" -- Women biologically don't have seed (this is predictive of the virgin birth!); nevertheless, Satan knew that some woman would give birth to his ultimate destroyer.

So, was this a strategy of Satan to mess up God's plan to bring the Messiah into the world through a woman?"

--The official answer is '**we don't know because the Bible doesn't say either way**.' We cannot be dogmatic about this.

--We don't know, but I can assure the Jews of ancient times were not uncertain at all about what this was.

--Their ancient writings including the much spoken of book of Enoch (a book that is quoted in the New Testament) all stated that the Devil's

strategy was to corrupt the human race so that the Messiah could never be born.

The book of Enoch is not a part of our Bibles for several reasons:

- a. It was not written by Enoch, but was just an accumulation of beliefs that were codified into books a few centuries before Jesus.
- b. Enoch was never a part of the Jewish Bible that we now call the Old Testament.
- They never thought of it as inspired but it was considered good teachings much in same way as we consider Max Lucado or Chuck Swindoll's books to be good teaching.
- Nevertheless, the book of Enoch is quoted in the New Testament in the Book of Jude, and the ideas of Enoch inform the writings of both Jude and I, II Peter.
- The teachings in Enoch were commonly accepted by both the Jewish scholars and the early church.

--According to the book of Enoch, Satan and his angel's strategy was to poison the genetics of the human race.

--Is this possibly part of what being said about Noah in **Genesis 6:9**?

--"**Perfect in his generation**"? --does that mean free from this wicked angelic corruption?

Again, the Jews had no question in their minds about this.

--According to their teachings, the angels were trying to stop the Messiah's birth through this inbreeding, and God chose Noah not only for his purity of heart but also because the purity of his blood line.

3. Either way, the idea of Satanic destruction of the line of Messiah does clearly fit the biblical evidence.

- Remember what Pharaoh told them to do with the babies being born to the Jewish slaves? --Throw them in the Nile.
 - Remember what the entire book of Esther is about? --a diabolical ruler who wanted to destroy the entire Jewish nation.
 - Remember what Herod did when he found out that Jesus had been born? --he had all the male babies slaughtered
- There clearly is a pattern of Satanic attacks to destroy the Messiah and the people through whom He would come.
- Was the supernatural inbreeding in **Genesis 6** a similar attempt?

4. **Genesis 6:4-6 --These are clearly fallen angels, but are they the demons that we read so much about in the New Testament?**

- The Biblical answer is: No -- **II Peter 2:4-5** --these particular fallen angels have been confined in the Abyss since the flood.
- These cannot be demons since they are locked away, and there is no reason for us to think that demons are in any way locked up.

5. So, what are demons then? We are left with two possibilities:

- 1. Angels who fell after the flood -- we know that there were more who

fell later because the original fallen angels have been confined since the flood and all their offspring were killed, but there was angelic inbreeding after the flood producing another brood of giants.

2. Disembodied spirits of the Nephilim – This was the conviction of Jewish scholars before and after the time of Christ as well as the conviction of the early church fathers (and, we'd have to assume, the early church as a whole)

--This is exactly what is stated in the book of Enoch.

--Enoch separates evil spirits into two categories: 1. Fallen angels who ruled geographic territories (principalities and powers). 2. Demons who were the disembodied offspring of these fallen angels.

Or are all evil spirits demons? Are demons fallen angels?

--Does it matter? Not enough for the Bible to make it clear cut.

--So, it cannot be a matter of doctrine for us.

--Fallen angels/demons are all evil spirits bent on our destruction.

Here is a challenge to our conventional thinking: the standard position on demons is that they are these fallen angels, but did you know that is not what the bible says they are?

--The Bible doesn't say what demons are besides being evil, unclean spirits.

--Speaking of traditional views, the Jews held a different position on demons—The Jews before and during Jesus time believed that demons were the disembodied spirits of the Nephilim.

--They separated evil spirits into two categories: 1. Fallen angels who ruled geographic territories. 2. Demons who were the disembodied offspring of fallen angels

--Who are the fallen angels that we deal with and are prominent in spiritual wickedness today? The angles of Jude are locked up.

--Was there another fall? Apparently, because there are still fallen angels causing mayhem on earth to this day.

We left off last time with the first clear fall of angels in **Genesis 6:4-6**.

--Remember I proposed to you that it wasn't random that they created these half breed mutants—they were trying to thwart the plan of God which was to bring the Messiah into the world through a woman.

--Whether you buy that or not, we have to agree that the evidence is that these were horrible creatures—always the enemies of God and His people.

--Remember also that the Bible and ancient traditions agree on this: these half supernatural creatures terrorized the earth and dominated cultures and peoples.

Leaving these Nephilim behind for the time being, let's get back to fallen angels.

--Angels that fell before the flood are held to this day in a pit of darkness according to Jude and II Peter.

--Why do we still have to deal with fallen angels if they are locked up?
Not all are locked up.

--Apparently, there was another fall that the Bible does explain to us but can be surmised by the fact that we still have fallen angels causing problems.

--In fact, it can be demonstrated from the Scriptures that these angels have been left here as a form of judgment from God because of our sin.

Deuteronomy 32:8

This is a troublesome verse because it makes no sense.

--God divided the nations at the tower of Babel where He confused the languages in Genesis 11 because the people refused to obey Him.

--But He didn't divide them according to the number of the "sons of Israel"—How do we know this? Because the sons of Israel did not exist at this time.

--Abraham, the father of the Jews wasn't born for another 260 years according to the Scriptures.

We get this translation from the King James primarily which was interpreted from the Hebrew manuscripts that the scholars had at that time.

--Since the King James was written, we have found much older Hebrew manuscripts that say something different in **Deut. 32:8**.

--The Dead Sea Scrolls, discovered in 1948, say "**according to the Sons of God**" instead of the Sons of Israel.

--This agrees with the **Septuagint** which is the Greek translation of the Old Testament translated by Hebrew scholars 200 years before Jesus.

--Several of our more modern translations follow this better rendering.

--ESV, MSG.

Deuteronomy 32:8-9

God takes Israel to be His and effectively gives the jurisdiction of the rest of the nations to angels.

Which angels? The good ones or the bad ones?

--That can be answered from four directions:

One, why did He divide them? Because of sin and rebellion (was the consequence good or bad angels put in charge? What would you have done?)

Two: what has been the result of these angels overseeing these peoples and nations? Have they followed God? Have they been friends of or enemies of the people of God?

--Its interesting that though many of the belief systems in the ancient world held to a creator God, they all believed that that Creator either no longer existed or was uninterested and that they are ruled by lesser gods who they have formed worship systems around.

Three: What was the belief of the Jews and the early church? Without exception the Jews and early church believed that God had given the world away to an array of dark lords underneath the sway of the ultimate dark lord himself, Satan.

--Part of interpreting the Bible in its context means we have to understand how people thought and believed back then.

--They all believed that the world was controlled by the devil and that he administered it through fallen angels.

Four: What is the witness of Scripture? **Daniel 10:12-13; 20-21**

--This is angelic warfare; these are spiritual principalities that are behind all these powerful kingdoms and world regimes.

--**Ephesians 6:10-12** – Paul was the apostle to the Gentiles—He was sent to wade off into foreign territory and take on very old and very evil enemies.

If we only think of the spiritual darkness and spiritual warfare in terms of the low-life demons whose goal is to wreck individual lives and cause people to do crazy things, we are missing the biggest part of what spiritual darkness is up to.

--This is what we are up against: highly powerful and sophisticated spiritual rulers of wickedness who are influencing and controlling the masses.

--These entities have principalities, territories and jurisdictions as well as armies both human and non-human.

This is what Paul is underscoring for us: our problem isn't flesh and blood.

--Remember, Paul lived in day when rulers were some of the worse that have ever lived and who commanded vast resources.

--But Paul said, "our problem isn't them it's what's behind them"

--This is why he says we have to put only spiritual armor because the enemies are spiritual.

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