

Chapter 6

Gen 6:1-8,

"(1) When mankind began to multiply on the earth and daughters were born to them, (2) that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose. (3) And the LORD said, "My Spirit will not remain with mankind forever, because they are corrupt. Their days will be 120 years." (4) The Nephilim were on the earth both in those days and afterwards, when the sons of God came to the daughters of man, who bore children to them. They were the mighty men of old, men of fame or reputation. (5) When the LORD saw that man's wickedness was widespread on the earth and that every scheme his mind thought of was nothing but evil all the time, (6) the LORD regretted that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. (7) Then the LORD said, "I will wipe off the face of the earth: man, whom I created, together with the animals, creatures that crawl, and birds of the sky--for I regret that I made them." (8) Noah, however, found favor in the eyes of the LORD."

*The 4 primary questions:

1. Who are the sons of God?
2. Who are the giants?
3. Who are the mighty men?
4. How does this event influence the later judgment of the flood?

The 3 primary interpretations:

1. The sons of God are angels who took on physical form and mated with women.
 - a) Because they found them beautiful which means _____, _____ or _____.
 - b) To pollute the human _____.
 - c) It answers the question of where the _____ or _____ came from.
2. The sons of God are wealthy, nobles, princes and judges who abused their power, raping anyone they fancied, and forcing any women who got married to have relations with them first.
 - a) This, together with their many other sins, represented the wickedness which eventually led to _____.
 - b) This is the traditional view in _____.
3. The sons of God are the descendants of Seth who took wives from among the pagan daughters of Cain.
 - a) Their offspring were the _____ mentioned in verse 4.

ANY of these interpretations **MUST** answer for their own assumptions.

For example - if you believe the sons of God are angels - then any proof leading to this interpretation **MUST** clearly supply and answer the four questions above*.

"(1) So mankind began to multiply and they had daughters, the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose."

Two things which will save some time:

1. 'Took themselves wives' - _____.

2. 'Of all they chose' - _____

The "sons of God"

The word **son** or '*Ben*' means _____

'*Ben*' is thought to come from the Hebrew word '*Banah*' which means - _____.

If this is correct, then *Ben* almost certainly has to mean - _____

Which interpretation does this support?

- Does it support the "Sons of Nobles"? _____
Why? _____
- Does it support the "Sons of angels"? _____
Why? _____
- Does it support the "Sons of Seth"? _____
Why? _____

God or Elokeem

1. Of course, it can simply mean _____
2. It can also mean _____ or _____ as in the fictional Greek mythology type or as in the carved idol type - **Exodus 15:11; Exodus 12:12; Ps. 97:7.**
3. There are several places where the word *Elokeem* is plural and means _____. See **Psalm 29:1 & 82:1.**

This last one would turn our phrase into "the sons _____" and therefore "could" offer some support for the sons of God being "sons of _____".

4. It can mean _____ or _____ as in (Ex. 21:6; 22:8) and so by extension it could mean an _____ as well.
(We have at least one example of the word *Elokeem* meaning angel in Psalm 8:5. This word is verified as meaning "angel" in Heb. 2:7.)

Which interpretation does this support?

- Does it support the “Sons of Nobles”? _____
Why? _____
- Does it support the “Sons of angels”? _____
Why? _____
- Does it support the “Sons of Seth”? _____
Why? _____

What does the Bible suggest about the ability of angels to procreate?

If you are interested in further study of marriage, joining together, one-flesh and so on, an excellent article on it can be found at - <https://bible.org/seriespage/1-cohesiveness-marriage-union-genesis-224>.

“The daughters of men”

Can mean one of two things:

1. _____
2. _____

Is there any justification for the view that these are the daughters of Cain? _____

If so what?

Back in Genesis 4 verse 26, the words “*men began to call upon the name of the Lord*”, this phrase can also be translated as: _____, or _____ which is to say, they were called “**sons of God**”.

This view has several points in its favor:

1. It has been used to refer to _____ throughout the Bible.
2. The word “sons” as we mentioned earlier, can mean _____. So, calling yourself by God’s name is to evoke _____. It is like natural and adopted children taking on the last name of their “father” - they are now _____.
3. Where else did God traditionally place His name in relation to His servants?

So, if this is true, then the words, “daughters of men” would almost have to mean the women who were called by the name of fallen man - just like the descendants of Seth were called by the name of God.

What interpretation does this evidence support? _____

In any case, something about this event evoked God's _____

"(3) And the LORD said, "My Spirit will not remain with mankind forever, because they are corrupt. Their days will be 120 years."

Who is suspiciously missing in this account of God's judgment? _____

"Will not strive with mankind forever"

The word strive is a verb meaning _____. It regularly involves bringing justice or acting as judge.

Evidently God's intervention in matters of justice had come to epidemic proportions.

God here calls all of mankind _____.

What does this evidence support? _____

"Their days will be 120 years"

God had had ENOUGH OF THIS!

There are two interpretations of this and in fact BOTH may be correct.

1. It "could mean" that God was giving man _____. It "could" be that this is specifically what Peter was referring to in **1 Peter 3:18-20**.
2. It could refer to the eventual _____. If this is true then HOW this happens is only proof of God's incredible patience and mercy which is beyond the telling. This pronouncement of judgment would have FOLLOWED the flood because it was a direct result OF the flood! It has the benefit of being a natural consequence of the judgment which so often happens when God judges His people. Even still, man's lifespan did not whittle down to 120 until MANY generations after the flood.

"(4) The Nephilim were on the earth in those days and afterwards, when the sons of God came to the daughters of man, who bore children to them. They were the mighty men of old, men of renown."

This is a very, very KEY passage!

When were the Nephilim or Giants here in relation to the sons of God and daughters of men issue? _____

Men of renown means _____

God used the same phrase concerning _____ in **Genesis 12:2**.

*"I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great;
And you shall be a blessing."*

Nothing here lends any more support to one interpretation than another. The only thing it does is dismantle the argument that angels mating with humans created giants which God destroyed in the flood.

Is the word Nephilim used anywhere else in the Bible? _____

If so where? _____

What does that prove?

God sees and judges:

"(5) When the LORD saw that man's wickedness was widespread on the earth and that every scheme his mind thought of was nothing but evil all the time, (6) the LORD regretted that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. (7) Then the LORD said, "I will wipe off the face of the earth: man, whom I created, together with the animals, creatures that crawl, and birds of the sky--for I regret that I made them." (8) Noah, however, found favor in the eyes of the LORD."

This is one of the saddest passages in all of scripture and yet, one of the most hopeful!

Further "evidence" of sons of God being angels...

Those who support that view claim that, the phrase "sons of God", clearly refers to angelic creatures when it is used the three other times in the Old Testament - namely:

1. **Job 1:6**, *"Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them."*
2. **Job 2:1**, *"Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the LORD."*
3. **Job 38:7**, *"When the morning stars sang together, And all the sons of God shouted for joy?"*

Concerning the first two references - the words *"to present themselves before the Lord"* means

An example of this would be

1Kings 22:19-23,

"(19) Then Micaiah said, "Therefore hear the word of the LORD: I saw the LORD sitting on His throne, and all the host of heaven standing by, on His right hand and on His left. (20) And the LORD said, 'Who will persuade Ahab to go up, that he may fall at Ramoth Gilead?' So one spoke in this manner, and another spoke in that manner. (21) Then a spirit came forward and stood before the LORD, and said, 'I will persuade him.' (22) The LORD said to him, 'In what way?' So he said, 'I will go out and be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.' And the LORD said, 'You shall persuade him, and also prevail. Go out and do so.' (23) Therefore look! The LORD has put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these prophets of yours, and the LORD has declared disaster against you."

Does 1 Kings 22:19-23 imply that angels presented themselves before the Lord? _____

If so, when and for what purpose? _____

Is anything "annual" suggested in these verses? _____

Does this support the "sons of Angels" view? _____

Regarding the last verse found in Job 38:7, is this clear support for the "sons of god" being angels? _____

Why? _____

There are 2 last references used to support this view both of which appear in the tiny book of Jude...

In order to understand this passage, we need to know the What and Why of the passage BEFORE we get to what Jude was talking about concerning angels in verse 6.

Let's read Jude 3-11,

Jude 1:3-11,

"(3) Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.

*(4) For **certain men have crept in unnoticed**, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, **ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.***

*(5) But I want to remind you, though you once knew this, that the Lord, having **saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe.***

(6) *And the angels who **did not keep their proper domain**, but **left their own abode**, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day;*

(7) *as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them **in a similar manner to these**, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.*

(8) ***Likewise also** these dreamers defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak evil of dignitaries.*

(9) *Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"*

(10) ***But these speak evil** of whatever they do not know; and whatever they know naturally, like brute beasts, in these things **they corrupt themselves**.*

(11) *Woe to them! For **they have gone in the way of Cain**, have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit, and **perished in the rebellion of Korah**."*

There is a lot here but the message is pretty simple.

Who is Jude addressing?

Why? They were teaching _____, practicing _____, denying the _____.

Jude USES 3 EXAMPLES from the past which illustrate what these "creepy people" were doing in their assemblies.

The three examples are:

1. The _____ who were led out of Egypt but who later _____ from God and walked in _____ - who God destroyed. See **Heb. 3:7-19; 4:6**.
2. The _____ who _____ from God, _____ Him due to their _____. See **Matt. 8:29**.
3. The cities of _____ & _____ who _____ God by walking in _____ to His established order of sexual conduct which they chose to not _____.

There IS a central similarity between the sins of the "creepy people", the children of Israel leaving Egypt, the angels and the people of Sodom and Gomorrah.

What is it? _____

The reason the "sons of God" are "angels" crowd use these verse is entirely due to a few words found in verse 7...they are _____ & _____.

They are trying to connect the sin of the angels with the sins of the people of Sodom & Gomorrah. However Jude does not allow for that interpretation because he provides a list for us that reveals what they all held in common - and it wasn't the expression of their sin - it was the rebellious root of their sin.

Also, **2 Peter 2:1-11** is a nearly perfect mirror of these verses and it comes to the same conclusion. I will not read it here but you can follow up on it yourselves.

Finally the last example offered is found in Jude 1:14-15,

"Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, 'Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, (15) to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.'"

No - there is **NO** mention of angels as sons of God here, BUT Jude is quoting from the non-canonical **Book of Enoch**.

Does Jude's quote imply agreement and support of the book of enoch as a whole? _____

How do we know that? _____

What are some other possible reasons why Jude quotes from the Book of Enoch?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

For the record it is the official belief of this church and your Pastor that the sons of God are in fact the sons of Seth for the following reasons....

1. It is the most simplistic and natural conclusion given the evidence of the all texts in Bible which mention "the sons of God" with the possible exception of Job 38.
2. There is **NO** connection between this event and the existence of the giants (Nephilim).
3. God's command was that things were restricted to only reproducing after their own kind. If God commanded this - no one can alter it. See **Rev. 3:7**
4. God is the **ONLY** Creator - **John 1:3; Rev. 4:11**.

In order for this to happen, angels HAD to have **creative power**, the **ability to break the species barrier** which God established by His power and somehow **translate "angel" DNA into a physical form** encapsulated in genetically compatible sperm. No such power is ever even HINTED at in scripture as belonging to ANY being other than God.

5. We actually HAVE proof that God feels strongly about mixed marriages between the godly and the ungodly. - See **Deut. 7:3-6; Ezra 9; 2 Cor. 6:14-18**.
 - a) In fact 2 Cor. 6 says it is a condition of being called God's *sons and daughters!*"
6. **Hebrews 1:5** says, *"To which of the angels did God ever say, 'You are my Son, today I have begotten you' And again, 'I will be to him a Father and he shall be to me a son.'?"* The intended answer is **none** and **never!**

Given these proofs and the lack of solid, convincing proof for the other two positions, it is the most responsible interpretation of the texts.

For more on this exegesis of Genesis 6:2 see - <http://biblehub.com/commentaries/genesis/6-2.htm>