



Who Are the Sons of God?

The Controversy of Genesis 6:1-4



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Preview of Angelology

1. Good angels
2. Satanology
3. Demonology
4. Gen. 6:1-4 controversy



Genesis 6:1-4

“¹ Now it came about, when men began to multiply on the face of the land, and daughters were born to them, ² that the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves, whomever they chose. ³ Then the Lord said, ‘My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, because he also is flesh; nevertheless his days shall be one hundred and twenty 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 men, and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown.”



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3 Major Alternative Views

1. Intermarriage between the Godly line of Seth and the ungodly lines of Cain
2. Polygamous Cainite despots
3. Fallen angels procreating with human women



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Genesis 3:15

“And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel.”



Satanic Attempts to Stop Messiah

1. Herod; Mt.2; Rev 12:4
2. Cain; Gen. 4, 1 Jn. 3:12
3. Pharaoh; Ex. 1
4. Athaliah; 2 Chron. 22
5. Haman; Esther
6. Matt 4:5-7



Lesson Overview

- Defense of the Angel View
 - ◆ Old Testament
 - ◆ New Testament
 - ◆ Tradition
 - ◆ Objections



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3 Reasons Supporting Sons of God

1. Men (6:1) versus the sons of God (6:2)
2. Old Testament uses (Gen 6:2, 4; Job 1:6; 2:1; 38:7)
3. Septuagint (LXX)



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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.”



Ezekiel 28:14, 16

“¹⁴ You were the anointed cherub who covers, And I placed you there. You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked in the midst of the stones of fire.”... ¹⁶ By the abundance of your trade You were internally filled with violence, And you sinned; Therefore I have cast you as profane From the mountain of God. And I have destroyed you, O covering cherub, From the midst of the stones of fire.”



Job 2:1

“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 38:7

“When the morning stars sang together
And all the sons of God shouted for joy?”



Authorship of the Book of Job

Thomas Constable, *Notes on Job*, www.soniclight.com

“The book does not identify its writer...From the patriarchal period, Job himself is the favored candidate, though some scholars have nominated Elihu...There are many examples of ancient extra-biblical writings in which the author spoke of himself in the third person, so we need not eliminate Job on that ground. The book reads as though an eyewitness of the events wrote it...I tend to prefer a contemporary of Job, or Job himself, because of the antiquity of this view, and the fact that no one has proved it unsatisfactory.”

Deuteronomy 14:1

“You are the sons of the Lord your God; you shall not cut yourselves nor shave your forehead for the sake of the dead.”



Romans 8:14

“For all who are being led by the Spirit of God,
these are sons of God.”



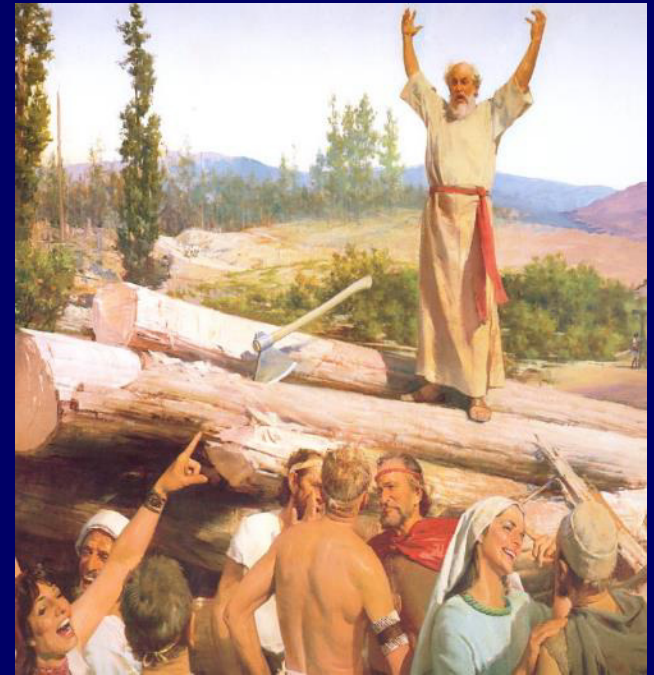
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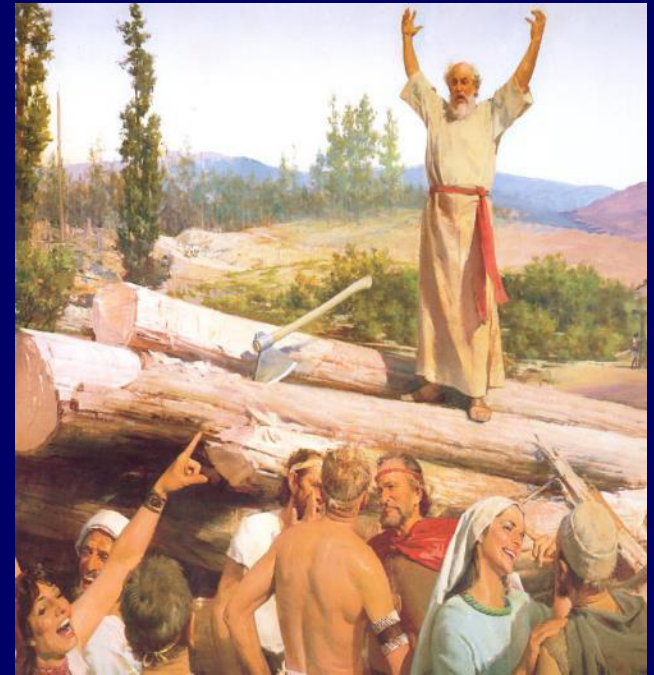
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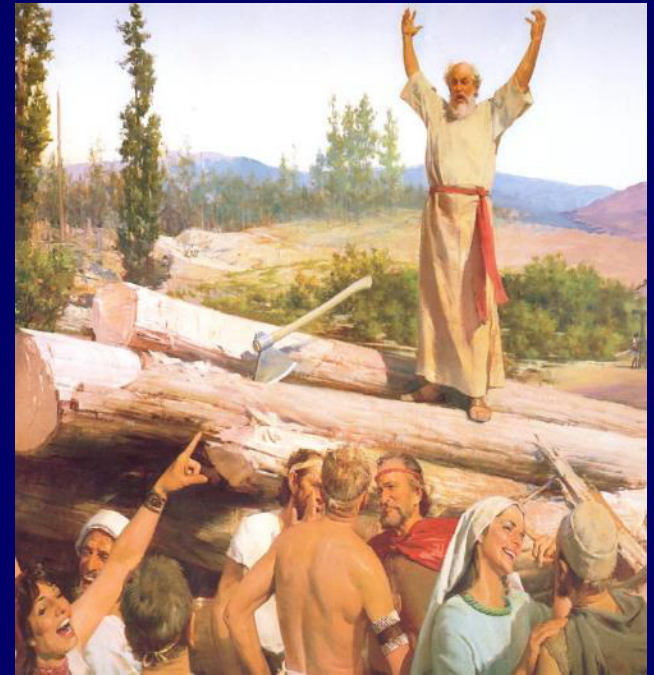
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Genesis 6:8-9

“⁸ But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.
⁹ These are *the records of* the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his time; Noah walked with God.”



Genesis 8:21

The Lord smelled the soothing aroma; and the Lord said to Himself, “I will never again curse the ground on account of man, for the intent of man’s heart is evil from his youth; and I will never again destroy every living thing, as I have done.[emphasis mine].



Romans 3:23

“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”



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Genesis 9:20-21

“²⁰ Then Noah began farming and planted a vineyard. ²¹ He drank of the wine and became drunk, and uncovered himself inside his tent.”



Genesis 3:15

“And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel.”



Genesis 4:1

“Now the man had relations with his wife Eve, and she conceived and gave birth to Cain, and she said, ‘I have gotten a manchild with the help of the Lord.’”



Genesis 5:29

“Now he called his name Noah, saying, ‘This one will give us rest from our work and from the toil of our hands *arising* from the ground which the LORD has cursed.’”



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Exodus 12:5

“Your lamb shall be an unblemished male a year old; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats.”



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God's Messianic Purposes Beginning in Genesis

- Proto evangelium (3:15, 21)
- Seth (4:25)
- Noah (Gen 5:29)
- Shem (9:26)
- Abraham (12:3)
- Isaac (21:12)
- Jacob (25:23)
- Judah (49:10)



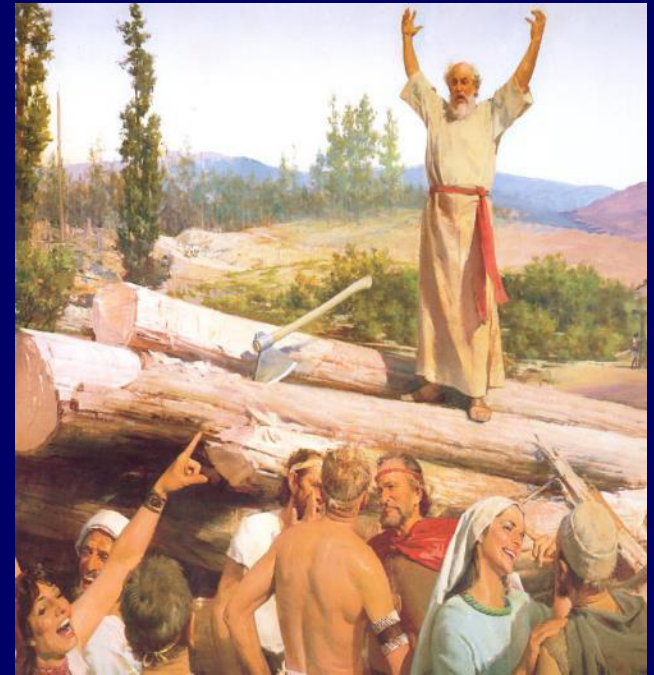
Genesis 6:11-13

“¹¹ Now the earth was corrupt in the sight of God, and the earth was filled with violence. ¹² God looked on the earth, and behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way upon the earth. ¹³ Then God said to Noah, “The end of all flesh has come before Me; for the earth is filled with violence because of them; and behold, I am about to destroy them with the earth.”



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Genesis 6:5-7

“⁵ Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. ⁶ The Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. ⁷ The Lord said, “I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, from man to animals to creeping things and to birds of the sky; for I am sorry that I have made them.”



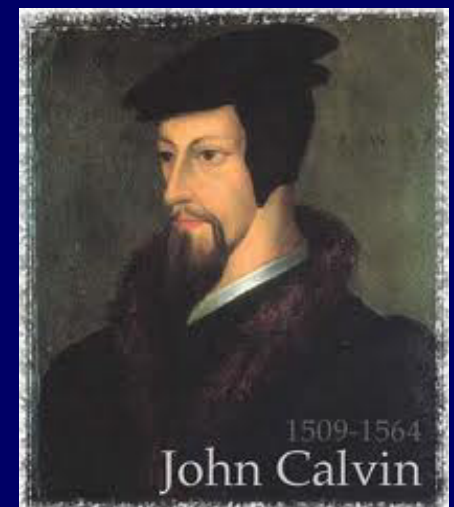
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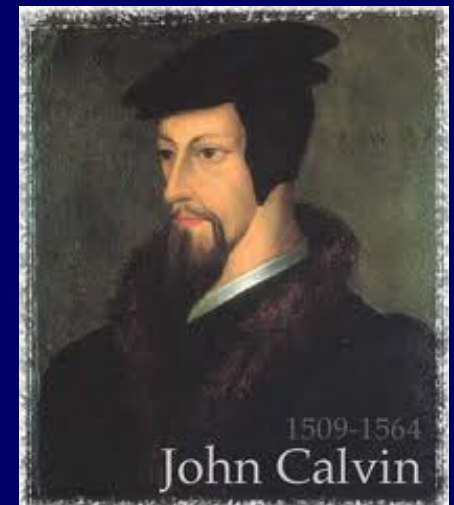
Total Depravity

- What total depravity *is not*:
 - ◆ Man is as evil as he can possibly be & indulges every possible sin
 - ◆ Man is incapable of doing good things
 - Gen. 3:22
 - Matt. 7:11
 - Acts 10:1-2; 11:14
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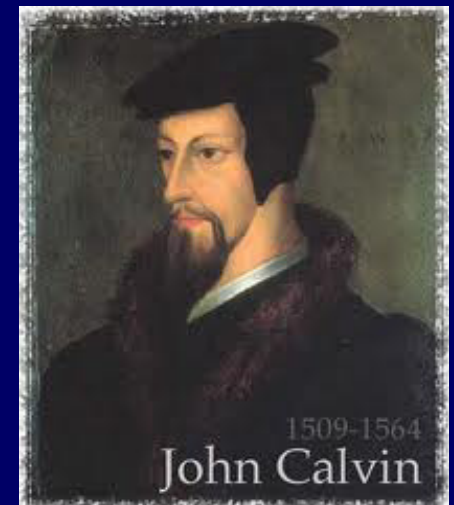
Genesis 3:22

“Then the Lord God said, ‘Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might stretch out his hand, and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever’ —.”



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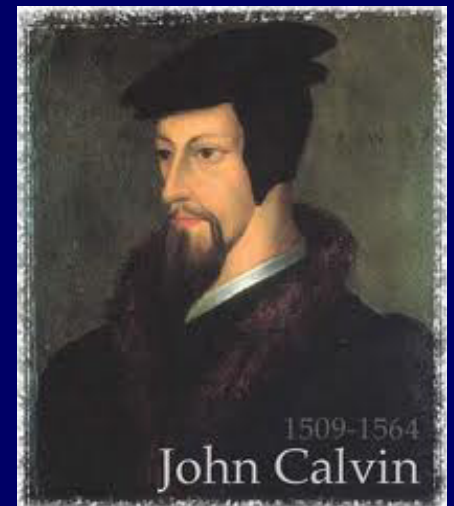
Matthew 7:11

“If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him!”



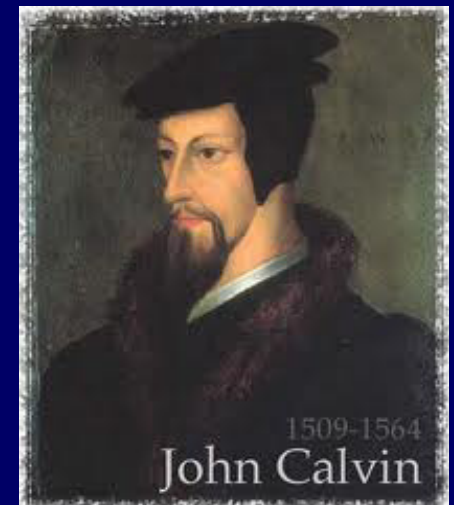
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 - **Rom. 2:14-15**



Romans 2:14-15

“¹⁴ For when Gentiles who do not have the Law do instinctively the things of the Law, these, not having the Law, are a law to themselves, ¹⁵ in that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them.”



Henry Clarence Thiessen

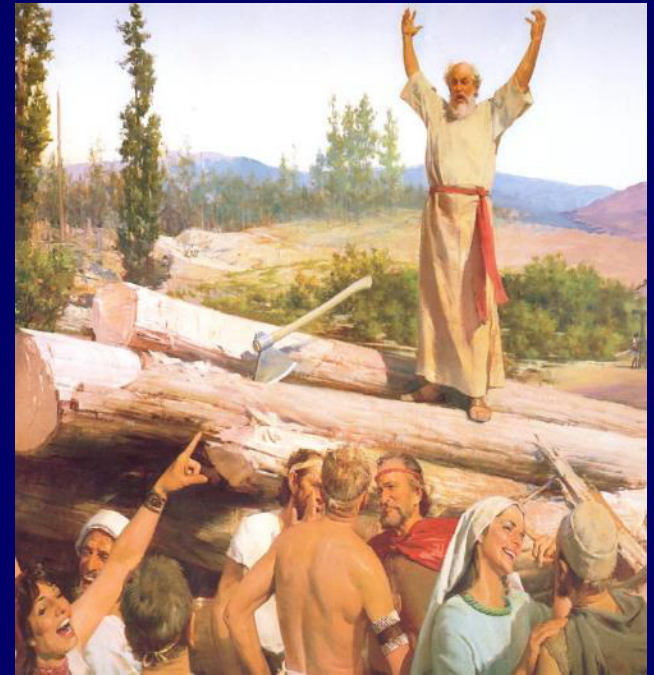
“The Scriptures speak of human nature as totally depraved. However, the doctrine of ‘total depravity’ is easily misunderstood and misinterpreted. From the negative standpoint, it is important to know both what it does not mean and what it does mean. This does not mean that every sinner is devoid of all qualities pleasing to men; that he commits or is prone to every form of sin; or that he is bitterly opposed to God as it is possible for him to be. Jesus recognize the existence of pleasing qualities in some individuals (Mark 10:21); He said that the scribes . . .

Henry Clarence Thiessen

. . .and Pharisees did some things God demanded (Matt. 23:23); Paul asserted that some Gentiles 'do instinctively the things of the law' (Rom. 2:14); God told Abraham that the iniquity of the Amorites would grow worse (Gen. 15:16); and Paul says that 'evil men and imposters will proceed from bad to worse' (2 Tim. 3:13)."

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Genesis 7:19-23

“They rose greatly on the earth, and all the high mountains under the entire heaven were covered...Every living thing that moved on the earth perished—birds, livestock, wild animals, all the creatures that swarm over the earth, and all mankind. Everything on dry land that had the breath of life in its nostrils died. Every living thing on the face of the earth was wiped out; men and animals and the creatures that move along the ground and the birds of the air were wiped from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those with him in the ark.”



H.C. Leupold

Exposition of Genesis (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1942), vol. 1, p. 301-302.

“... ‘all the high mountains under all the heavens.’ One of these expressions alone would almost necessitate the impression that the author intends to convey the idea of the absolute universality of the Flood...Yet since ‘all’ is known to be used in a relative sense, the writer removes all ambiguity by adding the phrase ‘under all the heavens.’ A double ‘all’ (kol) cannot allow for so relative a sense. It almost constitutes a Hebrew superlative. So we believe that the text disposes of the question of the universality of the flood. By way of objection to this interpretation, those who believe in a limited flood...urge the fact that *kol* is used in a relative sense, as is clearly the case in passages such as Genesis 41:57; Exodus 9:25, 10:15; Deuteronomy 2:25; and 1 Kings 10:24. However, we still insist that this fact could overthrow a single *kol*, never a double *kol*, as our verse has it.”

REASONS AGAINST A LOCAL FLOOD

- Size of the ark (450 ft. long, 75 ft. wide, 45 ft. deep)?
- Analogy to global Second Advent (Matt 24:37-39; Rev 1:7; 2 Pet 3:5-7)
- Animals and birds on the ark?



BELIEVER OR UNBELIEVER?

Writer	Local Flood	Global Flood
Philo		X
Josephus		X
Justin Martyr		X
Theophilus of Antioch		X
Tertullian		X
Gregory of Nazianus		X
John Chrysostom		X
Augustine of Hippo		X

SOURCE: Jonathan Sarfati, *Refuting Compromise* (Green Forest, AR: Master Books), 244.

John Calvin

Genesis, 1554 (Edinburgh, UK: Banner of Truth, 1984), p. 272, emphasis mine.



“And the flood was forty days, etc.
Moses conspicuously insists on this
fact, in order to show that the
whole world was immersed in the
waters.”

UNIFORMITARIANISM IS NOT BIBLICISM

	ERA	SCRIPTURE	DISTINCTIVES
1.	CREATION	Genesis 1-2	No death
2.	FALL	Genesis 3-6	Death, painful pregnancy & toil, long life spans, no human government
3.	FLOOD	Genesis 7-10	Shorter life spans, human government, one language, no nations
<u>4.</u>	<u>BABEL</u>	<u>Genesis 11-present</u>	<u>No global government, multiple languages, nations, ethnicities</u>
5.	ANTICHRIST	Rapture to 2nd Advent	Global government, restrainer removed
6.	KINGDOM	Rev. 20:1-10	Long life spans, kingdom conditions, reality of death, renovated earth
7.	ETERNAL STATE	Rev. 21-22	No death, new earth

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