

An ancient Egyptian relief carving on a light-colored stone surface. The carving depicts several figures in traditional Egyptian attire, including long dresses and head coverings. The figures are arranged in a row, with some standing and some seated or kneeling. The style is characteristic of ancient Egyptian art, with clear outlines and a focus on the figures' forms.

Who Are the Sons of God?

The Controversy of Genesis 6:1-4



Dr. Andy Woods

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President – Chafer Theological Seminary

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.”



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.”



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



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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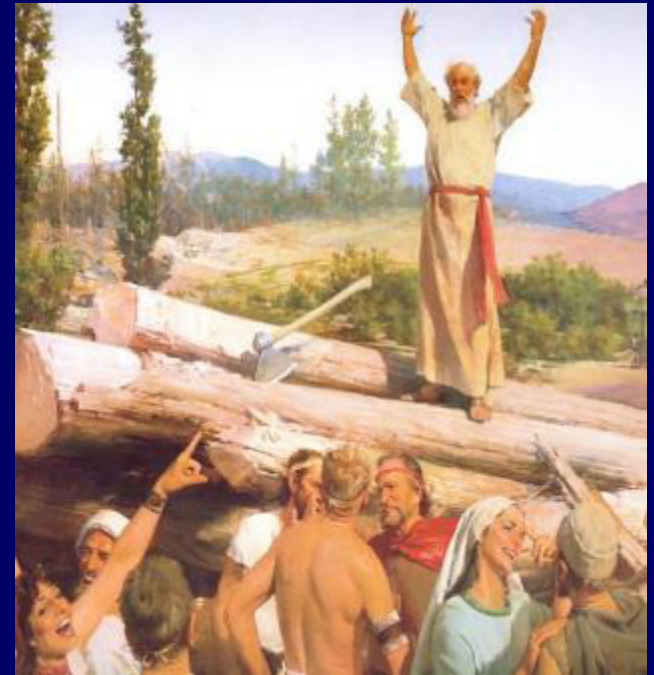
3 Reasons Supporting Sons of God

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)



4 Additional Arguments From Genesis 6

1. Nephilim (Gen 6:4)
2. Noah's perfection (6:9)
3. Evil of pre-flood humanity (Gen 6:3, 5-7, 11-13)
4. Necessity of the flood



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Relevant New Testament Passages

- 1 Peter 3:19-20
- 2 Peter 2:4-5
- Jude 6-7



GOOD ANGELS & EVIL ANGELS



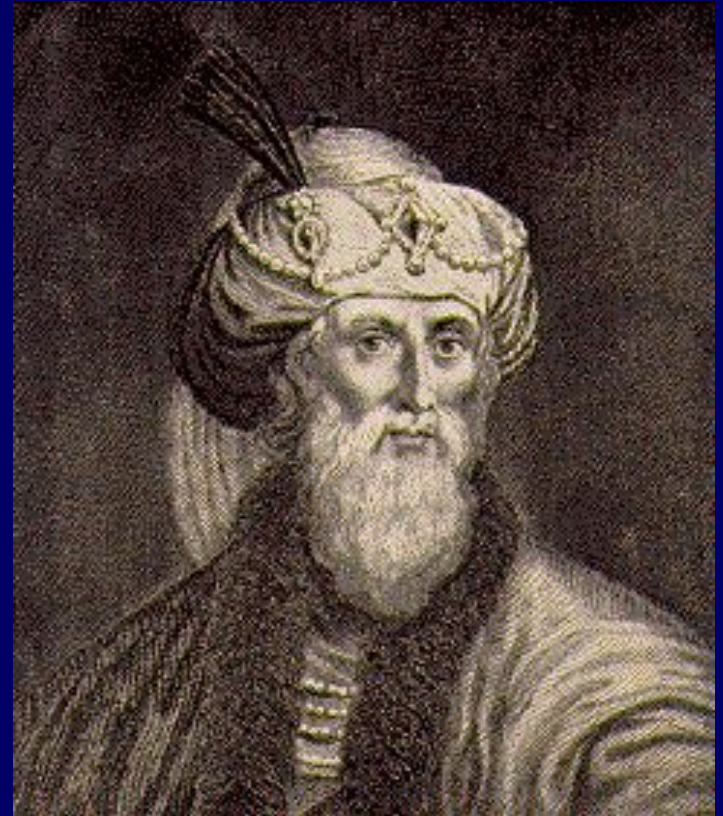
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Jewish Tradition

- Philo
- Josephus
- Most Rabbinical Writers
- Apocrypha
- Pseudepigrapha



Christian Tradition

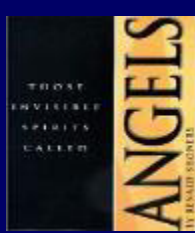
- Justin
- Clement
- Tertullian
- Cyprian
- Ambrose
- Lactantius





Renald Showers

Those Invisible Spirits Called Angels (Bellmawr, NJ:
Friends of Israel, 1997), 96-97.



“...it is interesting to note that the Sethite Line-Cainite View does not begin until the fourth century A.D. This makes it the newest of the three major views. The New Catholic Encyclopedia states that this view ‘that sees in these sons of God the Sethites and in the daughters of men the Cainites dates from the fourth century and **is influenced by theological concern for maintaining the spirituality of the Angels.**’ This seems to imply that the major motivation for starting this view was not exegesis of Scripture but opposition to the angel view..”

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1. Angels do not marry? (Matt. 22:30)
2. Angels are spirits (Heb. 1:14)
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4. Nephilim in David's day? (2 Sam. 21:20)
5. Why is this sin not replicated today?



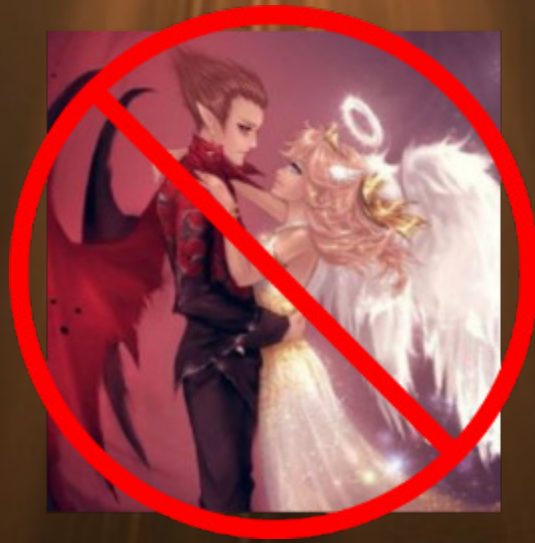
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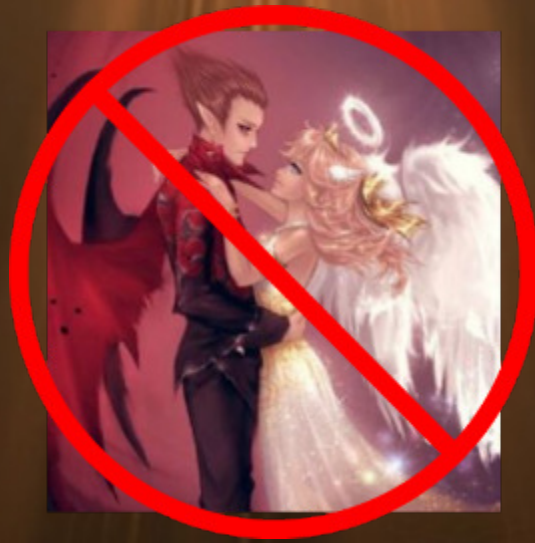
Matthew 22:30

“For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.”



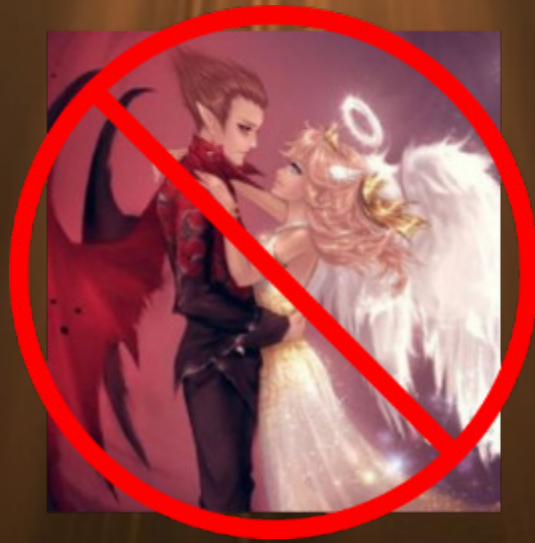
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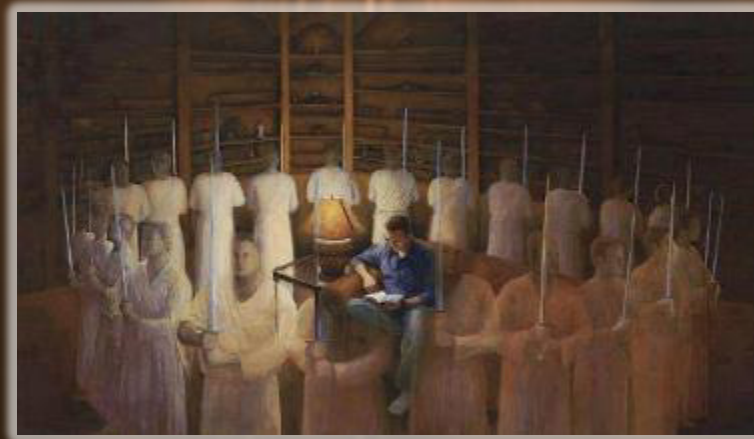
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Hebrews 1:14

“Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?”



Genesis 18:22; 19:1

“^{18:22} Then the men turned away from there and went toward Sodom, while Abraham was still standing before the Lord... ^{19:1} Now the two angels came to Sodom in the evening as Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw them, he rose to meet them and bowed down with his face to the ground.”



Genesis 18:5-8

⁵ “and I will bring a piece of bread, that you may refresh yourselves; after that you may go on, since you have visited your servant.” And they said, “So do, as you have said.” ⁶ So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah, and said, “Quickly, prepare three measures of fine flour, knead it and make bread cakes.” ⁷ Abraham also ran to the herd, and took a tender and choice calf and gave it to the servant, and he hurried to prepare it. ⁸ He took curds and milk and the calf which he had prepared, and placed it before them; and he was standing by them under the tree as they ate.”



Genesis 19:4-6

⁴ Before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, surrounded the house, both young and old, all the people from every quarter; ⁵ and they called to Lot and said to him, “Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us that we may have relations with them.” ⁶ But Lot went out to them at the doorway, and shut the door behind him.



Hebrews 13:2

“Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it.”



2 Peter 2:4-5

“⁴ For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment; ⁵ and did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly.”



Jude 6-7

“⁶ And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in **eternal bonds** under darkness for the judgment of the great day, ⁷ just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them, since they in the same way as these indulged in gross immorality and went after strange flesh, are exhibited as an example in undergoing the punishment of eternal fire.”



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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.”

Numbers 13:32-33

³² So they gave out to the sons of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying, “The land through which we have gone, in spying it out, is a land that devours its inhabitants; and all the people whom we saw in it are men of *great* size. ³³ There also we saw the Nephilim (the sons of Anak are part of the Nephilim); and we became like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight.”





Mediterranean Sea

AMMON

CANAAN

MOAB

Nile Delta

Tanis

GOSHEN

Etham

Wilderness of Shur

EDOM

Kadesh bamea

SINAI Peninsula

Ezion-geber

EGYPT

Land of Midian

Rephidim

SINAI

Arabia

Red Sea





Finis Jennings Dake

God's Plan for Man: Revealing God's Perfect Plan for All Creation (Lawrenceville, GA: Dake Bible Sales, 1949), 197.



“There were two eruptions of the fallen angels among men. They produced races of giants on the Earth each time. The first eruption was before the flood, and the second one was after the flood. This is plainly stated in Gen. 6:4: ‘There were giants in the earth in those days [before the flood]; and also after that [after the flood], when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown.’”



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“...We also know from history that there were giants in the Earth both before and after the flood. Genesis 6:4 records the fact that ‘There were giants in the earth in those days’ before the flood, for the whole passage speaks of the time before the flood of Noah and shows why God sent the flood. Then we have many Scriptures of giants in the Earth after the flood, coming from the same source, the sons of God and the daughters of men. There were no daughters of Cain left on Earth after the flood, for only Noah and his family were kept alive in the ark and lived after the flood (Gen. 6:18; 9:1-16; 1 Pet. 3:20).”



Finis Jennings Dake

God's Plan for Man: Revealing God's Perfect Plan for All Creation (Lawrenceville, GA: Dake Bible Sales, 1949), 231-32.



“...there were two eruptions of fallen angels among men who married the daughters of men and produced two races of giants upon the Earth—one before the flood and the other after the flood. This is what is plainly stated in Gen. 6:4, ‘and also after that,’ that is, after the flood, the sons of God married the daughters of men and they bare children to them who were giants. The second eruption took place in this dispensation, for when Abraham entered the land at the beginning of the next age, it is said that ‘the Canaanite was then [already] in the land’ (Gen. 12:6; 13:7). The Canaanites were the offspring of the sons of God and the daughters of men after the flood, as seen in Lesson Eleven.”



Finis Jennings Dake

God's Plan for Man: Revealing God's Perfect Plan for All Creation (Lawrenceville, GA: Dake Bible Sales, 1949), 231-32.



“...This second eruption took place soon after the flood, as seems clear from the record of Satan’s quick work to always defeat God if possible. The giant couch that was made in the temple that Nimrod made suggests that giants were already in the Earth at the time of Nimrod, which was about 100 years after the flood, or in the second generation according to Gen. 10:6-10. The second generation in Shem’s line was Salah, who was born 37 years after the flood. If Nimrod was born about this time, he became a great one at least 100 years after the flood. This explains how the whole race was so deep in sin by the time of Abraham, 427 years after the flood.”



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God's Plan for Man: Revealing God's Perfect Plan for All Creation (Lawrenceville, GA: Dake Bible Sales, 1949), 231-32.



“...This period as well as the Age of Conscience is referred to in Rom. 1:17-32. God had promised not to send another flood; so Satan attempted a second time to corrupt pure Adamite stock so that the seed of the woman, Christ, could not come into the world to destroy Satan’s hold on the race. Since God could not kill the giants by a flood, He had to do this by other means. God’s plan was to raise up a strong nation through Abraham to kill the second race of giants as the flood had destroyed the first one. Thus the race as a whole became sinful and idolatrous, setting the stage for the next part of God’s program, as will be studied in the next two lessons.”

Numbers 13:32-33

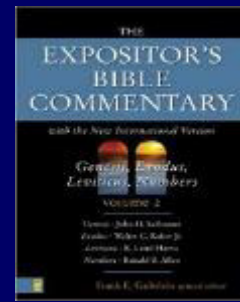
³² So they gave out to the sons of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying, “The land through which we have gone, in spying it out, is a land that devours its inhabitants; and all the people whom we saw in it are men of *great* size. ³³ There also we saw the Nephilim (the sons of Anak are part of the Nephilim); and we became like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight.”





Ronald Allen

"Numbers," in Expositor's Bible Commentary, ed. Frank E. Gaebelien et al (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1981), Numbers 13:31-33.

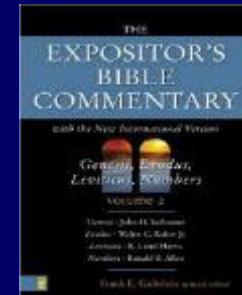


“By speaking evil concerning the land, the faithless spies were speaking evil of him. At this point their words became exaggerations and distortions. The Anakites (who were of large size) were now said to be Nephilim, the race of giants described briefly in the mysterious context of the cohabitation of the sons of God and the daughters of men (Gen 6:4). The use of the term Nephilim seems to be deliberately provocative of fear, a term not unlike the concept of bogeymen and hobgoblins. The exaggeration of the faithless led them to their final folly: ‘We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them.’ ” We have noted the possible use of rhetorical . . .



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"Numbers," in Expositor's Bible Commentary, ed. Frank E. Gaebelein et al (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1981), Numbers 13:31-33.



“ . . . exaggeration, hyperbole, in the numbers of the tribes of Israel—power numbers to bring encouragement to the nation in the confidence they must have in the fulfillment of the promises of God (see Introduction, sections on large numbers). In the report of the evil spies, we see that rhetorical exaggeration can work both ways. By describing themselves as mere grasshoppers in the sight of the fabulous Nephilim, they frightened the sandals off the people and led a nation to grievous sin of unbelief against their caring God.”

Numbers 13:32-33

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Divided Kingdom



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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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2 Samuel 21:20

There was war at Gath again, 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 had been born to the giant.”





Finis Jennings Dake

God's Plan for Man: Revealing God's Perfect Plan for All Creation (Lawrenceville, GA: Dake Bible Sales, 1949), 197-198.



“The second eruption of fallen angels was evidently smaller in number and more limited in area; they were for the most part confined to the land of Canaan, and their offspring were known as the nations of Canaan. They were known as Rephaim (Gen. 14:5; 15:20; Deut. 2:11, 20, 21; 3:11-13; Josh. 12:4; 13:12; 15:8; 17:15; 18:16); Anakim (Num. 13:22; Deut. 1:28; 2:10-11, 21; 9:2; Josh. 11:21-22; 14:12-15); Horim (Gen. 14:6; Deut. 2:12, 20, 21); Avim (Deut. 2:23; Josh. 13:3); Zanzumim (Deut. 2:20); and other names. They are enumerated in Gen. 15:18-21; Exod. 3:8, 17; 23:23; Num. 13:22; Deut. 7:1; 20:17; Josh. 12:8...”



Finis Jennings Dake

*God's Plan for Man: Revealing God's Perfect Plan for All
Creation* (Lawrenceville, GA: Dake Bible Sales, 1949), 197-198.



“...These were to be utterly destroyed by the sword of Israel just as the flood had destroyed the ones that had lived in the Dispensation of Conscience (Deut. 7:1-5; 20:17; Josh. 3:10). Israel failed in this purpose so the giants were left to test and prove the chosen people (Josh. 13:13; 15:63; 16:10; 17:18; Judg. 1:19-36; 2:1-5; 3:1-7). The giants made trouble for Israel until the time of David when the last of the races of the giants were killed (1 Sam. 17; 2 Sam. 21:15-22; 1 Chron. 20:4-8).”

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1 Peter 3:19-20

“¹⁹ in which also He went and made proclamation to the spirits now in prison,²⁰ who once were disobedient, when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through *the water*.”



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GOOD ANGELS & EVIL ANGELS



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“¹⁹ in which also He went and made proclamation (*kēryssō*; not *euanagelizō*) the spirits *now* in prison, ²⁰ who once were disobedient, when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through *the water*.”



Satan's Two Strategies

- Rev 12:1-5 – Past failed strategy
- Rev 12:6-17 – Present & future strategy



Modern Angelic Incursions?

Three Verses Typically Used

- Genesis 6:4
- Numbers 13:33
- Matthew 24:38-39



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- Genesis 6:4
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Matthew 24:38-39

³⁸ For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so will the coming of the Son of Man be.”



Matthew 24:32-33

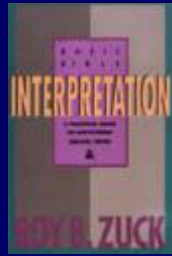
³² “Now learn the parable from the fig tree: when its branch has already become tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near; ³³ so, you too, when you see all these things, recognize that He is near, *right* at the door.”





Dr. Roy B. Zuck

Roy B. Zuck, *Basic Bible Interpretation*, p. 215-16.



“Usually a parable, like a sermon illustration, is teaching a single truth. When Jesus explained a number of His parables, He usually...stated one spiritual truth. For example when the man found his one lost sheep, he rejoiced, and Jesus said this illustrates the truth that there is rejoicing in heaven when a sinner repents (Luke 15:7)...He gave one simple spiritual lesson, and made no attempt to see any spiritual significance to the vineyard, the denarius, or the sixth hour, the ninth hour, or the eleventh hour, nor the vineyard foreman...**To hunt for meanings in every detail in the parables is to turn them into allegories.**”

Matthew 24:38-39

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CONCLUSION

Objections

1. Angels do not marry? (Matt. 22:30)
2. Angels are spirits (Heb. 1:14)
3. Nephilim in the post – flood world? (Num. 13:33; Gen. 6:4a)
4. Nephilim in David's day? (2 Sam. 21:20)
5. Why is this sin not replicated today?



Lesson Overview

■ Defense of the Angel View

- ◆ Old Testament
- ◆ New Testament
- ◆ Tradition
- ◆ Objections

