



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.”



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. Sons of God; Gen. 6:1-4
4. Pharaoh; Ex. 1
5. Athaliah; 2 Chron. 22
6. Haman; Esther
7. Matt 4:5-7



Lesson Overview

■ Defense of the Angel View

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



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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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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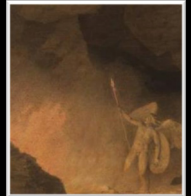




JEWISH TRADITION

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

CHRISTIAN TRADITION



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

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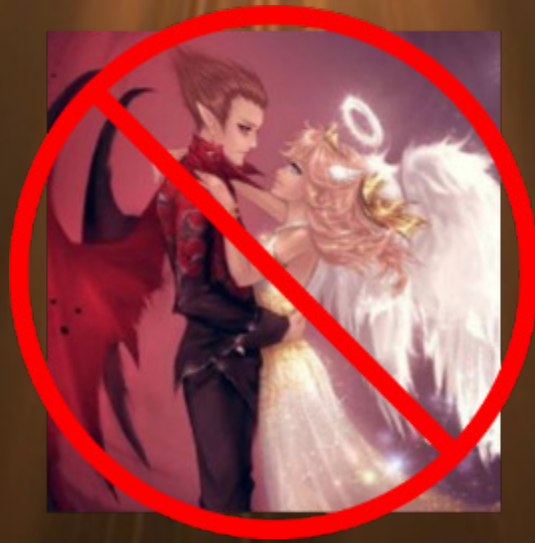
Objections

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?



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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Hebrews 13:2

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



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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.”



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.”





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Divided Kingdom

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Relevant New Testament Passages

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



1 Peter 3:19-20

“¹⁹ in which also He went and made proclamation 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*.”



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.”



GOOD ANGELS & EVIL ANGELS



Matthew 8:28-29

“²⁸ When He came to the other side into the country of the Gadarenes, two men who were demon-possessed met Him as they were coming out of the tombs. They were so extremely violent that no one could pass by that way. ²⁹ And they cried out, saying, ‘What business do we have with each other, Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?’”



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.”



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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



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Modern Angelic Incursions?

Three Verses Typically Used

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- Numbers 13:33
- Matthew 24:38-39



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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.’”

Genesis 6:1-4

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Matthew 24:38-39

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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

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