



7.1.24

THE DESTRUCTION OF  
MAN: "THE FLOOD"

Genesis 6:1-4

## STUDY OUTLINE

*A Comprehensive Study Outline for the Week 17 Meeting*

**Passage:** Genesis 6:1-4

**Author:** Moses.

**Date of Writing:** 1450-1410 B.C.

**Introduction and Theme:** After chapter 3, Satan isn't mentioned by name in Genesis, but he and his demonic hosts are at work doing their utmost to keep the promised Redeemer from being born. This was Satan's purpose throughout all of the Old Testament. After all, he did not want his head crushed by the Savior (Gen. 3:15). God had declared war on Satan and the deceiver intended to fight back.

**Major Point:** Satan will stop at nothing to disrupt God's plan and win the Angelic Conflict.

**Words to Define:**

**sons of God;** a son (ben, Hebrew), a builder of the family name (son, grandson) in the widest sense of literal and figurative relationship. God (Elohim); plural, of the supreme God.

**daughters of men;** daughter (bath, Hebrew), feminine, used in the widest sense of relationship. men, mankind (adam).

**nephilim;** to fall, the fallen ones, a bully or tyrant, giant.

## **I. Conditions Prior to the Flood. Gen. 6:1-2. Verses are taken from the NASB.**

a. Now it came about, when men began to multiply on the face of the land, and daughters were born to them (v.1). A population explosion(v.1). Man broke every commandment of God with the exception of one; “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth (Gen.1:28).

b. That the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves, whomever they chose(v.2).

### **Sons of God:**

Genesis 6:1-4 is commonly regarded as one of the most difficult passages to interpret in all of the Old Testament. Well respected Christian scholars have taken a number of different positions on what these verses mean. This study will focus on two views of who the “sons of God” are:

1. Godly line of Seth. 2. Fallen Angels

### **1. Godly Line of Seth: “sons of God”. Gen. 6:2.**

This view has been a common understanding since the early centuries of the Christian church with Julius Africanus (160-240) being the first of the church fathers to promote this view and was later popularized by Augustine (354-430) and eventually adopted by reformers Luther and Calvin.

- a. Belief that the “sons of God”(v.2) are of the godly line of Seth and intermarried with the ungodly line of Cain(Gen.4:19-26, 1John 3:12).
- b. This is within the context of the previous passages of Genesis 6:2.  
(Gen.4:23-5:32).
- c. This is within the historical context of neglecting God’s warning not to intermarry(Exodus 34:6; Deut.7:3). However, there was no prohibition for humans to intermarry. (where there is no law there is no sin (Rom.4:15; 5:13).
- d. “sons of God” is used to describe human followers of the LORD throughout the Old Testament (Deut.14:1, 32:5; Hosea 1:10; Psalm 73:15; Isaiah 43:6).
- e. “Sons of God” is used of humans in the New Testament (Matt.5:9; Luke 20:36; Rom.8:14; Gal.3:26).
- f. This view does not offer an explanation for the origin of the Nephilim mentioned in Genesis 6:4.

## **2. Fallen Angels. Gen. 6:2.**

This is the view assumed in the earliest Jewish exegesis, for example, in Enoch 6:2, and in Jubilees 5:1. Similarly, certain variants of the Septuagint, including Codex Alexandrines, translate “sons of God” as “angels of God”. The Jewish historian Josephus also assumes this view.

- a. This view has strong Biblical support in that usage of the Old Testament “sons of God” refers to angelic beings (Job 1:6; 2:1, 38:4-7, Psalms 29:1;89:6). Thus, it may be concluded that Gen. 6:2 refers to angelic creatures.

- b. Accounts for the origin of the Nephilim (offspring of the illicit angel-human relations) in verse 4.

c. This view has supporting New Testament evidence. In the post resurrection ministry of Jesus Christ, He went and made proclamation to the spirits now in prison who once were disobedient (1 Peter 3:18-20). In like fashion, 2 Peter 2:4-5 mentions “angels” who sinned and were subsequently thrown into Tartarus being committed to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment. Jude 6-7 also speaks of angels who did not keep their own domain.

d. Angels take on human form in their visitation with Abraham (Gen.18) and the rescue of Lot from Sodom (Gen.19).

## **II. Divine Determination. Gen. 6:3.**

a. The LORD said My Spirit shall not strive with man forever (v.3a). Note the role of the Holy Spirit is always the same; to convict the world concerning sin, righteousness, and judgment (John 16:8).

b. His days shall be 120 years (v.3b). Grace has a limit, then judgment comes.

## **III. The Situation. Gen. 6:4.**

a. The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward (v.4a)

1. Nephilim is the term for “Giant” both before and after the flood. See sons of Anak, Numbers 13:33, these Nephilim were not angelic mix.

2. Thus the term is not a technical term for “angel-men”, but can refer to those who are purely human beings of a large structure.

3. Other races of human giants are mentioned in the Post-Flood civilization:

- a. Rephaim/Zamzummin/Emim. Gen. 14:5; Deut. 2:20-21.
- b. Anakim. Deut. 9:1-2; Joshua 11:21-22.

4. The “daughters of men” bore children to the angelic “sons of God” who became the “offspring of the gods.” This lays an historical basis for mythology, UFO’s, Big Foot.

5. For cohabitation to occur the angels must have had some sort of material body with which to impregnate the daughters of men.

6. It is clear that after the Flood no cohabitation was permitted, for those who committed the acts were locked up (2 Peter 2:4-5). This does not mean the fallen angels obeyed God.

7. One of the chief attacks by Satan is to contaminate the human line to the point that there is no possibility for a “seed of the woman.”

**Conclusion and application:** Satan has absolutely no love for mankind and is a murderer who will go to any length to destroy us. We are living in a spiritual, unseen war. For us to be effective it is important to know ourselves, know our LORD, and know our enemy.



**Lesson Instructor:** *Dr. Aurelio "Skip" Cecchini is a Bible believing follower of Jesus Christ whose passion is to Disciple others. You can read more about Skip's passion and desire to help men rightfully divide the word of truth, the Bible by attending one of his weekly Monday Night Bible Study Meetings, held each week at the Uniontown Holiday Inn Express. Or, contact him through this website.*

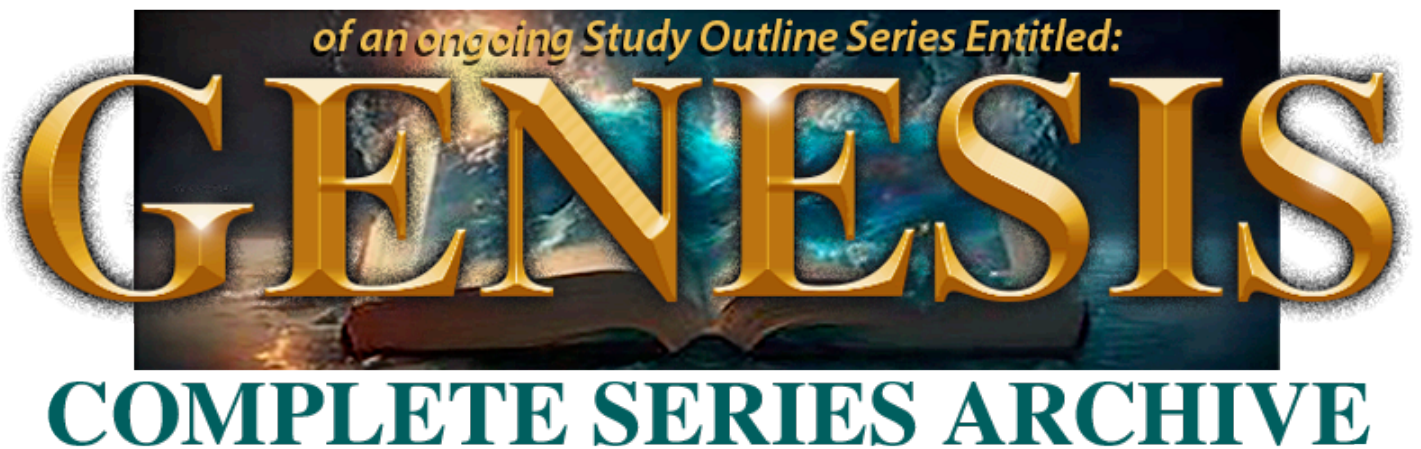
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