

## **Genesis 6 – The Flood – Part 1 – “Who were the Nephilim?”**

### Introduction

Read: Genesis 6:1-4

Who were “the Nephilim?”

- 1) They were Satan’s newest idea – intermarry fallen angels with human women giving birth to soulless, corrupt giants who had an appearance like man but were clearly different from them (i.e. long necks, great height and strength, not a holy one among them, etc.)
- 2) They were the straw that broke the camel’s back, so to speak – God had tired so much of man’s own sin and violence, Satan’s temptation and corruption of them, and finally the introduction of the Nephilim brought God to the point of massacring the whole earth via the flood.

However, God had made a promise – to bring Messiah into the world – so He would preserve it through Noah, who was righteous and clean in his lineage (no intermarriage with demons in his family line)

Now, why do I teach the Nephilim were fallen angels, and not just good men “gone bad”, so to speak, and does this matter?

- 1) I believe the Nephilim were fallen angels for many Biblical and extra-Biblical reasons, which I will demonstrate shortly below:

- 2) And later, in the land of Canaan, God tells Moses, the people of Israel, Joshua, and the next generation of Israelites to kill all the peoples of the land – spare not man, woman, or even child! How could God ask such a thing? Here is why:
- a. God was destroying the Nephilim - who were NOT human beings – they were the soulless, violent, corrupt procreation of women and demons, and had no place on this earth or in eternity. God was not unjust; they were not people!
    - i. A further consideration of this is how we understand modern biology – we all know the male determines the sex of the baby with his DNA. The “babies” of the male fallen angels bore out demonic offspring, neither male nor female human beings.
    - ii. There is no evidence the Nephilim were people – they are always described as giants, or by a special name, indicating their uniqueness as violent creatures born of demonic seed. Their “extinction” is also spoken of in Deuteronomy 3:11. Obviously, people were still around, but the Nephilim, at least at that point in time in Bible history, ceased to exist as a separate kind or species of creature.
  - b. The Nephilim were Satan’s idea and lineage, you might say, but God used it for good. The Israelites under Moses were afraid of the giants, but God promised them victory. When Joshua finally led them into Canaan, God

handed it to them (Deuteronomy 2:14, 15) by His own power (Deuteronomy 3:11). God's power is greater than that of man, even the offspring of humans! This convinced Israel, all throughout the days of Joshua and his leadership, to remain faithful to God who was greater than the giants! (Joshua 24:31)

Let's look further into why the Nephilim were really what we are saying they are:

- The phrase, "sons of God" (Hebrew is "Bene-ha-Elohim") refers to angels in every Old Testament passage without dispute: Psalms 29:1, Psalms 89:7, Job 1:6, Job 2:1, Job 38:7, and Daniel 3:25.
- The Septuagint (the Hebrew Old Testament translated into Greek), Codex Alexandria (an ancient Greek manuscript of large parts of the Old Testament), and Augustine (one of the first theologians) all refer to "sons of God" as angels, without question.
- Philo, Josephus, Justin Martyr, Clement of Rome, Tertullian, Irenaeus, and so many others also attest to the same. It would be tiring to name them all!
- Finally, the Apocryphal books such as the Book of Enoch and the Testament of the Twelve Patriarchs attest to the same.
- MOST IMPORTANTLY, the New Testament discusses the fact that angels sinned in specific manners:
  - o II Peter 2:4 reports, "For if God did not spare the angels who sinned..."

- Jude 1:6-7 says, “And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in chains for everlasting darkness...” verse 7 continues, “Sodom and Gomorrah, in like manner, giving after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.”
  - So the following facts are established about angels from the BIBLE:
    - Angels sinned
    - Those fallen angels left heaven at some point
    - Like Sodom and Gomorrah, those angels participated in fornication
    - Those angels went after human women (this works as all angels in the Bible are depicted as male)
    - Those angels are judged for this behavior
    - Some angels are already in chains, others reserved for chains when that time comes
    - Finally, Ephesians 6:12 tells us, “For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”

The Nephilim is a term repeated in the Bible: Numbers 13:32-33 they are referred to as giants (same Hebrew word). The Hebrew

word for Nephilim means “the fallen ones”. The Nephilim were fallen, apostate, offspring of demons, without souls, only of a corrupt and sinful nature. They had no place on earth or in eternity; they had one destiny – elimination.

Depending on the context and language, and referred to throughout the Bible as the following:

- Sons of Anak
- The mighty ones
- Heroes of old (NIV)
- Anakims
- Rephaines
- Emims
- Horims (“cave dwellers”)
- Zamzummins
- Zuzims
- Avims (“perverters”)

Also, the Nephilim were witnessed by many: Moses, the twelve spies, Joshua, and eventually all of Israel. The Moabites and Edomites were also witnesses in Deuteronomy 2:11, 12+20.

Eventually, God systematically eliminated the Nephilim from that time in history. He used the Edomites (son of Esau – edom means, “red”) in Deuteronomy 2:12, the Israelites (Deuteronomy 2:14, 15), and even by His own hand (Deuteronomy 3:11). The last of the giants, Og of Bashan, was eliminated in that same verse by God’s very hand. God often uses His people (and sometimes not His people) to do His will in judgment, but sometimes also just

handles the matter Himself (like Sodom and Gomorrah), so we should not be surprised by this.

A fun fact: Og's bed was 13.5 feet long and 6 feet wide. We know Goliath of the Philistines was 9 feet tall (1 Samuel 17:4); Og was likely as tall if not more so, and likely carried quite the girth!

Today's KING size beds are only 6 2/3's feet by 6 1/3 feet. Og's bed was basically twice as long!

From the history of his corrupt, soulless, inhuman race of super beings, we have the birth of ancient mythology. The Greek "heroes" such as Hercules (half-divine, half-mortal) equivocates the description of the Nephilim well, as well as the multiple Greek/Roman gods/goddesses such as Zeus and Hera, who were always fighting, committing adulteries with one another, and messing with humanity unfairly. The stories of corrupt supermen have their garbled nature based in the truth of the existence of the Nephilim – the sinful, ruthless, soulless creatures of times past.

Finally, Biblical history gives us a full account of man's sin, Satan's corruption and temptation of men, and finally his introduction of the Nephilim to prompt God's need for a total wipeout of the earth – the Great Flood. After the flood, Satan would reintroduce these same corruptions (Genesis 6:4), but more subtlety, and God would systematically eliminate them in order to keep His promise to bring Messiah into the world to redeem man, just as He had promised in Genesis 3:15!