

The Sons of God Married the Daughters of Men

6: 1-4

DIG: Apart from the lack of details in these verses, what do you find most disturbing about this description of human corruption? Why? What would be disturbing to someone who believes human nature is essentially good? Why does God the Holy Spirit say: Do not be yoked together with unbelievers (Second Corinthians 2:14-18)?

REFLECT: When was the last time you were fooled into thinking someone was very different than they really were? What did you learn from that experience? Not to trust anyone or to test the spirits (First John 4:1-3)?

This chapter describes Satan's attempt to make it impossible for mankind to be saved. When the deceiver saw an opportunity to destroy God's prophecy that **the Seed of the woman** would **crush his head**, he took it. Moral and spiritual conditions at that time had deteriorated with passing years, not only among the descendants of Cain, but also among the descendants of Seth. The wickedness and sinfulness of mankind was so great, that the Adversary saw such an opportunity. His plan was pure evil.

The phrase, **now it came to pass (NKJ)**, links **Chapter 5**, which focuses on **the sons**, with **Chapter 6**, which focuses on **the daughters**. **Men began to increase in number on the earth when they had other sons and daughters**. The Hebrew word for **men** is *adam*, which means *man*. The word is generic, meaning *mankind* in general, including male and female. This word cannot be limited to **the son's** of Cain (as some would wrongly interpret this section as the intermarrying between the ungodly line of Cain and the godly line of Seth). Then Moses, the human author, added: **and daughters were born to them**. Once again, **daughters** is a general term, meaning *both daughters from the line of Cain and daughters from the line of Seth, and all the other sons of Adam that had multiplied by this time*.

The sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful. The term **the sons of God** in Hebrew is *bnei ha Elohim*. *This phrase in the Hebrew Bible is always used in reference to angels*. It might be good angels, or it might be bad angels, but it refers to angels (**Job 1:6, 2:1, 38:7**). The Septuagint uses the same term in **Deuteronomy 32:8**, and refers to angels. Another variation of this is *bnei ilim*, which means *the sons of the mighty* (**Psalms 29:1, 89:6, 82:6**). Another form of it is in Aramaic, *bar Elohim*, which means *a son of the gods*. Therefore, everywhere it is used, it is a reference to angels.

They are **sons** in the sense that **God** directly created **them** (Psalm 148:2 and 5, Psalm 104:4; Colossians 1:16). The term includes both fallen angels and faithful angels. In the New Covenant the term **the sons of God** is applied to others besides angels, but the common element of being directly created by **God** is still there. For example, **Adam**, in Luke 3:38 is called **the son of God** because he was created directly by **God**. Believers are called the **sons of God** in John 1:12 and Romans 8:14 (KJV) because they are a **new creation** (Second Corinthians 5:17), created by **God**. Therefore, there seems no reasonable doubt that, in so far as the language itself is concerned, the intent of **the Holy Spirit** is to convey the thought of angels - **fallen angels, or demons** because **they** were acting in opposition to the will of **ADONAI** (see my commentary on **Jude Ak - The Angels Did Not Keep Their Positions of Authority**). This also was the meaning placed on the passage by Josephus, by the writer of the ancient apocryphal book of Enoch, and by all the other ancient Jewish interpreters and earliest Christian writers.⁹⁸

In this verse there is also the phrase **the daughters of men**. This is a generic term for *women* or *womankind*. **The sons of God**, or fallen angels, **saw that the daughters of men were beautiful, and they married any of them they chose**. Angels always appear as "men" and the pronoun "he" is always used in reference to them. **Yeshua** said of angels: **At the resurrection people will neither marry nor be given in marriage; they will be like the angels in heaven** (Matthew 22:30). However, this is not the equivalent of saying that **angels** are "sexless," since **people** will surely retain **their** own personal identity.

The Destroyer of souls had not forgotten **the LORD's** prophecy that the promised **Seed of the woman** would one day destroy him. He had implanted his own spiritual seed in Cain and his descendants, but **God** had preserved the line of **the Seed of the woman** through Seth (3:15). When **Noah** was born and Lamech was led to prophesy that **comfort** concerning the curse would come through him in 5:29, the devil devised a plan to completely corrupt **mankind**, making it impossible for **them** to be saved. The union between fallen angels and human females produced something abnormal, neither fully human or fully angel. **Because fallen angels have no possibility of being saved, neither did their offspring. As the population eventually grew, the entire human race would be contaminated by these half-human, half-demon offspring, and Satan would have used the marvelous power of procreation, which God had given the human family, to corrupt the world.**⁹⁹

Then **the LORD**, said: **My Spirit will not contend with man forever**. Here again we have the implication of a plurality in **the Godhead**. The pronoun **My**, refers to **Elohim**, and the word **Spirit** refers to **the Holy Spirit**, who has already been introduced as early as 1:2. The

word **contend** appears only here in the entire Bible and means *restraining sin*. The verse could be translated: *My Holy Spirit will not restrain man's sin forever; there would be a limit*. The *restraining of sin* was accomplished through the preaching of Enoch, Methuselah, Lamech and **Noah**. In contrast to the **Holy Spirit**, man is mortal and subject to death (6:13). Then **ADONAI** added: **His days will be a hundred and twenty years**. Those were **the years** remaining before the Flood as **Noah built the ark (First Peter 3:20)**. The only reason for this delay was the grace of **God**. Lastly, we see the result of the intermarriage between demonic fallen angels and human women.

The Nephilim were on the earth in those days. The Hebrew word for **Nephilim** means *the fallen ones*. Some translations read **giants**, but this is a bad translation based on the Septuagint, not the Hebrew Scriptures. Some use **Numbers 13:33** to support the idea that the **Nephilim** were **giants**. But the ten spies who came back gave a *false report*. There were no **giants** or *fallen ones* because **Joshua** never encountered any of **them** as **he** conquered the land. Therefore, these *fallen ones* were the result of the union, as is explained in the remainder of the verse. **The rabbis teach that they were so named because they fell, and caused the whole world to fall**. When the writer says **they were on the earth in those days**, he means **in the days of Enoch and the children of Cain**. The depravity of mankind had accelerated to such an alarming degree that **the LORD** made **His** decision right then and there that something drastic had to be done. Enoch named his son *when he dies, it shall be sent*. As long as Methuselah was alive, 969 years, the earth would be spared from judgment. Therefore, the **Nephilim** existed **in those days of Enoch** when Methuselah was born **and also afterward** in the **days** when they failed to repent.

When the sons of God went to the daughters of men and had children by them they became the Nephilim. Those *fallen ones* were **heroes of old, men of renown**. These were **men** whose exploits of evil and violence had made them **heroes** in **their** time. This is true of our society today. Many times the more wicked and violent people become, the more famous they are. **The rabbis interpreted this to mean that they were men of renown who brought desolation upon the world because of the similarity in Hebrew between the word renown and the word desolation**. When **the LORD** was ready to judge the world, as **He** was about to do with the Flood, no one outside the ark would survive. There would be no glory in that, only death. In the eyes of the world the **Nephilim** were **heroes**, but in eyes of **ADONAI** they were merely satanic counterfeits.