

The Sons of God in Genesis 6

Commentary for February 1, 2007 — “Who Were the Sons of God?”

Identification of the Sons of God in the first four verses of Genesis chapter 6 has interested — indeed fascinated — Bible students and scholars since the completion of the Old Testament. Every commentator of the Old Testament, and Genesis in particular, has struggled with these verses. The proper identification still interests people today. Dr. Martin correctly identified these **“Sons of God”** who married the **“daughters of men”**:

“And it came to pass, when men [adam] began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them, That the sons of God saw the daughters of men [adam] that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose.

And the Lord said, ‘My spirit shall not always strive with man [adam], for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.’

There were giants [nephilim] in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men [adam], and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown.”

• *Genesis 6:1-4*

Something very unusual is taking place in this passage. Those marriages, the offspring from the marriages (who were giants), and the increasing corruption and sins of humanity resulted in evils so horrendous (Genesis 6:5–7) that God was compelled to punish mankind in the only way possible. God killed off the entire human family except for 8 people. Noah, his wife, their three sons, and their sons’ wives were selected to rebuild humanity and do the same things that (with the same words) God commanded Adam **“Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth.”** (Genesis 9:1, cf. 1:28). Humanity failed to live up to God’s expectations before the Flood and part of the reason was the intrusion of the Sons of God into human affairs.

In this month’s [February 2007 Newsletter](#) and the Article titled “Idolatry and the Sons of God” I go into detail regarding the identification of the Sons of God. As usual, if I have developed any new information and see farther than others have regarding this subject it is only because I am standing on the shoulders of Dr. Ernest Martin’s research and hard work. Because of the importance of this subject, proper detailed study will take some time to explain, requiring several articles, all under the general heading of “idolatry.” By doing so we will learn more about God and Christ, and other members of the household of God (both family members and servants) which will give us a better biblical understanding of your place and my place as children in the family of God.

Who Were the Sons of God?

There are two general theories about the Sons of God. The first theory is that the Sons of God were humans who married women and their descendants were evil. This view is further divided into two camps, the orthodox Jewish view that the Sons of God were great men or nobility of some sort. The other view (generally Christian) was that the Sons of God were the sons of Seth who married the daughters of Cain. Both views of the human origin of the Sons of God are wrong. The Sons of God were not human. The Sons of God produced Nephilim who were giants (although the term Nephilim does not specifically mean “giant,” they were indeed giants). Humans having children with humans do not produce giants as a distinguishing characteristic, nor are humans of gigantic stature particularly evil as were the Nephilim.

The second major theory is that the Sons of God were angels, who, as supernatural beings, came and married human women, the **"daughters of men."** Large portions of the apocryphal Book of Enoch and the [Book of Jubilees](#) were written to give each author's understanding that angels were the Sons of God. This was also the view of Josephus and Philo who reflected the common understanding of their times. This view has had wide acceptance throughout history, and today it is commonly seen on internet sites around the world as a "new" theory linking the Sons of God with aliens, conspiracy, ritual, and occult practices. While this understanding has some validity on certain points, it is not a true biblical description of reality. The Sons of God were indeed supernatural beings who manifested physically to marry women, but it can be shown conclusively that angels are not the Sons of God.¹

I first began my personal informal study of this subject around 1974 when I encountered the Appendices in E.W. Bullinger's *Companion Bible*. These appendices can now be read on the internet. See "[Appendix 23, The Sons of God in Genesis 6:2, 4,](#)" "[Appendix 24, The 120 Years of Genesis 6:3,](#)" and "[Appendix 25, The Nephilim, or 'Giants' of Gen. 6, &c.](#)" These articles will give useful background to the Article, particularly on the angels theory.

In the 1970s Dr. Bullinger's analysis seemed to fit all circumstances discussed in Scripture. I studied further, reading widely on the subject and noted that it did not answer some issues such as the disconnect between the passages in 2 Peter and Jude, compared with verses in Genesis chapter 6, Job, and the Psalms. If angels were "Sons of God" then the significance of the term lost its meaning. So, in studying various books, articles, and commentaries I was not satisfied with either of the two major "solutions" to the identity of the Sons of God, that they were either humans or angels. We will go over these issues in detail.

It was in the mid-1980s when Dr. Martin first published his understanding from Scripture that the Sons of God were not humans or angels, but that they were a class of beings identified as distinct than either of them. This made all the other research I had previously done suddenly make sense.

You will find that the analysis and insights of Dr. Ernest Martin regarding the Sons of God on the ASK website make the Bible more understandable and make more sense than you will find anywhere else.

Read this month's Newsletter and Article and feel free to give us your comments. We love hearing from each of you.

Housekeeping

I am continuing to do internet radio shows with GeorgeAnn Hughes on *The Byte Show*. More of those shows will shortly go online on the ASK website shortly at the "[ASK Audio Presentations](#)" page. I greatly enjoy doing the shows and those who have listened to them have had many favorable comments.

For those of you who make contributions and literature purchases by credit or debit card directly, we have improved the procedures on the "[Contributions/Orders Page](#)." Now if there is a problem with your card purchase you will be notified immediately that the transaction did not go through.

Thank you all for your support and encouragement.

David Sielaff
david@askelm.com

1. If the Sons of God were angels then what was meant by Jesus' statement in Matthew 22:30; Mark 12:25; and Luke 20:34-36 which seemed to say that angels do not marry? We shall discuss these verses also. There is a modern theory that the Sons of God were aliens from space who landed, married women, and genetically manipulated their offspring to be slaves, the giants. There was a rebellion among the aliens, war broke out, and Noah was saved. This idea has no biblical merit.