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Dear Associates and Friends,

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If you search the internet for the word “Nephilim” you get 1,250,000+ webpages which deal with that subject. Many people around the world are interested in the Nephilim. The article I wrote this month is titled, “[Who Are the Nephilim?](#)“

One key to the subject of the Nephilim has to do with their parentage. Their fathers are Sons of God and their mothers are daughters of *adam* (Genesis 6:1–4). Both groups (Nephilim and Sons of God) are male. No females of either group are written about in Scripture. Most every biblical commentator who deals with Genesis, from the early church fathers to the present day, tries to explain who are the Sons of God and who are the Nephilim.

One thing is necessary to understand. The Sons of God are **NOT** the Nephilim. They are distinct from one another. The Nephilim are the offspring, the sons of the Sons of God. The God spoken of is YHWH (Genesis 6:3, 5–8).

This is contrary to one idea of Zecharia Sitchin, a commercially successful author of *The Twelfth Planet* (1976) and several other books, who popularized this subject about earth origins in the 1980s. Sitchin (who died in October 2010) said the Sons of God were the Nephilim. They were all physical beings, and that the Sons of God came to earth on spacecraft from the planet Nibiru in earth’s ancient past. I met Sitchin and communicated with him. He read some material I wrote on this subject (before I published any writings) and though he liked it, it did not change his views.

Sitchin mistakenly identifies the Sons of God as being the Nephilim, as if they are different names for the same entities. As you will read in my article, this is impossible. Sitchin’s work is not biblically accurate.

In the middle 1990s I typeset a dissertation for a doctoral student who studied and knew Sumerian, the language of ancient Sumer in Mesopotamia. I asked her about Sitchin and she said there were only about two dozen in the world who knew Sumerian and they communicated regularly. He could have been tutored privately, but she had never heard of him or any of his writings. Dr. Michael Heiser has an interesting and devastating website, titled [Sitchin Is Wrong](#). It gives the best refutation to Sitchin’s work and conclusions.

The Sons of God are not human beings, from Adam. We know this from Job 38:7. However, the Sons of God can breed with human women. This is precisely the point Genesis 6:1–4 makes. Yet believe it or not, this is contrary to evangelical theology, and Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant theology.

In general, there are three theories relating to the Sons of God that produced the Nephilim offspring: (1) the Sons of God are humans, (2) they are human kings who thought they were divine, or (3) they are angels. They are divine beings, but they are not angels. “Sons of God” is a very specific term with a specific meaning which is separate from angels, or *aggeloi* in Greek.

Apocryphal Books and Nephilim

The subject of the Sons of God and the Nephilim is also discussed in unscriptural apocryphal writings, particularly the books of *Enoch*, *Jubilees*, and *Jasher*. They are not helpful, but they are of interest to scholars because they tell us the beliefs that were current at the time they wrote. Here is a short list of works that talk about the Nephilim and their fathers who are the Sons of God.

The book of Enoch is most often cited as having useful information about the Sons of God and their offspring. In Enoch the giant offspring, the Nephilim, are 3000 ells tall which is 300 cubits or about 450 feet

tall. Any person of that height would not have the muscular ability to lift his own bones to a sitting position, much less stand or walk. Enoch also wrote that the Sons of God are angels (refuted by Hebrews 1:5).

Another work, the book of *Jubilees* contributes almost nothing which is not in the biblical record:

“... the angels of God saw them on a certain year of this jubilee, that they were beautiful to look upon; and they took themselves wives of all whom they chose, and they bare unto them sons and they were giants.”

• *Jubilees 5:1*

The Jewish historian Josephus also discusses the giants, the Nephilim, telling the beliefs among the Jews of the 1st century:

“for many angels of God accompanied with women, and begat sons that proved unjust, and despisers of all that was good, on account of the confidence they had in their own strength; for the tradition is, that these men did what resembled the acts of those whom the Greeks call giants.”

• *Josephus, Antiquities of the Jews 1:73*

The *Book of Jasher* is often cited as a source, but there are several works with this title. The origin of this work has a very uncertain origin. It also says angels mated with the daughters of men.

An extremely well educated and sophisticated 1st century Jewish philosopher, Philo of Alexandria, wrote a book titled “[On Giants](#).” He largely allegorizes the entire episode in Genesis 6:1–4. Philo also believed angels married the daughters of men.

“On what principle it was that giants were born of angels and women? ... But he [supposedly Moses] relates that these giants were sprung from a combined procreation of two natures, namely, from angels and mortal women; for the substance of angels is spiritual: ...”

• *Questions in Genesis 1:92*

Philo also believed Nimrod was a giant (*Questions in Genesis* 1.92). Elsewhere he identified the giants with an elder group of Greek gods, the Titans:

“... rather like a giant born of the earth, prefers earthly to heavenly things, and thus appears to verify the ancient fable of the giants and Titans;”

• *Questions in Genesis 2:82*

These and other sources are discussed and analyzed by the 1,250,000+ internet websites and hundreds of books regarding the origin of the Nephilim and their sires, the Sons of God. See “[Notes on the Nephilim: The Giants of Old](#),” compiled by Lambert Dolphin. In this compilation, seven authors attempt to present biblical evidence of the three theories I mentioned above. They give the clearest possible presentations and conclusions from an evangelical Christian perspective — and each one is biblically erroneous.

Thank You

We are continually grateful for all your faithful financial support of ASK. Your e-mails, letters, and phone calls relating questions, comments, suggestions, or concerns are always welcome. We also offer our thanks to the Father and Christ Jesus for the things they do for us and the salvation they give us all. I know that you, like us, wait, **“For the earnest expectation of the creature [creation] waits for the manifestation of the sons of God.”** (Romans 8:19). God bless you all.

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