

The Spiritual Realm - Lesson 15: Sons of God

Angels that sinned

2 Peter 2:4-6 *For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment; 5 if he did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when he brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly; 6 if by turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes he condemned them to extinction, making them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly.*

Jude 6-7 *And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day 7 just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire.*

The “sons of God”

Genesis 6:1-4 *When man began to multiply on the face of the land and daughters were born to them, 2 the sons of God saw that the daughters of man were attractive. And they took as their wives any they chose. 3 Then the Lord said, “My Spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years.” 4 The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of man and they bore children to them. These were the mighty men who were of old, the men of renown.*

The word that is transliterated “Nephilim” in the ESV is translated as giants in other Bible translations.

❖ There are various opinions regarding who these sons of God could be:

- (1) Seth’s godly descendants who intermarried with the depraved descendants of Cain.
- (2) Ruthless and domineering chieftains of Cainite descent who married a plurality of wives in order to expand their dominion.
- (3) Demonically in-dwelt men who have relations with women and their offspring are Nephilim.
- (4) Fallen angels who possessed physical bodies to cohabit with women of the human race and their offspring are Nephilim.

“sons of God” means angelic beings in other passages

Job 1:6 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them.

Job 2:1 Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them to present himself before the Lord.

Psalms 29:1 Ascribe to the Lord, O **heavenly beings**, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

Who are the Nephilim?

❖ The *Holman Bible Dictionary* defines Nephilim as the following:

Nephilim: Term probably derived from the root “to fall” and meaning either “the fallen ones” or else “ones who fall [violently] upon others.” At Genesis 6:4 the term designates ancient heroes who, according to most interpreters, are the products of sexual union of heavenly beings (“sons of God”; compare Job 1:6, 2:1, 38:7; Psalm 29:1, 82:6) and human women. The account illustrates the breakdown of the God-ordained order separating heaven and earth (Genesis 1:6-10) and specifying reproduction “each according to its kind” (1:11-12, 21, 24-25). God intervened to reestablish limits inherent in creation (6:3; compare 3:22-23).

MacArthur: That certainly raises the question: How can spirit beings marry women? It is possible only if they dwell in human bodies, as angels can and have done (cf. Genesis 18:1-2, 8; 19:1, 5; Hebrews 13:2). Those demons entered men's bodies (a phenomenon frequently encountered by Christ and the apostles in the Gospel record), as is clear from the children who were born from those unions (Genesis 6:4). Though the children were human, there was a pervasive influence on them from the demons.

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Position of authority: archē. Used 58 times in NT. "first" or "first position", usually translated "beginning"

❖ The first in sequence of events.

John 1:1-2 *In the **beginning** was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the **beginning** with God.*

❖ The first in rank or office. Highest rank in the hierarchy.

Romans 8:38 *For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor **rulers**, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers*

Ephesians 3:10 *so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the **rulers** and authorities in the heavenly places.*

Ephesians 6:12 *For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the **rulers**, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.*

Left their proper dwelling: They left (departed) their proper (own) dwelling (spiritual body - oikētērion). Only used twice.

2 Corinthians 5:1-3 *For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. 2 For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our **heavenly dwelling**, 3 if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked.*

❖ Here the meaning is a resurrected body or a spiritual body.

❖ Both angels and Sodom and Gomorrah are accused of sexual sin.

Pursued unnatural desire: Pursued (went after) unnatural (strange or different) desire (flesh).

❖ The spiritual beings left their spiritual bodies and pursued different or human flesh.

❖ They left their higher-dimensional spiritual realm, lived in the three-dimensional realm and had sexual relations with human women.

❖ As a result, Jude says, that these angels are "reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day." They are in spiritual prison.

2 Peter 2:4-10 *For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment; 5 if he did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when he brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly; 6 if by turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes he condemned them to extinction, making them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; 7 and if he rescued righteous Lot, greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the wicked 8 (for as that righteous man lived among them day after day, he was tormenting his*

righteous soul over their lawless deeds that he saw and heard); 9 then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment, 10 and especially those who indulge in the lust of defiling passion and despise authority.

- ❖ Peter uses the same 3 common judgments: Angels sinning, the flood of Noah, the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah.
- ❖ In this passage, Peter identifies angels that sinned and have been “committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment”
- ❖ Hell: tartaroō. Definition: deepest abyss of Hades.
- ❖ Spiritual beings are locked away in a spiritual incarceration.

Why would angels do this?

Genesis 6:1-10 *When man began to multiply on the face of the land and daughters were born to them, 2 the sons of God saw that the daughters of man were attractive. And they took as their wives any they chose. 3 Then the Lord said, “My Spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years.” 4 The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of man and they bore children to them. These were the mighty men who were of old, the men of renown. 5 The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. 6 And the Lord regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. 7 So the Lord said, “I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them.” 8 But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord. 9 These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God. 10 And Noah had three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth.*

- ❖ This was Satan’s revolt and attempt to disrupt God’s plan on earth of bringing a Savior through Eve’s lineage.
- ❖ The phrase “blameless in his generations” seems to indicate that Noah’s lineage or bloodline had not been corrupted by the fallen angels.

Water and demons

Genesis 6:17 *For behold, I will bring a flood of waters upon the earth to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life under heaven. Everything that is on the earth shall die.*

Luke 8:26-33 *Then they sailed to the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. 27 When Jesus had stepped out on land, there met him a man from the city who had demons. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he had not lived in a house but among the tombs. 28 When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him and said with a loud voice, “What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me.” 29 For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many a time it had seized him. He was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the desert.) 30 Jesus then asked him, “What is your name?” And he said, “Legion,” for many demons had entered him. 31 And they begged him not to command them to depart into the abyss. 32 Now a large herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, and they begged him to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. 33 Then the demons came out of the man and entered the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and drowned.*

- ❖ Where do demons go that were cast out by Jesus?
- ❖ Did He just cast them out so they could go into another person?
- ❖ Do they need a body to continue on living? Can they live without being in a body?

- ❖ They beg Jesus to send them into the pigs. They can possess animals.
- ❖ They enter the pigs and the pigs go over a cliff into the water and drown and die.
- ❖ What happens to the demons? Do they go free? Do they go to the abyss?
- ❖ Is the abyss another word for the spiritual incarceration for spiritual beings?
- ❖ The abyss was seen as a dark spiritual pit at the bottom of the sea.

Revelation 21:1 *Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.*

- ❖ The seas or oceans were seen as a mysterious and endlessly deep place where the bottomless pit was located.
- ❖ The sea swallowed up millions during the flood of Noah.
- ❖ Before the Great White Throne judgment the sea gave up the dead, and death and Hades gave up their dead.
- ❖ The sea represented the incarceration of all those who died from the flood and/or those who are awaiting judgment in the spiritual realm.

Luke 11:24-26 *“When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and finding none it says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came.’ 25 And when it comes, it finds the house swept and put in order. 26 Then it goes and brings seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and dwell there. And the last state of that person is worse than the first.”*

- ❖ Here Jesus says a demon that has been cast out seeks a place of rest in a location without water.

Demons are spiritual agents behind all idolatry

1 Corinthians 14-22 *Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry. 15 I speak as to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say. 16 The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? 17 Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread. 18 Consider the people of Israel: are not those who eat the sacrifices participants in the altar? 19 What do I imply then? That food offered to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything? 20 No, I imply that what pagans sacrifice they offer to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be participants with demons. 21 You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons. 22 Shall we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than he?*

1. When we worship idols, we open ourselves up to attack

Demons are spiritual agents behind false teaching

1 Timothy 4:1 *Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons.*

2. Departing from the truth opens a person up to demonic attack