

Oak Hill Baptist Church



Who are the Sons of God?

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The Book of Genesis / Genesis 6:1–4

Genesis 6:1–4 NASB95

Now it came about, when men began to multiply on the face of the land, and daughters were born to them, that the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves, whomever they chose. Then the LORD said, “My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, because he also is flesh; nevertheless his days shall be one hundred and twenty years.” The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men, and they bore *children* to them. Those were the mighty men who *were* of old, men of renown.

God - אֱלֹהִים (’ēlō·hîm): n.masc.; ≡ Str 430; TWOT 93c—1. LN 12.22 God, i.e., the true God, note: though the form is a grammatical plural, the meaning is singular and many sources think it implies a majesty or stateliness ([Ge 1:1](#)); 2. LN 12.1–12.42 (pl.) gods, i.e., deities other than the true God, which are falsely worshiped ([Dt 5:7](#); [1Ki 11:5](#), [33](#)); 3. LN 6.96–6.101 idol, i.e., a worship object made of various materials ([Ex 20:23](#); [34:17](#); [Dt 4:28](#); [28:36](#); [Da 11:8](#)); 4. LN 37.48–37.95 mighty one, i.e., a person who is strong and capable, and so a leader or prominent one ([Ge 23:6](#)); 5. LN 56.20–56.34 judge, i.e., one who presides over a court session, or deals in arbitration ([Ex 21:6](#); [22:7](#), [9\(2×\)](#)); 6. LN 78.1–78.27 great, i.e., conflict which is intense and possibly on going in length, and so of a high degree of intensity ([Ge 30:8](#)); 7. LN 12.1–12.42 ghost, phantasm, spirit, i.e., a human spirit that makes an appearance from the Abode of the Dead ([1Sa 28:13](#)); 8. LN 12.1–12.42 heavenly beings, angels, i.e., a supernatural being, created, with a special focus on their power or nobility ([Ps 8:6](#)[EB 5]); 9. LN 87.19–87.57 majestic one, i.e., a person of high social status ([Ps 36:8](#)[EB 7]); 10. LN 79.18–79.23 mighty, majestic things, i.e., things of nature that are awesome and large, majestic, and so awe-inspiring ([Ps 68:16](#))

Can they be angels?

Angels are spiritual beings, meaning they are not human. They all had a job to do ([Heb 1:13-14](#)) but Satan’s angels (those who served him) fell with him ([Rev 12:9](#)). Fallen angels have the ability to possess a person and make them do things ([Matthew 8:28-29](#)). However, they cannot

reproduce as seen in [Matthew 22:30](#), yes it speaks of marriage, but the point of marriage is to reproduce and this is the point of what Jesus is saying.

So, the question could be then if a demon makes a man mate with a woman would the child be of this demon. No, because the demon is spiritual not physical. There is no DNA that could be transferred.

Hebrews 1:13–14 NASB95

But to which of the angels has He ever said, “SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR YOUR FEET”? Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?

Revelation 12:9 NASB95

And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

Matthew 8:28–29 NASB95

When He came to the other side into the country of the Gadarenes, two men who were demon-possessed met Him as they were coming out of the tombs. *They were* so extremely violent that no one could pass by that way. And they cried out, saying, “What business do we have with each other, Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?”

Matthew 22:30 NASB95

“For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.

So could the sons of God be angels and the answer is no.

[Can they be mighty men or judges?](#)

This is where knowing the meanings of a word can be very helpful. In [Genesis 23:6](#), we can see that the term “mighty” is used to define a prince. That word mighty is *elohim* same as used for God. In [Exodus 22:8-9](#), we see the term “judges” used, this word is also *elohim*.

Genesis 23:6 NASB95

“Hear us, my lord, you are a mighty prince among us; bury your dead in the choicest of our graves; none of us will refuse you his grave for burying your dead.”

Exodus 22:8–9 NASB95

“If the thief is not caught, then the owner of the house shall appear before the judges, *to* determine whether he laid his hands on his neighbor’s property. “For every breach of trust, *whether it is* for ox, for donkey, for sheep, for clothing, *or* for any lost thing about which one says, ‘This is it,’ the case of both parties shall come before the judges; he whom the judges condemn shall pay double to his neighbor.

So could the sons of God be mighty men or judges and the answer is this is the most reasonable answer by definition and corresponding text as seen in [Genesis 6:4](#).

Genesis 6:4 NASB95

The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men, and they bore *children* to them. Those were the mighty men who *were* of old, men of renown.

[Can they be from the line of Seth?](#)

The theory that the sons of God come through the line of Seth is because of the comparison between the righteousness of Seth and the unrighteousness of Cain. However, there is no genealogy to show from which line is here or not. Should one want to advance the argument that it was from Seth “righteous” line, then they would have to answer why then where they act in very unrighteous actions by taking as many wives as they wanted.

Genesis 6:2 NASB95

that the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves, whomever they chose.

So, could they be from Seth’s line, maybe or Cain’s seeing he has polygamy in his family line? It’s possible, there is no genealogy to prove it because there are no names attached to the sons of God. This theory just cannot be proven, it could be Seth or Cain or the blending of both, there is just no evidence to know definitively.

Then who are the Nephilim?

Nephilim - נְפִילִים (nepî·lîm): n.pr. [oth n.masc.pl.]; ≡ Str 5303; TWOT 1393a—LN 93-pers. (gent.) Nephilim: a renowned race of giants ([Ge 6:4](#); [Nu 13:33](#)(2×)+)

Numbers 13:33 NASB95

“There also we saw the Nephilim (the sons of Anak are part of the Nephilim); and we became like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight.”

The Depravity of Humanity

Genesis 6:2 NASB95

that the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves, whomever they chose.

Strive - דוּן (dûn): v.; ≡ Str 1777; TWOT 426—LN 85.67–85.85 (qal impf.) remain, abide, i.e., dwell in a certain location ([Ge 6:3](#)+)

Mighty - גִּבּוֹר (gib·bôr): adj. [see also 1475.5]; ≡ Str 1368; TWOT 310b—1. LN 79.62–79.69 mighty, powerful, i.e., pertaining to being strong ([Pr 30:30](#); [Ps 112:2](#))

Renown - שֵׁם (šēm): n.masc.; ≡ Str 8034; TWOT 2405—1. LN 33.126–33.133 name, i.e., the proper designation of a person, place, or thing ([Ge 2:11](#)); 2. LN 28.28–28.56 renown, fame, known, reputation, i.e., information that one knows about another, implied to give high status to the one of renown ([1Ch 12:31](#))