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GENESIS: DEMONS

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¹When man began to multiply on the face of the land and daughters were born to them, ²the sons of God saw that the daughters of man were attractive. And they took as their wives any they chose. ³Then the LORD said, “My Spirit shall not abide in [CONTEND WITH] man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years.” ⁴The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when[EVER] 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.

Genesis 6:1–4 (ESV)

THE BIBLE OFFERS A SUPERNATURAL WORLDVIEW.

REMEMBER THE BIBLE IS WRITTEN AS A POLEMIC. THIS TEXT IS AGAINST THE BABYLONIAN/MESOPOTAMIAN UNDERSTANDING OF THE FLOOD. IN THAT STORY, 7 DIVINE BEINGS, SERVANTS OF MARDUK, CAME AND BROUGHT WONDERFUL INFORMATION TO BABYLON. THEY WERE SEEN AS HUMANITIES SAVIORS, PROTECTORS AND GODS.

IN THE ANCIENT WORLD, CONNECTION TO THESE APKALLU THROUGH THEIR TEACHINGS WAS USED TO JUSTIFY BABYLONIAN SUPREMACY.

THE BIBLE OFFERS A DIFFERENT TAKE. IT'S A STORY OF REBELLION AND CORRUPTION. DIVINE BEINGS COME AND TAKE WOMEN AND PRODUCE OFFSPRING. THIS RESULTS IN THE CREATION OF A HEAVENLY/EARTHLY HYBRID CALLED THE NEPHILIM OR GIANTS. THEIR UNIQUE LINEAGE MADE THEM POWERFUL BEINGS OUTSIDE OF GOD'S INTENDED DESIGN. THESE SONS OF GOD IMPART TO HUMANITY FORBIDDEN KNOWLEDGE NOT MEANT FOR MANKIND. THE RESULT OF THIS IS THAT EVIL PROLIFERATES AND ESCALATES. GOD'S RESPONSE IS TO CLEANSE THE EARTH OF THE SONS OF GOD, THEIR SEED THE NEPHILIM AND A CORRUPTED MANKIND WHILE PRESERVING MAN THROUGH NOAH AND HIS FAMILY.

IN GENESIS GOD MAKES MAN IN HIS IMAGE. GOD ESTABLISHES HIS KINGDOM. HUMAN FLOURISHING IS FOUND IN GOD.

IN GENESIS 6 THE 'SONS OF GOD' TRY TO MAKE MAN IN THEIRS. THEY ESTABLISH THEIR OWN KINGDOM. HUMAN FLOURISHING IS FOUND IN THE FORBIDDEN KNOWLEDGE.

CONNECTIONS TO GENESIS 3 – SAW AND TAKE

DON'T FORGET THE PROMISE OF A SEED – IF HUMANITIES SEED CAN BE INFECTED THE PROMISE IS VOID!

WHEN GOD MADE COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM HE DECLARED:

¹³Then the LORD said to Abram, “Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years. ¹⁴But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions. ¹⁵As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age. ¹⁶And they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.”

Genesis 15:13–16 (ESV)

THE AMORITES WERE MESOPOTAMIAN PEOPLE CONNECTED TO BABYLON. IT IS USED INTERCHANGEABLY WITH CANAANITES TO DESCRIBE NON-ISREALITE INHABITANTS OF THE LAND OF CANAAN.

WHEN MOSES SENDS THE SPIES INTO THE PROMISED LAND WHAT DOES HE DISCOVER?

³²So they brought to the people of Israel a bad report of the land that they had spied out, saying, “The land, through which we have gone to spy it out, is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people that we saw in it are of great height. ³³And there we saw the Nephilim (the sons of Anak, who come from the Nephilim), and we seemed to ourselves like grasshoppers, and so we seemed to them.”

Numbers 13:32–33 (ESV)

⁹“Yet it was I who destroyed the Amorite before them, whose height was like the height of the cedars and who was as strong as the oaks; I destroyed his fruit above and his roots beneath. ¹⁰Also it was I who brought you up out of the land of Egypt and led you forty years in the wilderness, to possess the land of the Amorite.

Amos 2:9–10 (ESV)

²⁶“So I sent messengers from the wilderness of Kedemoth to Sihon the king of Heshbon, with words of peace, saying, ²⁷‘Let me pass through your land. I will go only by the road; I will turn aside neither to the right nor to the left. ²⁸You shall sell me food for money, that I may eat, and give me water for money, that I may drink. Only let me pass through on foot, ²⁹as the sons of Esau who live in Seir and the Moabites who live in Ar did for me, until I go over the Jordan into the land that the LORD our God is giving to us.’ ³⁰But Sihon the king of Heshbon would not let us pass by him, for the LORD your God hardened his spirit and made his heart obstinate, that he might give him into your hand, as he is this day.

Deuteronomy 2:26–30 (ESV)

¹“Then we turned and went up the way to Bashan. And Og the king of Bashan came out against us, he and all his people, to battle at Edrei. ²But the LORD said to me, ‘Do not fear him, for I have given him and all his people and his land into your hand. And you shall do to him as you did to Sihon the king of the Amorites, who lived at Heshbon.’...¹¹(For only Og the king of Bashan was left of the remnant of the Rephaim. Behold, his bed was a bed of iron. Is it not in Rabbah of the Ammonites? Nine cubits was its length, and four cubits its breadth, according to the common cubit.)

Deuteronomy 3:1–11 (ESV)

In the Ugaritic language, the location of Ashtaroth and Edrei was not spelled Bashan, but was pronounced and spelled Bathan. The linguistic note is intriguing since Bashan/Bathan both also mean “serpent,” so that the region of Bashan was “the place of the serpent.”

The birth of the Giants is explored in terms of the mingling of “spirits and flesh” (15:8). Angels properly dwell in heaven, and humans properly dwell on earth (15:10), but the nature of the Giants is mixed. This transgression of categories brings terrible results: after their physical death, the Giants’ demonic spirits “come forth from their bodies” to plague humankind (15:9, 11–12; 16:1). According to 1 En[och] 16, the angelic transmission of heavenly knowledge to earthly humans can also be understood as a contamination of distinct categories within God’s orderly Creation. As inhabitants of heaven, the Watchers were privy to all the secrets of heaven; their revelation of this knowledge to the inhabitants of the earth was categorically improper as well as morally destructive.

¹They came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gerasenes. ²And when Jesus had stepped out of the boat, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit. ³He lived among the tombs. And no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain, ⁴for he had often been bound with shackles and chains, but he wrenched the chains apart, and he broke the shackles in pieces. No one had the strength to subdue him. ⁵Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always crying out and cutting himself with stones. ⁶And when he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and fell down before him. ⁷And crying out with a loud voice, he said, “What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me.” ⁸For he was saying to him, “Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!” ⁹And Jesus asked him, “What is your name?” He replied, “My name is Legion, for we are many.” ¹⁰And he begged him earnestly not to send them out of the country.

¹¹Now a great herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, ¹²and they begged him, saying, “Send us to the pigs; let us enter them.” ¹³So he gave them permission. And the unclean spirits came out and entered the pigs; and the herd, numbering about two thousand, rushed down the steep bank into the sea and drowned in the sea.

Mark 5:1–13 (ESV)