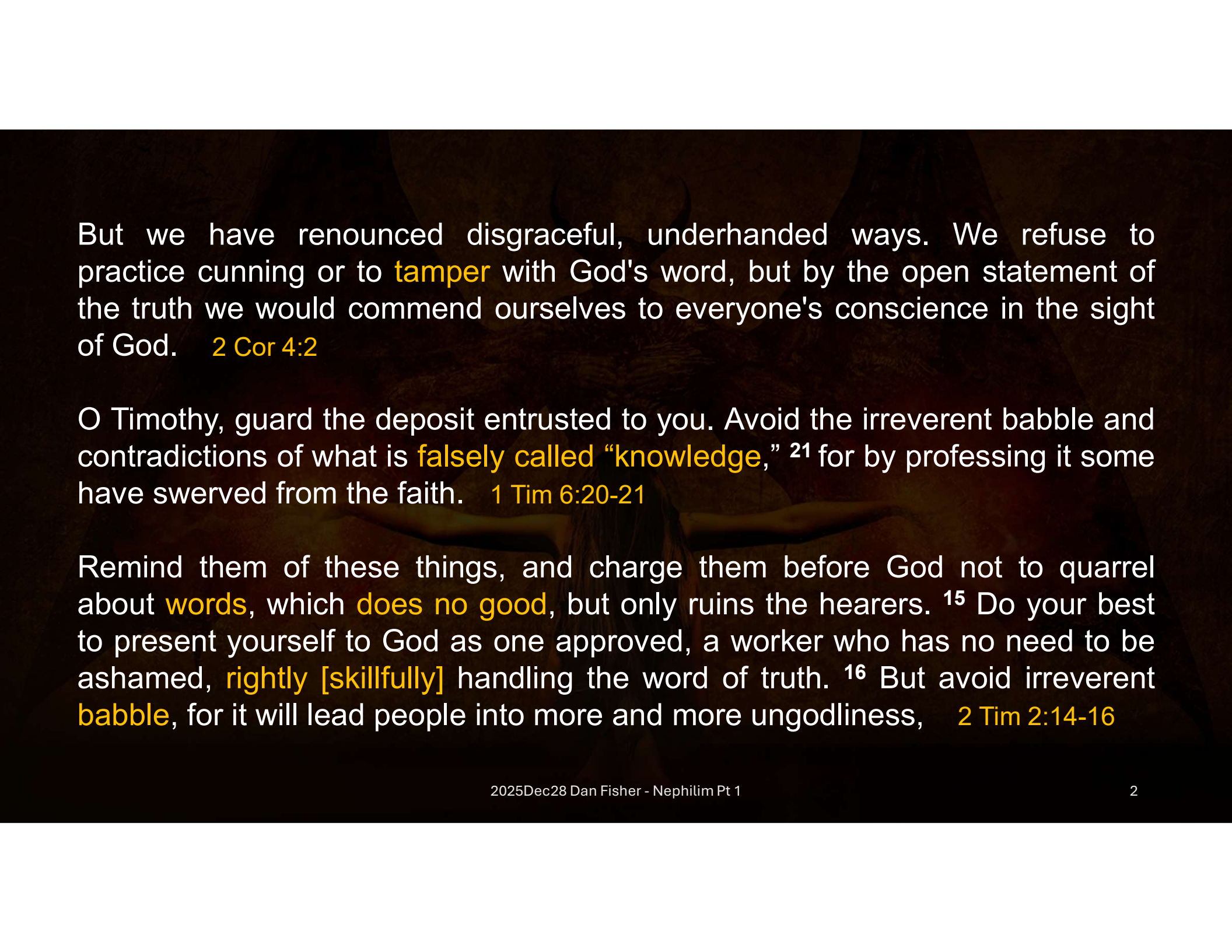




THE NEPHILIM

Race of half demon/half human monsters?



But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to **tamper** with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. **2 Cor 4:2**

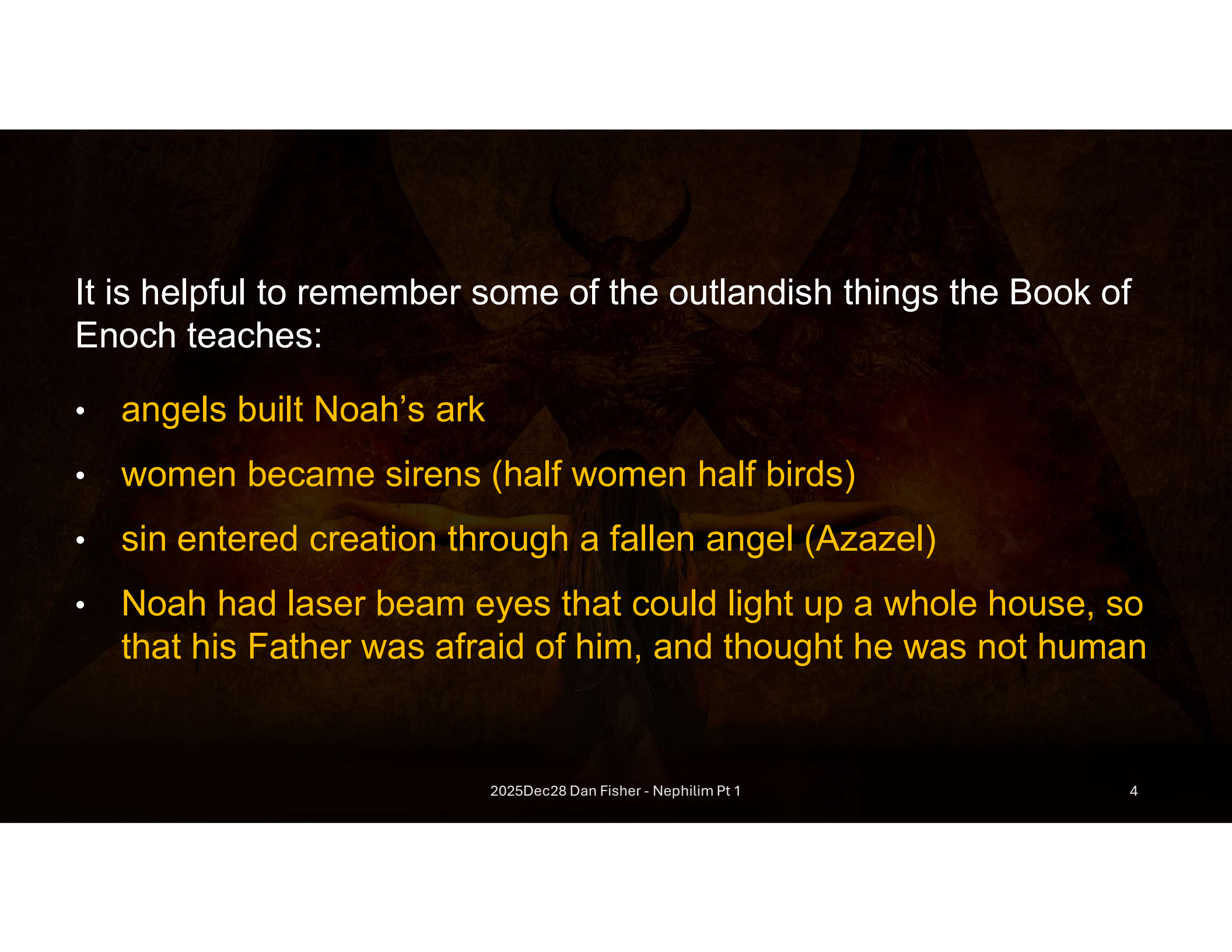
O Timothy, guard the deposit entrusted to you. Avoid the irreverent babble and contradictions of what is **falsely called "knowledge,"** ²¹ for by professing it some have swerved from the faith. **1 Tim 6:20-21**

Remind them of these things, and charge them before God not to quarrel about **words**, which **does no good**, but only ruins the hearers. ¹⁵ Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, **rightly [skillfully]** handling the word of truth. ¹⁶ But avoid irreverent **babble**, for it will lead people into more and more ungodliness, **2 Tim 2:14-16**



When dealing with an obscure biblical passage/subject, I have found it is best to:

- Stick to Scripture
- Allow Scripture to speak for itself
- Do not force a preconceived interpretation into a passage
- Do not force other passages to support your premise – unless there is solid biblical evidence to do so
- Determine if the issue is of “first tier” importance or lesser
- Consider what your interpretation does to other Scriptures and doctrines



It is helpful to remember some of the outlandish things the Book of Enoch teaches:

- angels built Noah's ark
- women became sirens (half women half birds)
- sin entered creation through a fallen angel (Azazel)
- Noah had laser beam eyes that could light up a whole house, so that his Father was afraid of him, and thought he was not human

“Acknowledging that angels disrobed themselves, became flesh, took wives of human females, and engaged in sexual acts with them is not precluded by anything in Scripture, nor do the children produced from this illicit liaison create any serious theological concerns.”


Joseph Morgan, Christian author and lay pastor

<https://rapturetimeline.com/nephilim/>



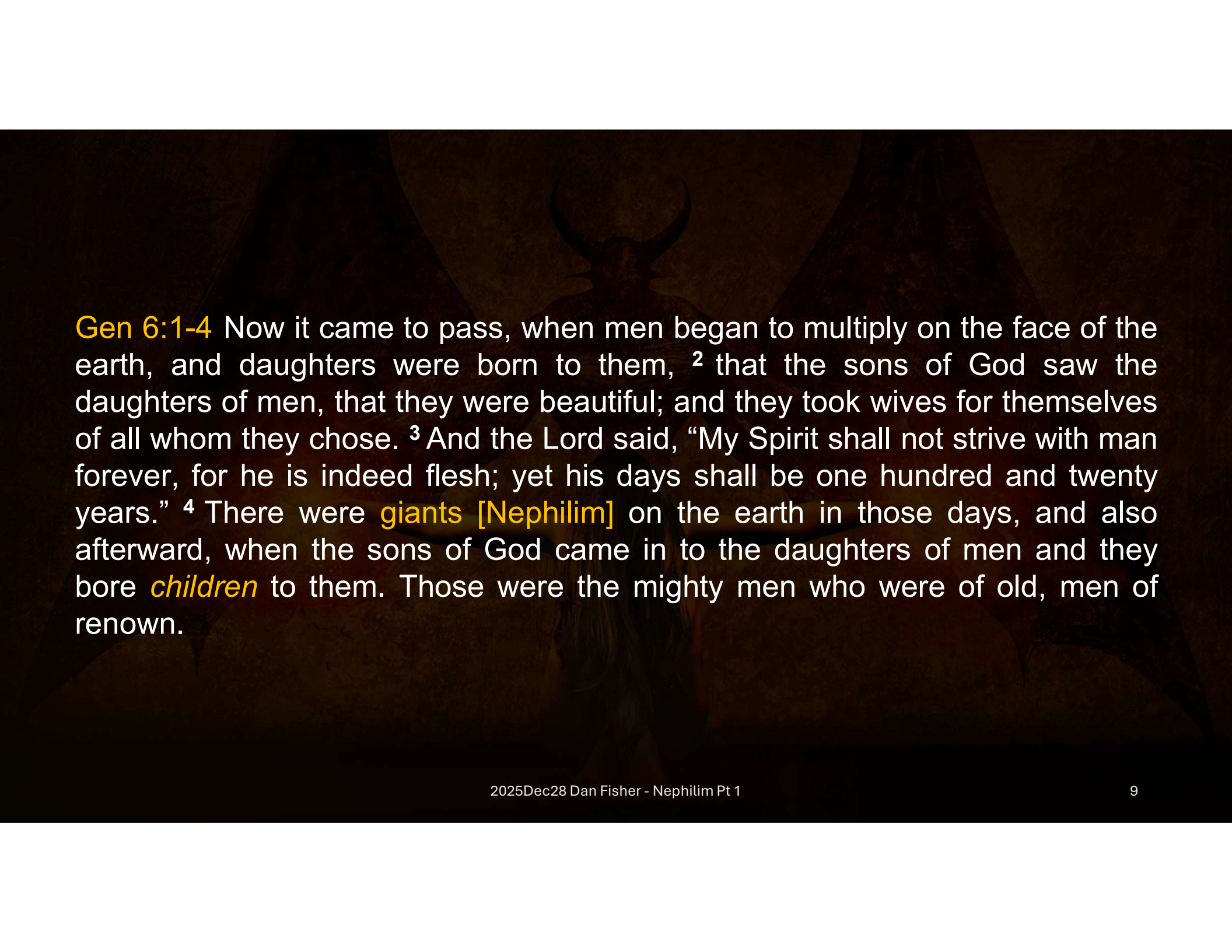


1. Who were the Nephilim?

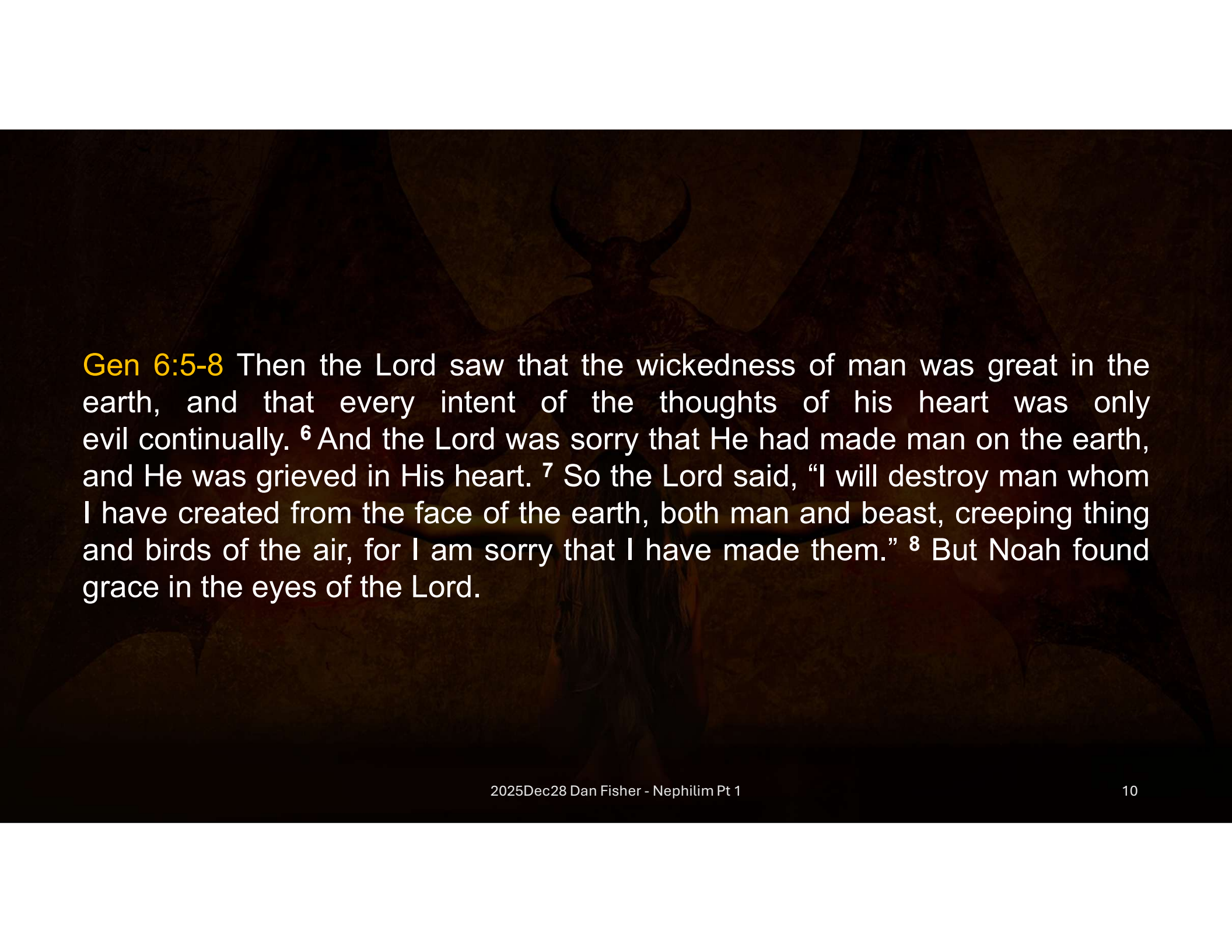
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- The more **sensational** view is they were the half demon/half human offspring of the intermarriage of fallen angels and humans before the flood.
 - The more **moderate** view is they were the offspring of the intermarriage of godly and ungodly humans before the flood.



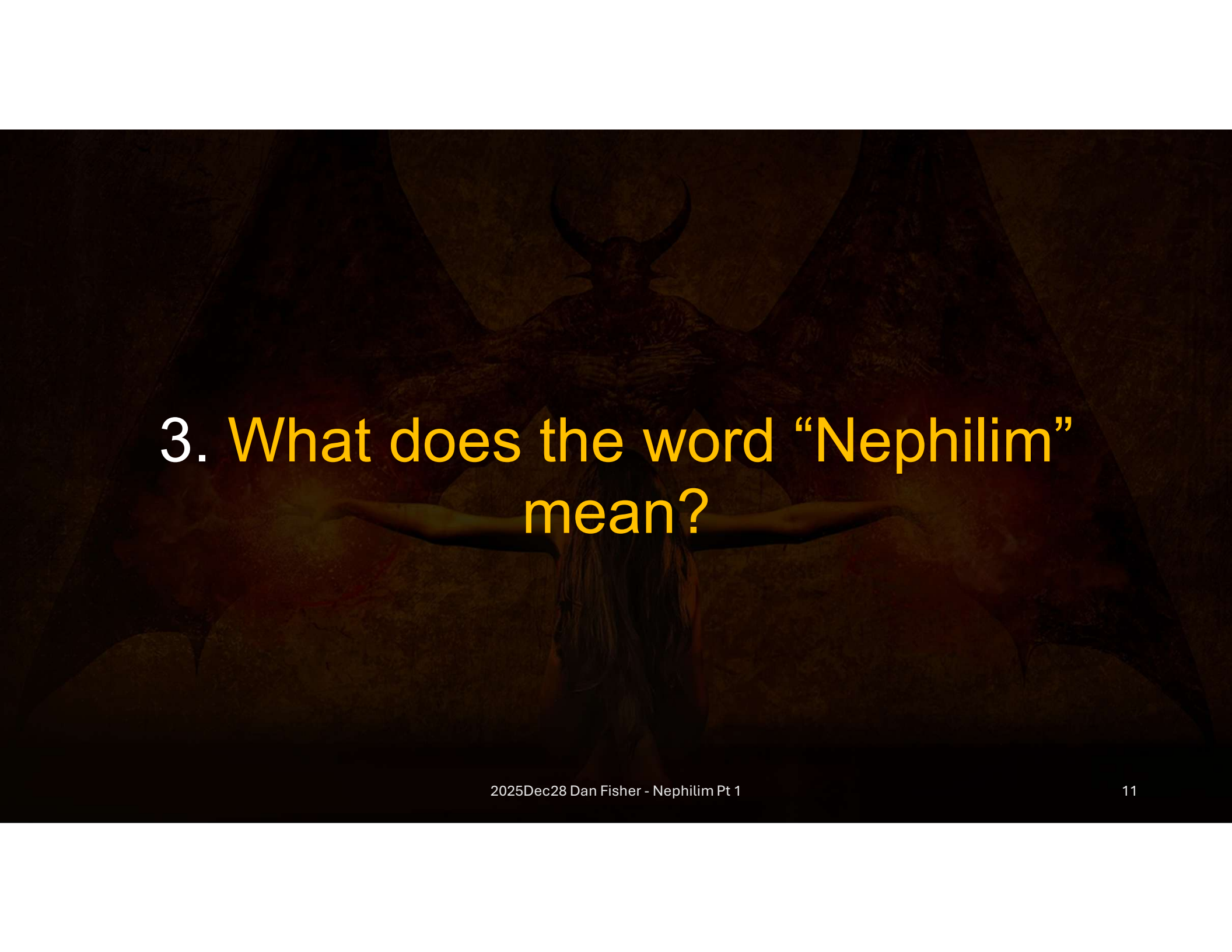
2. Where in Scripture do we read of the Nephilim?



Gen 6:1-4 Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, ² that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose. ³ And the Lord said, “My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years.” ⁴ There were **giants [Nephilim]** 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.



Gen 6:5-8 Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. ⁶ And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. ⁷ So the Lord said, “I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them.” ⁸ But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.



3. What does the word “Nephilim” mean?

- The **etymology** and exact meaning of the word Nephilim is **debated** among scholars.
- Some believe Nephilim comes from the Hebrew root word **nepal** which means “**to fall, to be cast down, to fall away, or desert**” and thus, Nephilim means “**fallen ones.**”
- Some scholars have shown that Nephilim, the plural form of *nāpīl* that we find used in the biblical texts, may derive from an ancient Aramaic word **naphila**, which means “**giant**”.

(This makes logical sense since “giants” [Greek: *gigantes*] is how the word *Nephilim* was translated by the compilers of the **Greek Septuagint**, and how it is specifically used to reference the tall races of the **Anakim** in Numbers 13, who are described as being large compared to other men.)



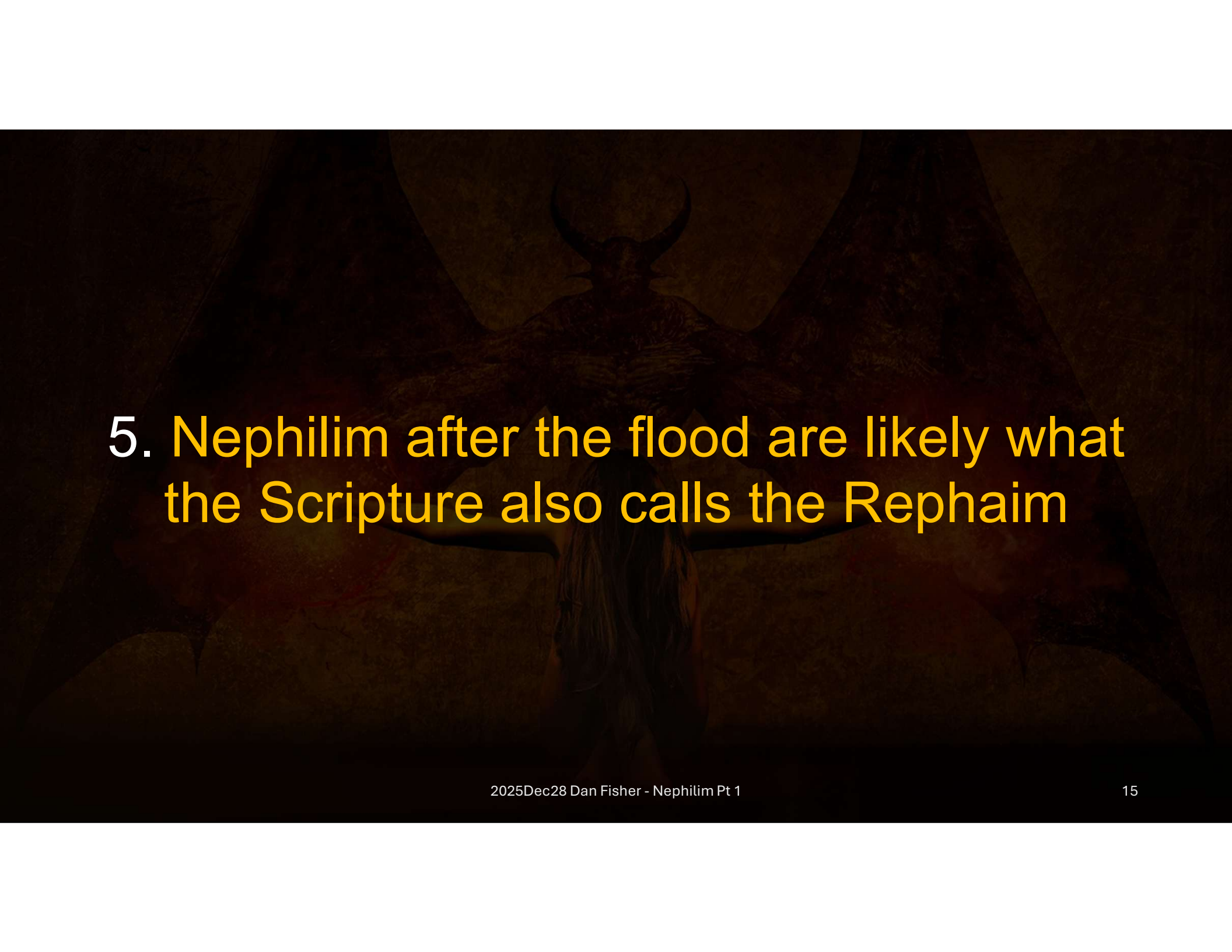
4. To complicate things further, the Nephilim appear before & after the flood

Num 13:33 There we saw the *giants* [*nāpīl*: *Nephilim*] (the descendants of *Anak* came from the *giants* [*nāpīl*: *Nephilim*]); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight.”

Deut 9:1-2 “Hear, O Israel: You are to cross over the Jordan today, and go in to dispossess nations greater and mightier than yourself, cities great and fortified up to heaven, a people great and tall, the descendants of the *Anakim*, whom you know, and of whom you heard it said, ‘Who can stand before the descendants of Anak?’

Josh 15:13-14 Now to Caleb the son of Jephunneh he gave a share among the children of Judah, according to the commandment of the Lord to Joshua, namely, Kirjath Arba, which is Hebron (Arba was the father of Anak). Caleb drove out the *three sons of Anak* from there: Sheshai, Ahiman, and Talmai, the children of Anak.

These *human giants* (descendants of Anak) were already *dying out* when Israel arrived in the land, as we are told Og was the last of the Rephaim in the north (Deut 3:11). Israel merely finished the job that was already nearing its end.



5. Nephilim after the flood are likely what the Scripture also calls the Rephaim

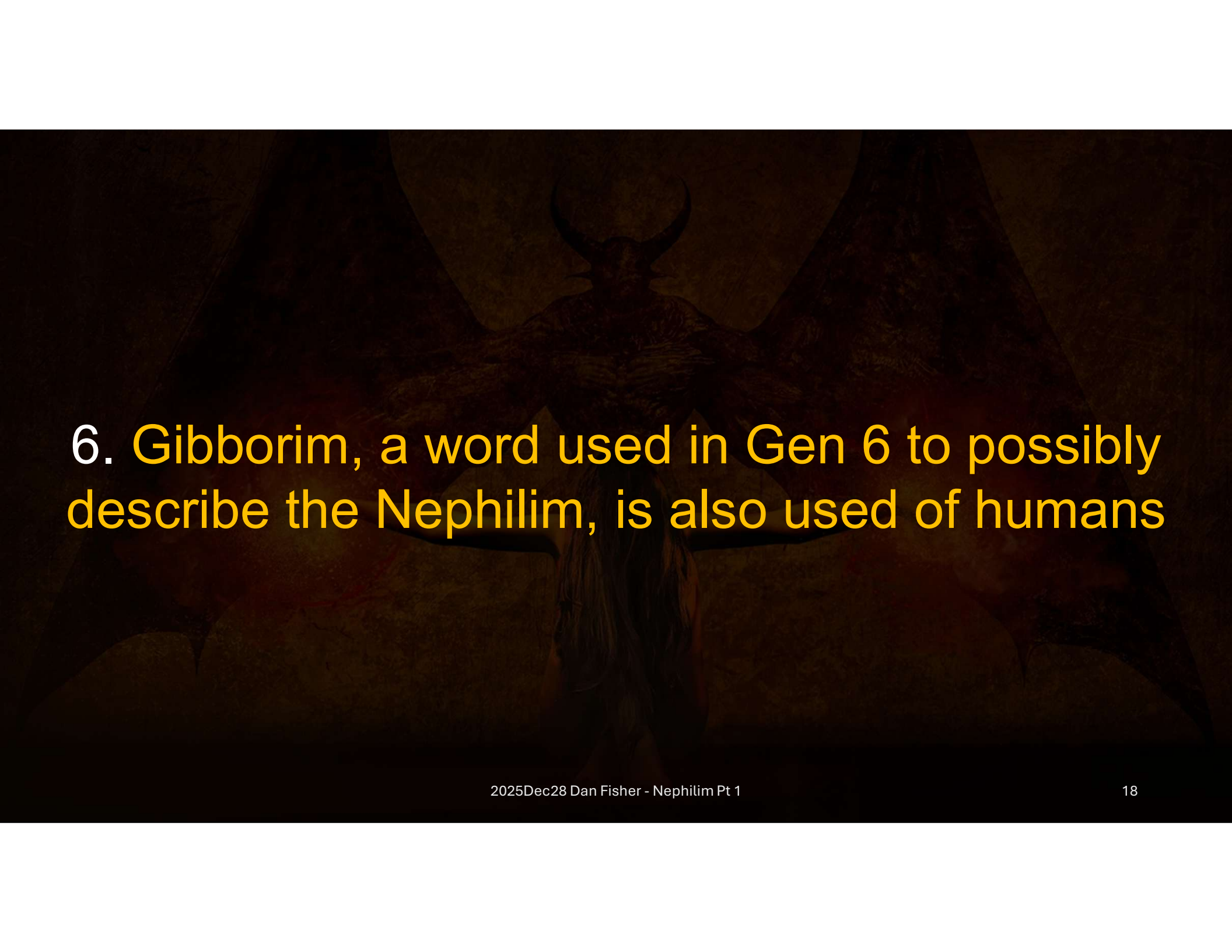
Deut 2:10-11,20-21 (The Emim had dwelt there [Moab] in times past, a people as great and numerous and tall as the Anakim. ¹¹ They were also regarded as giants [Rephaites], like the Anakim, but the Moabites call them Emim. ¹² The Horites formerly dwelt in Seir, but the descendants of Esau dispossessed them and destroyed them from before them, and dwelt in their place, just as Israel did to the land of their possession which the Lord gave them.) ... ²⁰ That was also regarded as a land of giants [Rephaites]; giants formerly dwelt there. But the Ammonites call them Zamzummim, ²¹ a people as great and numerous and tall as the Anakim. But the Lord destroyed them before them, and they dispossessed them and dwelt in their place,

Deut 3:11 “For only Og king of Bashan remained of the remnant of the giants [Rephaites]. Indeed his bedstead was an iron bedstead. (Is it not in Rabbah of the people of Ammon?) Nine cubits is its length [approx. 13’ 6”] and four cubits its width [approx. 6’], according to the standard cubit.

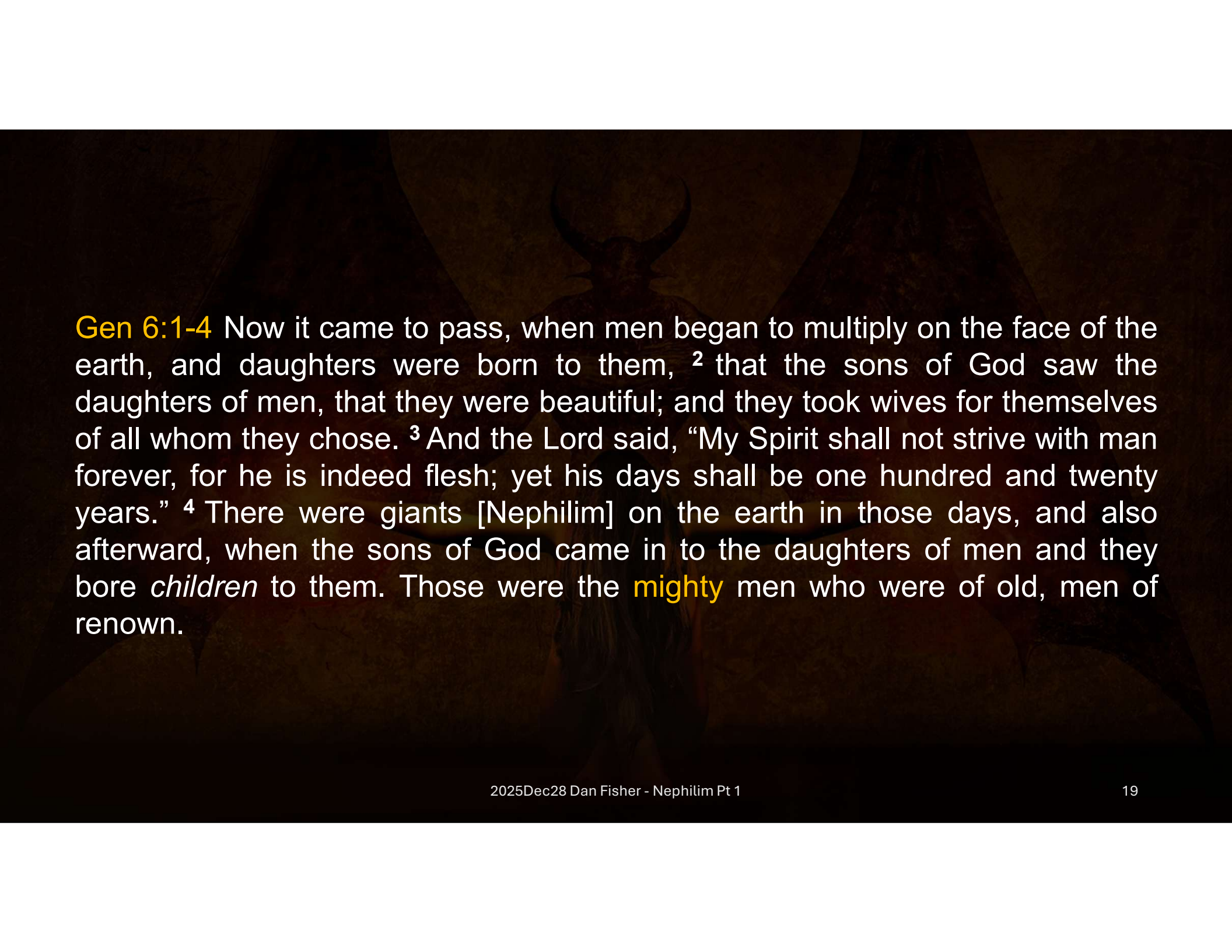
1 Sam 17:4 Goliath was “six cubits and a span” tall [approx 9’ 9”].

2 Sam 21:18-22 In the course of time, there was another battle with the Philistines, at Gob. At that time Sibbekai the Hushathite killed Saph, one of the descendants of Rapha. ¹⁹ In another battle with the Philistines at Gob, Elhanan son of Jair the Bethlehemite killed the brother of Goliath the Gittite, who had a spear with a shaft like a weaver's rod. ²⁰ In still another battle, which took place at Gath, there was a huge man with six fingers on each hand and six toes on each foot – twenty-four in all. He also was descended from Rapha. ²¹ When he taunted Israel, Jonathan son of Shimeah, David's brother, killed him. ²² These four were descendants of Rapha in Gath, and they fell at the hands of David and his men.

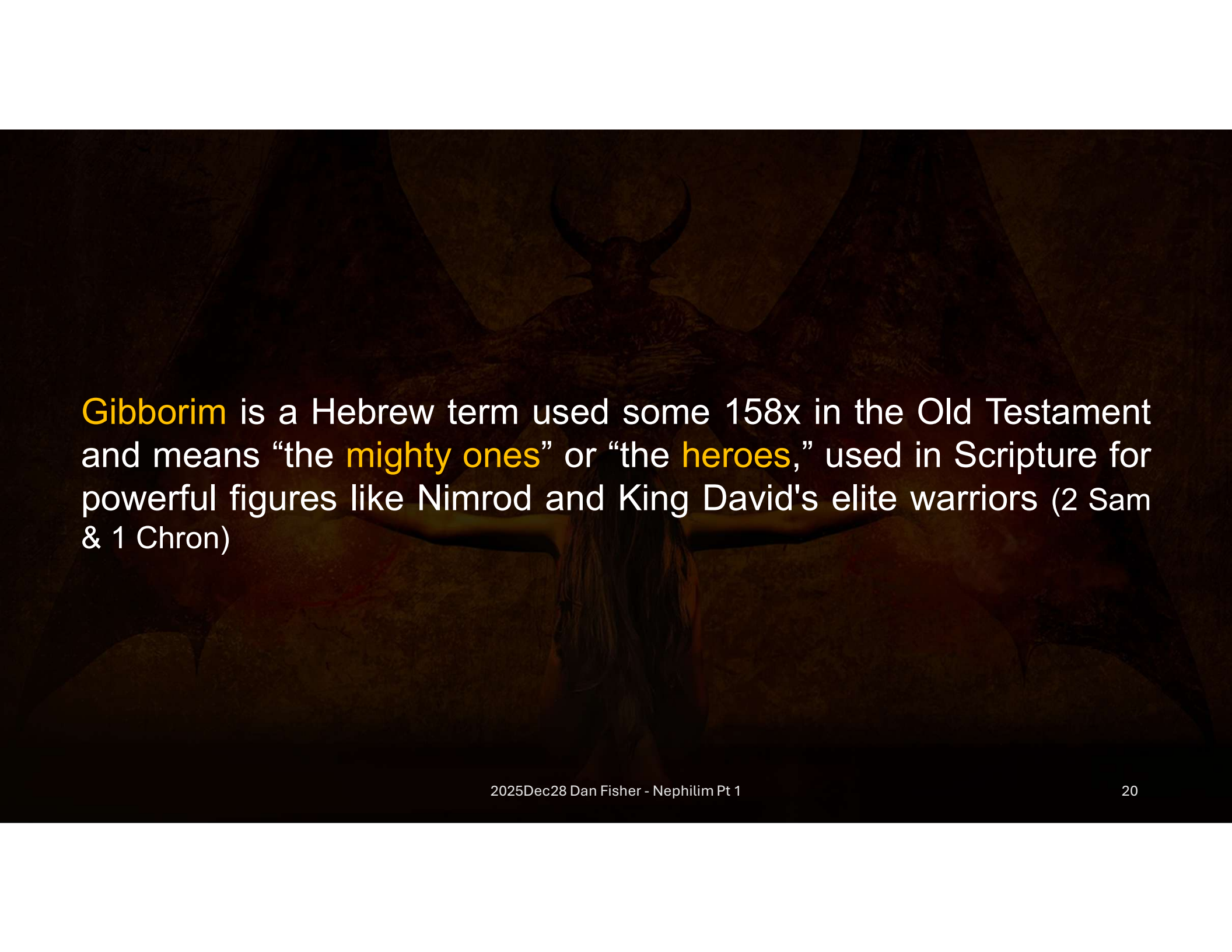
Josh 11:22 No Anakites were left in Israelite territory; only in Gaza, Gath and Ashdod did any survive.



6. Gibborim, a word used in Gen 6 to possibly describe the Nephilim, is also used of humans



Gen 6:1-4 Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, ² that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose. ³ And the Lord said, “My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years.” ⁴ There were giants [Nephilim] 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.



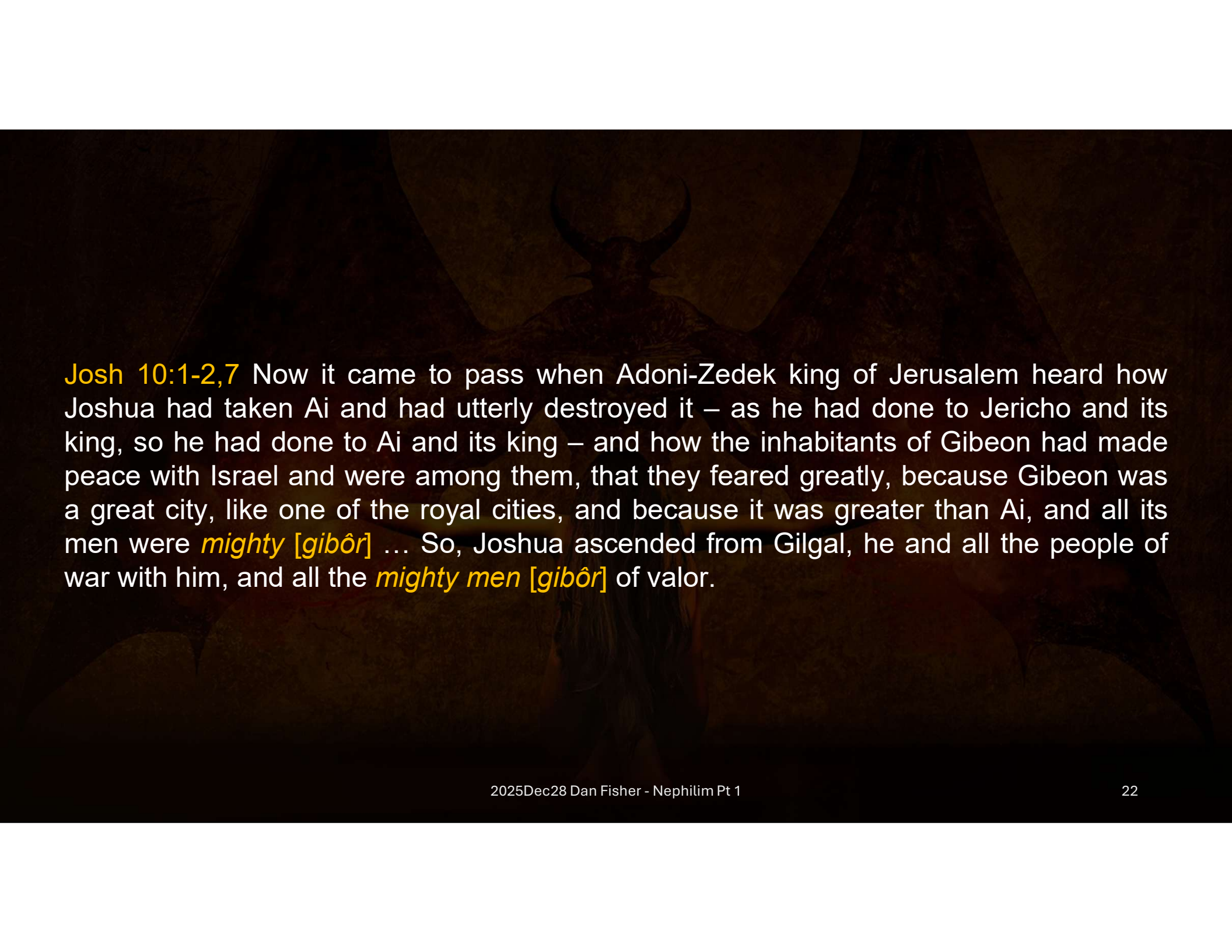
Gibborim is a Hebrew term used some 158x in the Old Testament and means “the **mighty ones**” or “the **heroes**,” used in Scripture for powerful figures like Nimrod and King David's elite warriors (2 Sam & 1 Chron)

Gen 10:8-9 Cush begot Nimrod; he began to be a *mighty one* [gibôr] on the earth. He was a *mighty* [gibôr] hunter before the Lord; therefore, it is said, “Like Nimrod the *mighty* [gibôr] hunter before the Lord.”

Deut 10:17 For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, *mighty* [gibôr] and awesome, who shows no partiality nor takes a bribe.

Josh 1:14 Your wives, your little ones, and your livestock shall remain in the land which Moses gave you on this side of the Jordan. But you shall pass before your brethren armed, all your *mighty men* [gibôr] of valor, and help them...

Josh 6:2 And the Lord said to Joshua: “See! I have given Jericho into your hand, its king, and the *mighty men* [gibôr] of valor.



Josh 10:1-2,7 Now it came to pass when Adoni-Zedek king of Jerusalem heard how Joshua had taken Ai and had utterly destroyed it – as he had done to Jericho and its king, so he had done to Ai and its king – and how the inhabitants of Gibeon had made peace with Israel and were among them, that they feared greatly, because Gibeon was a great city, like one of the royal cities, and because it was greater than Ai, and all its men were **mighty [gibôr]** ... So, Joshua ascended from Gilgal, he and all the people of war with him, and all the **mighty men [gibôr]** of valor.