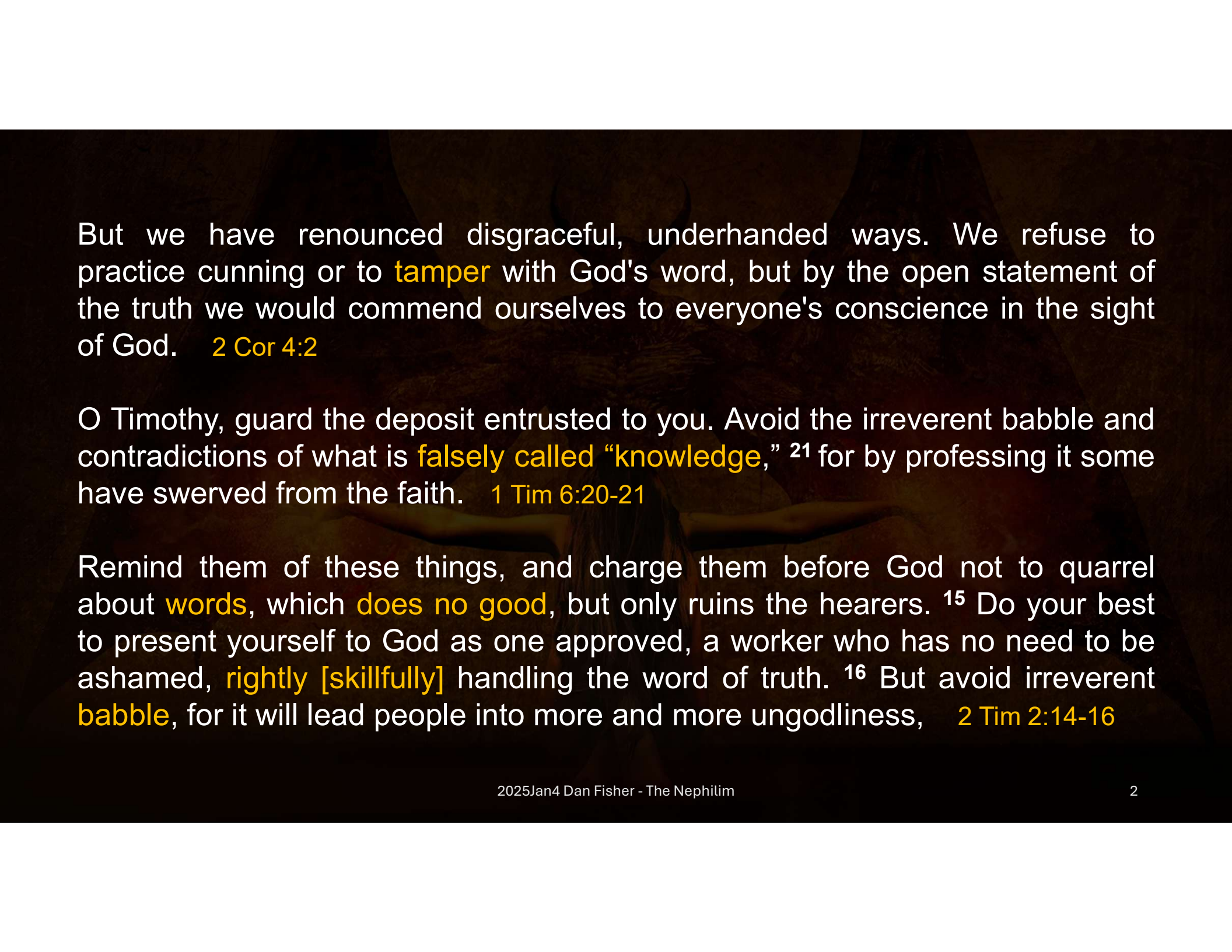




THE NEPHILIM

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**

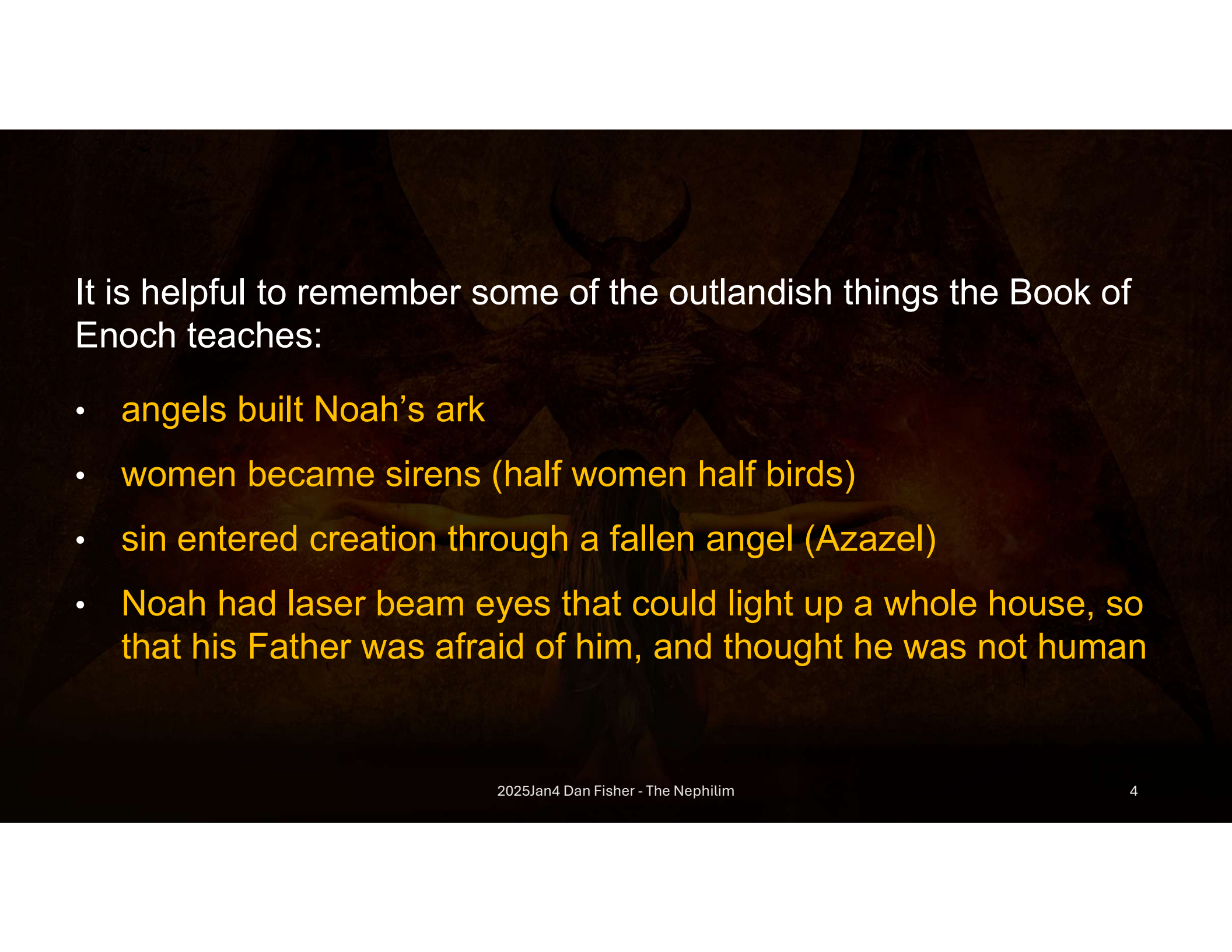
O Timothy, guard the deposit entrusted to you. Avoid the irreverent babble and contradictions of what is **falsely called “knowledge,”** ²¹ for by professing it some have swerved from the faith. **1 Tim 6:20-21**

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/>



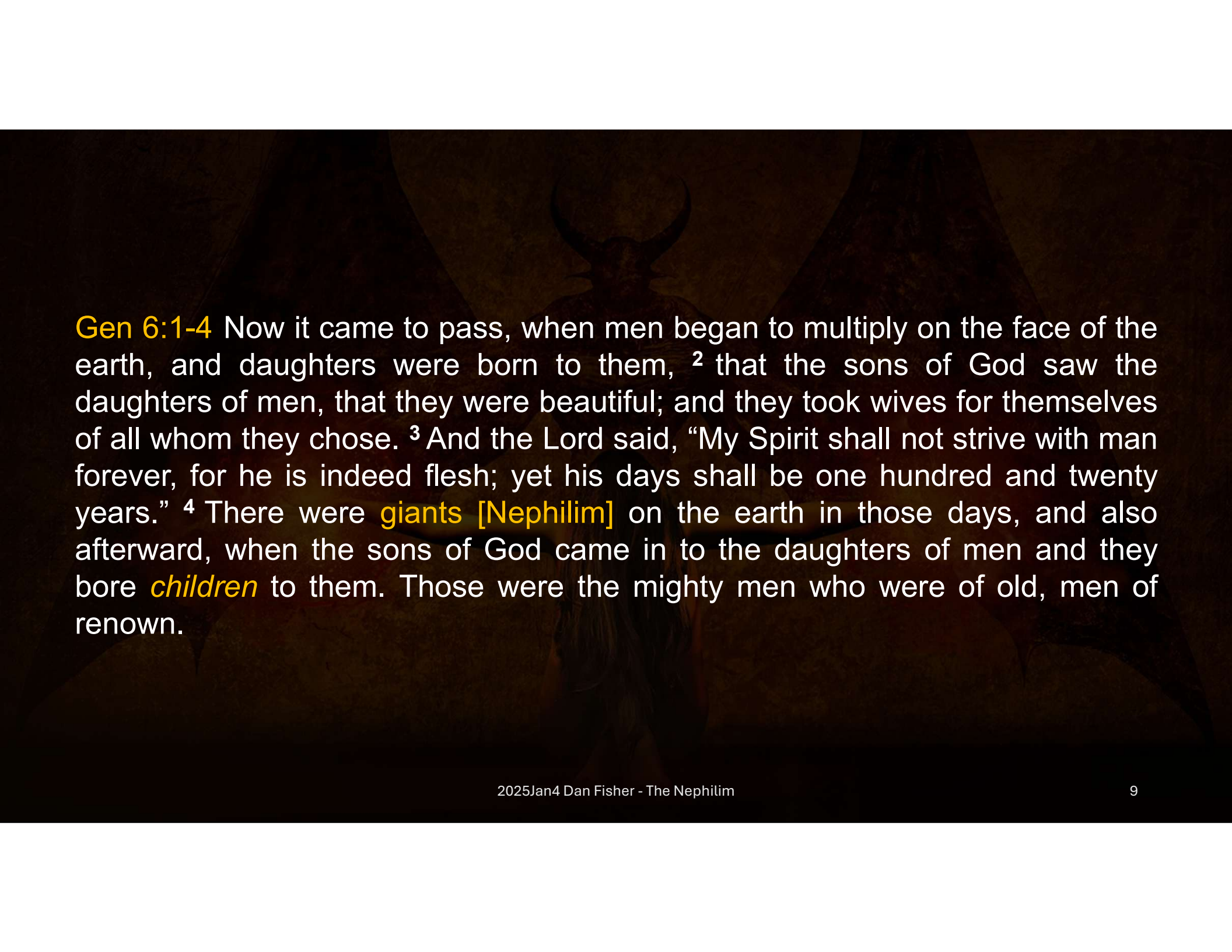
The background of the slide is a dark, textured illustration. It features a large, winged, horned figure, possibly a demon or angel, with its arms outstretched. In the foreground, a human figure with long hair is seen from behind, also with arms outstretched, mirroring the pose of the larger figure. The overall tone is mysterious and ominous.

1. Who were the Nephilim?

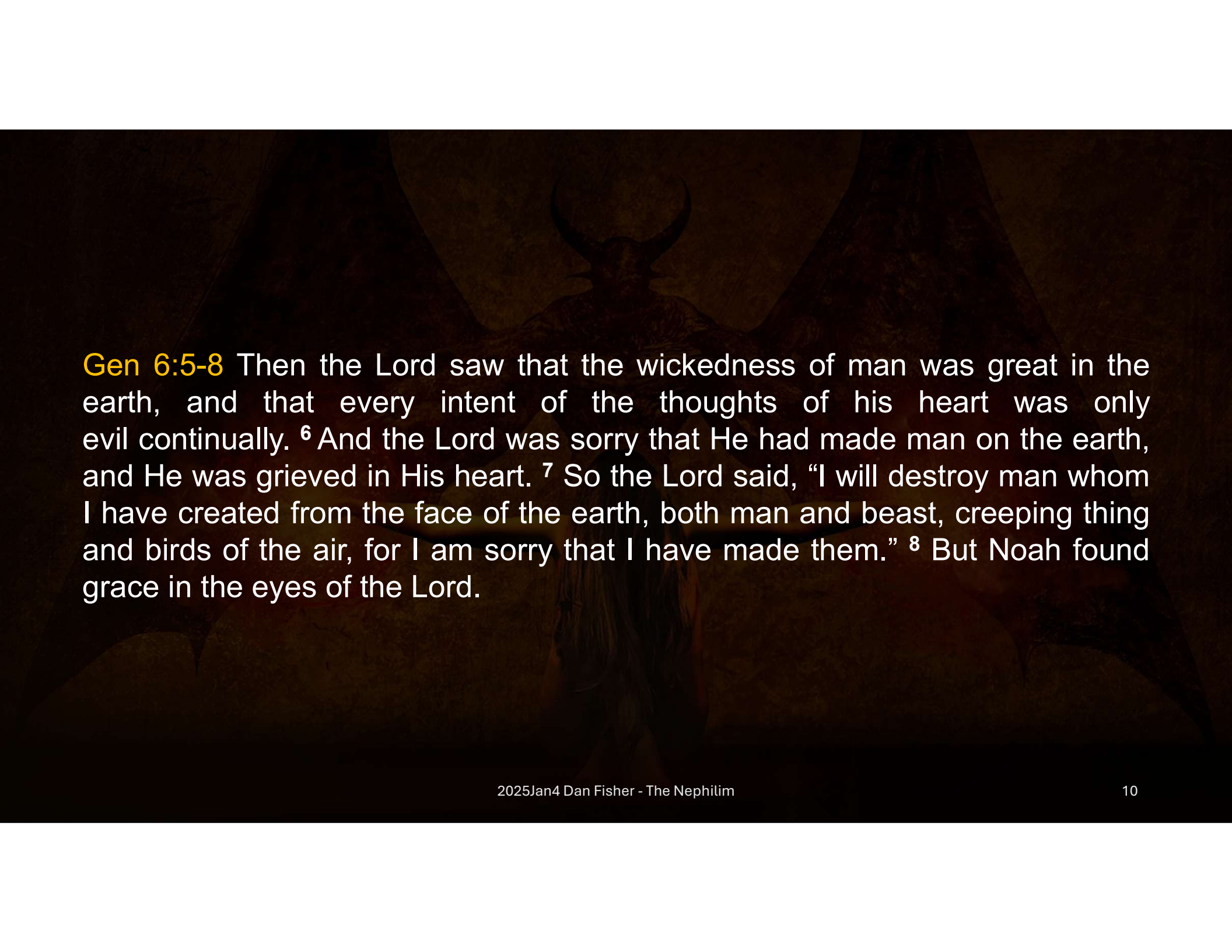
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- The more **sensational** view is they were the half demon/half human offspring of the intermarriage of fallen angels and humans before the flood.
 - The more **moderate** view is they were the offspring of the intermarriage of godly and ungodly humans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



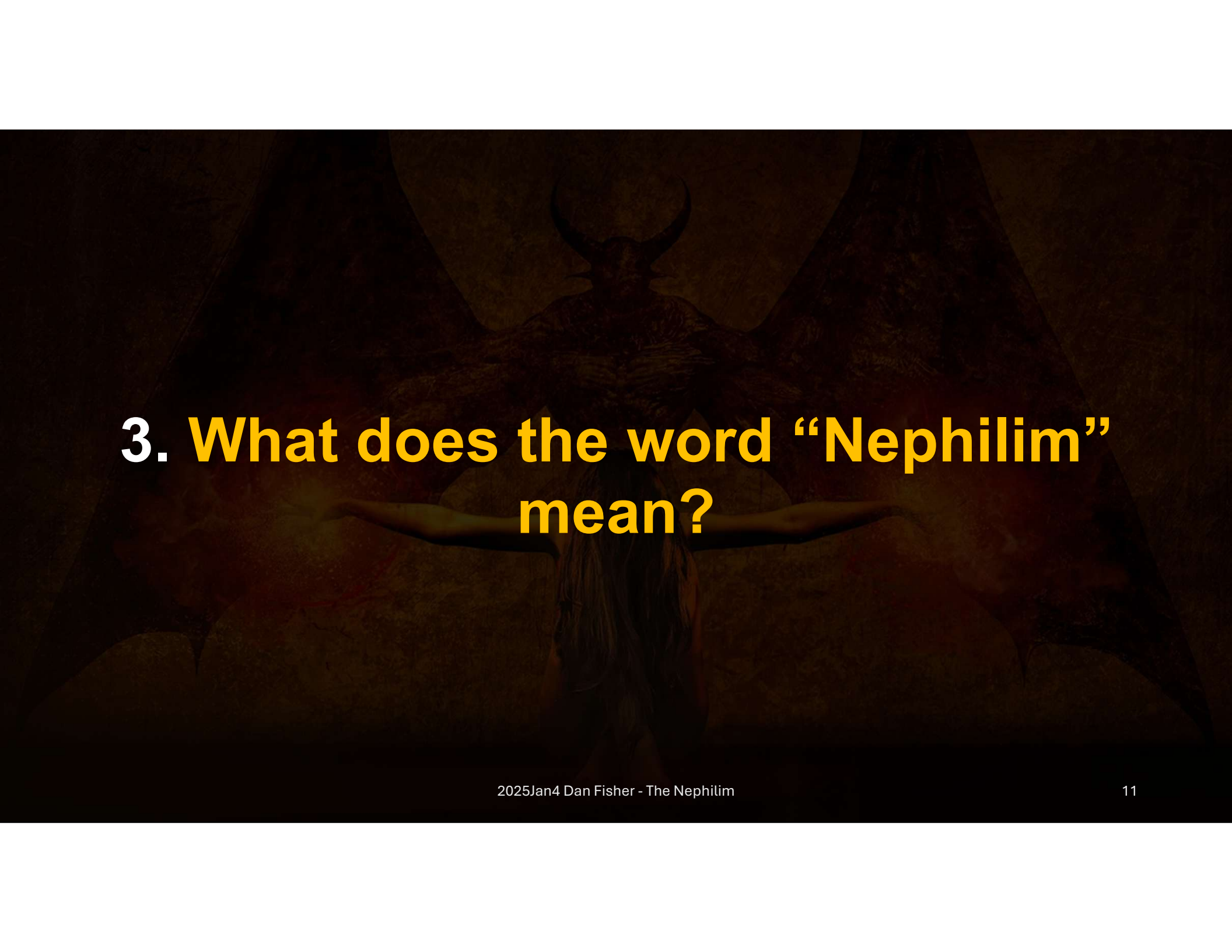
2. Where in Scripture do we read of the Nephilim?



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



Scripture refers to a man named Anak (and his descendants) in Num, Deut, & Josh.

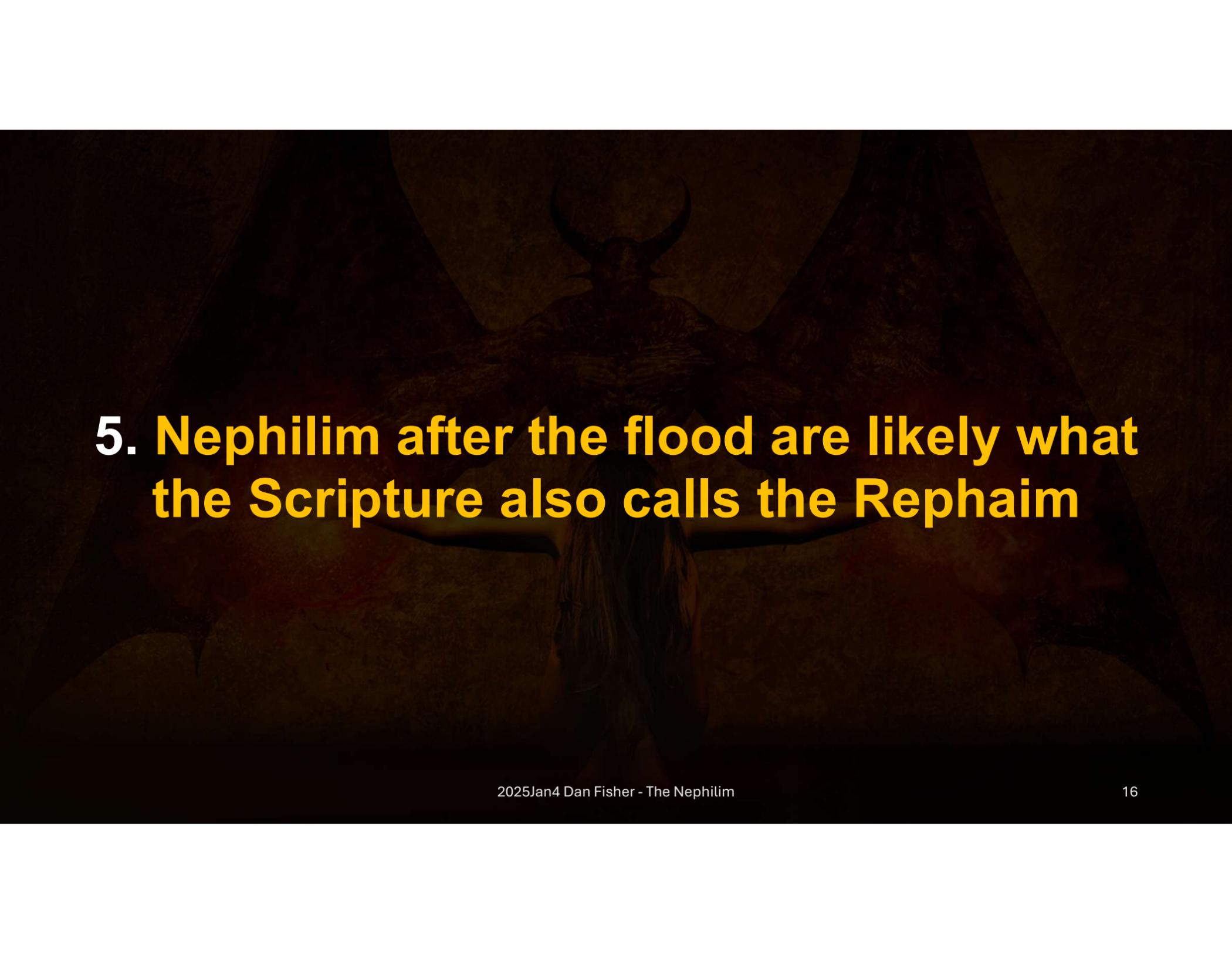
Anak lived in Hebron and was dispossessed by Caleb in the conquest of Canaan. His *physical* descendants were said to be giants – thus, the Nephilim (at least these) were human!

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.

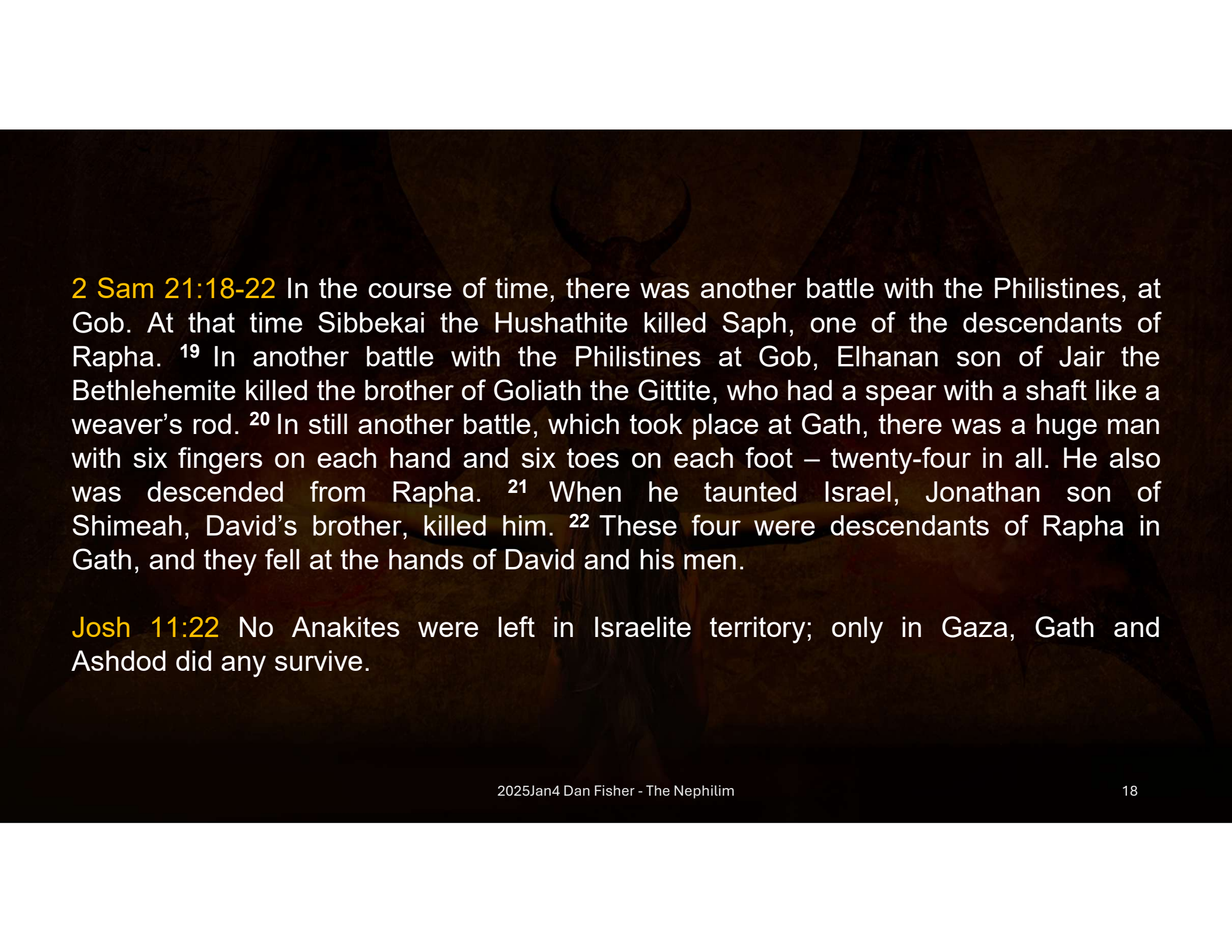


5. Nephilim after the flood are likely what the Scripture also calls the Rephaim

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,

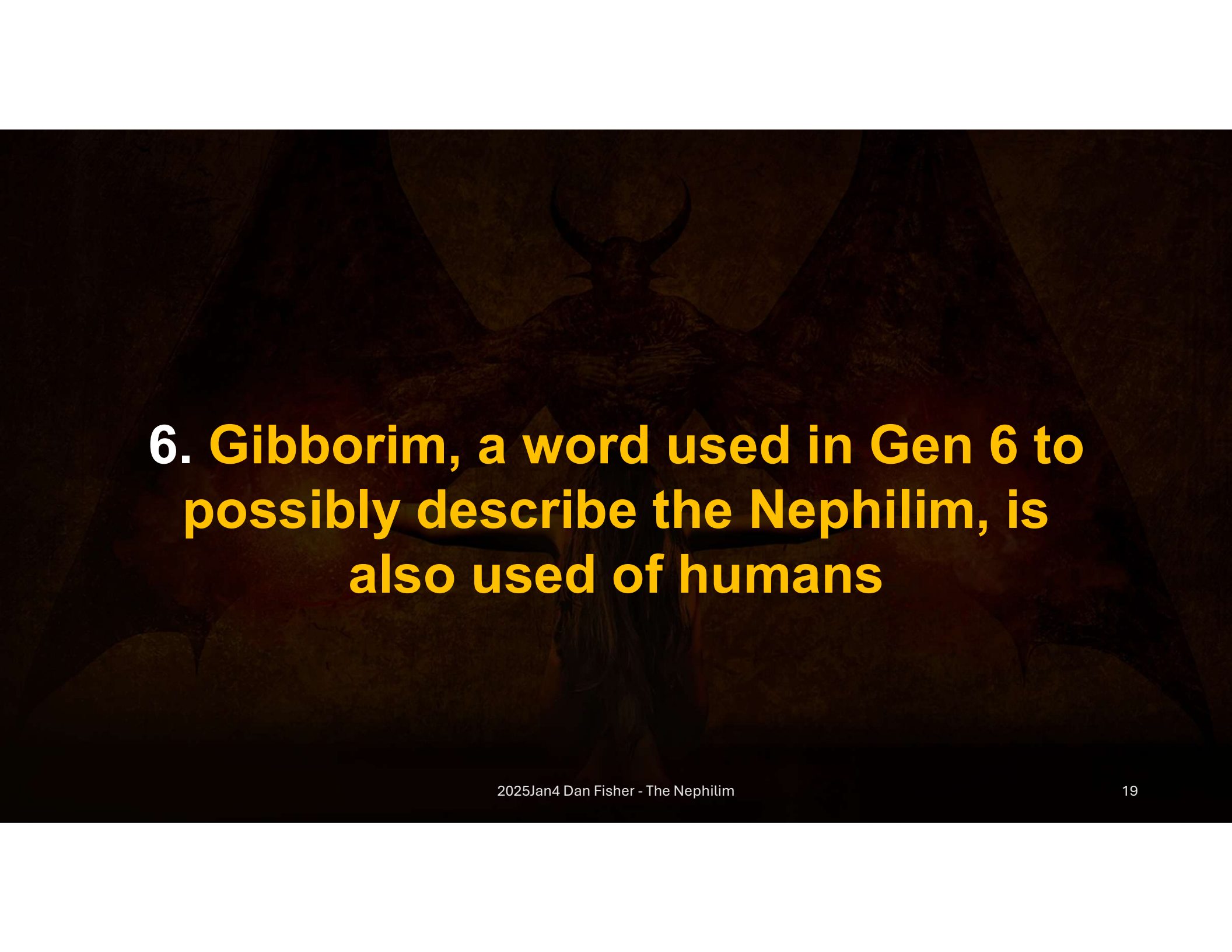
Deut 3:11 “For only Og king of Bashan remained of the remnant of the giants [Rephaites]. Indeed his bedstead was an iron bedstead. (Is it not in Rabbah of the people of Ammon?) Nine cubits is its length [approx. 13’ 6”] and four cubits its width [approx. 6’], according to the standard cubit.

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

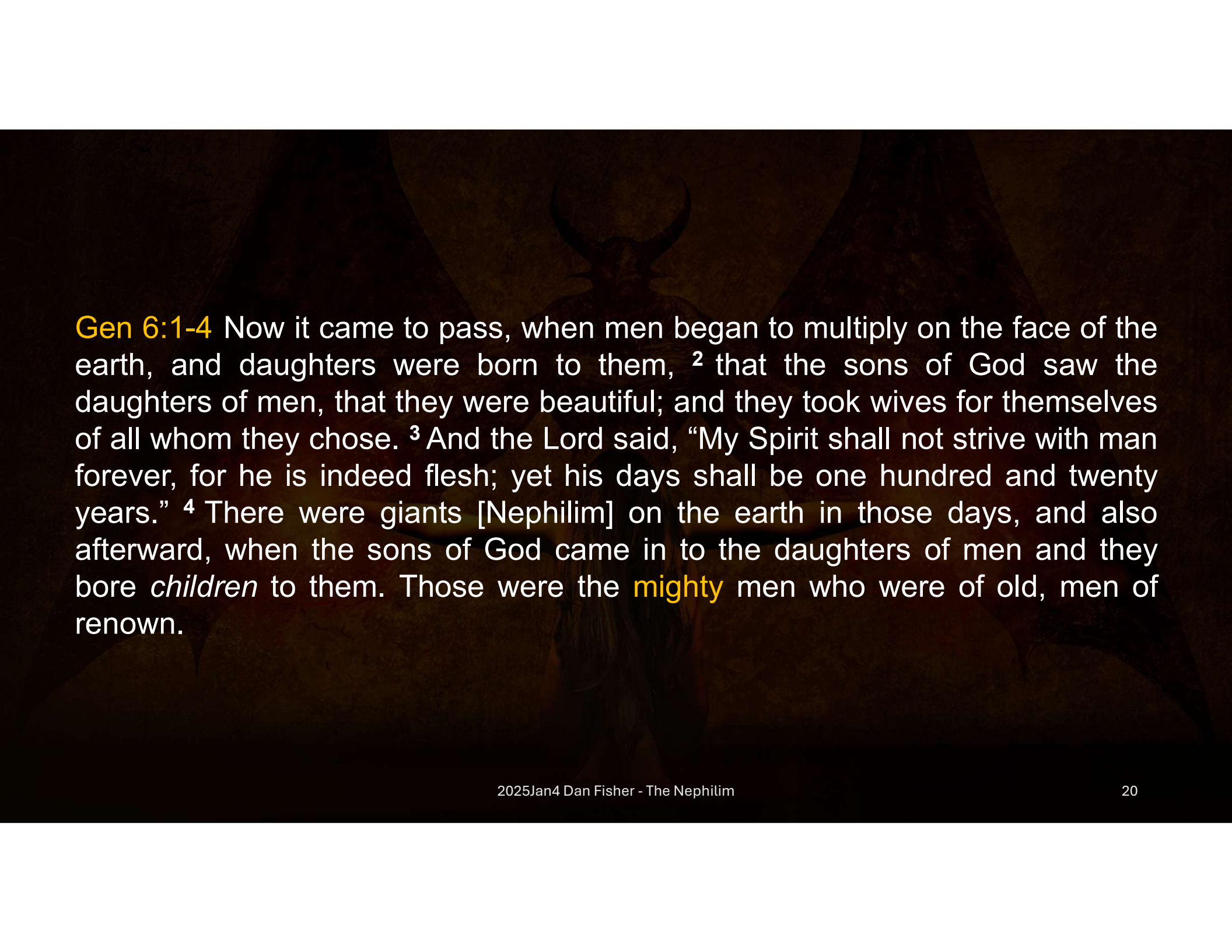


2 Sam 21:18-22 In the course of time, there was another battle with the Philistines, at Gob. At that time Sibbekai the Hushathite killed Saph, one of the descendants of Rapha. ¹⁹ In another battle with the Philistines at Gob, Elhanan son of Jair the Bethlehemite killed the brother of Goliath the Gittite, 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.

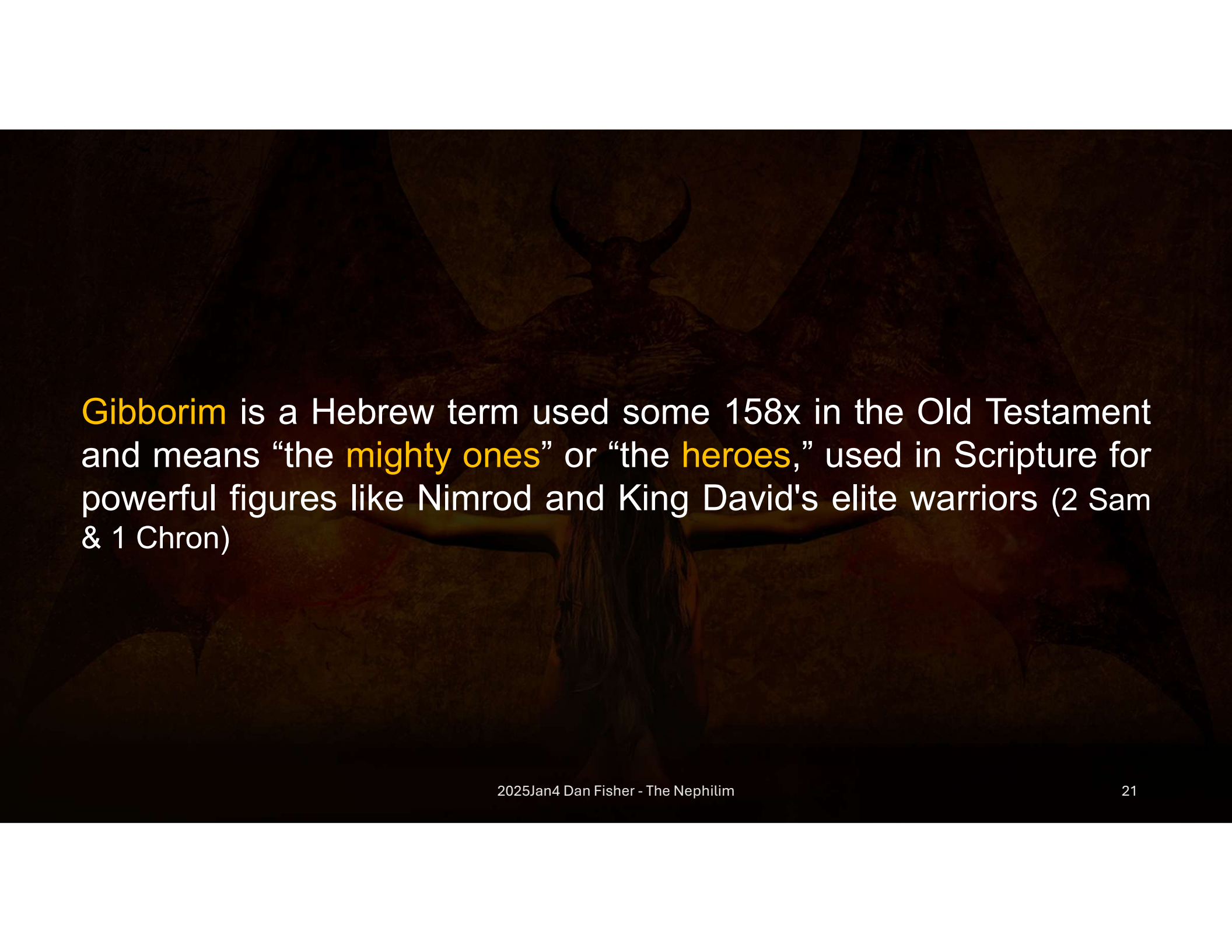
Josh 11:22 No Anakites were left in Israelite territory; only in Gaza, Gath and Ashdod did any survive.



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.



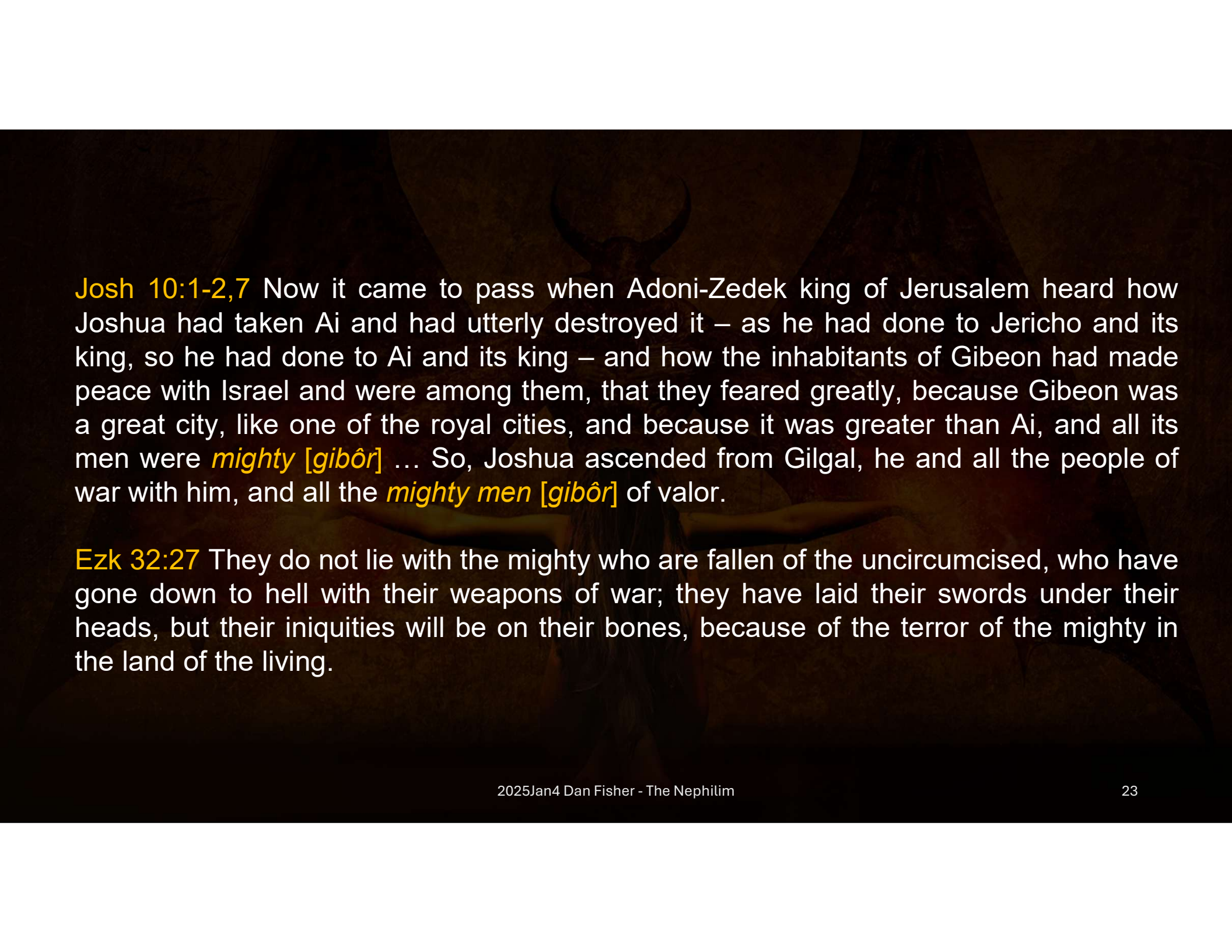
Gibborim is a Hebrew term used some 158x in the Old Testament and means “the **mighty ones**” or “the **heroes**,” used in Scripture for powerful figures like Nimrod and King David's elite warriors (2 Sam & 1 Chron)

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.

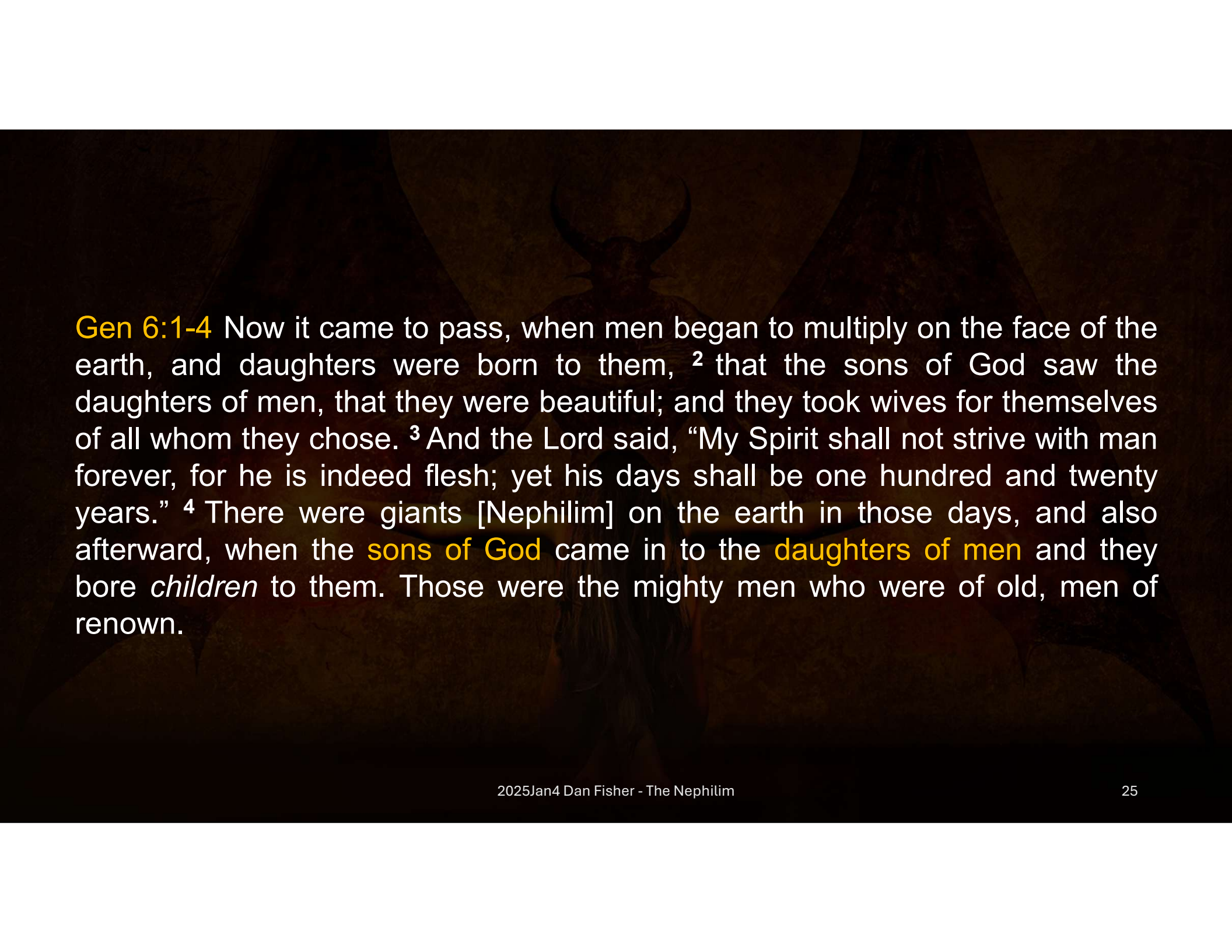


Josh 10:1-2,7 Now it came to pass when Adoni-Zedek king of Jerusalem heard how Joshua had taken Ai and had utterly destroyed it – as he had done to Jericho and its king, so he had done to Ai and its king – and how the inhabitants of Gibeon had made peace with Israel and were among them, that they feared 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.


Ezk 32:27 They do not lie with the mighty who are fallen of the uncircumcised, who have gone down to hell with their weapons of war; they have laid their swords under their heads, but their iniquities will be on their bones, because of the terror of the mighty in the land of the living.



7. “Sons of God” & “daughters of men”



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.

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- **Angels:** intermarry with women
 - ~~**Royals:** ancient rulers who marry commoners~~
 - **Godly:** followers of Yahweh (*Sethites*) who marry ungodly, unbelieving women (*Cainites*)

The background of the slide is a dark, textured illustration. It features a large, winged, horned figure, possibly a demon or a fallen angel, with its arms outstretched. In the foreground, a human figure with long hair is seen from behind, also with arms outstretched, mirroring the pose of the larger figure. The overall tone is mysterious and ominous.

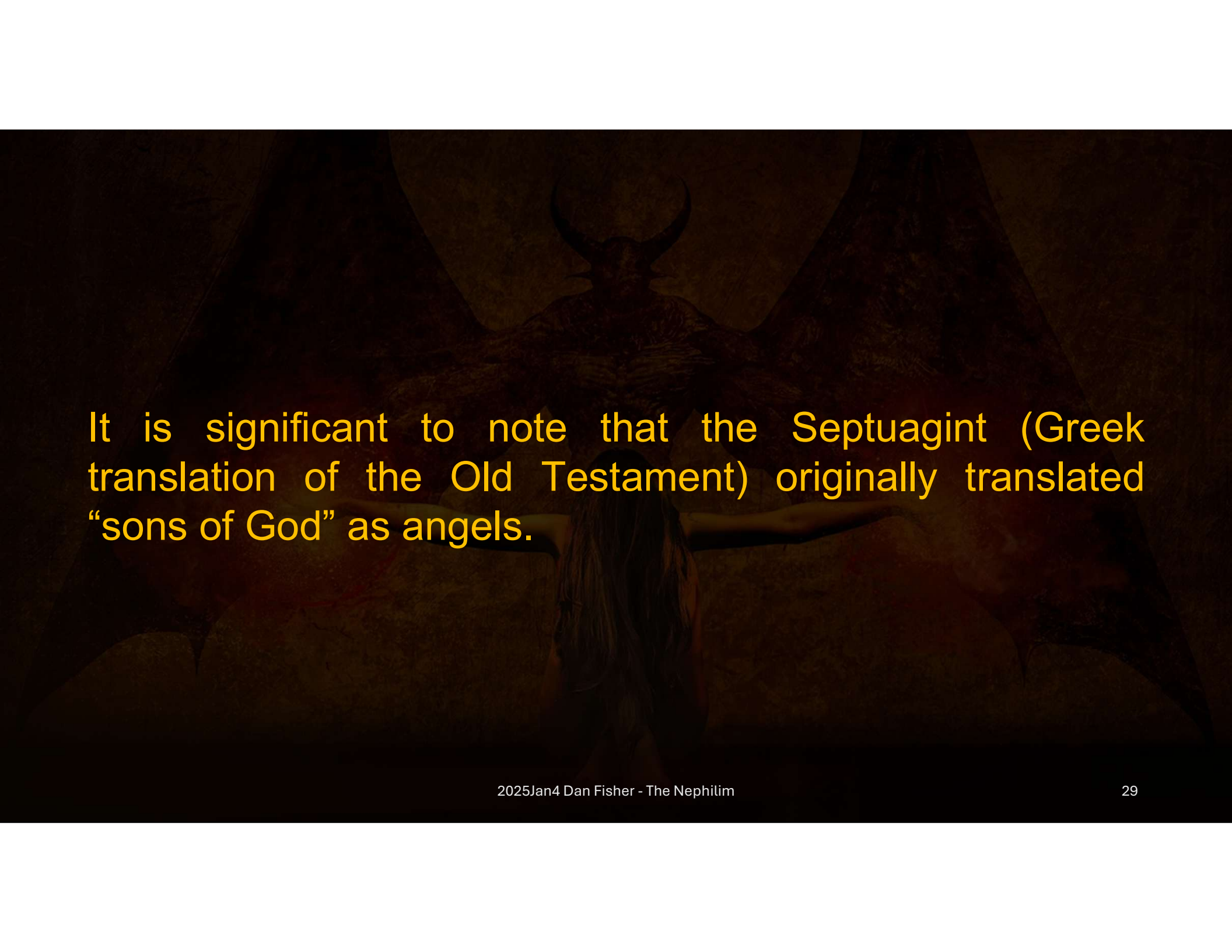
8. Are the “sons of God” angels?

- Those who make this case primarily refer to the Book of Job

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.

2:1-2 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. ² And the Lord said to Satan, “From where have you come?” Satan answered the Lord and said, “From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it.”

38:7 when the **morning stars** sang together and all the **sons of God** shouted for joy?

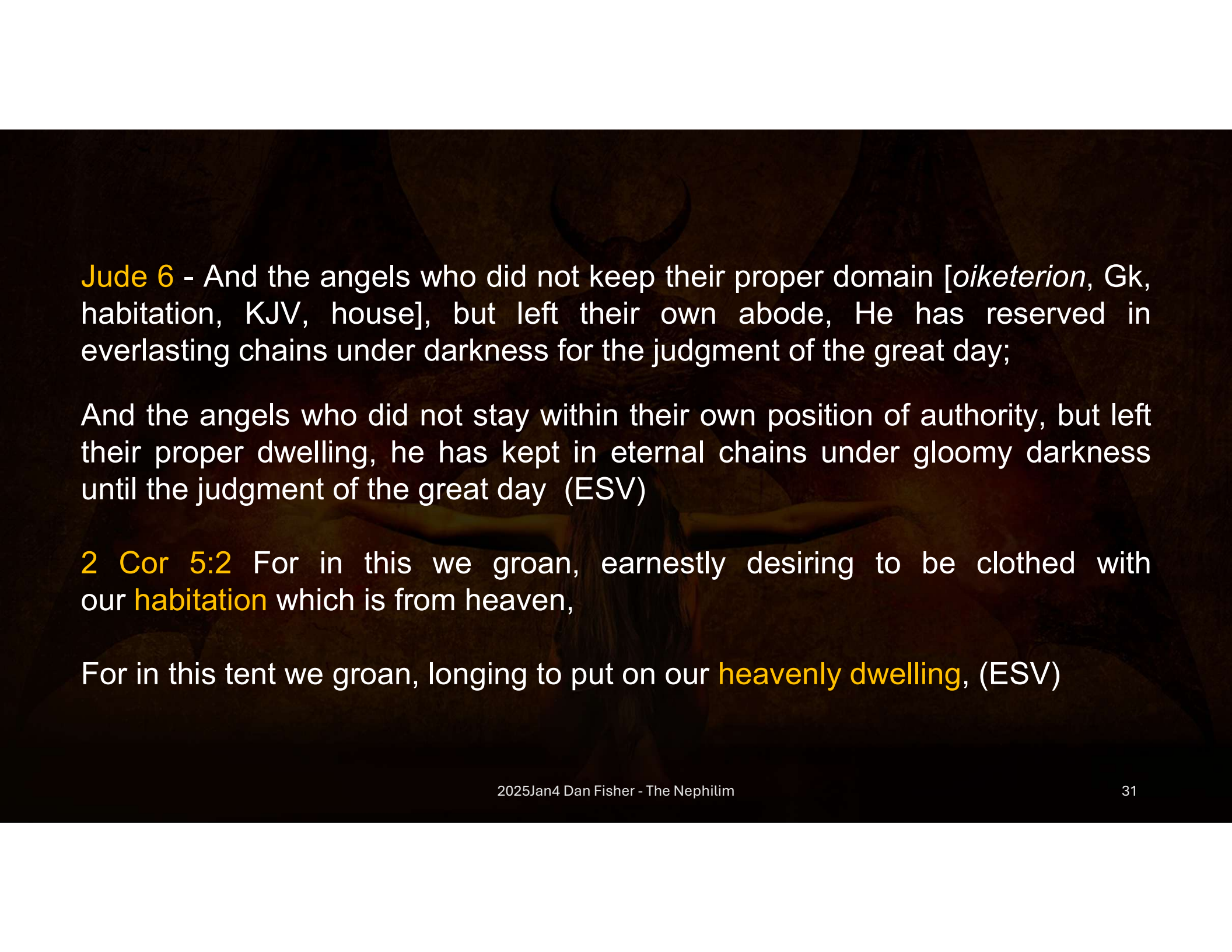


It is significant to note that the Septuagint (Greek translation of the Old Testament) originally translated “sons of God” as angels.



It is also significant to note what Heb 1:5 says:

“For to which of the angels did God ever say, ‘You are my Son, today I have begotten you’?”

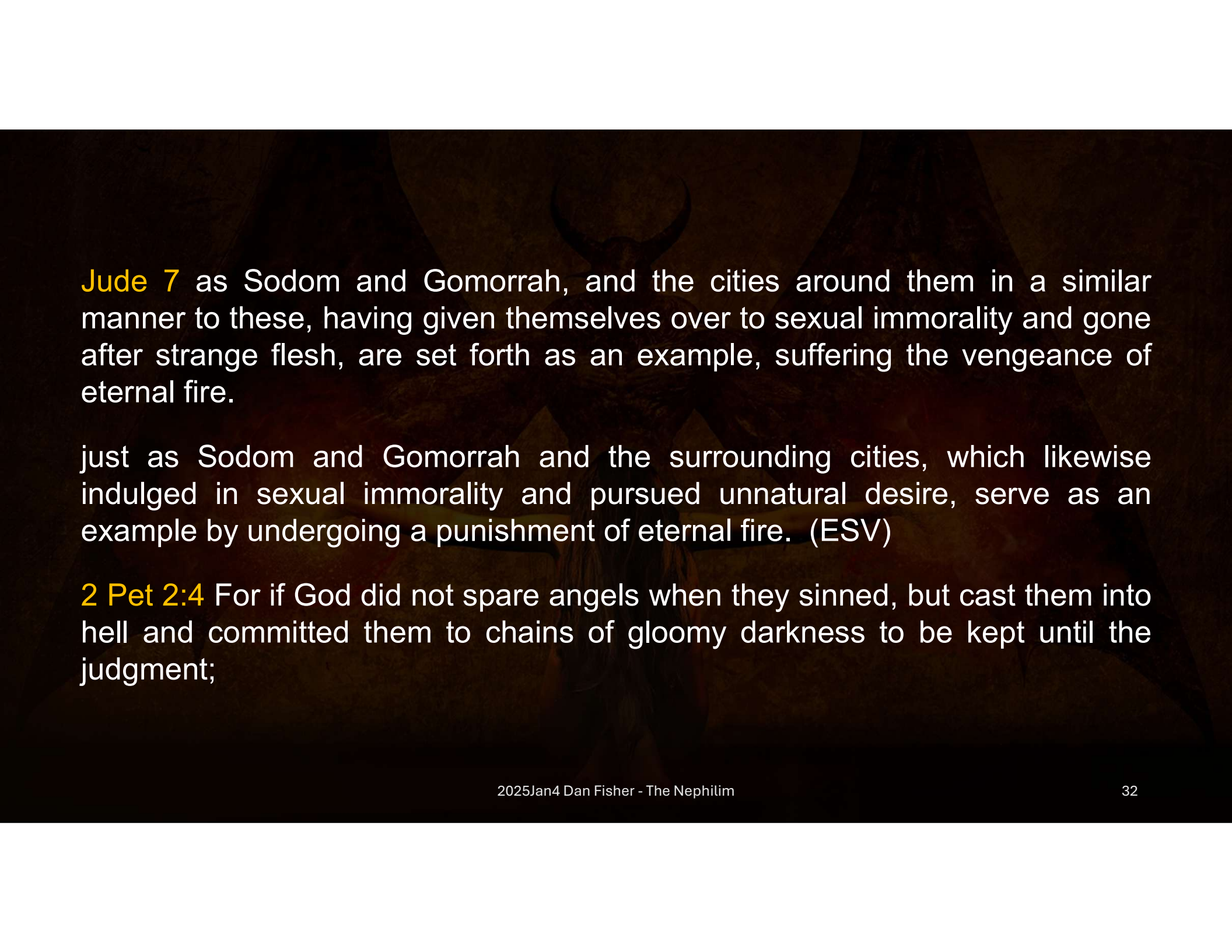


Jude 6 - And the angels who did not keep their proper domain [*oiketerion*, Gk, habitation, KJV, house], but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day;

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 (ESV)

2 Cor 5:2 For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our **habitation** which is from heaven,

For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our **heavenly dwelling**, (ESV)



Jude 7 as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

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. (ESV)

2 Pet 2:4 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;

- 
- **Jesus seemed to teach that angels are sexless**

Mt 22:30 For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.

Mk 12:25 For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.

Lk 20:34-36 Jesus answered and said to them, “The sons of this age marry and are given in marriage. ³⁵ But those who are counted worthy to attain that age, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry nor are given in marriage; ³⁶ nor can they die anymore, for they are equal to the angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection. (NKV)

And Jesus said to them, “The sons of this age marry and are given in marriage, ³⁵ but those who are considered worthy to attain to that age and to the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage, ³⁶ for they cannot die anymore, because they are equal to angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection. (ESV)

The background is a dark, textured painting. In the center, a large, horned, winged figure, possibly a demon or a fallen angel, is depicted with its arms outstretched. In the foreground, a figure is crucified, with long hair visible. The overall mood is somber and dramatic.

Angels are spirits without flesh. Jesus had to be born by a woman to put on flesh. Before that God did not have flesh.

- 
- How “sons of God” & “sons of men” are distinguished in other Scriptures

Ps 115:16 The heaven, even the heavens, are the Lord's; but the earth He has given to the children of men.

Eph 2:3 among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the flesh and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

Jn 1:12-13 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

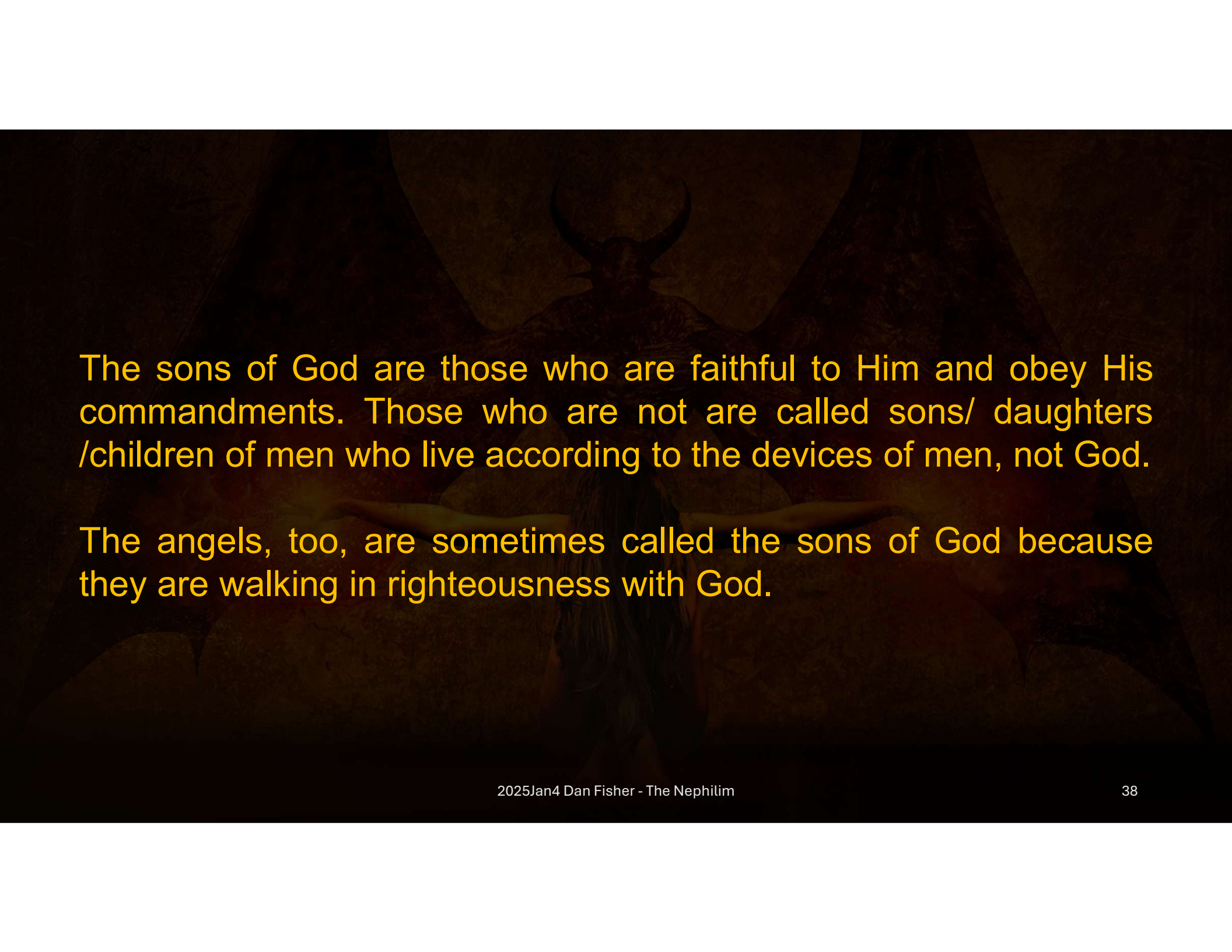
Mt 5:9 “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

Rom 8:14,19 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ... ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God.

Eph 5:8 for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light

Phil 2:15 that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,

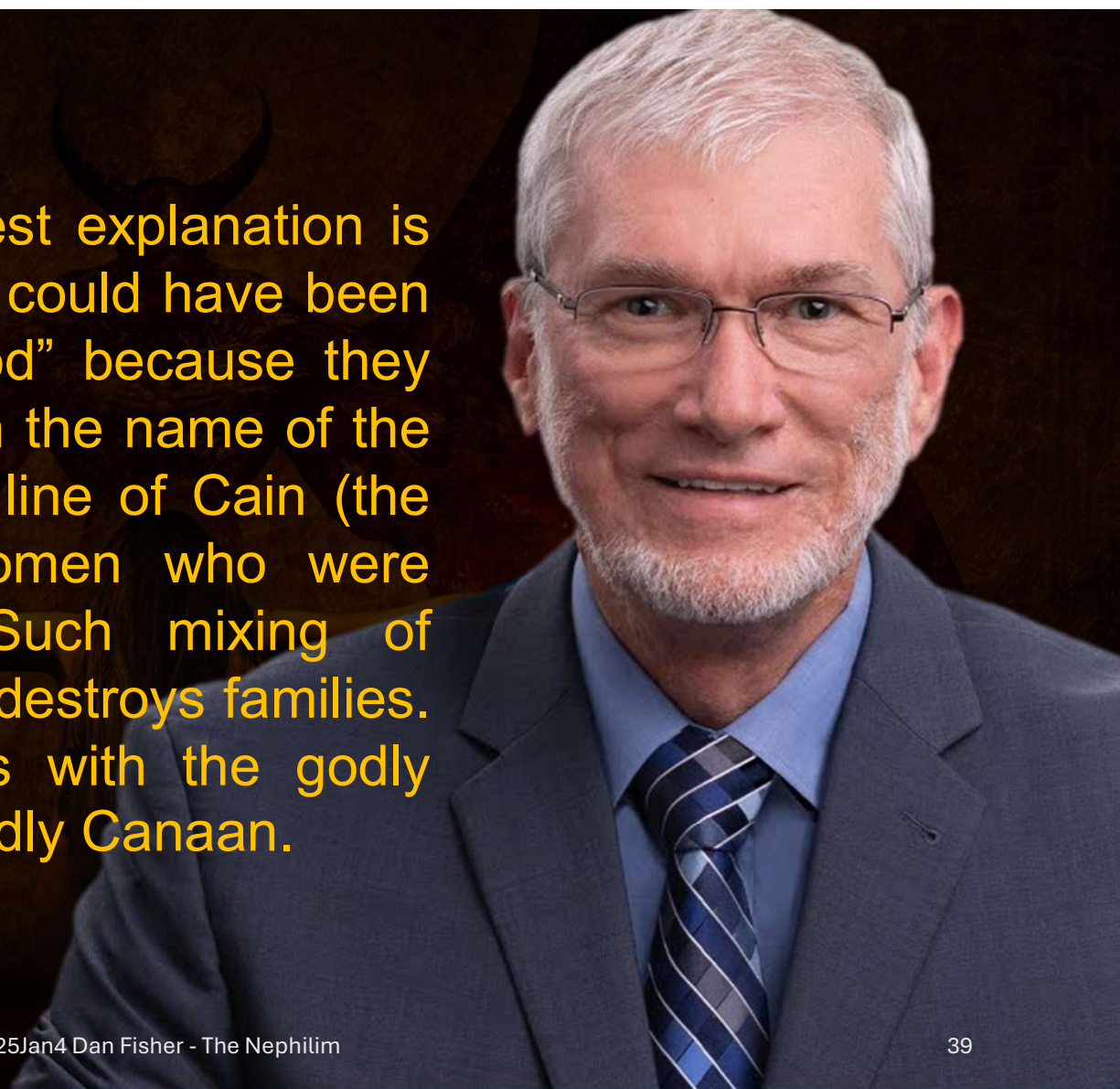
1 Thess 5:5 For you are all sons of light, sons of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness.



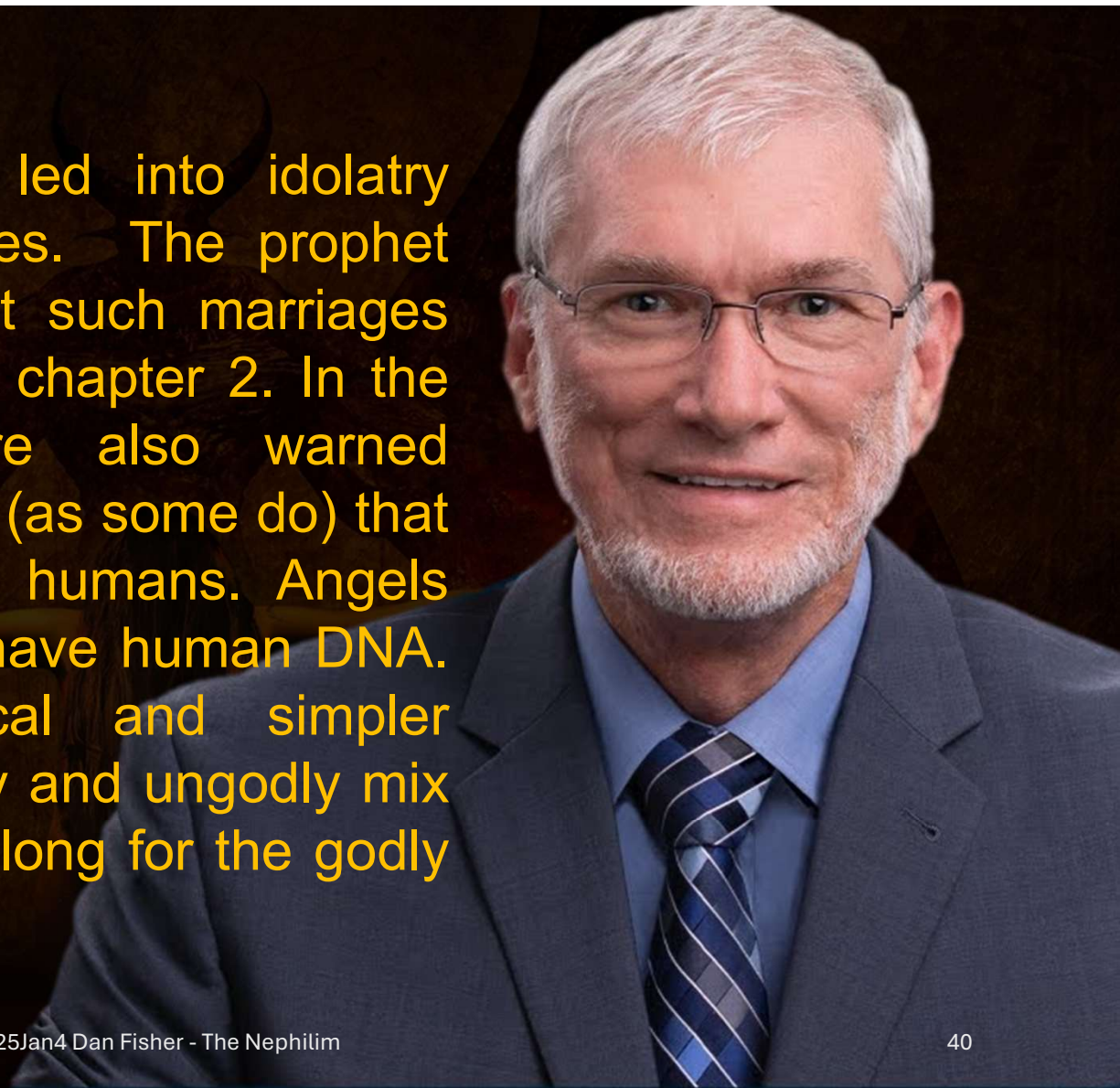
The sons of God are those who are faithful to Him and obey His commandments. Those who are not are called sons/ daughters /children of men who live according to the devices of men, not God.

The angels, too, are sometimes called the sons of God because they are walking in righteousness with God.

“It seems to me the simplest explanation is that the line of Seth (which could have been referred to as “sons of God” because they were godly and called upon the name of the Lord) started marrying the line of Cain (the “daughters of men” – women who were beautiful but ungodly). Such mixing of spiritual light and darkness destroys families. We see a warning of this with the godly Israelites entering into ungodly Canaan.



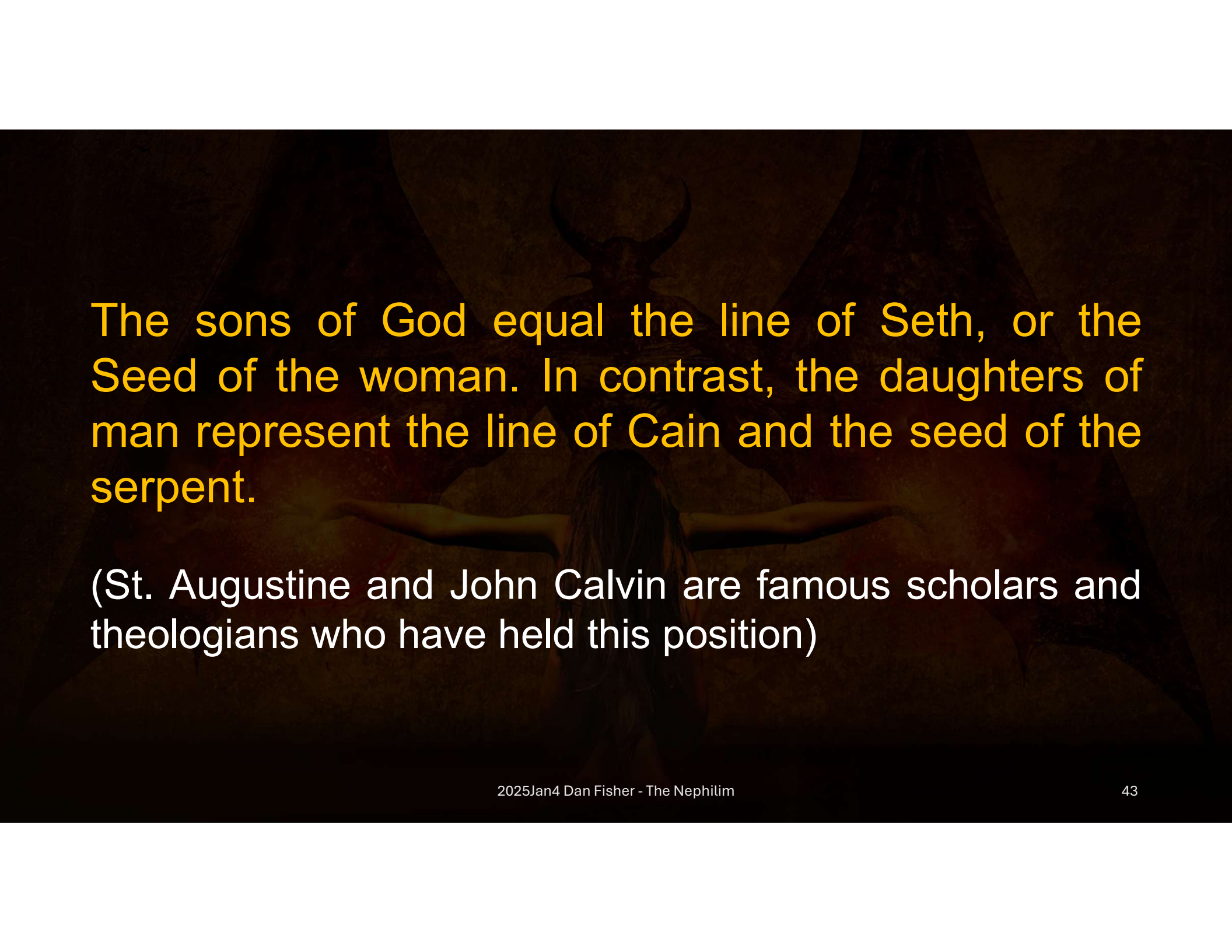
King Solomon, who was led into idolatry and sin by his pagan wives. The prophet Malachi also warned about such marriages (godly and ungodly) in Mal chapter 2. In the New Testament, we are also warned in Personally, I can't accept (as some do) that wicked angels mated with humans. Angels don't reproduce and don't have human DNA. To me, it's more logical and simpler explanation that when godly and ungodly mix in marriage, it doesn't take long for the godly legacy to be lost!"



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- God forbids Israel to intermarry with the pagan nations: Deut 7:1-4; 1 Kings 11:2
 - Solomon fell because of marrying pagan women: 1 Kings 11:1-11; Neh 13:26
 - Malachi said intermarrying with pagans symbolizes spiritual compromise: Mal 2:11-12

- **The New Testament teaches the same principle:**

2 Cor 6:14-17 Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? ¹⁵ What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever? ¹⁶ What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, “I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ¹⁷ Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you,



The sons of God equal the line of Seth, or the Seed of the woman. In contrast, the daughters of man represent the line of Cain and the seed of the serpent.

(St. Augustine and John Calvin are famous scholars and theologians who have held this position)