

DESCENT

A STUDY OF GENESIS 4-11

The Nephilim
Genesis 6:1-4
May 3, 2020

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.
- Genesis 6:4

I. AND DOWN AND DOWN WE GO

- With the multiplication of human beings comes the multiplication of sin on the earth.
- One clear outcome of this downward spiral was dominance and power grabbing. “Sons of god” saw women and took as many as they wanted (Gen. 3:16; vs. 2).
- God’s response was to limit the lives of human beings to 120 years [Jym’s view] (vs.3).
- Things were getting really bad, really fast (Gen. 6:5).

II. SO, WHO WERE THESE GUYS?

- Three main theories on the “sons of God” meaning:
 1. They were the righteous line of Seth who intermarried with the sinful line of Cain.
 2. They were kings and great leaders who followed Lamech (7th in line of Cain) in the sin of polygamy.
 3. They were “gods,” fallen angels who left their dwelling place in heaven and had sexual relations with human women. Yep, that’s weird (Jude 5-7).
- Who then, were the Nephilim?
 1. Titans — offspring of “Gods” and humans. OR...
 2. Really big human dudes no one wanted to fight. OR BOTH (Num. 13:33, Josh. 12:4; 1 Chron. 20:4).
- Don’t get caught up in the silly theories (Col. 2:17-19; 1 Tim. 1:4, 4:7).

III. AND THE TAKEAWAY IS..?

- The world is bad. God is good, and full of mercy, patience, and grace. When things get bad, God’s goodness shows forth in ever-increasing measures (John 16:33; Rom. 5:20).

KNOW: There are some aspects of both the antediluvian world and the spiritual realm that we do not fully understand. Nevertheless, we do know that humankind’s natural bent since the Fall is away from God, not toward him.

DO: Stand fast against the corrupting influences of our world. Trust God.

Suggested Reading:

Hard Sayings of the Old Testament by Walter C. Kaiser

More Hard Sayings of the Old Testament by Walter C. Kaiser

Where Sin Abounds: The Spread of Sin and the Curse in Genesis by Robert Gonzales Jr.

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please Read Genesis 6:1-4

1. What is wrong with the world according to Genesis 6:1?
2. What is your take on who these “sons of God” were?
3. Is God limiting human life spans to 120 years in verse 3, or giving humankind 120 years until the flood? What do you think?
4. The Bible makes clear that there is a “heavenly realm” where both angels and fallen angels exist. How, if at all, should we respond to this reality?
5. How should we as Christians navigate through this fallen world?
6. What are your application points from Sunday’s message?