

Q&A: The Issue of the Nephilim and the Giants

By Jeremy Lucas

Question: What do you think happened with the Nephilim after the flood?

One of the many theories regarding the Nephilim and their existence after the flood is that they (the giants/Nephilim) were actually "sons of Seth." I believe this theory to be lacking in substance or common sense (in most cases, as no one has ever truly made a logical case for it), for it suggests the following:

"Sons of Seth" Theory:

The "sons of God" are equated with the "sons of Seth" on the basis of implication suggesting that his lineage was a holy lineage equal to "sons of God." The formulation of this theory is rooted in Genesis 4:26...

"And to Seth, to him also a son was born; and he called his name Enosh. Then men began to call upon the name of the Lord." Genesis 4:26

The first child of Seth represented a point of shifting time and difference between the lineage of Cain (Genesis 4:16-24) and the lineage of Seth (Genesis 4:25-26). Believers of this theory suggest often that instead of the "sons of God" being "sons of God," that they are indeed just "good men" who saw "daughters" and desired them. But if you can begin to see a strong issue raised... it can't be denied the Hebrew term which refers to these "sons of God," as being the Bene Elohim.

Nevertheless, within this theory, even the scholars who support it realize that the Nephilim were not completely destroyed in the flood because they show up again specifically mentioned in Numbers 13:33...

"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." Number 13:33

Clearly we see that they had risen to the forefront again after a time in which the floods would have seemingly destroyed them, right? How then did this happen? Let's assume, for argument's sake, that the "sons of Seth" theory is correct. Let's assume that it is indeed the "sons of Seth" who are the issue in Genesis 6:1-4. Roll with me on this assumption for a moment...

The Nephilim, in terms of definition (and even within the defining notes of the King James Bible) are simply termed "giants." And likewise, these "giants" are solely the creation of what happens when the sons of God GO INTO the daughters of men. Let's read Genesis 6:4 in the King James...

"There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown." Genesis 6:4

As a result of "sons of God" having sexual relations with "daughters of men," we get two things:

1. Giants.
2. Mighty men of renown.

This is Biblical absolute. So what we're seeing here is that essentially, any time that this specific union takes place, you have an indefinable creation through which people rave and stand in awe. Quite an amazing thing, right? So let's imagine, as I said before, that the "sons of God" are actually not Bene Elohim and that they are surely just the "sons of Seth." As in... let's imagine that the sexual relations being spoken of in these few verses of Scripture are referring to a very normal situation between human men and human women. If indeed this is the case, then who would Noah and his family be when they got on the ark? Based on the "sons of Seth" theory, Noah's entire clan of three sons would have had to be giants. And not only giants, but a type of giant that God would want to be removed from the land of Canaan later on down in history.

Can you see the fallacy in this theory? Do you see the inconsistencies that exist with a theory that suggests the improbable is not what we're reading? It doesn't line up on these accounts.

Just to take it one step further (without going overboard), let's say that Noah's family and these "sons of Seth" were great men of renown. If we say that, then we have to say that the Nephilim were not only great men of renown stature or fame, but also of righteousness. Why? Because if the theory is correct and Noah is a Nephilim (through simplified and logical connections of lineage), then the following statements about Noah would be true of the Nephilim as well...

"Noah found favor with the Lord." Genesis 6:8

"Then the Lord said to Noah, 'Enter the ark, you and all your household; for you alone I have seen to be righteous before Me in this time.'" Genesis 7:1

Noah was seen as a righteous man... both he and his family. Thus they were saved from the wrath and destruction that was the great flood. And the Nephilim... who were they? The Great men of renown, right? The giants? How exactly did God see THEM?

The plain and simple reality is that God destroyed ALL they that lived on the earth during the flood. This would mean ALL the Nephilim and giants. Why? Because they were NOT found righteous in the sight of God. The Nephilim and the giants have never once been viewed in the eyes of God as either righteous or deserving of mercy. So why the coldness of God on a race of beings if they are simply descendants of the "sons of Seth" and the "daughters of men?" Wouldn't make much sense in those terms, right?

So having said all that and put it in your mind, let's continue.

Genesis 6:4 makes a very clear statement that just never managed to leave my brain during the time that I was in early college. That statement was this...

"they were on the earth in those days, and also afterward..."

And also afterward? How can physical beings of tremendous stature and great renown simply show up again? Well, the Scriptures defined earlier HOW and WHEN they ever showed up on the earth in the first place.

"And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them, that the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose." Genesis 6:1-2

First of all, I've underlined the previous verse within the context of "when." The situation of "giants" (i.e... Nephilim) arose at the point when "men began multiplying on the earth and daughters were born to them." So what was the manufacturing route through which the "how" applies?

"...the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose..." Genesis 6:2

The sons of God (bene-Elohim) saw the daughters of men (beautiful women) and lusted in their hearts after such women. The decision to then "take them as their wives" was whose choice? The "sons of God." These women were not handed over through proper ceremony, but instead, through immediate choice of each "son of God."

But here is the kicker of HOW such Nephilim were brought to being. Surely the observation of beautiful women and even the marriage to these beautiful women does nothing for lineage, right? What must happen?

"when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown." Genesis 6:4

In order for there to be giants created, it required that the "sons of God" go "into" the "daughters of men" and thus bare children to the "sons of God." As a result, each children born in this union was then defined as "mighty men which were of old." Notice that these unions did not create a female population, but solely one of male giants and wildly strange beings that did not fit the cusp of normal humanity.

But when, as we've been alluding, did they come again?

In order for these beings (which is incredibly tough to deny as being the offspring angelic fallen and human women) to be created... the following three things had to take place:

1. Men would begin multiplying on the face of the earth.
2. The Sons of God would see the daughters of men and take them as wives.

3. The Sons of God would "go into" the daughters of men and thus receive the offspring of superhuman characteristics.

Perhaps one might ask, before we continue, how an angel can physically have contact with a human being, but let's consider the following:

"And there came two angels to Sodom at even; and Lot sat in the gate of Sodom: and Lot seeing them rose up to meet them; and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground; And he said, Behold now, my lords, turn in, I pray you, into your servant's house, and tarry all night, and wash your feet, and ye shall rise up early, and go on your ways. And they said, Nay; but we will abide in the street all night. And he pressed upon them greatly; and they turned in unto him, and entered into his house; and he made them a feast, and did bake unleavened bread, and they did eat. But before they lay down, the men of the city, even the men of Sodom, compassed the house round, both old and young, all the people from every quarter: And they called unto Lot, and said unto him, Where are the men which came in to thee this night? bring them out unto us, that we may know them. And Lot went out at the door unto them, and shut the door after him, and said, I pray you, brethren, do not so wickedly. Behold now, I have two daughters which have not known man; let me, I pray you, bring them out unto you, and do ye to them as is good in your eyes: only unto these men do nothing; for therefore came they under the shadow of my roof. And they said, Stand back. And they said again, This one fellow came in to sojourn, and he will needs be a judge: now will we deal worse with thee, than with them. And they pressed sore upon the man, even Lot, and came near to break the door. But the men (angels) put forth their hand, and pulled Lot into the house to them, and shut to the door." Genesis 19:1-10

Several things happen in this brief story, but a few of them are important to the case being made here and now:

1. Angels came into visual sight of human beings.
2. They were seen as "men" though they were not.
3. Their feet were seemingly dirty as Lot suggested coming inside to clean them.
4. Lot made a feast for them and they ATE. (this is an amazing thing to consider)
5. Upon necessity, they literally pulled Lot into the house with them and shut the door.

Physical nature of capacity for angelic beings. With me so far?

So these concepts of sexual relations are not unheard of. Perhaps considering the context of this story in which the men of the city desired to have "sexual relations" with the two angels, it might be worthy to note that the men of the city were familiar with the possibility of having such relations with angelic beings. It was not outside their zone of understanding to consider the options of pursuing these things.

But here is where we tamper into the "how they got here after the flood."

Notice in the lineage statements of Genesis 10, that each line is defined by "fathers" and "sons." That is, until we reach the descendants of Canaan in verse 15.

"And Canaan became the father of Sidon, his first-born, and Heth, and the Jebusite and the Amorite and the Girgashite and the Hivite and the Arkite and the Sinite..." Genesis 10:15-17

No longer are the descendants of Ham (Canaan's father) defined by sons and fathers, but now they are defined by groups. Interesting, isn't it? No other lineage in the Scriptures is defined by one man fathering "groups," for each man only fathers sons and then sons from those sons. Do you see what I mean?

Looking at the follow up to the most recently quoted passage, let's look at the latter part of Genesis 10:18...

"..and afterward..." Genesis 10:18

Sound familiar?

"...and also afterward..." Genesis 6:4

Let's continue...

"...and afterward the families of the Canaanite were spread abroad." Genesis 10:18

The families of the Canaanite were spread abroad. Let's not forget that the descendants of Canaan were cursed because of the actions of Ham...

"Cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants he shall be to his brothers." Genesis 9:25

So when did the Nephilim process restart following the flood? As soon as "men began to multiply and daughters were born unto them." In which case, the "sons of God" once again saw that the daughters of men were fair and thus took them as their wives. This process began again with Canaan and his lineage.

But here's the most amazingly overlooked issue in all of the Old Testament (in my opinion). Israel spends a great portion of Scripture trying to "weed out" the Canaanites from the land that allegedly belongs to God's people, right? Why did the Canaanites inhabit there in the first place? Because they were preparing to rule. In the plan of God, He had it in mind to "raise up" a nation that would ultimately overtake and inhabit the land of Canaan and thus return it to the ACTUAL promised land. And why the urgency to literally seek and destroy every being that descended from these "canaanites?" Because of who they were.

Let's look, for a moment, at an example of what exactly these various groups were as mentioned in Genesis 10:15-18...

The Amorite:

"Yet it was I who destroyed the Amorite before them, though his height was like the height of cedars and he was strong as the oaks; I even destroyed his fruit above and his root below." Amos 2:9

The Amorites were giants. Their height soared near the height of cedar trees with the similar strength and power of oak trees. Pretty intense beings, huh? The Amorites were Nephilim (i.e... Giants... descendants of the fallen).

The Amorites are then linked with another very odd group in the following statements to Abram:

"In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates: The Kenites, and the Kenizzites, and the Kadmonites, and the Hittites, and the Perizzites, and the Rephaim, and the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Girgashites, and the Jebusites." Genesis 15:18-21

Are you familiar with the term used for Rephaim in the Hebrew? It's the term "rapha" or "raphan." It is this term which, in many other locations (including the King James Bible), rather than terming a group as "Rephaim," they are termed, "giants." (See 2 Samuel 21:16-18, Isaiah 17:5, Deut. 3:11, etc). You won't often see "Rapha," used because it denotes a very troubling state of existence. Meaning more specifically?

Rapha means "living dead." Literally speaking, they were often considered to be the dead inhabitants of the netherworld, the ghosts of the dead, or weak persons devoid of blood and life, but not lacking in the powers of the mind. Pretty weird, huh?

The Rephaim, the Amorite, the Jebusite, the Hivite, and on and on and on... these descendants were, I believe, the second lineage of the Nephilim that came "afterward" (after the flood). Now perhaps it is possible that they were not, nor were they ever descendents of supernatural form, but the question then becomes... what WERE they and through what human genes would an entire race of men become so tremendous in stature as to have (at times) six fingers on each hand and six toes on each foot (I Chronicles 20:6)? Or what would cause a race of men to consistently be born as giants beyond comprehension? Would it be solely the curse of God on those descending from Canaan or would it be "the fallen" seeking to push their way into legendary status among men that men might find them to be gods?

Much Greek and Roman mythology, just as any legend, is based and rooted in some aspect of perceptual truth. It's rare that someone builds an entire religious belief system on something that they do not believe that they saw with their own eyes. Surely John Smith (Mormons) believed that he saw something and thus proceeded to create an entire dogma and extended Bible. Did he see something? I'm not doubting he did. But what he saw... it was very well skewed in his limited mind to be what it wasn't. Similarly, these great giants and beings called the Nephilim... they are rooted in the history of great gods to whom many men spent hundreds of years following as ghosts. Who was Zeus? Was he a figment of someone's imagination that managed to become a storyboard for millions to believe in? Perhaps, but not likely. A storyboard like the Greek gods would have been based initially in what the people believed they were seeing and chose to document.

And yes... could it be... that the ancient cultures of Greece, Rome, Persia, and others were of the belief that the Nephilim were gods? More than likely. In which case, how successful was this race of beings to have manipulated an entire series of countries and nations into believing upon gods other than God Himself?

This, I believe, is what happened to the Nephilim after the flood.

Question: So what of the fallen angels today in the age of Grace?

In all the time that I studied this issue from 1996 to 2003, I never once thought about the possibility of what reflection these studies or the Nephilim themselves would have to do with this present generation or this age of grace. It wasn't until someone presented me with a really phenomenal and competent teacher of the Scriptures who has his own theories grounded in a tremendous understanding of Biblical comprehension, physics, history, current CIA and FBI data, and various aspects that together make up a man you really enjoy listening to.

Chuck Missler and his wife are the founders of Koinonia House. It's a publication and site in which nearly all of his incredibly intriguing studies are free to the public (though there are books, videos, and other things you can purchase). One of Chuck's most infamous studies was entitled, "Return of the Nephilim." In it, he poses a very intriguing theory both Biblically, historically, and politically sound about how he believes that the fallen and coming Nephilim are in some way connected to the UFO sightings throughout the world. No doubt it sounds pretty insane, but I can assure you that his theories aren't foolishly represented or cheesy on any stretch of the imagination.

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But some of the passages that are to be taken into account regarding your question and the topic of the Nephilim are as follows:

"And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man." Luke 17:26

The days of Noah involved a rise and fall and rise of the Nephilim during his lifetime. There were Nephilim prior to the flood, yet still during Noah's life and then they were destroyed only to be reborn in the days that followed the flood. Is this what Luke 17 is suggesting? Perhaps we can't be sure, but it's a point to consider.

"For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;" 2 Peter 2:4

This is a defining point of how God dealt with the angels of sin. They were cast down to hell and delivered to chains of darkness. Thus was the state of the earth before God implanted it with life.

"And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day. Even as Sodom and Gomorrha,

and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire." Jude 6,7

The comparison is made here to how the fallen angels might relate to Sodom and Gomorrha. In what way? That they went "after strange flesh" and are in turn going to suffer the vengeance of eternal fire.

They've been destroyed twice in history that we know of for sure. The first was through the flood and the second was through the warriors of Israel under the direction of Moses, Joshua, Caleb, Saul, David, etc, etc (the point when the Canaanites were searched out and slaughtered without mercy at times). So as you ask, "What about now?" I can only say that if it happened before, and angels still roam as they did before... there's no telling what they could do again as God allows them the freedom.

I've in no way used Chuck Missler's studies as a crutch of my perceptions on the matter, but he's been about the only intellectually sound man of God that I've come across who has studied the issue in more depth and time than I have (of course, he's got about 40 extra years of life on me). I have much respect for his efforts and have, likewise, read much of his material.