

Sessions 14 & 15- Genesis 3 Review; The “Sons of God” Rebellion of Genesis 6:1-4

*All Bible references are from NASB unless noted otherwise.

The ancient 2nd Temple period (NT period also) answer to the question:

“Why is the world as wicked as it is today?” We noted that there were three major rebellions:

- 1) Satan prior to Genesis 3 and Genesis 3 rebellion God’s earthly imagers, Adam and Eve.
- 2) The sons of God (fallen *elohim* and members of the divine council) who rebelled in Genesis 6.
- 3) The division and abandonment of the nations by God in Genesis 11 and Deuteronomy 32:7-9.

Genesis 3 Brief Review

In session 13, we examined Satan’s (the “shining one” serpent) pre-Genesis 3 rebellion as well as his corruption of mankind in the garden of Eden. We didn’t address the promise of Satan’s demise at the hands of one of Eve’s human descendants (her seed) and the punishment for the three main characters’ sin.

Genesis 3:15-19 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel."

¹⁶ To the woman He said, "I will greatly multiply Your pain in childbirth, In pain you will bring forth children; Yet your desire will be for your husband, And he will rule over you."

¹⁷ Then to Adam He said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat from it'; Cursed is the ground because of you; In toil you will eat of it All the days of your life.

¹⁸ "Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; And you will eat the plants of the field;

¹⁹ By the sweat of your face You will eat bread, Till you return to the ground, Because from it you were taken; For you are dust, And to dust you shall return."

1. Longstanding hostility between Satan’s offspring and the woman’s offspring (humanity). Seed is being used as a collective singular for both groups. The Bible is full of examples demonstrating that conflict between children of the devil and children of God (Eph 2:1-3; 5:6; 1 John 3:8-10; Matt 13:38; Acts 13:10; John 8:44).
2. Ultimately, one of her offspring (seed used in a singular) will bruise the serpent figure on the head, resulting in his decisive permanent defeat (Rom 16:20; Heb 2:14; Col 2:15).
3. The serpent figure would harm the woman’s seed (Messiah Jesus) by bruising him on the heel (temporary defeat).
4. This promise hangs over humanity and Satan knows that one way to prevent his defeat is to corrupt humanity and possibly of the humanity’s genetic purity. This gives credence to understanding why some of the watchers (sons of God) chose to rebel and join in corrupting humanity through illicit sexual unions.
5. Adam and his descendants received the curse of death and also having to work hard to receive food from the earth.
6. Eve and all her daughters will be cursed with pain in childbirth.
7. Even though a certain part of the cursed ground was removed after the flood, God mercifully removed a part of the curse (Genesis 8:21). This was not a total removal because we know there still are thorns/thistles/pain in child birth.
8. The physical creation (heavens and earth) were said to be “very good” at the end of the 6th day (Gen 1:31).
9. After Adam’s sin, death/decay entered the entire universe (entropy?) and humanity waits until the day of full redemption of humanity and the cursed world (Roman 5:12; 8:20-23).

Romans 5:12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned.

Romans 8:20-23 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. ²³ And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for *our* adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.

The Second Heavenly Rebellion

Genesis 6:1 When humankind began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them,
² the sons of God (*b'ney ha elohim*) saw that the daughters of humankind were beautiful. Thus, they took wives (or women) for themselves from any they chose.

³ So the LORD said, "My spirit will not remain in humankind indefinitely, since they are mortal. They will remain for 120 more years."

⁴ The Nephilim were on the earth in those days (and also after this) when the sons of God (*b'ney ha elohim*) were having sexual relations with the daughters of humankind, who gave birth to their children. They were the mighty heroes of old, the famous men (or "ones of reputation"). (NET)

1. The language strongly portrays the perpetrators as supernatural *elohim*. See below.
2. There are four main views on who the "sons of God" are: A) Material distinction, B) Theological distinction, C) Social distinction, or D) Moral (or "No") distinction. See summary page at the end of this packet.
3. The ancient belief up to 70 AD were that these were fallen *elohim* who came down out of heaven (e.g. LXX, Josephus).
4. The historical, literary and theological context clearly, (in my opinion), demonstrate that the sons of God were *elohim* (fallen angels) who rebelled and came down to earth (Material distinction). See magazine article I wrote and emailed to everyone.
 Additionally, the NT identifies this group as being guilty of serious sexual immorality and false teaching. See below.
5. These fallen *elohim* (sons of God) repeatedly took certain women and impregnated them. The offspring were called the *Nephilim* which existed on the earth before and after the flood (see Numbers 13:32-33).
6. These hybrid offspring (*Nephilim*) became famous for their "supernatural" exploits.
7. The *Nephilim* are not the "sons of God". They are the children of the sons of God and human women.

"Sons of God" (*b'ney ha elohim*)- Job 1:6; 2:1; 38:7

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. (ESV)

Job 2:1 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. (ESV)

Job 38:7 when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy? (ESV)

"Sons of God" or "heavenly beings" (*b'ney elim*)- Deuteronomy 32:8 DSS; Psalm 29:1; 89:6

Deuteronomy 32:8 When the Most High gave to the nations their inheritance, when he divided mankind, he fixed the borders of the peoples according to the number of the sons of God. (ESV- based on Dead Sea Scrolls Manuscript and LXX)

Psalm 29:1 *A Psalm of David*. Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. (ESV)

Psalm 89:6 For who in the skies can be compared to the LORD? Who among the heavenly beings is like the LORD? (ESV)

Second Temple Period Background- 300 BC to 70 AD (a few examples of many)

There are dozens and dozens of writings known either as apocrypha, pseudepigrapha, and sectarian writings which were abundantly available during this period. The Dead Sea Scrolls attest to the plethora of diversity of Judaism. We aren't looking at these because we think they are inspired Scripture, but instead because we need to know what the NT writers were intimately acquainted with in their "worldview". This becomes very important when we see how both Jude and Peter reference the events of Genesis 6:1-4 in their writings. This was the background information percolating in their minds as they wrote their epistles against false teachers.

Jubilees 4:15 And in the second week of the tenth jubilee Mahalalel took unto him to wife Dinah, daughter of Barakiel, the daughter of his father's brother, and she bare him a son in the third week in the sixth year, and he called his name **Jared; for in his days the angels of the Lord descended on the earth**, those who are named the **Watchers**, that they should instruct the children of men, and that they should do judgment and uprightness on the earth. (From Ethiopic Version)

Jubilees 4:22 And Enoch testified to the **Watchers**, who had sinned with the daughters of men; for these had begun to unite themselves, so as to be defiled, with the daughters of men, and Enoch testified against all. (From Ethiopic Version)

3 Maccabees 2:4 You destroyed those who in the past worked iniquity, among whom were also **giants**, who trusted in their might and courage, bringing down upon them **water immeasurable**. (NETS- New English Translation of Septuagint)

Wisdom 14:6 For even in the beginning, when **arrogant giants were perishing**, the hope of the world fled for **refuge on a raft** and, piloted by your hand, left to the world the seed of a new generation. (NETS)

Jubilees 7:20-21 And in the twenty-eighth jubilee Noah began to enjoin upon his sons' sons the ordinances and commandments, and all the judgments that he knew, and he exhorted his sons to observe righteousness, and to cover the shame of their flesh, and to bless their Creator, and honor father and mother, and love their neighbor, and guard their souls from fornication and uncleanness and all iniquity. ²¹ For owing to these three things **came the flood upon the earth**, namely, owing to the fornication wherein the **Watchers against the law of their ordinances went a whoring after the daughters of men**, and **took themselves wives of all which they chose**: and they made the beginning of uncleanness.

New Testament Understanding of Genesis 6:1-4

Second Temple Period Background Examples in the NT (just a few)

1. **Jude 1:14** *It was* also about these men *that* Enoch, *in* the seventh *generation* from Adam, prophesied, saying, "Behold, the Lord came with many thousands of His holy ones, ¹⁵ to execute judgment upon all, and to convict all the ungodly of all their ungodly deeds which they have done in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him."

1 Enoch 1:9 And behold! He cometh with ten thousands of His holy ones To execute judgement upon all, And to destroy all the ungodly: And to convict all flesh Of all. the works of their ungodliness which they have ungodly committed, And of all the hard things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.

2. **Jude 1:9** But Michael the archangel, when he disputed with the devil and argued about the body of Moses, did not dare pronounce against him a railing judgment, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"

Many early church Fathers make reference to a book called, *Assumption of Moses* which itself is a rewriting of an earlier book called, *Testament of Moses*, which includes this specific story. There are no extant manuscripts today.

3. **2 Timothy 3:8** Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these *men* also oppose the truth, men of depraved mind, rejected in regard to the faith.

Scholars are not 100% sure where Paul gets the names of two of the Egyptian magicians, except that they both appear in the Targum Pseudo-Jonathan (Ex 1:15; 7:22; Num 22:22). This is an Aramaic translation which is at the earliest 4th century AD, well after Paul wrote 2 Timothy. However, one wonders whether they had a similar source. The DSS book Damascus Document (100 BC) also lists Jannes. The early church Father Origen makes reference to a book called *The Apocryphon of Jannes and Jambres the Magicians*. There is belief that a couple Greek fragments are extant. The point is that these are references to other pseudepigraphical works of the 2nd Temple Period in the NT.

The Book of 1 Enoch Retelling of the Genesis 6 Angelic Rebellion

1 Enoch 6:1 And it came to pass that when the sons of men multiplied, in those days beautiful and fair daughters were born.

² And the angels, the sons of heaven, saw them and desired them, and said to one another: "Come! Let us choose for ourselves wives from people, and we will beget for ourselves children."

³ And Semiaza, who was their ruler, said to them: "I fear that you will not desire to do this deed, and I alone will be a debtor of a great sin."

⁵ Then they all swore together and anathematized one another by it.

⁶ And these were the two hundred who descend in the days of Jared to the summit of Mount Hermon, and they called the mountain Hermon, because they swore and anathematized one another by it.

⁷ And these are the names of their leaders: Semiaza, he is their leader, Arathak, Kimbra, Sammane, Daneiel, Arearos, Semiel, Iomeiel, Chochariel, Ezekiel, Batriel, Sathiel, Atriel, Tamiel, Barakiel, Ananthna, Thoniel, Ramiel, Aseal, Rakeiel, Touriel.

⁸ These are their rulers who (are) [over] tens.

2 Peter 2:3-9

³ and in *their greed* they will exploit you with **false words**; their **judgment** from long ago is not idle, and their **destruction** is not asleep.

⁴ **For** if God did not spare **angels** when they **sinned**, but **cast them into hell** and committed them to **pits of darkness**, reserved for **judgment**;

⁵ and did not spare the ancient world, but preserved **Noah**, a preacher of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a **flood upon the world of the ungodly**;

⁶ and *if* He condemned the cities of **Sodom and Gomorrah** to **destruction** by reducing *them* to ashes, having made them an example to those who would live ungodly *lives* thereafter;

⁷ and *if* He rescued **righteous Lot**, oppressed by the sensual conduct of unprincipled men

⁸ (for by what he saw and heard *that* righteous man, while living among them, felt *his* righteous soul tormented day after day by *their* lawless deeds),

⁹ *then* the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under **punishment for the day of judgment**,

1. The context from 2:1-3 is clearly judgement of false prophets and false teachers.
2. The word "For" in Greek (v.4) is a marker that gives the reason or cause of the developing argument. Peter is arguing for the sure judgment of false teachers and transitions to using an example of God's sure judgment of false teachers from the Old Testament text with a definite connection to 2nd Temple Period writings (primarily 1 Enoch).
3. Peter doesn't outline which sin these angels committed. However, the sequential context gives us a clue. The sin these angels committed were before Noah. Notice that Peter moves from angels who sinned (Gen 6:1-4), to Noah (Gen 6:9-9), to Sodom (Gen 18-19) to Lot being rescued (Gen 19). The only sin by angels (sons of God) mentioned that can be undoubtedly connected to the pre-Noah time frame comes from Genesis 6.
4. The language that Peter adopts describing the judgment of the angels involved do not come from any passage of the Old Testament. If we compare the language with that of the book of 1 Enoch, it becomes crystal clear where Peter is getting the specific language (e.g. "hell", "pits of darkness", "judgment", etc.).
5. We have a guarantee that the unrighteous (including angels, sodomites, false teachers) will be held accountable.

Jude 4-9

⁴ For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this **condemnation**, ungodly persons who turn the **grace** of our God into **licentiousness** and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

⁵ Now I desire to remind you, though you know all things once for all, that the Lord, after saving a people out of the land of Egypt, subsequently destroyed those who did not believe.

⁶ And **angels who did not keep their own domain**, but abandoned their **proper abode**, He has kept in **eternal bonds under darkness** for the **judgment of the great day**,

⁷ **just as** Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them, since they (angels) **in the same way** as these (Sodomites) **indulged in gross immorality and went after strange flesh**, are exhibited as an example in undergoing the **punishment of eternal fire**.

1. These false teachers are noted for their condemnation and licentiousness.
2. Jude uses the example of angels being judged for their abandonment of domain and proper abode.

To be thorough, it should be noted that those scholars who hold to a supernatural view demonstrate convincingly that the context of both 2 Peter 2:4 and Jude 6 give increased understanding to the sin of the angels in Genesis 6. These were heavenly beings who left their “domain.” The Greek *arche* has as one of its nuances the idea of rule or jurisdiction. Additionally, these angels abandoned their “proper abode.” The Greek *oiketerion* only appears one other place in the NT in 2 Corinthians 5:2 in reference to an innate type of dwelling. Another way to describe this would be a dimension.

The context of 2 Corinthians 5:2 would be that of an earthly dimension in contrast to a heavenly dimension. The angels who sinned in Jude 6 not only left their jurisdiction (domain), but also their proper abode (dimension) to sin with women sexually in a way that is similar to those in Sodom and Gomorrah (illicit sexual actions; Jude 7).

3. The “and” (Greek τε) at the beginning of verse 6 is often used as a “non-sequential” coordinating conjunction. Basically, it is letting us know that what happens in verse 5 and into verse 6 can be seen as non-sequential. This is different than what happens in the connection in verse 7 from verse 6.
4. The phrase “just as” (Greek ὡς) at the beginning of verse 7 is letting us know that the material in verse 6 is a comparison (similar manner) to what Jude explains in verse 7. The angels who left their domain and proper abode sinned in a similar manner as to what happened in Sodom and Gomorrah. This sin involved sexual sin (“gross immorality”) and going after strange flesh (foreign, outside of one’s own personal “abode”/“domain”).
5. The Sodomites received their judgment and are further examples (like the angels) who received their punishment.
6. As we have seen from 2 Peter 2:4 and this passage, the context is one of judgment upon false teachers. The angels of Genesis 6 provide a great example of how God judged the false teaching angels back then and so we can be confident that God will also eventually judge all the false teachers.

Judgment Language from 1 Enoch Adopted by Peter and Jude

1 Enoch 10:4-6 And he said to Raphael: "**Bind** Azael foot and hand, and **cast him into the darkness**, and open the desert that is in the Dadouel, and **cast him in**.⁵ "And lay down upon him rough and jagged rocks and cover him with **darkness**. And let him dwell there for eternity, and cover his face so he cannot see light.⁶ "And on the **great day of judgment** he will be led into the **fire**.

1 Enoch 10:11-13 And to Michael he said: "Go and reveal to Semiaza and to those remaining with him who have mixed with the women, to defile themselves in their **uncleanness**.¹² "And when their sons will slay (one another) and they see the destruction of their beloved ones, bind them for seventy generations in the valleys of the earth until **the day of their judgment** and consummation, until the **judgment of the age of eternity** is completed.¹³ "Then they will be led away into the **chasm of fire** and to the **torture** and to the **prison of eternal confinement**.

1 Enoch 14:1-6 A record of words of righteousness and **rebukes of the Watchers** who are from eternity, according to the commandment of the Holy and Great One in this vision.

² I saw during my sleep what I now speak in a human tongue, in the spirit of my mouth, which the Great One gave to humans, to speak among themselves and in understanding of the heart.

³ He who created and gave in order to convict the **Watchers, the sons of heaven**.

⁴ "I recorded your requests of angels, and in my vision this was shown; and neither was your request received,

⁵ "in order that no longer into heaven you should ascend for all ages. And in the bonds of the earth it was spoken to **bind** you for all the generations of the age,

⁶ "and in order that concerning these things you should see the **destruction of your beloved sons** (Nephilim), and that there will be no advantage of them to you, but they will fall before by the sword.

Teaching by Watchers that Brought Havoc on Earth

1 Enoch 7:1 And they took wives for themselves, each of them chose for themselves wives, and they began to enter them and to be defiled in them. And they **taught** them sorceries and enchantments and root-cutting, and **explained** the plants to them.

1 Enoch 8:1 Azael **taught** the people to make swords and armor and shields and breastplates, lessons of angels, and he **showed** them the metals and their working, and arm bands and decorations and also eye-painting of beautiful eyes, and all kinds of chosen stones and the things fit for dyeing.

1 Enoch 8:3 Semiaza **taught** enchantments and root-cutting, Armaros releasing enchantments, Barakiel astronomy, Chochiel astrology, Sathiel star-gazing, and Seriel the course of the moon.

1 Enoch 9:6 "And you see all things that Azael has done, who has **taught** all the unrighteousness upon the earth and he **revealed the mysteries of the ages**, the things in heaven which the people were pursuing and learning,

1 Enoch 13:1-2 And Enoch said to Azael: "Go, you will not have peace. Great **judgment** came against you, to **bind** you,² "And there will be no forbearance and request (for leniency) for you, because you **revealed** unrighteous things because of all the impious deeds and the unrighteousness and the sin, that you **taught** to humans."