**‘Who Are the Sons of God and What Did They Do?’**

***1Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, 2that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose.***

***3And 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.” 4There were giants 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.***

***5Then 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. 7So 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.” 8But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.*** Genesis 6:1-8

These first five verses of Genesis 6 are some of the most informative and yet challenging verses in the Bible. Their meaning is actually quite clear, except when we don’t want to believe what’s right in front of our eyes.

The passage begins, ***1Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, 2that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose.*** The timeline is many years after the events of Genesis 3.

The first question we have to ask is this: ‘Who are the ***“sons of God”*** and who are the ***“daughters of men”***?’

The designation ***“son of God”*** always refers to a direct creation of God. In other words, God is the creative agent, not man. By definition, our first parents, Adam and Eve, were ***“sons of God”*** because God created them directly. They had no human mother or father. All angels are ***“sons of God,”*** because God created each one of them individually. How do we know this? Jesus revealed this when he was asked who would be husband to the woman who’d been married to seven brothers. Here is the passage from Matthew 22.

***23The same day the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to Him and asked Him, 24saying: “Teacher, Moses said that if a man dies, having no children, his brother shall marry his wife and raise up offspring for his brother. 25Now there were with us seven brothers. The first died after he had married, and having no offspring, left his wife to his brother. 26Likewise the second also, and the third, even to the seventh. 27Last of all the woman died also. 28Therefore, in the resurrection, whose wife of the seven will she be? For they all had her.”***

***29Jesus answered and said to them, “You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God. 30For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels of God in heaven.***

The first thing we learn from Jesus’ answer is obvious: there is no marriage in heaven. The second is less obvious, but it is nevertheless present. Since there is no marriage in heaven, there is also no procreation. No procreation means no children. If angels don’t have children, then how is it then that there are so many of them? The only answer can be is that God created each one of them.

We also know that Adam was the “son of God,” because he is referred to as such in Luke 3. In this passage we have the genealogy of Jesus from his mother’s side going back to Adam. I won’t include the entire genealogy but you’ll understand by my including a few of Jesus’ ancestors. Jesus….***36the son of Cainan, the son of Arphaxad, the son of Shem, the son of Noah  the son of Lamech, 37the son of Methuselah, the son of Enoch, the son of Jared, the son of Mahalalel, the son of Cainan, 38the son of Enosh, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of*** God.[[1]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2018/01/" \l "_ftn1) All of Jesus’ ancestors had human parents EXCEPT Adam, who was created by God.[[2]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2018/01/" \l "_ftn2)

Having included all of this detail in order to understand who the ***“sons of God”*** are, we are now able to know who the ***“daughters of men”*** are, and know what was going on in the first two verse of Genesis 6. The ***“daughters of men”*** are the daughters who were born to human parents. We may not want to think about it, or we might think that it is impossible, but some of the ***“sons of God,”*** some of the **fallen angels**, who came down from heaven and took human women as their wives, and had children by them.

Many people object to this revelation on the grounds that in heaven angels neither marry nor do they have children. But Jesus didn’t say that angels couldn’t marry. He didn’t say that it was physically impossible for angels to have children. He said that **in heaven** they do not marry. The details we so often overlook are important!

Genesis 6 records that some of God’s angels *[the non-canonical book of Enoch identifies them as Watcher angels]* saw that human women were beautiful. So beautiful, in fact, that they were willing to leave their heavenly abode (their first estate) and cohabit with them. This was an act of rebellion. The offspring of these unholy unions were hybrids. They were half divine (divine simply meaning that the origin was from heaven) and half human. Peter refers to the judgment of these angels when he wrote, ***“For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell [Tartarus] and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment…”*** 2 Peter 2:4

Now that we know what is going on between some of God’s angels and human women, we can turn to their offspring. We read, ***4 “There were giants***[[3](http://yourbibleblog.com/2018/01/" \l "_ftn3)[]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2018/01/#_ftn3) ***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.”*** The mating of angels and human women resulted in the women giving birth to giants! And if we think that these were nice giants, think again. All we’ve got to do is check out Goliath of Gath *(one of the “afterward” giants)* whom David killed. He spewed out of his mouth nothing but rebellion and defiance against Israel and the Living God. Goliath’s ancestors were no different than him, and those who will come at the end of the age will be just as brutally violent as those who had previously inhabited the earth. Their sinful nature and the sinful nature of man filled the earth with violence.

Most people believe that the world is in a terrible state of trouble because of the rebellion of Adam and Eve. That **WAS** bad, but it isn’t the entire picture. The incursion of wickedness from above, from rebellious angels, **GREATLY MAGNIFIED** the sin, wickedness, and trouble which were already present. The sin of humankind, coupled with the sin of angels, was so bad that we are told, ***5“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.”*** The situation was so bad that ***6… the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. 7So 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.”***

We know from Scripture that ***“The Lord is merciful and gracious, Slow to anger, and abounding in*** mercy,”[[4]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2018/01/" \l "_ftn4)but the wickedness on the earth at this particular time was so great that He was sorry that He’d even created man. Since God created both “man and beast,” He would destroy them and He would have, ***But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.***[[5]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2018/01/" \l "_ftn5)

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[[1]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2018/01/" \l "_ftnref1) Luke 3:36-37

[[2]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2018/01/" \l "_ftnref2) Jesus is unique in that he is both the Son of God and the son of man since God is his Father and Mary is his mother.

[[3]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2018/01/" \l "_ftnref3) As a result of the mixing of angelic and human DNA, the offspring were much larger than children of human parents and had supernatural strength. These are the giants referred to in Genesis 6:4.

[[4]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2018/01/" \l "_ftnref4) Psalm 103:8

[[5]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2018/01/" \l "_ftnref5) Genesis 6:8