



## A BIBLICAL VIEW OF THE END TIMES

### Week 4: A History of Heresy - Part 1

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#### I. REVIEW OF WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED

- A. This lesson is called “A History of Heresy - - - PART ONE.”
1. Next week we will do PART TWO of “A History of Heresy”, and you will find the picture moving forward will gain some sharp focus.
  2. Remember, it is SO important to properly understand the details of the past if we are to properly understand the details about the future.
  3. The elements about the past that we are learning now are directly connected to the elements of the future!
  4. This will become clear as we march through the lessons ahead.
- B. We have seen that, following the fall of man in the Garden of Eden, God pronounced judgements on Satan. These were prophetic in nature – several things would come to pass:
1. The woman’s physical seed (Hebrew ‘zera’) would be at ongoing enmity with Satan’s physical seed, and vice versa.
  2. A singular individual would eventually emerge from the woman’s pure genetic lineage to ‘crush’ Satan.
  3. By comparison, Satan would do little more to “this individual”, than ‘bruise His heel.’
    - a. We know this was a prophecy of the Messiah to come, Jesus Christ, and of Satan’s eventual and total destruction by Jesus Christ.
    - b. So, in this earliest of prophecies in **Genesis 3:15**, the basic framework of all prophecies to follow was put into place.
  4. But what about that ‘seed’ thing? How could Satan – a fallen angel – have genetic progeny?
- C. That led us to the next step in this prophetic equation. We have studied the meaning of the Hebrew term, **b’nai Elohim** as it relates to the account of **Genesis 6:1-4**.
1. Because it is vital to discern the original Biblical meaning, we paid particular attention to the original construct of this term.
    - a. We saw that the term, **b’nai Elohim** is defined in Hebrew to not only refer to ‘heavenly beings,’ but to beings that are ‘supernaturally created by God.’
  2. Because it is important to align with other passages on the same subject, we looked at this term’s use and derivatives in other parts of Scripture, and we affirmed its consistent application and meaning.
  3. We saw how it is only after the death and resurrection of Christ that believers are similarly defined.

- a. No humans are called ***b'nai Elohim*** (or the Greek equivalent) before this point, with the sole exception of Adam who was uniquely created by God apart from any human constituent.
- 4. This limits the meaning of any Old Testament uses of ***b'nai Elohim*** to angelic beings – both fallen and righteous. It was here we reminded ourselves of a few things:
  - a. Angels were created with the ability to manifest in physical form and to interact with mankind and with earthly elements (***Genesis 3:24; Genesis 6:1-4; Genesis 18:8; Hebrews 13:2***).
  - b. Righteous angels stay within the boundaries of divine laws (***Matthew 22:30***), but it's clear unrighteous angels have violated those terms (***Genesis 6:1-4; 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 1:6***).
  - c. Considering the consistency of the arguments, our lesson last week affirmed that it is irresponsible to force the ***b'nai Elohim*** (which we read in our English translations as 'sons of God') in ***Genesis 6:1-4*** into a human classification.
  - d. The basic protocols of proper Biblical interpretation do not support this choice.
- 5. We ended last week's lesson by drawing the only obvious and responsible conclusions we could: ***Genesis 6:1-4*** is stating a few things very plainly:
  - a. First, fallen angels entered the visible physical sphere of humanity and directly interacted with mankind before the flood.
  - b. They lusted after human woman and, in fact, had sexual relations with them.
  - c. They 'married any of them they chose.' This was, if you study this issue in depth, a forced encounter as much as not. Remember, these are fallen angels.
  - d. They blended their 'seed' (Zera) with human 'seed' (Zera)
  - e. They had children / descendants as a result of these illicit relationships. The Bible calls these progenies "Nephilim" or "giants."
  - f. They were not fully human or fully angelic – they were partly both.
  - g. Many churches and Christian leaders refuse to see the situation this way however, this is what the Bible plainly teaches. This is what the rules of responsible Biblical interpretation tell us.

## II. NOW TO THE MAIN INTENTIONS OF THIS LESSON:

### A. First, the word, "Nephilim"

- 1. The root Hebrew word of Nephilim is 'naphal' which means "to fall, to lie, or to abandon or dash down"
- 2. In other words, the Scriptures are telling us that these "Nephilim" were fallen entities in their very nature. They were a product of deception and abandonment.
- 3. We see these very principles emphasized in the Bible:

- a. It's clear from **Genesis 6:1-4** that it was fallen angels that violated God's design.
- b. It's also clear from **Jude 1:6** that these fallen angels "abandoned their estate" and engaged in this corrupt behavior.
- c. And as some of your translations say, these Nephilim were 'giants' (The bottom line is they were huge and very tall).

B. Just how big were these giants? (Several Scriptural reference points)

1. In **Numbers 13:33** – the spies that were sent in to scout out the Promised Land returned and reported that they saw "the Nephilim there....the sons of Anak"
  - a. We are going to study this lineage in an upcoming lesson, and you will see how the Bible traces the generations of the Nephilim very carefully. Here they are called "the sons of Anak" and we will see this to be true.
  - b. But for now, the spies reported that they themselves were like grasshoppers by comparison to these giants.
  - c. We don't have specific dimensions given here, but we do have a vast chasm of differences. The giants that were in the land of Canaan were massive.
2. In **Amos 2:9** – A narrative is provided where God reminds Israel of the way He went before them as they entered the Promised land. He says, "*And I have destroyed the Amorite from before them, Whose height [is] as the height of cedars, and he [is] strong as the oaks, and I destroy his fruit from above, and his roots from beneath.*"
  - a. This is another reference to a genetic lineage, and here the giants are called the Amorites. Again, we will see very specifically in an upcoming lesson that this was a Nephilim tribe.
  - b. **Amos 2:9** says their height was as the height of cedar trees and their strength like oak trees.
  - c. It's important to note that skeletons have been found of giants that were over 30 feet tall. This evidence has been found the world over, and we will learn why that is the case.
  - d. This sort of height and strength certainly aligns with comparisons to cedar trees and oak trees.
3. Then there was King Og of Bashan in **Deuteronomy 3:3-11** who the Israelites defeated on their way to the Promised Land. The Bible reports him as:
  - a. ....An Amorite (so, this is another connection to the tribe known as the Ammorites. Again, this is one of the Nephilim tribes).
  - b. King Og's bed was recorded in Scripture as being roughly 14 feet long and 6 feet wide, basically, King Og was the height of TWO basketball players.
  - c. Remember, the Bible doesn't waste details. There is a reason these details are recorded as carefully as they are.
4. Most of us are familiar with Goliath whom David fought

- a. Goliath is recorded in **1 Samuel 17:4** as being “six cubits and a span” in height. That is roughly 9 ½ - 10 feet tall.
  - b. Goliath is also recorded in **2 Samuel 21:15-22** as having relatives. Some scholars conclude these were brothers; others say one brother and three nephews.
  - c. What is recorded clearly is these other four were also giants. One of them is recorded as having six fingers on each hand and six toes on each foot.
  - d. It is very likely that David knew about these other four relatives of Goliath when he picked up five smooth stones for his sling.
  - e. Slings are absolutely lethal in the hands of an experienced person. The Bible also tells us David killed lions and bears with his sling.
  - f. I think chances are strong that David for sure knew he would kill Goliath, and he probably wondered if he’d need to also contend with Goliath’s relatives.
- C. The detail about six fingers and toes is one the Scriptures provide that we should not quickly dismiss. This is a physical feature that appears often in the skeletons of giants.
1. It is claimed by some early American explorers in their various writings that the reason for the classic Indian greeting where one holds up their hand in the process was to clearly and quickly show only five digits
  2. The truth is there have been hundreds of giant skeletons found in the Americas, with many of those being 12 feet tall or more. A lot of older newspaper articles have photos and details.
  3. Here is an interesting excerpt from Buffalo Bill Cody’s Autobiography:

*“While we were in the sand-hills, scouting the Niobrara country, the Pawnee Indians brought into camp one night, some very large bones, one of which a surgeon of the expedition pronounced to be the thigh-bone of a human being. The Indians claimed that the bones they had found were those of a person belonging to a race of people who a long time ago, lived in this country. That there was once a race of men on the earth whose size was about three times that of an ordinary man, and they were so swift and powerful that they could run along-side of a buffalo, and taking the animal in one arm could tear off a leg and eat the meat as they walked.*

*These giants denied the existence of a Great Spirit, and when they heard the thunder or saw the lightning they laughed at it and said that they were greater than either. This so displeased the Great Spirit that he caused a great rain-storm to come, and the water kept rising higher and higher so that it drove those proud and conceited giants from the low grounds to the hills, and thence to the mountains, but at last even the mountain tops were submerged, and then those mammoth men were all drowned. After the flood subsided, the Great Spirit came to the conclusion that he had made man too large and powerful, and that he would therefore correct the mistake by creating a race of men of smaller size and less strength. This is the reason, say the Indians, that modern men are small and not like the giants of old, and they claim that this story is a matter of Indian history, which has been handed down among them from time immemorial.*

*As we had no wagons with us at the time this large and heavy bone was found, we were obliged to leave it.*

4. It's interesting here to note the similar account as The Great Flood of the Bible. Many ancient cultures have similar stories to the Great Flood.
5. I want to point out one more historical feature related to the six fingers issue. Some of you have been down to the Four Corners / Mesa Verde site, or perhaps to Chaco Canyon in Northwestern New Mexico:
  - a. Throughout these parts are thousands of Petroglyphs (rock etchings) where unusually large figures are drawn alongside normal figures.
  - b. These larger figures sometimes clearly show six fingers and six toes. Some of them seem to be shown with longer necks, elongated skulls, and larger eyes as well.
  - c. Many ancient cultures record giants, and nearly always, the record shows these giants as bloodthirsty, cannibalistic, and totally evil.
  - d. I would suggest to you that the Native Peoples of the Four Corners region built their houses high in the clefts and overhangs of cliffs to protect themselves from giants which they encountered, and that they were likely exterminated by the giants as well.

NOTE: I want to make a comment here about the disappearance of these skeletons and archeological records.

- Since the Smithsonian's founding in 1846, officials from the Smithsonian have nearly always swooped in and taken possession of whatever bones and artifacts are found. It doesn't matter if the discoveries are on private property. This always happens.
- What they do with these items is largely unknown. There are several reports of these bones being dumped out at sea. I think the obvious conclusion is the Smithsonian does not want the evidence of these skeletons known.
- Why? It counters the evolution theory, and it confirms the Biblical narrative. The attack against truth has been around a lot longer than just the past few years.
- As we are going to see, it's the Nephilim element of the past that will tie into the Nephilim element of the future.
- Whatever the government and official bodies can do to steer the narrative the way they wish, or distract from the truth, that is what they will do.....every time.

### III. BACK TO GENESIS 6:1-4 (I WANT TO UNPACK A COUPLE OF OTHER DETAILS).

- A. The first detail is the closing part of **vs. 6** which reads *"...These were the heroes of old, men of renown."*

1. It's important at this juncture to recognize the legends of this time which ancient cultures all over the world have similarly recorded.
  2. Most of us studied Greek Mythology in school. It used to be part of most classic curriculums at some point.
  3. But the themes of Greek mythology are about gods and demigods who interacted with humanity, who performed amazing feats of strength and valor, and who were often evil, wicked, and corrupt.
    - a. Think Apollo, Hercules, and Perseus as examples.
  4. These gods and superhumans were put into two categories: those who descended from the sky or from some divine place or mountain, and those who then were products of these 'gods' and humans.
    - a. Here you see the clear parallels between fallen angels and the Nephilim
  5. This is known in ancient Greek culture as 'the golden age.' It is when great civilizations were built like Atlantis, and when profoundly complex and enormous edifices were erected using technology we still cannot duplicate or understand today.
  6. Because the Bible is not only the divinely-inspired Word of God, which points out to us the Gospel and the person and work of Jesus Christ, but it also provides a historical record that is accurate and very specific. We can see various interesting parallels here.
- B. Another detail related to this matter of "heroes of old, etc." We read in Greek Mythology about other creatures that were not as creatures and animals are today.
1. For example, there were horses with wings, human figures that were partly fish (mermaids), figures that were half-human and half-goat (fauns) or half-human and half-horse (centaurs), etc. etc.
  2. It's easy to write all this off as fantasy and fiction. However I, for one, do not subscribe to that view. I think there were these sorts of creatures pre-flood, though I have no opinion on what forms they might have taken.
  3. I draw my conclusion from two positions:
    - b. The first is the Bible: **Cf. Genesis 6:12** (and reading from Young's Literal Translation) *"And God seeth the earth, and lo, it hath been corrupted, for all flesh hath corrupted its way on the earth."*
    - c. Multiple translations reinforce this same point. What happened before the flood was GENETIC corruption NOT ONLY of the human race, but of all creatures too.
    - d. NOTE: The Bible states – as we've learned already – that animals and plants were to reproduce "after their own kind." (That was God's plan – but that plan was corrupted by Satan, and we see that underscored here in **Genesis 6:12**)

#### IV. A LOOK AT THE BIGGER PICTURE OF EVENTS IN GENESIS 6:1-4.

- A. There is a very logical and sequential series of events taking place and each step of this process is supported by Scripture.

1. Satan deceives Eve in the Garden of Eden, and part of that deception is he tells her in **Genesis 3:5** that mankind “...will be like God.”
2. From that point to now – and especially in times to come – humanity will seek to do away with God, to replace God, to claim God has nothing to do with this created earth, and will try to “BE God.”
  - a. It’s one of the most basic expressions of original sin, “God has nothing to do with why we are here, and mankind is in full control of his own destiny.”
3. As a result of the entry of sin into the world, God pronounces judgment on Adam, on Eve, and on Satan.
4. And God specifically tells Satan that there is coming a future figure from “the seed of the woman” that will utterly destroy Satan.
5. Satan knows his destruction is certain unless he can derail God’s plans.
6. One of the things God has said is Satan’s physical seed (‘Zera’) will be at ongoing enmity or hostility with the woman’s physical seed (also ‘Zera’)
  - a. That is to say, there will be genetic warfare.
  - b. Satan knows, as a result of God’s prophetic announcement – that his own demise is guaranteed if the human genome remains pure, thereby permitting Jesus Christ to be born of the unadulterated “seed of the woman”
7. Not knowing any more than this, Satan’s first target is humanity in general.
  - a. He picks up the proverbial shotgun and levels a broad blast against the genome of humanity.
  - b. He knows that if he can comprehensively corrupt the genetics of mankind, then he can prevent the arrival of Jesus Christ – the one who will ultimately ‘crush’ him.
  - c. Satan can only go on what information he has acquired to this point. He doesn’t know anything more specific than this, therefore his efforts are to contaminate the entire globe of humanity by invading it with a hybrid race.
    - This hybrid race of beings, the Nephilim, will outbreed the actual human species.
    - It will also kill it, destroy it, cannibalize it, and so on. All these patterns with giants have been documented through the ages, from ancient history to more recent centuries.

**V. THAT BRINGS US TO THE REASON FOR THE GREAT FLOOD. WE FIND AN IMPORTANT INSIGHT IN (GENESIS 6:9)**

A. It’s here that we are introduced to a man called Noah, and it reads as follows:

*“And these are the generations of Noah. Noah was a just man; being perfect in his generations, Noah was well-pleasing to God.” Genesis 6:9*

1. We need to be careful here that we do not superimpose a meaning into this verse that it does not intend to communicate.
2. Here is where all the rules of proper Biblical interpretation come into play. We need to understand the original language and its meaning. We need to keep our conclusions in harmony with other passages on the same issue. Finally, we need to make sure our interpretations conform to the development of the context.
3. Most pastors, teachers, and churches try to say at this point that Noah was somehow perfect in his conduct and his choices. Nothing could be further from the truth.
  - a. It is clear from reading about Noah's behaviors AFTER the Great Flood that he was far from having perfect behaviors.
  - b. Moreover, it is clear from **Romans 5:12** that Noah's constitution was no different than your and mine:

*"Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because **ALL** sinned."*

- c. It is clear that something else is being said instead. And indeed that is the case.
4. The Hebrew word for the phrase "perfect in his generations" in **Gen. 6:9** is "**tamiym**" and it is used elsewhere in Scripture to describe PHYSICAL wholesomeness.
  - a. It is used multiple times in the books of **Genesis** through **Numbers** to describe an animal sacrifice without physical blemish or physical imperfections.
  - b. Leviticus 22:21 is just one such example:

*"When anyone brings from the herd or flock a fellowship offering to the LORD to fulfill a special vow or as a freewill offering, it must be without defect or blemish to be acceptable."*

- c. Again, the word is "**tamiym**", and its focus is not on some standard of spiritual constitution, but on physical integrity and physical wholesomeness.
  - d. Noah had remained genetically unpolluted. He was found to be 'perfect in his generations.' It is a physical assessment of Noah that is being made in **Genesis 6:9** and not a spiritual assessment.
  - e. Within the greater details of **Genesis Chapter 6**, we find Satan's plan to genetically corrupt the human race was masterfully-executed.
  - f. God's omniscience and omnipotence was not remotely in question here but in strictly human terms, the situation had become dire.
  - g. Satan had made his moves to corrupt the human genome so the Messiah could not arrive through the seed of the woman.



- h. The Nephilim had nearly taken over the entire new earth. In fact – it was so bad that “all flesh had become corrupted.”
  - i. Violence and corruption had peaked, and there was very little left of God’s original order of things.
  - j. Noah and his three sons, Ham, Shem and Japheth were found to be “physically unblemished.”
  - k. Satan had played his best cards, and the situation had become very dire.
5. Now it was God’s turn. Enter The Great Worldwide Flood.

COMMENT: Those who paint God as becoming so frustrated with man’s sinful condition that in a brash moment He chose to drown everyone, have subordinated Almighty God to a status no better than the pagan gods of any heathen culture.

- a. This is a heretical assumption. It makes no sense.
  - *“You, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness” (Cf. Psalm 86:15).*
  - Many passages in Scripture make it clear that God is not measured by the limitations of human understanding.
  - We cannot put God in our box, just so we are more comfortable with the way the situation looks.
  - God is the same *“...yesterday, today, and forever” (Cf. Hebrews 13:8).*
  - This is an unwavering truth which shatters any argument that God had a momentary lapse of character and reason way back at the time of The Great Flood.
  - God was not MORE upset with sin and corruption at the time of The Great Flood, than He is NOW.
  - There must have been another motive for this global flood. There was!
  - Noah’s “zera” had remained genetically secure and unadulterated by the corrupt invasion of fallen angelic “zera” into the sphere of humanity.
  - The Great Flood was God’s way of protecting Noah and his family in order to preserve the Messianic promise of **Genesis 3:15**.
  - Said another way, the Great Flood was necessary for our salvation.
  - Satan’s seed was now at war with the seed of humanity. It was just as God had prophesied. Satan was seeking to prevent his own destruction.
  - In effect, God rebooted mankind in a boat. Noah went into the ark with his wife and his sons, and their wives.
  - Eight folks embarked on the world’s first Mediterranean cruise and everyone else was left outside to tread water. There were no

survivors in the latter group as **Genesis 7:21-23** makes abundantly clear.