



A BIBLICAL VIEW OF THE END TIMES

Week 7: Narrowing the Focus

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I. Review

A. Up to this point, I've presented the Biblical position that fallen angels abandoned their proper domain, and they had unlawful sexual relations with human women.

NOTE: This is not a theory, a wild idea, or some fanciful interpretation. It is a FACT! It is the Biblical position, **Jude 1:6** makes this very clear.

1. This event produced the hybrid Nephilim giants that we are told about in **Genesis 6:1-4**.
2. This wicked incursion, this violation of God's order of things, took place during the period of history leading up to the Great Flood and it was a tactical effort by Satan to comprehensively corrupt the human genome.
3. The ultimate goal of Satan and the fallen angels (AKA the "sons of God" or **b'nai Elohim**) was to prevent Jesus Christ's arrival and the destruction of Satan which was first prophesied in **Genesis 3:15**.
4. God sent the Great Flood to destroy this Nephilim invasion, to reboot humanity as He'd originally created it, and to preserve the conditions necessary for the Messiah's arrival.
5. However, in accordance with the ongoing hostility between the "seed" of the serpent and the "seed" of the woman which was also foretold in **Genesis 3:15**, the giants returned after the Great Flood as we see in **Genesis 6:4**.
6. The Bible tells us how this happened. The giants are precisely traced through the lineage of Ham, one of Noah's sons. The Bible gives great attention to this lineage specifically.
7. In particular, the Bible gives great attention to Nimrod, Ham's grandson, who the Scriptures state, "became a gibborim (giant)." Nimrod is the first Biblical type of the future and final antichrist.
8. Since Noah and his wife were genetically-untainted, and since Shem, another of Noah's sons, also remained unpolluted to continue the Messianic lineage, the logical conclusion is Ham's wife carried a latent Nephilim gene.

B. There are various assaults against the truth of these few points, but all this opposition faces a serious problem: the Bible backs up what we've learned!

1. In fact, this is the **ONLY** position to take if we properly interpret the Scriptures. That is, if we:
 - a. Stick with the original meaning of the Biblical language
 - b. If we seek to align our conclusions with all other Scriptures that discuss the same issues, and...
 - c. If we conform our views to the development of the context
2. To put this another way, the Bible does **NOT** support the notion that sin overwhelmed God's tolerances.

3. The Bible does NOT support the idea that one faction of humanity was somehow lifted above mankind's baseline depravity (**Cf. Romans 5:12**).
 4. The Bible does NOT suggest that another portion of the human race was uniquely depraved, or that God was different then than He is now.
 5. Each of these latter notions rests somewhere between passive ignorance and active apostasy.
- C. Moving forward here, my primary assumption, and the important foundation we are laying, is Satan is doing all he can to assert himself and to prevent his own inevitable destruction.
1. These have been Satan's motives since earliest times – in fact, they have been Satan's motives since God first prophesied Satan's ultimate destruction in **Genesis 3:15**.
 2. If we can accept this basic premise, then everything else falls into place.
 3. Satan's first attack followed God's first prophecy concerning Jesus Christ.
 4. Satan's initial target was the broad genome of the human race since Jesus Christ was prophesied to come through the "seed" (Hebrew: "zera") of a woman.
 5. If he could poison the genome of humanity completely, then he could prove God wrong, prevent the Messiah's arrival, and position himself to be worshipped as "God."
 6. That last objective was Satan's original desire just before his own fall (**Cf. Isaiah 14:13-14**):

"You said in your heart: "I will ascend to the heavens; I will raise my throne above the stars of God. I will sit on the mount of assembly, in the far reaches of the north. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High."

7. It remained Satan's obsession after the arrival of Jesus Christ (**Cf. the temptation of Jesus in Matthew 4:1-11**).
8. It will continue to be Satan's goal as the present chapter of human history winds down (**Cf. Revelation 13:4**):

"People worshiped the dragon (Satan) because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast and asked, "Who is like the beast? Who can wage war against him?"

9. He won't stop trying to defeat God even at the threshold of the "new heaven and new earth" (**Satan is released one last time at the conclusion of the Millennial Kingdom - Cf. Revelation 20:7-10**).
10. NOTE: This is why we need to go back to the beginning if we are to do a proper study of Biblical prophecy. Future prophetic events find their origin, their reason, and their purpose in the events of the past.

II. SATAN LEARNS SOMETHING IMPORTANT.

NOTE: This permits him to 'narrow his focus' as he attacks God's prophetic plan and as he seeks to prevent his own eventual destruction.

A. God issued another prophecy which also concerns the forthcoming Messiah. To see this we have to leap from **Genesis 3:15** to **Genesis 12:1-3**.

1. It's here we find God sovereignly electing Abram and giving him the unconditional terms of the Abrahamic Covenant.
2. It is within these terms that we find the promise of Abraham's descendants, and it is through his descendants whereby "all peoples on earth will be blessed."
3. So now, Satan has a smaller target.
 - a. After the original **Genesis 3:15** prophecy, Satan broadly attacked the human genome.
 - b. He didn't know from what point the Messiah, who would destroy him would come, so he attacked the entire swath of humanity.
 - c. But now, God says the Messiah would come specifically through the lineage of Abram, soon to be known as Abraham.
 - d. Abraham didn't do anything to deserve this distinction. God sovereignly chose him, in the same way as God sovereignly acts today.
 - e. These verses in **Genesis 12** may seem a bit cryptic, but Satan got the message loud and clear.
 - f. Now Satan knew something he hadn't known before: the Messiah would not only come through the human race, which he already knew, but the Messiah would come specifically through the lineage of Abraham.
 - g. The target was smaller. Now Satan could use a rifle instead of a shotgun. **NOTE:** A rifle fires a single bullet, while a shotgun fires multiple small pellets inside a shell.

B. God further affirms this irrevocable, unconditional, and unilateral promise – which was based on God's unchanging character. See **Genesis 15:1-6**.

1. Those that claim God has moved beyond the Jews, that Israel holds no more prophetic significance, or that the church has either (a.) replaced, or (b.) become one and the same with ethnic / national Israel miss this all-important truth.
2. God's assurances to Abraham are based on His: **IRREVOCABLE, UNCONDITIONAL, AND UNILATERAL PROMISES**. In other words, God would not be God if any of those terms changed.
3. Here, Abram is reassured that the Messianic lineage would continue through him.
4. And he 'believed the Lord' and it was credited to him as righteousness (We see this very same example of Abraham's faith underscored in **Hebrews 11:8-12**)

NOTE: I need to touch on an important sidenote here:

5. Abraham's faith, his SAVING faith, was demonstrated during a dispensation or an age that was long ago, even before the law given to Moses.
6. But he was saved by faith! He 'believed the Lord' and the Lord 'credited it to him as righteousness.' It's no different today AFTER the cross as it was BEFORE the cross.
7. Let me be very clear here - - this is IMPORTANT, and you need to know this:
 - a. You're not saved simply because you prayed a particular set of words in a particular order. As **Matthew 7:21-23** explicitly states, "saying" certain things doesn't necessarily guarantee you're saved.
 - b. Furthermore, you're not saved because "YOU GAVE YOUR HEART to Christ." Nowhere in the Bible are we instructed to think this way.
 - c. There is no effort, gesture, or action on our part which contributes in any way to the salvation transaction.
 - d. We cannot "give" God anything which in turn qualifies us for righteousness. A saving faith is based on what HE gives US, and that is His gift of eternal life (**Cf. Ephesians 2:8-9**).

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not of works so that any man can boast."

- e. You're also not saved because you "confessed" your sins and you "asked the Lord to forgive you." The context of **1 John 1:9** makes it clear that confession of this sort is for true believers who are struggling with sin.

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

- f. Also, you are not saved because you "asked Jesus Christ to come into your heart." This is a very popular prescription, and I fear it has confused and misled many.
 - g. Again, the Bible does not instruct us to gain salvation this way. Instead, the Bible tells us that we need to trust and BELIEVE in the shed blood of Jesus Christ that was poured out in His substitutionary death on our behalf (**Cf. Ephesians 1:7**).

"In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace"

- h. Lastly, you're not saved because you raised your hand, came down to the front, felt a shiver in your liver, flopped around in the aisle, or bumbled and muttered unintelligibly.
- i. You ARE saved if you BELIEVE that Jesus Christ is who He claimed to be, and if you BELIEVE in His work on the cross as full payment of your sins.
- j. Here, in **Genesis 15:6**, Abraham "BELIEVED the Lord and it was credited to him as righteousness."
- k. It's the same thing the jailer did in New Testament times, during the age of the church, when Paul and Silas told him, "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved."
- l. The 'good' thief on the cross did the same thing. You have the pre-cross perspective, you have the post-cross perspective, and the 'good' thief shows us the perspective AT the time of the cross itself.
- m. He had a CORRECT view of Jesus Christ, and for his FAITH, for his BELIEF, he was saved.

The Biblical doctrine of salvation is that we are not saved by ANY other means than trusting in Jesus Christ fully, by BELIEVING He is who He said He is, and that He paid the full price for all our sins when He was sacrificed on the cross as the substitutionary Lamb of God.

NOTE: Thank you for permitting me that all-important side note.....let's get back to the main thrust of our lesson which is how Satan was able to narrow his focus, his target.

- C. God's affirmation to Abraham (of His promises to Abraham) lets Satan know he needs to focus on Abraham's descendants if he's going to disrupt God's prophetic plan.
 - 1. At least that's how Satan saw it here in **Genesis 15:1-6**.
 - 2. I hold to the conviction that Satan, being the 'father of lies', has deceived nobody more than himself.
 - 3. He believes he can succeed in his efforts to overcome Almighty God. That was true before, it's true now, and it will be true all the way up to the point Satan himself is cast into the flames of hell. Satan is deluded by his pride.
- D. I want you now to notice what God says to Abraham a few verses later in **Genesis 15:18-21**

NOTE: This is SO significant. I want you to note TWO very important things here:

- 1. **First, God gives physical boundaries to the promise of land – of actual geography.**
 - a. God's covenant with Abraham not only concerns the success of his physical descendants, but it also concerns physical territory.
 - b. There are many in the church today, perhaps 'most', that claim God's promises to Abraham are "spiritual" promises. Not physical ones.
 - c. These people do what Augustine and Calvin did. We talked about this a couple lessons ago: They 'allegorize' the Biblical text. They claim it means something other than what it's saying.

- d. As a result, such people say these promises are now directed to the church, and not to Israel and the Jewish people.
 - e. It makes no sense, and nothing could be further from the truth. God gives to Abraham measurable definitions about a territory of land that Abraham's descendants would one day possess.
 - f. It's no secret that the entire world is dead set against Israel and to its rightful claim to 'territory-related' issues: Gaza, the West Bank (Biblical Samaria), the Golan Heights, east Jerusalem, and so on.
 - g. All of these worldly sentiments are a reflection of a rebellion against the truth of God's Word. The plain fact is God promised this territory to the Jews. Israel will not gain all this land until the future Millennial Kingdom, but she WILL get it!
2. **Secondly, in these four verses, God lists some of Ham's Nephilim descendants.** NOTE: We looked at Ham's genetic lineage last week, and we saw some of the same nations listed then which we also see here.
- a. God specifies to Abraham that Abraham's offspring would be forced to overcome these Nephilim nations in order to gain the physical land that God would give them.
 - b. Again, the genealogical lineage has been very specific up to this point. We can trace these bloodlines back to Ham, and therefore, obviously, to Ham's wife as well.
 - c. So, not only does Satan get a smaller target to focus on, but the Bible, as God's divinely-inspired word, actually reveals that Abraham's Jewish descendants would encounter, and have to overcome, the offspring of fallen angelic seed that would be positioned to resist them.
- E. The battle between the two 'seeds', exactly as prophesied in **Genesis 3:15**, would now be concentrated in the land of Canaan and the surrounding territories.
- 1. If Satan could now disrupt the terms and ramifications of the Abrahamic Covenant, maybe he could prevent God's greater plan from achieving success.
 - 2. NOTE: This is why the Israelites faced the Nephilim in **Numbers 13:31-33**.
 - a. These were "...the giants, the sons of Anak" whose genealogies could be traced directly back to Ham.
 - b. It's why the Israelites faced the gigantic King Og of Bashan (**Numbers 21:10-35; Deuteronomy 3:11**).
 - c. It's why, after being so afraid of their Nephilim adversaries in the Promised Land, God sent the Israelites back into the desert to wander in the wilderness once more.
 - d. It's why Moses, when forty years later the Israelites stood once more on the borders of the Promised Land and prepared to enter it, rallied the nation of Israel and reminded them that they would face giants (**Cf. Deuteronomy 7:1-2**).
 - e. It's why Moses listed seven Nephilim nations which he called "larger and stronger than you," and it's why he commanded the Israelites to "completely destroy them," and to "show them no mercy."

- f. It's no coincidence that God had mentioned six of those seven nations when He had reassured Abraham of His covenant.
3. Keep in mind, this enmity between the Nephilim and Abraham's descendants continued well past Canaan's conquest.
 - a. David killed Goliath (**Cf. 1 Samuel 17**) who had ridiculed the God of the armies of Israel (**Cf. 1 Samuel 17:45**).
 - b. David and his men also killed four more giants who were related to Goliath in subsequent battles (**Cf. Samuel 21:15-22**)
 - c. The whole premise that Satan positioned his Nephilim troops in the Promised Land to resist the entry of the Israelites and the fulfillment of the Abrahamic Covenant explains why God ordered Joshua to "...wipe out all the inhabitants" that were there (**Cf. Joshua 9:24**).
 - d. It's why God directed Saul to attack and kill the Amalekites and to put to death "...every man, woman, child and infant" (**Cf. 1 Samuel 15:2-3**).
 - e. The Amalekites were a subset of the "descendants of Anak" (**Cf. Numbers 13:22-23**), and God's orders got down to the nitty-gritty.
 - f. In the instructions Moses gave to the nation of Israel and which Moses, Joshua, and Saul received, God was scrubbing the earth to rid it of the sordid stain of the fallen angelic "zera."
4. The reality is Satan's actions and intentions in this "sons of God" storyline are not hard to see:
 - a. Knowing the Messiah would come through the human race, Satan first assaulted all of mankind.
 - b. When he learned that prophecy would be fulfilled in the lineage of the Jews, he went after God's chosen people.
 - c. His methods along the way stayed true to the original **Genesis 3:15** prophecy that his "seed", his "zera", would be at enmity with whatever human "zera" Jesus Christ would come from.
 - d. Satan went from a broad brush stroke approach to a more specific one as he gained more information along the way.
 - e. Today, the Jews are reviled and resented. That is not only true from a secular standpoint, it is unfortunately true within most of the church.
 - f. It's an evil prejudice, and it is a first cousin to the physical "battle of the seeds" that was prophesied all the way back in **Genesis 3:15**.
 - g. It's been this way for centuries, and it's playing out exactly as God's Word said it would.
 - h. Today, there is a strong surge in anti-Jewish sentiments as God permits Satan to work furiously on his own plans behind the scenes.
 - i. That ancient enmity which was first prophesied in Genesis 3:15 remains alive and well.