

WHO ARE THE SONS OF GOD WHO MARRIED THE DAUGHTERS OF MEN?

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As Satan became more open in his interference in the affairs of man, he added the appeal of sexual lust to further corrupt man whom he had perverted earlier. The intermarriage in this period not only corrupted the holy institution of marriage into a means of gratifying selfish and lustful desires but did something much more serious than commonly thought. It brought about the cohabitation of the sons of God with the daughters of man, in order that the human race might be degraded to a subhuman level. Had it been successful, man might no longer have been the seed of man but the seed of Satan, thereby denying the promised redeemer a way to become a man.

Satan's scheme corrupted the overall population of the earth. The people concentrated on "eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark" (Matt. 24:38). Also, "The earth was filled with violence," (Gen. 6:11, 13). Satan's main instrument to cause the wickedness, evil, corruption, and violence in this period was the invasion and disturbance by "the sons of God," who not only corrupted the people at that time but "also after that" (6:4).

There are four suggestions for the interpretation of the "sons of God." Unfortunately, none is totally satisfactory. Some think they were from a pre-Adamic race who were worshippers of false gods. Some following the analogy in Psalm 82:6 interpret them to be nobles. Others insist they were Sethites. Still others suggest they were angels. The first suggestion is disproved by a correct interpretation of the verb *bara'* (created) used three times in Genesis 1:27 to describe the first man's origin. This verb proves that man's creation was neither an addition, nor a restoration, but a brand new event which had never occurred previously. Thus there could not have been a pre-Adamic race.

The second and the third suggestions could be accepted if it were not for the following biblical problems. (1) "Men," which often signifies the human race as a whole, is used here in contrast to the "sons of God" (6:1-2). Obviously, then, the latter could not be descendants of Adam. (2) The expression "sons of God" occurs six times in other passages of the Old Testament, and all of them indisputably refer to spiritual beings.¹ (3) If at that time marriage with a nobleman could produce giants, the same result should be seen today when a nobleman and a commoner or a believer and an unbeliever marry. (4) The explanation of *nephilim* (giants) as only morally fallen ones cannot be supported by other passages, which clearly refer to them as men of enormous physical size. After the flood there were also tribes of giants in Canaan.² "And there we saw the giants [*nephilim*] (the sons of Anak who come from the giants) and we ourselves felt like grasshoppers, and to them we looked like grasshoppers" (Num. 13:33, retranslated). In order to exterminate them, God commanded the Israelites to destroy all the Canaanites without exception.

The fourth interpretation presents a problem, and that is, how could angelic beings carnally cohabit with women and actually take them to be their wives? This problem,

¹Job 1:6; 2:1; 38:7; Psalm 29:1; 89:6; Daniel 3:25.

²Compare Deuteronomy 2:10-11,20-21; 3:11; 9:2.

however, could be solved by combining the second and fourth suggestions. Without doubt angelic beings are unable to cohabit with females; yet they could employ agents, especially those in the ancient priesthood. By possessing the priests, who would have had the privilege of marrying the choicest women in the land, these wicked fallen angels could thereby have produced demon-influenced children. They could have been enormous in size and terribly corrupt in morals.

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