



# In the Beginning

A study of Genesis Chapters 1 - 11

Christian Life Assembly

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— Genesis 8:4 —



# In the Beginning

- Genesis 6:1 Now it came about, when men began to multiply on the face of the land, and daughters were born to them, 2 that the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves, whomever they chose. 3 Then the Lord said, “My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, because he also is flesh; nevertheless his days shall be one hundred and twenty years.” 4 The Nephilim were 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.



# In the Beginning

- A fascinating portion of scripture that has been expounded upon by many a bible teacher and I suspect that many of you have your minds made up as to what is revealed to us here.
- I will not try to talk you out of what you believe about these rather strange verses, but I would ask that you hear me out with respect to what I see.
- As always, you will have your opportunity to “rebut” what I say and then make up your own mind. 😊



# In the Beginning

- “Now it came about, when men began to multiply on the face of the land, and daughters were born to them”.
- There is an indefinite period of time that has passed – Moses is simply introducing some new thoughts now that he has given us the early genealogies.
- Common sense is called for here – “daughters” were being born, but so were sons. Moses is calling our attention to the “daughters” for a reason.





## In the Beginning

- “that the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves, whomever they chose”.
- An interesting scene – what are we to know about what was happening here?
- We can surmise from Moses’ previous statement where the “beautiful women” came from – they were obviously the “daughters” who were being born.



# In the Beginning

- Who were the “sons” of God?
- 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.
- Job 38:7 When the morning stars sang together and all the *sons of God* shouted for joy?



# In the Beginning

- There are 3-4 popular opinions about who the “sons of God” were in Genesis 6 – none of them are without theological problems.
- It is my belief that “sons of God” can only be the angels.
- They were directly created by God and the term, “sons of God” clearly sets them apart from “sons of men” as it were – meaning they are not human.





# In the Beginning

- The phrase “and they took wives for themselves, whomever they chose” does not imply that the women were unwilling – these were all normal marital transactions for the time.
- The marriages were no doubt products of negotiations with the fathers of the women, but there is no evidence that this was some sort of celestial rape.
- What is more interesting is that these angels wanted something that wasn't theirs – thus indicating that these angels were fallen angels who had followed Satan in his rebellion.



## In the Beginning

- So how could it be that a fallen angel could actually marry a woman and produce offspring?
- This is where some of the theories get weird – we already know that Satan was able to possess and use a serpent for his purposes.
- It seems clear that Satan, who is himself a demon, and other fallen angels can inhabit a human body.





# In the Beginning

- But it doesn't stop there – not only can demons possess a human body, but apparently angels have the ability to appear as human.
- Heb 13:2 Don't forget to show hospitality to strangers, for some who have done this have entertained angels without realizing it!
- How else could you entertain an angel without noticing he was an angel, unless he appeared as a human?



## In the Beginning

- The big question of course centers around the offspring of these marriages.
- Were they producing some sort of half human, half demon entity that was part of some super human race?
- I doubt that is the case, and the text supports my doubts as well.





# In the Beginning

- We will pause just a bit here on the subject of the offspring because Moses does as well as he writes.
- “3 Then the Lord said, “My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, because he also is flesh; nevertheless his days shall be one hundred and twenty years.” (NASB)
- So we are reading along about the “sons of God” and “daughters of men” intermarrying and Moses sort of changes the subject.



# In the Beginning

- Clearly the marriages of demon possessed men to women and the families they were raising were grieving God.
- Because that was what was going on – demon possessed men were marrying women, and producing children who would grow up in a house led by an evil demon possessed man.
- What kind of chance at salvation do you suppose those children had?





## In the Beginning

- “3 Then the Lord said, “My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, because he also is flesh; nevertheless his days shall be one hundred and twenty years.” (NASB)
- God interjects His grace into this ungodly conversation about demons possessing men, who married and produced children that would be shaped by them.
- God tells us here that He is gracious, but He also has limits – there are times when He has just “had it”!



# In the Beginning

- He is also signaling here that mankind has run out of time – it is time to repent – and yet, he announces that judgment will not come for another 120 years.
- “nevertheless his days shall be one hundred and twenty years” – This will be the time needed for Noah and his sons to build a place of safety they would later call the “ark”.
- It would be wrong to call it a boat or a ship – a big box where Noah and his family will be safe is closer to the truth.





# In the Beginning

- Worthy of notation here is this, “My Spirit shall not strive with man forever”.
- God will not chase down sinners forever, but he will chase them down for a sufficient period of time for them to be saved.
- God wants to save, He wants to redeem, but He won't let man go on sinning with impunity forever.



# In the Beginning

- At this point we should revisit the idea of “degrees of punishment”.
- Luke 12:47 “And a servant who knows what the master wants, but isn’t prepared and doesn’t carry out those instructions, will be severely punished. 48 But someone who does not know, and then does something wrong, will be punished only lightly. When someone has been given much, much will be required in return; and when someone has been entrusted with much, even more will be required.”





# In the Beginning

- Rev 20:11 And I saw a great white throne and the one sitting on it. The earth and sky fled from his presence, but they found no place to hide. 12 I saw the dead, both great and small, standing before God's throne. And the books were opened, including the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to what they had done, as recorded in the books. 13 The sea gave up its dead, and death and the grave gave up their dead. And all were judged according to their deeds. 14 Then death and the grave were thrown into the lake of fire. This lake of fire is the second death. 15 And anyone whose name was not found recorded in the Book of Life was thrown into the lake of fire.



# In the Beginning

- Most of Christendom tends to think of eternity in just two terms; heaven or hell.
- And while that is true in the broadest of senses, if there are not degrees of punishment and degrees of reward, then how can God be said to be just?
- We would not think that paying a fine for homicide is just, and we would not think that a life sentence is just for a traffic violation would we?





# In the Beginning

- There are reasons why “the books” are opened at the Great White Throne – so that everyone is treated, not fairly, but justly.
- What can be more just than one getting for all of eternity exactly what their deeds earned them?
- Add to this that “there are none righteous, no not one” and you begin to have a growing appreciation for the cross.



# In the Beginning

- In Noah's day God says that judgment is coming in 120 years – an extremely generous period of time.
- In our day, no one lives to 120 years old – our average life expectancy is much less than that, yet more than adequate to decide for, or against Christ.
- God will strive with us in person through His Holy Spirit – none will ever be able to say, “I did not know”.





# Questions

