



# In the Beginning

A study of Genesis Chapters 1 - 11

Christian Life Assembly

Jim Hoffman

The Journey 2018

# 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

- 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 3:18 Christ suffered for our sins once for all time. He never sinned, but he died for sinners to bring you safely home to God. He suffered physical death, but he was raised to life in the Spirit. 19 So he went and preached to the spirits in prison— 20 those who disobeyed God long ago when God waited patiently while Noah was building his boat. Only eight people were saved from drowning in that terrible flood.



# In the Beginning

- Now I would bet that some of you have been taught that when Jesus died He went and preached the gospel to lost people in Hades so that they could be saved.
- But I want you to think about that in light of the text in Genesis 6 coupled with 1<sup>st</sup> Peter.
- Who are the “spirits in prison” and what time period are they associated with?



## In the Beginning

- What time period are they associated with? We are told in the text.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 3:20 “those who disobeyed God long ago when God waited patiently while Noah was building his boat.”
- And who are the spirits? They are not lost people shut up in Hades – they are the foul demonic spirits that overstepped their bounds by corrupting the human race in the days of Noah.



# In the Beginning

- Jude 1:5 So I want to remind you, though you already know these things, that Jesus first rescued the nation of Israel from Egypt, but later he destroyed those who did not remain faithful. 6 *And I remind you of the angels who did not stay within the limits of authority God gave them but left the place where they belonged. God has kept them securely chained in prisons of darkness, waiting for the great day of judgment.*



# In the Beginning

- You've probably heard me say that some of the 1/3 of the angels who rebelled with Lucifer are chained up and some are loose and roaming the earth.
- Well now we know why – the ones that attacked the human race by marrying into it, have been chained up in the pit ever since the flood came and took away the bodies they were using.
- And others, though still evil and foul, have been let free to roam the earth ..... For now.



# In the Beginning

- Luke 8:31 “the demons kept begging Jesus not to send them into the bottomless pit.” (some free, some locked up)
- Rev 9:1 Then the fifth angel blew his trumpet, and I saw a star that had fallen to earth from the sky, and he was given the key to the shaft of the bottomless pit. 2 When he opened it, smoke poured out as though from a huge furnace, and the sunlight and air turned dark from the smoke.





# In the Beginning

- So when Jesus goes and “preaches to the spirits in prison” He is not going to lost people – he is going to address the demons from Noah’s day.
- No doubt that when news reached the pit that Jesus had died on the cross there was a huge celebration in the pit – the One who put them there “got his”.
- Instead, they see a living Jesus coming to claim victory of sin, death, and the grave. 😊



# In the Beginning

- Genesis 6:4 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.
- Like the “sons of God” the “Nephilim” are also romanticized by some to be more than they actually were. (“those were the mighty men”)



# In the Beginning

- I am not claiming that giants did not exist in the bible, clearly there were giants – Goliath, Og (king of Bashan), and the Anakites.
- There are also ancient drawings depicting people who were much, much, taller than normal people.
- My argument is not that there were no giants in the bible, it is that the Nephilim were not  $\frac{1}{2}$  human,  $\frac{1}{2}$  demon entities.



## In the Beginning

- Nephilim means fierce, great, strong, or powerful – and could also mean a giant sized people.
- The “Nephilim” were not some half human, half demon new kind of race – the text tells us they were “men”.
- I know there are bible teachers who say these were some super and demonized race of giants, but that is not what the text says. They were men of influence and power, but still just men.



# In the Beginning

- Genesis 6:5 Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. 6 The Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. 7 The Lord said, “I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, from man to animals to creeping things and to birds of the sky; for I am sorry that I have made them.” 8 But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord.



# In the Beginning

- Now we come to a place where we will see world wide judgment on sin – the reason is clear, God had reached His divine limit.
- God does not suffer sinners for forever – He is extremely patient and gracious towards sinful people, but He will not allow sinners to keep sinning.
- His justice demands that sin be judged and He is signaling here in Genesis 6 that He is about to act.



# In the Beginning

- We will see a lot similarities between the days of Noah and the days in which we live.
- Sin was rampant, men and women had perfected their sin, they had widely rejected God and seemed to have no self control whatsoever.
- There was no sin too ugly, too perverse, or too harmful for them – everything was approved by them because they had rejected the truth.



# In the Beginning

- You might say that sin was “full” – meaning that it had run its course as far and as wide as God would allow.
- There is not a sin that God does not allow, BUT neither is there a sin that God approves of and at times in history sin has run its “full” course.
- Gen 15:16 In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here, for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure.





# In the Beginning

- I am unconvinced that “full” means what we might think – we might think “complete”, or as bad it can be.
- I rather think it means “full” in terms of what God would allow.
- In His great mercy He has a point for men that even though they are completely at fault, He will not allow them to cross because it will “grieve” Him to judge them.



# In the Beginning

- In Genesis 15 God was speaking about the descendants of Abraham having a home – the promised land.
- But first, His people would be outcasts and slaves in Egypt for 400 years.
- The 400 years is the time period God decided to tolerate the current occupants of the land and their sin – He was graciously allowing for the Amorites to repent.



# In the Beginning

- God is about to drown the entire human population and says as much, “I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land”.
- The Hebrew word translated as “blot out” is “maw-khaw” and it means to “wipe out”, “obliterate”, “exterminate”, or to “blot out”.
- The word is also used to describe what it is to erase names from a book ....



# In the Beginning

- Exodus 32:32 But now, if You will, forgive their sin—and if not, please blot me out from Your book which You have written!” 33 The Lord said to Moses, “Whoever has sinned against Me, I will blot him out of My book.
- I think we rightly get the picture that God is taking their sin seriously and is going to deal harshly with it.
- We will also see here that, to use a familiar literary device, “there is dealing with sin, and there is dealing with sin”.



# In the Beginning

- When I say, “there is dealing with sin, and there is dealing with sin”, here is what I mean.
- There are normal and deadly consequences for our sin, and then a few times in history we see that God brings particular calamity as judgment for sin.
- The flood of Genesis is one of those times of particular calamity.



# Questions

