

Days of Noah
Genesis 6:1-4
February 5, 2017

Introduction

Even though Genesis is the book of beginnings, it is also a book that tells us what can happen in the future because everything that has happened in Genesis will repeat itself. Solomon says that there is nothing new under the sun. We are getting ready to start a new part of Genesis—the Flood. We ask ourselves what prompted God to kill all people except eight? In the same way, we know that God will destroy the world again in the future. Why? What happened before the Flood is what we see today—increasing sin and evil. How did this happen? **Genesis 6:1-4** gives us a picture of what happened.

I. Varying Interpretations

- Strange phrases or words
 - Sons of God and daughters of men
 - 120 years
 - Nephilim
 - Many different interpretations of what this means
 - Looked up 8 commentaries and they are all different in interpretation
- Sons of God
 - Demons (or rather fallen angels)
 - Demon-possessed men
 - Ungodly kings and rulers
 - Godly Seth line marrying ungodly Cain women
 - Humanity in general
 - Aliens
- Nephilim
 - Demons with women—creating a ½ demon, ½ man race of people
 - Super-powered humans
 - Regular men who were famous

II. Meaning

Note: This is something that we cannot be dogmatic about because we do not have enough information to have a definite answer; however, we can look to Scripture to make the best guess.

- Transition passage
 - These four verses bridge **5:32** and **6:5**
 - It is to show how mankind had multiplied
 - And became more sinful
 - Their evil actions prompted God to pour out His judgment
- *1 Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them,*
 - Multiply on earth
 - Fulfillment of God's command

Genesis 1:28 God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

- At this time, millions of people (maybe billions)
- **2** that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose.
 - Sons of God
 - Who are they?
 - Sons of God contrasted with daughters of men
 - Contrast is God and men, not sons and daughters
 - In Old Testament
 - Sons of God = angels

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 2:1 Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the Lord.

Job 38:7 When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

- In this case, sons of God are fallen angels or demons
- How do we know that the sons of God are fallen angels?
 - New Testament passages

Luke 8:29-31 For Jesus had commanded the evil spirit to come out of the man. Many times it had seized him, and though he was chained hand and foot and kept under guard, he had broken his chains and had been driven by the demon into solitary places. **30** Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" "Legion," he replied, because many demons had gone into him. **31** And they begged Him repeatedly not to order them to go into the Abyss.

- The Abyss = demon prison

1 Peter 3:18-20 For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit, **19** through whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison **20** who disobeyed long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water,

- Spirits = supernatural beings, not humans
 - If human beings, "spirit" would have another description (an adjective) describing it, in this case, there are none
- Spirits are in prison

- When were they put in prison?
- During the Flood

2 Peter 2:4-6 *For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment; 5 and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly; 6 and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly;*

- Context = God's judgment against false teachers
- Angels sinned
- Delivered them into chains = prison (like previous verse)
- When did this happen?
- During the flood

Jude 6-7 *And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode [home], He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day; 7 as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.*

- Angels did not keep their proper place
- These demons were encouraging all kinds of sexual perversions among people that was not part of God's design
 - Notice the reference to Sodom and Gomorrah
 - Similar manner to these
 - Who are these? Demons
 - Sexual immorality and strange flesh (homosexuality)
 - This happened when the sons of God married daughters of men
- These are bound demons that were imprisoned because they went beyond God's boundary
- If sons of God are demons, then does this mean that they had sexual relationships with human women?
 - NO!
 - God says that these men are flesh (and blood) (**Genesis 6:3**)
 - God also calls the Nephilim—men, 100% human beings
 - Sons of God are not spiritual beings who became physical
 - Angels (and demons—fallen angels) are spiritual beings
 - They can take physical form

Genesis 19:1, 10, 16 *The two angels arrived at Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gateway of the city. When he saw them, he got up to meet them and bowed down with his face to the ground. 10 But the men inside reached out and pulled Lot back into the house and shut the door. 16 When he hesitated, the men grasped his hand and the hands of*

his wife and of his two daughters and led them safely out of the city, for the LORD was merciful to them.

- However they are different creatures from human beings
- They cannot procreate with humans, nor do they procreate with their own kind

Matthew 22:30 *At the resurrection people will neither marry nor be given in marriage; they will be like the angels in heaven.*

- What does this imply?
 - Demon-possession
 - We know that demons can possess people
 - This demon possession is actually cooperative possession
 - Men have been asking demons to take control
 - Why?
 - Bible doesn't say
 - Perhaps promises of power, immortality
 - How do we know that the men were willingly allowing demons to control them?
 - God judges men for their rebellion, not demons (although He does imprison them)
- Sons of God marrying daughters of men
 - Mutual agreement of marriage
 - Mutual sharing of ideas and perversions
- **3** *And the Lord said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years."*
 - God holds men responsible for all the sins on earth
 - 120 years
 - Two possible interpretation
 - Maximum length of life for man
 - How much time man has until the Flood
 - It could be both!
 - God's patience with man—giving them 120 years to repent
- **4** *There were giants [Nephilim] 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.*
 - Nephilim
 - Fallen ones
 - These are not beings like the one in the movie "Noah"
 - These are famous and powerful men (100% humans)
 - In people's eyes, these were powerful and influential men
 - However, in God's eyes—they were evil and fallen—deserving of judgment

III. Application

- So what?
 - How does this passage impact us today?
- We are living in the days of Noah

Matthew 24:36-39 *No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 37 As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. 38 For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; 39 and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.*

- What had happened during Noah's time, is what we see today
 - This should not surprise us
 - Sin infects people, families, society
- What happened in the days of Noah that we see today?

1 Timothy 4:1 *Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,*

2 Timothy 3:1-4 *But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. 2 People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, 4 treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God—*

- Doctrines of demons
- Lies, deceits—everything against the truth of God
- Sexual perversions
- Saying that everything that is good is now evil; and everything evil is now good
- Lovers of themselves
- What do we do?
 - We endure, holding on to Christ and His word
 - We continue to preach the gospel

Matthew 24:9-15 *Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. 10 At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, 11 and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. 12 Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, 13 but he who stands firm to the end will be saved. 14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.*