

Satan on the Offensive, Part 1

We have seen how there is a contest between God and Satan that we are calling a war. Satan won a tactical victory when he tempted Adam and the woman to disobey God, severing the relationship between God and man and condemning mankind to a fallen status. God won a victory when Adam and the woman sought to re-establish the relationship with their Creator. Satan lost his appeal trial at that point. Man with the knowledge of good and evil rejected Satan's plan and sought God. Satan then changed his strategy.

Man and earth stand under condemnation and judgment (Gen 3:11-19), and both man and earth are under the dominion of Satan (2 Co. 4:4; Rev. 12:9; John 12:31; 16:11). God intends to redeem those men who will choose for Him and recover for Himself dominion over earth, which He had delegated to man (Gen. 1:26, 28). Satan intends to prevent that from happening. To do so he attempted to sever the line from "the woman" to the redeemer and prevent "her seed from bruising his head" (Gen. 3:15). If Satan could sever that line and prevent the redeemer from ever coming or performing the act of redemption (the Cross), then Satan could defeat God's plan and win his appeal trial. That meant direct attacks by Satan on that line and even on the Christ Himself. We saw the first of these attacks in the murder of Able. God counterattacked by continuing the line through Seth (Luke 3:23; 38).

Satan's next attack on the line is a very interesting one. He attempted to physically corrupt the human race with a mongrel race of his own creation. We find reference to this incident in Genesis 6, but before we look at that passage it is important to establish a few definitions.

According to Genesis 3:15 "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel." Satan will have a "seed"; he will have descendants, and Scripture supports this. John 8:44 says, "You are of *your* father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father." Following the logic, Satan's seeds are fallen mankind, all unsaved persons who have not accepted Christ and the free gift of salvation through faith.

In Scripture the term "sons of God" is used several times. In the New Testament the meaning is very different from its usage in the Old Testament. In the OT the definition of the term "sons of God" denotes being brought into existence by the creative act of God. Adam was created in the likeness of God by God and is thus a son of God, but Genesis 5:1 says Adam's descendants will be "born into his likeness, after his image." "His likeness, after his image" refers to the fallen Adam state, man with a sin nature, also known as Satan's seed. Adam's natural descendants are not the creation of God. God did not create Adam in a fallen state. Adam's descendants are in effect "sons of man" and children of the Devil, Satan's seed. In our fallen state, we are products of what Satan created through the fall of Adam.

However, through the new birth (born again) and the Holy Spirit generated human spirit, the believer becomes a child of God or son of God as stated in Galatians 3:26 "For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus." See also Ro 8:14; 19; Mt 5:9; Ga 4:5-6; Joh 1:12-13; Ro 8:16-17; Eph 5:1; Php 2:15; and 1Jo 3:2 "Beloved, now we are children of God." Get the point?

Fallen and unregenerate man is a “son of man” and the “seed of Satan.” Regenerate man (or woman), however, is a “son (or daughter) of God.” Now let's turn to the OT.

As we look in the OT for this “sons of God” term, we see it used only five times, and it is used in a very different way than in the NT. Three uses are found in the Book of Job and two times in our focus passage in Genesis 6. First look at the three Job passages, and you will see that the “sons of God” are clearly 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. ⁷ The Lord said to Satan, “From where have you come?” Satan answered the Lord and said, “From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it.”

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

Job 38:4 “Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?
Tell me, if you have understanding.
⁵ Who determined its measurements—surely you know!
Or who stretched the line upon it?
⁶ On what were its bases sunk,
or who laid its cornerstone,
⁷ when the morning stars sang together
and all the **sons of God** shouted for joy?”

Old Testament usage of the Hebrew *bane ha elohim* (sons of God) refers to angelic creation. How do we know this isn't saved men? Because at this point in human history, before the Glorification of Christ, saved men (and women) are NOT found in heaven.

(See Illustration of “The Underworld” by Clarence Larkin)

Luke 16:20 And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, ²¹ who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores. ²² The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried, ²³ and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. ²⁴ And he called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.’ ²⁵ But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. ²⁶ And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.’ ²⁷ And he said, ‘Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house— ²⁸ for I have five brothers—so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.’ ²⁹ But Abraham said, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.’ ³⁰ And he said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ ³¹ He said to him,

‘If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.’ ”

Old Testament believers prior to the cross resided temporarily in Abraham’s Bosom, also known as Paradise, which is across the great gulf from Torments the residence of the lost in Sheol or Hades (Luke 16:19-31). Paradise is empty now, its saved occupants have been taken to heaven. Before that could happen, we had to have the judging of sin and the Glorification of Christ.

In the NT “sons of God” refers to born again believers, but in the OT the term refers to “being brought into existence by the creative act of God.” *Bane ha elohim*, sons of God, in an OT context, are angels.

Before we go look at the other two verses found in Genesis 6, our subject, let’s look at another verse in the NT that may shed some light on our subject verses. Turn in your Bibles to Jude chapter 1 and read through verse 7. In Jude’s epistle, he warns of certain ones who have “slipped in among you.” He describes them as “godless men, who change the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord” (Jude 1:4). Jude is warning against some individuals in the Church given over to licentiousness and abusing God’s grace. Then Jude goes on to remind his audience that God delivers believers and “destroys those who do not believe.”

Now look at verses 6 and 7. In verse 6 Jude refers to “angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their own home.” The KJV says, these angels “did not keep their first estate ... abandoned their place of habitation.” These angels are kept in darkness and bound in chains until judgment. Why? Then Jude seems to allude to the sin of these angels and says “in a similar way” and refers to Sodom and Gomorrah and how they gave themselves up to sexual perversion. The KJV says “giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh” and this is likened unto what happened in Sodom and Gomorrah. “Strange flesh” is *heteros sarx het'-er-os sarx* and means “different flesh.”

Confused? What I think Jude is talking about is there were angels, obviously fallen, who are imprisoned in chains and darkness because, similar to what men did at Sodom and Gomorrah, they were sexually immoral, perverted themselves, and went after “strange flesh.”

Who are these angels and what is Jude referring to? I believe this is a reference to an incident that is recorded way back in the OT in Genesis 6.

Genesis 6:1 And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them,

2 That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they *were* fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose.

3 ¶ And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also *is* flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.

4 ¶ There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare *children* to them, the same *became* mighty men which *were* of old, men of renown.

5 And GOD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every imagination of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually.

6 ¶ And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.

7 And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.

8 ¶ But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

This is the time of Noah when God saw fit to destroy mankind but saved Noah and his family. The reason given for this is found in the first two verses of Genesis 6. In verse 1 we see that man is multiplying on the face of the earth and daughters were born to them. In verse 2 we see this term “sons of God” which we have determined in OT usage refers to angels. These “sons of God” (angels – fallen in this case) saw that the daughters of men were beautiful and took them as wives. Now look at verse 4, where it says the product of this union was giants and “mighty men which were of old, men of renown.”

Now remember that Genesis was written by Moses long after the fact, and though it was not written by a human eyewitness to the events, it was written under the inspiration of God, and God was an eyewitness. In other words, Moses wrote what God told him to write. But what is Moses saying?

He is saying that angelic beings, specifically fallen angels, by the context, copulated with human women and produced a race of half angel and half human beings. The genetic purity of the human race became corrupted. If Satan could so taint the entire human race, then God’s promise of the redeemer being from the seed of the woman would be impossible, and God would be a liar. Evidently, only Noah and his family remained untainted by this attack, thus God destroyed the entire human race except those who were not biologically corrupted through this attack.

Who were these “men of old, men of renown” who were so wicked “that every imagination of the thoughts ... was only evil continually”? Most likely candidates are the so-called mythical beings of Greek and Roman mythology. If that is the case, then what we thought was only myth was, at least in some cases, real. If you study mythology, it is full of stories of “gods” taking human wives because of their great beauty. These stories from which this mythology comes is so pervasive in ancient cultures and across cultures that there must be some truth in them. Obviously some feats attributed to these creatures are exaggerations and even just stories, but some of what they did is probably not myth at all.

There are, however, at least two other interpretations of these events recorded in Genesis 6. One that most of us grew up with is that these “wicked men of old” were simply so satanically influenced that the whole human race, save for Noah and his family, was affected by their evil and under Satan’s spell.

Another interpretation embraced by some is that the “sons of God” were of the godly line of Seth, and the “daughters of men” were of the ungodly line of Cain. The problem is there is no foundation for this interpretation elsewhere in Scripture. Moses, who wrote the Pentateuch,

didn't suggest this. Furthermore, such a union between humans, whether godly or not, would not produce a race of giants and "mighty men"; they would have been "normal" like their parents. The "daughters of men" must be the product of fallen mankind, women of the Adamic race – human beings. "Sons of God," according to the three other uses in the OT, are angels, specifically fallen angels, "who kept not their first estate and abandoned their habitation" and "gave themselves over to fornication" and went after "strange flesh" (according to Jude).

I think the Scriptural evidence supporting this interpretation is very strong. It also makes logical sense: Satan attacks and attempts to destroy the line to Messiah through a mongrel race. Merely spiritually corrupting the human race would not be a successful attack on the line, but corrupting the whole race certainly would.

There is one more issue to be dealt with, and that is the reference in Matthew 22:30 and Mark 12:25 to marriage in heaven. "For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven" (Mat. 22:30). This would suggest there is no sexual relations in heaven (which will really disappoint the Muslims). If that is the correct interpretation, then we must deal with the comparison to angels not marrying. It must be assumed that angels had at the time of Genesis 6 the ability to manifest themselves in a form that enabled them to take on human form and procreate, and that ability evidently has been removed or the fallen angels exceeded the bounds of their "authority" and sinned in a very human fashion. Either could be argued from the passages in question.

The attack was unsuccessful, because God counterattacked with the flood and destroyed this mongrel race of half angels and half human.

We will pick up on the rest of this study next lesson, as we see how Satan made other similar attacks on the human race.