

Fallen Angels

Jude 6; Genesis 6

Jude

a study of the epistle

3 Warnings from the OT

1. v. 5: Israel in the Wilderness

2. v. 6: Rebellious Angels

3. v. 7: Sodom & Gomorrah

Before We Begin Today

Understand that no interpretation offered for this passage escapes troubling criticisms.

Jude 6

6 And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day

Last Week: Unbelieving Israel

This Week: Sinful Angels



WARNING!

Ronald Ward said:

**“If the highest beings
known in creation were
subject to judgment,
how much more sinful
men!”**

Let's Start Here:

- Jude's charges against the angels:
 1. Not keeping “their own domain”
 - *archē* – “principality; rule”
 2. Abandoning “their proper abode”
 - Literally, “their own home”

Language of Retaliation

“And angels who did not **keep** their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode,

He has **kept** in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day”

Since the angels did not *keep* their proper sphere, God has *kept* them in darkness.

The Main Idea

- Abandoning what is right has consequences because God is still sovereign and holy.
- **These angels are kept in “eternal bonds.”**
 - ESV, CSB, NET: “eternal chains”
 - KJV: “everlasting chains”

Are these literal chains?

Maybe So...

- They are plunged into darkness, but their current imprisonment is not their final punishment.
- They still await the judgment on the Day of the Lord.
- Jude's Point: Those who transgress and sin will experience judgment; the angels did not escape, and neither will the false teachers.

Time for a
Swim in
the Deep End
of the Pool!



To What is Jude Referring?

- Three Possibilities:

1. Genesis 6:1-4

2. 1 Enoch

3. Satan's Rebellion and Fall

The question is: What is meant by
“angels who did not keep their own
domain, but abandoned their proper
abode?”

Option #1: Genesis 6:1-4

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.

Who are the “sons of God?”

1. Angels

2. Human Judges or Rulers

3. The Descendants of Seth

What Do We See in Genesis 6?

“Now it came about, when **men** began to multiply on the face of the land, and daughters were born to them, that the **sons of God** saw that the **daughters of men** were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves”

“sons of God” in Job

**Referenced in 1:6, 2:1, 38:7 are clearly
angels.**

**But what is the elephant in the
room?**

Are angels sexual beings?

Hebrews 1:7,14

7 And of the angels He says, “Who makes His angels winds, And His ministers a flame of fire.””

14 Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?

Matthew 22:30

“For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.”

Sexuality isn't explicitly addressed here, only marriage.

But when angels come to earth, what form do they take?

Jude 6-7

“And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day, **just as Sodom and Gomorrah** and the cities around them, **since they *in the same way as these* indulged in gross immorality and went after strange flesh**, are exhibited as an example in undergoing the punishment of eternal fire.”

Parallel Passage: 2 Peter 2:4

4 For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment

What is missing?

“sons of God” (Gen. 6:2,4)

Many interpreters are convinced that the “sons of God” (*bene elohim*) were not angels but humans of a noble kind.

“sons of God” = Great Men?

- There is no identification of a heavenly host prior to Genesis 6.
- Genesis 6 deals with the wickedness of man and his punishment, not that of angels.
- The Creation mandate in Genesis 1:22 was given to man.

Psalm 82:1, 6-7

1 God takes His stand in His own congregation; He judges in the midst of the rulers (*elohim*).

6 I said, “You are gods (*elohim*), And all of you are sons of the Most High (*bene elyon*).

7 “Nevertheless you will die like men And fall like any one of the princes.”



Some Say that Genesis 6

- Is a result of the Cainite dynasty (particularly Lamech) detailed in Genesis 4:17-24.
- In his line we find the origin of city organization, polygamy, and violent oppression.

In This Case:

- “sons of God” should be translated as “godly sons,” and that this descriptor refers to the line of Seth (Augustine).
- Genesis 4-5 contrast the lines of Cain and Seth, and it is Seth’s descendants that intermarry with Cainite women, producing a contaminated line of “fallen” offspring (Nephilim).

And Look at Genesis 6:3, 5-6

What is Missing?

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.” **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.

The Jewish Tradition

(Not Scripture)



Jewish Tradition

- The sin that the angels committed was sexual relations with the daughters of men.
- It seems that Jude is affirming that position both by his use of 1 Enoch and the connection of the event to Sodom and Gomorrah in v. 7.

Testament of Naphtali

- The angels are designated as “Watchers,” and they are said to have “departed from nature’s order” and hence are cursed with the flood.
- Women charmed the Watchers with their beauty, so that the Watchers lusted after them.
- They transformed themselves into men and gave birth to giants.

Other Jewish Sources

- *Jubilees* also teaches that the Watchers sinned with the daughters of men by mingling with them sexually and producing giant offspring.
- The Damascus Document records that their sons are “like cedar trees and their bodies are comparable to mountains.”

Option #2: *1 Enoch*

- 10:11 says that the angels “fornicated” with women.
- The angel Raphael is ordered to “Bind Azaz’el hand and foot (and) throw him into the darkness! And he made a hole in the desert which was in Duda’el and cast him there; he threw on top of him rugged and sharp rocks. And he covered his face in order that he may not see light; and in order that he may be sent into the fire on the great day of judgment.”

1 Enoch 10:12-13

“Bind them for seventy generations underneath the rocks of the ground until the day of their judgment and of their condemnation, until the eternal judgment is concluded. In those days they will lead them into the bottom of the fire – and in torment – in the prison (where) they will be locked up forever.”

1 Enoch 14:5; 15:3

“You will not be able to ascend into heaven unto all eternity, but you shall remain inside the earth, imprisoned all the days of eternity.”

“For what reason have you abandoned the high, holy, and eternal heaven; and slept with women and defiled yourselves with the daughters of the people, taking wives, acting like the children of the earth, and begetting giant sons?”

This is Based Upon the Assumption

The Nephilim in Genesis 6:4a being the product of the marriages in 6:2, the children of 6:4b, and the “men of renown” in 6:4c.

Let's Read Genesis 6:1-4 again and see what we can discern.

Who Are The Nephilim?



They Might Be Giants...

- Nephilim occurs only one other time in the OT, Numbers 13:33 –

“There also we saw the Nephilim (the sons of Anak are part of the Nephilim); and we became like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight.”

The Term “Nephilim”

- Is a transliteration of the Hebrew, which indicates a group or class.
- It is transliterated from *napal*, meaning “to fall,” so the Nephilim are “fallen ones.”
- But the Numbers 13 Nephilim might not be the same as the Genesis 6 Nephilim. Why?



Guess Who is Never Called a “Nephilim?”



Option #3: Fall of Satan

Luke 10:18 – “And
He said to them,
“I was watching
Satan fall from
heaven like
lightning.”



Revelation 12:7-9

7 And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war, **8** and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven. **9** And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

Satan's Angels

- An precursor of their doom is their having been cast out of heaven, being already restricted to “the darkness of this present world,” the “air” that surrounds the earth, their peculiar element now.
- They lurk in places of gloom and death, looking forward with agonizing fear to their final torment in the bottomless pit.

And So:

6 And angels who...

- “did not keep their own domain” – aspired beyond their limits
- “but abandoned their proper abode” – in heaven worshiping God

And Of Course...

Some say that Jude could be alluding to a story without believing it was historical.

This is hugely problematic.

The Critical Scholar says:

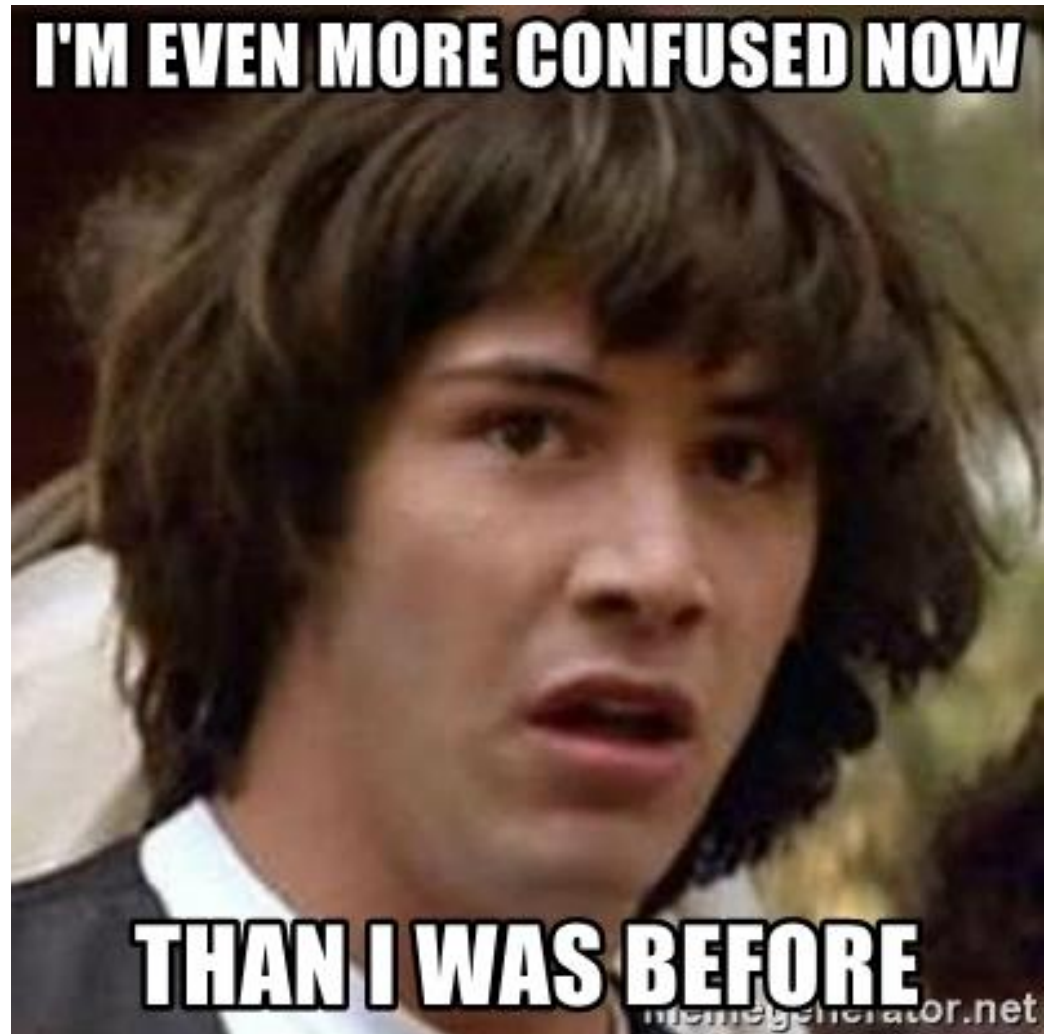
- Genesis 6:1-4 is a remnant of an old myth that was historicized later.
- There are stories in almost every ancient religious tradition of gods or demigods mating with human women and producing offspring.



In Fact, It's the Opposite!

- In Greek and Roman mythology, these figures became gods and demigods.
- In ancient pagan cultures they became mythical kings and warriors.
- Genesis 6 ties these wicked men and tyrants to the depraved sin of the world that brought on the flood.

So, I
Hope
This Isn't
The
Case...



Next Week: Sodom & Gomorrah



