

What is Going on in the First Verses of Genesis 6?

What is Theological Triage?

Triage (noun):

a: the sorting of and allocation of treatment to patients and especially battle and disaster victims according to a system of priorities designed to maximize the number of survivors

b: the sorting of patients (as in an emergency room) according to the urgency of their need for care

Tier One

- *Salvation essentials.*
 - Gospel matters – the dying, the rising, the lordship of Jesus Christ.

Tier Two

- *Non-essentials for salvation.*
 - Doctrinal matters which are important to us as a local church, but not for us to be insistently dogmatic about.

Tier Three

- *Disputable matters.*
 - Doctrinal matters we can hold distinctives about, but we are willing to be more “open-handed” regarding other interpretations.

Tier Four

- *Personal opinions and preferences.*
 - Although often presented as doctrinal matters, these are far from anything Biblical.

Who Are These “Sons of God?”

- **Option 1:** They’re fallen angels.
 - The strongest case for this is that in the Old Testament, the phrase “sons of God” refers to angelic beings (**Job 1:6; 2:1; 38:7**, in Hebrew and **Daniel 3:25** in Aramaic) and there are demonic references to this time from **Jude**, **2nd Peter**, and the non-canonical Book of Enoch.
 - Suggesting that demons are marrying, having sex, and bearing children with human women. Weird!
- **Option 2:** The “sons of God” are the godly sons from the line of Seth, but they’re sinning by intermarrying with the wicked daughters of Cain.
 - The strongest case for this is that it seems to better match the immediate context and also has the benefit of being less weird. Additionally, this can be paired with a more Biblical understanding of demonic influences on early man from **Jude** and **2nd Peter**, while still remaining less weird.
- **Option 3:** The Sons of God are earthly kings who are practicing polygamy and garnering as many wives as they can.
 - Potential case in consideration of the broader context of **Genesis**. As we were just told about Lamech and his multiple wives in **chapter 4** and we were only narratively interrupted by the Noahic genealogy in **chapter 5**.



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If Adam is called a “son of God” couldn’t Seth and his sons in this sense, be considered “the Sons of God” as well?

Luke 3:36 - 38

36 the son of Cainan, the son of Arphaxad, the son of Shem, the son of Noah, the son of Lamech,

37 the son of Methuselah, the son of Enoch, the son of Jared, the son of Mahalaleel, the son of Cainan,

38 the son of Enos, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.

Moses also referred to Israel as “the Sons of... God”

Deuteronomy 14:1a “You are the sons of the LORD your God...

If The Sin of Genesis 6 Was *Angelic*, Then Why Would God Punish All Humanity with the Flood?

Jude 6 - 7

6 And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day—

7 just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire.

1st Peter 3:18a, 19b - 20

18a For Christ... **19b** ...went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison,

20 because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water.

2nd Peter 2:4b - 5 ...God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell (*tartaroō*) and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment;
5 if he did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when he brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly;

Ok, but what about the Nephilim? And are they even related to this?

Numbers 13:33 And there we saw the Nephilim (the sons of Anak, who come from the Nephilim), and we seemed to ourselves like grasshoppers, and so we seemed to them.”

- In the Hebrew, there are actually two sentences in **verse 4**:
 - #1** The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward.
 - #2** When the sons of God came in to the daughters of man and they bore children to them. These were the mighty men (*gibborim*) who were of old, the men of renown.

Gibborim: “Tyrants of old” would be a more accurate translation of this word

1 Timothy 1:3b – 4 charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies, which promote speculations rather than the stewardship from God that is by faith.

