



# Noah

A Righteous Man in a Wicked Age

*Lesson 02*

## Humanity's Descent

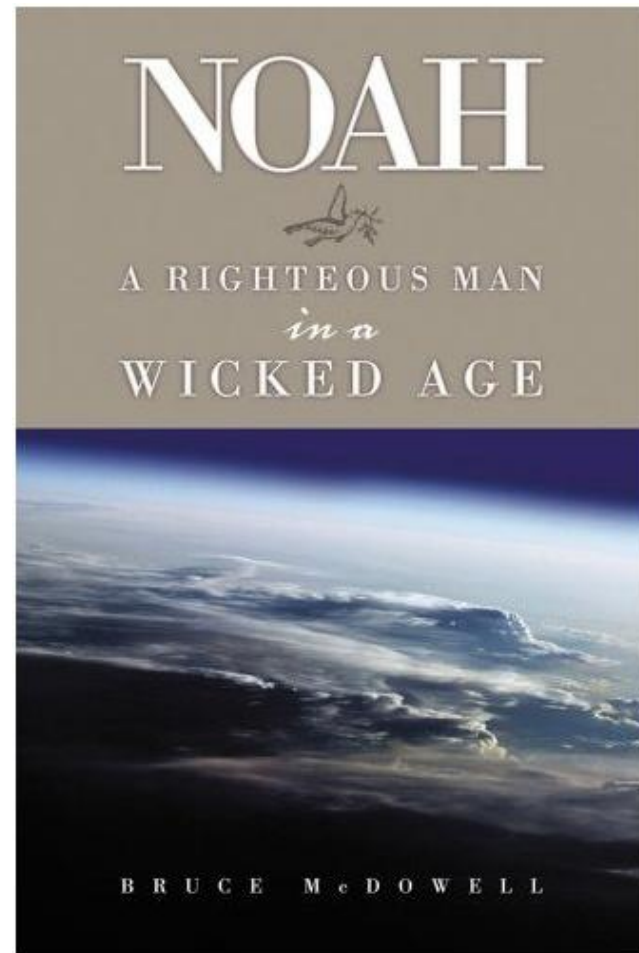
Genesis 6:1-4

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Sojourners Sunday School Class



# Textbook



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# Course Outline

# Course Outline - This Week's Lesson



## ▪ Noah: A Righteous Man in a Wicked Age

- Lesson 01: Introduction *[Genesis 5-9]*
- Lesson 02: Humanity's Descent *[Genesis 6:1-4]*
- Lesson 03: The LORD is Grieved *[Genesis 6:5-8]*
- Lesson 04: Noah Built and Ark *[Genesis 6:9-16]*
- Lesson 05: A Covenant of Redemptive Judgment *[Genesis 6:17-22]*
- Lesson 06: The LORD Shut the Door *[Genesis 7:1-16]*
- Lesson 07: The Extent of the Flood *[Genesis 7:17-23]*
- Lesson 08: But God Remembered Noah *[Genesis 7:24-8:14]*
- Lesson 09: Noah Came Out and Worshiped *[Genesis 8:15-22]*
- Lesson 10: A Renewed Mandate *[Genesis 9:1-4]*
- Lesson 11: Accountability to God for Life *[Genesis 9:5-7]*
- Lesson 12: A Rainbow of Remembrance *[Genesis 9:8-17]*
- Lesson 13: Noah and His Three Sons *[Genesis 9:18-29]*

This weeks lesson.



# Lesson Outline



### ▪ Lesson 02: Humanity's Descent

*[Genesis 6:1-4]*

- **The Sons of God** ... [Genesis 6:1-2]
- **Humanity's Mortality** ... [Genesis 6:3]
- **The Nephilim** ... [Genesis 6:4]

Outline of what we will cover in this lesson.



# Humanity's Descent

Chapters 6:1-4

# The Wickedness and Judgment of Man

Genesis 6:1-8 - NKJV



**6** Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them,

**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.

**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."

**4** There were giants 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.

--- Genesis 6:1-4 ... NKJV





# Humanity's Descent

*The Sons of God*

Chapters 6:1-2



### ▪ Lesson 02: Humanity's Descent

*[Genesis 6:1-4]*

- **The Sons of God** ... [Genesis 6:1-2]
- **Humanity's Mortality** ... [Genesis 6:3]
- **The Nephilim** ... [Genesis 6:4]

Outline of what we will cover in this lesson.

# Genesis 6:1 - Observations



**6** Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them,

## ■ It Came to Pass

- A phrase of comfort
  - ✓ Noah's name means comfort
  - ✓ The story of Noah begins with comfort
- What ever trial you are or will face remember...
  - ✓ "It came to pass" ... your trial will pass
- Phrase means - *"Not in immediate sequence to the proceeding"*
  - ✓ Time preceding the flood
  - ✓ Some earlier point in the antediluvian period

# Genesis 6:1 - Observations



**6** Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them,

## ■ Men began to Multiply

- A characteristic of the period was a population explosion
  - ✓ Noah lived in a world with a large population
  - ✓ Probably in the millions - *as many as 235 million\**
  - ✓ Proportional increase in wickedness
- In accordance with God's command to Adam and Ever
  - ✓ Genesis 1:28

Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and **multiply; fill the earth** and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

\* 1. "Bible Science Newsletter", Volume 18, No. 5, May 1980, "Five Minutes with the Bible and Science", page 1.



## Genesis 6:1-2 - Observations

**6** Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, <sup>2</sup> 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.

### ■ Daughters were born to them

- Daughters of verse 1 same as daughters of men in verse 2
- The object of the sons of God in verse 2
- Verses 1 and 2 are a single thought
  - ✓ Single sentence
  - ✓ Verse 1 time period **proceeds** Verse 2 time period
  - ✓ Verse 1 mankind following God's directive (Genesis 1:28)
  - ✓ Verse 2 introduces the mischief with the "Sons of God"

# Genesis 6:2 - Observations



<sup>2</sup> 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

### • Translations

- ✓ Hebrew: Bene Ha 'Elohim
- ✓ Greek: Angels
  - Septuagint (LXX)
- ✓ All languages read toward Jerusalem

## Septuagint LXX

the principal Greek version of the Old Testament, including the Apocrypha, believed to have been translated by 70 or 72 scholars

(2<sup>nd</sup> century BC)

# Genesis 6:2 - Observations



<sup>2</sup> 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

- Direct creation of God
  - ✓ Angels
  - ✓ Adam
    - All mankind are sons of Adam
  - ✓ Believers (John 1:12)
    - New Creation in Christ

**But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to **become children of God**, to those who believe in His name:**

# Genesis 6:2 - Observations



<sup>2</sup> 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

- Three main views

- ✓ Seth Line - Cain Line View

- Intermarriage of the “sons of God” with the “daughters of men”
    - Spiritual corruption of Seth’s righteous line by Cain’s cursed line

- ✓ Tyrannical King View

- Sons of God were tyrannical kings
    - Successors to Cainite Lamech (Genesis 4:19)



- ✓ Fallen Angel View

Then **Lamech** took for himself two wives: the name of one *was* Adah, and the name of the second *was* Zillah.



# Genesis 6:2 - Observations



<sup>2</sup> 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 - Fallen Angel View ←

Tartarus

- Prominent in ancient Jewish & Christian literature
- Supported by NT
  - ✓ 2 Peter 2:4-5
  - ✓ Jude 1:6-7

<sup>4</sup> 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;  
<sup>5</sup> 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;

## 2 Peter 2:4 - Observations



<sup>4</sup> 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;

### Tartarus

Titans

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

*This article is about the deity and the place in Greek mythology.*

In classic mythology, below Uranus (sky), Gaia (earth), and Pontus (sea) is Tartarus, or Tartaros (Greek: Τάρταρος, from τάρταρον "tartar encrusting the sides of casks"). It is a deep, gloomy place, a pit, or an abyss used as a dungeon of torment and suffering that resides beneath the underworld. In the *Gorgias*, Plato (c. 400 BC) wrote that souls were judged after death and those who received punishment were sent to Tartarus.

Tartarus was used as a prison for the worst of villains, including Cronus and the other Titans who were thrown in by Zeus.

## 2 Peter 2:4 - Observations



<sup>4</sup> 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;

### ■ Hell - Tartarus (Greek)

Tartarus

- Only place in NT
- Dark abode of woe, pit of darkness in the unseen world
- Parallels legends of the ancient Greeks
  - ✓ Embodied the truth found in Scripture (Genesis 6:1-4)
  - ✓ Tartarus referenced in Homer's Iliad
  - ✓ Titans from Greek Mythology were demigods
    - Offspring of union of a woman and a god ... strange flesh
    - Examples include Atlas, Hercules, etc.
    - Zeus punished the Titans by banishing them to Tartarus
    - Titans are referred to as Nephilim in scripture (Genesis 6:4)

<http://www.greekmythology.com/Titans/titans.html>

# Genesis 6:2 - Observations



<sup>2</sup> 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 - Fallen Angel View ←

- Prominent in ancient Jewish & Christian literature
- Supported by NT
  - ✓ 2 Peter 2:4-5
  - ✓ Jude 1:6-7

<sup>6</sup> And the **angels** who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day; <sup>7</sup> 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.

# Genesis 6:2 - Observations



<sup>2</sup> 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.

## ■ Saw .. took

- Language reminiscent of Genesis 3:6
  - ✓ Shows the rebellious nature of this act
- Beautiful
  - ✓ Good
  - ✓ Pleasant
  - ✓ Desirable

So when the woman **saw** that the tree *was* good for food, that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make *one* wise, she **took** of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

# Genesis 6:2 - Observations



<sup>2</sup> 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.

## ■ Took Wives

- Fallen Angels took women to be their wives
- Jesus states that Angels do not marry in heaven

✓ Matthew 22:30

✓ Mark 12:25

- Does not preclude

✓ Marriage on Earth

- Remember Mary

<sup>30</sup> For in the resurrection they **neither marry** nor are **given in marriage**, but are **like angels of God in heaven**.

<sup>25</sup> For when they rise from the dead, they **neither marry** nor are **given in marriage**, but are like **angels in heaven**.



# Humanity's Descent

## *Humanity's Mortality*

Chapters 6:3



### ▪ Lesson 02: Humanity's Descent

*[Genesis 6:1-4]*

- The Sons of God ... [Genesis 6:1-2]
- Humanity's Mortality ... [Genesis 6:3]
- The Nephilim ... [Genesis 6:4]

Outline of what we will cover in this lesson.



# Genesis 6:3 - Observations



<sup>3</sup> 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."

## ■ 120 Years

- Two views

- ✓ People would only live another 120 years before the flood



- ✓ Maximum lifespan would be 120 years

- Patriarch ages were still greater than 120 years

- Continued to Decline

- » Abraham 175 years

- » Moses 120 years



# Humanity's Descent

*The Nephilim*

Chapters 6:4



### ▪ Lesson 02: Humanity's Descent

*[Genesis 6:1-4]*

- The Sons of God ... [Genesis 6:1-2]
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Outline of what we will cover in this lesson.



# Genesis 6:4 - Observations

<sup>4</sup> There were giants 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.

## ■ Giants (NKJV translates Nephilim)

- Translations

- ✓ Hebrew:

- Nephilim - Ha Gibborim - “the mighty ones”

- ✓ Greek: Septuagint (LXX)

- gigantes - “giants” (and they were)
    - gigas - “earth born” (actually means)



# Genesis 6:4 - Observations

<sup>4</sup> There were **giants** 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 - “the fallen ones”

- Context implies
  - ✓ They were the offspring of the sons of God
  - ✓ They would be destroyed in the flood
- Numbers 13:31-33 ... 12 spies
  - ✓ Nephilim used to describe giants
    - Who were native inhabitants of Canaan.
  - ✓ The spies referenced Nephilim (giants) in **verse 33**

Nephilim

<sup>33</sup> There we saw the **giants** (the descendants of Anak came from the **giants**); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight.”

# Genesis 6:4 - Observations



<sup>4</sup> There were giants 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.

## ■ Rephaim

- Giants Anaqim are called Rephaim (Deuteronomy 2:11)
- Two of the most famous of the Raphaim
  - ✓ King Og of Bashan (Deuteronomy 3:11)
    - Huge iron bed could still be seen on display in Rabbah of Ammon
  - ✓ Warrior Goliath
    - Descended from the Raphah in Gath (2 Samuel 21:19ff).
    - Four brothers - Five stones



# Genesis 6:4 - Observations

<sup>4</sup> There were giants 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 - “the fallen ones”

- The Nephilim were both the race of heroes who lived
  - ✓ Before the Flood
  - ✓ In Canaan before the Israelites conquered the Promised Land.
- The Rephaim and Anaqim were defeated
  - ✓ By Joshua, Moses, Caleb, and David
  - ✓ “None of the Anakim were left in the land of the children of Israel; they remained only in Gaza, in Gath, and in Ashdod.” (Joshua 11:22)

# Joshua 11:22 - Remaining Anakim



**22** None of the Anakim were left in the land of the children of Israel; they remained only in Gaza, in Gath, and in Ashdod.

- Remaining Anakim - Gaza, Gath & Ashdod
  - Gaza - Gaza strip - West Bank
  - Gath
  - Ashdod



