

THE SONS OF GOD
(Genesis 6:1-2)

- I. The IDENTITY of the "SONS of GOD" (6:1-2)
 - A. LIBERAL interpretation--only MYTH and SUPERSTITION
 - B. First NATURALISTIC interpretation
 1. "Sons of God" are KINGS and NOBLES, and "daughters of men" are COMMONERS
 2. Problem was intermarriage of ROYALTY and PEASANTS
 - C. Second NATURALISTIC interpretation
 1. "Sons of God" are descendants of SETH, and "daughters of men" are descendants of CAIN
 2. Problem was intermarriage of BELIEVERS and UNBELIEVERS
 3. SUPPORTED by fact "sons of God" often refers to BELIEVERS (Jn 1:12; Rom. 4:18; etc.)
 4. WEAKNESSES
 - a. Neither descendants of SETH nor true BELIEVERS previously referred to this way
 - b. Hebrew *bene elohim* refers to ANGELIC BEINGS in ALL other uses (Job 1:6; 2:1; 38:7)
 - c. Related phrases *bar elohim* (Dan. 3:25) and *bene elim* (Pss. 29:1; 89:6) also refer to ANGELS
 - d. Grossly OVERSIMPLIFIES the pre-Flood population
 - e. Intermarriage of BELIEVERS and UNBELIEVERS unlikely to produce MIGHTY GIANTS

D. SUPERNATURALISTIC interpretation

1. "Sons of God" are ANGELIC BEINGS, and "daughters of men" are HUMAN WOMEN
2. Problem was the attempt of FALLEN ANGELS to prevent the coming of the PROMISED SEED by CORRUPTING the human race
3. SUPPORT
 - a. "Sons of God" seems to indicate ANGELS
 - b. Classic interpretation of ALL WRITERS until Chrysostum and Augustine (including the LXX)
 - c. May explain the MIGHTY GIANTS as OFFSPRING
 - d. ANGELS sometimes identified as "MEN," often APPEARING and ACTING as men (Gen. 18:8; Heb. 13:2; etc.)
4. Questions
 - a. Can ANGELS cohabit with HUMANS and produce OFFSPRING? (Matt 22:30?)
 - b. Would their offspring have been MUTANT HUMANS or a MONGREL RACE, and what about their SOULS?

E. Probable solution

1. SATANIC ANGELS compounded original rebellion by cohabiting with HUMAN WOMEN, "whomever they chose" (cf. Jude 6-7)
2. They may have done so by "possessing" HUMAN MEN to produce DEMONICALLY CONTROLLED and GENETICALLY ALTERED humans

II. Consequences Wrought by the "SONS of GOD"

- A. Produced a "race" of MIGHTY GIANTS (Heb. *nephilim*)
- B. Provoked God to DESTROY most of HUMANITY to preserve the line of the PROMISED SEED
- C. Provoked God to CONFINE these particular DEMONS in *Tartarus* to be "reserved for JUDGMENT" (1 Pet. 3:19-20; 2 Pet. 2:4)