

## The Sons of Adam

In Genesis 5 we find a listing of some of Adam's children:

**Genesis 5:1:** "This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day that God created man, in the likeness of God made he him;  
2 Male and female created he them; and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created."

This chapter tends to get ignored because it is a genealogy. However, it contains some important information that doesn't usually get covered. Because of that I'd like to spend some time going over its contents.

The first thing I'd like to point out is that this genealogy has some peculiar features. For example, take a look at the entry for Adam:

**Genesis 5:3:** "And Adam lived an hundred and thirty years, and begat a son in his own likeness, and after his image; and called his name Seth:  
4 And the days of Adam after he had begotten Seth were eight hundred years: and he begat sons and daughters:  
5 And all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years: and he died."

This verse tells us that Adam had a son named Seth, had other sons and daughters, and then died. All of the listings in this chapter follow the same template: each person had a son, then had other sons and daughters, and then died. I won't quote the entire passage here (you can read it for yourself, if you're interested), but the pattern is repeated time and again.

This brings up a question: was the firstborn child of every single person *really* a son? Nobody had firstborn daughters? For that matter, is this really a listing of *firstborn* children or is there something else going on?

Verse 3 tells us that Adam had a son named Seth. However, we already know that Seth *wasn't* Adam's firstborn; that distinction goes to Cain. Adam had at least two other male children before Seth was born – and possibly more than that, given the fact that Seth was born when Adam was 130 years old. Adam could have had *many* children between the birth of Abel and the birth of Seth. This passage, however, only records one of Adam's children. Cain and Abel don't get mentioned at all.

This passage, then, is *not* a listing of firstborn children, and it's not even a listing of firstborn sons. **This is actually the genealogy of Noah.** The only person mentioned in each generation is the male ancestor of Noah. All of these people had others sons and daughters (as Genesis 5:4 tells us), but they are ignored because they are not in the male line of Noah – who, in turn, is one of the ancestors of Jesus, the Messiah. This is not just Noah's ancestry or our ancestry; it's also the ancestry of Jesus.

Another fact I'd like to point out is that the people in this list **lived for a very, very long time.** There were only 10 generations in the 2,000 years that passed between Adam and the Flood. The following table lists the fathers of each generation, along with how long they lived:

<b>Adam:</b>	930
<b>Seth:</b>	912
<b>Enos:</b>	905
<b>Cainan:</b>	910
<b>Mahalaleel:</b>	895
<b>Jared:</b>	962
<b>Enoch:</b>	365 (He was “translated” at that time.)
<b>Methuselah:</b>	969
<b>Lamech:</b>	777
<b>Noah:</b>	950

If you discount Enoch (who never died) and Lamech, then people on average lived to be 929 years old. These are not “figurative” ages but real ones. These people really did live to be almost a thousand years old. That seems like a staggeringly long time, but remember that mankind was created to live *forever*. If Adam had not sinned then he would have *never died at all*. Even with the consequences of sin, though, he still lived for more than nine centuries.

As I'm sure you've noticed, people don't live this long anymore. Despite what evolutionists will tell you, mankind has *not* improved over the millennia. Instead we've decayed. Our genetic code, which was once perfect, is now filled with mutations. We are becoming *less* fit over time. We aren't evolving into a higher life form; instead we're degrading.

Imagine building a mansion in the middle of a forest and then abandoning it for a few centuries. When you returned you wouldn't find an even bigger mansion that had been upgraded with all of the latest amenities. No, I'm afraid that you would only find ruin and decay. The human race is like that. We are not improving; instead we're falling apart. At one time men lived for nine centuries, but now it's remarkable if someone lives for nine decades. That is just a glimpse at how far we've fallen.

Another interesting thing is that people had children at remarkably old ages:

<b>Seth:</b>	105
<b>Enos:</b>	90
<b>Cainan:</b>	70
<b>Mahalaleel:</b>	65
<b>Jared:</b>	162
<b>Enoch:</b>	65
<b>Methuselah:</b>	187
<b>Lamech:</b>	182
<b>Noah:</b>	500

By modern standards it seems astounding to be having children when you're 90 years old (to say nothing of 187), but given their incredibly long lifespan it's not as strange as it seems. According to the 2008 CIA World Factbook, the average life expectancy for someone living in the United States is 77.5 – 80 years. This means that before the Flood people lived **12 times longer** than we do today. Having a child at 116 would be the equivalent of having a child at the age of 10. People lived so much longer before the Flood that for them being 100 was practically still being in your childhood. Even Noah, who had his first child at the age of 500, has an “equivalent” age of just 42.

After the Flood the average lifespan dropped off dramatically. The following table lists how old each person was when they had their first son, along with how many years they lived after the birth of that child:

**Noah:** 950

**Shem:**  $100 + 500 = 600$  (but had his firstborn 2 years after the Flood, so the flood happened when he was 98.)

**Arphaxad:**  $35 + 403 = 438$

**Salah:**  $30 + 403 = 433$

**Eber:**  $34 + 430 = 464$

**Peleg:**  $30 + 209 = 239$

**Reu:**  $32 + 207 = 239$

**Serug:**  $30 + 200 = 230$

**Nahor:**  $29 + 119 = 148$

**Terah:** bore Abraham at the age of 70 but lived to be 205.

**Abraham:** 175 years, but had Isaac when he was 100.

**Isaac:** 180 years. Had his twin sons when he was ~40.

Looking at these genealogies reveals some interesting facts. Noah lived a normal lifespan for someone born before the Flood, but his children did not. Even though his children were born before the Flood, their lives were dramatically shortened. In fact, the lives of *everyone* were shortened. In just eight generations the average lifespan of man dropped from 929 years down to less than 200 years.

This indicates that there were probably two factors involved with the shortening lifespans: an environmental cause (after all, something shortened Shem's life by 350 years) and a genetic cause. It's difficult to say what these causes were because we don't have access to any pre-Flood human DNA and we also don't really know what the pre-Flood Earth was like. What we do know is that the Flood destroyed the world and devastated the lifespan of mankind. After the Flood the world was never the same.

If we look closely at the data we will discover another an interesting fact. Abraham was born less than three centuries after the Flood:

Flood to Abraham: 292 years

Abraham to Isaac: +100 years = 392

Isaac to Jacob: +40 years = 432 years

Why is this interesting? Well, Noah lived for 350 years after the Flood. Only 292 years elapsed between the Flood and the birth of Abraham, so Noah would have died when Abraham was about 58 years old. Shem lived 502 years after the Flood, so he would have lived long enough to have known Abraham, Issac, *and* Jacob (as Jacob was born ~432 years after the Flood). I do not know if these people actually knew each other, but they were contemporaries.

It's amazing to think that Shem was still alive when Jacob and Esau were growing up. At that point in history you could still talk to someone who had lived in the pre-Flood world. The Flood was not a mere memory; there was still a living eyewitness.

Of course, you can't talk about Genesis 5 without talking about **Enoch**:

**Genesis 5:21:** "And Enoch lived sixty and five years, and begat Methuselah:

22 And Enoch walked with God after he beget Methuselah three hundred years, and begat sons and daughters:

23 And all the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty and five years:

24 And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him."

Enoch is one of the most famous characters in the Bible. His fame stems from the fact that he is one of only two people who have never died (the other being Elijah). Genesis says very little about Enoch except that he "walked with God" and one day he was not found, for God had taken him. However, other passages in the Bible have more to say on this topic.

**Hebrews 11:5:** "By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."

This passage states that Enoch was "translated" (or *raptured*) because of his faith. Enoch pleased God and therefore God supernaturally delivered him from death. The passage goes on to say that you must have faith in order to please God. His faith in God is what led to his translation.

This is one of the reasons why some believe that Enoch's translation is a foreshadowing of the Rapture. Christ told us that the time before His return would be as the days of Noah:

**Matthew 24:37:** "But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be."

We know that the world of Noah's day ignored Noah's warnings about the coming judgment and perished in the Flood. God told Noah to build an ark, and Noah had to live through the Flood and through the judgment of the entire world. Enoch, however, was different. The Lord removed Enoch from the world before the Flood took place – not only sparing his life, but also sparing him from having to live through the judgment of the world. Why was Enoch "raptured"? Because he had faith in God.

The same things can be said about the Church. The true Church – those who are born-again believers in Christ – have faith in God and please Him. Before God judges the world for its sins the Lord will "translate" the Church so that it will not see death. We will then be with God. The parallel between Enoch's translation and the Rapture is quite remarkable.

Nor is this all that the Bible has to say about Enoch. The last mention of Enoch in the Bible is found here:

**Jude 1:14:** "And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints,  
15 To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him."

This passage mentions a prophesy from Enoch, who was the seventh generation from Adam. (Yes, the number seven is a special number; it signifies completion.) It turns out that Enoch was a prophet; in fact, as far as anyone knows, Enoch was the very first prophet. In this passage he prophesied about a time when the Lord would return to Earth with his saints (also known as "The Church") to judge the wicked. This event has not yet happened, but will occur as a part of the Second Coming. Enoch, then, prophesied about the Second Coming *thousands of years before the first coming*

*of Christ!* This is the oldest prophesy about the Second Coming in the Bible.

There is one other area where we can see Enoch's prophetic gift. Enoch named his son Methuselah, which literally means "When he dies, it will come". This name was actually a prophecy. Methuselah lived to be 969 years old, which is longer than anyone else recorded in the Bible. The year that he died the Flood came and put an end to the old world – just as Enoch had prophesied.

On a related note, the name "Noah" means "comfort". It is thought that Lamech named his son Noah because he thought that Noah would be the Messiah and put an end to the world's evil. This is what he said when naming his son:

**Genesis 5:28:** "And Lamech lived an hundred eighty and two years, and begat a son:  
29 And he called his name Noah, saying, This same shall comfort us concerning our work and toil of our hands, because of the ground which the Lord hath cursed."

Here Lamech refers to the curse that God inflicted upon the world because of Adam's sin. Lamech was 56 years old when Adam died, so it's possible that he had heard firsthand of what life was like in the Garden of Eden. He apparently believed that Noah would reverse the curse and put things back to the way they were, but that did not happen. It's true that a descendant of Lamech will one day reverse the curse, but that descendant is Jesus, not Noah.

## The Nephilim

Genesis 6 begins with a tale of intermarriage between the “sons of God” and the “daughters of men”. This union created giants, or “nephilim” in Hebrew. This intermarriage was so evil that it prompted a terrible punishment from the Lord and led to the great Flood. The question is, who were these giants? This is not a topic that is commonly discussed but I believe it's worth investigating.

Let's start by taking a look at the passage itself:

**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 a hundred and twenty years.

4 There were giants<sup>5303</sup> 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<sup>1368</sup> which were of old, men of renown.”

There are a few interesting things about this passage. First of all, no “daughters of God” married “sons of men” – it went strictly the other way. Second, the union resulted only in *sons*. None of the children became “mighty women” and there is no evidence that any *daughters* were born to these couples. That in itself is quite strange and hints that something unusual is going on.

Some claim that the “sons of God” refers to godly men and the “daughters of men” refers to sinful women, and that the passage is speaking about the dangers of marrying unbelievers. But if that is the case then why weren't any daughters born to these couples and why did their offspring become giants? Verse 4 clearly says that each one of these children became “mighty men” of extraordinary ability. All of these facts make it highly unlikely that this is a simple case of believers marrying unbelievers. I think that something else is going on – something quite unusual and disturbing.

We can learn a little more about what is going on by examining the passage's key words. In Hebrew, they are:

**Mighty men:** 1368. Powerful, warrior, tyrant, champion, chief, giant, mighty, strong.

**Giants:** 5303. Hebrew: “nephil”. “It means a bully, a tyrant, a giant. It appears three times in the OT (Gen 6:4, Num 13:33). Since the etymology is uncertain, there is much speculation among reputable scholars concerning the nature of these individuals. Until more evidence becomes available, perhaps it is wise to do as the RSV and NIV translations did: render it “Nephilim”.

Right away we can see that we've stumbled across a mystery. The very definition of the Hebrew word “nephil” is so fraught with uncertainty that scholars recommend the word *remain untranslated!* Once again, if these people are simply humans then why is there all this mystery? If the author had wanted to describe sinful people then there are a lot of clear and well-understood Hebrew words that he could have used, but instead he chose a word that is cloaked in mystery and uncertainty. There is

clearly something significant going on here.

For the record, the only other use of the word “nephilim” (giants) in the Bible can be found here:

**Numbers 13:33:** “And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.”

Notice the description of these beings. The Israeli spies reported that the nephilim were giants of extraordinary size, which matches the description in Genesis 6. These were clearly not normal people and the Israelites were terrified at the sight of them. Of course, this just deepens the mystery. What is going on here?

I believe the key to understanding this passage can be found in the use of the phrase “sons of God”. Each nephilim had two parents: a “son of God” and a “daughter of man”. The phrase “daughter of man” literally means “female”, so that's easy enough to understand. But who were the sons of God? As it turns out, that phrase is used in exactly three other places in the Old Testament. All three occur in the book of Job, and in each case the phrase refers to *angels*:

**Job 1:6:** “Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan came also among them.”

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

**Job 38:4:** “Where was thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? Declare, if thou hast understanding.

5 Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? Or who hath stretched the line upon it?

6 Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? Or who laid the corner stone thereof;

7 When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?”

As you can see, in each case the beings known as the “sons of God” are angels, not men. It's true that in the New Testament believers are called “sons of God” (John 1:12) but at the time when Genesis 6:1-4 was written that was not the case. Job is one of the oldest books of the Bible and it is not a stretch to imagine that the Hebrew phrase “sons of God” carries the same meaning in both Job and Genesis. Therefore, if “sons of God” means “angels” in Job then it also means “angels” in Genesis 6. In this particular case it refers to *fallen* angels, or demons. If the nephilim were the product of a demonic father and a human mother then they would be half-demon and half-human. It's no wonder they were beings of terrible power and breathtaking evil!

It's also worth noting the difference between a “son of man” and a “son of God”: sons of men are *born* while sons of God are *created*. A son of God refers to a being that was created directly by God Himself, which would include Adam and the angels. Once Christ appeared He made it possible for others to become “sons of God” by becoming Christians, but that was not an option in the Old Testament. (Many Old Testament people were saved, but none of them were ever called sons of God.

That only started happening in the New Testament after the appearance of Christ.) Aside from Adam and Eve, all humans are born from human parents and are not created by a direct act of divine will.

(As a side-note, notice that all angels were created directly by God Himself. Angels do not have other angels as parents, nor do they bear offspring. They were all divinely created and therefore they are all “sons of God”).

Some have objected to this interpretation and say that in the New Testament Jesus says that angels are not given in marriage. That statement is true: in Heaven angels do not marry. However, the Bible never says that angels are *incapable* of intermarrying with humans, nor does it say that angelic creatures never marry *on Earth*. What *is* clear is that they are not allowed to marry humans, and that doing so is a great sin that damns the angel for all of eternity. It is not surprising that angels don't marry in Heaven because in Heaven the Lord's will is done. *Demons, however, have no interest in doing the Lord's will.*

I believe Genesis 6 teaches that in the days before the Flood, demons intermarried with humans and produced a new race of powerful, evil beings. This race (which was composed entirely of men) was destroyed by the Flood, which wiped out everyone except for the line of Noah. What's particularly interesting about this is that Noah's genealogy did not include any of these “sons of God”. This is critically important because *the Messiah had to be a pure human*. No Messiah could be part human, part God, and part demon! (This, by the way, is what the Bible means when it says that Noah was perfect in his generations. He was a purebred human and had no demons in his ancestry.)

The nephilim were actually a clever plan by Satan: he was trying to corrupt the genetic line of man in order to make it impossible for the Messiah to come. God solved that problem by wiping out the nephilim in the Flood. In this context the Flood makes a lot of sense – it was *vital* for everything that was tainted by demonic DNA to be wiped out. Of course, Satan wasn't content with just attempting this once; he later tried it again in the land of Canaan in order to stop the Israelites from entering the Promised Land. This could be another reason why God ordered every last Canaanite destroyed – He wanted the nephilim wiped out.

There are a couple of other passages that may be related to the nephilim. The first one can be found in 2 Peter:

**2 Peter 2:4:** “For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell<sup>5020</sup>, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment; 5 And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;”

The word that is used for “hell” in this passage is a very special one that is used *only in this one passage*. This is its definition:

**Hell:** 5020. “Found only in its verbal form in 2 Peter 2:4, meaning to consign to Tartarus (which is neither Sheol of the OT, nor Hades of the NT, nor Gehenna, nor hell, but the place where certain angels are confined, reserved unto judgment). This punishment for these angels is because of their special sin.”

Notice what this says here. These fallen angels (or demons) are confined to a special place called Tartarus. This is actually *not* the same “hell” that we're all familiar with. When people die without accepting Jesus they go to hell, not Tartarus. Tartarus is a special place that is populated only by demons who committed a very special and terrible sin. To put it another way, there are actually *two* hells – the normal one and Tartarus. Humans cannot be sent to Tartarus. It is reserved strictly for a



special class of demons.

Now it's obvious that there are many demons that are not bound in Tartarus. Quite a few of them wander over the surface of the Earth and cause all sorts of horrors. Yet there are some demons who committed a sin so terrible that they are no longer permitted to wander the earth. If this is an accurate reading of the text then what sin did they commit? Isn't it quite likely that the demons that are spoken of here are the "sons of God" that created the nephilim in Genesis 6, and that their great sin was intermarrying with humans?

I think it's worth noting that in the *very next verse* Peter speaks of Noah and the Flood. Isn't it possible that the two verses are related – that the great sin of these angels had something to do with the Flood that destroyed the old world? If fallen angels did intermarry with humans and produced a race of evil offspring, then it would make sense that the Lord would judge it, and it would make sense to mention the Flood when referring to this event. It would also be easy to understand why the Lord imprisoned these demons; He didn't want them doing it again.

There is one other possible mention of this event. It can be found in Jude:

**Jude 1:6:** "And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation<sup>3613</sup>, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.

7 Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire."

Here we have another mention of angels that are "reserved in everlasting chains" and waiting for the final judgment. The very next verse speaks of Sodom and Gomorrha, highlighting it as *a second* example of what happens to those who engage in fornication and immorality. Note the use of the phrase "even as", which seems to indicate that both the angels *and* Sodom were guilty of the same type of sin. If Jude is speaking of fallen angels that intermarried with humans then this makes a lot of sense, for in that case both the demons and the residents of Sodom were guilty of fornication and gross sexual misconduct.

In summary, Genesis 6 teaches that before the Flood, demons took human women for wives and had children with them, producing a strange, fallen, depraved race called the nephilim. The Lord judged this act of wickedness by destroying that race in the Flood and imprisoning the demons who committed this sin in Tartarus, awaiting judgment in the last day.