

Foundations

Series #8

Angelology (the Doctrine of Angels) – Part 2

September 1st, 2024

Read Hebrews 1:14

Catechism – Read Galatians 6:6

INTRODUCTION

Imagine a vast, invisible world teeming with spiritual beings – most of which are, thankfully, ministering spirits. These spirits are ancient, they are powerful, and they are purposeful.

They were all created by God before the foundation of the world. These beings, known as angels, move at the command of the Almighty, executing His will with unwavering precision.

Yet, not all of these beings remain in the light. Some have fallen, having rebelled against their Creator, casting themselves into darkness, becoming the enemies of our souls. These fallen angels, led by Lucifer, now seek to deceive, to kill, and to destroy.

This is not merely a cosmic tale of good versus evil. This is our reality. These angels, both holy and fallen, are woven into the fabric of our lives and our spiritual battles. They are not distant, ethereal forces; they are active, engaged, and integral to the drama of redemption.

In this message, we will embark on a journey through the Scriptures, where the veil between the seen and unseen is drawn back. We will encounter the terrifying reality of fallen angels and their moral corruption.

We will end with a crescendo of hope, a trumpet blast of victory. Though the fallen angels wage their war, the battle is already won. Christ, our conquering King, has triumphed over them at the cross, disarming principalities and powers, and making a public spectacle of them (Colossians 2:15).

In Him, we are more than conquerors (Romans 8:37), and no force in heaven, on earth, or in hell can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

With that, let's now turn our attention to our first point...

FALLEN ANGELS, DEMONS & DEVILS

Mark 1:23-24 “*And there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit; and he cried out, Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of*

Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God."

Unfortunately, not all angels retained their original state of purity. Some, led by Lucifer, rebelled against the Almighty. These fallen angels, or demons, now work against God's purposes, seeking to deceive and destroy.

When Lucifer rebelled and introduced sin into a previously sinless universe, he drew with him a great number (Matthew 25:41; Revelation 12:4). These demons were free to roam the heavens under their leader who became Satan, also called, "*Beelzebub the prince of the devils*" (**Matthew 12:24**), "*Satan and his angels*" (**Matthew 25:41**), and the "*dragon... and his angels*" (**Revelation 12:7**).

In Satan's Kingdom and under his rule, demons are his subjects and helpers (Matthew 12:26). They are so numerous that Satan's power is practically universal.

They are also so well organized that Satan can use them as effectively as a commander-in-chief wielding a great army (**Ephesians 6:12** - *For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places*).

Satan was expelled from the highest heaven or the 3rd heaven, but he still has access to it as he is the accuser of the brethren - but one day, as we find out in Revelation 12, that access is permanently cut off.

And that initiates his rage and the horridness of the last half of the tribulation, *“And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night” (Revelation 12:10).*

Some Demons Are Confined, & Imprisoned Right Now

In addition to the host of demons who are at liberty and serve Satan in the heavenly spheres and on Earth multitudes are also currently confined in the abyss. ***Luke 8:30-31*** *“And Jesus asked him, saying, What is thy name? And he said, Legion: because many devils were entered into him. And they besought him that he would not command them to go out into the deep.”*

If being confined to the deep or the abyss was not a possibility, they would not have pleaded, as they did, to not be sent there.

Revelation 9:2-3, & 11 *“And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit. And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power... And they had a king over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon.”*

These especially depraved demons are confined currently in the deep or the bottomless pit. One day, at a future point

during the tribulation they will be released. Some particularly heinous and depraved fallen angels were evidently put there because these evil spirits were just too harmful to be allowed to continue to roam upon the earth.

However, after the Church has been glorified and removed from the earth at the Rapture. These vile spirits will be let loose to afflict and deceive wicked men who will follow Satan in the last demon-energized rebellion against God.

Now onto an obvious question about demons...

What do Demons do Now?

Fallen angels are invisible, extremely intelligent, strong, and totally and horrifically depraved personalities that can do a great deal of harm to the unregenerate person, leading them into unimaginable wicked, depraved, and evil practices and actions.

Paul speaks to this in ***Ephesians 2:2-3*** “*Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.*”

We are going to briefly look at just a few of the things demons are doing right now:

- (1) Demons use men to oppose God – Satan’s main occupation is opposition to God’s will. The name “Satan” means “adversary” – God’s adversary (Job

1:6; Matthew 13:39). Satan is also man's adversary, especially when we are serving God (***1 Peter 5:8 - Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour***).

- (2) Demons can oppress the mind - like we talked about a few weeks ago in our Sermon on the Mount series, and like Jesus taught in Matthew chapter 4. Many mental and emotional illnesses are due to natural causes and not as a result of demon possession, oppression, or influence. But with that said, demons can oppress the mind.

Demons can influence the mind. Bondage to demonic forces can be of varying degrees, as can yieldedness to God and submission to the control of the Holy Spirit can be.

Some unsaved people who live a balanced moral life are only mildly influenced by demonic spirits, while others who flout God's moral laws are severely influenced to the point of subjection. Others are so dominated that they are oppressed and tormented, and some are completely possessed by evil spirits – I believe this is on the rise in our day and time.

Persistent sin against the moral law and teachings of God opens the door to demonic power that can derange man's mind, weaken his will, alienate and pervert his affections, and disturb his emotions.

- (3) Demons seek to alienate men from God - Demons seek to alienate the unbeliever against the Gospel, causing him to resist the Word of God and hardening him in unbelief and rebellion.

Demons lead people to religious delusions, to embrace, religious heresies, and to be insensitive to the Word of God. Demons lead people to complete apostasy. Which inevitably results in the “*doctrines of devils*” and the denial of Christ's deity (*I Timothy 4:1- Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times, some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils*).

Now I want us to look at the...

Utterly Depraved Demonic History

Turn with me to Genesis 6

The ancient myths and legends of gods, demi-gods, and mighty heroes—stories that echo through the halls of history—are often dismissed as mere fantasy, the product of human imagination. But from a conservative theological and biblical perspective, there may be a sobering reality behind these tales.

Scripture, particularly in Genesis 6, hints at a time when the boundaries between the spiritual and physical realms were breached in a profound and terrifying way. The “*sons of God*,” we are told, took wives from the daughters of men and produced a race of giants, the Nephilim.

This is a cryptic, often debated, yet significant passage that has long intrigued Bible scholars, and yet, we cannot skip over it just because it is debated, just because it seems strange to us.

It is part of the whole counsel of God, and we must study it. If we are to be true Biblicists, we must study the whole counsel of God, we cannot skip over things or passages that make us uncomfortable.

Genesis 6:1-4 says, “*And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them, That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose. And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years. There were giants 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 which were of old, men of renown.*”

These “*sons of God*” are understood by many, to be fallen angels who abandoned their proper estate, crossing a boundary that God had established. Their offspring, described as “*mighty men which were of old, men of renown*” (**Genesis 6:4**), may well be the basis for the ancient legends of demigods and heroes.

Beings who were, if we take the sons of God to mean fallen angels in this passage – as many do, then the offspring of these unholy unions were partly fallen angels, part humans,

and whose exploits, potentially then, shaped the mythologies of civilizations around the world.

These beings, if they existed, were not the benevolent protectors often portrayed in myth but the corrupted offspring of a rebellion against God's created order.

We need to dig deeper, here though, into the Hebrew behind Genesis 6:4, we must examine the specific words and phrases regarding the "*sons of God*," the "*mighty men*."

Genesis 6:4 again, *"There were giants 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 which were of old, men of renown."*

The "Sons of God" (בְּנֵי הָאֱלֹהִים - *bānê hā'ēlōhîm*)¹:

The phrase "*sons of God*" (בְּנֵי הָאֱלֹהִים - *bānê hā'ēlōhîm*) is a critical term in this passage. In the Hebrew Bible, this term is basically always associated with divine beings, specifically angels. For example, in Job 1:6 and Job 2:1, the same term refers to the angelic beings who present themselves before the LORD.

This understanding aligns with the interpretation that these "*sons of God*" were indeed fallen angels "*which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation*" (**Jude 1:6**), crossing a boundary that God had established between the

¹ Please see Appendix Two for more information.

spiritual and human realms. So they crossed a boundary that God had established.

This crossing of boundaries was not merely a physical act but a profound and depraved rebellion against God's created order. These beings, originally intended to serve God, instead sought to corrupt and dominate the human race by potentially mingling with the "*daughters of men*."

The Offspring: "Mighty Men" (גִּבּוֹרִים - *gibbôrîm*):

The offspring of this unholy union are described as "*mighty men*" (גִּבּוֹרִים - *gibbôrîm*). The Hebrew word *gibbôrîm* carries the connotation of strength, power, and heroism. It is used elsewhere in the Old Testament to describe warriors or champions, as in the case of David's mighty men (II Samuel 23:8-39).

The phrase "*which were of old, men of renown*" (אֲנָשִׁים שֶׁמַּ - 'ānāšîm šēm) further emphasizes their fame and reputation. The Hebrew word *šēm* (שֶׁם) means "name" or "reputation," indicating that these beings were renowned not only for their strength but also for their influence. Their presence and abilities demanded respect. They had the ability to very strongly influence people.

The "Giants" (נְפִלִים - *nəp̄îlîm*):

The term "*giants*" in Genesis 6:4 is translated from the Hebrew word *nəp̄îlîm* (נְפִלִים). This word is derived from the root *npl* (נָפַל), which means "to fall." The Nephilim are then literally the "fallen ones" or giant "fallen ones."

The *nāpîlîm* are often understood to be the offspring of the "*sons of God*" and the "*daughters of men*," though some suggest they could be the fallen angels themselves. The idea of "falling" ties into the concept of these beings as fallen angels who have "fallen" from their original state of grace and obedience to God.

The *nāpîlîm* are mentioned again in Numbers 13:33, where the spies describe them as giants in the land of Canaan, causing fear and dread among the Israelites. This further supports the notion that these beings were not merely large in stature but also formidable in power and influence.

The Hebrew terms and phrases in Genesis 6:4 provide substantial support for the interpretation that the "*sons of God*" were indeed fallen angels, whose rebellion may have led to the birth of giants or Nephilim and the *gibbôrîm* or mighty men.²

These beings, far from being benevolent, were corrupt and played a significant role in the moral and spiritual decline of humanity before the Flood.

Their influence before the Flood was catastrophic, leading to a world so corrupted by violence and sin that God determined to cleanse it with judgment. But even after the Flood, traces of this rebellion persisted.

The post-diluvian accounts of mighty men like Nimrod, who sought to establish his own dominion on the earth, and the

² Please see Appendices One & Two for more detailed information about this conclusion.

reappearance of giants in Canaan, indicate that the dark influence of these fallen beings continued to ripple through history. The lingering echoes of their rebellion may explain the persistence of such myths across cultures and time.

But God is Still Sovereign

Turn with me to Luke 22:31-32

One thing we need to keep at the forefront of our minds when we consider the subject of fallen angels is that our God is still sovereign. God is sovereign and in perfect control of the universe.

His plan will prevail despite satanic opposition. God uses demons actually to punish the ungodly. We see this in Psalm 78. And in the case of Ahab at Ramoth-Gilead (I Kings 22).

God also uses demons to chasten. In Peter's case, the Lord used Satan's sifting to separate truth from falsehood. Notice what Jesus said in ***Luke 22:31-32*** “*Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.*”

Through the ultimate fate of Satan, demons, and fallen men, God demonstrates to all the universe the nature and end of moral evil (Matthew 8:29).

Demonic doom in the Lake of Fire will both vindicate God's tolerance of demonic evil and deeds and demonstrate before all created beings the exceeding sinfulness of sin and its inevitable punishment -spending eternity in the Lake of Fire.

But there is good news now to consider...

THE ADVENT OF CHRIST CHANGED EVERYTHING

In **Matthew 12:29**, Jesus says, “*how can one enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man? and then he will spoil his house.*”

With the advent of Christ and His victory at the cross, a profound change occurred. As we discuss in more detail in a moment, in Matthew 12:29, Jesus speaks of binding the strong man. This binding was not merely a spiritual metaphor but a decisive action that had tangible effects on the world.

The blatant, public activity of demonic forces that characterized the ancient world was drastically curtailed. The binding of Satan and his minions through Christ's death and resurrection meant that their ability to deceive and dominate on a grand, visible scale was severely restricted. The gods and demi-gods of old, if rooted in the reality of fallen angels, were rendered powerless in the light of Christ's triumph.

This is why we do not see the same kind of overt spiritual manifestations today. The myths and legends that once flourished were but shadows of the spiritual warfare that raged unchecked before Christ came to bind the strong man.

The Cross Was the Turning Point

Now, though the forces of darkness still operate in the shadows, their public, unchecked dominion is broken.

- The cross was the turning point.
- The cross was the event that changed everything.

Christ, by binding the strong man, has ensured that the ancient horrors, once visible in the exploits of gods and giants, are confined, awaiting their final judgment.

Before the cross of Christ, the activity of fallen angels, demons, and devils seemed to be, based on the biblical record, and historical accounts and legends of gods and demigods, a lot more active. Their activity was also alarmingly public, brazen, and overt.

The Gospels are saturated with accounts of demonic possession, with men and women tormented, and enslaved by spirits who shrieked, convulsed, and dragged their victims to the very brink of destruction.

It is as if, in those days, the forces of darkness felt emboldened. They unleashed their fury on humanity, knowing that the culmination of their rebellion was at hand, knowing the hour had come for the Son of God to confront them in open battle.

Think of the account we read earlier in Mark 1:23-24 about the man in the synagogue with an unclean spirit who cried out as Jesus taught. Also consider the demoniac of Gadara, whose name was Legion, for many devils had entered into him, driving him to live among the tombs, cutting himself, and howling in misery (Mark 5:1-13).

The presence of these demonic forces was unmistakable, raw, and terrifying. They knew who Jesus was, the Holy One

of God, and they trembled at His coming. But they had yet to face the full force of His victory.

Turn with me to Matthew 12

Now, Let's Look More at the Binding of the Strong Man

- Why the seemingly often public displays of their power in the ancient world before Christ?
- Why did the forces of hell seem to operate with such brazen visibility before Christ shed blood and death?

The answer is tied to the victory of Jesus Christ at Calvary—a victory that fundamentally altered the balance of power in the spiritual realm.

Matthew 12:22-29 “Then was brought unto him one possessed with a devil, blind, and dumb: and he healed him, insomuch that the blind and dumb both spake and saw. And all the people were amazed, and said, Is not this the son of David? But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, This fellow doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils. And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand: And if Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself; how shall then his kingdom stand? And if I by Beelzebub cast out devils, by whom do your children cast them out? therefore they shall be your judges. But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you. Or else how can one enter into a strong

man's house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man? and then he will spoil his house.”

Look with me again at **Matthew 12:29**, where Jesus says, *“Or else how can one enter into a strong man’s house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man? and then he will spoil his house.”* Here, Jesus reveals the strategy of His mission.

Now Turn to Colossians 2:13-15

The “*strong man*” is Satan, the prince of this world, who held sway over the nations, blinding their eyes and enslaving their hearts. But Jesus came:

- to bind him,
- to strip him of his power,
- to spoil his house,
- and to set the captives free.

At the cross, Jesus bound the strong man. He disarmed principalities and powers, making a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it (**Colossians 2:13-15** - *And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it).*

The cross was not just a moment of personal suffering for Christ; it was the cosmic victory of God over every force of darkness.

The public manifestation of demonic power waned after the cross because their authority had been decisively broken. The demons still exist and work to deceive and destroy, but their power is restrained, their reign is over, and their defeat is certain.

We Live in the Light of this Victory

The visible, public influence of the demonic world has been greatly reduced because the strong man—Satan—has been defeated by the stronger Man, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Through His victory on the cross and His resurrection, Christ has triumphed over the powers of darkness.

After ascending to Heaven, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to indwell and empower believers, restraining the full force of evil in the world while the church remains on this earth, fulfilling its mission.

But we know one day, at the Rapture, the restraining ministry of the Holy Spirit will be ended, and once again demonic activity on this earth will roar back and become public.

And all but the elect will be deceived by it and turn to it in worship as countless men and cultures did before Jesus' victory on the cross, His binding of the strong man, and the arrival of the Restrainer.

As Christians, we know our King has already won. The strong man, Satan, is bound, and his house is being plundered, men are being pulled from His influence and clutches and receiving eternal life, by the grace of our conquering Christ. Let us march forward with boldness, with the assurance that the victory belongs to our God.

Now, Why Does All This Fallen Angel Stuff Matter?

"And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, He hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day." (Jude 1:6)

These verses, we believe, may reveal the fate of the particular fallen angels of Genesis 6, cast out of their rightful place, bound in darkness, and awaiting final judgment.

***II Peter 2:4-5** "For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment; 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."*

These currently bound demons are those that left their first estate (II Peter 2:4-5; Jude 1:6). These are thought by many to be the "sons of God" (fallen angels or demons) who produced moral chaos in God's established order of created beings.

Their crime was so enormous that these lawless spirits, these demons were punished with imprisonment in the abyss - the bottomless pit.

Their rebellion is a stark reminder of the boundaries set by God for His created beings; boundaries that are not to be transgressed.

But boundaries of created order are being transgressed all around us though:

- with the sodomy all around us,
- with the transgenderism all around us,
- with the killing of innocent babies in the womb all around us,
- with the butchering of children, in the name of transgenderism, all around us.

The boundaries of the created order are being transgressed, blatantly transgressed, all around us today.

So why does it matter what God did to these angels who transgressed and went beyond the boundaries of nature set by God?

Because their fate should serve as a warning and an example to men and to societies who go beyond those boundaries set by God or condone or support such desecration and transgression of the natural boundaries God has set up for human flourishing and holiness.

- So why does the fate of these angels' matter?

- Why should we care about the ancient rebellion of divine beings?
- Why should we care about what happened in Genesis 6?

Because their story is part of a larger narrative about the corrupting of God's creation and the ongoing battle between good and evil. ***Ephesians 6:12*** reminds us, "*For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*"

The influence of these fallen beings—is not confined to ancient history. Their rebellion set in motion a chain of events that continues to affect the world today.

They are part of the spiritual forces that oppose God's kingdom, and as believers, we are called to stand firm against them, clothed in the armor of God.

The account of these fallen angels, then, is a powerful testimony to:

- the seriousness of sin,
- the reality of spiritual warfare,
- and the ultimate victory of God over all His enemies.

Their rebellion serves as a warning, but also as a reminder of the hope we have in Christ—a hope that is unshakable, for He has "*disarmed principalities and powers, He made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it*" (***Colossians 2:15***).

- In Christ, we are victorious.
- In Christ, the rebellion is defeated.

And in Christ, the fallen angels' story will eventually become a footnote in the grand narrative of redemption and our eternal history with God, a narrative where God is glorified, and His kingdom reigns supreme forever.

This brings us to our final encouraging point...

VICTORY IN JESUS

Turn with me to I John 4:4

Finally, we will end on a note of triumphant hope. Despite the malevolent activities of fallen angels, we are assured of victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

He has already triumphed over them on the cross, disarming principalities and powers, and making a show of them openly (Colossians 2:15). Our victory is secure in HIM, and we are more than conquerors through HIM that loved us (Romans 8:37).

The comforting and inspiring message for the heart of God's children is ***I John 4:4*** “*Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.*”

- “*He that is in you*” referring to our all-conquering God;
- “*he that is in the world*” meaning Satan, the antagonist of God and man.

Although Satan is relentless in his unrighteous war, aided by his legions of darkness, he is a defeated foe.

“One greater than he appeared, and by his life, death, and resurrection robbed him of his power and authority and destroyed his works. Fight on he may, but he knows only too well that One greater than he is in the world to liberate those in his cruel bondage.”³

The supreme purpose of the Incarnation was destruction of the works of the Devil, **I John 3:8** says, *“He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.”*

Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil. Jesus came that we might have victory through him, through faith in Him, by the grace of God.

The superior greatness of Jesus is based upon the fact that although Satan has power, he is not all-powerful like the risen Christ:

- Who is Omnipotent.
- Who is Omniscient.
- Who is Omnipresent.
- And Who is the sinless Lord.

³ (Lockyer, 1995)

One author described it this way, “*Satan may possess potent forces united in their diabolical purpose (for Satan never casts out Satan), but he does not share the omnipotence of deity. Christ met His adversary alone, and single-handedly assailed the wickedness, and triumphed gloriously over them.*”⁴ The strong man has been bound by the One who has the preeminence and is Lord of all.

Christ is not only all-powerful, He is all-wise, all-knowing, and all-intelligent. Christ can discern satanic approaches afar off. He can read the devil’s mind, but the devil cannot read His mind.

Satan also cannot be everywhere at the same time as his conqueror can, as Christ can. As Christ is. “*We concede that Satan has universal influence, for the whole world is in the lap of such a wicked one, but his actual presence, like his power, is limited.*”⁵

How we thank the Lord and how fortunate we are, and how much we bless the Lord for His omnipresence. Which enables Him to promise that no matter where we may go in the world, He will never leave us nor forsake us.

- We will never be alone.
- As a Christian, you will never be alone.
- You will never have to face the devil or his fallen angels or the temptations they throw at you alone.

⁴ (Lockyer, 1995)

⁵ (Lockyer, 1995)

- For Christ is with you,
- and with Christ with you, you can have the victory.

Albert Barnes, talking about the ultimate victory of Christ, wrote in his commentary:

“Now is approaching the decisive scene, the eventful period – the crisis – when it shall be determined who shall rule the world. There has been a long conflict between the powers of light and darkness – between God and the Devil. Satan has so far effectually ruled, that he may be said to be the prince of this world.

But [the] death [of Christ] will be the means of setting up the kingdom of God over man. The death of Christ was to be the most grand and effectual of all means that could be used to establish the authority of the law and the government of God (Romans 8:3-4)... The death of Jesus was the determining cause, the grand crisis, the concentration of all that God had ever done, or will do, to break down the kingdom of Satan, and set up His power over man... It was the fulfillment of the prediction of Genesis 3:15.”⁶

Which says, *“And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel” (Genesis 3:15).*

- Christ has the victory.

⁶ (Barnes, 1962)

- Christ is the Victor.
- Satan is a conquered foe.
- We have victory through Christ!

“We are doomed to failure if we try to meet Satan on his own ground. Our holy hope of victory is to meet him in the virtue and power of the Redeemer.”⁷

I John 4:4 *"Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world."*

II Corinthians 10:3-4 *"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)."*

And ***Colossians 2:15*** says, *"And having spoiled principalities and powers, He made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it."*

One commentator put it this way talking about Satan, *“Calvary was his Waterloo, and faith overcomes the accuser of the brethren by the blood of the Lamb.”⁸*

Revelation 12:11 *"And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death."*

⁷ (Lockyer, 1995)

⁸ (Lockyer, 1995)

We Must Also Keep in Mind, Again, That God is Sovereign

Satan cannot go beyond God or what God allows. As one commentator put it, *“His freedom of range in the air and on the earth is that of a chained prisoner under sentence. By faith, we must appropriate the victory over all satanic powers Christ secured by His death and resurrection.”*⁹

We have a blessed promise that the Lord is able and willing to deliver us from every evil work and preserve us unto His heavenly kingdom (II Timothy 4:18). Let us take advantage of the strength made available to us from our omnipotent Lord. Let us rest in Him with full confidence that He will vanquish every foe.

CONCLUSION

I am going to read something that John and Charles Wesley wrote about this subject, and it is a poem and a hymn, then I will add a few thoughts, and we will close.

"Angels, Your March Oppose"

Angels, your march oppose

Who still in strength excel,

Creatures, invisible:

With rage that never ends,

Their hellish arts they try;

Legions of dire, malicious fiends,

⁹ (Lockyer, 1995)

And spirits enthroned on high.

*Go up with Christ your head;
Your Captain's footsteps see;
Follow your Captain, and be led
To certain victory.*

*All power to him is given;
He ever reigns the same.
Salvation, happiness, and heaven
Are all in Jesus's name*

*Only have faith in God;
In faith your foes assail;
Not wrestling against flesh and blood,
But all the power of hell
From thrones of glory driven,
By flamey vengeance hurl'd,
They throng the air, and darken heaven,
And rule the lower world.¹⁰*

This battle is not a mere tale of ancient history—it rages even now, in the depths of your soul and in the heights of heavenly places. Fallen angels, those powers of darkness, wage war against the light.

¹⁰ John & Charles Wesley – written in 1749

- They seek to devour.
- They seek to deceive.
- And they seek to destroy.

But hear this: Christ has triumphed!

He has disarmed principalities and powers, making a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross (Colossians 2:15).

This victory is not distant; it is near, it is now, and it demands our response.

- Will we stand in the power of the Redeemer, clothed in the armor of God?
- Or will we let ourselves fall prey to the schemes and temptations of the devil?

You cannot fight this battle in your own strength. The devil is a roaring lion, and you are no match for him on your own ground. But Christ has crushed the serpent's head! In Him, you are more than a conqueror (Romans 8:37).

The choice before you is not one to delay. The forces of darkness are relentless, and your soul hangs in the balance.

- Will you embrace the victory won by the blood of the Lamb?
- Or will you walk the path of defeat, trying to stand in your own might?

The decision is yours but know this: neutrality is a lie from the enemy. To not decide is to decide against Christ. Let me say that again, to not decide to live for Christ is to decide to live for the devil.

Repent, therefore, and turn to the Savior! Lay hold of His victory, stand firm in His strength and watch the enemy flee.

The time is now, and the victory is assured, but the question remains—will we stand with Christ, or fall with the enemy?

Choose this day whom you will serve. The Lord of Hosts, the King of Glory, is calling. Will we answer His call?

APPENDIX ONE

Technical and Detailed Breakdown of the Hebrew of Genesis 6:4

Genesis 6:4 "There were giants 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 which were of old, men of renown."

Hebrew Text:

הַנְּפִלִים הָיוּ בָּאָרֶץ בְּיָמֵם הָהֵם וְגַם אֲחֵרֵי־כֵן אֲשֶׁר יָבֹאוּ בְנֵי־הָאֱלֹהִים אֶל־
בָּנוֹת הָאָדָם וַיִּלְדוּ לָהֶם הֵמָּה הַגִּבּוֹרִים אֲשֶׁר מְעוֹלָם אָנָּשִׁי הָשֵׁם

Literal Translation and Analysis:

(1) הַנְּפִלִים (ha-nəp̄îlîm)

- *Literal Translation:* "The Nephilim" or "The fallen ones."
- *Note:* This word is often translated as "giants," but its root comes from the verb *npl* (נפל), which means "to fall." The *Nephilim* are commonly understood to be beings of extraordinary size or might, possibly with a connection to the fallen angels.

(2) הָיָו (hāyû)

- *Literal Translation:* "Were" or "existed."
- *Note:* This indicates that these beings were present.

(3) בָּאָרֶץ (bā'āreṣ)

- *Literal Translation:* "In the earth" or "in the land."
- *Note:* Refers to their presence on the physical earth.

(4) בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם (bayyāmîm hāhêm)

- *Literal Translation:* "In those days."
- *Note:* Specifies the time period when these beings existed.

(5) וְגַם אַחֲרָיוֹ (wəgam 'aḥărê-kēn)

- *Literal Translation:* "And also after that."

- Note: This phrase suggests that the Nephilim continued to exist even after the specific events being described.

(6) אָשֶׁר יָבֹאוּ (ʾāšer yābōʾû)

- *Literal Translation:* "When they came."
- Note: Refers to the action of the "sons of God" coming to the "daughters of men."

(7) בְּנֵי־הָאֱלֹהִים (bənê-hā'elōhîm)

- *Literal Translation:* "The sons of God."
- Note: This phrase is typically understood to refer to divine beings or angels.

(8) אֶל־בָּנוֹת הָאָדָם (ʾel-bənôt hā'ādām)

- *Literal Translation:* "Unto the daughters of men."
- Note: Refers to human women, emphasizing the intermingling between the divine and human.

(9) וַיֵּלְדוּ לָהֶם (wəyāləḏû lāhem)

- *Literal Translation:* "And they bore children to them."
- Note: Indicates the offspring produced from this union.

(10) הֵמָּה הַגִּבּוֹרִים (hēmāh haggibbôrîm)

- *Literal Translation:* "These were the mighty men."
- Note: The word *gibbôrîm* (גִּבּוֹרִים) implies strength or heroism, often used to describe warriors or champions.

(11) אֲשֶׁר מֵעוֹלָם (’ăšer mē’ôlām)

- *Literal Translation:* "Who were of old."
- Note: Refers to the ancient times, indicating that these mighty men were well-known from antiquity.

(12) אֲנָשֵׁי הַשֵּׁם (’ănšê haššēm)

- *Literal Translation:* "Men of renown" or "Men of the name."
- Note: The term *šēm* (שֵׁם) means "name," implying that these individuals were famous or had a notable reputation and could exude considerable influence.

Literal Translation of Genesis 6:4:

"The Nephilim were in 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. These were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown."

Analysis and Understanding:

- The passage, almost certainly, seems to describe a time when supernatural beings ("sons of God")

intermingled with human women ("daughters of men"), producing offspring who were known as *Nephilim* and *gibbôrîm*—"mighty men" with significant renown.

- The word *Nephilim* suggests beings of a fallen nature, which may connect to the concept of fallen angels.
- The phrase "mighty men" (*gibbôrîm*) refers to their exceptional strength and status, while "men of renown" (*ʾānšê haššēm*) emphasizes their fame or possibly infamous reputation.

This passage is often interpreted as describing the introduction of significant corruption and moral decline on the earth, contributing to the necessity of the Flood that follows in the Genesis narrative.

APPENDIX TWO

Meaning and Usage of "בְּנֵי הָאֱלֹהִים" (*bənê hā'ēlōhîm*)

The phrase "sons of God" appears in several places in the Old Testament, and its interpretation varies slightly depending on the context. Primarily, it refers to angelic or divine beings, but some interpretations suggest it can also refer to righteous humans or descendants of Seth. Let's examine these usages in detail.

- (1) As Angelic or Divine Beings: The most common and traditional interpretation of "sons of God" in the Old

Testament is that it refers to angelic beings, members of the heavenly realm created by God to serve and worship Him. This understanding is supported by several passages:

Genesis 6:2: *"That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose."*

Genesis 6:4: *"There were giants 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..."*

Analysis:

- In this context, "sons of God" is understood to refer to angelic beings who interacted with human women, leading to the birth of the Nephilim, described as giants and mighty men of old.
- The Septuagint (the Greek translation of the Old Testament) translates this phrase as "angels of God", reinforcing the interpretation of divine beings.
- This view is also supported by ancient Jewish literature and early Christian writings, which interpret these "sons of God" as fallen angels who rebelled against God's order.

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."*

Analysis:

- Here, "sons of God" clearly refers to angelic beings gathered in the heavenly court before the LORD.
- Satan's presence among them indicates a setting in the spiritual realm where divine beings report or present themselves to God.
- The term emphasizes their creation by God and their role as His servants or messengers.

Job 38:7: *"When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?"*

Analysis:

- In this poetic passage, God speaks of the creation of the world, with "morning stars" and "sons of God" rejoicing.
- Both terms are understood as metaphors for angelic beings, celebrating God's creative work.

- The imagery underscores their presence before humanity and their role in God's cosmic order.

(2) As Righteous Humans or Descendants of Seth: An alternative interpretation posits that "sons of God" refers to righteous human beings, specifically the godly lineage of Seth, Adam's third son.

Contextual Basis in Genesis:

- This view suggests that the "sons of God" (Seth's descendants) intermarried with the "daughters of men" (descendants of Cain), leading to moral corruption and prompting the judgment of the Flood.
- Supporters of this interpretation argue that the term can denote those who worship and follow God, aligning with other biblical usages where believers are called children of God.

Support from New Testament Language:

- While not directly applied in the Old Testament, the New Testament often refers to believers as "sons of God": ***Romans 8:14: "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God."***

Analysis:

- This usage underscores a spiritual relationship with God based on faith and obedience.
- However, it's important to note that this New Testament concept may not directly influence the Old Testament usage but provides a broader understanding of the term.

(3) Contextual Determination and Exceptions: The meaning of "בְּנֵי הָאֱלֹהִים" (*bənê hā'ēlōhîm*) or “sons of God” is primarily determined by the context:

- In Job and early Genesis, the term consistently points to angelic beings.
- No clear Old Testament passages use this specific Hebrew phrase to denote human beings; thus, interpretations leaning toward humans often rely on theological reasoning rather than direct textual evidence. We must be Biblicists and let the Bible translate the Bible and not our theological bias translate it instead.
- Exceptions or variations are minimal in the Old Testament, and the angelic interpretation remains the most widely accepted among scholars, and traditional Jewish and Christian teachings.

Conclusion

The term "בְּנֵי הָאֱלֹהִים" (*bənê hā'ēlōhîm*) in the Hebrew Old Testament predominantly refers to angelic beings, members

of God's heavenly host created to serve and worship Him. This understanding is clearly supported by contexts in Genesis and Job, where these "sons of God" interact within the divine realm or intersect with human history in profound ways.

While alternative interpretations exist, suggesting a reference to righteous human lineages, the textual and contextual evidence strongly favors the angelic understanding. Recognizing this helps us grasp the spiritual realities and battles depicted in Scripture and underscores the majesty and sovereignty of GOD over all creation, both seen and unseen.

As we study these profound truths, may we be reminded of the ultimate authority of our LORD and the victory we have through JESUS CHRIST, who reigns supreme over all powers and principalities. Let us take comfort and stand firm in the knowledge that our GOD commands the hosts of heaven and has secured our redemption through His infinite grace and power.

Ephesians 6:12: *"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."*

May this understanding equip us to better comprehend the depths of Scripture and live faithfully under the LORDSHIP of CHRIST.

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