

**Studies in Genesis Chapter 6**  
**Volume 1: Verses 1-4**

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Chris McCann

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# Introduction

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In Genesis Chapter 6, we learn about the time before the flood, which occurred over 7,000 years ago, in the year 4990 B.C. God did not give us this chapter of the Bible simply to give us a history lesson, but there is deeper spiritual meaning that relates to the time of the end, where we now find ourselves living.

By looking at the first four verses of Genesis 6, we will learn many truths, and see the importance of looking up each word and comparing Scripture with Scripture.

Some of the questions that will be addressed in this booklet include:

- Have there always been two lines: believers and unbelievers?
- Will there come a time when God will no longer be saving people?
- Does the Lord set dates?
- What did God mean when he told Noah that his days will be 120 years?
- Who were the giants in the earth in those days, and who do they represent?
- How are we to understand the verse, “The sons of God came in unto the daughters of men”?

The answers to these questions, as well as other material, will be discussed in this publication. It is our prayer that God will bless your study as you go through this carefully and see, like the Bereans, whether these things are so.

## Chapter 1: The Sons of God and the Daughters of Men

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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 an hundred and twenty years.**  
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.**

In these opening verses of Genesis 6, God is giving us an overview of the historical situation in the world of that time. It took quite a while, but men began to multiply on the face of the earth. This was around the time of Noah, who was born more than 5,000 years after the world was created. (We will pin down a more exact date when we discuss the 120 years mentioned in Genesis 6:3.) Of course, we know there were two lines, as there always are in the world: there is the line of the believers, and among those believers are God's elect, and then there is the line of the unbelievers.

In time past, whenever God formed a corporate body, like Israel of old or the New Testament church, the unbelievers would soon infiltrate the body of believers. One of the primary means of infiltration, as Satan sowed tares among the wheat (Matthew 13:25), was through the institution of marriage: the unsaved entered into marriage with a child of God (here called "sons of God"). The children that are born from these spiritually mixed marriages will often follow the path of the unbeliever, and, as a result, there will be an observable shift in doctrine away from God. Anyone who moves away from God, moves toward the world and toward Satan. Therefore, historically, one of Satan's biggest tactics for infiltration of Old Testament Israel or of the New Testament corporate church has been marriage. For instance, we see this very thing in view at the time when Israel was in the wilderness. In Numbers 31:1-2, the Lord ordered that Israel be avenged of the Midianites because the Midianitish women were leading the Israelites away from the true God of the Bible and toward their own idolatrous practices. The army of Israel carried out the battle against Midian and won a great victory. How-

ever, they spared some of the women:

**Numbers 31:14 And Moses was wroth with the officers of the host, *with* the captains over thousands, and captains over hundreds, which came from the battle.**

**15 And Moses said unto them, Have ye saved all the women alive?**

**16 Behold, these caused the children of Israel, through the counsel of Balaam, to commit trespass against the LORD in the matter of Peor, and there was a plague among the congregation of the LORD.**

It was a tactic of the enemy, through Balaam's counsel, to persuade Israel by using the women of Midian. Balaam was a false prophet and, therefore, under the power of Satan (Jude 11). This was a fairly common method of the enemy throughout the history of Israel and all through the Church Age. After the people of Judah came out of Babylon and returned to Judah and Jerusalem, what does the Bible say was their sin? It was to be unequally yoked with women from other nations:

**Ezra 9:1 Now when these things were done, the princes came to me, saying, The people of Israel, and the priests, and the Levites, have not separated themselves from the people of the lands, *doing* according to their abominations, *even* of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Jebusites, the Ammonites, the Moabites, the Egyptians, and the Amorites.**

**2 For they have taken of their daughters for themselves, and for their sons: so that the holy seed have mingled themselves with the people of *those* lands: yea, the hand of the princes and rulers hath been chief in this trespass.**

**3 And when I heard this thing, I rent my garment and my mantle, and plucked off the hair of my head and of my beard, and sat down astonished.**

**4 Then were assembled unto me every one that trembled at the words of the God of Israel, because of the transgression of those that had been carried away; and I sat astonished until the evening sacrifice.**

Later on in the same chapter it says:

**Ezra 9:12 Now therefore give not your daughters unto their sons, neither take their daughters unto your sons, nor seek their**

**peace or their wealth for ever: that ye may be strong, and eat the good of the land, and leave *it* for an inheritance to your children for ever.**

**13 And after all that is come upon us for our evil deeds, and for our great trespass, seeing that thou our God hast punished us less than our iniquities *deserve*, and hast given us *such* deliverance as this;**

**14 Should we again break thy commandments, and join in affinity with the people of these abominations? wouldest not thou be angry with us till thou hadst consumed *us*, so that *there should* be no remnant nor escaping?**

**15 O LORD God of Israel, thou *art* righteous: for we remain yet escaped, as *it is* this day: behold, we *are* before thee in our trespasses: for we cannot stand before thee because of this.**

To be “unequally yoked” means that a child of God has married one that is not of the elect, or not of God, and they have no identification with God. It is a grievous sin. The Bible uses very severe language condemning this sin, and God indicates that it is something that will get you into serious trouble. God is not the least bit pleased when it happens. He was not pleased with Israel in the wilderness when they were deceived by the women of Midian, and He was not pleased with the Jews that escaped from Babylon and returned to their land, and fell into the sin that had previously brought God’s wrath upon them. And God was not pleased in Genesis Chapter 6 when this practice first occurred (or, at least, this is the first time we are reading about it), as these two “lines” are developing.

We are approaching the time of the flood and we know that there were only eight people delivered by entering into the ark in that day. It was a time that God tells us when men began to multiply on the face of the earth. The word translated as “multiply” in Genesis 6:1 is related to the Hebrew word that was found back in Genesis Chapter 1 where God commanded man to be fruitful and “multiply.” The Hebrew word in Genesis 6:1 is Strong’s #7231 and the word in Genesis 1:22 is Strong’s #7235. This word in Genesis 6:1, Strong’s #7231, is sometimes translated as “increase” or “multiply,” and it is translated one time as “ten thousands,” so it could be translated as, “And it came to pass, when men began to be ten thousands on the face of the earth.”

This word is also related to another Hebrew word (Strong’s #7233) that is translated as “ten thousands” 13 times, which does give the idea of there being larger numbers of people. However, it is still “ten thousands,” and if you had several hundred thousand people, that would be several “ten thou-

sands.” It gives an idea of a growing population, but a limited one in comparison to the population of our world today. You may find several million people in one city in our day, and we are now approaching 7.5 billion people on the earth, so the population of the world of that time, 120 years before the flood, was hundreds of thousands or perhaps one million, at most, and possibly a couple of million at the time of the flood. At that time, which was before the Tower of Babel and the continental division that took place in the days of Peleg, there was one continent with all the people all speaking one language, and they were probably living in fairly close proximity to one another. While there would have been some people that were more nomadic than others, the greatest portion of the population would have lived clustered together, and undoubtedly Noah would have been among them at the time he built the ark.

Again, of this approximately two million people, there were two “lines.” There was the line of professed believers that followed the line of Seth, and then there was the line of Cain. Earlier in Genesis, God gave a good amount of detail concerning the descendants of Cain:

**Genesis 4:16 And Cain went out from the presence of the LORD, and dwelt in the land of Nod, on the east of Eden.**

**17 And Cain knew his wife; and she conceived, and bare Enoch: and he builded a city, and called the name of the city, after the name of his son, Enoch.**

**18 And unto Enoch was born Irad: and Irad begat Mehujael: and Mehujael begat Methusael: and Methusael begat Lamech.**

**19 And Lamech took unto him two wives: the name of the one was Adah, and the name of the other Zillah.**

**20 And Adah bare Jabal: he was the father of such as dwell in tents, and of such as have cattle.**

**21 And his brother's name was Jubal: he was the father of all such as handle the harp and organ.**

**22 And Zillah, she also bare Tubal-cain, an instructor of every artificer in brass and iron: and the sister of Tubal-cain was Naamah.**

Of course, Cain’s line developed at the time of the earliest days of human history. The separation of the two lines was highlighted when Cain killed Abel and God appointed another seed, Seth, in his stead, when Adam was 130 years old (Genesis 4:25, 5:3). Prior to the birth of Seth, Cain was driven off and his line was removed from the “believing” line, which developed from Seth and his descendants. We see from the passage in Genesis 4 that

there were children born to Cain and they built cities and produced various things. By the time of Noah (Noah was born in 5590 B.C.), we can imagine there were a great many descendants of Cain as the population of the earth grew. Over the course of time, multiplication of mankind was occurring in the earth and as always, since the vast majority of people are unsaved, it was the unsaved who were experiencing the greatest increase in numbers.

This has always been true since the time of the fall – unsaved people will always form the majority. And no one should think this means it was 51 percent unsaved compared to 49 percent saved; no, the proportion of unsaved to saved would have been much greater than that. The Bible tells us that God has set up His salvation program to save only a few out of the whole of mankind. Therefore, the unsaved are always the overwhelming majority at any time in history, which gives them a certain sense of power in the world because their mindset and philosophy are supported by their great numbers, while the true people of God consistently are found to be a very small minority. That is why the Bible speaks of God’s people as a “remnant”<sup>1</sup> and a remnant is just a little part of the whole. Obviously, the unsaved people of the world are not producing large majorities of people who follow them due to the legitimacy of their beliefs or because they have a stronger and higher “morally right” position than the children of God. No, in fact, it is the reverse. At any time in the history of the world, one would find, overwhelmingly, that the people of the world are opposed and contrary to the Bible and to the God of the Bible. They are against the right and good teachings of the Word of God and this is so because of man’s rebellion against God and his fall into sin. Opposition to the things of God, therefore, is the natural condition of any unsaved individual because he is an unbeliever.

In 2 Corinthians 6:14, God commands that we be not unequally yoked with “unbelievers,” and the Greek word translated there as “unbelievers” (Strong’s #571) is a compound word that has the Greek letter alpha as a prefix attached to the word *pistos* which is normally translated as “faith.” The alpha prefix negates it; consequently, to be an “unbeliever” means to have “no faith.” What is faith, according to the Bible? Faith is a Person, the Lord Jesus Christ (Hebrews 11:1), so an unbeliever is someone that has not Christ – they do not have His Spirit, so they are none of His (Romans 8:9). They are left in their natural, fallen condition of being in spiritual darkness, and when people are born into the world, the Bible tells us that they are conceived in sin (Psalm 51:5). We are all born into sin, except in the rare instances where God saves a child in the womb, like John the Baptist was

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<sup>1</sup> As one example, see Romans 9:27.

saved while in the womb (Luke 1:41).

The people born into the world are born naturally as unbelievers, and this has always been the case. The way of the world is going in the direction of “unbelief,” and as soon as most people are born, they become part of this larger company of unbelievers and they fit right in; the world loves its own (John 15:19). Yes, people of the world do fight with one another: “My religion is better than your religion,” or “My philosophy is better than your philosophy.” They will fight over just about anything, yet deep down they are unified in their unbelief. And in the depths of their stony hearts, an atheist is really in the same spiritual condition as a Buddhist, or Muslim, or professed Christian that has a false gospel. It does not make any difference what religion they profess to believe because they are all set in opposition against the true God of the Bible and His true Word and doctrine, and, therefore, there is great unity of “unbelief” among these unbelievers.

This is the nature of the world all throughout history, but God’s program of salvation was to send forth His Word and, through hearing of the Word of God (Romans 10:17), He translated people, here and there, out of the darkness of the kingdom of Satan and into the light of the kingdom of His dear Son (Colossians 1:13), and they became “sons of God,” as it says in Genesis 6. These people were adopted into the family of God and as a result there was made a “line” of believers, which were in evidence, even early on when God saved Abel. Abel was killed, but then God raised up another (Seth) in his place.

As the world population multiplied until the time of Noah, the number of true believers was typically minuscule, but there were also a growing number of what we would call “professed believers,” that is, those who identified with the godly “line,” although they were not really true believers. So, God tested the professed believers back then, just as He tests people today. The test at that time for the professed believers was whether they would remain faithful and not intermarry with the daughters of men – and, as Genesis 6 reveals to us, they failed the test. As a result, we read of God’s displeasure. After God mentions the intermarriage in Genesis 6:4, the passage continues:

**Genesis 6:5 And the LORD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every imagination of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually.**

**6 And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.**

This reminds us of later generations when God was dealing with the corporate body of national Israel. It grieved Him as He saw their unfaithfulness and they went astray from Him. Oftentimes, Israel was led down the wrong path by the women of other nations. It is one of the reasons why King Solomon's sin of marrying many foreign wives was so grievous, since eventually we are told that his heart was led astray by them (1 Kings 11:1-13). Solomon was a picture of the New Testament churches as they also went astray pursuing after "strange women," which represent other gospels (Proverbs 22:14).

## Chapter 2: My Spirit Shall Not Always Strive with Man

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The Lord makes an interesting statement in Genesis 6:3:

Genesis 6:3 **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.**

What does God mean that His Spirit shall not always strive with man?

Let's begin by looking at the word "strive" and see how it is used elsewhere in the Bible. The word "strive" is Strong's #1777 and it is translated as "judge," "plead the cause," or "strive." For instance:

Genesis 30:5 **And Bilhah conceived, and bare Jacob a son.  
6 And Rachel said, God hath judged me [#1777], and hath also heard my voice, and hath given me a son: therefore called she his name Dan.**

The English word "judge" is one of the most difficult words to understand in the Bible because, depending on the particular Hebrew word that is used, it can have several meanings, and it could be used in either a positive or negative way. For example, Rachel calls her son's name "Dan" because God has judged her, and she does not mean that God is punishing her or pouring out His wrath upon her. It does not have that idea at all, but it has to do with God hearing her plea or prayer. As was noted, this word "judge" can also be translated as "pleading the cause," so Rachel is saying, "God has pleaded my cause," so she named him "Dan," which means "judge."

This word is also used in the book of Jeremiah:

Jeremiah 22:16 **He judged [#1777] the cause of the poor and needy; then *it was well with him: was not this to know me?* saith the LORD.**

Here the word "judged" is not used negatively at all. When someone judges the cause of the poor and needy, it is like a judge hearing a case, and in hearing it, he takes into consideration the cause of the poor and needy. Using practically the same wording, we read:

**Proverbs 31:9 Open thy mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause [#1777] of the poor and needy.**

It is the same Hebrew word, so it could have said, “Judge the cause of the poor and needy.” And who are these “poor and needy”? God typifies the “poor and needy” as those He intends to save. They are poor in spirit (Matthew 5:3) and in need of salvation; it is language that the Lord ties to His elect people. Which means that to “plead the cause of the poor and needy” is a very positive and good thing that we can understand to be related to His salvation program.

When we read in Genesis 6:3 that God’s spirit will not always strive with man, it could be properly translated as, “My spirit shall not always plead the cause with man.” In other words, God is not always going to make salvation available to mankind. He is not always going to be concerned about a “poor and needy people,” because there will come a time when He has found all His “poor and needy” — when all the lost sheep of the house of Israel have had their cases pleaded for by their Advocate with the Father, the Lord Jesus Christ (1 John 2:1).

***“For that he also is flesh”***

After God says that His Spirit will not always plead the cause for man in Genesis 6:3, He goes on to say:

**Genesis 6:3 ... for that he also is flesh...**

This seems like a strange statement. Of course, man is flesh, but why is God emphasizing this obvious fact here in this particular verse? It comes across as sort of a condemnation, which leads us to ask the question, “But did not God create man in the flesh?” Yes, He did. He created man with flesh and bones and our bodies today are the same types of bodies that Adam and Eve had, or Cain and Abel had, but the difference is, when God created Adam and Eve, He gave them bodies that were initially created “good,” so the flesh of Adam and Eve was good in the sight of God (Genesis 1:31).

Flesh in itself is not sinful because it was created sinful somehow at the beginning. We do know that man fell into sin, and that in the very day he fell, he died in his soul existence, and his physical body continued to live but in a cursed condition. Therefore, the body began to corrupt and deteriorate and, eventually, it would also die. For example, after eating of the forbidden

fruit, Adam died hundreds of years later (Genesis 5:5), which is why, after the fall, the “flesh” took on an evil connotation, and thereafter developed a different meaning than it had with the original creation.

Let’s consider this verse again:

Genesis 6:3 **And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also [#7683] *is* flesh...**

In the second part of the verse, it says, “for that he also is flesh,” and this is not the best translation. In Jay P. Green’s Interlinear Bible, it is translated in this way: “in their erring, he is flesh.” This idea of erring is not coming across in the English in our King James Bible, but it is in the Hebrew text. Strong’s #7683 is also translated as “erred” in:

Leviticus 5:18 **And he shall bring a ram without blemish out of the flock, with thy estimation, for a trespass offering, unto the priest: and the priest shall make an atonement for him concerning his ignorance wherein he erred [#7683] and wist *it* not, and it shall be forgiven him.**

Other verses where this same Hebrew word is found:

Numbers 15:28 **And the priest shall make an atonement for the soul that sinneth ignorantly [#7683] ...**

Job 12:16 **With him *is* strength and wisdom: the deceived [#7683] and the deceiver *are* his.**

Psalms 119:67 **Before I was afflicted I went astray [#7683] ...**

We see that in the King James Bible where it says in Genesis 6:3, “for that he also is flesh,” it is not presenting the idea that this Hebrew word carries. It is interesting that it is translated differently every time it is used, but at least the other words, like “erred,” “deceived,” and “went astray,” all have a relationship with sin and we can see how they identify with sin. To err from the right way against God’s commandments, or to sin ignorantly, or to be deceived, all carry the idea of not following the truth of God. The connection to “sin” is missing from the translation of this verse in the King James Version. When God says, “My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh,” it would be better translated, “My spirit shall not always plead with man, for erring he is flesh.” God is defining what flesh will

be from this point on: it will have identification with erring, going astray, being deceived, and therefore, sinning. When we read the rest of the Bible, that idea is what comes across when we look at verses like:

**1 Peter 3:21 The like figure whereunto *even* baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh ...)**

**Romans 7:18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but *how* to perform that which is good I find not.**

Flesh now has complete identification with sin and going astray from God's commandments. After man's fall into sin, God sets the "flesh" and the "spirit" in opposition to one another throughout the Bible. For example:

**Romans 8:1 *There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.***

It is implied that if you walk "after the flesh," there would be condemnation. If you have the Spirit of Christ, it means you are saved and God has granted you salvation through the hearing of the Word during the Day of Salvation; then you are a child of God, and God considers you as someone that is in the "Spirit" and not in the "flesh." On the other hand, if you do not possess the Spirit of Christ—which only enters into an individual through salvation—then you are in the "flesh" and you are under the wrath of God.

**Galatians 5:16 *This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.***

**17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.**

**18 But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.**

This is a wonderful statement: if you are led by the Spirit, the Spirit of Christ is in you and there is no condemnation. You follow the Spirit and you walk in the Spirit. All these things are true as long as you have become saved. It is also true that if you are led of the Spirit, you are not under the Law. If the child of God desires to observe the Sunday Sabbath or any of the other commandments, it does not have anything to do with being under the Law. We are not under the Law, so it has nothing to do with keeping the Law of God in order to get right with God, but it is done as a matter of walk-

ing in the Spirit. The truly saved will have a desire to keep the commandments of God: “If ye love me, keep my commandments” (John 14:15).

***“The Flesh Lusteth Against the Spirit, and the Spirit Against the Flesh”***

It is really sorrowful that there are individuals that tell people that if we try to keep the Law of God, we are under the Law and in the flesh. That is basically what they are saying, and yet the truth is that God commands us, “Walk in the Spirit,” and it is synonymous with other commands to walk in the truth or to walk in His statutes (Ezekiel 36:27, 3 John 4).

How do we walk in the Spirit, as compared to walking in the flesh? God tells us what He considers “walking in the flesh”:

**Galatians 5:19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are *these*; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,  
20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,  
21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like ...**

The Law of God provides the definition for what the “works of the flesh” are and it is anything that breaks the Law of God in any point. If you commit sin you are involved in the works of the flesh.

But what are the fruits of the Spirit?

**Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,  
23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.**

Why is there no law against the “fruit of the Spirit”? It is because the “fruit of the Spirit” are those things that are in accord with and follow the Law of God. The fruit of the Spirit is to “walk in the Spirit,” and it is the same as walking in the commandments of the Bible.

Sadly, some say of the elect’s desire to obey (keep) the law of God, “You are placing yourself under the Law and you are involved in the works of the flesh because you are trying to obey the Law of God.” Elect true believers will testify again, and again, that we desire to do God’s will not in order to get right with God or to become saved, but we obey God’s law as a result of salvation. When we do obey Him it is a manifestation of the “fruit of the

Spirit” because no one can truly walk in the Law of God unless they have the Spirit of God, so God’s people desire to do the will of God out of love for the Lord Jesus Christ, and we keep His commandments through His Spirit that is in us (Ezekiel 36:26-27).

It is tragic that there is such misunderstanding and such a cloud of darkness that has veiled the eyes of some when it comes to the matter of doing the will of God and keeping His commandments. For example, God says that Sunday is His holy day and we are to remove our foot from His holy day (Isaiah 58:13-14), so God’s people desire to do that very thing. Why? It is because it is part of the works that God has ordained for us to walk in and it was His plan for His people. It was His plan in the marriage relationship about how the husband is to love and interact with his wife, and how the wife is to honor her husband, and how the children are to obey their parents, and so forth. God’s Word tells us how we are to “walk,” and as we walk in the commandments of God, we are walking in the Spirit.

***“These are Contrary the One to the Other”***

**Galatians 5:17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary [#480] the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.**

The opposition to the fact that the people of God perform the will of God after salvation is itself a “work of the flesh.” The word “contrary” is an interesting word: it is the Greek word *antikimai*, which is Strong’s #480. Literally, it means “lying against,” and that idea is kind of similar to the Old Testament where the enemy is “lying in wait,” ready to attack (e.g., Judges 9:35). This word *antikimai* is also translated as “adversaries” in Luke 21:

**Luke 21:15 For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries [#480] shall not be able to gainsay nor resist.**

All those that are adversaries to the people of God are those that “walk in the flesh,” and they will not be able to “gainsay nor resist.” Of course, practically any truth that God’s elect share from the Bible faces resistance and often gainsaying by the enemies of God.

There is another verse that especially identifies with the Great Tribulation and of Satan’s rule in the churches as the son of perdition, and Strong’s #480 is found translated as “opposeth”:

**2 Thessalonians 2:4 Who opposeth [#480] and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.**

Satan is the chief leader of those “in the flesh.” He is the one who, during the Great Tribulation, opposed and exalted himself above all that is called God. If you were to search the church world with its two billion professed Christians, you would find that almost every doctrine in the Bible is opposed on one point or another. The Bible says that marriage is between a man and a woman, but now, there are churches that think they know better than God, and say it is kind and loving to allow “men to marry men and women to marry women.” Again, we can expect that whatever God says in His Word will be opposed by men that are “in the flesh.” It is fallen man’s nature to be in opposition to the things God has said.

**Galatians 5:17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit ...**

When you lust after something, you strongly desire it and latch onto it with your mind’s eye. The flesh lusts against the Spirit and that is why people worked so hard a few decades ago to make abortion legal. It was the right thing for abortion to remain illegal, of course, because it is murder, but people worked relentlessly as they picketed and wrote letters to their Congressmen. It was the flesh lusting against the Spirit and desiring to break the Law of God on that point. We recently saw the example of the great uprising of people who want homosexual marriage, which is the latest act of rebellion on man’s part against the Law of God. In the world, these things have become the standard for morality wherein those opposed to them are viewed as wrongdoers, while those who approve are considered to be good and caring individuals according to this upside-down new code of ethics that the world has developed (Isaiah 5:20). But basically, it’s the same old story of the unsaved lusting against the Spirit by showing forth a lustful desire to break various parts of the Law of God. That is the nature of fallen man. It is why God’s people have often been troubled in soul. Lot’s experience as a vexed soul while living in Sodom illustrates the elect child of God’s inner desire to be holy while living in a world given over to all manner of wickedness (2 Peter 2:6-8).

## **Chapter 3: Yet his Days shall be an Hundred and Twenty Years**

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**Genesis 6:3 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.**

As we saw in the previous chapter, this verse indicates that there would be a time when God would plead the cause of His salvation plan for the world, and during that time He would save people. It is really pointing to the Day of Salvation, a period in which God determined to send forth His Word to save His elect people, but it also indicates that it will not always be like that because the last part of the verse says, “Yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.” In giving this number 120, God is doing two things: (1) He is laying out a timeline for Noah to build the ark and during that time God would still plead the cause with men, and (2) He is identifying what should have been the full or complete amount of allotted time for the whole history of the world, as the world reaching its “fullness,” ought to have occurred at the milestone of 12,000 years from creation. We will consider this second point later in the chapter.

God did accomplish the salvation of a few souls during those 120 years. The Bible tells us:

**Hebrews 11:7 By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.**

Noah was warned of God. This is also another aspect to what happens whenever God gives a timeline, just like when Jonah warned Nineveh that in 40 days they would be destroyed. In the case of Noah, he was given a warning that it would be 120 years, and at the end of 120 years the flood would come. No other timeline or date fits. We know that in the period before the flood, men lived to be hundreds of years old. Noah would be 600 years old at the time of the flood and that age span was not unusual. His father Lamech died five years before the flood at the age of 777, so the 120 years cannot be applied to the lifespan of people before the flood.

What about after the flood? Even after the flood, Shem lived several hundred years, so it doesn't fit with lifespans at that time either. Of course, the post-flood era is not in view because God is speaking of a period of time leading up to the flood, but even after the flood the limit that God eventually sets is not 120 years, but we're told that the limit the Lord sets on man's lifespan is 70 or, by reason of strength, 80 years (Psalm 90:10). And we find that even in our modern time, with all the medical advances we see in the world, the lifespans of men and women are still within the boundaries of 70 or 80 years, just as God said thousands of years ago in Psalm 90.

There is only one possible solution to what the 120 years could have referred to and that is the time period leading up to the flood.

And, based on the Biblical calendar of history, we know that the flood occurred in the year 4990 B.C. We also know that the flood occurred in Noah's 600<sup>th</sup> year (Genesis 7:6), which means Noah was born in the year 5590 B.C., according to the Biblical calendar. Noah's 480<sup>th</sup> year was the year 5110 B.C. and that was 120 years before the flood, when God came to him and revealed His intention to Noah, as it says in Hebrews:

**Hebrews 11:7 By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet ...**

This warning was not just the week before the flood. You cannot build an ark overnight or in a week or a month or a year, especially due to this early time in human history. The ark was not built in a dry dock with several hundred well-trained and experienced people working on it, like ships are built today. Nor was it built using modern technology and tools; there could be a couple of hundred men working on a ship today and it can still take quite a while to complete, maybe even a year or two, especially a ship the size of the ark. The ark was a huge vessel, and yet it was constructed in ancient times as God commissioned Noah to be the shipbuilder. More than likely, Noah had some help from his sons and he may also have hired some workers from the local village. We do not know the details because God does not give us that information, but we do know that without modern technology and tools, it would have been a very long process to build a ship of the size Noah was instructed to build. Let us jump ahead to Genesis 6:15:

**Genesis 6:15 And this is the fashion which thou shalt make it of: The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, the breadth of it fifty cubits, and the height of it thirty cubits.**

In our measurements today, the ark would have been about 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high. Just to give some idea of comparison, some U.S. Navy Destroyers are about 500 feet long. The ark was to be slightly less than this. Obviously, it would take an enormous amount of work to build, and God, in His wisdom, gave Noah sufficient time to build it. It was not a project which could be rushed and it was something that Noah probably would have had to learn the necessary skills to do while on the job, and yes, God would have qualified him as was needed in order for him to perform this tremendous task, but that does not mean that he intuitively knew how to build an ark. We are speculating to some degree, but the 120-year timeline appears to have been necessary, and during that time period while the ark was being prepared, God was using the time to accomplish His salvation work. The Bible says Noah built an ark to the saving of his house (Hebrews 11:7). It also says:

**1 Peter 3:18 For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:**

**19 By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison;**

**20 Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.**

In the days of Noah, Christ was preaching to the people “in prison.” These were unsaved people “chained” in the kingdom of darkness. God’s remnant was in the world at that time, so, as a result, the Lord was longsuffering. For 120 years God patiently waited for the ark to be completed and for a few souls to become saved, just as the Lord tells us:

**James 5:7 Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.**

The early rain fell during the Church Age (33 – 1988 A.D.) and the Latter Rain fell during the period of the Great Tribulation when God saved the great multitude (1994 – 2011 A.D.). Do you see how God patiently waits? He waits for His Word to accomplish the purpose it was sent forth to do, which was to produce the fruits in their proper seasons: the firstfruits came in during the Church Age, and the final fruits (the great multitude) came in during the ingathering period of the little season of the Latter Rain. God

would not bring judgment while He waited for the fruit to come in. Whenever God patiently waits before bringing His judgment on a people, we know His patience was due to His salvation program. We can be sure of this, or account that this is so:

**2 Peter 3:15 And account *that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation*;**

God was patiently waiting in the last 17 years of the Great Tribulation for the Latter Rain to accomplish its purpose in saving the great multitude, just as Christ through Noah preached to “spirits in prison” while the ark was preparing, according to His timeline for that period. God was longsuffering while He waited for His timeline to reach completion. It says in 1 Peter 3:20, that God “waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.”

The word “preparing” (Strong’s #2680) in 1 Peter 3:20 is also found in this verse:

**Luke 1:17 And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared [#2680] for the Lord.**

The construction of the ark is really a picture similar to the building of the house of God. The word “preparing” is actually translated as “build” two times in Hebrews 3:4:

**Hebrews 3:4 For every house is builded [#2680] by some *man*; but he that built [#2680] all things *is* God.**

**5 And Moses verily *was* faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after;**

**6 But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we ...**

Christ built the spiritual house of God. God commissioned Noah to build the ark and he had 120 years to complete the task. Even if Noah did not feel he knew how to do this, he would have prayed to God for wisdom concerning how to perform the doing of it. Of course, Noah had the help of God as God was with him to complete the task and Noah knew in the year 5110 B.C. that he had a full 120 years to get the work finished.

Let us look at this verse again:

**Genesis 6:3 ... yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.**

In this verse, God is addressing mankind who has erred in flesh, and He is establishing a specific date for reckoning with the people of the world of that day. God would continue the pre-flood world for 120 more years. In the year 5110 B.C., Noah was given advanced warning and information of things to come and he knew that the 120 years would expire in 4990 B.C. Noah was a man of God and as such he labored intensively in the task assigned to him as slowly the ark began to take shape. Again, we do not know exactly how it progressed, but year after year he worked on the ark. Noah also had to support his own family. He had to work in order to live and eat. No one was going to support him. It is possible he had a farm he had to take care of and, without doubt, he had other responsibilities as well, but nonetheless, he continued to build the ark, year after year. He had one eye on the ark's construction and one eye on the completion date, and as the date inched closer, the urgency to complete the ark would have grown. Noah would have felt there was much to do and, more than likely, over the course of time, he would have moved away from some of his other responsibilities to devote even more time to the ark. It must be done on time! According to the schedule that God had established.

### ***Is God a "Date Setter"? Yes!***

There are those people who like to make the accusation that we who look to the Biblical calendar of history and speak of specific times learned and derived from that calendar are "date setters," and they act as if looking for and believing a date for the Lord's coming and the world's judgment is the most horrible thing a Bible believer can do. According to the church of our time, being a "date setter" is the most despised and terrible thing you can do when it comes to spiritual matters. To them it is the heresy above all heresies. You could "fall over backwards," or "speak in tongues," or engage in "holy laughter." You could even produce a Bible that changes all the references to God to the feminine case. Actually, you could do practically anything else under the sun and the "brethren" in the church world today do not have too much of a problem with it, but if you "set a date," it's almost as though you should be stoned as they exclaim, "False prophet!" The churches and their leaders come down hard on anyone who dares to speak of a date for Christ's coming and the end of the world. There has been tremendous, concerted effort put forth by the churches and the world to make "date setting" such a terrible thing that, they hope, it will frighten away anyone from doing it again in the future.

It should make us wonder all the more why “date setting” is such a horrible thing.

Again, we are curious why there is so much effort and focus laid upon this particular point. Why do people want us to drop the matter of looking into the things the Bible says about the end? Not only do they want us to drop it, but many in the churches will go out of their way to label us as the worst heretics imaginable if we continue to speak of dates for the second coming of Christ and the world’s final judgment.

However, none of these accusations frighten off God’s elect from continuing to look into the Bible anywhere we please, by the provision and grace of God. God has given us His Word which includes all 66 Books from Genesis to Revelation. It includes Matthew 24, Mark 13, Luke 21, the entire Book of Daniel, and the entire Book of Revelation. It includes parables where the Lord Jesus went into detail about the end of the world, and it includes information, such as we find here in Genesis Chapter 6, where God Himself is giving a timeline to Noah. In other words, by telling Noah that the allotted amount of time to build the ark is 120 years, God is “setting a date.” And we know that 120 years later, God would destroy the earth with a flood and everything with the breath of life would die, except for the few that were on board the ark. They found safety within the confines of the ark that God caused Noah to build.

It is ironic that the corporate church that God characterizes as a “false prophet” in the Book of Revelation<sup>2</sup> points the finger at those who seek to carefully follow and obey the Scriptures, and says, “You are false prophets!” Of course, this is all within the will of God. It is God’s end-time testing program for His people, which really is not very different than what many of the saints of God have had to endure in their testing and trials at various times in history. For example, Jeremiah was thrown into a pit and he was often insulted and condemned by his own people. They accused him of being a heretic, a false prophet, and unpatriotic. This is just the typical lot in this world for the elect child of God. Church leaders and their opinions in these matters are not significant any longer because God ended the Church Age and ended His relationship with all churches and those in authority within them.

The God of the Bible, the Lord Jesus Christ, is our example, and if God

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<sup>2</sup> See Revelation 16:13, 19:20, and 20:10.

Himself sets dates and places information in the Bible regarding the timing for His end-time judgment plan (and He has done this) then we can suffer with the accusation of being “date setters.” Frankly, we should not care if people accuse us of that, especially when we consider the ones that are casting the stones. The fact is that the Bible sets dates. There are several dates that God has established in His Word and the 120-year timeline in the days of Noah is one of them.

God is giving a timeline with a starting point of 5110 B.C. and an ending point of 4990 B.C., which is a 120-year period. During that time, He would be longsuffering and patiently put up with the sins of the people of the world, and all the while the ark was being prepared, God would carry out His salvation program. The ark was built to the saving of Noah’s house and eight souls were delivered from the flood; it is very possible that God saved the three sons and their wives, as well as Noah’s wife. Maybe God saved one of the sons the first year, and perhaps He saved the second son 50 years later, and maybe the last son was saved the week or the day before the flood came. Finally, though, God had saved everyone that He intended to save for that period of history, and He could then “shut the door” of the ark. Of course, when God takes an action, it is a sovereign act of the Almighty King. God determined, “I will have mercy upon whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion upon whom I will have compassion” (Romans 9:15). In His good pleasure, He determined to save eight souls from the flood and no more – and then the door was shut. He shut the door on men, women, and children. He shut the door on infants and toddlers, young boys and girls, pre-teens and teenagers, and every other age group. He shut the door on the elderly as well as on the young. God shut the door because He had saved everyone He had predetermined to save, and because the salvation of those people coincided with His timeline: when the timeline was fulfilled, the door was shut.

At that time there could have been people that were critical of God and said, “It is not fair. It is not just. A good and loving God would not shut the door when there are so many people outside of the ark that will perish in the flood waters.” The flood was a tremendous deluge on the earth as the waters came from practically everywhere for 40 days and 40 nights. Water came from below and above from deep space clouds as there was very likely a water canopy above the earth protecting it from harmful rays. Although water came from everywhere, when it began to pour forth on the first day, it is possible that very few died and there may not have been that many deaths even in the first week. But then the remaining people would have been greatly desirous to enter into the ark. They would have known about it, ob-

viously, because there was only one major shipbuilding project in the world at that time that had been going on for 120 years, and the population of the world was relatively small; most people would have been living in the same general area because there was only one large continent. Word of the ark's construction and existence would have certainly gotten around.

Also, Noah was a preacher of righteousness and obviously he would have been preaching to the people about the approaching judgment of God (2 Peter 2:5). Anyone that came by and saw the ark being built would have been given the timeline by Noah. For example, He may have said, "Fifty years ago God warned me He was going to destroy the earth with a flood and He gave me 120 years to build this boat and there are only seventy years left." It was so long of a time that people would not have cared or given much thought to it, but then it got down to 20 years, and then 10 years, and then just one year. More than likely, some people were getting nervous, and yet man is so stubborn in his sin and set in his rebellion that he just cannot humble himself to submit to the will of God. In his pride he would not seek to enter into the ark. No, he would just wait and see what happens. But then the rain came and continued to come and it was a downpour that people certainly had never seen. Maybe they were not too worried on the first day, even though Noah had the exact date when God told him, "And yet seven days," but perhaps, at first, they thought the big rain was just a coincidence.

As the rain continued, eventually they would have realized that Noah was right. God was destroying the world with a flood and the only safe place was inside the ark. This was the point in which Matthew 24 says that they "knew not until the flood came":

**Matthew 24:39 And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.**

There could have been people coming to the ark on the second, third, or fourth day, but the door was shut. God shut the door, and once shut He never opened the door again until the flood waters had subsided about a year later. It is the sovereign decree and will of God that He will have mercy (because He is a merciful God) on whom He will have mercy. There were those whom God determined not to save because they were not His elect and they were not predestinated and, therefore, God did not open the door for them. Their sins were not paid for by the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world and their sins remained upon them, so the Word of God decreed that they must die because the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23).

This is the desperate situation we are reading about in Genesis Chapter 6. This was all done in order to illustrate that the world will be judged on the last day and God will destroy the unregenerate sinners, and yet God will indeed save His people. This is what the flood illustrates. It is a pre-figure of the end of the world (Matthew 24:37-39), the time wherein God would save all His elect, delivered in Christ, and He would destroy the rest of mankind that are not His elect. God allowed history to unfold to the point of the flood in order to provide a historical parable concerning what we can expect to come at the end of time.

*120 years → 12,000 years → 13,000 years*

The reference to the 120 years in Genesis 6:4 is not only a reference to the timeline to the flood, but we can also understand it as if God is saying that the 120 years identifies with the allotted time for mankind in this world. From the Biblical calendar of history, we know the world was created in 11,013 B.C., and the Lord Jesus Christ was born after 11,006 years of history in 7 B.C. Christ went to the cross in 33 A.D., and it was at that time when Satan was bound. Here is what we read concerning the binding of Satan:

**Revelation 20:1 And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.**

**2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,**

**3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.**

Do you see how God is breaking up the history of the world? It was 11,000 years until Christ came and accomplished the demonstration of the atonement performed from the foundation of the world by going to the cross. And at the time of the cross, Satan was bound for a “thousand years.” If we take the 11,000 years and we add 1,000 it equals 12,000 years.

**Revelation 20:7 And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,**

In one sense, Satan should have been loosed after 12,000 years of history, except that the figure of a “thousand years” represents the completeness of his binding, but in actuality the time of his binding was 1,955 years. The period of Satan’s binding (the figurative “thousand years”) came to an end

in the year 1988; that year, therefore, identified with 12,000 years (11,000 years on the Old Testament side until the birth of Christ, plus the figurative 1,000 years of Satan being bound). But the year 1988 was actually the 13,000<sup>th</sup> year of earth's history. Again, according to the Biblical language, Satan should have been loosed at the point of 12,000 years, but instead, he was loosed in the 13,000<sup>th</sup> year of earth's history. This is why, when God says, "Yet his days shall be 120 years," we know that the number "120" is  $10 \times 12$ , and the number "12,000" ( $10 \times 10 \times 10 \times 12$ ) is made up of essentially the same spiritual emphasis, as "10" is the number of completeness, and "12" is the number of fullness. The 12,000 years points to the complete fullness of time for mankind, but again, it worked out to be an actual 13,000 years. And 13,000 breaks down to  $10 \times 10 \times 10 \times 13$ . The number "10" once again represents completeness and the number "13" identifies with super fullness.

The Bible tells us something interesting in Moses' last address to the people of Israel:

**Deuteronomy 31:1 And Moses went and spake these words unto all Israel.**

**2 And he said unto them, I am an hundred and twenty years old this day; I can no more go out and come in: also the LORD hath said unto me, Thou shalt not go over this Jordan.**

Moses is 120 years old that very day and he is addressing Israel over the next several chapters. Remember that 120 years was the timeline given in Genesis Chapter 6. This is what God moved Moses to write when he was at the age of 120:

**Deuteronomy 32:8 When the most High divided to the nations their inheritance, when he separated the sons of Adam, he set the bounds of the people according to the number of the children of Israel.**

Notice how He goes back to the separation of the "sons of Adam," Cain and Abel, whom God separated. There was the line of Cain that wandered and were separated from God, and there was the line of Abel through his substitute Seth that was counted for the true believers. God set the "bound" or the "limitation" of the people. It is like the oceans that have their bounds – they can go to a certain point and no farther. It is the same with mankind. God has established a boundary. He has set a bound of the people according to "the number of the children of Israel."

To find out what is the “number of the children of Israel,” we can ask: How many tribes or children of Israel were there? Israel is Jacob and he had 12 sons who became the tribes of Israel, so it is just like the number “120,” but the emphasis is on the number “12” for fullness. The bounds of mankind should have expired—and his allotted time should have come to an end—after 12,000 years of history, according to the number of the children of Israel. And yet, there were more than 12 tribes; there were actually 13 tribes of Israel.

Remember that God blessed Joseph while he was in Egypt with two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, and God gave Joseph an extra portion (Genesis 48:22) so that Joseph became two tribes and, therefore, the 12 sons of Jacob became 13 sons of Jacob. Or, to say it another way, the 12 tribes were actually 13 tribes. We find the same pattern as in the relationship between 12,000 years and 13,000 years.

It also works out exactly the same way for the apostles in the New Testament. There were 12 apostles, and then Judas Iscariot hanged himself so they chose another apostle by lot and his name was Mathias (Acts 1:23-26). And yet, later on, the Lord selected another man to become an apostle, Paul, who referred to himself as “the least of the apostles,” and he was the 13<sup>th</sup> apostle (1 Corinthians 15:9).

There were 12 tribes of Israel and yet there were 13. There were 12 apostles and yet there were 13. There was 12,000 years allotted for the world and yet 13,000 years. The reference to “120” points to the completeness of time for mankind, which would go to 13,000 years of history to the point of Satan’s loosing at the beginning of the Great Tribulation (1988), which began the end stage for the history of the world.

This is all in view with this statement:

**Genesis 6:3 ...yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.**

The 120-year advanced notice was in Noah’s 480<sup>th</sup> year and, again, it was 5110 B.C., which was the year 5903 from creation. An interesting timeline that goes along with this: from 5110 B.C. to 1988 A.D. (the year of Satan’s loosing) was 7,098 calendar years, and that number breaks down to 2 x 3 x 7 x 13 x 13, where:

- “2” relates to the caretakers of the Word of God;

- “3” indicates God’s purpose;
- “7” indicates perfection; and
- “13” points to the end of the world, and that number is doubled to indicate it will soon come to pass (Genesis 41:32).

Again, the year 1988 was the 13,000<sup>th</sup> year of earth’s history, but it also identifies with the 12,000<sup>th</sup> year of earth’s history, and the number 12,000 relates to the number 120 because  $10 \times 12$  is 120, and if you multiply by 10 again, you get 1,200; and if you multiply by another 10, you get 12,000.

## Chapter 4: There were Giants in the Earth in Those Days

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Genesis 6:4 **There were giants [#5303] 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.**

In Genesis 6:4, the Hebrew word for “giants” is Strong’s #5303, and it is not the typical or usual word for “giants.” The Hebrew word is *nephilim* and it is only used three times in two verses: here and in Numbers 13:33.

The most common word for “giants” is Strong’s #7497, which is *rapha*, so it is not close to this word as far as the spelling. *Rapha* is used regarding King Og who was a giant (e.g., Deuteronomy 3:11), and it is used to refer to some of the Philistine giants, among others, so God intentionally did not use that word.

This word in Genesis 6:4, Strong’s #5303, is only found one other place, and it was when Israel came out of Egypt and into the wilderness. The men that were sent to search out the land came back with an evil report, except for Caleb and Joshua.

Numbers 13:32 **And they brought up an evil report of the land which they had searched unto the children of Israel, saying, The land, through which we have gone to search it, is a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it *are* men of a great stature.**

33 **And there we saw the giants [#5303], the sons of Anak, which come of the giants [#5303]: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.**

The word “giants” is the same word as used in Genesis 6:4, and they were the sons of Anak. These giants were very tall men. How tall were they? What would have been considered a “giant” in the time before the flood? Since God used the same word “giant” here, we can get some idea of the height of the men that lived at the time of Noah before the flood.

In Harold Camping’s book, *Time Has An End* (2005), he went into some detail concerning a cave named Liang Bua that had been discovered in In-

Indonesia. There were several skeletal remains of people that were found in a cave that was 1,640 feet above sea level. What was significant about these remains was that there was evidence of a flood found in the same cave; there was sediment remains in the cave with these individuals. This is amazing when you think that it was 1,640 feet above sea level. How could a flood occur at that height? Of course, the Bible provides the answer because the flood of Noah's day was a worldwide, cataclysmic event. Genesis 7:20 informs us that the flood waters were 15 cubits above the highest mountain of that day (each cubit is about 18 inches). When the flood began and the rain kept falling day after day, what would be the natural response? It would be to seek higher ground. If people were in a plain or valley, they would get flooded out quickly, but if there were mountains on either side, they would begin climbing up that hill or mountain in the hope that at some point the rain would stop.

We know the historical fact that the rain poured down for forty consecutive days in an unprecedented deluge (Genesis 7:12). Sometimes we see a downpour of rain and exclaim, "It is raining cats and dogs." During a cloudburst so much water can fall in just a few minutes that it's enough to overflow creeks and streams, but normally the rainfall soon slows down or stops. But that was not the case with the flood of Noah's day. That terrible flood was a continuous downpour of unparalleled proportion. It kept raining and raining, so of course, people would have desperately tried to seek higher and higher ground. We do not know the specifics about the amount of rainfall or what the earth was like after it had rained for a week straight. If you started out on high ground, then your situation would have been different than people that lived near sea level. But it seems obvious that as it kept raining, people would have sought the highest ground possible. This is probably what led these people to climb to the Liang Bua cave in what is now Indonesia. These poor people had done everything physically possible that they could do to escape the flood waters, but they could not go any higher than the cave atop this mountain, and eventually, even way up there, the water rose to the level of the cave, and since there was nowhere left to go, they drowned.

The average height of these fully grown people found in this cave was three feet tall and Mr. Camping went into some detail to speculate that this would have been the average height of people living before the flood. This is one of the few times I disagreed with Mr. Camping. I thought it was too much of a generalization. That particular group or family had a height of about three feet, but that does not mean that we can say that the average height of everyone in that day was only three feet. Mr. Camping also speculated that Noah and his family were like "giants" because they were about six feet tall,

but in Numbers 13, God is using this same Hebrew word for “giants” as found in Genesis 6. These sons of Anak, according to the report of the spies, were extremely tall men: “all the people that we saw in it are men of a great stature.”

We now have a description of what a “giant” is and it is considered to be men “of a great stature” (Strong’s #4060). Is this phrase found anywhere else in the Bible? Yes, it is found in 1 Chronicles 11:23:

**1 Chronicles 11:22 Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, the son of a valiant man of Kabzeel, who had done many acts; he slew two lionlike men of Moab: also he went down and slew a lion in a pit in a snowy day.**

**23 And he slew an Egyptian, a man of *great stature* [#4060], five cubits high; and in the Egyptian's hand *was* a spear like a weaver's beam; and he went down to him with a staff, and plucked the spear out of the Egyptian's hand, and slew him with his own spear.**

What does the Bible consider to be the height of a man of great stature? It was five cubits high and, as noted, a cubit is 18 inches. If you are five cubits tall and of great stature, how tall are you? Five cubits would equal seven feet, six inches tall. That is a very tall person for that time, as well as by our standard today. Let us say the average height for a man is about six feet tall, but when we see a person that is seven feet tall, we think, “Wow! That man is really tall.” You sometimes see seven-foot individuals, but 7½ feet tall is very rare and that comes to the level of “giants.” It is a person that is 1½ feet taller than those of average height, so I think that we can understand that when God says in Genesis 6:4, “There were giants in the earth in those days,” and it is only used in Numbers 13:33 where it describes men of a “great stature.” God uses that term to describe a man that was five cubits or 7½ feet tall.

Certainly, men before the flood could have been smaller than they are today, but I think it would be speculating too much to take the example of the individuals found in one cave in Indonesia and say, “This was the average height for people who lived at that time.” For instance, let’s say a cataclysmic event took place in Australia. If a family of Pygmies were discovered and there were no other skeletal remains of humans of other sizes, do you see how one could err in arriving at the conclusion that everyone was the height of the Pygmies? Also, there are some tribes in Africa that are very tall, and if you isolated those people, you could draw the conclusion that

everyone was of exceptional height. We simply do not have sufficient information in regard to the Indonesian cave. If there had been another site found in another part of the world that confirmed this, we could maybe draw that kind of a conclusion, but we do not have that right now, so I think we are comfortable with the Bible's definition that the man that was called a giant in Numbers 13 was 7½ feet tall and, therefore, average height for men prior to the flood would be about the same average height as after the flood.

It also stands to reason that prior to the flood, health conditions for mankind would have been better because of the water canopy, and men tended to live longer because there was less disease. When people are taller, they tend to be physically stronger and it just seems that the weaker human specimen (as far as size and strength) would not have existed prior to the flood, but would seem to come afterward, although this is speculation on my part.

### ***“The Sons of God Came in unto the Daughters of Men”***

**Genesis 6:4 There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that ...**

Prior to the flood there were giants, and after the flood there were giants. We know this because later in the Bible we read of the sons of Anak (Numbers 13:33), Og the king of Bashan (Deuteronomy 3), Goliath (1 Samuel 17), and other giants. There were giants in the world and a giant was someone that was at least 1½ to 2 feet taller than average height. Then it goes on to say:

**Genesis 6:4 ... when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare *children* to them ...**

Spiritually, the giants are being connected to the “sons of God” bearing children with the “daughters of men.” This is the second time God has referred to the intermarrying that was occurring back then which provoked God to anger prior to the time of the flood, and soon after to the pouring out of His wrath in the form of the flood itself. It said back in Genesis 6:1-2:

**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.**

This was not mentioned earlier in this book because it is ridiculous to spend

a lot of time on it, but there have been theologians who have written that the “sons of God” were angels (angelic beings), and the daughters of men were human beings, and the intermarriage was between angels and mankind. This is just absurd speculation that has no Scriptural basis whatsoever. Humans possess a spirit nature but they have physical bodies, so you cannot have a marriage between a spirit being (angel) and a fleshly being (human), and you most certainly cannot produce children, as verse 4 tells us:

**Genesis 6:4 ... the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare *children* to them.**

You can see how foolish this idea is for some theologians to say that there are angelic beings mating with the daughters of mankind and children are born to them. No – that is not possible. I remember Mr. Camping used to give an excellent analogy. Angels are a different creature than men. They are not of the same kind. It is like taking an elephant and joining it together with a mouse and saying that the elephant and mouse are going to bear offspring. If we use that kind of comparison, we can see just how ridiculous the idea is because you cannot take one “kind” and mix it with another “kind.” The idea that angels and men intermarried and bore children is beyond the realm of possibility because angels are spirit beings and there can be no marriage which produces physical children between a spirit being and a human being. It is so outside the realm of possibility that any faithful Bible student would not even consider it for a second.

Again, the sons of God are a reference to the people of God.

**2 Corinthians 6:14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers ...**

As we noted earlier, the Greek word translated as “unbelievers” is the Greek word *apistos* (Strong’s #571). The alpha prefix negates what comes after so this means “no faith,” and Christ is faith. It is saying to be not unequally yoked together with “no faith” or “no Christ.” It goes on to say:

**2 Corinthians 6:14 ... for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?**

**15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?**

The word “infidel” is a translation of the same Greek word translated as

“unbelievers.” For whatever reason, the translators translated it as “infidel,” which really means to be without faith, and it is one of these words the modern man likes to mock, but it basically means one without faith or an unbeliever.

**2 Corinthians 6:16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in *them*; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.**

**17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean *thing*; and I will receive you,**

**18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.**

These are the sons of God, and if you are going to be sons of God, you need to come out from among them and be separate and not be unequally yoked with those that are unbelievers or without Christ. So, the actual “sons of God” are those who are saved by God and possess the Spirit of God; they have Christ within. This line of believers, known as the sons of God, then have children who identify also as “sons of God,” but these children may not be truly sons of God, so their eyes wander to the daughters of men whom they desire, and marry and bear children with them.

### ***Unequally yoked***

God is connecting those in the line of true believers who professed to be God’s people and those who were the daughters of men that had no association with God. As a result, they bore children that “became mighty men which were of old, men of renown.” It appears that the “giants” are related to these mighty men because a giant becomes “renowned” or famous, so there is some connection between “giants” and mighty men of renown.

We also considered earlier how God often brings judgment when His people disobey His command to marry in the Lord. God has commanded all His people to marry others that are children of God and qualified to be married in every other way as well. God commands the people of the world that they should not marry divorced individuals and a man should only marry a woman, and so forth. Man has developed the idea of men marrying men and women marrying women out of his own corrupt imagination, and it is something that is not allowed in the Bible. A man can only marry a woman and God would permit a man of the world to marry a woman of the world, or a professed Christian could marry another professed Christian since both are

not truly saved. The Bible permits marriage unions where there is “equal yoking” and that is in accord with the teaching of the Bible, so an unsaved male or an unsaved female may marry a member of the opposite sex that is also unsaved. The only Biblical stipulation is that they marry a person that is not divorced. They must be a single individual or someone that is a qualified widow or widower.

For the elect true believer, we have those same laws of God where a man is to marry a woman. He also must marry someone else who is qualified to marry; a single man cannot marry a woman that is divorced while her husband is still living (1 Corinthians 7:39). The elect children of God have those same guidelines, but they also have an added command not to be “unequally yoked” in a spiritual sense. Let’s read this verse again:

**2 Corinthians 6:14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?**

It goes on to say:

**2 Corinthians 6:17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean *thing*; and I will receive you,  
18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.**

God also speaks about marriage in 1 Corinthians 7 and He gives various guidelines to help us:

**1 Corinthians 7:27 Art thou bound unto a wife? seek not to be loosed. Art thou loosed from a wife? seek not a wife.**

This is interesting because most people do seek a wife or a mate. Here, God is saying not to seek for a wife. Then it says:

**1 Corinthians 7:28 But and if thou marry, thou hast not sinned; and if a virgin marry, she hath not sinned. Nevertheless such shall have trouble in the flesh: but I spare you.**

Further down we read:

1 Corinthians 7:36 **But if any man think that he behaveth himself uncomely toward his virgin, if she pass the flower of *her* age, and need so require, let him do what he will, he sinneth not: let them marry.**

37 **Nevertheless he that standeth stedfast in his heart, having no necessity, but hath power over his own will, and hath so decreed in his heart that he will keep his virgin, doeth well.**

38 **So then he that giveth *her* in marriage doeth well; but he that giveth *her* not in marriage doeth better.**

39 **The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord.**

This goes along with not being unequally yoked together with unbelievers. The elect people of God may marry other qualified people, as long as the person is not divorced while the previous spouse is still living; in God's eyes, marrying a divorced person whose spouse is still living is not permitted because God still views that couple as being bound together in marriage. This is because God's Law says that what God has joined together man is not to put asunder (Matthew 19:6), so when people obtain a divorce in an earthly court, their divorce is acknowledged in the eyes of the world, but it is not allowed in the higher and supreme court of God. The Bible is the supreme Law Book and the higher law of the Bible denies man's attempt for divorce. You might say, "Well, I am already divorced because I already was granted a divorce in my state's legal court system." However, that does not matter because the Law of God is unchangeable and unalterable, and no matter what earthly judges rule, they have no power to overturn the Law of God. What God has joined together man has no power to put asunder, so the reality is that the couple who legally divorced by the law of the land are still married in God's sight. Therefore, the solution is that if the former spouses have not remarried, they should return to one another because they are still man and wife in the sight of God.

The Law of God provides added protection and benefit because all of God's laws are helpful to creatures designed in His image. If we live in accordance to the Law of God, our level of peace and joy will increase (in equal measures to the degree we are able to do so). It is extremely important that someone who we are thinking about marrying is someone that is "in the Lord." Any elect child of God thinking of marriage should ask themselves, is this person I want to marry truly a child of God? Of course, we're living at a point in history that is unlike any previous time in the past. During the Church Age, it was actually much more difficult for a child of God to de-

termine if a prospective spouse was a true child of God. They may both have gone to the same church and listened to the same sermons and sang the same hymns and attended the same Bible studies, but that was a time when the “wheat” and the “tares” were still growing together, and God had commanded that the tares were not to be uprooted until the time of the end (Matthew 13:24-30). Back then, elect true believers had a difficult time trying to figure out the true spiritual condition of the person they were interested in marrying. Oftentimes, the “sons of God” might marry someone that turned out to be of the “daughters of men,” who were professed Christians, and yet they were not truly born-again Christians. They wore the name of Christ, but they had the same old heart of unbelief and they just covered it over with religious trappings. As a result, often there would be marriages where there was trouble in the home.

Today, however, God has helped the elect children of God that live on the earth in this time after the Great Tribulation and in the Day of Judgment. Of course, in many ways, things are not easy for us and it is a troublesome time and a severe time of testing and, yet, as far as being equally yoked in marriage is concerned, this is an area where we have been helped because God has ended the Church Age and He has separated the wheat from the tares. During the time of the Great Tribulation, He set in motion His mechanism to separate them by issuing His command to His people to depart out of the midst of the (corporate) church and flee to the mountains (Matthew 24:15-16), a figure that pointed to God and His Word, the Bible, and God’s people did come out. Obviously, not everyone that came out was truly elect, but everyone that did come out was separated from those who stayed behind and as a result were found to be tares who were bundled for the fire. For example, let us say there is now an elect man outside the churches who is waiting upon the Lord to open his understanding to certain things, and he is continuing to search the Scriptures. However, this man has a normal desire for marriage and children, and yet he wants to be faithful. He meets someone at work or he meets a neighbor that introduces a nice “Christian” woman to him and she is a member of a Presbyterian or Lutheran church or any other church. She is a nice person and they get along. However, we must consider the time in which we are living because God has already made the separation, as it says in:

**2 Corinthians 6:15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? 16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in *them*; and I will be their God, and**

**they shall be my people.**

**17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean *thing*; and I will receive you,**

We are to come out and be separate. Actually, this situation becomes another area of testing because the woman is still within a corporate church and yet she is single and never before married and therefore in all other ways qualified to be married. She believes she is a “Christian,” and since he is a Christian, are they not then equally yoked? No, according to the Bible, they are not. If it was during the 1,955 years of the Church Age, then they would have been qualified to marry one another, but we cannot overlook the time in which we live. If there is someone that firmly believes the Church Age is over and that God has left the churches and bundled the tares who have been left behind in the congregations, while the prospective spouse still attends a church, there can be no union and no “agreement” between them. We read in Amos 3:3, “Can two walk together, except they be agreed?” It is certain that these two cannot enter into the union of marriage unless they are agreed on such an important Biblical matter as the end of the Church Age itself.

Just because someone says they are a Christian, it does not mean anything. There are all kinds of other gospels where people say they are Christians, but they believe in speaking in tongues, or they believe the Pope has God-given authority to supersede the things of the Bible. A professed Christian can be as much of an unbeliever as anyone that is of the world, and you would have even more headaches and more troubles and more disputes with someone who professes to be a true believer, and yet is not, than with the typical non-believer out in the world.

God has designed Bible doctrine to really touch our lives and impact the things that we do. For example, there is the Bible’s teaching regarding the Sunday Sabbath which comes around once every seven days. If you, an elect child of God, are married to a professed Christian, she will most likely want to go to church, but you do not and cannot because you believe the Church Age is over. One spouse says, “What about our son? What about our daughter? I want to take them to church.” The other spouse says, “They are not going to church because the Church Age is over.” But the one spouse will not let the issue go and says, “I insist they go to a church. They have to grow up in the church.” The (unsaved) spouse believes that a church is where God works and saves people and they believe this strongly and so, eventually, the children are taken to a church, but a child of God wants to raise children according to the commandments of God and is terribly grieved by the chil-

dren's attendance at church. God has ended His salvation program, but that does not mean that we stop doing everything we possibly can to raise our children in a faithful way as God would have them to be raised, praying all the while, "May the cup pass from my son and daughter, dear Heavenly Father." But, again, there would be all kinds of trouble in the marriage and family if a believer outside the churches marries a professed Christian that is still within a church. There would be an unequal yoking of the two. And being unequally yoked often brings misery to the marriage.

### **"Mighty men"**

**Genesis 6:4 ... and they bare *children to them, the same became mighty men* [#1368] which *were of old, men of renown.***

The Hebrew word translated as "mighty men" is Strong's #1368 and it is sometimes used in reference to God, and it can be used in reference to the people of God. Remember that King David had his "mighty men," and I think that is why those Jews that were circumcised in the flesh (but never saved), or those New Testament Christians that were physically baptized with water (but not baptized in the Spirit) become like "mighty men," due to their relationship to God and the Word of God, the Bible. For instance, God uses this figure in:

**Jeremiah 5:14 Wherefore thus saith the LORD God of hosts, Because ye speak this word, behold, I will make my words in thy mouth fire, and this people wood, and it shall devour them.**

**15 Lo, I will bring a nation upon you from far, O house of Israel, saith the LORD: it is a mighty nation, it is an ancient nation, a nation whose language thou knowest not, neither understandest what they say.**

**16 Their quiver is as an open sepulchre, they are all mighty men [#1368].**

Of course, the nation God is referring to is Babylon, historically, and it spiritually represents Satan and his emissaries who are described in interesting detail in this passage:

**2 Corinthians 11:13 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.**

**14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.**

**15 Therefore *it is* no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.**

This passage describes what the Babylonians represented as they came as a “mighty nation” against Judah, which represents the people of God. It is the infiltration of Satan’s emissaries into the churches and congregations. That is what happened over the course of the Church Age as the tares were sown by Satan, the enemy, amongst the wheat (Matthew 13:24-30). Then when the time was ripe and God came to visit the congregations in judgment at the end of the Church Age, the tares were already in positions of authority and power. Satan’s sowing of tares reached unto the Pope, bishops, pastors, elders, and deacons. Once the Holy Spirit of God departed out of the midst of the corporate church (2 Thessalonians 2:7), there was no longer any restraint upon them and they made the churches and congregations of the world desolate as the “abomination of desolation” stood in the holy place (Matthew 24:15). These were the men that were utilized by Satan to bring spiritual destruction to every church in all the world.

It is not accidental that the men involved in the assault of Babylon and the Babylonians were said to be “mighty men.” It was God’s purpose that those tares, that were within the congregations, be identified with “mighty men.”

**Jeremiah 49:20 Therefore hear the counsel of the LORD, that he hath taken against Edom; and his purposes, that he hath purposed against the inhabitants of Teman: Surely the least of the flock shall draw them out: surely he shall make their habitations desolate with them.**

**21 The earth is moved at the noise of their fall, at the cry the noise thereof was heard in the Red sea.**

**22 Behold, he shall come up and fly as the eagle, and spread his wings over Bozrah: and at that day shall the heart of the mighty men [#1368] of Edom be as the heart of a woman in her pangs.**

Edom is Esau (Genesis 36:1), and Esau can identify with professed Christians within the corporate churches. God speaks of them as “mighty men” and, in this case, they are in their pangs like a woman. Also, in Jeremiah 51 there is another reference to Babylon:

**Jeremiah 51:55 Because the LORD hath spoiled Babylon, and destroyed out of her the great voice; when her waves do roar like great waters, a noise of their voice is uttered:**

56 Because the spoiler is come upon her, *even* upon Babylon, and her mighty men [#1368] are taken, every one of their bows is broken: for the LORD God of recompences shall surely requite.

57 And I will make drunk her princes, and her wise *men*, her captains, and her rulers, and her mighty men [#1368]: and they shall sleep a perpetual sleep, and not wake, saith the King, whose name *is* the LORD of hosts.

It is the judgment upon the “mighty men” of Babylon that identifies with princes, the wise, captains, and rulers. In Zephaniah Chapter 1, the Lord goes into a great deal of detail to describe Judgment Day:

Zephaniah 1:14 The great day of the LORD *is* near, *it is* near, and hasteth greatly, *even* the voice of the day of the LORD: the mighty man [#1368] shall cry there bitterly.

### “Men of renown”

In Genesis 6:4, there were mighty men of old, just like there are mighty men today, spiritually speaking. God relates mighty men to those that have identification with the name of Christian and with the Word of God, so the “mighty men” are children born to the sons of God and daughters of men, and they are “men of renown.” The Hebrew word for “renown” is Strong’s #8034 and it is found a few times in the Bible. We will see how it is used and what it really means.

Numbers 1:5 And these *are* the names of [#8034] the men that shall stand with you: of *the tribe of* Reuben; Elizur the son of Shedeur.

6 Of Simeon; Shelumiel the son of Zurishaddai.

7 Of Judah; Nahshon the son of Amminadab.

It goes on to describe the other tribes of Israel and the names of men that would stand with you. Then after listing the tribes and their men we read:

Numbers 1:16 These *were* the renowned [#7148] of the congregation, princes of the tribes of their fathers, heads of thousands in Israel.

These were the “renowned” of the congregation and though it is a different

Hebrew word, Strong's #7148, and the word in Genesis 6:4 is Strong's #8034, it is still making a similar connection:

Numbers 16:1 **Now Korah, the son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, and Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab, and On, the son of Peleth, sons of Reuben, took men:**  
2 **And they rose up before Moses, with certain of the children of Israel, two hundred and fifty princes of the assembly, famous [#7148] in the congregation, men of renown [#8034]:**

The word "renown" in this passage is #8034, the same Hebrew word used in Genesis 6:4. But the word "famous" is Strong's #7148 which was translated as "renowned" in Numbers 1:16 and it is only used three times in the Old Testament: one time it is translated as "renowned," and two times it is translated as "famous."

The word "famous" is used in a similar way that we use it today. Whether it refers to a sports personality or a politician, people are aware of who the person is and it is typically someone who possesses power and authority along with being well known. These men were "princes of the assembly" and "famous in the congregation, men of renown." In the wilderness sojourn, these men were leaders over Israel, and they had probably previously been known as leaders while in Egypt, as family lines were extremely important; these men were prominent in their families and they ruled over the people, as it said back in Numbers Chapter 1, where we read that they were princes and "heads of thousands in Israel." They were rulers over other Israelites. The equivalent roles during the Church Age would have been pastors and elders and anyone who had power and authority to direct and rule the church congregation. Again, these men were famous in the assembly or congregation, men of renown, and 250 of these men rose up against Moses and Aaron:

Numbers 16:3 **And they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron, and said unto them, *Ye take too much upon you, seeing all the congregation are holy, every one of them, and the LORD is among them: wherefore then lift ye up yourselves above the congregation of the LORD?***

These men were the famous ones. All the Jews knew who they were. They were the leaders of Israel and yet when God delivered the Israelites out of their cruel bondage and captivity in Egypt, He did not really use these men, did He? When we read the account in the Book of Exodus, God came to

Moses and He told him that Aaron would be his mouthpiece. God would speak to Moses and Moses would speak to Aaron. God put His Word in Moses' mouth and Moses gave these words to Aaron to speak. That is how God delivered the Israelites through His mighty power. He used primarily these two men and He sent them to Pharaoh. God did not come to the princes of the congregation, the men of renown. Instead, He used Moses and Aaron (Moses is a type of the law, or the Word of God, and Aaron is a picture of Christ), to force Pharaoh to release the Israelite captives. All the congregation was happy at first for a short while – until the hot sun started beating down upon them, and the food and water was not certain. Then followed the judgment of God which caused them to wander for 40 years because of the evil report of 10 of the 12 spies (only Joshua and Caleb gave a good report).

So, these princes were frustrated at the difficult circumstances as well as having their pride hurt by not being able to execute what they perceived to be their proper position of authority and power over the congregation during their wilderness sojourn. God spoke and laid down the law only to Moses, and Moses then relayed the law to the people. They could not see God. They only saw Moses and heard Moses speak, so they began to get the wrong idea that because Moses and Aaron were telling them what to do, that it was actually the ideas or words of Moses and Aaron. We can clearly see their misunderstanding from what it says in this verse:

**Numbers 16:3 And they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron, and said unto them, *Ye take too much upon you, seeing all the congregation are holy, every one of them, and the LORD is among them: wherefore then lift ye up yourselves above the congregation of the LORD?***

They were offended because these two men (Moses and Aaron) were not princes in the congregation or famous men of renown as they were; yet they were the ones giving the orders and relaying the commandments of God to the people. Therefore, they accused Moses and Aaron of trying to set themselves up as rulers.

God tells us of the sad ending of this true historical event.

**Numbers 16:31 And it came to pass, as he had made an end of speaking all these words, that the ground clave asunder that was under them:**

**32 And the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up, and their houses, and all the men that *appertained* unto Korah,**

**and all *their* goods.**

**33 They, and all that *appertained* to them, went down alive into the pit, and the earth closed upon them: and they perished from among the congregation.**

**34 And all Israel that *were* round about them fled at the cry of them: for they said, Lest the earth swallow us up *also*.**

**35 And there came out a fire from the LORD, and consumed the two hundred and fifty men that offered incense.**

By destroying them with fire, God made it known that these famous men of renown in the congregation were not His true representatives but were actually under His wrath. They had been heads over thousands, and yet they had never become saved themselves, but were under the wrath of God. So, when they attempted to usurp the God-given authority of Moses and Aaron, God judged them. They were destroyed by fire, and when something like that occurs in the Bible, it is a big indicator that the ones in view were unsaved and under the wrath of God. The 250 men were also tied together with 14,700 others that died in a plague:

**Numbers 16:49 Now they that died in the plague were fourteen thousand and seven hundred, beside them that died about the matter of Korah.**

Once we add the 14,700 to the 250, we get 14,950, and this number breaks down to 5 x 10 x 13 x 23. The spiritual meaning of these numbers points to: the atoning work of Christ (5), completeness (10), the end of the world (13), and the time of the Great Tribulation (23). The Great Tribulation is the time of God's judgment on the churches and congregations of the world, wherein God separated the wheat from the tares, and while doing so, caused ruin to come to the mighty men of renown within the congregations. Again, the mighty men of a name relates to those that have the name of God but are not actually saved.

Now let us look at what the Hebrew word translated as "renown" actually means. As we noted, it is Strong's #8034, and it was used in Genesis 5 and many other times in Genesis:

**Genesis 5:2 Male and female created he them; and blessed them, and called their name [#8034] Adam, in the day when they were created.**

**3 And Adam lived an hundred and thirty years, and begat a son in his own likeness, after his image; and called his name [#8034]**

## Seth:

Genesis 5:29 **And he called his name [#8034] Noah ...**

We see that #8034 is translated as the word “name.” In the genealogies in Genesis 5, there is a clue phrase in the Hebrew which is *qârâ shêm* or “called his name,” which indicates an immediate father/son relationship. The word *shêm* is translated as “name,” and it is Strong’s #8034. So when God says, “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,” it literally means, “men of a name.” What name is that? It is obvious that it is the name of God:

Isaiah 4:1 **And in that day seven women shall take hold of one man ...**

The “seven women” here relate to the seven churches spoken of in Revelation Chapters 2 and 3, representing the entire corporate church. The “one man” is the Lord Jesus Christ. It continues:

Isaiah 4:1 ... **saying, We will eat our own bread, and wear our own apparel: only let us be called by thy name, to take away our reproach.**

They want to eat their own bread which is their own doctrine or their own teachings. They want to wear their own apparel which means they will not submit to the truth that we are saved by the faith of Christ and salvation is all Christ’s work of faith and Christ’s righteousness. They have developed their own salvation program in order to obtain their own righteousness which they intend to wear as their own covering for sin, even as they lay claim of the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, “only let us be called by thy name, to take away our reproach.” They want to be called by the “name” of renown and they desire to be famous in the congregation and men “of a name.” They want the name of Christ – they want the name of Christian.

You can look at a world full of corrupt churches today and you can see that they do indeed eat their own bread and wear their own apparel. They do not want the true doctrine of Christ and the Bible. They do not want His righteousness, but they do want His name, so the Pentecostal churches call themselves “Christians,” and the Lutheran churches call themselves “Christians.” Those that add to the Bible call themselves “Christians,” and those that take away from the Bible call themselves “Christians.” They still want

to be “men of a name,” or “men of renown.”

It is just the same today as it was in ancient times before the flood. At that time there were “mighty men” or “men of a name,” just as there is now. They possessed a name or reputation for being aligned with the true God, the Creator who created all things.

Yet notice that God emphasizes that the “sons of God” came together with the “daughters of men” to produce “men of a name.” It was movement away from God in this area that led to the flood and its ensuing destruction. By making it known that the people were engaged in the grievous sin of inter-marriage prior to the flood, God is establishing that the spiritual condition of the world in that time was one of apostasy. They had fallen away from truth.

This in turn reveals that they were just like the corporate churches at the end of time. We read in the New Testament that before God would come in judgment, there would first come a period of falling away (apostasy):

**2 Thessalonians 2:2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.**

**3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for *that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, ...***

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## Strong's Numbers Index

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### Hebrew

<i>Strong's Number</i>	<i>Pages</i>	<i>Translated as (partial listing)</i>
#1368	38-40	"mighty men"
#1777	9-10	"strive," "judge," "plead the cause"
#4060	30	"stature"
#5303	28	"giants"
#7148	40-41	"renowned," "famous"
#7231	4	"multiply," "increase," "ten thousands"
#7233	4	"ten thousand"
#7235	4	"multiply"
#7497	28	"giants"
#7683	11	"for that also," "erred," "sinneth ignorantly," "deceived," "went astray"
#8034	40-41, 43-44	"renown," "name"

### Greek

<i>Strong's Number</i>	<i>Pages</i>	<i>Translated as (partial listing)</i>
#480	14-15	"contrary," "adversaries," "opposeth"
#571	6, 32	"unbelievers"
#2680	19	"preparing," "built," "builded"

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