

RETURN OF THE NEPHILIM

* * * Will Antichrist be a Literal Seed of the Serpent? * * *

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INTRODUCTION. In response to His disciples' questions regarding "the end of the age" (Matt24:3), Jesus delivered an extended discourse (Matthew 24, Mark 13, and Luke 21) detailing many specific signs for which they should "watch" (cf. Mk13:32-37). Near the end of the Matthew and Luke accounts of this Olivet Discourse, Jesus gives what many have taken to be merely a summary statement of world conditions just prior to the Rapture and the subsequent start of the Tribulation (i.e., Daniel's 70th Week; Dan9:27), presumed to have relatively little specific import, but what may in fact be the preeminent sign associated with the end of the Church Age. Jesus said, "But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be" (Matt24:37; Cp., Luk17:26). Jesus characterized world conditions immediately preceding the Rapture as being like those preceding the Flood of Noah. What did He mean by this?

THE DAYS OF NOAH. Matthew and Luke both go on to record Jesus as saying, "For as in the days that were before the flood they were . . . marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark" (Matt24:38; Cp., Luk17:27). Most have understood these words to mean that life in the antediluvian world was entirely normal, even mundane, with people going about their lives having no idea that anything out of the ordinary was imminent, and they were taken completely by surprise at the sudden intervention of God into history. They have used this understanding to argue that what Jesus was communicating is that world conditions just before the Rapture will be normal, ordinary, mundane, with no one expecting the nearness of the end.

The problem with such an understanding is that the Genesis 6 account of the conditions that set the stage for the Flood of Noah do not describe a normal, ordinary, mundane scenario. The context found there for God judging the entire world with a Flood that destroyed all but eight persons is "that the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all whom they chose" (Gen6:2; note that Jesus' words made specific mention of "marriage" and "giving in marriage", Matt24:38). Ancient Jewish and early Christian commentators uniformly understood "the sons of God" to be a reference to angels (Cp., Job 1:6; 2:1; 38:6), in this case fallen angels, who through sexual intercourse with human women produced a hybrid race having superhuman abilities, referred to as the Nephilim¹ (Gen6:4). So widespread was this angelic activity that it threatened to utterly corrupt the human race, making the prophesied coming of Messiah to redeem mankind moot (cf. Heb2:14-16). It was for this reason that God destroyed all flesh in the Flood (Gen6:17), save Noah who was "perfect in his generations" (i.e., genetically uncorrupted; Gen6:9), and imprisoned those fallen angels that had participated in this diabolical plan. This is not speculation, as both

¹ *Nephilim* is a transliteration of the Hebrew word used in Genesis 6:4, translated "giants" in many English versions. The Nephilim were giants (as tall as cedar trees; cf. Amos2:9), but their superhuman characteristics included more than their physical stature. The advanced technology that has been discovered to exist in the ancient world, which modern unbelievers are ever so anxious to attribute to aliens, should probably be understood to be accomplishments of the Nephilim.

Peter and Jude make allusion to these ancient historical facts in their prophecies of coming, worldwide apostasy (2Pet2:4-5; Jude6-7).

AND ALSO AFTER THAT. Genesis 6:4 asserts that this phenomenon of angelic incursion upon the earth for the purpose of sexual intercourse with human women to produce the Nephilim took place in the days of Noah "and also after that". When the Israelites spied out the Promised Land following their exodus from Egypt, they refused to enter because it was occupied by "giants" (Heb., *Nephilim*; Num13:33). Though the details are not given, we suppose that another incursion of fallen angels had occurred, this time apparently limited to the geographical area of Canaan, to begin again a race of the Nephilim. Acting on the limited information he had before the Flood, Satan had to attempt to corrupt the genome of the entire human race in order to prevent the coming of Messiah (prophesied to be a human descendant of Adam/Eve; Gen3:15). By the time of Moses, Satan understood by revelation from God that Messiah would be a human descendant of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (i.e., a Jew; Gen12:3), and even more specifically a descendant of Jacob's son Judah (Gen49:10), so he could focus his plan to corrupt the human genome to that of the Jewish race. Understanding this fact makes comprehensible God's command forbidding intermarriage with, and ultimately the utter destruction of, the Canaanites, Amorites, and associated tribes dwelling in the Promised Land (cf. Deut7:1-3), since they were Nephilim (even the women and children!). God's command to destroy the tribes in Canaan was for the same reason, and to accomplish the same purpose, as the Flood of Noah; namely, to eradicate the race of the Nephilim and their corrupt genetic strain by which Satan attempted to prevent the coming of Messiah.

THE FUTURE SEED OF THE SERPENT. The very first prophecy recorded in the Bible is Genesis 3:15. As a judgment on the serpent (i.e., Satan; Rev12:9) for his participation in the fall of humanity, God declared, "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; he shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel". This verse prophesies the coming of two persons: 1) the seed of the woman, which is Christ, and 2) the seed the serpent, which will be Antichrist. When Christ came, he was genetically a unique mixture of divine seed and uncorrupted human seed, the God-man (Luk1:35). In an analogous manner, when Antichrist comes, he will be a genetic mixture of Satan's angelic seed with human seed, a Nephilim. It is for this reason that both Daniel and Revelation refer to Antichrist as "the beast", for he will not be (entirely) human.

But the angelic incursion upon the earth in the last days will not be an isolated, solitary occurrence restricted to the generation of the Antichrist. For reasons that are not entirely clear, the angelic incursion will be much broader, "as it was in the days of Noah" (Luk17:26). Daniel 2:40-44 indicates that the ten kings of the prophesied fourth Gentile kingdom, the Revived Roman Empire, "shall mingle themselves with the seed of men" (Dan2:43). Expanding on Daniel's prophecies, John reveals that the "ten horns" of the fourth beast (Dan7:7), equivalent to the "ten toes" of the fourth kingdom (Dan2:40-42), "are ten kings" (Rev17:12). The verb translated "are" is εἶσιν, a present tense indicative verb in Greek, meaning that these "ten kings" existed in John's day (c. 95 AD), but "who have received no kingdom as yet, but receive power as kings one hour with the beast". Since no human will live from the first century until the coming of Antichrist at least two thousand years later, the obvious inference is that these "ten kings" of the Revived Roman Empire will not be human, but angelic principalities (as are also in view in

Daniel 10:13,20). Thus, when Daniel prophesies that these ten angelic principalities will "mingle themselves with the seed of men" (Dan9:43), he is talking about yet another incursion of angels upon the earth to produce Nephilim, including, but not limited to, the Antichrist.

CONCLUSION. Scripture reveals that fallen angels have come upon the earth and used human women to produce a hybrid race called the Nephilim. The first such incursion took place before the Flood of Noah and was indeed the cause for God's world-wide judgment at that time. At least one additional incursion occurred in the past after the Flood in the region of Canaan and was the cause for God's call for the Israelites to utterly eradicate those peoples dwelling in the Promised Land. Satan's objective in these previous angelic incursions appears to have been the corruption of the human (or Jewish) genome, thus preventing the coming of Messiah, He who will be the agent of his own prophesied destruction (Gen3:15).

When Jesus taught His disciples that, "as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be" (Matt24:37), He was undoubtedly asserting that the time preceding His return (i.e., the last days) would be characterized by another angelic incursion upon the earth to produce additional Nephilim, the central figure of which will be the literal seed of Satan, which Scripture most often designates as the Beast, but who is more commonly known today as the Antichrist.