

When Demons Say "I Do"

I thoroughly enjoy our weekly prophecy update series.

This past Sunday I mentioned that Jesus said one of the signs of the End would be that men would be "marrying and being given in marriage," comparing it to what He called "the days of Noah."

Commentators tend to interpret Jesus' words as meaning the human race will be going about its business, like celebrating marriages, when He returns, being unaware of His Second Coming.

That, to me, seems rather unlikely. From at least the mid-point of the Tribulation on, the inhabitants of the earth will know that God is judging the world in preparation for the return of Jesus.

Just prior to His return, conditions will, in fact, be so terrible that if He didn't return, the entire race would be destroyed.

So, to me, it's doubtful people will be reading bridal magazines and hiring wedding coordinators and hosting reception in the days leading up to the Second Coming.

When you go back and read the account in Genesis that Jesus was referring to, you find that, in the days of Noah, a very specific type of "marriage" is described.

Genesis 6:1 Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them,
Genesis 6:2 that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; **and they took wives for themselves** of all whom they chose.

Genesis 6:3 And the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years."

Genesis 6:4 There were giants on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown.

It should be obvious from the first casual reading of these verses that the marriages taking place were unusual; they were not the norm. Marriage between men and women had been going on for a long time; so, when it says "the sons of God" took an interest in "the daughters of men," this wasn't your average courtship.

The unions between these two groups was producing unusual offspring.

The key to figuring out what was happening seems to be in our understanding of the phrase, "the sons of God."

There are three views of who the "sons of God" are among Bible commentators.

- The first view sees them as the godly human offspring of Seth, while the "daughters of men" were the ungodly offspring from the line of Cain, and their sin as that of mixed marriages between believers and nonbelievers.
- The second view sees the sons of God as pagan kings and nobles, like Lamech in chapter four, who take multiple wives, in defiance of the structure of marriage given by God in the Garden.
- The third view identifies the sons of God as wicked, fallen angels who had rebelled with Satan and who then sinned

further by cohabiting with the daughters of men; these diabolical unions resulted in strange offspring called "giants."

Each of these views has Scriptural evidence to support it; each of them also has difficulties.

For example the view that the "sons of God" are the godly offspring of Seth fails from the get-go, because, by definition, they were not 'godly' if they were marrying nonbelievers.

Besides, other than Noah and his family, there were no other righteous people on the earth.

So the Seth theory is a bust.

For myself, I lean towards the supernatural view that the "sons of God" are fallen angels. The Bible, commenting on itself, seems to support this view.

Peter and Jude, in their New Testament letters, are God's *inspired* Bible commentators. Peter, in describing the days of Noah:

- In 2 Peter 2:4 "... God did not spare ***the angels who sinned***, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment..."
- In 1 Peter 3:19 he mentions certain "***...spirits in prison...***"

Jude then provides this commentary:

Jude 1:6 "***...the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode***, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day..."

In the next verse in Jude there is a clue as to what these wicked angels did. They did something similar to what the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah did.

Those cities indulged themselves in gross sexual immorality, going after "strange flesh."

Just so, Jude says, there were fallen angels who gave themselves to gross immorality by going after strange flesh. They abandoned their proper habitation and gave themselves over to a gross kind of sexual evil. For that, God has incarcerated them in a special dungeon in Hades.

Both Peter and Jude were commenting on Bible history that their readers were familiar with. In light of Genesis 6:1-4, we believe that they were commenting on the sin of the "sons of God" in the days just prior to the flood.

Fallen angels are called "sons of God" because God created them and they were not born. They lusted after human women and took them in marriage. Their offspring were extraordinary men called "giants", "mighty men of old, men of renown."

Dr. Henry Morris and others suggest that these fallen angels, themselves spirits, took possession of the bodies of human men as a "habitation" in order to marry women and corrupt the human race. The angels could have manipulated the genes in the bodies of their hosts, creating mutations and recombinations of characteristics to produce human offspring that were endowed with extraordinary features.

While you are considering all this, don't forget to note the phrase in verse 4, "*and also afterward.*" There were such giants *again*; you read of them in Numbers, Deuteronomy, and in Joshua.

Since everyone except Noah and his family were destroyed in the global flood, these post-flood giants would have to be produced by someone **again** cohabiting with the daughters of men after the judgment of the flood.

Demons survived the flood to again take up habitation in the bodies of men to again produce giants.

I suggested on Sunday, as have others, that this was a satanic effort to corrupt the DNA of the human race. Satan was there, in the Garden of Eden, when God promised He would come, as Savior, as the "seed of the woman."

In fact God was talking to the serpent at the time.

If Satan could sufficiently corrupt human DNA, he could, perhaps, thwart God's plan to become human.

It seems it would have worked - but for Noah. Look what the text says about him:

Genesis 6:8 But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

Genesis 6:9 This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God.

Genesis 6:10 And Noah begot three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

We read that and conclude Noah was a righteous man, i.e., a believer.

But when it says he was "perfect in his generations," it might be a reference to his DNA not being polluted, as was the DNA of others.

In the midst of these verses, God says "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years." If the wickedness of mankind was due to an invasion of demons, how can God hold mankind responsible?

The answer seems to be that mankind was familiar with these fallen angels and was choosing to consort with them.

The text is careful to indicate that these unions were marriages; "they took wives..." They weren't going about raping innocent women. The context seems to imply voluntary relationships with fallen angels; or demon-possessed men.

If this seems weird, it is no weirder than what is happening today. There is an explosion of interest in the occult and especially in contacting spirit beings - *even with voluntary possession*.

We may be on the verge of weirder things yet as men and women choose to consort with seducing spirits.

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

When men do not retain God in their knowledge, they fall into progressively worse sin. You can read about it in Romans 1:18-32.

Genesis 6:6 And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.

In the KJV it says that "it repented the Lord." It is an essential characteristic of God that He *does not* change or repent. *We* change and then God deals differently with us. In order to describe this, we say that God changed His mind when we really mean that God is consistent with His nature and changes His dealings with us based on our responses.

God told Jonah He was going to destroy Nineveh. When they repented, He seems to have changed His mind by sparing them. But the supposed change was consistent with God's nature.

Jonah, in fact, *knew* that God would change if Nineveh responded with repentance; that's the reason why he ran the other way. He wanted them to perish.

God is described as "grieved in His heart." Grief is a love-word; we only grieve for those we love. God takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked, and even strives with them because He loves them and seeks their repentance.

Genesis 6:7 So the LORD said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them."

Matthew Henry writes, "None lose the Spirit's strivings but those that have first forfeited them." God's love does not cancel out His holiness. If men resist, He must respond in judgment.

One man responded to the strivings of God the Holy Spirit and was saved by grace. His impact was small; his testimony only affected seven other people.

How many people were there at the time of the flood?

According to one source,

The only definite numbers in the Bible concerning populations over a given period of time is.... Seventy Israelites go into Egypt and 400 years later, come out 1.2 million.

However, if you run the math, using the multiplier that describes the growth of Israel, the number of people on the earth prior to the flood would be nearly one trillion.

That seems unlikely.

The mathematician ran other scenarios and came up with a minimum of about 22,000 people, to a maximum of 1.2million people.

I've heard numbers into the billions.

While we are talking numbers, let's go down a short rabbit trail.

It is commonly taught that Noah was building the ark for 120 years.

The 120 years were the countdown to the flood itself. If you gather information about the ages of Noah and his children, you'll find, for example, that each son was old enough to be married before construction on the ark began. Based on ages given for Noah and his sons in the text, Noah was well into the 120 years *before* the building began.

After running the numbers, it seems he was building it for 55-70 years. Still a good long time; but not 120 years.

<https://answersingenesis.org/bible-timeline/how-long-did-it-take-for-noah-to-build-the-ark/>

Back, now, to our study. No one has the vaguest idea what the pre-flood population was; but, whatever it was, Noah, inspired by the Spirit, had little effect upon them, over a period of several decades of preaching.

But the effect he did have was profound. His family, literally, saved the human race from extinction.

The effect you have on others may seem small. It may *be* small.

Concentrate on being in the will of God, doing the works of God in the way He has prescribed. Leave the effect to Him.