

The Story–Week #19
The Flood Narrative
Increased Spiritual Awareness
(A Sixth Sense)
Genesis 6:1-4 (ESV)

Today's Message will have some PG-13 moments

“When man began to multiply on the face of the land and daughters were born to them, the sons of God saw that the daughters of man were attractive. And they took as their wives any they chose. Then the LORD said, ‘My Spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years.’ The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of man and they bore children to them. These were the mighty men who were of old, the men of renown.”

Answer four questions today:

- 1. Why are these 4 verses in the Bible (Genesis)?**
- 2. How do we approach them to understand them?**
- 3. What do they mean?**
- 4. What do they mean for us today?**

I. Why are these 4 verses in the Bible (Genesis)?

They are here to help **increase our spiritual awareness**; to see that there is a spiritual **dimension**; indeed a **spiritual conflict (battle)** going on around us.

Quick Review

- Awareness is the process of some **truth** about **God** (and His purposes), **and ourselves** (who we are) coming to light.
- Awareness is the process of some **truth** about **God** (and His purposes), **heaven & earth** (physical & spiritual), **ourselves & others** coming to light.

John 4:24 (ESV) *“God is Spirit, and those who worship him must worship him in Spirit and in truth.”*

Ephesians 6:12 *“For our struggle is not against **flesh and blood**, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this **dark world** and against the **spiritual forces of evil** in the **heavenly** realms.”*

When we can rise above our flesh (our natural way of seeing) we can love an enemy, be kind to someone who hurt us, forgive someone who has wounded us.

Genesis (indeed the entire Bible) is a journey into a world that is both physical & spiritual. And we are invited into the spiritual dimension.

There is a spiritual reality that is beyond our physical world and beyond our senses. Things we don't see that are there; things that we cannot touch physically but can touch us emotionally, spiritually and relationally. There is a spiritual dimension that eludes us.

**When this Awareness happens it can enlarge our FAITH.
FAITH IS AT THE CORE OF CHRISTIANITY**

Hebrews 11:1 (NIV84) "Now **faith** is being sure of what we hope for and **certain** of what we **do not see**."

2 Corinthians 5:7 (ESV) "[W]e walk by **faith** not by **sight**."

This requires a sixth sense. We need more than just our 5 senses: Touching, Tasting, Seeing, Smelling, and Hearing.

II. How do we approach these verses to understand them?

Rules for the Road

1. The Bible was written for me but not to me.
(Genesis was written to the ancient Israelites)
2. The Bible is a library with different literary genres (**Narrative**, **Poetry** & Discourse)
(Genesis is Narrative literature. Characters, Protagonist, Antagonist, Plot conflict, Climax, and Resolution to the story)
3. The Bible must be read in Context (Ancient, Situational & Biblical)
4. The Bible must be read with an understanding of **language and words** (Repeated words drive dominant **patterns & themes**)
The Law of first mention
5. The Bible is a unified story that leads to Jesus

When we do this it helps us understand the ancient **Frame of Reference in which the Bible was written.**

The Biblical authors have a **Spiritual Frame of Reference not a **Scientific** Frame of Reference.**

A Scientific Frame of Reference is from the observations from our 5 senses: Touching, Tasting, Seeing, Smelling and Hearing.

To understand this passage (indeed, the whole Biblical story), we must cultivate a **sixth** sense. Something spiritually is going on?

We must resist what C. S. Lewis called **"Chronological Snobbery"**

III. What do these verses mean (to the Israelites & us)?

The ancient Israelites (in the ancient & situational context) would have immediately recognized these characters as half human half spirit giants that are intent on destruction, killing and death.

**Let's play a little game to make this point.
Tell me what Movie this phrase comes from:**

- "May the force be with you."
- "Toto we're not in Kansas anymore."
- "E.T. phone home."
- "Show me the money."
- "You can't handle the truth."
- "If you build it, they will come."
- "I feel the need for speed."

Genesis 6:1-4 (ESV) *"When man began to multiply on the face of the land and daughters were born to them, the sons of God saw that the daughters of man were attractive. And they took as their wives any they chose. Then the LORD said, 'My Spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years.' The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of man and they bore children to them. These were the mighty men who were of old, the men of renown."*

The quick, straight forward, interpretation from these verses:

Spiritual beings come down to earth, see, like, and take, women for sexual relations, who give birth to half human/half spiritual beings, that are called Nephilim, who, like humans, will not live forever.

These 4 verses are the **introduction to the flood narrative**

They are setting up the plot conflict

Genesis 4:1&4 *"When man began to multiply on the face of the land and daughters were born to them, the sons of God (Elohim) **saw** that the daughters of man were **attractive** (Tov). And they **took** as their wives any they chose.... when the sons of God (Elohim) came in to the daughters of man and they bore children to them."*

This is a hyperlink back to...

Genesis 3:6 (ESV) *"So when the woman **saw** that the tree was **good** (Tov) for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she **took** of its fruit and ate..."*

This is reinforcing a theme about human and spiritual rebellion.

“Doing what is right in their own eyes.”

Proverbs 14:12 *“There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.”*

- Adam & Eve did what was right in their own eyes
- Cain did what was right in his own eyes
- Lemech did what was right in his own eyes
- The sons of God (Angels) did what was right in their own eyes

A spiritual rebellion is happening

This process will take the world from bad, to worse, to self-destruction.

Genesis 6:5 *“The LORD saw how great man’s wickedness (Ra) on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time.”*

Who are the Characters?

Daughters of man = Human women

Sons of God = Spiritual beings

Nephilim = Half human/half spiritual beings

Sons of God This Hebrew phrase is used only 5 times and every time it is used of heavenly, spiritual beings; a part of God’s heavenly (Divine) council.

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

Psalms 89:6b-7 *“Who is like the LORD among the heavenly beings? In the council of the holy ones God is greatly feared; he is more awesome than all who surround him.”*

The Nephilim are the offspring of this union of human & spiritual beings.

Genesis 6:4 (ESV) *“The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of man and they bore children to them. These were the mighty men who were of old, the men of renown.”*

NLT says, *“the heroes and famous warriors”*

MSG says, *“Giants & famous ones”*

ESV says, *“men of renown”*

Nephilim, means “fallen ones” = Famous killers. In the ancient world (*Context*), one became famous for their acts of destruction and killing.

For all of the ancient cultures (Babylon, Assyria, Egypt), these were the heroes and founders of all Israel's neighbors.

Synonyms of the Nephilim: *Gibborim* / *Anak* / *Anakites* / *Amorites* / *Rephaim*

- **Moses battles them**

Numbers 13:32-33 (NASB 1995) “So [the spies] gave the sons of Israel a **bad (Ra)** report of the land which they had spied out, saying, ‘The land through which we have gone, in spying it out, is a land that devours its inhabitants; and all the people whom we saw in it are **men of great size**. There also we saw the **Nephilim** (the sons of **Anak** are from the Nephilim); and we **became like grasshoppers** in our own sight, and so we were in their sight.’”

Deuteronomy 3:10-11 (NIV) “We took all the towns on the plateau, and all Gilead, and all **Bashan** as far as Salekah and Edrei, towns of **Og’s kingdom in Bashan**. (**Og** king of **Bashan** was the last of the **Rephaim**. His bed was decorated with iron and was more than **nine cubits long and four cubits wide**. It is still in Rabbah of the Ammonites.)”

- **Joshua battled them (Joshua 11:21)**

- **David battled them**

1 Samuel 17:4 (NIV) “A champion named Goliath, who was from Gath, came out of the Philistine camp. His height was six cubits and a span.”

- **David & his mighty men conquered them (2 Samuel 21:15-22)**

These characters are NOT a small piece of the Biblical story but a dominant theme that runs all the way through from beginning to end.

Rephaim (The Bible refers to them as spirits of dead warriors)

Jude 1:6 (NLT) “I remind you of the angels who did not stay within the limits of authority God gave them but left the place where they belonged. God has kept them in prisons of darkness, waiting for the great day of judgment.”

IV. What does it mean for us today?

The spiritual battle is REAL:

Darkness is in the creation story and continues to be a dominant theme of spiritual conflict (Battle).

Ephesians 6:12 *“Our struggle is not against **flesh and blood**, but against the... powers of this **dark world...**”*

John 8:12 *“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”*

1 John 1:7 *“If we **walk in the light**, as he is in the light, we have **fellowship with one another**, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.”*

- **Walk in the Light**

Deception is in the Eden story and continues to be a dominant theme of our spiritual conflict (Battle).

2 Corinthians 11:3 *“I am afraid that just as **Eve was deceived by the serpent’s** cunning, your minds may somehow be **led astray** from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.”*

John 8:31-32 *“Jesus said, ‘If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the **truth**, and the **truth** will set you free.’”*

- **Walk in the Truth**

Demonic powers (Fallen Spiritual Being) are in the flood story and continue to be a dominant theme of our spiritual conflict (Battle).

Ephesians 6:12 *“Our struggle is... against the **spiritual forces of evil** in the **heavenly realms**.”*

The Lord’s prayer, *“deliver us from the evil one...”*

2 Timothy 4:18 *“The **Lord will rescue me from every evil attack** and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom.”*

Galatians 5:25 *“Let us keep in step with the Spirit.”*

- **Walk in the Spirit**