

**Sons of God  
and Daughters of Men**

**In Genesis 6**

**a non-mythical view**

**by**

**Don Casselman**

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## Passage and Intro 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,*

*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.*

*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."*

*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.*

*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.*

### Introduction

Years ago my wife and I bought a copy of the New Paraphrase Bible and used it for our daily table devotions, hoping that it would be easier for the children to understand. And it was, but when we came to Genesis 6, I was quite confused, because the paraphraser had read into the passage so much mythology that I could not reconcile the implications of what he was saying with what I knew the Bible taught about God in general. I knew there needed to be an explanation, and now after so many years I think I understand.

### The Problem

Probably every born again child of God shakes his head and wonders if there is a contradiction in the Bible when they read this passage which seems to reduce the authority and power of God the omnipotent and only Creator. Heaven forbid that there can be other creators also. That is the problem, that the Almighty God could be reduced to One of many creators. And if so, what can we really trust? I know that faith can work and keep us even when we do not understand, but I also know that faith is not unreasonable or ungrounded. Even blind faith is based on the fact that there is sight and understanding.

### Conflicting historical cultures

As we read the Bible we see the wide disparity between God's value system and man's. No doubt this is what God had in mind when He gave us the Bible, that we should recognize how far short we have fallen from the glory of God. And since this is so we should not be surprised when the culture of a nation reflects the fear of the Lord that the individuals of that

nation have. History and historians tell us in general terms and in specific instances how the rise and fall of national societies corresponds with their respect for the God of Creation

Abraham and Moses were called to come out of the world that wanted to forget God. They were given an authentic account of human history right from the beginning and from the Creator's point of view. Even though most of the history as Moses would write it was the same in general as the oral traditions and myths of the day, there was a big difference. That God Himself who had seen it all, inspired Moses to record the correct version of it all. Probably without inspiration Moses would have been confused as to which version of the oral creation stories was the best. His mother would certainly have taught him a lot of Hebrew lore in the 4 years she nurtured him, and no doubt he heard many different accounts during his next 36 years being tutored to be a pharaonic leader. The Torah was different from anything before it in that it was authentic, and written instead of oral, so it could not be changed.

However, the other nations did not have this advantage. We are told they did not want to retain God, and they did not. Their lore and oral traditions decayed and in many cases were manipulated to the advantage of their leaders. Spiritual leaders soon found that they could exert greater control by keeping the general populace ignorant and superstitious. Egyptian hieroglyphics is one example of this intentional deception, for that alphabet has only recently been understood enough to read what the uninitiated were not intended to know. The Greek culture depended on the superstition that its spiritual leaders fostered and made up. One cannot read any part of famous Greek literature without noting how obsessed everybody was with finding wild stories and unseen beings to explain natural events and nature in general.

In our culture we see Mother Nature mentioned in ways that subtly teach our children that the earth mother is uncreated and independent from God. Other nations had different cultures with manipulative leaders who feared that the true God would interfere and depose them. Although Israel was in the midst of all this, the Israelites were to be different and a testimony to the true God. They could have been, and they should have been, but they failed when they forgot the God who made them.

### **Eastern and Western Mythology**

When we depend on anthropomorphisms, mythologic lore and analogous stories about the past it does not take many oral repetitions before the

accounts become suspect. This is probably more so now than in a society that did not generally use written correspondence and records, but over time it happened. And to keep nationalities distinct and different, they needed different stories of their origin and deities. If we take India as an example without knowing the authentic story of creation, how would we distinguish between the multitude of creation myths and creators that we encounter there? There is no way of telling which one is right. And there are plenty of stories about all the different ones.

The Greeks had their stories too, and beginning with Alexander their culture became honored as elite and enlightened, and this continued after their fall. The Romans with all their mighty armies and conquests were considered rude and uncivilized in contrast to the Greeks. This was the opinion of Roman leaders, not just their enemies. Our western culture has been influenced greatly by Athenian literature because we have been taught to admire their experiment with democracy and evolution. Freedom first of all from the absolutes of specifically one God for creation and then freedom from ever reporting to Him. Anything other than the actual truth.

### **Jewish Orthodox Rabbis**

The Jews, however had no such privileges. The laws of Moses leave no alternates to the Bible story of Creation and the God who engineered it all, and who still takes a personal interest in everything He has created. The prophets give us plenty of confirmation that those who try to distort the inspired record are fighting against the supreme creator God. The orthodox view of angels in Jesus day is presented fairly by Josephus. The mystical Cabalistic views are rebuked by Paul in Colossions 2: 18 Let no man rob you of your prize by a voluntary humility and worshipping of the angels, dwelling in the things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,

### **Josephus and Philo**

Against the background of history of great national powers, and during the rule of Rome we have writers and their books that survive and show us how great this contrast was seen to be in their day. Josephus and Philo the Jew both lived about that time, and they belabour the differences between superstition and fact, between academics and utility, between God centered values and other (multi) cultures. These books, which are classed as secular history, are based on absolutes; that absolutely nothing is unrelated to God and His purposes and character.

Josephus wrote specifically to the influential Romans showing them how superior the Jewish culture and values were to the Grecian. He saw how Roman leaders were admiring the language and culture of the Greeks whom they had overcome, so he pointed out the antiquity of the Bible as compared to the modern mythical inventions of the Greeks.

Philo also not a believer in Jesus, nevertheless knew how foolish worldly wisdom was. He went to great length and peril of life to make clear the point that teachings that do not allow the one Creator God to be their source and subject are unworthy of being called philosophy. He referred to those writers as sophists and their works as sophistry. Philo- sophistry is based on the supreme lover of wisdom, God Himself, but sophistry is merely man's (limited) understanding based on humanistic models.

The New Testament is unique in that it has proved its claim to inspiration. It is not just man's view of events and actions, but affirms the unity of God and His creatorship.

### **The Dark Ages**

During the dark ages there was a general lack of understanding and teaching in the European world. There was a lot of superstition and occult, and in general very little Bible reading. The scientific method and experimentation was also suppressed and taboo, consequently there were almost no improvements or inventions. This fostered more superstition and folklore, and was reflected in everyday life including education and religion. As we study this part of history and the enlightenment we see how greatly this superstition affected even the best writers. In Hans Christian Anderson and his Tales we find innumerable references to the old Greek and dark ages mythical beings. Naturally so, because that was his background, even though his tales are now seen as too moralistic and creator-like to be politically correct.

And to return to our reason for writing this article, we must assume that the translators of the first English Bible were wondering about some of the mythical origins and folklore that were around in their day. They did not have all the knowledge and discoveries we have to even suggest some of the innovations we have today.

### **Modern Plant and Animal Breeding**

Today we are aware of the far reaching effects of plant and animal breeding, how the world is a better place because of this. And of course God did tell Adam to take control of nature and improve on it. Improve on what

God has given us without abusing it or attempting to rule Him out. There is no logical way to replace the word dominion with the word creation. God did create everything, and Adam's job and ours is to excel in making it much, much better. Adam had to start out by hoeing weeds, but today there are other areas to be conquered.

But sin . . . . We wonder from the kind of answer Cain gave to God after killing his brother , whether he wanted to improve on the “have dominion” (Gen 1:28-29) thing by weeding out Abel as a nuisance. If so, then we know he was trying to take the place of God, which is a mark of the Devil. If he had understood and appreciated the difference between human life made in the image of God, and the weeds he had to chop out of his grain fields, then he might have looked at the consequences and acted differently.

But where is the dividing line. We all honor Luther Burbank for giving us bigger and more beautiful roses. Rightly so, and we are thankful for better tasting potatoes and chicken. But what about genetic engineering of new breeds of wheat, or different kinds of animals, or even a more perfect human breed? Hitler stepped over the boundary when he started to build a super race and God punished him for it. Not because he wanted to improve what had been created, but because human life is different from roses or chickens. In no way can the dominion command be interpreted to excuse either Cain or Hitler. Human life is sacred to God and must be to us also.

With this background I think we can logically and quickly dispel all hints of mythology from the Genesis 6 passage. Quite simply, men were like Hitler, going beyond improving and attempting to create, and they overstepped the limits of what God will tolerate. We are not to think of ourselves as creators.

### **Adam was the first son of God**

Adam and Eve were created in the image of God. One facet of that creation is the ability to procreate, meaning to be a partner in creating. But being a procreator is far from being a creator. God alone is the creator. Independent man knows that if he can become creator he will never need to account to God any more. And this is a common theme for all false religions, even the religion of evolution, and certainly the religion of the pre flood world.

The Genesis 6 passage tells us that men related the personal worthiness of women to their beauty. Quite plainly that means that the tallest and wittiest blonde beauties were the only ones worthy of living. So they were chosen

for the new experiment. And be sure that these women demanded the biggest and most handsome men to be partnered with. Who knows how many puny under par children were done away with in these experiments, or in everyday life? Does this revolt you? It should, although it is the norm in crop and animal improvement experimentation. But in God's sight no person is an animal or plant.

The next step would be selective breeding by choosing and segregating the super models and super men. Not a big thing to do when the life span was almost a thousand years, and each researcher could accumulate hundreds of years of observed data. To me that sounds as intolerable as Hitler's pursuit of a master race, and God would see it that way too.

The term sons of God does not need to be interpreted as anything more than human beings. Adam was a son of God, and his likeness to God in procreative ability has been passed down to each generation making us all sons of God. That does not mean that the women used in these breeding experiments could not be fooled into thinking that they were breeding with superhuman men. Since they were being taken advantage of, it is quite possible their gullibility was also exploited.

### **Angels referred to as sons of God**

In Job we read that there was a day when the sons of God came before him in Heaven. They were indeed creations of God, and had characteristics that were like God, life as a common example. Yet in the Biblical account of the creation of Angels there is no hint that they ever had any creative or procreative ability. There is plenty of evidence in the Bible that they are curious and jealous of this human ability, and that they attempt to degrade the procreative ability in mankind. Satan is the prime example of wanting to be like God, and that would include the ability to create. In contrast to the Greek example of the creation of Chaos as a product created by the god of evil, we read in the Bible that Satan is the creator of only lies and a state of confusion, not creator of a creature called confusion.

There is no Biblical evidence that even the highest form of angelic creation, the Devil, ever had or will have or can have any ability to create life of any kind. This observation also precludes any pre-adamic creations, even if taught by well meaning geologists. Such mythical ideas are of course what Satan wants, for we read that he wants to be like God the Creator. He is not worthy of that much respect. He is our enemy and God's adversary, and he is a liar from the start. When Jesus referred to people as the children of the

Devil He was not talking about a creation, but a character likeness to the father of all lies.

### **A Genesis 6 Solution**

We have to admit that the verses in Genesis 6 do offer challenges of interpretation, however they can be resolved. Our first concern is that any interpretation offered fits in with the whole of the rest of the Bible. Certainly the idea of another creator beside God cannot be allowed. Because of the five thousand years of time distance we just do not know all the details, there are no videos, and the Bible account is very concise. It is not primarily concerned with the details, but with the sinfulness of the people and God's righteousness in shortening the life span and sending the flood.

Because we understand human nature and history we are able to construct a model or models of how their deliberate actions could be carried out, without violating any of the details that we are told in Scripture. If we can imagine different natural experiments, how much more inventive could the actual citizens of that day be when they had productive life spans ten times greater than ours?

Another plausible scenario would be the greater variety of human differences. Scientists who study genes and reproduction today tell us that as generations of a species pile up the more uniform its groups become and with less likelihood of variation. The variations in the human race today have been fairly constant for many generations, but for these differences to be here today means that the DNA possibility was there right from the beginning. Meaning that the incidence of dwarfs and giants and other freaks would be more pronounced in that age. Not a big problem for the humanistic mind to imagine that giants are more human than dwarfs, and to go about to breed out the less desirable elements. This they did, and God did not approve of it.

### **No Accommodation**

Therefore, every time we read or are reminded of this passage I hope we think of honoring only the one Creator God; that we become aware of the temptation to accommodate humanistic mysticism and resist it; that we become unwilling to allow the Destroyer any credit as a creator; and that we ourselves do not become self deceived as were the pre-flood sinners whom God had to destroy.

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