



Magnolia Bible Church Men's Group - Creation Series

Lesson #5 (Genesis 6A – The Wickedness of Man) | Thursday, March 9, 2017

The principal aim of this series is to explore what the Bible has to say about Creation and the early history of mankind up to the Tower of Babel. The first eleven chapters of Genesis define for us what God's Word has to say about the early days of man. For many people this portion of the Bible is nothing more than fables, while for others it is the inspired Word of God that clearly establishes the origin of man, civilization, and the universe. As Christians, it is important to know what we believe and be able to clearly communicate to others the basis of our beliefs. The world needs well-read, articulate Christians who are confident in their beliefs built on a strong, Biblical foundation.

Listed below is the basic outline for our Creation Series, along with the schedule for each lesson.

Topic	Location in Genesis	Planned Date
Introduction	N/A	February 2
Six days of Creation	Genesis 1 – 2	February 9
The Fall	Genesis 3	February 16
Cain and Abel	Genesis 4	February 23
Genealogy (Adam to Noah)	Genesis 5	March 2
Wickedness of Man	Genesis 6:1-8	March 9
Noah and the Flood	Genesis 6 – 8	March 23 (*)
God's Covenant with Noah / Sons of Noah	Genesis 9	March 30
Table of Nations	Genesis 10	April 6
Tower of Babel	Genesis 11:1-9	April 13

* Spring Break is scheduled for March 13-17; there will not be a lesson on Thursday, March 16.

The first eight verses of Genesis 6 set the tone for everything that is going to happen in the rest of our study (through Genesis 11). After the Fall in Genesis 3 and the murder of Abel by Cain in Genesis 4 things continued to get worse. As we read in verse 5 of Genesis 6, the Lord observed that, "that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time." That's a pretty bold statement to state that men had become evil all the time.

One of the more controversial passages in the Bible concerns what we read in verse 4 regarding the Nephilim where it states that "the sons of God went to the daughters of humans and had children by them." Provided below are three explanations commonly held among theologians regarding this passage of Scripture. The strongest argument among those presented in that the sons of God were fallen angels. The inter-marriage between angels and humans created a "super human" race of beings that were evil and contributed significantly to the wickedness of man. This wickedness resulted in God's flooding of the earth in the time of Noah.

Lines of Seth View (i.e. they were godly descendants of Seth)

One hypothesis is that the sons of God are the descendants of Seth, the pure line of Adam. The daughters of men are then seen as the descendants of Cain.

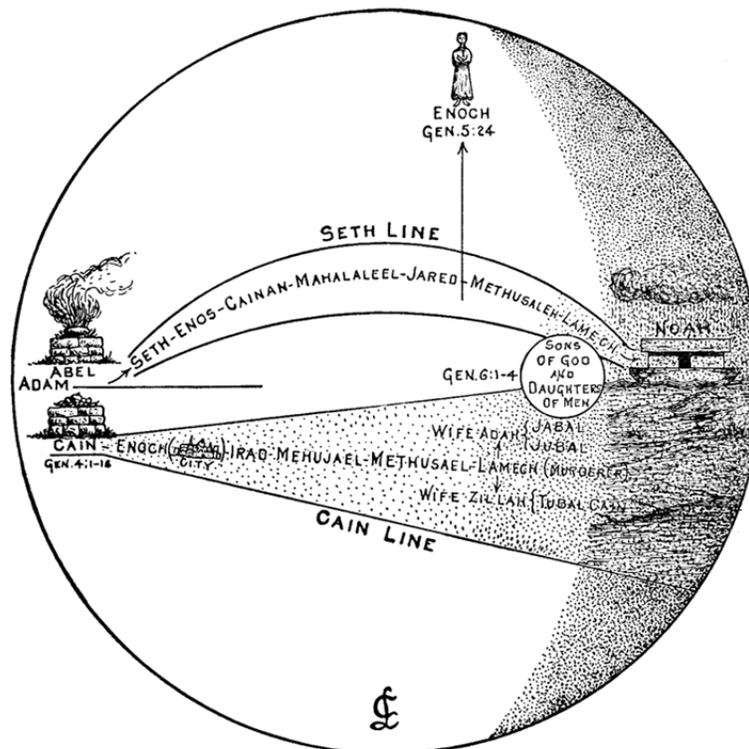
Angelic View (i.e. they were fallen angels)

A second hypothesis states that the "sons of God" are a category of fallen angel referred to as Watchers who came to earth and had children with the daughters of men. This union resulted in a race of half-angel, half-human beings known as the Nephilim.

Gods and Cities (i.e. they were powerful human rulers)

A third hypothesis relates the "sons of God" to the 70 sons of El and Athirat in the Canaanite tradition of Ugarit, from whose marriage with a race of titanesses (the daughters of man), the 70 nations of the earth were born. Each city or people thus had its own divinity, with whom they had a special covenant (i.e. Ba'al Be'rith = Lord of the Covenant). This marriage of the divinity with the city would seem to have Biblical parallels too with the stories of the link between Melkart and Tyre; Yahweh and Jerusalem; Chemosh and Moab; Tanit and Baal Hammon with Carthage, and may have been celebrated annually after the new year with a hieros gamos or sacred marriage, in which a Qadeshtu (Holy One) took the role of the God's consort, representing the city.

Reference (in part): http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sons_of_God



2. ANTEDILUVIAN DISPENSATION (CONSCIENCE)

Clarence Larkin's figure on the Antediluvian Dispensation
(e.g. before the Flood)

