



THE FLOOD, PART IV THE FIRST GENERATION

Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, 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. 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." 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.

Genesis 6:1-4

The subject of this section is **God's Spirit**. The object of this section is **men**, specifically those listed as *the sons of God*. There have been differing opinions through the years concerning whom the expression *the sons of God* and the expression *daughters of men* refer. The two main opinions are:

- 1: *the sons of God* are angels, *daughters of men* are humans.
- 2: *the sons of God* are the descendants of Seth, *daughters of men* descendants of Cain.

I reject the first opinion for the following reasons:

- 1: The Bible does not ascribe any sexuality to angels.
- 2: The Bible does not indicate that angels would have any such desire.
- 3: It just makes no sense to me.

On the other hand, the second opinion is somewhat tenuous also. I still would prefer to go with that.

In any case, this passage deals with the relationship between the Holy Spirit and man. This relationship is expressed by the verb *diyn*, a primitive root; to rule; by implication to judge (as umpire); also to strive (as at law) :- contend, execute (judgment), judge, minister judgment, plead (the cause), at strife, strive. Strong

The translation, as shown above, is "strive." This translation is questionable as this is the only place this verb is found. The Septuagint (Greek translation of the Old Testament) has "abide" which is probably closer to what was meant. So, then, we have the Holy Spirit abiding with man in this first generation. God, through His Spirit had a close relation with man in this first generation but that relationship was to come to an end. Why would it end? The text tells us it was because *he is indeed flesh*. Of course man was flesh. We are all flesh. We even know that

the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.
John 1:14

We are to interpret this expression in the sense of the passage below.

Therefore, brethren, we are debtors--not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

Romans 8:12-13

To be a bit more specific,

. . . because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man--and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.

Romans 1:21-23

Man stopped living in relationship with God. Man put God aside and worshiped himself and other creatures. Having terminated this relationship, God would have no other choice than to do away with mankind. But, as is usually the case, God did not act immediately. Recall the case with Jonah?

And Jonah began to enter the city on the first day's walk. Then he cried out and said, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!"

Jonah 3:4

Nineveh had forty days to repent. Why? In the case of Nineveh there was repentance.

When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he had compassion and did not bring upon them the destruction he had threatened.

Jonah 3:10

God gives every man a time to repent and turn to Him. When that time is up, there is no second chance. Are you in a right relationship with God? If not, how much time do you have left?

In concluding this section, we note that those born of this corrupt generation were *mighty men who were of old, men of renown*. What does this mean? The Hebrew terminology is fairly common in the Old Testament. We might call them "heros" today. The non-Christian world has many "heros" today - Just watch the newscasts. Is this an indication we have less than 120 years left?

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