

Difficult Scriptures

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I. Scripture: Genesis 6:1-4

II. How This Verse Is Misused By Some

Some maintain that these verses mean angels married women before the Flood and engendered a race of giants.

III. True Explanation

- A. This scripture does not say that angels married women. It states that the "sons of God...took them wives of all which they chose" (verse 2). These sons of God were not angels. The fact is that angels do not marry. Jesus said those in the resurrection "neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels" (Matthew 22:30, Mark 12:25).
- B. Angels cannot cohabit with women and reproduce sexually. Angels are spirit beings (Hebrews 1:14). Women are human beings. Here we have two different kinds. God established a law that each kind produces only after its own kind (Genesis 1:11-12, 21). This is made clear by the context as well. In Genesis 6:3-4 God states, "My spirit shall not always strive with man." God is speaking of mankind, not angels. Verse 4 shows that the children of the sons of God and the daughters of men were "mighty men," not angels. They were "mighty," yes, but still only men.
- C. In the Bible the phrase "sons of God" can have different meanings. The phrase sometimes refers to spirit-begotten Christians (Romans 8:14, I John 3:2). Also, angels are called "sons of God" (Job 1:6, 38:4-7). But remember angels "neither marry, nor are given in marriage." A third meaning refers to mankind in general, because all men are sons of God by creation (Psalms 82:6, Malachi 2:10, Luke 3:38). Since these were obviously not spirit-begotten Christians, and could not be angels, it is evident that these "sons of God" were simply mankind in general, who had forsaken God and were intermarrying in defiance of God's law.
- D. One final clarification: Giants were not exclusively the progeny of these specific marriages between the sons of God and the daughters of men. Verse 4 shows that the giants existed before the sons of God married the daughters of men and afterward as well, but does not state that they were the result only of these marriages.

