

## **Today's Passage: Genesis 6:1-10**

### **Understanding Genesis 6:2: "Who Are the Sons of God and the Daughters of Men?"**

When we look at Genesis 6:2, biblical scholars have two main interpretations regarding who the "sons of God" and the "daughters of men" are.

The first interpretation suggests that the "sons of God" refers to angels, while the "daughters of men" refers to humans. This view argues that the union between these beings produced giants.

The second interpretation believes that the "sons of God" were the descendants of Seth, and the "daughters of men" were the descendants of Cain.

According to this interpretation, the descendants of Seth were drawn to the beauty of Cain's descendants, leading to marriages that eventually caused the godly culture to be absorbed into a sinful one.

Given the context of Genesis chapters 4 and 5, I find the latter interpretation more plausible.

After Adam and Eve were expelled from Eden due to their disobedience, humanity began to flourish. Genesis 4 details the lineage of Cain, showcasing a culture of sin, while Genesis 5 traces the lineage of Seth, highlighting a culture centered on worshiping God.

By the time we reach Genesis 6, these two cultures, once in opposition, began to merge. The sinful culture, like a virus, overwhelmed the worshipful culture, especially through the medium of marriage.

**This demonstrates the powerful influence of marriage, as it blends the lives and cultures of individuals.**

**In Genesis 6:5-6, we see an expression of God's sorrow and regret over creating humanity.**

God, who created humans as the masterpiece of His creation in His own image, found Himself in a situation where He was grieved and sorrowful because of them.

If we look closely at God's grief and regret, we see that He created humans as autonomous beings capable of making their own decisions, not as robots. This autonomy led to problems, but God, valuing human dignity, still chose to create us in His image, even at the cost of His own sorrow and pain.

It might seem unusual for an omniscient and omnipotent God to experience grief and regret, but the Bible uses anthropomorphic language to help us understand God's emotions from a human perspective.

**When God created humanity, He saw that it was very good, reflecting His image. However, the power of sin, introduced through Satan, began to exert a terrifying influence within humans.**

**This influence first manifested in Cain's murder of his brother Abel and, by the time of his descendant Lamech, expanded to affect whole clans or tribes.**

**By Noah's time, sin had spread throughout ancient Near Eastern society, which extended beyond Eden and around the Euphrates River. This shows that sin was not just an issue for Cain's descendants but a universal problem affecting all humanity, including Seth's lineage.**

**Look at Genesis 6:5 for more insight.**

**The negative aspects of humanity were not acquired but inherent, as seen when God reiterates after the flood that humanity's inclination is evil from youth (Genesis 8:21).**

**This declaration about all humans, descended from Adam and Eve, helps us understand the starting point for comprehending human nature. It also reveals that without God's mercy and grace, humanity cannot escape the bondage of sin and Satan.)**

I mentioned that the sinful culture, like a virus, overwhelmed the worshipful culture, especially through the medium of marriage.

In Exodus, we see that when the Israelites were escaping Egypt to the Promised Land, God commanded them to destroy the Canaanites.

Some may see this as cruel and question why God seems to favor Israel exclusively. However, this view stems from a lack of understanding of the Bible.

God is not unjust or exclusive. He chose Israel as a means to bring salvation to surrounding nations. Unfortunately, Israel often misunderstood their role, seeing themselves as chosen for privilege rather than service. God intended Israel to be a light to the nations and a priestly nation connecting others to Him. Israel's failure to embrace this mission led to their downfall.

### **Why then did God command the destruction of the Canaanites?**

There are two main reasons:

First, the Canaanites were extremely corrupt and sinful, engaging in practices such as child sacrifice and worshiping Baal, the so-called "god of fertility." Their worship included immoral acts, like ritual sex, believing it would bring rain.

Second, God wanted to prevent the Israelites from intermarrying with the Canaanites and adopting their sinful practices. Intermarriage would lead the Israelites away from their identity and mission, causing them to fall into idolatry and moral decay.

Therefore, understanding God's commands requires recognizing the historical and cultural context, showing that He is neither cruel nor unjust.

King Solomon, despite beginning his reign with great blessings, fell into idolatry and lost God's favor by marrying foreign princesses, leading Israel into religious corruption. Solomon's alliances through marriage caused him to build altars to false gods, angering God and ultimately dividing Israel.

**Today, as believers, we must remember that serving God with divided loyalty is akin to betrayal. Just as adultery ruins marriages, loving the world more than God makes us His enemies.** The First Commandment, "You shall have no other gods before me," reminds us that anything that distracts us from our relationship with God becomes an idol.

**This can include hobbies, children, or anything we are overly attached to.**

Jesus explicitly identified money as a significant rival to God. Many people prioritize work or studies over Sunday worship, driven by the pursuit of success and wealth.

When I sent my children to college, I advised them that if their studies ever interfered with their relationship with God, they should prioritize their faith. This is not because I am a pastor, but because I believe that true success and well-being come from God, not academic achievement.

I know a missionary who pursued a Ph.D. at Harvard. Despite his demanding schedule, he always put God first, serving in church and leading Bible studies. One particular instance of teaching on Romans led him to deeply understand the history of the Reformation. This knowledge unexpectedly became crucial for his final exam, where he had to write about Martin Luther and the Reformation—a topic he had studied thoroughly through his Bible teaching.

This experience reinforced his belief in prioritizing God, resulting in him successfully completing his Ph.D. at Harvard.

**We should not confuse religious behavior with a genuine, loving relationship with God.**

In our world, it may seem that prioritizing God will lead to loss or failure. However, God promises to provide for those who put Him first. (Matthews 6:33)

Over time, as humanity evolved from Adam and Eve, the descendants of Cain and Seth merged, leading to a world filled with wickedness, prompting God's judgment through the flood. This parallels the New Testament's advice against being unequally yoked with unbelievers.

In our faith journey, lukewarm commitment makes it easy to be assimilated into worldly ways. The greatest danger in our faith is syncretism, where we try to balance belief in God with worldly compromises.

Our goal is not to become merely religious but to emulate Jesus, prioritizing our relationship with God.

To be true followers of Jesus, we must be firm in our faith and flexible in our human interactions. Compromising on faith but being rigid in relationships reflects the absorbed descendants of Seth by Cain's lineage.

Ultimately, our faith must be unwavering, and our relationships with others should be marked by understanding and kindness, reflecting Jesus' example.

**Prayer to Start A New Day:**

**Heavenly Father,**

**As we begin this new day, we come before You with grateful hearts, thankful for Your constant love and grace. We ask for Your guidance and wisdom as we navigate the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.**

**Lord, help us to prioritize our relationship with You above all else. May we seek Your will in all our decisions and trust in Your plans for our lives. Grant us the strength to stand firm in our faith and resist the temptations that draw us away from You.**

**Bless our interactions today, that we may reflect Your love and kindness to everyone we meet. Give us a heart of compassion and a spirit of humility, that we may serve others selflessly and bring glory to Your name.**

**Protect us and our loved ones, and fill our homes with peace and joy. May we be instruments of Your grace, spreading hope and light in a world that so desperately needs it.**

**We dedicate this day to You, Lord, and ask that You walk with us every step of the way.**

**In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**