

Nephilim (“Fallen Ones”) Giants of Old

Our study begins fully with why all this would occur. It starts with the first Messianic prophecy given right after the fall of Adam and Eve. We find it in Genesis 3:15, but to get all the background, we will start in verse 14. Notice who God is talking to and all that He says:

Genesis 3:14-15, TPT

14 Yahweh-God then said to the snake: (1) “Because you have done this, you are cursed above every wild animal, condemned above every creature of the field! You will slither on your belly and eat dust all the days of your life!

*15 And I will place great hostility between you and the woman, and between **her seed** (2) and **yours**. He will crush your head as you crush his heel.(3)*

(1) TPT – The Hebrew word for *snake* (serpent) is *nachash*, a very elastic term in Hebrew. It can function as a noun, a verb, or even as an adjective. When *nachash* serves as a verb, it means “snake;” when *nachash* serves as a verb, it means “to practice divination (deception).” When *nachash* has the definite article attached to it (as in this verse – the snake) it could be translated “the diviner (deceiver).” When *nachash* serves as an adjective, its meaning is “shining,” or “polished” (as in - shiny). By adding the definite article to the word, *ha nachash* would then be rightly translated “the shining one.” Angelic or divine beings are elsewhere described in the Bible as shining or luminous, at times with this very word, *nachash*. The shining one is the literal meaning of Lucifer. See Isaiah 14:12, TPT: “*Look how you have fallen from your heavenly place, O shining one (or “daystar” or “morning star.”* Lucifer, a name for satan, is the Latin word for morning star or Venus...) *son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the ground, you who conquered nations.)*

Here is a side note: The Hebrew word *seraphim*, plural for *seraph*; Strong’s #8314: a burning, fiery, gliding, angelic being; also a fiery-colored, agile, gliding desert creature, presumably a fiery serpent. The root is the root *seraph*, “to set on fire, to burn.” Accordingly, the *seraphim* may be angels of a fiery color or appearance, or flamelike in motion or clearness. Only in Isaiah 6:2, 6 does the word appear as “seraphim”; in all the remaining five occurrences (Num. 21:6, 8; Deut. 8:15; Is. 14:29; 30:6). It is translated “fiery serpents” and appears along with scorpions and vipers. Perhaps the color or motion of the earthly fiery angels. (“Word Wealth,” *New Spirit Filled Life Bible*, Thomas Nelson Bibles, 2002. 881)

(2) TPT – or “offspring.” The “seed” of the woman is Jesus Christ. The male carries the seed, but with Jesus Christ, he is the “seed” of the woman, for there was no human father to conceive him. See Romans 16:20, Galatians 4:4; Hebrews 2:14; Revelation 12:1-5. Christ has sown himself as the seed into our hearts. We have been born again, not by a corrupting seed, but by an Incorruptible Seed, the living and abiding Word of God. (1 Peter 1:23-25: *23 For through the eternal and living (logos) Word of God you have been born again. And this “seed” that he planted within you can never be destroyed but will live and grow inside of you forever. For: 24 human beings are frail and temporary, like grass, and the glory of man*

fleeting like blossoms of the field. The grass dries and withers and the flowers fall off, 25 but the (rhema) Word of the Lord endures forever! And this is the (rhema) Word that was announced to you!

(3) TPT – or “He will batter your head and you will batter his heel.” ... This is the Protoevangelism, God’s first announcement of a Savior, and presents a preview of Jesus Christ who would be wounded by the snake (sin of his heel but brings a death-blow to satan by the power of his cross and resurrection. See Isaiah 53:10; Colossians 2:14.)

Genesis 6:1-7:1, TPT

God Grieves over Human Wickedness

1 When people began to populate the earth, they had many lovely daughters.

2 Divine beings (1) found them very appealing, so they took the women they wanted as wives.

3 Yahweh said, “My Spirit will not strive (or “shield man (from judgment) indefinitely.” Although many scholars translate this hapax legomenon as “abide,” the cognate Akkadian word means “to shield” or “protect.”) with humanity indefinitely, for they are mortal. Their life span will be shortened to only one hundred and twenty years (or “they will only live another 120 years,” possibly a prophecy of when the flood was coming.)

4 Back then, and later, there were giants (2) on the earth, who were born as a result of the unholy union of heavenly beings (usually translated literally as ben “son of” elohim “Gods”) with the human (Adam “man”) daughters. They were the mighty ones of old, warriors of renown.

5 But Yahweh saw how extremely wicked humanity had become, for they imagined only evil, for all they thought about was doing evil all the time.

*6 And Yahweh was saddened (or God “sighed within Himself” or “God regretted.” This is the Hebrew word *nacham*, which is nearly impossible to translate accurately into English. It is a word that expresses grief, comfort, compassion, and hope all at the same time. God felt all of these emotions over the creation of man. God’s heart was filled with sorrow, compassion, and hope, not simply anger.) that he had made humanity, and his heart was filled with pain.*

7 So Yahweh decided, “I will do away with all my ruined creation – human beings that I created – people and animals, creeping things and flying birds, for it breaks my heart that I made them!”

8 But one man found grace in the sight of Yahweh, Noah. (TPT – Noah found another age – the age of grace. He laid hold of grace and knew that God was merciful, even in an age of judgment and wickedness. It is possible to translate this sentence, “Noah laid hold of grace in the eyes of Yahweh.” It was not the virtue of Noah that saved him, but the grace of God. This is the first mention of grace in the Bible.)

Noah Pleases God

9 *This is the story of Noah, Noah was a godly man of integrity, without fault (Hebrew word *tamiym*, which could also be translated, “complete, whole, entire, unimpaired, without blemish, sound, undefiled”) in his generation, and he lived close to God.*

10 *Noah had three sons, Shem (“name,” “upright,” “brilliant,” “prosperity,” or “dignity”), Ham (“hot,” “he raged,” or “tumult”), and Japheth (“let him spread out,” “enlargement,” “increase,” or “expansion”).*

11 *Injustice and violence filled the world; the earth was ruined (that is everyone had corrupted their lives with wickedness) in the sight of God,*

12 *for he saw how debased the world had become, for everyone was corrupt to the core.*

13 *So God said to Noah, “I have decided (or “it is in front of me” or “the time of every man is come before me”) that all living creatures must die, for their violence has filled the earth, and I will wipe them off the face of the earth!*

14-15 *Build a boat for yourself – an ark of sturdy timber (or “gopher wood”). And this is how you are to design it: make a separate compartments with it, and seal it inside and out with thick tar. The length is to be 450 feet, its width 75 feet, and its height 45 feet.*

16 *Cover it with a roof, but leave a gap of eighteen inches at the top for ventilation. Construct a door on the side of the ark, and design it with lower, middle, and upper decks.*

17 *I am going to release a great flood that will destroy all life upon the earth, and every breathing thing under heaven will perish – everything on earth (*eret* or “land”) will die.*

18 *But as for you, I will establish my covenant of friendship, and you will escape destruction by coming into the ark, you and your wife, your sons and their wives.*

19 *Bring with you into the ark a pair of every animal, male and female; and they will be spared.*

20 *Different kinds of birds, animals large and small – two of every kind I will send to you to be kept alive.*

21 *Also take with you every kind of food, both for you and them.”*

22 *So Noah completed all these preparations and did everything exactly as God had commanded him.*

7:1 *The day came when Yahweh said to Noah, “Come into the ark, you and your entire household, for I have found you to be the only one righteous in my eyes in this generation.”*

(1) “Divine beings” or “the sons of gods” or “angels of God.” This is one of the most difficult verses in Genesis to interpret. There is much debate over the identity of these divine beings, yet we see that they are linked to the “*Nephilim* (giants),” the corrupting of the divine “seed of the woman” (Genesis 3:15) who was to come, and the judgment of God through the flood. Many scholars view “the sons of gods” as sons of Seth (the godly lineage), but the line of Seth is nowhere stated to be a godly line; in fact, only Noah was considered righteous in God’s eyes. Other scholars see them as a reference to a group of fallen angels who “in rebellion went outside their rightful domain of authority and abandoned their

appointed realms” (Jude 1:6) to have sexual relations with women. Consequently, they were “*bound in everlasting chains in the dark abyss of the underworld*” (2 Peter 2:4-5). The argument that they could not be fallen angels because angels cannot marry (Matthew 22:30) is in reference to angels who are in heaven, not the angels who came to earth as part of Satan’s plan to cohabit with women and corrupt the human race. Virtually all of the earliest writings of Jewish and Christian literature interpret the phrase “*the sons of gods*” as heavenly beings known as fallen angels or “*watchers*.” See also Job 1:6, 2:1, 4:18-19, 38:7; Dead Sea Scrolls 1QapGen; 4Q0t and 4QDtq; the Damascus Documents 4Q180; the *Book of Jubilees*; 2 *Baruch*; the *Book of Enoch*; the Jewish historian Josephus; and the church fathers Justin Martyr, Eusebius, Clement of Alexandria, Origen. The coming (Greek “*Parousia*”) of the Lord is also going to take place in a time just like the days of Noah (Genesis 6).

(2) “*Giants*,” this is the Hebrew word *Nephilim*. The trilateral root is also used for “*fallen ones*.” They appear to be the offspring of the divine beings and women. They were monsters of iniquity, meant to corrupt the earth and destroy the godly seed. Another place you see the word “*nephilim*” is in Numbers 13:31-33, ESV:

31 Then the men who had gone up with him said, “We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we are.”

32 So they brought to the people of Israel a bad report of the land that they had spied out, saying, “The land, through which we have gone to spy it out, is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people that we saw in it are of great height.

33 And there we saw the Nephilim (the sons of Anak, who come from the Nephilim), and so we seemed to ourselves like grasshoppers, and so we seemed to them.”

Jude 1:6-7, TPT

6 In the same way, there were heavenly messengers in rebellion who went outside their rightful domain of authority (or “their own principality” or “their natural state”) and abandoned their appointed realms. (1)

7 In a similar way, the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah and nearby towns (Admah and Zeboiim (Deuteronomy 29:23)) gave themselves to sexual immorality and the unnatural desire of different flesh (2). Now they serve as examples of those who experience the punishment of eternal fire.

(1) See Genesis 6:1-4; 2 Peter 2:4-8. This episode is referring to angels who abandoned the heavenly realm to come to earth to have intercourse with women in order to corrupt the godly lineage of Seth. Cain had already gone into the darkness of sin, but the godly line of Seth would one day bring forth Noah, and from his seed (Shem) Jesus would eventually be born. The rebellious rank of angels mentioned here had sex with women who gave birth to the Nephilim (mighty giants). Ancient references to this can be found in the writings of early Jewish writers, including Josephus and Philo of Alexandria, as well as early church fathers, such as Justin Martyr, Irenaeus, Clement of Alexandria, Ambrose of Milan, Athenagoras, Tertullian, Eusebius, Lactantius, Jerome, Augustine of Hippo, and

Sulpicius Severus. All of them, along with the Septuagint, identified these “*sons of God*” offspring of angels. See also 1 Enoch 10. This sin was one of the significant causes for the flood.

(2) or “*strange flesh*.” This is homosexuality, but it includes any sexual deviation or immorality. In the pseudepigraphal book *The Testament of Naphtali* 3.3.4-5 refers to sexual relations between the women of Sodom and these fallen angels, called “*Watchers*.” *The Book of Jubilees* makes mention of holy angels sent by God to punish the “*Watchers*.” *Second Enoch* describes the people of Sodom as committing abominations such as pedophilia, sorcery, magic enchantments and the worship of many gods. *First Enoch* 6-10 indicates there were two hundred of these “*Watchers*” who came to earth, lusting after the women of Sodom who had offspring (*Nephilim*) from their sexual relations with them. Both humanity and angels violated the boundaries God had set in place.

2 Peter 2:4-8, TPT

4 Now, don't forget, God had no pity for the angels when they sinned (1) threw them into the lowest, darkest dungeon of gloom (2) and locked them in chains, where they are firmly held until the judgment of torment.

5 And he did not spare the former world in the days of Noah when he sent a flood to destroy a depraved world (although he protected Noah, the preacher of righteousness, along with seven members of his family).

6 And don't forget that he reduced to ashes the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, condemning them to ruin and destruction. God appointed them to be examples as to what is coming to the ungodly.

7 Yet he reduced a righteous man, Lot, suffering the indignity of the unbridled lusts of the lawless.

8 For righteous Lot lived among them day after day, distressed in his righteous soul by the rebellious deeds he saw and heard.

(1) Because of the context of Noah's flood, these were possibly the “*Watchers*,” angels who sinned and rebelled against God's laws by having sexual relations with women, this producing offspring (Genesis 6:1-4). They are mentioned in Daniel 4:13, 17, 23; Jude 6-7; the *Book of 1 Enoch* 6-10; the *Book of Jubilees* 5; and the Dead Sea Scrolls (*The Book of Giants*). God put them in chains (ropes) and bound them in *Tartarus* (the deepest pit of gloom) until their final judgment.

(2) The Greek uses the term *Tartarus*, a Hellenistic mythical term for the subterranean underworld, the lowest pit (of hell).

The Greek word, *tartaroo*, meaning “to hold captive, in *Tartarus*” is what is used in 2 Peter 2:4. Strong's #5020 says it is “the deepest abyss in hell.” It is referring to where the fallen angels are kept. Peter was writing to those living under a Hellenistic Greek influence. It is thought that most Greek and Roman mythology actually came from *Nephilim* unions.

While the flood killed all of the Nephilim, satan tried again afterward. In fact, here is a list of a few giants found in the Bible and where to find them. We will include the Nephilim since they, too, make a comeback.

Giants of the Bible

1. Nephilim, meaning “violent,” “causing to fall,” or “fallen ones” – Genesis 6:1-4, Numbers 13:33
2. Rephaim, who were sons of Rapha. Rephaim means “terrible ones” and were an old race of giants. – Deuteronomy 3:11; 2 Samuel 2:16, 18, 20; 1 Chronicles 20:5, 6, 8; Deuteronomy 2:11, 20, 3:13; Joshua 15:8; Genesis 14:5, 15:20
3. Anakim – sons of Anak (a homophone meaning “giant,” “long neck,” and “necklace, collar, or ornament”) – Deuteronomy 2:10-11, 21; Joshua 11:21-22, 14:12, 15; Numbers 13:33; Joshua 15:13-14; Genesis 23:2; 2 Samuel 21:15-22; 1 Samuel 17:4
4. Emim, derived from *Eima*, meaning “terror, fear, or horror.” – Genesis 14:5, 15:20; Deuteronomy 2:10-11
5. Zimzummin, coming from the Hebrew word *zimzum*, meaning “buzz” or “hum.” It is believed this is the kind of sound they made as spirits of the dead. – Deuteronomy 2:20, Genesis 15:20
6. Gibbor, meaning “mighty one” – Job 16:14

(found from “GIANTS of the Bible – Web Bible Encyclopedia – Christian Answers,”
<https://christiananswers.net>giants>)

These “giants,” often referred to as Rephaim were referred to in the Septuagint by the Greek words *gigas*, “earth,” and *titanes* (the source of the English word titan). Together, *gigantes* means “earth born,” though they were also seen as a race of giants.

“The ancient Jews certainly considered rephaim to be giants. They are described generally as being between 7 to 10 feet tall and are called “mighty men.” The Egyptians wrote about giants who lived in the land of Canaan, and the folklore of other nations is full of such references. The people of the ancient world accepted the presence of giants as a fact of history, and the Bible presents them as enemies who were destroyed either by judgment of God or in battle with men.” (from “Who were the Rephaim?,” <https://www.gotquestions.org/Rephaim.html>)

A Bible verse that describes a rephaim is Deuteronomy 3:11, NLT:

11 (King Og of Bashan was the last survivor of the giant Rephaites. His bed was made of iron and was more than thirteen feet long and six feet wide. It can be seen in the Ammonite city of Rabbah.)

Joshua 11:21-23, TPT

21 Joshua also drove out the Anakim (1), a race of giants, from the hill country (including the cities of Hebron, Debir, and Anab) – from the entire hill country of Judah and Israel. Joshua destroyed the Anakim and their towns

22 so that there were no surviving Anakim in Israelite territory. Some survived but only in the Philistine cities of Gaza (“fortified” or “strength”), Gath (“wine press”), and Ashdod (“stronghold”).

23 Joshua conquered the whole land, just as Yahweh had promised Moses. Joshua assigned portions of the land to each of the tribes of Israel, and the Israelites lived in peace throughout the land.

(1) The Anakim were descendants of Anak. They are mentioned in Numbers 13 as intimidating giants that kept the Israelites fearful in disbelief, which led to their wandering in the wilderness. Here we read that Joshua eliminated these giants and enabled the tribes of Israel to possess their inheritance, just as Jesus does today to the giants keeping us from full faith. Giants are nothing compared to God’s omnipotence.

One city Joshua left with giants was Gath, from where we see the most known of the giants in the Bible, Goliath.

1 Samuel 17:4-7 says this of him:

4 Then Goliath (meaning “Exposer, Exile”), a Philistine champion from Gath, came out of the Philistine ranks to face the forces of Israel. He was over nine feet tall!

5 He wore a bronze helmet, and his bronze coat of mail weighed 125 pounds.

6 He also wore bronze leg armor, and he carried a bronze javelin on his shoulder.

7 The shaft of his spear was as heavy and thick as a weaver’s beam, tipped with an iron spearhead that weighed 15 pounds. His armor bearer walked ahead of him carrying a sword.

The account tells us that David picked up five smooth stones from the brook there in the Valley of Elah, meaning “fear, reverence,” and a name for God as “Awesome One” in Aramaic. The Arabic term “Allah” came from this Aramaic word, *Elah*. David wasn’t planning to miss. Goliath had four fellow giants, one of which was his brother. David came prepared! The other giants’ defeats were so important they are recorded twice.

2 Samuel 21:15-22, NLT

15 Once again the Philistines were at war with Israel. And when David and his men were in the thick of battle, David (“Beloved”) became weak and exhausted.

16 *Isbbi-benoth* (“Dweller on the mount, His seat is in the high places”) was a descendant of the giants (or a descendant of the Rapha); his bronze spearhead weighed more than seven pounds, and he was armed with a new sword. He had cornered David and was about to kill him.

17 But *Abishai* (“the gift of the Father”) son of *Zeruiah* came to David’s rescue and killed the Philistine. Then David’s men declared, “You are not going out to battle with us again! Why risk snuffing out the light of Israel?”

18 After this, there was another battle against the Philistines at *Gob* (“pit; snare”). As they fought, *Sibbecai* (“My thickets, Jehovah is intervening, entangling; thicket of the LORD”) from *Hushab* killed *Saph* (“Tall; threshold; preserver; consummation”), another descendant of the giants (*Rapha*).

19 During another battle at *God*, *Elhanan* (“Whom God graciously gave”) son of *Jair* from *Bethlehem* killed the brother of *Goliath* of *Gath*. The handle of his spear was as thick as a weaver’s beam!

20 In another battle with the Philistines at *Gath*, they encountered a huge man with six fingers on each hand and six toes on each foot, twenty four in all, who was also a descendant of the giants (*Rapha*).

21 But when he defied and taunted Israel, he was killed by *Jonathan* (“whom the LORD gave”) the son of David’s brother *Shimea* (“He who obeys”).

22 These four Philistines were descendants of the giants of *Gath*, but David and his warriors killed them.

1 Chronicles 20:4-8, NLT second that:

4 After this, war broke out with the Philistines at *Gezer* (“Place cut off”). As they fought *Sibbecai* from *Hushab* killed *Saph*, a descendant of the giants (Hebrew descendant of the Rephaites, also in 20:6, 8), and so the Philistines were subdued.

5 During another battle with the Philistines, *Elhanan* son of *Jair* killed *Labmi* (Lit. “my bread, my war,” “to violate, to do violence, to take by violence”), the brother of *Goliath* of *Gath*. The handle of *Labmi*’s spear was as thick as a weaver’s beam!

6 In another battle with the Philistines at *Gath*, they encountered a huge man with six fingers on each hand and six toes on each foot, twenty four in all, who was also a descendant of the giants.

7 But when he defied and taunted Israel, he was killed by *Jonathan*, son of David’s brother, *Shimea*.

8 These Philistines were descendants of the giants of *Gath*, but David and his warriors killed them.

Matthew 24:36-44 TPT

36 “Concerning that day and exact hour, no one knows when it will arrive, not even the angels of heaven – only the Father knows.

37 For it will be exactly like it was in the days of Noah when the Son of Man appears.

38 Before the flood, people lived their lives eating, drinking, marrying, and having children.

39 They didn't realize the end was near until Noah entered the ark, and then suddenly, the flood came and took them all away in judgment. It will happen the same way when the Son of Man appears.

40 At that time, two men will be working on the farm; one will be taken away in judgment, the other left.

41 Two women will be grinding grain; one will be taken away in judgment, the other left. (TPT - One of the three manuscripts of the Hebrew Matthew, known as Shem-Tob, includes additional text: "This is because the angels at the end of the age will first remove the stumbling blocks [the wicked] from the world and will separate the good from the evil." This passage is not speaking of what is known as the "rapture," for as it was in the days of Noah, the evil were "taken" and the righteous were "left.")

42 This is why you must stay alert: because no one knows the day your Lord will come.

43 But realize this: If a homeowner had known what time of night the burglar would come to rob his house, he would have been alert and ready, and not let his house be robbed.

44 So always be ready, alert, and prepared, because at an hour when you're not expecting him, the Son of Man will come."

It will be a total surprise to unbelievers, but for those who understand and believe, they will know exactly when He is coming! This is exactly the pattern we see with Noah and what Daniel 12:9-10 and 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 say:

Daniel 12:9-10, NASB

9 And he said, "Go your way, Daniel, for these words will be kept secret and sealed up until the end time.

10 Many will be purged, cleansed, and refined, but the wicked will act wickedly; and none of the wicked will understand, but those who have insight will understand.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11, NASB

1 Now as to the periods and times, brothers and sisters, you have no need of anything to be written to you.

2 For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord is coming just like a thief in the night.

3 While they are saying, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction will come upon them like labor pains upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

4 But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness, so that the day would overtake you like a thief;

5 for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness;

6 so then, let's not sleep as others do, but let's be alert and sober.

7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who are drunk, get drunk at night.

8 But since we are of the day, let's be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation.

9 For God has not destined us to wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

10 who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him.

11 Therefore, encourage one another and build one another up, just as you also are doing.

Revelation 16:15, NASB

15 ("Behold, I am coming like a thief. Blessed is the one who stays awake and keeps his clothes, so that he will not walk about naked and people will not see his shame.")

Revelation 3:2-5, NASB

2 Be constantly alert, and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die; for I have not found your deeds completed in the sight of My God.

3 So remember what you have received and heard; and keep it, and repent. Then if you are not alert, I will like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come to you.

4 But you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their garments; and they will walk with Me in white, for they are worthy.

5 The one who overcomes will be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.

So, what is our job right now? We are to be alert and watching, led by the Spirit, and studying out what He has placed before us!

