

**February 7, 2021**  
La Jolla Christian Fellowship  
**GENESIS : Behind The Curtain**  
**Episode 3 : Noah Finds Favor**  
Pastor Adam Stadtmiller

**Genesis 6:1-8**

<sup>1</sup> When human beings began to increase in number on the earth and daughters were born to them, <sup>2</sup>the sons of God saw that the daughters of humans were beautiful, and they married any of them they chose. <sup>3</sup> Then the LORD said, “My Spirit will not contend with humans forever, for they are mortal; their days will be a hundred and twenty years.” <sup>4</sup> The Nephilim were on the earth in those days—and also afterward—when the sons of God went to the daughters of humans and had children by them. They were the heroes of old, men of renown. <sup>5</sup> The LORD saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time. <sup>6</sup> The LORD regretted that he had made human beings on the earth, and his heart was deeply troubled. <sup>7</sup> So the LORD said, “I will wipe from the face of the earth the human race I have created—and with them the animals, the birds and the creatures that move along the ground—for I regret that I have made them.” <sup>8</sup> But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.

**Fact or Fiction** - Comparing the creative biblical narrative to the evolutionary theory of abiogenesis.

**Key elements of the text:**

1. The increase of humanity in Mesopotamia’s cradle of humanity.
2. The introduction of the sons of God and the Nephilim to the story of humanity.
3. Noah finds favor amidst the chaos of humanity and God’s regret for their creation.

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**1) The increase of humanity : Vs. 1** *When human beings began to increase in number on the earth and daughters were born to them, <sup>2</sup>the sons of God saw that the daughters of humans were beautiful, and they married any of them they chose.*

**2) Two groups of human beings :**

- a) **The line of Cain - Followers of Self: Gen 4:16-17** *Then Cain left the presence of the LORD, and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden. <sup>17</sup> Cain had relations with his wife and she conceived, and gave birth to Enoch; and Cain built a city, and named the city Enoch, after the name of his son.*
- b) **The line of Seth - Followers of God: Genesis 4:25-26** *Adam had relations with his wife again; and she gave birth to a son, and named him Seth, for, she said, “God has appointed me another child in place of Abel, because Cain killed him.” <sup>26</sup> To Seth also a son was born; and he named him Enosh. **Then people began to call upon the name of the LORD.***
  - i) **The lineage of Jesus - Luke 3:23-38** *the son of Cainan, the son of Arphaxad, the son of Shem, the son of Noah, the son of Lamech, <sup>27</sup>the son of Methuselah, the son of Enoch, the son of Jared, the son of Mahalaleel, the son of Cainan, <sup>28</sup>the son of Enos, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.*

### 3) The introduction of the sons of God and the Nephilim to the story of humanity.

- a) **Vs. 2** *The sons of God saw that the daughters of humans (or mankind) were beautiful, and they married any of them they chose. Then the LORD said, "My Spirit will not contend with humans forever, for they are mortal; their days will be a hundred and twenty years." The Nephilim were on the earth in those days—and also afterward—when the sons of God went to the daughters of humans and had children by them. They were the heroes of old, men of renown.*
- b) The original Hebrew text suggests that at this time, **three distinct races of beings inhabited the earth.**
- i) **Human beings** - Mortals created in the image of God.
- (1) **Vs. 3** *Then the LORD said, "My Spirit will not contend with humans forever, for they are mortal.*
- (2) **Genesis 1:27** *So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.*
- ii) **The sons of God** - (Angels) (5 Occurrences in the OT— Gen 6:2;4-Job 1:6,2:1, 38:7, Daniel 3:25)
- iii) **The Nephilim** - Legendary heroes of old and men of renown. **Vs. 4** *The Nephilim were on the earth in those days—and also afterward—when the sons of God went to the daughters of humans and had children by them. They were the heroes of old, men of renown.*
- (1) Titus 3:9 *But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and arguments and quarrels about the law, because these are unprofitable and useless.*

### 4) Noah finds favor amidst the chaos of humanity and God's regret for their creation.

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#### Small group discussion questions:

1. What do you find more challenging to believe, the biblical creation narrative or the narrative of evolutionary theory?
2. Why would God not want the intermarrying of angelic beings and humankind? Does the fact that humans were created in God's image have anything to do with that?
3. God wanted to destroy all living kind due to their inclination towards continual sin. Can you blame Him for this and do you think He would have an argument to do the same today?
4. Titus talks about avoiding foolish controversies, arguments and quarrels. What are some examples from today that would qualify as what Paul was talking about?
5. What does the favor of God upon someone look like?

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qKtHwc3mMY8>

<sup>2</sup> <https://bible.knowing-jesus.com/topics/Divine-Favour>