

Our Covenant God – Part Nineteen

As it was in the days of Noah

Matthew 24:35-39 (NKJV) Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away. "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only. But as the days of Noah *were*, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

Luke 17:26-30 (NKJV) And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built; but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed *them* all. Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed.

When Jesus talked about the end of this Creation, He said that it would be just like in the days of Noah. He then specifically mentioned that in Noah's days they were eating, drinking, and marrying until the Flood came. We interpret that as Jesus saying that the people were going about their daily business with no clue that their world was about to end. That is true but there is so much more to this reference about people getting married in Noah's day. This is what we are going to look at today.

Genesis 6:1-3 (NKJV) 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."

The marriage of the sons of God and the daughters of men angered God. The sin of Adam, as we saw last week, was no longer a curse borne by the land because Adam had died. However, Adam was not the only sinner. From Cain to Genesis 6:1-3, the number of sinners had increased dramatically. Thus, although Adam was no longer alive, the ground was still polluted by the sins of the people. After the Flood, however, the ground was cleansed and renewed.

The question then arises: "Why was God angry at the sons of God marrying the daughters of men? To find the answer, we need to first know who the sons of God and the daughters of men were.

I was taught, and then taught others, that the sons of God were angels and that the Nephilim were their offspring. I have come to change my viewpoint on this as I examined and studied it for myself. I have become convinced that the sons of God could not have been angels.

Reasons why "sons of God" could not be angels

1. Jesus said that angels do not marry. (Matthew 22:30 and Mark 12:25)
2. According to the writer of Hebrews God never called any angel "son". (Hebrew 1:5)
3. A son looks like his father. Man, not angels, was made in the image of God. (Genesis 1:26-27)
4. A son is given his father's name (see part 15 of this study). Angels are never called by the Name of God.
5. A son has an inheritance (see part 15 of this study). There is no Biblical record of angels ever having an inheritance from God. If angels are sons of God then that would make them co-heirs

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with Christ. Angels are not His co-heirs. We are! (Romans 8:7, Galatians 3:29, 4:7, Ephesians 3:6, Hebrews 6:17)

6. If angels used to be sons of God and no longer are, then why were they 'demoted'? How could it be possible for God to no longer be their father? God doesn't divorce Himself from His children.
7. If the Nephilim were the children of the union of angels and people they would have been destroyed by the Flood. If so, how do they appear after the Flood too? (Numbers 13:33)
8. If God was angry at people for intermarrying with angels why was He not angry with the angels too? The Genesis account only shows Him as being angry at men.
9. If angels are sons of God then that would make the devil a son of God too (or a former son of God) because he is a fallen angel. That is what the Mormons believe: that Jesus and Satan are brothers. That is complete heresy! The Word of God does not support that at all! Satan was an angel, not a son of God.
10. Angels are not flesh and blood. How does a spiritual being produce semen? After all, even Lucifer/Satan had to possess a snake's body in order to talk to Eve.
11. In Genesis 1 we read about how God placed the seed of each species He created (plants, creatures of the sea, birds, animals, and creeping things, etc.) inside each created thing. Each was to reproduce according to its own kind. This is why, if you take a horse and a donkey, the offspring, being a mule or a hinney, is almost always sterile. God never created the mule. It is a hybrid. Thus, it does not have the ability to reproduce itself. This is a law of God's Creation: "like produces like". Thus, I don't see how it would be possible for the offspring of angels and humans to reproduce.

In part eight of this study we looked at the great promise of resurrection and how there are two creations: the Old Creation which was created in Genesis 1, and the New Creation which started with Jesus who is the Firstborn from the dead. We saw that, although the completion of the New Creation is in the future, we live in its reality today because we are "in Christ". We also saw that being born into the Old Creation through Adam makes you a son of Man; while being born into the New Creation through Jesus Christ makes you a son of God.

Paul describes this beautifully:

Romans 8:19-22 (NKJV) For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected *it* in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.

It is at the end of this age, the end of this world, when the Earth is recreated as we see in Revelation 21, that the sons of God shall be revealed. There will be no more sin, sickness, pain, suffering or death. Once again, everything will be the way that God designed it to be. And just before that happens, Jesus said that it will be just like in the days of Noah.

Whoever calls on the Name of the Lord shall be saved

As we have seen before when we used the illustration of a timeline and an umbrella to represent God's everlasting covenant with Mankind, people before and after the days of Abraham and Jesus were all covered by the shade of the same umbrella (covenant). The same way that you and I enter into covenant with God, thereby becoming His children, is the same way that Abraham and all those others who came before us did: by calling on His Name.

Romans 10:13 tells us that "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved." Calling upon His Name is not simply praying or speaking His Name. If it was then many demons would be saved! Isaiah says, in chapter 64:7, as he is lamenting over Israel's rebellion against God, "*there is no one who calls on*

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Your name, who stirs himself up to take hold of You.” He was summing up the general sinful state of the people at the time. However, he provides good insight in this verse about what it means to call upon the Name of the Lord. It is an active stirring oneself, as if from sleep, to take hold of God. This is not passive acceptance of God, but an aggressive grabbing hold of God and attaching yourself to Him... and this is what covenant is all about! Covenant is all about becoming one with another. When you attach/bind/join yourself to someone you are uniting yourself with them. And thus, to call upon the Name of the Lord means to become one with Him in covenant union.

Adoption is also a covenant issue. We discuss that further when we look at the Passover. In natural adoption, the adoptive parents choose the child they wish to adopt. The child really has not much say in the matter. But when you are adopted by God it is very different. Firstly, God has chosen every single human being on this planet to be adopted by Him. However, what makes this adoption different to a natural adoption is that it depends entirely on whether or not the adoptive children want God to be their Father. God has done everything He can do to adopt every person on this Earth. However, this adoption only becomes legal when the children grab onto God as their Father, taking hold of His Name for themselves. This covenant union makes you a son of God.

Romans 8:12-17 (NKJV) Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh [the Old Creation], to live according to the flesh [the Old Creation]. For if you live according to the flesh [the Old Creation] you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live [that is the New Creation which is eternal]. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God [belonging to the New Creation]. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.” [The adoption covenant makes us His children.] The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him*, that we may also be glorified together.

There have always been two races of people on this Earth: the sons of Man and the sons of God. These races are not determined by skin pigmentation, but by whom their father is. Ultimately, there are two possible fathers: God and the “evil one”. Adam’s first two sons are a perfect picture of this: Cain, the murderous son of Man, and Abel, the righteous son of God. 1 John 3:12 tells us that Cain was “of the evil one” as opposed to Abel, who we know was accepted by God. Cain comes first. Abel comes second. The Old Creation happened first, the New Creation happens last. The sons of Man are those who belong to the First/Old Creation, who entered this world through Adam. In that respect, we are all sons of Man. In fact, one of Jesus’ titles is “Son of Man”. But not everyone is a son of God. Being a son of Man is not a bad thing; never being a son of God is the issue. That is why Jesus told Nicodemus in John 3:3 that if he wanted to see the Kingdom of God (the New Creation) he needed to be born a second time. His first birth was as a son of Man; his second birth would be as a son of God. It works the same way for you and I. Jesus also preached that there were these two races of people. He used pictures in his parables of sheep and goats or wheat and tares to explain this principle. He taught that right at this time the Earth is populated by both but that one day they will be separated. The sons of God will be with God for all eternity on the New Earth; while the sons of Man will be in Hell with the Devil and his angels.

Thus, when the sons of God married the daughters of men in Genesis 6, these were people who knew God marrying people who did not love or serve God. Remember that marriage is a covenant. When you are married you join yourselves together, becoming one flesh.

1 Corinthians 6:14-17 (NKJV) Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: “I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people.”

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Therefore “Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you.” “I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the LORD Almighty.”

Sons of God marrying daughters of men is a very dangerous situation. One just has to look at some examples of this in the Word of God to see the terrible consequences: Ahab and Jezebel; Solomon; Samson and Philistine women (although he did not marry Delilah), to name just a few. These daughters of men were the cause of the downfall of these men.

Each of these stories is sad. Perhaps Solomon is one of the saddest because he was the wisest and richest man on this Earth and had served God at one stage. He, of all people, knew better. He even penned part of the same Bible that we read today! Yet, his wives caused him to turn from God and worship false gods. Because that worship involved sacrificing their children to those false gods it is highly probable that Solomon even sacrificed some of his own sons to them.

1 Kings 11:4-8 (NKJV) For it was so, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned his heart after other gods; and his heart was not loyal to the LORD his God, as was the heart of his father David. For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and did not fully follow the LORD, as *did* his father David. Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, on the hill that *is* east of Jerusalem, and for Molech the abomination of the people of Ammon. And he did likewise for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and sacrificed to their gods.

Exodus 34:12-16 (NKJV) Take heed to yourself, lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land where you are going, lest it be a snare in your midst. But you shall destroy their altars, break their *sacred* pillars, and cut down their wooden images (for you shall worship no other god, for the LORD, whose name *is* Jealous, *is* a jealous God), lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, and they play the harlot with their gods and make sacrifice to their gods, and *one of them* invites you and you eat of his sacrifice, and you take of his daughters for your sons, and his daughters play the harlot with their gods and make your sons play the harlot with their gods.

We are very quick to preach against specific sins from the pulpit, but this is a topic that is seldom preached. The truth is that we often don't see it as a sin. Couples make excuses for 'being in love' and are so sure that it will be different for them, but it never is. The Christian thinks that they will go ahead and marry the non-believer, thinking that they will be able to win their partner to the Lord later. I have often seen a man go up to an altar and pray a prayer just to get a woman to marry him. Soon after the marriage that same man never returns to church. It doesn't take long before she is not a regular attendee anymore either. Years later, I have watched those some families broken and divorced because there was never any real commitment to God. I have even had someone tell me that dating unbelievers is an affective form of evangelism! It is not evangelism; it is deception. The power of their testimony got diluted by compromise.

Do you remember the story of Balaam? He was a prophet who was asked by Balak, the king of the Moabites, to prophesy against Israel in Numbers 22. On his way to do so, his donkey saw an angel with a drawn sword in their path and refused to go further. Balaam beat his donkey but the donkey would not budge. Instead, the donkey turned to Balaam and spoke to him. This part of the story is well known and is a popular tale for children; however the rest of the story is seldom told.

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Balaam did not prophesy against Israel, in fact he prophesied for Israel, and so it seemed that the possible threat was over. However, Balaam caused far more destruction to Israel than any negative prophecy may have caused by counseling the Moabites to have their women seduce the Israelite men. Balaam knew that it would destroy Israel because the Moabite women would then be able to turn the hearts of the men to Baal, the Moabite god, and thus away from God, thereby breaking their covenant with Him. And that is exactly what happened:

Numbers 25:1-3 (NKJV) Now Israel remained in Acacia Grove, and the people began to commit harlotry with the women of Moab. They invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people ate and bowed down to their gods. So Israel was joined to Baal of Peor, and the anger of the LORD was aroused against Israel.

We know that this was a result of Balaam's counsel because of what Moses said in this verse:

Numbers 31:15-18 (NKJV) And Moses said to them: "Have you kept all the women alive? Look, these *women* caused the children of Israel, through the counsel of Balaam, to trespass against the LORD in the incident of Peor, and there was a plague among the congregation of the LORD. Now therefore, kill every male among the little ones, and kill every woman who has known a man intimately. But keep alive for yourselves all the young girls who have not known a man intimately.

We must not fall into the deception of thinking that this no longer applies to us today. As we can see from Paul's writings it is most certainly applicable to us. In Revelation, John writes these words of Jesus to the church in Pergamos:

Revelation 2:14 (NKJV) But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality.

Thus, I submit to you that the reason why God was so angered by the marriages in Noah's day was because people who believed in Him were joining themselves to people who worshipped false gods, resulting in the believers turning to those same false gods and away from Him. If we look at the Ark and at how many people took shelter inside it we realize that there was almost no knowledge of God left on this Earth by the time of the Flood. What a terrible state of affairs.

Let us learn from them and urge the Body of Christ to never become one with any unbeliever.

Homework Question #1: How could someone become a son of God before Jesus came to this Earth?
