# Timeline of the sons of God

**Richard B. Sorensen, PhD Psychology** January 16, 2025

richardbsorensen@gmail.com www.richardsorensen.com www.unholygrail.net



There were giants on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown.

~ Genesis 6:4

## Abstract

Were there really ancient aliens that came to our planet to educate people? If so, who were they, where did they come from, when and how long were they here, what impact did they have, what were the results of their involvement, and will they eventually return? Also, why would God allow this to happen?

This paper proposes that the ancient aliens were the sons of God (i.e., ex-angels) from Genesis chapter 6, who came to earth in the form of exalted men, mated with human women, and fathered a hybrid race known as the Nephilim. Their impact was both positive and negative – teaching people, increasing the food supply, and producing wealth, but like clever politicians, they also created hierarchies that degraded and enslaved the population. The sons of God were instrumental in building ancient structures such as the Great Pyramid in Egypt. However, they were also the source of the debasement and corruption of divine worship by encouraging and forcing people to worship them rather than the true God, as well as setting up individuals who were obsessed with power to declare themselves as a god in order to gain hegemony and create dictatorships. In other words, ancient deities

such as Marduk, Baal, Ishtar, Isis, Osiris, Horus, and others were actually inspired by demons who in some cases prompted human leaders to personify them as their avatar. The negative influence of the sons of God on people led to the Great Flood as described in Genesis 6 – 9 as well as the Tower of Babel in Genesis 11. But demonic manipulation didn't end there – it has continued throughout human history, and the book of Revelation mentions the return of the sons of God to earth in a future time of great deception. The curtain is herein pulled back and the never-ending cosmic battle between the forces of good and evil is revealed. A timeline of the sons of God is presented, and their impact during seven eras of world history is described, from the beginning to the end.

#### Introduction

Ancient history is fascinating as it reveals the roots of humanity – what our nature is, where we came from, how we lived, and potentially how we should live. This paper is an effort to connect the historical dots all the way from ancient times to the future.

Nowadays there is a vast disparity in perspectives on ancient history due to various worldviews, with the primary difference being between advocates of Darwinism and Creationism. Is the earth billions of years old, and did we come from grunting cave men as in the movie *Quest for Fire* who evolved from apes and had no intrinsic morality or higher intellect, those attributes being somehow developed over millions of years? Or were we created by God and were possibly even greater and more intelligent than we are now? The perspective presented herein is the latter and is based primarily on the Bible as well as historical accounts as well as archaeology. This approach is far from being the most popular, as Darwinism and the companion religion of Naturalism/Humanism is what is generally taught in public schools due to legislated separation of church and state.

Humanism is naturalistic, and naturalism encompasses all that exists throughout space and time. The cosmos consists only of natural elements and physical substance – mass and energy. Non-physical or quasi-physical substance, such as information, ideas, values, logic, mathematics, intellect, and other emergent phenomena, either supervene upon the physical or can be reduced to a physical cause. Nature operates by the laws of physics and in principle, can be explained and understood by science and philosophy. The supernatural does not exist – only nature is real – so spirits, deities, and ghosts are not real and there is no "purpose" in nature. The Cosmos is all that is or ever was or ever will be. (Wikipedia, <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Naturalism">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Naturalism</a> (philosophy))

The philosophy of the West which logically accompanies Naturalism and Humanism is Postmodernism, where truth and morality are mutable and essentially self-defined.

Postmodernism is the conviction that it is no longer possible to rely upon previous ways of depicting the world. Proponents align themselves with feminism, multiculturalism, postcolonialism, and identity politics. Postmodern thought defines itself by the rejection of any single, foundational historical narrative [such as Christianity], the rejection of any divine moral order, and calling into question the legitimacy of the Enlightenment account of progress and rationality. (Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Postmodernism)

Much of the current direction of culture and archaeology is thus to reject the Bible and its historicity. However, biblical Creationism is the perspective that makes the most sense, especially when we ponder the question of how our intense aspirations for love, care, and justice could have originated. If we are merely collections of stray molecules, then where did these powerful emotions and desires come from? Consider the human brain, the most complex object in the known universe. Could it have somehow developed by chance, or was it instead created by an intelligent designer? Richard Dawkins, the well-known Darwinist, and others have stated a belief in "panspermia" – that an alien race somehow seeded our planet and was the origin of life on earth. But that just puts the question back a step – how did the aliens come into being?

It has never been demonstrated that the evolution of life from inorganic chemicals has occurred or that life has evolved from simple life forms to the complex ones we see today. Living systems, even the simplest ones, are based upon symbolic language structures of extreme complexity [i.e., DNA]. There is no hint in the laws of chemistry and physics that matter on its own can ever generate symbolic language regardless of the time allowed. Because it has no solution to this fundamental difficulty, evolutionary dogma is now facing a major crisis that long periods of time simply cannot mend. (Vardiman et al., 2003)

Everything was created by God who is the origin of love, caring, and justice. Darwinism is thus a contemporary myth (Sorensen, 2020a) As Romans 1:21-22 states, "For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead... Professing to be wise, they became fools."

In our day there is therefore great resistance to anything supernatural. Postmoderns have been inculcated with idea that "science = good" and "religion = bad," that "science is intelligent and contemporary" and "religion is backward and medieval." As our ancient ancestors did not fully understand the causes for disease and the scientific aspects of nature, they often ascribed disasters and mysterious events to actions of the gods. But now we know better; the gods supposedly don't exist, and the supernatural is said to be an ancient myth, so we are able to fully rely upon science – or are we? Even scientists now acknowledge the existence of the soul although it is impossible to prove this one way or the other (Lanza, 2011; Smith, 2017). In some near-death experiences the people had flatlined, but they later reported seeing and hearing things that took place after their brain was technically dead (Sunfellow, 2019a, 2019b). The Bible is likewise considered by many to be myth, but there is too much evidence for the Bible's veracity and historicity to ignore it (Wellman, 2019). Our culture is therefore in great danger of making the opposite error of our ancient ancestors – rather than deifying idols and statues, we deify science and the self – postmodernism implies that you can become your own god. Scientists, just like the rest of us, may thus become "educated idiots" – wedded to their pet ideas and theories and loath to give up what they have devoted their lives and careers to even if they are wrong. In contract, the Bible often speaks of an unseen spiritual world:

The wind blows where it will and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it came from and where it is going, so is everyone who is born of the Spirit. (Jesus' words to Nicodemus in John 3:8)

For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen

#### are eternal. (2 Corinthians 4:17-18)

This unseen realm, which according to the above text is more permanent and therefore more "real" and less flawed than the physical world, is inhabited by spirit beings who have the ability to interact with our physical world. Our bodies are composed of carbon-based compounds, whereas angels and demons may be electromagnetic or have a nature that is totally beyond our current physics and chemistry. What is spirit? Do all spirit beings have the same nature, and are angels and demons made up of the same "stuff" as God? We barely understand physical matter and have no clue at all as to how spirit is propagated, what it is composed of, and what its capabilities are. Therefore, we don't understand how a spirit-to-body transformation would work and what the limitations are, if any. Nevertheless, the Bible records many instances where spirit beings assumed human or at least visible form and interacted with people. For example, Genesis 18 tells of a lengthy meeting between Abraham and several spirit beings who appeared to be human, and who talked and ate with him.

Some scientists have posited that our universe has dimensions beyond the four that we know (length, width, height, and time). For example, superstring theory holds that there are ten dimensions, in which the additional six are possibly collapsed in minute quantum distances within the existing dimensions (Williams, 2014). If these additional dimensions are the realm of spirit beings, it would explain why they can appear and disappear at will. It could also explain how spirit beings may instantaneously move between regions in our universe which are light years apart. Therefore, what we now perceive is only a very small portion of reality, and we have no idea what the laws of science<sup>2</sup> are that underlie all of this unknown complexity. At the quantum level (the level of subatomic particles) we cannot "see" what is actually happening even in our realm of four dimensions, and we have difficulty even conceptualizing it (e.g., why do subatomic entities sometimes behave as particles and other times as waves? Why does time slow down as an object speeds up?) In the words of the physicist Niels Bohr, "Everything we call real is made of things that cannot be regarded as real." Thus, we are essentially clueless regarding any reality beyond our four dimensions and have no way of detecting and analyzing it, much less understanding or controlling it. A good analogy is the spectrum of light that is visible to us (i.e., from above infrared to below ultraviolet) which is only a tiny fraction of the entire electromagnetic spectrum.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Quantum physics has shown us that the "reality" which we see and touch is vastly different at its basic levels (atomic and subatomic). Contrary to the notion of atoms being solid balls of matter, they are mostly empty space. Someone used the analogy, "If the nucleus of each atom is a fly on the pitcher's mound of a stadium, then the electrons surrounding the nucleus are minute gnats circling the stadium." Therefore, things which to us seem to be solid, such as the surface of a desk, are only so because we can only see and experience the world at the macro level. The world is therefore "sub-empirical."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The "laws of science" (such as the 1<sup>st</sup> Law of Thermodynamics – the conservation of matter and energy) are not necessarily universal. They are only "universal laws" in the sense that we have never observed exceptions to them in the physical world. However, if we were able to fully analyze and understand both physical and spiritual, we may discover that the laws of science we know can have exceptions and/or are simply a small subset of a much larger and more fundamental set of laws.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Beyond the examples above, the Bible does provide a few more clues about the spirit world: a) Spirit is typically not visible, which may be because spirit beings are in another dimension, or they do not reflect visible light, or because the nature of spirit may be entirely non-physical; b) God is present everywhere, although this is not true of other spirit beings; c) The limits of physics such as the speed of light apparently are not limits in the spirit world; d) People have a spirit aspect which is somehow collapsed and contained within the physical.

Our modern worldview, obsessed as it is with empirical science and human reason, is so blinded to its own ignorance of transcendent reality that it amounts to idolatry, in which we view the limited, fallible human mind and senses as God... Modern material descriptions of reality are therefore more "false" than ancient pictures because they do not include the immaterial aspects of reality: meaning and purpose.

But even more basic than that, human observation of the universe is always changing from Newtonian physics, to Quantum physics, to String theory. That change is less an increase in the instrumentation precision than it is a change of ideas. What we think we see is more affected by our philosophical presuppositions and theories than empirical scientists are willing to admit... A proper response should be more humility and less hubris regarding the use of scientific models as standards in judging theological meaning and purpose. (Godawa, 2014, pp. 316-317)

In addition to stories of creation, virtually every society has a flood story – an account of an ancient disaster, or in the words of Graham Hancock, an "ancient apocalypse" (<u>Hancock, 2024</u>). These stories also included accounts of "super men" – individuals with super-human powers who came from afar and taught people many things as well as enslaving them. That period of time then ended in a global catastrophe. The goal of this paper is to identify those super men (herein identified as the "sons of God"), explore their impact, put them into a historical context, and consider their future re-appearance.

What is significant about the sons of God, and why is a chronology of them important? Because they and their hybrid offspring, known as the *Nephilim*, taught people many things, both beneficial and evil, and in the opinion of the author they constructed the huge edifices that have mystified us for centuries, such as the Great Pyramid, the ruins of Puma Punka, the structures at Gobeki Tepi, and others. The evil of their influence and actions also led to the Flood, which was a cataclysmic event that wiped out almost all of the world's population and had a major impact on our planet. Furthermore, the teachings of Jesus and the book of Revelation indicates that the sons of God will return in a time of great deception (e.g., Matthew 24:24, Revelation 13:14).

In order to properly examine and explain the story, a deep dive into Genesis is necessary. The periods both before and after the Sons of God must also be considered and delineated, and the characteristics of those periods explored.

Ancient dating is very speculative. The approximate dates herein comes largely from the research of Doug Petrovich (Petrovich, 2016a, 2016b, 2020, 2021), Gerard Gertoux (Gertoux, 2021a, 2021b, 2021c, 2023, 2024a, 2024b, 2024c, 2024d), Anne Habermehl (Habermehl, 2013) and a variety of other sources. These dates may well be incorrect, but the point is not to argue and quibble about dating. Rather it is to understand that these approximate dates and date ranges delineate the seven general periods described below.

<u>Pre-Creation</u>	Creation	The Fall	Sons of God	The Flood	Tower of Babel	Aftermath
? BC	? BC	~ 4900 BC	~ 4270 BC	~ 3170 BC	~2950 BC	2950 BC →

Timeline of the Sons of God

Introduction

#### **Pre-Creation**

According to the Bible, God (Jehovah) created everything, as declared in the first verse of Genesis: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." This statement by itself does not tell us when or exactly what was created – "the heavens" would imply the creation of space; "the earth" would imply the creation of matter, i.e., stars and planets; and "the beginning" would imply the origin of time itself. Jehovah is eternal – a state of being that is outside time – so time is a physical property created by Him, presumably when the heavens and earth were first brought into being and the universe was created.

The Bible is not a science or a history textbook and after the first verse of Genesis described above, it focuses entirely on the planet earth. Therefore it does not tell us how or when the universe (i.e., regions beyond our planet) was created or the order of its creation. Therefore, the universe may well have been created millennia ago, which would provide plenty of time for the light from distant galaxies to reach the Milky Way. Likewise, our galaxy could have been created in the same relative timeframe.

How powerful is Jehovah? The Old Testament tells us:

Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, measured heaven with a span, and calculated the dust of the earth in a measure; weighed the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance? Who has directed the Spirit of the Lord, or as His counselor has taught Him? With whom did He take counsel, and who instructed Him, and taught Him in the path of justice? Who taught Him knowledge, and showed Him the way of understanding? Behold, the nations are as a drop in a bucket and are counted as the small dust on the scales. He lifts up the isles as a very little thing; Lebanon is not sufficient to burn, nor its beasts sufficient for a burnt offering. All nations before Him are as nothing; they are counted by Him less than nothing and worthless. (Isaiah 40:12-17)

The Lord brings the counsel of the nations to nothing. He makes the plans of the peoples of no effect. The counsel of the Lord stands forever, the plans of His heart to all generations. Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people He has chosen as His own inheritance. (Psalms 33:10-12)

To whom then will you liken Me, or to whom shall I be equal? says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high and see who has created these stars. He calls them all by name, and because of the greatness of his might and the strength of power, not one of them is missing. (Isaiah 40:25-26)

The New Testament goes even further and explains that Jehovah not only created everything but is actively involved in sustaining it: "He upholds all things by the word of his power" (Hebrews 1:3). Jehovah is awesome beyond our wildest imagination.

Our solar system and therefore our planet is seemingly located at an optimum place in the universe and has been comprehensively fine-tuned. There are so-called Galactic Habitable Zones as well as Circumstellar Habitable Zones. For example, Earth is located between two spiral arms of the Milky Way – if we were closer to the center of the galaxy, we would be more heavily irradiated by the black hole there, but if we were too far out, there would be less elements that are necessary for life. We are

at an optimum distance from the sun – not too hot or too cold – and there are hundreds of other factors that make life possible and pleasant (Richards & Gonzalez, 2004).

The Bible indicates that Jehovah created everything out of nothing. This explains the intractable problem of big bang theorists who must explain where all the stuff involved in the big bang came from and how it space, time, and matter, could have been created by an inanimate process. Scientists now acknowledge that the universe is finite – very large but nevertheless not infinite, and that it had a beginning. The old hypothesis of a uniformitarian cosmos is no longer tenable.

The second verse of Genesis reads as follows: "The earth was formless and void, and darkness covered the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved over the face of the waters" (Genesis 1:2). The word "was" in the Hebrew could be translated as "became" ("the earth became form and void...") Some therefore believe in the so-called "gap theory" – that there was an original creation which was later replaced by the current one, and that prehistoric humans may have existed during this time, such as those responsible for the cave paintings at Lascaux and elsewhere. That period presumably ended with the creation account in Genesis 1:3 and following.

At some point before the creation process described in Genesis, Jehovah created angels – spirit beings with a nature somewhat similar to Him but much less in power. In the biblical book of Job, Jehovah rhetorically questions Job as follows:

Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements? Who stretched the line upon it, and to what were its foundations fastened? Who laid its cornerstone when the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy? (Job 38:4-7)

Note that at least some of the angels are here described as "the sons of God" and that they "shouted for joy" when the world was created. We don't understand the capabilities of angels – how some may be different than others, have different roles, and varying degrees of power and authority. At least some of them are capable of taking human form, as described in the Bible a number of times. But despite the power of angels, their designated role is to serve people.

But to which of the angels has he ever said, "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet"? Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation? (Hebrews 1:13-14)

Regardless of their non-human nature, angels have the same free will that people do – the ability decide what they will think and how they will act. Lucifer, who was one of the greatest of all the angels (he led worship in heaven and his name means "light") eventually decided to take the place of Jehovah and to rule rather than serve. So he rebelled against Jehovah – his arrogance and revolt is described as follows:

How you have fallen from heaven, morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! You said in your heart, "I will ascend to the heavens; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of Mount Zaphon [the heights of the north]. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High." But you are brought down to the realm of the dead, to the depths of the pit.

Those who see you stare at you, they ponder your fate: "Is this the one who shook the earth and made kingdoms tremble, the one who made the world a wilderness, who overthrew its cities and would not let his captives go home?" All the kings of the nations lie in state, each in his own tomb. But you are cast out of your tomb like a rejected branch, you are covered with the slain, with those pierced by the sword, those who descend to the stones of the pit. Like a corpse trampled underfoot, you will not join them in burial, for you have destroyed your land and killed your people. <sup>4</sup> (Isaiah 14:12-20)

You had the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God. Every precious stone was your covering: the ruby, the topaz and the diamond; the beryl, the onyx and the jasper; the lapis lazuli, the turquoise and the emerald; and the gold. The workmanship of your settings and sockets was in you, and on the day that you were created they were prepared. You were the anointed cherub who covers, and I placed you there. You were on the holy mountain of God; you walked in the midst of the stones of fire. You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created until unrighteousness was found in you.

By the abundance of your trade you were internally filled with violence, and you sinned. Therefore, I have cast you as profane from the mountain of God, and I have destroyed you, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom by reason of your splendor. I cast you to the ground; I put you before kings, that they may see you.... All who know you among the peoples are appalled at you; you have become terrifying in appearance, and you will cease to be forever. (Ezekiel 28:12-19)

Revelation 12:4 reveals that Lucifer, now known as Satan (the accuser) and the Devil (slanderer), brought one third of the angels along with him with the idea "Better to reign in hell than to serve in heaven." Those angels then became demons and exist in defiance to Jehovah and in opposition to humanity. Their goal is to tempt and destroy as many people as possible, and to take individuals down to hell along with them.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Note that the above verses suggest that Satan was responsible for large-scale destruction ("who made the world as a wilderness and destroyed its cities") which may be related to the "gap theory" described above.

### Creation

When reading Genesis in general and the creation account in particular, we must remember that it was written probably by Moses around 1500 BC and addressed to an ancient audience. The culture of that day was significantly different – community rather than individual identity, comprehensive control by the gods, the divinity of kings, the centrality of temples, the reality of the spirit world, and ancient conceptions of the universe. We tend to think purely in empirical terms – that the only things which exist are physical and if something appears to us as miraculous then there must be a trick or a hidden physical cause, whereas the ancients understood that reality incorporated both the natural and the supernatural. Due to our proclivity for Darwinism and postmodern philosophy this ancient perspective is lost to us. The Bible is not addressed to our culture, and it does not anticipate our questions about the world. In short, the Bible was written *for* us, but not *to* us.

Furthermore, the most important point of the creation story is not what, when, or how it was made. The real purpose and the deep reality underlying the creation account is who made it and why it was made. The world was made by Jehovah – the God of the Bible – and it was made for His pleasure. Therefore our need is not to be independent from God, but rather to know and understand Him. We bristle at the word "obey" but the underlying theme of creation is the blessings of obedience to God and the penalties of disobedience.

Genesis 1:3-31 gives the account of creation – Day 1, light; Day 2, sky (atmosphere), waters, and land; Day 3, vegetation; Day 4, sun and moon; Day 5, fish and birds; Day 6 land animals, and finally man and woman. These are presented as the "days of creation" where each day is presumably a twenty-four-hour period. That is reinforced by the statement on each of the six days that there was "evening and morning." However, it must be remembered that the reporting of these events was not to explain them in detail, but rather to state their order and significance,

Jehovah certainly had and has the power to create everything in a literal six-day period, and many believe that He did so. But there are problems with that approach, as follows: 1) The sun and moon only appear during Day 4 – how could there be an evening and morning without the sun? 2) Was the moon created at the same time as the sun? 3) Vegetation appears on Day 3 before the sun – how could it grow without sunlight? 4) It seems unlikely that all types of plants and animals were created at the same time. For example, trilobites were sea creatures that appeared early in the created order and then became extinct. These issues can be answered in several possible ways:

1. The term "day" is first introduced to be a time when there is light (i.e., energy), which was the first thing created and was Jehovah's first step in bringing order out of chaos. It signaled the start of the transition from "formless and void" to "completed." Each element of creation results in a decrease of entropy (randomness) and an increase in order as evening and darkness are replaced by morning and light. The terms "evening and morning" (*erev* and *boker* in Hebrew) echo this idea of a reduction in darkness and confusion to light and stability. This interpretation is strengthened by the fact that evening and morning are not mentioned for Day 7 after the creation process was finished. Therefore, the word "day" during the creation process may have signified a period of much longer than twenty-four hours, especially because the sun and moon do not appear on the scene until Day 4. Light was provided by Jehovah before the sun and moon.

The speed of light is intimately connected to time as shown by Einstein in his relativity theories. Physicists have always assumed it to be a constant value, and it is typically designated as "C" in quantum physics equations. But evidence has been developed that light has been slowing down over time (Bowden, 2011), and therefore may have been much faster at the time of creation, possibly resulting in a much longer "day."

2. The Bible describes things in phenomenological rather than scientific terms, i.e., as how things appear to an observer. So the Bible speaks of "sunrise" and "sunset" even though the sun doesn't actually rise or set. Creation is likewise described in those terms with the appearance of light eventually coalescing into the sun and moon. Our solar system and thus the sun and possibly the moon could have been created much earlier and only "appeared" at the designated time.

So God made the vault and separated the water under the vault from the water above it (Genesis 1:7). Now no shrub had yet appeared on the earth and no plant had yet sprung up, for the Lord God had not sent rain on the earth and there was no one to work the ground, but streams came up from the earth and watered the whole surface of the ground (Genesis 2:5-6).

These verses indicate that the atmosphere and climate were significantly different at that time – perhaps the sun and moon were there but not visible to the degree that they are now. Therefore the creation of the sun and moon on the Day 4 is important in helping us understand some of the complexities of the creation process.

3. According to Genesis 1:27 man and woman were both created on Day 6. However in the Genesis 2:7-25 recap which provides more detail on the creation of humans, man (Adam) was created first. Jehovah then brought all of the birds and land animals to Adam so that he could name them, implying the development of at least a spoken language and the ability to categorize. Also interesting is the phrase in Genesis "And whatever Adam called each living creature that was its name" (Genesis 2:19), which implies that to some degree Adam understood the nature of each animal and incorporated that understanding into the name of the animal.

The creation of woman took place after that event and presumably not on the same literal day, indicating that Day 6 may have been an indeterminate period of time. This would suggest that the word "day" as used in the creation account should be interpreted as "era" rather than a twenty-four-hour period.

In any case, after each step in creation was completed, Jehovah declares that what He made was "good." With the source of light eventually becoming the sun, which due to earth's rotation generates periods of light and darkness, the world then had regular periods of day and night.

Chronology and dating are much debated, and many believe in the Darwinist assertion of millions or perhaps billions of years that were required in the formation of the earth. Some archaeologists place

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Cognitive scientists believe that our brains have specialized structures devoted to language processing.

the date of the flood in the range of 10,000 to 13,000 BC and the existence of humanity to 20,000 BC or previous. However, that view has been challenged as shown by some the evidence listed below:

1. Carbon-14 in fossils, coal, and diamonds. Radiometric dating is based on the amount of the radioactive isotope carbon-14 (C<sup>14</sup>) in the sample relative to normal carbon or C<sup>12</sup>. This method assumes that the amount of C<sup>14</sup> in the original was the same as in contemporary organic material, but that may not have been the case. The half-life<sup>6</sup> of C<sup>14</sup> is 5,730 years, and therefore none would remain after several hundred thousand years. But C<sup>14</sup> has been detected in many ancient fossils, in samples of coal, and in diamonds that are supposedly hundreds of millions of years old (Snelling, 2012a).

The massive release of carbon dioxide from burning and industrial combustion of fossil fuel poor in C<sup>14</sup> may artificially age the environment. A shrub that grows along highway, for example, might be "conventionally dated" to 10,000 BC or older. Similarly, on the flanks of volcanoes, fumarole emissions can locally create more C<sup>14</sup>. Atomic explosions such as those of 1963 increased the level in C<sup>14</sup> by 10% (Snelling, 2012a).

When the decay of the earth's magnetic field is considered, the amount of  $C^{14}$  in older samples would have actually been less. A stronger magnetic field would have offered more protection from solar radiation and therefore would have reduced the amount of radioactive carbon in nature. So, using current levels of  $C^{14}$  in organic material as a baseline for dating would return ages that are too old (Snelling, 2012a).

 $C^{14}$  and other radioactive isotopes are formed in nature by neutrons and cosmic radiation. So another possible issue with the carbon dating on ancient samples is that the environment in ancient times may have been "cleaner" with lower amounts of radioactive material, resulting in age determinations that are too old. In addition to the earth's magnetic field, water has the remarkable property of stopping neutrons very effectively since a screen of 23 mm thick stops 90% of neutrons, and a screen of 46 mm thick stops 99%, as demonstrated by nuclear pools. If previously there was more water in the atmosphere,  $C^{14}$  production could not take place, which would explain the lower amounts of  $C^{14}$  in ancient specimens.

Dates for ancient samples obtained by  $C^{14}$  match those from astronomy until ~2200 BC, but before ~2200 BC the  $C^{14}$  dates increased exponentially. The rate of  $C^{14}$  tends to 0 around 3500 BC, implying that reliable  $C^{14}$  dating before 3500 BC may not be possible. Dating pharaohs' reigns both by  $C^{14}$  and astronomy shows (by extrapolation) that the rate of  $C^{14}$  fell to 0 around -3500 +/- 500 (Gertoux, 2024c). Factors such as this may explain the longer lives of the people in the book of Genesis, as well as resulting in older and incorrect dates when ancient organic material is tested. Therefore, the dating of samples older than ~3500 BC is questionable.

2. Erosion and the lack of sedimentation in the deep-ocean floor. The land surface of the earth is constantly being eroded by water falling as rain and washing sediments into the river and ultimately into the ocean. The average pace of erosion and the lowering of the land surface is currently estimated as 61 millimeters per thousand years. However, at that rate, the North

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Half-life is the period of time after which half of the radioactive atoms in a sample have disintegrated and no longer remain.

American continent would have eroded flat to sea level in 10 million years, in contrast to the Darwinist claim of the earth's age at 3 to 4 billion years. Even reducing the average rate of erosion to 1 millimeter per thousand years would mean the continent at sea level in 623 million years. The erosion rate is even higher in mountain regions, with rates around 1 meter per year in the Himalayas.

This problem is even more acute when considering flat land surfaces that show little evidence of erosion. For example, Kangaroo Island off the coast of Australia is very flat, and the fossils and rocks have been estimated to be 160 million years old based on radiometric dating. How could this surface exist for 160 million years and not be eroded into the ocean?

A related issue is the depth of sedimentation in deep seas. It is estimated that the amount of sedimentation carried into the ocean is approximately 24 billion metric tons per year, but the average depth of sediment on the ocean floor is less than 400 meters. If the oceans are as old as claimed by Darwinists they would contains sedimentation that would be miles deep (Snelling, 2012d).

3. Decay in the earth's magnetic field. The magnetic field of the earth is generated by the molten metal in the earth's core and is important for protecting organisms from solar radiation. The fields are growing weaker over time at the rate of approximately 5% per century, and archaeological measurements indicate that the magnetic field was 40% stronger in 1000 AD than it is today. Projecting the rate backward means that the maximum age of the earth is 10,000 to 20,000 years, as stronger magnetic fields would have destroyed the earth. Darwinists respond by claiming that the field is self-sustaining, and propose a theoretical "dynamo" model, but the model contradicts the laws of physics in a similar manner as their answer for issues with the second law of thermodynamics as discussed below.

It has been observed that the magnetic field of the earth has reversed several times (molten lava may contain iron oxide crystals which will align in the direction of the magnetic field of the earth and then harden after cooling). Darwinists do not have a workable answer for this observation (Snelling, 1991).

- 4. Helium in radioactive rocks. During the radioactive decay of uranium, helium is produced. Helium is a very light and noble gas, so it diffuses and escapes into the atmosphere. When drilling deep into the Pre-Cambrian granite of New Mexico, rocks containing uranium and helium were unearthed. Given the amount of helium, the age of the rocks is estimated at 4,000 to 8,000 years (Snelling, 2012b).
- 5. The amount of salt in the ocean. If the world's oceans had been present for billions of years, they would be much saltier then is currently the case. Large amounts of salt are dumped into the oceans each year from rivers, glaciers, and atmospheric dust. Salt is also removed by natural processes, but the net effect is greater salination each year. If seawater originally contained no salt (a hypothetical assumption), and if the oceans were salinated at the current rate, then today's levels would be reached in approximately 42 million years (Snelling, 2012c).
- 6. DNA in ancient bacteria. In the year 2000 scientists extracted bacteria from salt crystals which were dated at 250 million years old. To their surprise, they found that the DNA in the bacteria

was still intact, and even more surprising was that the DNA was very similar to modern bacterial DNA. In other words, the bacteria DNA should have shown significant mutations, but did not (Purdom, 2012).

It is the position of the author that even though the universe, our solar system, and our planet itself may have existed for millennia, life on earth and especially human life is only a few thousand years old. The sources for this chronology were listed above, and from them are suggested some of the key dates in human and biblical history:

Person or Event	Approx.	Interval	Total
	Date		
Adam and Eve	~5000 BC		
Jared (sixth generation from Adam)	~4370 BC	630	630
The irruption of the Sons of God	~4270 BC	100	730
Noah (tenth generation from Adam)	~3770 BC	500	1,230
The Flood and the start of the ice age	~3170 BC	600	1,830
The Tower of Babel and the Uruk expansion	~2950 BC	220	2,050
The end of the Ice Age in Egypt and the start of the Saharan	~2900 BC	50	2,100
wet period			
The foundation of dynastic Egypt (the 1 <sup>st</sup> dynasty of	~2840 BC	60	2,160
Narmer/Menes)			
Start of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> dynasty of Egypt (Hetepsekhemwy, Peribsen,	~2660 BC	180	2,340
etc.)			
Start of the 3 <sup>rd</sup> dynasty of Egypt (Djoser, Sekhemkhet, etc.)	~2587 BC	73	2,413
Start of the 4 <sup>th</sup> dynasty of Egypt (Snefru, Khufu, Khafre,	~2523 BC	64	2,477
Menkaure, etc.)			
Abraham	~2038 BC	347	2,824
Moses	~1613 BC	425	3,249
Exodus	~1533 BC	80	3,329

#### The Fall

The creation of humans is described as follows:

So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth." (Genesis 1:27-28)

People are therefore like Jehovah to some degree. Everything that Jehovah created He declared to be good – He made good things to eat, fulfilling work, ruling and following, friendship, sexual orgasm, the capability of creating children, etc. This implies that our desires for food, companionship, sex, and all other positive aspects of human activity were divine in origin. Furthermore, He created an ideal environment:

The Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed. And out of the ground the Lord God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. (Genesis 2:8-9)

Many people have asked the question, "If God is good, why does evil exist?" Jehovah decided that unlike animals who function purely by instinct, both angels and humans would be given the gift of free will which allows them to choose what they will think and do. Without free will we would be robotic or animalistic; love, which is a chosen action, would be impossible. Both people and angels are therefore free to choose evil rather than good.

And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." (Genesis 2:16-17)

This question is also posed, "Was the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil a literal tree with literal fruit, or was it some type of metaphor?" The answer is that it doesn't matter – the point is that God presented Adam and Eve with a test of obedience. Under the influence of Satan in the guise of a serpent (the Hebrew word for serpent here is *nahash* meaning "shining one"), they disobeyed Jehovah. Those who think that this was a minor issue (i.e., just eating a piece of fruit from the wrong tree) don't understand the depths of what was happening. Adam and Eve distrusted Jehovah and then ignored what He had told them. Here is the temptation of Satan to Eve:

You will surely not die! For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil. (Genesis 3:4-5)

In eating from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, Adam and Eve reached for increased authority and power – the same thing that Satan desired for himself – to become God, do whatever you want, not have to obey, and not be accountable to anyone. This same overweening lust for power and unbridled freedom has existed and plagued mankind throughout history – every dictator and many rulers have had that lust. It is also the reason that people are often self-absorbed and narcissistic rather than finding their purpose in serving others. We are accountable for the choices we make, and Jehovah

likewise held Adam and Eve accountable, especially Adam as the leader. The consequences were severe as He had warned them:

To the woman God said, "I will greatly multiply your sorrow in conception. In pain you shall bring forth children, but your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you." Then to Adam He said, "Cursed is the ground. In toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. It will bring forth both thorns and thistles, and you shall eat the herb of the field. From the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground. For dust you are, and to dust you shall return." (Genesis 3:16-19)

The Apostle Paul further explains this in the New Testament:

For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. (1 Corinthians 15:21-22)

It is unclear to what extent this disobedience affected the world, but from what Jehovah stated, both humanity and the natural world were damaged. The curse caused pain in the main roles of both genders – labor and provision would now be painful for the man and childbearing would be painful for the woman; both of these involved changes in the natural world. Their home in the lush and exotic Garden of Eden was closed to them, and they were forced to leave and create an inferior home elsewhere. The garden then existed only in memory – it would be renewed only after the judgement and redemption of the world (Revelation 21:1-4).

Before their fall into sin Adam and Eve were "naked and unashamed" (Genesis 2:25), implying that they had no sexual hang-ups and no feelings of guilt. Everything about their bodies, their sexuality, and their relationship was pure; eroticism was uncorrupted and shame was unknown. Their nudity was psychological as well as physical. They were completely open and honest with each other, with nothing to conceal. But after their disobedience the first feeling that they experienced was shame, and the first action they took was to sew leaves together to cover themselves (Genesis 3:7). It is significant that at this point, no other people were there; the couple was completely alone. In other words, they had been so deeply affected by shame and guilt that they were not even comfortable being naked in front of each other with no one else there to see them except God. The shame of their nudity was also both physical and psychological. From that point onward, in addition to the fig leaves to cover their genitals, they put on what all of us are intimately familiar with – "masks" to conceal their thoughts and hide their motives. They were afraid to fully reveal themselves, both to Jehovah and to each other, and became afflicted by the same psychological problems that we suffer with today – guilt, fears, deception, inferiority complexes, blaming others, and so on. Sexuality, which has deep connections to our identity and to the associated male/female relationship, was thus corrupted in the first family, at the beginning of humanity. In the centuries that followed our views of sexuality became twisted in a variety of additional ways, resulting in much human misery and suffering (Sorensen, 2011a, 2011b, 2011c).

Nature has many imperfections that are manifested in predation, malformation, disease, and death, and the Bible indicates that all of these were related to the fall. It may be that even fundamental aspects of physics such as entropy (randomness), and the inherent unreliability of nature (e.g., the fact that there

are "bugs" and anomalies in chemistry and telecommunications that are beyond human error) were also a consequence.<sup>7</sup>

Furthermore, Adam and Eve had given in to Satan, and in the process suffered a cosmic defeat — grasping this point is key to understanding why a loving God would allow Satan to have a place. Demons can enter only when they are invited in and allowed to enter. So by listening to and doing what Satan told them, Adam and Eve allowed him to enter the world and gain power over them. Adam was the leader and representative of humanity; just as leaders of today are held responsible for their choices, so Jehovah held Adam responsible for his decision. By his capitulation Adam allowed Satan to gain power, not only over himself, but over all of his progeny as well — over all of the people that have ever existed and will exist. Satan thus became "the god of this world" (2 Corinthians 4:3-4). The negative consequences of this surrender were immediately seen but would become even more apparent many years later when the sons of God arrived on the scene, and afterward as these demonic entities ruled people and became the gods of antiquity. They were able to do this because Adam, by the decision he made, had in effect opened a door, invited them in, and allowed them to rule. Jesus further explains the implications of our decisions:

Truly I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. (Matthew 18:18)

Because Adam had allowed Satan to crash the party and take over as the god of this world, Jehovah therefore could not deny Satan the place that he had gained and the authority over the world that he had achieved by Adam's capitulation. In the following text from the book of Job, Satan is "walking to and fro" on his domain:

Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them. And the Lord said to Satan, "From where do you come?" So Satan answered the Lord and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it." (Job 1:6-7)

Adam's surrender had many evil consequences, including the future demonic influences on human society. Throughout history Satan and his demons have tempted people and employed the then-current political and social climate to try to conceal, pervert, and corrupt the worship of the one true God. In ancient times it was the worship of false gods, whereas in today's world it is the worship of science and self.

But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. (2 Corinthians 4:3-4)

The Fall of mankind was thus the opening salvo in the long war between Jehovah and Satan which started in the Garden of Eden and has been the "story behind the story" all throughout human history. It continues today and into the future and will not end until the return of Christ. Satan will eventually be crushed by the "seed of the woman" (i.e., by Christ) and his head will eventually be smashed, but in the meantime, he will have the power to "bruise our heels" (Genesis 3:15).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> A larger application of the Heisenberg Uncertainty Principle from physics (that there are uncertainties at the quantum level) may also be related to the fall.

The disobedience of Adam and Eve also dramatically affected human genetics and psychology in that everyone from that point forward has a propensity for sin. This does not mean that people are continually evil, or as evil as they could be. Rather, it means that from birth we have a bent towards selfishness, rebelliousness, and disobedience along with the seemingly unlimited ability to rationalize our decisions and our desires. This is why people resist obedience to God, and it explains the psychological appeal of rebellion.

The fixation away from obedience and toward deceit is soon seen in Adam and Eve's children when their firstborn son Cain kills his brother Abel in a fit of jealousy. The system of sacrifice for sin was instituted by Jehovah for everyone ("Also for Adam and his wife the Lord God made tunics of skin and clothed them" Genesis 3:21). Animals were killed and the skins used to create coverings for Adam and Eve (i.e., coverings for their sin and shame which prefigured the sacrificial system described later in the Bible). Jehovah then instructed them to periodically present an animal sacrifice as a sacrifice for sin. Abel obeyed, but Cain instead presented an offering of his crops. Jehovah rejects Cain's offering, not because there is anything wrong with an offering of crops, but rather because Cain refused to obey what he had been told to do. After being confronted with his brother's murder, Cain resorts to deceit and tells Jehovah, "I don't know where my brother is – am I his keeper?" Genesis 4:9. The evil that people are capable of doing to each other was thus evident in the first family, but having given free will to his creatures, Jehovah would not take it back, so the evil in this world comes from the bad choices of both people and angels.

Thus, the first four chapters of Genesis explain many things that are critical for us to understand:

- 1. How the cosmic all came into existence and that Jehovah was the one who planned it and made it happen.
- 2. How mankind came into existence and that both man and woman were made in the image of Jehovah (i.e., human characteristics and intelligence didn't evolve).
- 3. That Jehovah is good, and both the world and humanity were originally completely good.
- 4. That there are spiritual entities (angels and demons) who can interact with people.
- 5. How obedience to God was essential and how the first man and woman flirted with and then embraced evil by disobeying.
- 6. How sin, the lust for power, and the desire for unbridled freedom began in humanity.
- 7. Why there is evil in the world, in angels, and in people since the beginning, and why the world is often corrupt, dirty, and polluted.
- 8. Why life in general is difficult (why earning a living is hard, why childbirth is painful) and why we get old and die.

- 9. That the main roles for men and women are distinct and biological in origin and have essentially been the same since the beginning.
- 10. Why all societies worshipped whoever they thought of as God which typically was not the true God.
- 11. Why all societies subsequently performed animal (and sometimes human) sacrifice for their sin, and to appease who they believed to be god or the gods.
- 12. That there will eventually be a judgment followed by a restoration of the Garden of Eden.

The rest of the Bible is essentially a message about redemption, how relationship with Jehovah can be restored, and how we can prepare for the reckoning and the ultimate renewal of all things. Jehovah tells us, "Behold, I make all things new.' And He said to me, 'Write, for these words are faithful and true." (Revelation 21:5).

#### The sons of God



Those who consider the Bible to be myth may believe that the sons of God mentioned in Genesis 6:1-4 were actually the "ancient aliens," often discussed in the media and on the internet, who are said to be an advanced humanoid race that came from elsewhere in the universe – possibly from Mars. One of the main originators of this idea was Erich von Däniken with his 1968 book, *Chariots of the Gods*. Many have followed in his steps, and ancient aliens have become a long-running media attraction along with speculations on the Great Pyramid, the Sphinx, Atlantis, and many others. However, as we shall see, an explanation that fits better with the evidence is that the sons of God were demons.

Genesis chapter 5 covers the genealogy of Adam and Eve's descendants through Noah in the tenth generation. But chapter 6 returns to an event that occurred in the sixth and seventh generations, during the times of Jared and his son Enoch. This chapter contains a short and cryptic account of the ancient world during the time that followed which is one of the most mysterious and debated portions of the Old Testament (~4270 through ~3170 BC, a period of around 1,100 years). It states that a group of individuals called the "sons of God" were attracted by the beauty of the "daughters of men" and took some of them as wives. The children of these unions were known as the *Nephilim*, a Hebrew word meaning "the fallen ones."

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 that the daughters of men 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." There were giants [Nephilim] on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown.

Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. So the Lord said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them." (Genesis 6:1-7)

The Hebrew term used for the sons of God in the Genesis 6 passage above is *bene ha elohim*, (*bene ha* meaning "son of" and *elohim* meaning "god"). The word *elohim* is a term used elsewhere in the Old Testament mostly for God (i.e., the Most-High God or *Yahweh* and Jehovah in English, who is himself a spirit being), but sometimes also for spirit beings in general. Therefore, it sometimes may refer to "god" with a lower-case "g" – what the New Testament would call an angel or a demon. The word *elohim* in the Old Testament thus may mean Yahweh, a pre-incarnate appearance of Christ, a lesser spirit being (good or bad), or a group of them. The context is necessary to understand who or what is being referred to (Heiser, 2015).

Scholars have debated extensively about the identity of the sons of God in the above passage. Some have suggested that they were human men, either "divinized" individuals or possibly the descendants of Seth, the third son of Adam (i.e., they were "good" men). But the text explicitly contrasts the nature of the sons as being "of God" vs. the daughters as being "of men." Furthermore, the continuing context in Genesis indicates that these sons of God were somehow instrumental in debasing human society and making it so corrupt that Jehovah reduced human lifespan, and ultimately became "sorry that he had made man on the earth." Therefore, the sons of God and their Nephilim progeny were ultimately evil rather than beneficial as described in more detail below.

Others have raised the possibility that they were the descendants of Cain (i.e., they were "bad" men). However, that view also does not fit with the context (Petrovich, 2016b). If a purely human connection was intended the writer could have stated "the sons of Seth or Cain" and the "daughters of Seth or Cain." It is also difficult if not impossible to understand how a purely human connection could have produced the Nephilim who were essentially evil giants. Throughout the Old Testament the sons of God were identified as angels (i.e., spirit beings). As stated above, some angels served and were faithful to Jehovah whereas others rebelled and became demons. In the days of Enoch a group of them came to earth and assumed human form.

Spirit beings may therefore be either good (i.e., angelic) or bad (i.e., demonic). All spirit beings (at least all of the ones that are described in the Bible) seem to have the same basic nature, although we

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> For example, Genesis 35:7 which refers to angels or the Angel of Yahweh, and Judges 11:24 and 1 Kings 11:33 which refer to the gods and goddesses of other nations.

know very little of them and potential differences among them (e.g., are there species of angels and/or demons?). However, the major difference is in their moral characteristics, in the same way that humans can be either morally good or bad. Of course, human morality is far from absolute – even the most moral individuals have faults, and likewise the worst individuals may have one or more redeeming qualities. But there seems to be a very sharp and perhaps a total moral division among spirit beings – either for Jehovah or against him. This may be an attribute of their nature and/or it may be impossible to hide one's orientation. Once a spirit being choses to join the "dark side" they have essentially rejected Jehovah and everything Jehovah stands for, so they become everything that Jehovah is not. Apparently, it is not possible for demons to repent and return to being an angel, due either to their own choice (i.e., they have taken a vow and will not turn back), or a divine refusal to allow repentance (2 Peter 2:4, Hebrews 2:16).

Another significant difference is that there is a pronounced hierarchy, with some spirit beings much more powerful than others. Among humans, height, strength, and athletic ability vary, as well as degree of intelligence. But hierarchy in the spirit world seems to be much more extensive, with some having very great power and authority, and others much less. The Bible speaks of "cherubim" and "seraphim" as being "super angels" (the former being leaders and the latter being "spirits of fire"). However, their exact characteristics and the specific differences between them and regular angels is not fully described. On the good side there are many angels (unnamed) as well as archangels or cherubim (two of which are named in the Bible – Michael and Gabriel). On the bad side there are many demons (unnamed) as well as Satan, who is known by many names, such as the Devil, the Accuser, Apollyon, Belial, Beelzebub, the Serpent of Old, the Great Dragon, the father of lies, the god of this world, and others.

The Bible tells us that there is a great number of these spirit beings (the "heavenly host," Luke 2:13). We have no idea how many there are, although the Bible may provide an indication of the relative number of angels vs. demons: "And his [the Dragon/Satan's] tail swept away a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth" (Revelation 12:4). Furthermore, there is a constant war taking place in the unseen realm:

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. (Ephesians 6:10-12)

Unlike humans, spirit beings apparently do not have any native reproductive capability, either by sex or by means of the power of creation (Luke 20:34-36). However, if the sons of God in Genesis 6

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Some view demons as being distinct from fallen angels, and consider demons to be the spirits of the Rephaim/Nephilim who seek to inhabit a body; whereas the spirit beings who followed Satan in his rebellion are said to be fallen angels. But given the fact that this is a point of theological dispute, the term *demon* will be used in the context of this paper for all evil spirit beings.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> This passage seems to indicate that a third of the angels chose to follow Satan's rebellion against God and became demons.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Here Jesus teaches that marriage will not take place after the resurrection, but he does not specifically mention either sex or reproductive capabilities, although they may be included by implication. It therefore seems that spirit beings in the native form cannot reproduce.

were spirit beings, it would mean that in human form they were capable not just of talking and eating, as mentioned above, but also of copulation and impregnation.

This raises the question of why the sons of God wanted to do what they did, and to risk divine censure. There are a number of possible answers:

- 1. Demons, like many arrogant people, are in denial about their ultimate destiny.
- 2. The task assigned to angels by Jehovah is to be his messengers and therefore to serve people. Satan, the proud spirit, thought that this task was beneath him and wanted to rule instead. Some of the other angels apparently felt the same way, hence the defection of many of them into Satan's camp. Demons are therefore in rebellion against Jehovah and seek to corrupt, pollute, and tear down everything that Jehovah does and stands for. As Jesus said in John 10:10, "The thief comes only to steal, kill, and destroy."
- 3. Demons have intense desires to inhabit and control other beings, especially humans. We often speak of "demonic oppression" and "demonic possession" in which spirit beings entice an individual in order to enter that person, oppress them, and if possible, take full control. People are attracted to "occultic gateways" such as Ouija boards, fortune telling, tarot cards, mediums, spiritism, etc. and may become hooked.
- 4. As mentioned above, angels and demons seemingly do not have any reproductive capabilities. But Satan wanted to be like Jehovah, and therefore capable of producing offspring and creating his own tribe, similar to J.R.R. Tolkien's depiction of the creation of Orc armies in his *Lord of The Rings* novels. <sup>12</sup> Producing the Nephilim allowed the demons to create their own people devoted to them, an army of hybrids for attacking and destroying the rest of society.
- 5. Jehovah created plants, animals, and humans to reproduce "after their kinds" with genetic barriers against the comingling of kinds. Miscegenation is therefore wrong in the eyes of Jehovah and prohibited in the Bible. The demons of Genesis 6 sought to produce hybrids that, a) would be a slap in Jehovah's face; and b) would be like them but also amenable to their control.
- 6. In response to the sin of Adam and Eve, Jehovah stated that there would be a continual war between Satan and the "seed of the woman" (i.e., the children of the woman including the Messiah who would come later and ultimately crush Satan's head). Therefore the Devil wanted to corrupt the bloodline leading to Christ in order to pervert and defeat Jehovah's plans. He was unsuccessful in corrupting the Messianic bloodline, but may have succeeded with the wife of Ham, with her son Canaan, and with her grandson or descendant Nimrod, all of whom lived after the Flood (Sorensen, 2020b).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> The Orcs were created by the great enemy Morgoth (Tokien's name for Satan) in mockery of elves and men.

#### Evidence for the sons of God



The Pyramids of Giza, the Sphinx, and the Valley Temple – the Nile used to run near where the people are standing

Geoffrey Drumm has been researching the pyramids for years and has speculated that the oldest ones were build long before the dynastic era in Egypt (~2950 BC and following). The oldest pyramids are those on the Giza plateau (the Great Pyramid, the Central Pyramid, the Pyramid of Menkaure, and the Sphinx), the pyramids at Dahshur (the Red Pyramid and the Bent Pyramid), the pyramid of Saqqara and a few others. They will be referred to herein as "pre-dynastic" pyramids. Due to his finding, Drumm has advanced the theory, supported by other researchers, that these pyramids were originally not funerary or religious monuments at all. Rather they were ancient chemical factories (Drumm, 2024b). This assertion is completely contrary to conventional Egyptology, so it immediately raises many questions:

1. Who built these pyramids and when were they built? It is herein proposed that the pre-dynastic pyramids were built by the sons of God and the Nephilim, possibly along with forced labor from people who lived in that era (~4270 through ~3170 BC). The Nephilim were giants and enormously strong – the Bible indicates that they were "the mighty men of old – men of renown." Therefore, it is thought that the stone for the pyramids was quarried, cut, and transported with their strength and/or with the power and technology of the sons of God. Over two million stone blocks were used in the construction of the Great Pyramid alone with some weighing between 25 and 80 tons. The engineering feats in the construction are amazing and

would be difficult to achieve even with today's equipment. Note that the era of the sons of God lasted around 1,100 years, providing plenty of time for all of the huge unexplained monolithic structures in various parts of the world to be built.

Then the great flood occurred, and the pre-dynastic pyramids would have been submerged and cleaned out by water, Afterward, it took time to repopulate the world, and the pyramids would have stood empty for 200 - 300 years until the Uruk migration following the Tower of Babel incident, so their original purpose and use was probably little known or forgotten. Later, during the dynastic era in Egypt they may well have been used and repurposed as mortuary or religious temples. However, they were not constructed by the pharaohs. The tombs of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> dynasty pharaohs were very simple and plain – see the pictures below.

From the death of pharaoh Peribsen of the 2<sup>nd</sup> dynasty there was only a 45-year period until the 3<sup>rd</sup> dynasty. Djoser, the first pharaoh of that dynasty, reputedly built the step pyramid named for him, but that pyramid was likely also pre-dynastic and repurposed by Djoser (the pyramid was built in stages starting with a single level mastaba upon which additional platforms were gradually added). From the death of Djoser until the start of the 4<sup>th</sup> dynasty was 37 years.

It is claimed by Egyptologists that the large Giza plateau pyramids were built by the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> dynasty pharaohs who lived in the period of ~2587 through ~2391 BC – a 196-year interval during which there were 13 pharaohs. Khufu in the 4<sup>th</sup> dynasty was said to have built the Great Pyramid, but his mummy and the remains of all of the other 4<sup>th</sup> dynasty pharaohs have never been found. Little is known of his son Khafre who supposedly built the Central Pyramid, but even if he was ever interred there, he was not necessarily the builder. Currently there are archeological projects searching for the burial of 4<sup>th</sup> dynasty pharaohs in the Western Field of the Giza plateau, but nothing as yet has been found. It is extremely doubtful that Egyptians at that time would have had the engineering and construction skills and the wherewithal to build them, or any reason to build such incredibly large structures.

2. What was the original purpose for the pre-dynastic pyramids? They were seemingly built to produce chemicals primarily for two applications: 1) for the production of ammonia and ammonium compounds used in fertilizer; and 2) for the production of acids used for the leach mining of gold and other metals.

Fertilizer would be used for growing crops in order to feed and enlarge the population, providing more subjects and workers. The pyramid of Saqqara was probably used for bedrock methane extraction which was necessary for the production of ammonia-related compounds (one discovery is ancient copper piping capable of transporting gases and liquids). The interior rooms of the Red Pyramid in Dahshur are similar to a contemporary ammonia production plant, and the smell of ammonia still lingers there. The typical explanation is that the odor comes from bats, but the bats are recent and in small numbers – there is very little bat guano on the floor.

In regard to acid production it seems that sulfuric, hydrochloric, and nitric acids may have been produced. According to the Encyclopedia Britannica the production of sulfuric acid is "one of the most commercially important of all chemicals" and "it is impossible to imagine an industrial society without such acids." According to Drumm, sulfuric acid was made in the

Great Pyramid. However, what would acids have been used for in ancient Egypt? They were presumably used in the leach mining of a number of metals (iron, copper, zinc, silver, and gold).

The mining of gold was especially significant; acids are necessary if the gold is present as a compound within the ore rather than as free gold. When nitric and hydrochloric acids are combined, a liquid known as aqua regia is produced which will dissolve gold. It is used today to recover gold from scrap electronic chips. When sulfate crystals are added (ferrous sulfate or sodium metabisulfite) the gold will precipitate out as small droplets. It is interesting that the hieroglyph for gold is a series of droplets, as shown below:



The ancient Egyptians considered gold to be a divine and indestructible metal and associated with the brilliance of the sun. The sun god Re was called "the mountain of gold" and during the Old Kingdom, the Pharaoh was called "the Golden Horus." The skin of the deities was believed to be golden. Also, the royal tomb was called the "House of Gold" during the New Kingdom and Isis and Nephthys were often depicted on the ends of sarcophagi kneeling on the hieroglyph meaning "gold," as shown below:



It took centuries for us to understand that gold is an element, and that it cannot be created short of a nuclear reaction. The pre-dynastic pyramid builders did not actually make gold, rather they extracted gold from gold ore, but at that time it would have been viewed as "making gold," and therefore a form of magic using esoteric powers. Gold was used in jewelry and in the decorative arts, but also in potions and drugs, which were also considered to be magical (Mahdihassan, 1985). For example, Indian-Hindu medicine has long claimed antioxidant and rejuvenating properties for preparations containing gold (Sravani, 2017). The Chinese also employed colloidal gold as a drug of longevity – the Chinese word "kim" means "gold" and "yeh" means "juice." When adopted in the Islamic world, the Arabs took the word "kimyeh"

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> The word "magic" here is not to be thought of as innocent parlor tricks or sleight-of-hand, but rather the summoning of spiritual power for the benefit of the magician.

(gold juice) and added their definitive article "al," creating the word "al-kimiya," which then evolved into "alchemy" (Mahdihassan, 1985). It is from the word "alchemy" that our contemporary word "chemistry" was derived.

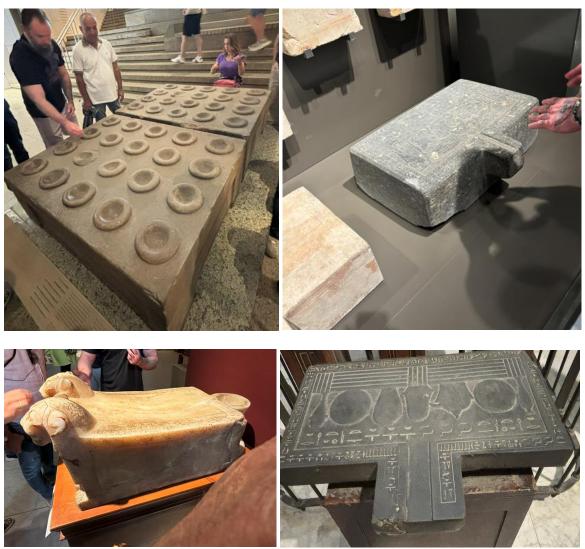
Until the 17<sup>th</sup> century medicine was generally thought to involve magic, so the priests of Egypt who were the channel to the gods became the adepts associated with both gold and magic. In the course of the dynastic period they became a powerful elite whose only duty was to care for the god of their temple and gain his favor (pacifying the gods and currying their favor was extremely important in ancient times, as discussed in more detail below). While the priestly role was supposed to be limited to maintaining religious beliefs and traditions, the priests became immensely powerful and wealthy and used their connection with the gods primarily to benefit themselves. Even pharaohs hesitated to challenge them; thus the priests became an increasing threat to royal power. The biblical Joseph who became the vizier of Egypt during the 12<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup> dynasty had to cater to the priests:

Then Joseph bought all the land of Egypt for Pharaoh; for every man of the Egyptians sold his field, because the famine was severe upon them. So the land became Pharaoh's. And as for the people, he moved them into the cities, from one end of the borders of Egypt to the other end. Only the land of the priests he did not buy; for the priests had rations allotted to them by Pharaoh, and they ate their rations which Pharaoh gave them; therefore they did not sell their lands... And Joseph made it a law over the land of Egypt to this day, that Pharaoh should have one-fifth, except for the land of the priests only, which did not become Pharaoh's. (Genesis 47:20-23, 26)

The priests also formulated drugs such as opium, blue lotus, cannabis, and others that induced hallucinogenic and altered states and which were used in religious rituals (<u>Ouellette 2024</u>; <u>Seaver, 2024</u>). Later practitioners of alchemy echoed the Egyptian priests and focused on alchemy's magical aspects, which viewed gold as a paradigm in the search for immortality, the "elixir of life," and the attempt to gain spiritual and personal power. In the centuries that followed this developed into many strains of magic and sorcery, such as hermeticism, divination, theosophy, necromancy, spiritism, etc. Producing gold from base material began in Egypt, so Drumm refers to it as the "Land of Chem" (<u>Drumm, 2024b</u>).

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> The first article discusses the trace chemical compounds from residues on the surface of ceremonial mugs and tables used in Egyptian religious rituals. This may be similar to the practice of divination by the Oracle of Delphi, a woman who consumed psychotropic substances and possibly breathed ethylene or methane gas in order to enter an ecstatic state and channel the god Apollo,



Offering tables potentially containing potions and drugs used during worship rituals (pictures by the author)

How would ancient people living at the time have the advanced knowledge of chemistry and all of the complex engineering steps necessary to produce and use these chemicals which our industrial society now takes for granted, but which were only discovered and developed starting in the 19<sup>th</sup> century? This points to the sons of God having the technological smarts and the Nephilim to do the grunt work of construction. For more information on the technical details, see (<u>Drumm, 2020, 2023, 2024a, 2024c, 2024d</u>) and other videos on YouTube.

3. What are the internal structures of the pre-dynastic pyramids like? When one enters these pyramids and examines their internal structures, it becomes obvious that their original use was not for religious or funerary purposes. The internal passageways are steep, long, and in many cases less than three feet high, often requiring entry on hands and knees. See the pictures below that show the low and steep passageways, the stepped ceilings, and the bare interiors. The grand gallery of the Great Pyramid is not "grand." The king's and queen's chambers are bare rock with no decorations, wall paintings, or hieroglyphic carvings anywhere. Egyptian mortuary and temple structures were typically level, columnated, artistically decorated, relatively easy to enter, and contained objects necessary for the deceased in his or her next life.

The "rooms" or areas inside the pre-dynastic pyramids (such as the king's and queen's chambers in the Great Pyramid) are bare, utilitarian, and seemingly designed like reaction vats in a plant – to carry out the chemical reactions that they were designed for. This also explains why the pre-dynastic pyramids were so large. In most cases the internal chambers are located far below the peak of the pyramid because the reactions necessary to produce these chemicals in quantity would have created enormous upward pressure that would blow the upper portion of the pyramid off if there was not a sufficient amount of weight above these chambers. The huge weight of stone above the internal rooms therefore served to contain the reactions occurring inside. It is known that additional layers were added to the top of the Step pyramid. The ruined pyramid of Meidum, said to have been built the 4<sup>th</sup> dynasty pharaoh Snefru, may have actually been a failed trial pyramid that was not built high enough to contain the pressure. The internal walls are "stepped" so that the ceiling areas are a smaller area than the floor (see the pictures below). This served to increase the pressure as the rooms were filled with water or other liquids.

4. What evidence is there of chemical production in the pre-dynastic pyramids? As mentioned above, the Red Pyramid smells of ammonia. Some of the walls, floors, and passageways have been chemically tested for various compounds, and Drumm has described the results in his videos. The area outside the pyramids on the Giza plateau slopes downward to the Sphinx and the Valley Temple, with channels cut into the rock leading to open pits that may have been used in the leach mining process (see the pictures below). The use of aqua regia to extract gold from ore can be dangerous and putting sulfate compounds into aqua regia can create toxic fumes necessitating open areas for the safety of the workers. It was also known that there were ancient copper pipes in various areas for the transport of liquids and/or gases. In ancient times the Nile River flowed near the base of Sphinx with a harbor located there, allowing for the transport of materials and products.

Also significant is that the pre-dynastic pyramids were located on the west side of the Nile, whereas the living areas of Egypt were located on the east side. It would make sense to separate the industrial production areas from the populated regions, as the former could potentially be toxic and dangerous



The Great Pyramid (picture by the author)



The Grand Gallery of the Great Pyramid (pictures by the author)



The Kings and Queens Chambers of the Great Pyramid (pictures by the author)



The Bent Pyramid of Dahshur (picture by the author)



The Red Pyramid of Dahshur (picture by the author)



Interior structures of the Red Pyramid (left) and the Bent Pyramid (right) showing the stepped ceiling



Crawling into the pyramids – many pathways are long and steep, 3' high or less, and with no original floor or hand support (picture by the author)



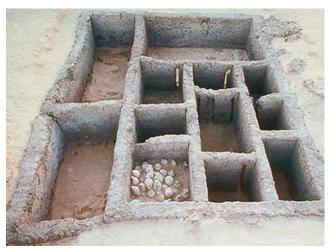
Channels on the Giza Plateau outside the pyramids leading down to the Valley Temple (pictures by the author)





One of the large pits on the Giza plateau

One of the plateau tunnels leading to the Valley Temple (pictures by the author)







1st dynasty tomb of Narmer / Menes



2<sup>nd</sup> dynasty tomb of Peribsen

Other than the pyramids of Egypt, one of the best example of ancient ruins for which conventional archaeology does not have a sufficient explanation is Puma Punku located in a high mountainous region of Bolivia near La Paz (McDermott, 2019). It is part of Tiwanaku, a larger complex that the Incas believed to be the site where the world was created. At this location there are huge carved stone blocks shown below weighing many tons, scattered around the landscape like toys in a kid's playroom. Many of the blocks seem to have been machined with precision tools – the surfaces are smooth, and a number of them have drill holes and complex indentations where the stone was seemingly cut with a laser or a diamond saw in order to achieve precise angles. The source of the stone was a quarry a number of miles away, but given the mountainous location and the lack of trees, it defies the imagination as to how these blocks could have been cut and then transported to the site by an ancient civilization. The purpose of the construction is unknown, but according to local legend, Puma Punku was built by gods and/or giants who later disappeared, followed by a catastrophic flood which caused extensive destruction.



Puma Punku site – there are about 80 ancient "H" blocks (shown above) that look as if they were manufactured, with straight edges and indentations that were seemingly cut with precision tools. The weight of the blocks range from 140 to 800 tons with dimensions as large as 26' long, 16', 4' thick. Some have speculated that they were a type of molded granite.

Probably the most prolific and tenacious researcher is Graham Hancock, who has done extensive literary and archaeological investigations on the ancient world. He has published many books, such as Supernatural: Meetings with the Ancient Teachers of Mankind, Heaven's Mirror: Quest for the Lost Civilization, Fingerprints of the Gods: The Quest Continues, The Mars Mystery: The Secret Connection Between Earth and the Red Planet, Magicians of the Gods, The Message of the Sphinx: A Quest for the Hidden Legacy of Mankind, Underworld: The Mysterious Origins of Civilization, and others. In his video series Ancient Apocalypse (Hancock, 2024) which is a summary of his life work, Hancock investigates Gunung Padang in Indonesia; the large pyramid in Cholula, Mexico; the ancient temples of Malta; the Bimini rock formations off the coast of Miami; and the ruins of Gobeki Tepe and Derikuyu in Turkey. Like Puma Punku, all of these involved huge construction projects using massive, multi-ton stone blocks, and are seemingly impossible to have been built by ancient peoples with stone age tools. A summary of Hancock's research and his general speculations about ancient aliens are as follows:

- 1. There are many ancient structures around the entire globe that could not possibly have been built by hunter-gather peoples with the limited technology that we assume was available to them. These structures typically have a religious and sacrificial significance as well as a connection to the stars.
- 2. A more technologically advanced and physically stronger civilization or group came to earth from elsewhere in the universe to educate people, but their goal was also to indoctrinate, corrupt, and enslave. The structures mentioned above were built by them or under their direction. The arrival of this superior group is clear from both ancient art as well as from the creation legends that have been passed down through many civilizations.
  - The land area of the globe was connected at the time (e.g., South America originally was connected with Africa) into what has sometimes been referred to as "Pangaea" making migration easier. The oceans were smaller, the surface of the earth larger, and the climate of the earth was also different with the entire planet being warm (i.e., the polar regions were not frigid as they are now).
- 3. The ancient aliens then disappeared for reasons unknown, a catastrophic flood devastated the earth, and only a few people were spared to repopulate the planet. The continents split along tectonic fault lines, <sup>15</sup> and the ocean size increased. Virtually all civilizations have stories of this event, such as the Mesopotamian legend of Gilgamesh.

The above speculations by Hancock and other ancient alien enthusiasts are a complete fit for what the Bible tells us took place, with only a few details changed, as follows:

1. The sons of God came from other locations in the universe and possibly had direct connections with certain stars, galaxies, or galactic regions over which they ruled or had influence. So

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> For example, South America splitting apart from Africa.

rather than being a humanoid race from another planet (e.g., "the Anunnaki from the planet Nibiru") they were ex-angels (i.e., demons) who were able to assume human form. Why did they come to earth? Like Satan, their desire was to rule rather than serve; with no subjects in the area of their domain they sought a population which they could dominate, and with whom they could create their own race and progeny. Therefore, the sons of God came to earth not simply to have sex with women as mentioned in Genesis, but rather to be like Jehovah in His ability to both create a human population and to rule over them.

The Sirius star system is one of the brightest in the night sky and is relatively close to our galaxy. It is part of the constellation Canis Major and was known as the "Dog Star" in many ancient cultures – Egyptian, Babylonian, Assyrian, Chinese, and even North American. It was revered in some African societies, and in ancient Egypt it was the most important star in the sky, associated with the goddess Isis and the foundation of Egyptian astronomy, calendars, and religion. It was also instrumental in the Egyptian economy because its rising occurred just before the annual summer flooding of the Nile. Astronomical studies of the Sirius star system have concluded that life would not generally be possible on any orbiting planets, but the sons of God may have come from that region of the heavens and/or previously ruled over it.

They came to earth possibly on or near Mount Hermon as discussed below, selected human women, mated with them, and the hybrid race known as the Nephilim were born from these unions. The Nephilim along with the sons of God then built the ancient structures referred to above, possibly using the human population as forced labor.

2. The sons of God educated people on a variety of topics (discussed below) but also corrupted and enslaved them.

These angel/demons may well have been the inspiration for national deities such as Viracocha (Inca), Quetzacoatl (Aztec), Bel, Marduk, Astarte, and Ishtar (Mesopotamia), Mot, Amun, Osiris, and Isis (Egypt), Molech, Chemosh, especially Baal and Ashtaroth (Caanan) and many others. All of these had probable connections to actual angelic/demonic beings alluded to in the Bible as "the host of heaven." In his book *The Lost World of Adam and Eve*, John Walton describes the nature of the gods of the ancient world and the worship these gods demanded of the people. They were capricious, selfish, and often cruel – humans existed only to serve and cater to them. <sup>16</sup>

3. The conditions of society grew worse as evil proliferated, and the Nephilim attacked other peoples. Jehovah eventually removed the sons of God and imprisoned them in a hellish place known as "Tartarus." At the same time He decreed the Flood of Noah as a judgement on the world.

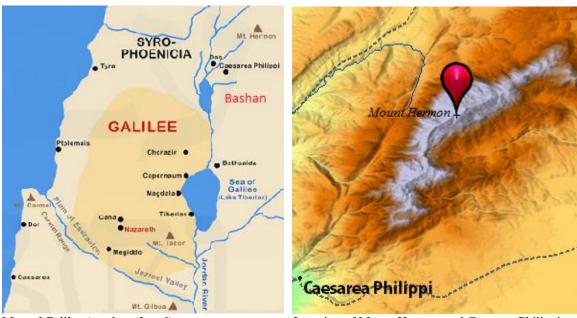
The Incas have a legend that their god Viracocha created giants who rebelled and were turned into the stones seen at Tiwanaku. The Greek legends of Uranus, Zeus, and the Titans have a similar connection to the sons of God. The Titans were said to be a group of spiritual beings, or lesser gods who rebelled against their father, came to the earth, mated with women, engaged in evil, and produced half-breed

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> For example, in the Epic of Gilgamesh the reason given for the gods sending the flood of Noah was that "the people were making too much noise" and the gods therefore had trouble sleeping.

children of incredible strength, among whom were Atlas and Prometheus (Atlas is often pictured as carrying the world on his shoulders). However, Zeus captured the Titans and imprisoned them in Tartarus, i.e., in hell, similar to how the Bible describes their fate (see the references to Jude and 2 Peter below).

### The Arrival of the sons of God

There are extra-Biblical writings from the Second Temple Period (516 BC to 70 AD) that retell the stories of Genesis 6 in more detail. The three which are especially relevant to this discussion are the books of Jasher, Giants, <sup>17</sup> and Enoch, specifically the first portion of Enoch known as the Book of Watchers (Winter, 2015) which tells of the arrival of the sons of God on or near Mount Hermon. <sup>18</sup>



Map of Galilee (northern Israel)

Location of Mount Hermon and Caesarea Philippi

There is much scholarly debate about the sources used for these writings. Some have suggested that the authors had access to ancient texts that have not been preserved. However, there are ancient Sumerian / Akkadian texts in cuneiform dating to around 2500 BC known as the *Utukku Lemnūtu*<sup>19</sup> which were incantations and cleansing rituals<sup>20</sup> found throughout Mesopotamia and used for what we today would call "exorcisms" (<u>Drawnel, 2014</u>). They describe the behavior of demons as being totally

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Only fragments of the Book of Giants have been found along with the Dead Sea Scrolls.

 $<sup>^{18}</sup>$  The book of Watchers is another name for the first portion of 1 Enoch (chapters 1-36). It is thought to have been written in the third century BC, with other portions of Enoch written later. "Watchers" is the term used to refer to the sons of God in Enoch.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> This term refers to methods for dealing with demons – spiritual beings not worshipped and not considered as gods, and who were evil "unclean spirits."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> The incantation cast by the enchanter was meant to heal the patient by sending the demon to the Netherworld, similar to the destination described in the 2 Peter and Jude references quoted above. It is essentially what we today would refer to as an exorcism from a demon-possessed or demon-oppressed individual, but without the power of God. This can be very dangerous, and in some cases, can be a lethal process for both exorcist and exorcee. See, for example, Martin, M. (1992). *Hostage to the Devil*. Harper.

evil, violent, and unappeasable. These texts may well have supplied some of the background for the above writings.

One of the sons of God was named Azazel, and he is mentioned in Leviticus 16 as the "Scapegoat sent into the wilderness." He was a goat demon who may have prefigured and been the inspiration for Pan (Burton, 2009, pp. 15-23).

Ancient pagans worshipped on high places and Mount Hermon is the highest of the high places in Israel. That made it the prime location for the arrival of the sons of God, who would compel people to worship them. There is an ancient, probably Roman-era, temple near the summit of Mount Hermon<sup>21</sup> known as "Qasr Antar," now in ruins but which previously contained a slab with an inscription stating that "Those who take an oath proceed from here." This was probably based on a passage from the Book of Watchers, which tells of their arrival:

And Shemihazah, their chief, said to them, "I fear that you will not want to do this deed, and I alone shall be guilty of a great sin." And they all answered him and said, "Let us all swear an oath, and let us all bind one another with a curse, that none of us turn back from this counsel until we fulfill it and do this deed." Then they all swore together and bound one another with a curse. And they were, all of them, two hundred, who descended in the days of Jared onto the peak of Mount Hermon. And they called the mountain "Hermon" because they swore and bound one another with a curse on it. (Book of Watchers 6:3-5)



Ruins of Qasr Antar near the summit of Mount Hermon

The "Gates of Hell" or "Gates of Hades" to which Jesus referred in the New Testament (Matthew 6:18) is a physical cave located near Caesarea Philippi at the base of Mount Hermon (also known as Banias or Panias), and out of which flow streams of water from the snow melt on the mountain. The ancient Canaanites worshipped Baal at this site. Niches were later carved into the rock face over the

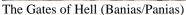
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> Mount Hermon is actually a range of mountains as shown on the map above, with the peak being at an elevation of 9,232 feet above sea level. The name "Hermon" comes from *haram*, meaning "to designate or consign to the afterlife." In other words, to separate something from its natural state and consign it, either to destruction if the object was evil, or to a devoted sacred service if the object was good.

cave entrance to hold statues of pagan deities, especially Pan – the satyr or goat-man, and possibly others such as the Centaur.<sup>22</sup> The Jewish historian Josephus described the cave as follows:

A dark cave opens itself; within which there is a horrible precipice that descends abruptly to a vast depth. It contains a mighty quantity of water which is immoveable; and when anybody lets down anything to measure the depth of the water, no length of cord is sufficient to reach it (Josephus, 1987).

The area had thus been a center of pagan fertility worship since antiquity, with a number of shrines on Mount Hermon and in the vicinity. It was believed that the water flowing from this cave was from the gods of the underworld providing life or withholding it if the water failed to flow. The Watchers may have brought their women here to mate with them. If so, that orginatic mating process coupled with the water flow may be why this area became one of the main centers of pagan fertility worship.







Niches which previously contained statues



Water flow from the Gates of Hell (pictures by the author)

2

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> Pan was a nature god known for wildness, sexual debauchery, violence, and great strength. Centaurs were part man and part donkey or horse, with hooves and a tail (later depictions minimized the equestrian aspects). They were often depicted with large phalluses, and were orgiastic and sexually insatiable, mating with and raping both human females and animals. The statue of Pan had a large removable penis which paraded around during festivals. However, the statues were removed and the niches defaced in Byzantine times.

# The Effects of the sons of God on Society

The actions of the sons of God are described in the Book of Watchers as follows:

When the sons of men had multiplied, in those days, beautiful and comely daughters were born to them. And the watchers, the sons of heaven, saw them and desired them. And they said to one another, "Come, let us choose for ourselves wives from the daughters of men, and let us beget children for ourselves." And they conceived from them and bore them great giants. (Book of Watchers 6:1-2, 7:2)

Asael taught men to make swords of iron and weapons and shields and breastplates and every instrument of war. He showed them metals of the earth and how they should work gold to fashion it suitably, and concerning silver, to fashion it for bracelets and ornaments for women. And he showed them antimony and eye paint and all manner of precious stones and dyes. And the sons of men made them for themselves and for their daughters. (Book of Watchers 8:1)

Shemihazah taught spells and the cutting of roots. Hermani taught sorcery for the loosing of spells and magic and skill. Baraqel taught the signs of the lightning flashes. Kokabel taught the signs of the stars. Ziqel taught the signs of the shooting stars. Arteqoph taught the signs of the earth. Shamsiel taught the signs of the sun. Sahriel taught the signs of the moon. And they all began to reveal mysteries to their wives and their children. (Book of Watchers 8:3)

The above suggests that some of the actions of the sons of God were beneficial to the people, and if the pyramids were used to produce fertilizer to improve the crop yields and various metals for use by society, the sons of God would be perceived as good and wise. However, the benefits provided cover for their real purpose:

[The fallen angels] knew the secrets of [all things], and sin was great on the earth. The wicked angels killed many people and begot giants. The wicked angels [consumed] everything that the earth produced: the great fish, the birds in the sky, all the fruit of the earth, all kinds of grain, [the fruit] of the trees, and all the creeping things of the earth. They performed every harsh deed with harsh utterance upon male and female creation and upon/among humanity itself. [The fallen ones] defiled all creation and begot giants and monstrous creatures, and corrupted all the earth, [which was] defiled by blood shedding, at the hands of the giants. But this did not suffice them and [they were seeking all the time] to devour/destroy more. (Book of Giants)

# The sons of God and Genetic Engineering

Ancient history is filled with both written and artistic depictions of man/beast combinations such as Pan and the Centaurs. It is generally assumed that these were legendary, but perhaps at one point in history they were real, or attempts were made to make them real – it is often acknowledged that many myths have had some basis in historical reality. In that vein, it is interesting that Pan was one of the chief deities worshipped and celebrated at the Gates of Hell mentioned above.



Pan Images



Pan images



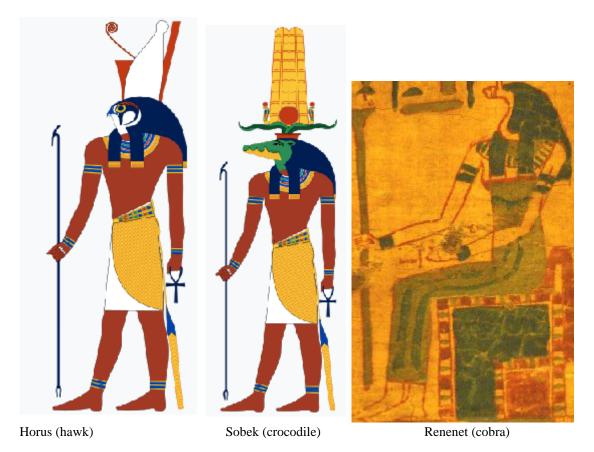


Centaur images

In current society we often use animals as team symbols and mascots. For example, the basketball and football teams from Chicago are the Bulls and Bears; one of my favorites is the "horned frogs" from Texas Christian University. However, the ancient use of animals goes much deeper than using them merely as symbols of strength or wisdom. Certain animals were thought to embody various divine characteristics or beings. Many of the ancient gods were, of course, represented as fully human or as an element of nature, but many others incorporated both animal and human features into the same entity, in both artistic and documentary references. Here is a partial list of Egyptian gods and the associated animals:

- Anubis jackal
- Apep dragon or giant serpent/snake
- Apis (Baal) bull
- Bastet cat
- Horus falcon or hawk
- Hathor cow
- Khepri scarab/dung beetle
- Khnum ram
- Renenet cobra
- Sekhmet lioness
- Serket scorpion
- Sobek crocodile
- Taweret (Set) hippopotamus
- Thoth ibis and baboon
- Wenet rabbit

People who acted as the god or on behalf of the god would wear or be depicted with the head of the associated animal. For example, Horus, the son of Osiris and Isis, is typically shown with the head of a falcon or hawk, and the pharaohs of Egypt were supposedly descended from Horus.



The book of Jasher states that the Watchers engaged in genetic engineering in order to produce various combinations of animals and humans, as well as creating the hybrid race of Nephilim by impregnating their captive women.

The sons of men in those days took from the cattle of the earth, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the air and taught the mixture of animals of one species with the other, in order therewith to provoke the Lord (Noah, 1887, p. 4:18).

The Egyptian historian Manetho also spoke of this:

And they [the gods] were said to have brought forth double-winged human beings, also others with four wings and two faces, and with one body and two heads; male and female within one creature. Still other human beings had thighs of goats and horns upon their heads; others were horses behind and men in front. There were also said to have been man-headed bulls and four-bodied dogs whose tails emerged like fish tails from their

backs... and other monsters such as all kinds of dragon-like beings... whose images they ranged one beside the other in the Temple of Belos and preserved.<sup>23</sup>

This mixing of species and genders, if it was indeed performed by the sons of God, was a corruption of nature and evil in the eyes of God.<sup>24</sup> We do not know how the sons of God would have accomplished this, but as spirit beings they presumably had much more information, intelligence, and insight into biology, chemistry, physics, and other scientific matters than we do even today.

It is significant that their ultimate purpose was not to help or save humanity, but rather to enslave, corrupt, and rule. This is not to suggest that all of the human/animal combinations such as the ones shown above were historically real. It may well have been that only a few of these were created and the rest were a later product of imagination and projection. If any actual physical entities existed, they would have been destroyed by the Flood. But as we shall see, demons other than the sons of God (i.e., the ones spoken of above led by Shemihazah) were later involved in corrupting and ruling over the societies that came after the Flood. Desiring to be venerated as divinities, they revived and expanded the animal/human combinations and forces of nature for use as paradigms and avatars, such as Baal the storm god, Amun the sun god, Dagon the fish god, Sobek, the crocodile god, and many others. These paradigms were used by people to depict and visualize the gods in the development of idols used in pagan worship. Their impact on humanity in that day and which has continued all throughout history including the present, is explained in the New Testament:

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. <sup>25</sup> (Ephesians 6:12)

For example, the Bible describes the journey of Israelites through the wilderness of Sin to Mount Sinai where the Ten Commandments were given to Moses. He was on the mountain for forty days and the people grew tired of waiting for him. In response to their complaints, Aaron, the chief priest, created a golden calf idol for the people to worship (Exodus 32:1-5). This may seem strange, but the god of that region in Midian (now Saudi Arabia) was Sin, the moon god, and the Kaaba stone which is now at the center of the Muslim Hajj was originally a place of moon god worship. The symbol of the moon god Sin as well as Baal and other Canaanite, Egyptian, and Mesopotamian gods, was a bull with upraised horns – examples of this are shown below. The bull was an ancient symbol of strength, fertility, and sexuality, and after eating and drinking the Israelites "rose up to play" (Exodus 32:6). So the Israelites "took on the color of their surroundings" and engaged in worship rituals just like those of Egypt where they came from, and from the land they were currently in.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> Manetho was an Egyptian who was commissioned by the Greeks to write a history of Egypt. Only fragments of his writings survive, but he is quoted by others such as Eusebius. The above quote is from *Eusebius-Werke*, *Die Chronik*, Josef Karst editor, Vol 5, Leipzig, 1911.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> E.g., "You shall not breed together two kinds of your cattle; you shall not sow your field with two kinds of seed, nor wear a garment upon you of two kinds of material mixed together." Leviticus 19:19, Deuteronomy 22:9-11.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> This illustrates the futility and silliness of trying to combat spiritual enemies with physical weapons, or to protect oneself in a séance by "casting a circle." What hope would you have of using a gun or a bomb against a demon? The only weapons we have against spiritual enemies are spiritual allies which are only summoned through prayer.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> The crescent moon is still an Arabic symbol, and altars in ancient times often had "horns" at the corners which in some cases were symbolic of bulls. See for example, Andrew, B. (2002). *Allah and Hubal, the moon god of the Kaba*. https://www.bible.ca/islam/islam-moon-god-hubal.htm

Idols such as the bull forged by Aaron were not inherently magical. Rather, they were condemned by Jehovah because of their association with one or more demons which the idol represented. By worshipping an idol the people were thus identifying with and giving themselves to the demons behind the idol rather that worshiping the true God – a replay of the sin of Adam discussed above.

### The Apostle Paul explains this:

What am I saying then? That an idol is anything, or what is offered to idols is anything? Rather, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons. You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord's table and of the table of demons. (1 Corinthians 10:19-21).

God is high above and way beyond any artistic representation of Him – He is above even the Cosmos itself. The tendency of people to reduce God to an animal or a force of nature therefore explains the rationale behind the 2<sup>nd</sup> commandment:

You shall not make for yourself a carved image — the likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them. (Exodus 20:4-5)









Baal Stele from Bethsaida

**Baal Figurine** 

Egyptian god Apis Figurines

# The Nephilim and their impact

The Nephilim apparently had a hybrid nature that was both human and demonic, and their genetics included both of these elements. The book of Watchers calls them "bastards," neither fully human nor fully spirit. Genesis 6:4 calls them "mighty men" and "men of renown" but they were also evil. As mentioned above, there is a Biblical reference to the Nephilim possibly being in the land of Canaan after the Flood, where they were described as follows:

We went into the land where you sent us; and it certainly does flow with milk and honey. Nevertheless, the people who live in the land are strong, and the cities are fortified and

very large; and moreover, we saw the descendants of Anak there... The land through which we have gone, in spying it out, is a land that devours its inhabitants; and all the people whom we saw in it are men of great size. There also we saw the Nephilim [the sons of Anak are part of the Nephilim]; and we became like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight." (Numbers 13:27-28, 32-33)

If these reportedly large individuals were actually descendants of the pre-flood Nephilim, they were apparently fully human at that point, albeit with physical and psychological characteristics similar to their ancestors. How did they survive the flood? (Sorensen, 2020b). They were sometimes referred to as *rephaim* meaning "dead ones," which is possibly a reference to the fate of their progenitors being "cast into hell and committed to pits of darkness" and "kept in eternal bonds under darkness" as in the quotes below.

There are other Biblical references to tall and belligerent men, such as Goliath of Gath, Sihon the king of the Amorites, and Og<sup>27</sup> the king of Bashan – they also seem to have had Nephilim genetics, especially Og who was "of the Rephaim." Bashan was the area over which he ruled and includes the Mount Hermon region where the irruption of the sons of God was said to have occurred. Writings from the large cache of cuneiform tablets discovered at ancient city of Ugarit reveal that the Bashan cites of Ashtaroth<sup>28</sup> and Edrei were considered to be gateways to the underworld (Heiser, 2015, pp. 228-230).<sup>29</sup> The name "Bashan" has also been known as "Bathan" which is the Ugaritic word for "serpent." Bashan was therefore the place of the serpent – the place of Satan (Heiser, 2012, p. 169).

The character and actions of the Nephilim are described as follows:

Clouds without water carried along by winds. Autumn trees without fruit, doubly dead and uprooted. Wild waves of the sea, casting up their own shame like foam. Wandering stars, for whom the black darkness has been reserved forever. (Jude 12-13)

And they were growing in accordance with their greatness. They were devouring the labor of all the sons of men, and men were not able to supply them. And the giants began to kill men and to devour them. And they began to sin against the birds and beasts and creeping things and the fish, and to devour one another's flesh and drinking the blood [i.e., they fought against each other]. Then the earth brought accusation against the lawless ones. (Book of Watchers 7:2-8)

It usually takes time and events to turn marginally bad people into monsters, but given the way that the Nephilim were described, perhaps they as a race naturally had the characteristics that we would today

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> According to Deuteronomy 3:11, Og was "of the remnant of the Rephaim" and had a large iron bed which was 4 x 9 cubits in size (6 x 13.5 feet).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> Ashtaroth was the main city of Bashan and named after Ashtoreth, a Canaanite goddess of fertility, sex, and war. She was said to be the daughter of the god El and the goddess Asherah, and the wife of the god Baal. She is a Canaanite version called Astarte in Syria, Ishtar in Babylon, Anath/Isis in Egypt, and later Aphrodite and Venus in Greece and Rome. The word "ashtaroth" meant "womb" or "young," hence the association with sex and fertility. Ancient gods and goddesses morphed into each other from one society to others and their characteristics were typically fluid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> In addition to being the wife of Baal, Ashtaroth was associated with the Canaanite god Molech as well as with the Rephaim. Molech was a fierce god who sometimes demanded the sacrifice of infants; they were placed in the arms of his brass statue and burned to death. Ugaritic texts present Molech an ancient god of the underworld, involved in the cult of dead ancestors and the worship of snakes.

describe as psychopathic or sociopathic due to their genetics (half human and half demonic).<sup>30</sup> The associated traits include the following (Bussing, 2023):

- Superficial charm combined with the use of mind games.
- Absence of nervousness and little concern for personal safety.
- Substance abuse.
- Extreme selfishness.
- No respect for law or custom.
- Continual deception, deviousness, and cunning.
- Unrelenting condescension and threatening behavior.
- Overly controlling and sexually obsessive.
- Guiltlessness lack of conscience and refusal to take responsibility.
- Rapid mood shifts especially when the individual is unable to win and/or get their way, and swings between depression and animation.
- Twisted view of reality.
- Total lack of empathy.

Sociopathology may sometimes be relatively mild, whereas in more extreme forms there seems to be complete self-deception (you are not truly a psychopath if you are able to realize you are a psychopath). Also, there are often strong differences between the behaviors of psychopathic men and women. Females are typically less violent and exhibit more of the internal symptoms, such as depression and antisocial feelings and actions, whereas males tend to display the entire range of antisocial personality disorders as described above.

A psychologist with experience dealing with psychopathic individuals had this to say:

Some have suggested that psychopaths *might rightfully be considered a different species* because they're so different with respect to the critical attributes that most of us think define us as "human." But there's certainly no solid scientific foundation for that notion. Nonetheless, during my many years dealing with psychopaths, I was most struck by the fact that many considered themselves *not only very different from the rest of us, but also clearly superior to us because they did not carry with them the vulnerability that typically accompanies having feelings and a conscience*. And it's their pathological sense of superiority, a truly malignant narcissism that gives rise to their sense of entitlement to prey on those they regard as inferior creatures [italics mine] (Simon, 2012).

We don't understand what causes these conditions and why they are more severe in certain people, but they seem to be psychosomatic and involve genetics, physiology, and behavior. Psychopathology has been intensively studied in recent decades due to the incidence of serial killers and the need by law enforcement to understand and stop them, but investigation into any genetic basis is relatively new.

Little research has examined genetic and environmental contributions to psychopathic personality traits. Additionally, no studies have examined etiological connections

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup> The terms "psychopath" and "sociopath" are essentially interchangeable, although a sociopathic individual is typically considered to be less potentially violent than a person classified as a psychopath. For example, someone who abuses and attacks family members would be a sociopath, whereas a serial killer who selects victims at random would be a psychopath. Both are considered by psychologists to exhibit "antisocial personality disorder" or ASPD.

between psychopathic traits and the broad psychopathological domains of internalizing (mood and anxiety) and externalizing (antisocial behavior, substance abuse). The current study was designed to fill these gaps in the literature (Blonigen et al., 2005).

The above 2005 study concluded the following:

These results indicate that different psychopathic traits show distinct genetically-based relations within broad dimensions of psychopathology. [Italics, mine]

In other words, there may be a genetic precursor in psychopathic individuals which causes differences in their brain structure and functioning, that both causes and is triggered by evil thoughts and actions. Studies of brain activity in psychopathic individuals show a lack of response to emotional scenes that would evoke a significant response in normal individuals.

A study from King's College in 2012 found that violent male offenders who met the diagnosis for psychopathy displayed significantly reduced gray matter volumes in the anterior rostral prefrontal cortex and temporal poles. This striking, and specific structural abnormality in the part of the brain associated with empathy and feelings of guilt, points to a clear neurological difference between regular violent offenders and genuine psychopaths.

A 2013 study took MRI scans of 121 prison inmates split into three groups; rated as highly, moderately, or weakly psychopathic. The inmates were shown images displaying physical pain and then asked to imagine that accident happening to themselves or others. The highly psychopathic subjects displayed a pronounced empathic response to the thought of pain when imagined to themselves. Brain activity across several regions involved in pain empathy was identified as heightened, including the anterior insula, the anterior midcingulate cortex, somatosensory cortex, and the right amygdala. It was clear psychopaths understood and empathized with the concept of pain when inflicted upon themselves. However, when asked to imagine the same pain inflicted upon others those psychopathic subjects displayed a very different response. Not only did those empathic areas of the brain fail to activate, but increased activity was seen in another area of the brain, the ventral striatum. This is a fascinating part of the brain, known to manage reward processing, motivation and decision-making, and this particular study suggested that psychopaths could actually enjoy imagining pain being inflicted upon others. But how this actually motivates a violent or antisocial action turns out to be more complex than simply deriving pleasure from other people being hurt.

These scientific conclusions leave us in a strange and conflicted position. Psychopathic tendencies clearly don't necessarily lead to criminal or anti-social behavior, rather it seems that a more complicated set of neurological conditions lead to the actual expression of psychopathy in negative, antisocial, or criminal action. A lack of empathy, over-acting reward centers, and an inability to evaluate future consequences all line up and lead one to make a decision that normal people would classify as psychopathic.

The legal and social implications of this research are unsettling for many. If we can classify criminal or abhorrent behavior as mere neurological dysfunction, then our entire basis for asserting legal responsibility falls apart. Intent is currently a vital aspect in asserting judgement across our legal system. If someone can defer a degree of conscious responsibility regarding their actions to simply the way their brain is wired, then where

does that leave us? [This may well be why God commanded Joshua in the Old Testament to complete wipe out certain groups that were genetically Nephilim. It was therefore an act of mercy for humanity rather than an act of cruelty.]

This increasing research into the neurology of psychopathy is not only helping us understand why some people do terrible things, as well as shedding light on why we all do what we do. The most confronting idea raised is that if we can identify how certain brain wiring can result in a person undertaking criminal or antisocial behavior, then the flip side is we must also associate altruistic or selfless actions to similar neurological functions (Haridy, 2017).

Damage to the brain can also cause psychopathic behavior, as in the case of the professional football player Aaron Hernandez (Joest, 2020), who despite being wealthy (he was awarded a \$40M contract by the New England Patriots), he mysteriously murdered two individuals for spilling a drink on him, and later killed one of his friends because the friend knew of the murder. Hernandez had experienced numerous blows to his head during the course of his collegiate and professional football career. After his suicide in prison his brain was donated to science, and it was determined that he had had an advanced case of CTE (chronic traumatic encephalopathy). This also may have been the case with historical individuals such as the Roman Emperor Caligula who initially was celebrated as a great leader, but who after six months became twisted and deranged, to the extent where he named his horse as a Roman Senator. Another example is King Henry VIII of England, who became morose and tyrannical after a serious jousting accident (McCarthy, 2009). Head injuries in normal individuals may therefore create brain conditions leading to psychopathic behavior.

Behind all of these characteristics is an over-weaning desire to have one's own way, as in the words of the Satanist Aleister Crowley, "Do what thou wilt!" The god Pan (from whom we get the word "panic") would seem to be a good example of psychopathology. He was said to be superficially charming, wild, violent, cunning, devious, drunken, orgiastic, sexually insatiable, and focused entirely on his own desires. Long ago people began to picture Satan as a goat, possibly because of his association with Pan. In any case, almost all of the psychopathic characteristics indicated above are associated with Satan who is the ultimate psychopath. Having rejected Jehovah and everything he stands for, Satan and the demons have become everything that Jehovah is not, and therefore they are the epitome of evil. Unlike the "gentlemen" devils of literature such as Mephistopheles in *Faust*, the real Devil and his compadres are totally corrupt, deceptive, vile, malicious, violent, perverted, foul, disgusting, revolting, and completely evil. 32

On the one hand, the demons know that Jehovah will ultimately judge and destroy them,<sup>33</sup> but on the other they seem to have the total self-deception and denial of the psychopath (human psychopaths will sometimes even taunt police with obscure clues to show how supposedly intelligent they are). Demons

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> After the accident – just before he became estranged from the second of his six wives, Anne Boleyn – the king, once sporty and generous, became cruel, vicious and paranoid, his subjects began talking about him in a new way, and the turnover of his wives sped up. The accident occurred at a tournament at Greenwich Palace on 24 January 1536 when 44-year-old Henry, in full armor, was thrown from his horse, itself armored, which then fell on top of him. He was unconscious for two hours and was thought at first to have been fatally injured. But, although he recovered, the incident, which ended his jousting career, aggravated serious leg problems which plagued him for the rest of his life, and may well have caused an undetected brain injury which profoundly affected his personality.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> See for example, Matthew 25:41, John 8:44, John 10:10, 1 Peter 5:8, and 2 Peter 2:4-5.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup> James 2:19.

are highly cunning and may use superficial charm in pretending to be "angels of light," but their purpose is ultimately to enslave and destroy people. Why? Because angels are Jehovah's messengers sent to serve people, who from an angelic/demonic perspective are a lower order of being. Rather than debase themselves in serving such sinful wretches like us, the demons wanted to rule over us, and Satan as the ultimate demon wanted ultimate power for himself. Furthermore, Satan and the demons were angry at Jehovah for creating humans, considered to be weak and ignorant low-lifes, but who could ultimately compete with and displace them.<sup>34</sup> They were also jealous of the human capacity for reproduction and the ability to create their own families and tribes, and apparently desired the same capability for themselves. Prohibited from attacking people directly,<sup>35</sup> one of their goals was to create a proxy army to do the job for them, hence the creation of the Nephilim. Genesis records the impact:

Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. (Genesis 6:5)

The book of Jasher echoes this in more detail:

And every man made unto himself a god, and they robbed and plundered every man his neighbor as well as his relative, and they corrupted the earth, and the earth was filled with violence. And their judges and rulers went to the daughters of men and took their wives by force from their husbands according to their choice (Noah, 1887, p. 4:17).

When the demonic sons of God mated with human women, they therefore may have given their Nephilim progeny a large genetic dose and predisposition to an extreme form of psychopathology. If that indeed was the case, the sons of God would not only be able to create a proxy army, but also to genetically pollute the entire human race, as the Nephilim and their children in turn mated with others.

Imagine an entire society of psychopaths who were also very large, strong, vicious, cunning, and sexually ravenous at a time when there were few weapons that normal individuals could use to fend them off. They would be bad to each other but wily enough to direct their energies against others, creating continual conflict, rape, violence, suffering, and death. This seems to be the state of the world in Genesis 6 – in the days of Noah. Given these conditions, it becomes much easier to understand Jehovah's mindset and response:

The Lord was sorry that he had made man on the earth, and he was grieved in his heart. The Lord said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, from man to animals to creeping things and to birds of the sky, for I am sorry that I have made them... Then God said to Noah, "The end of all flesh has come before me, for the earth is filled with violence because of them, and behold, I am about to destroy them with the earth. (Genesis 6:6,13)

According to the New Testament, the spirit beings who did this were consigned to eternal punishment:

And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day. (Jude 6)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>34</sup> "Do you not know that we will judge angels?" (1 Corinthians 6:3), "For he did not subject to angels the world to come, concerning which we are speaking." (Hebrews 2:5), "For assuredly he does not give help to angels, but he gives help to the descendant of Abraham." (Hebrews 2:16).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>35</sup> Job 1:9-12. Satan apparently needed permission from God to attack Job.

For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell [*Tartarus*] and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment; and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly. (2 Peter 2:4-5)

If psychopathology is heritable,<sup>36</sup> and if it actually began with the Nephilim, is it possible that this was the origin of all human psychopathic tendencies, and was a desire to pollute the human genome one of the reasons why the sons of God arrived as they did? This question is considered in my paper, "Was Ham's Wife from the Nephilim?" (Sorensen, 2020b).

# The Land of Canaan / Israel – a Battleground Through the Ages

Mount Hermon very well may have been the location of Jesus' transfiguration which took place after his visit to Caesarea Philippi, and in which victory over Satan was declared. In the words of the novelist Brian Godawa,

This is a kind of ground zero for the gods (demons) against whom Jesus was fighting his cosmic spiritual war. Mount Hermon was the location where the Watchers came to earth and led their rebellion and miscegenation which birthed the Nephilim. Bashan, the Place of the Serpent, was their headquarters. (Godawa, 2014, p. 287)

The location which previously was associated with demons was thus reclaimed by Christ for Yahweh (Heiser, 2015, pp. 285-286). This fits well with the meaning of "Hermon" as being re-devoted to a sacred purpose, and the deep precipice within Gates of Hell cave may be an image of the bottomless pit referred to in Revelation 9. It may also be part of the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophesy:

But there will be no more gloom for her who was in anguish. In earlier times he treated the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali with contempt, but later on he shall make it glorious, by the way of the sea, on the other side of Jordan - Galilee of the Gentiles. (Isaiah 9:1)

Likewise, the land of Canaan from ancient times down to the present is a battleground – there is nowhere else on earth where the hatred is so visceral that even children are used as suicide bombers. It was first inhabited by the descendants of Canaan, the son of Ham who was cursed by Noah. The Canaanite tribes, perhaps like their progenitor, were the most sexually debauched of all of the ancient peoples (Sorensen, 2020b). The land of Canaan was also the place where the descendants of the preflood Nephilim were reputed to live. It was also the land of Israel which Jehovah promised to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and their descendants, so it is not surprising that this small region should have such a long history of conflict.

We have no details on the progress of the fall of humanity into corruption during the long period that the sons of God were presumably present. But if what was alluded to in Genesis 6 and more fully described in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Temple writings was at all accurate, we have a framework for understanding what the world became in the last days before the Flood, and why Jehovah responded in the extreme manner that He did. The fate of the spirit beings who were instrumental in debasing people was perpetual

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>36</sup> Perhaps it is a recessive characteristic and only appears rarely and under certain conditions.

imprisonment in hell as quoted above, and the consequence on earth was inundation by water that destroyed most of humanity.

### The Flood

There are stories and legends of a catastrophic flood in every ancient culture and in almost every society. Anthropologists have catalogued hundreds of ancient flood stories from all over the world, from the ancient Babylonians to the Australian Aboriginals (Afful, 2024). Some of these are similar to the Genesis narrative, including details such as an angry god and eight people who survived the flood in a boat.

However, the Bible presents the great Flood not as a legend, but as an historical event, and it is the only source that provides the details. Here is the biblical description of Jehovah's rationale and plan for dealing with what the sons of God had done:

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. The Lord regretted that he had made human beings on the earth, and his heart was deeply troubled. 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." But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord. This is the account of Noah and his family. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked faithfully with God. Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth (Genesis 6:5-10).

Noah is instructed to build a huge boat that is large enough to accommodate his family and the animals that were to be saved:

Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight and was full of violence. God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways. So God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth. So make yourself an ark of cypress wood; make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out. This is how you are to build it: The ark is to be three hundred cubits long, fifty cubits wide and thirty cubits high. Make a roof for it, leaving below the roof an opening one cubit high all around. Put a door in the side of the ark and make lower, middle and upper decks.

I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens, every creature that has the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will perish. But I will establish my covenant with you, and you will enter the ark—you and your sons and your wife and your sons' wives with you. You are to bring into the ark two of all living creatures, male and female, to keep them alive with you. Two of every kind of bird, of every kind of animal and of every kind of creature that moves along the ground will come to you to be kept alive. You are to take every kind of food that is to be eaten and store it away as food for you and for them." Noah did everything just as God commanded him. (Genesis 6:11-22).

Methuselah, Noah's grandfather, was the longest-lived man in the Bible. His name means "his death shall bring" and he died shortly before the Flood and possibly in the same year (~3170 BC). Here is the biblical account:

In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, on the seventeenth day of the second month – on that day all the springs of the great deep burst forth, and the floodgates of the heavens were opened. And rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights.

For forty days the flood kept coming on the earth, and as the waters increased, they lifted the ark high above the earth. The waters rose and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the surface of the water. They rose greatly on the earth, and all the high mountains under the entire heavens were covered. The waters rose and covered the mountains to a depth of more than fifteen cubits. Every living thing that moved on land perished – birds, livestock, wild animals, all the creatures that swarm over the earth, and all mankind. Everything on dry land that had the breath of life in its nostrils died. Every living thing on the face of the earth was wiped out; people and animals and the creatures that move along the ground and the birds were wiped from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those with him in the ark. The waters flooded the earth for a hundred and fifty days. (Genesis 7:11-12, 17-24).

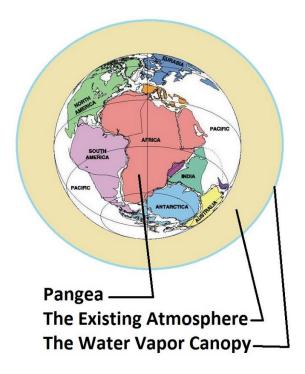
Some people allege that the Flood was purely local, but the biblical account seems to state that it was worldwide, at least in its destructive effects:

- 1. Jehovah states that He will wipe out all people and animals ("I am going to put an end to all people," and "I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens.")
- 2. The result was universal destruction ("Every living thing that moved on land perished," and "Everything on dry land that had the breath of life in its nostrils died. Every living thing on the face of the earth was wiped out; people and animals and the creatures that move along the ground and the birds were wiped from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those with him in the ark.")
- 3. All the mountains of the earth were covered to a depth of over twenty feet (fifteen cubits). Note that the mountains may not have been as high then as they are now, and this may only be in reference to mountains in the Middle East.

Many geologists mock the idea of a universal flood (Walton & Longman, 2018, pp. 150-166). They may very well be correct, because the destruction of all life forms on earth would not have required a worldwide flood, and the Bible does not say that the waters covered every land area on the earth. As in the case of contemporary tsunamis, life may have been destroyed by hurricane-force winds or other extreme geologic activity that accompanied the Flood. If so, perhaps only a smaller area of the world was covered with water, but the results were still catastrophic.

The destruction was not merely due to normal rainfall. It is speculated that the earth was previously surrounded by a vapor canopy which would have made temperatures more moderate around the entire planet. Genesis 2:5-6 states, "For the Lord God had not caused it to rain on the earth, and there was no man to till the ground; but a mist went up from the earth and watered the whole face of the ground" which indicates that the pre-flood climate and atmospheric conditions were very different from today (Woetzel, 1999). If the flood was initiated by a drop in atmospheric temperature, then the vapor canopy would have collapsed causing catastrophic precipitation.

However, this may well have been accompanied by earthquakes and volcanic eruptions, both on land and under the seas. In the words of Genesis, "All the springs of the great deep burst forth." At some point in the earth's history the land surface was larger, and the land was much more contiguous (e.g., Africa and South America were joined). This is referred to as "Pangea" perhaps with channels or rivers separating what are now continents, and which were at the edge of the tectonic plates. It is speculated that this was condition of the world prior to the Flood. If so, the people living at that time (including the sons of God and the Nephilim) would have been able to more easily reach all parts of the world. Following is a possible view:



The tectonic plates of the earth moved apart resulting in the separation of the landmasses into continents – this would have been enormously destructive especially at the edges of Pangea which presumably were the current continents of North America, South America, Asia, Australia, and Antarctica. If what is now the Middle East was located near the original center of Pangea then that area would have suffered less physical damage and would have been primarily affected by the water level.

The Ice Age that created the glaciers was a natural consequence of the Flood. Gigantic earthquakes caused large cracks in the earth's crust, explosively releasing subterranean water and triggering intense volcanic activity. Volcanoes spewed ash into the atmosphere which acted as an "anti-greenhouse" effect, reflecting solar radiation and drastically cooling the earth. In the western United States alone there were more than 68 different ash falls, mostly coinciding with the Ice Age (Oard, 2017).

But the real key to the flood-generated Ice Age was the large amount of water vapor in the atmosphere from the relatively warm waters. The cooling atmosphere generated large amounts of precipitation that fell as snow on land areas in the higher latitudes as the waters receded. The vast quantity of snow in turn became packed into ice, creating glaciers in the earth's Polar Regions. The volcanic activity eventually stopped, and the related ash was gradually washed out of the atmosphere, re-warming the

earth and eventually causing the glaciers to recede. Therefore the Ice Age lasted for several hundred years. Beneath the Arctic and Antarctic ice sheets are sediment layers containing fossils of a subtropical rainforest, complete with palm and macadamia trees (Matthews & Snelling, 2014). Despite the contention from some geologists that there have been multiple ice ages, there was only one (Oard, 2011).

Hancock and others date the Ice Age to approximately 10,000 BC which is at variance with the biblical dating presented herein. But the only secure dating method is C<sup>14</sup> which, as explained above, returns questionable results for samples older than ~3500 BC.

Here is a partial list of geological evidence for a very destructive Flood that by its accompanying effects caused worldwide devastation:

- 1. In order for fossils to be formed, the plant or animal must be buried very quickly by a catastrophic event. In normal conditions, animal bodies will rot and decay after death or be consumed by predators. For example, dead fish in water will disintegrate in less than a week. However, most fossils are found in "fossil graveyards" in which a violent catastrophic event threw animals together in a helter-skelter fashion, causing many to be killed at the same time and be buried next to or on top of each other (Choi, 2010). This was the case for both land and sea animals. For example, the Karoo formation in South Africa (over 150,000 square miles) contains the fossils of millions of animals. There are even fossilized jellyfish, animals in the act of giving birth, and fish in the act of eating other fish.
- 2. The fossil graveyards contain animal remains from widely different habitats that were thrown together into a disorganized mess. For example, the Ashley Beds contain the remains of both land and sea animals including dinosaurs, whales, sharks, elephants, and many others. Another bed containing numerous fossil fish extends over several states in the southwestern United States. In Brazil fish fossils are found with the skin, muscles, organs etc. all preserved, with the fish looking as if they had just been caught, but they are petrified and hard as stone. These fossils are abundant, distributed over several thousand square miles, and found on a large plateau which is well above sea level and 500 miles from the Atlantic Ocean. From Utah and Colorado north to Alberta and Saskatchewan in Canada, thousands of dinosaurs are found in beds such as the Morrison Formation. Dinosaur National Monument in Utah displays many dinosaur skeletons, and Agate Fossil Beds National Monument has numerous fossil mammals jumbled together. The city of Cincinnati, Ohio, in the middle of America sits on top of a great mass of sea animals. Marine fossils have been found on virtually every mountain range in the world, even on the heights of the Himalayas. There are sea animal fossils at the top of Mount Everest.
- 3. Fossils are typically found in sedimentary rocks (rocks deposited by water), and these occur around the entire earth.
- 4. In America there have been many dinosaur footprints found in which the animals were apparently trying to escape from a looming catastrophe. The Coconino Sandstone in Arizona is noted for the large number of fossilized footprints, usually in sequences called trackways (Dundas, 2024). It has been shown that the fossil tracks were made under water. They

suddenly stop, presumably when the animal was overwhelmed and drowned.

- 5. Many land areas in the world have large sections of sedimentary rocks which would have been deposited by the flood. The Grand Canyon is an excellent example. Just like the canyons at Mount St. Helens which were formed in a few weeks, the Grand Canyon was likely formed in a very short period of time. Evidence for this is that similar sedimentary rocks and fossils are found in both the top and bottom layers, and there is no evidence of erosion between the layers of sediment. The "red wall" of the Grand Canyon can be traced for thousands of miles, extending north all the way to Canada, east to Niagara Falls in New York and to Mammoth Caves in Kentucky. Another example of large-scale sedimentary rock formations is the chalkboards that form the famous white cliffs of Dover in southern England which trace all the way to Turkey and Egypt.
- 6. Sediment and boulders have been moved huge distances by a catastrophic force. For example, the sand grains in the Navajo Sandstones come from the Appalachian Mountains, all the way across North America. There are also many enormous boulders throughout northwestern America and Western Canada which are around 300 miles from the nearest source of quartzite.
- 7. It was conjectured that the now-saline Black Sea was once an isolated freshwater lake surrounded by farmland, until it was flooded by an enormous wall of water from the rising Mediterranean Sea. The force of the water supposedly swept away everything in its path. Robert Ballard, the man who discovered the Titanic, was fascinated by this idea, and found an ancient shoreline 400 feet below the surface of the Black Sea, evidence for the truth of this theory (Millman et al., 2012).
- 8. Genesis 9 indicates that that the "fear and the dread" of mankind would subsequently be on all animals, whereas previously this may not have been the case. Therefore, dinosaurs such as the Tyrannosaurus Rex which presumably would have had no fear of people, may have all died in the Flood. So as evidenced by the dinosaur fossil graveyards mentioned above, the extinction of the dinosaurs was probably caused by the Flood rather than by a meteor hitting the earth.
- 9. Geological studies of Egypt show that there was a period of truly extraordinary Nile flow in the past, called the time of the "wild Nile," when the river turned into a raging torrent that was especially high during the summers, repeatedly flooding to 8 or 9 m above its floodplain. So vigorous was the Nile's flow that massive amounts of coarse gravel were washed from Nubia in the south all the way northward to Cairo. Perhaps the most important effect of the Nile's rage was that it produced the entire delta at the mouth of the Nile where the river poured into the Mediterranean. Before this time, there had not been any delta (Habermehl, 2013). This "wild Nile" period in Egypt probably occurred at the end of the ice age in the Middle East due to snow melt from the mountains in Africa. The climate was warmer in that region so the Ice Age ended there long before it ended elsewhere. The Giza plateau region is now a desert but was formerly lush and green as a result of the so-called "Saharan wet period," which in turn was caused by the Flood and its aftermath.

### The Tower of Babel

The Bible tells us that the ark of Noah eventually came to rest, *not* on "Mount Ararat" but rather on the "mountains of Ararat" which are located in eastern Turkey (Genesis 8:4 – see the map below). In other words, the specific landing site of the ask is not identified. Children were born, society began to grow, and people began to spread out. The migration patterns are not clearly known, but most people apparently stayed on or near the plains of Shinar which was where Noah and his family first settled.

Because there were only eight survivors from the Flood, the world was repopulated from the sons of Noah who were Shem, Ham, and Japheth. Shem was the father of the Semitic peoples – Arabs, Akkadians, Canaanites, Hebrews, and Syrians. Ham was the father of the Hamitic peoples – Egyptians, Libyans, Nubians, and Africans. Japheth was the father of Europeans, Indians, Chinese, and Asians. The genealogy of Noah's descendants is given in Genesis 10, along with details on their geography, language, and tribal identity.

#### The Land of Shinar

Noah and his family moved to the plains of Shinar and started farming. There has been much scholarly debate on the location of Shinar, with some proposing that it was located north of Mesopotamia (i.e., in southern Turkey or Syria), nearer to the mountains of Ararat. The ancient sites of Göbekli Tepe, Urfa, and Harran all lie to the immediate south of Ararat and could possibly have been the location where Noah and his sons originally settled rather than traveling many miles to the southeast. Akkad was an ancient city dating to the time after Noah and was possibly located in Shinar, but it has never been found. Therefore, the kingdom of Akkad may have been located primarily in Syria, possibly at or near the contemporary site of Tell Brak, which is yet to be excavated – its location could be a key to the location of Shinar (Habermehl, 2011). Another possibility is that the lost city of Akkad was synonymous with Charchemish, Ugarit, possibly Babylon, or is located under what is now the city of Baghdad (Petrovich, 2020).

However, most scholars feel that the plains of Shinar were farther south, somewhere within the area known as Mesopotamia (the "land between the rivers," i.e., between the Tigris and the Euphrates). This area is located primarily in the country known today as Iraq, with its northern region in Syria as shown below. The word "Shinar" is probably related to "Sumer," the first civilization which was located in southern Mesopotamia. Genesis 11:2 states that Noah's family and descendants journeyed from the east, so if Shinar was located in Mesopotamia, they must have come from what is now known as the Zagros mountains of Iran. The "mountains of Ararat" where the ark landed are also difficult to precisely identify. Ararat is the tallest mountain in a chain located in eastern Turkey but could be considered as part of the Zagros mountains of Iran which run from the northern border of Turkey and Iran along the western border of the latter. Therefore, the Zagros mountain range could possibly be considered as part of the mountains of Ararat.

In any case, society developed, cities were founded, and Sumer and Akkad were the first civilizations of the ancient world. Sumer, the older region (as indicated, Shinar may be another name for Sumer) was in the south and eventually became known as Babylonia, whereas Akkad was in the north and eventually became known as Assyria. The major cities of Sumer included Eridu (the first), Uruk (Erech), Ur, and later Kish (Cush), Babylon, and Aggad (Akkad). There were a number of takeovers

by neighbors, such as Ur which later conquered and consolidated the above cities, until their realm was in turn conquered by peoples from northern Mesopotamia (Gertoux, 2015).



Map of the Middle East with both ancient and modern cities and areas noted.

# Conflict in Noah's Family

Before considering the direction of society it is important to review an event which took place soon after Noah and his family left the ark, Genesis tells a curious story of domestic conflict which, like the fall of Adam and Eve, was instrumental in setting the tone and direction of ancient history:<sup>37</sup>

Then Noah began farming and planted a vineyard. He drank of the wine, became drunk, and uncovered himself inside his tent. Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brothers outside. But Shem and Japheth took a garment and laid it upon both their shoulders and walked backward and covered the nakedness of their father; and their faces were turned away, so that they did not see their father's nakedness. When Noah awoke from his wine, he knew what his youngest son had done to him. So he said, "Cursed be Canaan, a servant of servants he shall be to his brothers." He also said, "Blessed be the Lord, the God of Shem, and let Canaan be his servant. May God enlarge

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>37</sup> The Bible doesn't shy away from revealing the faults of its protagonists.

Japheth and let him dwell in the tents of Shem, and let Canaan be his servant." (Genesis 9:20-27)

The term "saw the nakedness of his father" is a euphemism for some type of incestuous sexual act. The Bible uses this euphemism for incest in other places, such as repeatedly in Leviticus 18-20 and Ezekiel 16-23. Thus, there was more involved than merely "seeing"; further evidence for this is the statement that "when Noah awoke from his wine, he knew what his youngest son had done to him." In other words, this involved action and not just viewing. Therefore, it seems likely that the act was either homosexual and performed on Noah, or heterosexual and performed on Noah's wife.

In the leadup to this event, Genesis specifically states that Canaan was the son of Ham (twice in Genesis 9:18 and 22), implying that Canaan was a party to what happened. But the real evidence is that Noah specifically cursed Canaan and indicated that he would be subordinate to both Shem and Japheth. So it seems that Canaan was the guilty party, with Ham, his father, watching or perhaps encouraging the entire scene, and not stopping his son or rebuking him. The above text states that it was Noah's "youngest son" who did whatever was done. Ham is always listed as the second of the three sons, so either he was actually the third son, or most likely, Noah was referring to his grandson Canaan who at that point may well have been his youngest offspring.<sup>38</sup>

It therefore seems that Canaan was involved in debased sexual practices, and if so, he showed no respect either for his grandparents, for social norms, or for the laws of God. He also seemed to be very selfish, sexually obsessed, and had little regard for his own safety and future (sexually abusing the head of the clan or his wife by a grandson was an act of both audacity and stupidity). Given the limited details we have on his life it is hard to make a firm judgment, but it is possible that Canaan had Nephilim elements in his genetic makeup from his mother and passed them on to his progeny (Sorensen, 2020b). Therefore, it is no surprise that his descendants (i.e., the Canaanites) were the most sexually debauched peoples of the ancient world.<sup>39</sup> Canaan was also the ancestor of the Anakim and other large and violent peoples that the Israelites encountered in the days of Moses (e.g., Numbers 13:33). Goliath of Gath, the man who opposed David in the famous biblical story, was said to be six cubits and a span in height (approximately 9½ feet tall) and may also have been a descendant of Canaan and therefore may have been genetically Nephilim. The Bible has two references to huge men also from Gath with six fingers on each hand and six toes on each foot (2 Samuel 21:20 and 1 Chronicles 20:6).

#### The Character of Nimrod

The Bible doesn't provide any more detail on Noah's story, but this event may well have caused a family split, with Ham and his descendants going their own way. Nimrod was the great-grandson of Noah – he was a son of Cush (the founder of Ethiopia), who was in turn the son of Ham.

Cush begot Nimrod; he began to be a mighty one on the earth. He was a mighty hunter before the Lord; therefore it is said, "Like Nimrod the mighty hunter before the Lord." And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, Erech, Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar. From that land he went to Assyria and built Nineveh, Rehoboth, Calah, and Resen

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>38</sup> In a number of places the Bible uses "son" or "daughter" to mean "descendant," and sometimes it's not clear what generation the descendant is from.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>39</sup> The Canaanites may have invented sacred prostitution as an act of worship.

between Nineveh and Calah. (Genesis 10:8-12)

Historians have never been able to place the biblical Nimrod into the history of Mesopotamia, but many believe that the name "Nimrod" (meaning "rebellious one") was a description of his character or an epithet rather than his name. He is referred to in Genesis 10:9 as "a mighty hunter" but probably a better translation would be "a mighty slaughterer or tyrant" (Petrovich, 2013). His family may well have borne a grudge against Noah, and Nimrod may have formed the first army and been the first conqueror in history – the above text indicates that he had or began to construct a kingdom consisting of a number of cities. In the opinion of the author, Nimrod's real name may have been, or later become, Gilgamesh (Livingston, 2003), who was one of the rulers in the Sumerian king list, and whose exploits were told and embroidered in the Gilgamesh Epic. The Epic describes Gilgamesh as very large, aggressive, sexually obsessed, and semi-divine (possibly having a Nephilim bloodline like Canaan) (Sorensen, 2020c).

Second Temple writings, as well as the Talmud and Arab sources including the Quran have a lot to say about Nimrod and allege that he was the builder of the Tower of Babel. Several examples:

And when Nimrod had joyfully returned from battle, after having conquered his enemies... they placed the regal crown upon his head. And he set over his subjects and people, princes, judges, and rulers, as is the custom amongst kings. (Book of Jasher 7:34)

And all the princes of Nimrod and his great men took counsel together...and they went to seek an extensive piece of ground to build the city and the tower, and they sought in the whole earth and they found none like one valley at the east of the land of Shinar about two days' walk, and they journeyed there, and they dwelt there. And they began to make bricks and burn fires to build the city and the tower that they had imagined to build. (Book of Jasher 9:21-24)

And in the seventieth year of Reu the building of the Great Tower in the land of Shinar began, and Nimrod, the son of Kush, fed the builders on the beasts which he hunted. And forty years after the Tower was finished God sent a wind and the Tower was overturned, and Nimrod died in it. It was he who after the flood reigned in Babel. (Bar Hebraeus)

His cruelty along with that of the early rulers of Sumer may well have set the general Mesopotamian tone for the behavior of leaders and armies. For example, the Assyrians later engaged in mass executions and depicted the torture of their enemies in great detail on the walls of their palaces. They cut off limbs, gouged out eyes, flayed people, and impaled them on large stakes, leaving them to die a slow death. Such sights were a showcase of their power, instilling fear and terror into the rest of the population, resulting in a cultural milieu of coarseness, cruelty, and violence (Preskar, 2020).

Noah had placed a generational curse on Canaan, which may well have led to a split in the family in which Ham and his descendants went south to what is now northern Africa. Canaan was Nimrod's uncle, so Nimrod may well have hated Noah and everything to do with his great-grandfather. Therefore, when he came to power, he may have created a priesthood in defiance of Jehovah. Inspired by demons, they invented gods such as Marduk and Ishtar and required the people to worship the gods. Ancient kings sometimes claimed to be divine, and as king of Sumer, Gilgamesh may have pronounced himself as a god.

Regardless of whether Nimrod was Gilgamesh, and whether the Tower of Babel was constructed under his aegis, Nimrod is prototypical of many rulers and dictators of later history who sought to deify themselves in various ways in order to justify their authority in the minds of the people.

#### The Tower of Babel

The next topic that Genesis turns to after the Flood and the conflict in Noah's family is the building of the Tower of Babel. That event took place approximately 200 years after the Flood, and is described as follows:

Now the whole earth used the same language and the same words. It came about as they journeyed east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. They said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks and burn them thoroughly." And they used brick for stone, and they used tar for mortar. They said, "Come, let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top will reach into heaven, and let us make for ourselves a name, otherwise we will be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth." (Genesis 11:1-4)

Like the Flood of Noah, there are many versions of the Tower of Babel story from cultures around the world, including Mesopotamian, Hittite, Egyptian, Phoenician/Ugaritic/Canaanite, Arab, Armenian, Irish Celtic, Russian, Greek, Roman, Iranian, Indian, Hunnish, Nepalese/Assam/Myanmar, Tibetan/Mongol/Chinese, Siberian, Japanese, Polynesian, Cherokee, Mexican, Peruvian/Andean, Rwandan, Tanzanian, and others. Sean Bambrough's article referenced here details thirty-eight versions from around the world (Bambrough, 2022).

It should be noted that the Tower of Babel site was not necessarily known as "Babel" prior to this incident taking place. Genesis 11:9 has a wordplay between the name Babel (bābel) and the verb (bālal) which means "confused" – hence our word for confused speech – "babbling." Using the term "Babel" for the location may therefore have been an epithet or a description of what happened that came into use afterward, rather than the original name; only later was that term or derivative terms applied to cities in Mesopotamia, such as Babylon. Thus there are at least seven or possibly eight locations in Mesopotamia named "Babel" so a definitive identification of the Tower of Babel site has proven to be a difficult task that is still not settled (Petrovich, 2020). For the possible locations, see the article, "The Real Reason for the Tower of Bable?" (Sorensen, 2022).

In regard to language, there is general agreement among philologists that the Near East was the cradle of language. <sup>40</sup> The phrase from Genesis 11 above that "the whole earth used the same language" is a generalization of the situation at that time and does not necessarily mean that every person then alive on the entire planet spoke exactly the same language, as there may well have been dialects. This common language has been described as proto-Indo-European and may well have been based on or had elements of an ancient version of Hebrew. Also see the above article ("The Real Reason for the Tower of Bable?") for more information on ancient Hebrew.

Having experienced the Flood of Noah a few generations previously, the leaders may have wanted to build upward, even though God promised to never again destroy the world via a flood. Furthermore, the phrase "Come, let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top will reach into heaven" as

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>40</sup> See, for example, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Proto-Indo-Europeans

quoted from Genesis 11:1-4 above, does not mean that the builders expected their tower to be tall enough to actually "reach heaven." It probably was not even high enough to reach the clouds. It is more likely that building a religious tower was intended as a symbol of the power and potential divinity of the leader(s) who wanted to become god, take on the power of heaven, and construct a monument to the god(s) for which they were themselves a representation or an avatar. This is especially true considering the dictatorial nature of kingship and the gods in that day.

There are individuals in all societies who crave power over others, and if they are clever and ruthless enough, they will tend to rise to the top. The average person who goes to work, pays taxes, and raises kids, has little conception of the passion that those at the top of society have for power. So the consequence for the general population was not a judgment as in the case of the food. No one was hurt except possibly Nimrod and/or the leaders who planned the Tower of Babel as a monument to their self-professed greatness and divinity.

It seems as if Nimrod or the early rulers of Sumer were on their way to achieving a one-world government. So God in His mercy prevented that from happening, as well as providing incentives for people to spread out across the entire world. In our day we see continual efforts to enlarge and socialize government, such as the European Union. It is therefore incumbent on us to resist the growth of government as we are able in order to prevent it from becoming a monster.

The biblical book of Revelation speaks of the future rise of a one-world government led by a dictator who is referred to as "the antichrist" and "the beast."

And he causes all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free men and the slaves, to be given a mark on their right hand or on their forehead, and he provides that no one will be able to buy or to sell, except the one who has the mark, either the name of the beast or the number of his name. (Revelation 13:16-17)

This government is called "Babylon the Great" and the associated religious system is referred to as "Mystery Babylon"; it may or may not be situated in the city of Babylon in Iraq. This city was partially rebuilt by Saddam Hussein during the period of 1979 to 2003, and perhaps was the original location of the Tower of Babel. Regardless of the physical location, this future government will be a replay of the human craving for absolute power which was thwarted by God in Nimrod's era, but allowed to take place at the end of days prior to the battle of Armageddon.

# The Uruk Expansion

The Bible indicates that a large migration took place at this time:

So the Lord scattered them abroad from there over the face of the whole earth; and they stopped building the city. Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of the whole earth; and from there the Lord scattered them abroad over the face of the whole earth. (Genesis 11:8-9)

This migration seems to match the "Uruk expansion" which took place around 2950 BC in which people left southern Mesopotamia in all directions. The city of Uruk was populated at the same time that Eridu was being abandoned, making Eridu the likely site for Babel (Petrovich, 2021). It is also

here that the first evidence of writing has been found (early cuneiform text). This all makes sense because when spoken languages became different, then some form of writing was necessary in order to communicate with other groups. The first writing systems were cuneiform and hieroglyphics, both of which are "script-based." In other words, the symbols of the writing do not represent letters or words – rather they represent concepts that could then be translated into the words of the language. Writing also became more necessary as cities grew larger and written records needed to be maintained. It was also essential for international correspondence. For example, the Amarna letters are a large collection of cuneiform tablets done in baked clay that were copies of letters between the Pharaoh of Egypt (Akhenaten) and the kings of Syria and Mitanni.

Many of the pottery and building techniques of ancient Sumer were copied and then modified by societies that spread out, such as the Ziggurat form of temple construction which was adapted by many cultures around the world, including Egypt, Central America (Mayan and Inca), Thailand, and elsewhere (Petrovich, 2021). The Uruk expansion also led to segregated living groups – a natural consequence of peoples with different languages who couldn't easily communicate with each other, and which we still see today as a preference for ethnic conclaves in urban areas (Petrovich, 2021).

This is not to say that every person in the world lived in Mesopotamia prior to the dispersion, as there is evidence of older settlements and unrelated languages elsewhere, but the largest number apparently remained closer to their place of origin, and then left during the Uruk expansion.

## The Aftermath

The aftermath spoken of here is the long history of the world since 3000 BC after the Tower of Babel – quite an aftermath! But the point is that most of the significant events of history took place before that time and in the eras discussed above, as follows:

- 1. The creation of the world and the first family in a paradisical setting.
- 2. The start of human sinfulness and the beginning of demonic influence.
- 3. The division of the world into various languages and cultures.
- 4. The sacrifice to and the worship of local gods.
- 5. The pattern of dictatorial rule with the ruler sometimes deifying himself or herself.

The last two issues described above are intimately related to each other, so history after ~3000 BC can be divided in four general periods based on the nature of worship and the exercise of power, as follows:

# The Period of ~3000 BC though ~400 AD

Sacrificing to and worshipping local gods and goddesses was characteristic of all societies until the early Middle Ages. In ancient times every city-state and political entity had their own local deity or deities that people worshipped (Sorensen, 2025). Some examples:

- Sumer, Akkad, Assyria, and Babylonia Anu, Ea, Tiamat, Enlil, Enki, Marduk, Bel, Innana, Ishtar, Ninurta, Nabu, Apshu, Shamash, Nergal, Adad, Ashur, Astarte, etc.
- Egypt Amon/Amen/Amun, Ra/Re, Aten, Ptah, Osiris. Isis, Set, Horus, Mut, Anubis, Sobek, Thoth, Hathor, Nut, Sekhmet, Apis, etc.
- Canaan and Israel Baal, Asherah, Astaroth, Anath, Sin, Chemosh, Dagon, Milcom, Qos, Molech, etc.
- Persia Ahura Mazda, Ahurani, Mithra, Allatum, Anahita, Atar, Bahram, Haoma, Izha, etc.
- Greece and Rome Zeus/Jupiter, Hera/Juno, Apollo, Ares/Mars, Athena/Artemis, Venus/Aphrodite, Hades/Pluto, Hermes/Mercury, Chronos/Saturn, Poseidon/Neptune, Eros/Cupid, etc.

Contemporary scholarship views all of these gods as mythological, i.e., fake. They were supposedly a creation of human imagination for a) explaining superhuman events that were either positive, such as winning battles, achieving success, and beneficial weather, or negative, such as plagues, disease, earthquakes, and floods. Deities had to be pacified in order to ensure the former and avoid the latter; and b) for rulers who either had the favor or the gods or declared themselves to be divine in order to rise above the people and have their will and desires become unquestionable. Thus the origin of the "divine right of kings" and the ancient concept that the people existed to serve the ruler, and by extension, the gods that supported the ruler.

Societies that worshipped these gods tended to take on their characteristics. Both the gods and the human rulers who were their avatars were capricious, cruel, egotistical, and self-serving, and had a general disregard for morality and human life, except as it served their interests. According to the

Sumerian and Akkadian creation epics, people were created to take over the drudgework of the gods (e.g., provide them with food) and to worship and serve the gods in temple rituals. If they failed to do so, people were in danger of attack by the gods (Walton, 2015, pp. 82-91).

For example, ancient Egyptian society lived by a concept known as *maat*, which meant universal equilibrium and cosmic order. If the Pharaoh failed to rule or if the gods of Egypt were not worshipped as they should be, then the society was in danger of dissolution. This fear kept people in their assigned place. Another example is the exorcism rituals specified in the *Utukku Lemnūtu* mentioned above – if the gods were not served as they demanded, bad things would happen. The Epic of Gilgamesh states that the reason for the Flood was that "people were making too much noise and disturbing the god's sleep." After the Uruk migration cuneiform and hieroglyphics were developed, but ancient people in general were uneducated and unable to read. They had few rights, very little wealth, and almost no free time, and the government kept them that way so that they would be easier to control. Evidence of general illiteracy in Egypt is that fact that virtually the same hieroglyphic symbols were used for the entire duration of Egyptian history. In other words, with writing being restricted to the scribal and priestly elites there was no significant variation in the written language as there would have been if the general population was literate.

Unlike contemporary priests, those in ancient times were employed by the rulers and had little or no connection with the common people, who were generally afraid of and avoided them. Rather, the function of the Egyptian priests was to engage in sacrifices and religious rituals to appease the gods, with much of that being carried out in secret and in the dark.

However, with insight from the Bible we can understand that all of these gods and goddesses that people worshipped were either demons or were demonically inspired, which is why they were feared and had to appeased. These spiritual forces have existed throughout history and continue in their attempts to influence everyone, especially leaders and the heads of government. The book of Daniel (his lifetime was ~570 BC through ~480 BC) opens our eyes to this reality:

Then he [the angel Gabriel] said to me, "Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia... And now I must return to fight with the prince of Persia; and when I have gone forth, indeed the prince of Greece will come." (Daniel 10:12-14, 20)

The angel explains that he was opposed by the "Prince of Persia" and will later be opposed by the "Prince of Greece" – demonic entities that were associated with those regimes and were hidden powers behind the throne. The career and fate of rulers were therefore directly associated with these gods, benefitting from their support but ultimately being cast aside when they were no longer useful (consider the fate of Darius of Persia, Alexander of Greece, as well as contemporary examples such as Mussolini and Hitler). The Apostle Paul provides more insight on the scope of demonic influence:

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against

the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. (Ephesians 6:10-12)

Today we use the word "propaganda" to refer to the lies and slanted versions of the truth used by those seeking power (to gain it), or those already in power (to retain it). The man who may have invented propaganda was Akhenaten, a Pharaoh of ancient Egypt in the 18<sup>th</sup> dynasty (~1356 BC to ~1340 BC), the husband of Nefertiti and the father of Tutankhamun. His career is an interesting example of the complexity of power politics and its connections with the gods. He came to power at a time when Egypt was dominant and prosperous due to the energy of its previous Pharaohs, but also when the priests had become very wealthy, powerful, and threatening to the royal dynasty. In an effort to reduce the influence of the priests and to support his own power, Akhenaten proclaimed that "Aten" (a formerly minor sun god deity) was the one true god, and therefore the only god that henceforth was to be worshipped. In so doing he was "purifying" Egyptian religion by eliminating all of the hundreds of gods of Egypt and forcing the society to become monotheistic, although it is questionable how successful he was in doing so.

This move was very upsetting to Egyptian society, especially for the priests. Those of Re, another sun god, were located as Heliopolis in the north, and those of Amun, the god of creation (also associated with Re and therefore called Amun-Re) were located at Thebes in the south. Akhenaten defunded these priests and then, like the emperor Constanine ~1,700 years later who moved the capital of his empire from Rome to Constantinople, Akhenaten moved the capital of Egypt to a new location known as Amarna which was midway between Heliopolis and Thebes. But unlike Constantine who chose an existing city, Akhenaten built the city of Amarna in a desert area where nothing previously existed, and the process he eventually bankrupted Egypt because he had little interest in the economy or in maintaining a strong international presence.

Some have compared Akhenaten's monotheism to the worship of Jehovah in Israel and have tried to find connections between Israel and Egypt (at the time, Canaan/Israel was a province loosely ruled by Egypt, and this was the era of the Judges in Israel's history). Freud believed that Moses derived the theology of the Torah from Akhenaten, but Moses life and career was ~200 years prior, so Freud was mistaken in that as he was with most of his other beliefs. But unlike Jehovah, Aten as a deity was like the other gods of Egypt – remote, impersonal, and uninvolved in the affairs of society. His impact was limited to shining on the world with light and heat, and the only individual capable of communicating with Aten was the Pharaoh himself.

The worship of Aten has "less to do with man's relationship to god than with his understanding of the fundamental nature of reality." And the nature of this new reality is starkly revealed in the final stanza of Akhenaten's *Great Hymn to Aten*, "There is none who knows you [Aten] except your son Neferkheprure-waenre [Akhenaten]. For you make him aware of your plans and your strength..." The resultant dynamic is a revealing one: Akhenaten and his family worshipped the Aten, while the populace worshipped them... Atenism in practice was little more than a pragmatic instrument of political control. (Reeves, 2022, p. 141)

Akhenaten also made the art of Egypt less formalized and more realistic in an attempt to "humanize" his rule in another form of ancient propaganda. But at the same time he expected the people to worship him as the "eminence of Aten," and he engaged the military in an effort to investigate and punish

anyone performing false worship, (i.e., the worship of the traditional Egyptian gods) in an effort to stamp out heresy.

Like many dictators, Akhenaten and family experienced a serious downfall. After the 12<sup>th</sup> year of rule he disappeared as an active ruler (i.e., he became mentally or physically diseased) and Nefertiti became his co-regent. However, she also disappeared from history after Akhenaten's death. His son Tutankhamun (whose original name was Tutankh*aten*) became Pharaoh for a short time but then died and was replaced by Ay who was said to be the father of Nefertiti – some suspect that Tutankhamun was murdered by Ay who then seized power. Amarna was soon abandoned, Akhenaten's monuments were destroyed, and his memory defaced as the priests returned to power and eventually took control of the country. See also *Egypt's Golden Couple: When Akhenaten and Nefertiti were Gods on Earth.* (Darnell & Darnell, 2022)

At the same time and all through the ages, Jehovah – the true God, was and is blessing people, as the real God who not only created but maintains the cosmos. Despite his omnipotence, he often works through weak instruments such the nation of Israel which was His attempt to show everyone how to relate to Him, and from which Jesus Christ ultimately came.

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise and bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent."

Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

Consider your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, that no flesh should glory in His presence. (1 Corinthians 1:18-25)

# The Period of ~400 AD though ~1700 AD

This is the era when Christianity took hold; over time this produced dramatic changes in culture. There were (and still are) despotic rulers, but due to the influence of the church and the increasing limitations placed on political power, society experienced spectacular improvements. As people became freer, many inventions were made, universities were founded, hospitals started, organized care for the poor and the sick began, the role of women in society improved, and for the first time in history slavery was criticized by individuals such as Saint Patrick of Ireland. In 1215 King John of England was forced to sign the Magna Carta which became the foundation of current law, corporations, and the stock market.

Many twists and turns, and much later conflict eventually led to reduction in royal power and to the demise of the "divine right of kings" doctrine that had characterized all ancient societies.

The demons therefore had to adapt their policies to the new reality of human culture – the new goal was to corrupt the church and maintain dictatorial power in society. Therefore, the church was often compromised due to power-seeking on the part of its leaders (see, for example, "Criticism of the Church" (Sorensen, 2010)). Christians were persecuted by Roman emperors such as Nero and Diocletian, but when the Christian emperors later came to power, pagans were sometimes persecuted, such as during the reign of Justinian 1 (527 – 565). Wars of religion pitted different groups against each other such as the Albigensian Crusade (1209 – 1229) carried out by Pope Innocent III against the Cathars, and the Thirty Years War (1618 – 1648) between Catholics and Protestants.

Despite all of the progress (admittedly uneven) made during this period, the Middle Ages were sometimes called the "Dark Ages," but that was largely due to the anti-Christian bias of historians and philosophers such as Voltaire, Hume, Gibbon, and others (Stark, 2016).

## The Period of ~1700 AD through Today

A number of historical developments led to many more improvements in western society in which the divine right of kings was reversed – the term "king" is now almost an anachronism, and it is now expected that leaders must rule for the benefit of the population. If they fail to do so, they will be voted out of office. This change was stimulated by the American Revolution and General Washington's refusal to become the king of America; instead he became the first president. It was also motivated by the development of free market capitalism which was first enunciated by Adam Smith in *The Wealth of Nations*, published in the same year as the American Revolution (1776). The Industrial Revolution also changed the face of western society by creating much more wealth and freedom for the average person. Again, there were problems and negative aspects, but on the whole, the result is a society that would be completely incomprehensible to an ancient Egyptian burdened with the need to work for Pharaoh. I reflect often on the wealth and freedom afforded me by contemporary society, on the time I have to read and research all of these things, and on the improvements in technology such as the internet to provide access to the world of information, as well as the computer on which I am writing this document.

Pity the poor demons who again had to react and adapt their policies to this freer human reality. This has resulted in a complete change of strategy and tactics (Sorensen, 2012). Instead of demonic power being obvious and overt as it was in ancient times, it has gradually been concealed through the centuries, to the point where contemporary people believe that demons, like the gods of ancient Egypt, are an unenlightened myth; ancient peoples were said to be stupid and overly credulous, whereas now we are supposedly intellectually superior. As C.S. Lewis observed, Satan and the demons are equally happy if people are overly concerned and afraid of them, or if they believe that they don't exist (Lewis, 1942). Satan is thus hiding in plain sight.

At the same time, history has also witnessed the rise of atheistic/humanistic ideologies and governments such as Stalin's Soviet Union, Mao's China, Hitler's Germany, Pol Pot's Cambodia, etc. The number of people killed in the 20<sup>th</sup> century is estimated at over 200 million, dwarfing by far those

killed, for example, in World War II (~45 million) or during the 400 years of the Inquisition (~40 thousand) (Kopel & Volokh, 2022).

Human nature hasn't changed, and despite our scientific secularism people still have the impulse to worship God or whatever they think of as god. Today, the most popular religion of the West is probably humanism (mixed in with a few syncretistic doses of Christianity) where the self is all-important, and the most popular contemporary philosophy is postmodernism where all "grand narratives" such as Christianity are rejected, and truth is relative and self-defined. In effect, the worship of Akhenaten described above has been democratized where everyone can be their own Pharaoh and do whatever they wish. In the words of the Satanist Aleister Crowley, "Do what thou wilt!" The temptation of Satan to Eve in the Garden of Eden is now provided to everyone.

Freedom within boundaries is certainly important and is the foundation of liberty. But the effect of indiscriminate freedom and self-defined morality on Western society has been pathological, causing dramatic increases in addiction, divorce, male/female dissatisfaction, parenting issues, materialism, crime, school shootings, poverty, anxiety, depression, gender confusion, mental illness, and suicide (Sorensen, 2024).

## The Future

To the extent that Christianity has declined and the Western world has become post-Christian, all forms of spiritism have increased. None of this spiritism is new – all of it is based on ancient foundations such as spirit-guides, magic, seances, wizards, witches, crystals, and so on. Nature religions such Druidism are being practiced and the worship of Pan, Osiris, Isis, and other historical gods has been revived by new age spiritualists who view them as paradigms for feminism, liberation, and freedom from patriarchy and the supposed condemnation of sex by the Church (Davis, 1998; Podles, 1999). Furthermore, the new age gods of today have been "tamed" from what they were like in ancient times in order not to overly offend modern sensibilities. If people were confronted with the real Pan, if they realized the reality of Satan and his true nature, and if they understood what actually took place in the days before the Flood, they would appreciate what Jehovah did, rather than accuse him of cruelty and injustice.

Another issue is the current research and development of "transhumanism" (<u>Anissimov</u>, 2022) which is the genetic alteration of people in an attempt to eliminate disease and provide super-human capabilities of size, strength, perception, night vision, and other improvement. Ironically, after years of eating food based on genetically altered grains that were supposedly better and healthier, we now understand that GMO foods are actually bad for us in many ways:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>41</sup> The Bible never condemns sex, only the misuse of it. See Sorensen, R. B. (2011b). *The Redemption of Eroticism*. https://www.academia.edu/42186012/The\_Redemption\_of\_Eroticism, Sorensen, R. B. (2011c). *Religion and the Corruption of Eroticism*. https://www.academia.edu/42169250/Religion\_and\_the\_Corruption\_of\_Eroticism, Sorensen, R. B. (2011b). *The Redemption of Eroticism*. https://www.academia.edu/42186012/The\_Redemption\_of\_Eroticism, Sorensen, R. B. (2011c). *Religion and the Corruption of Eroticism*.

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The American Academy of Environmental Medicine (AAEM) urges doctors to prescribe non-GMO diets for all patients. They cite animal studies showing organ damage, gastrointestinal and immune system disorders, accelerated aging, and infertility. Human studies show how genetically modified (GM) food can leave material behind inside us, possibly causing long-term problems. Genes inserted into GM soy, for example, can transfer into the DNA of bacteria living inside us, and that the toxic insecticide produced by GM corn was found in the blood of pregnant women and their unborn fetuses.

Numerous health problems increased after GMOs were introduced in 1996. The percentage of Americans with three or more chronic illnesses jumped from 7% to 13% in just 9 years; food allergies skyrocketed, and disorders such as autism, reproductive disorders, digestive problems, and others are on the rise. Although there is not sufficient research to confirm that GMOs are a contributing factor, doctor groups such as the AAEM tell us not to wait before we start protecting ourselves, and especially our children who are most at risk. (Dean & Armstrong, 2009)

Transhumanism is the much more serious step of directly modifying people. Scientists have the audacity to forge ahead into a *Brave New World* (Huxley, 1958) and think that they can play God, with no idea of the consequences of their genetic tampering on the human race. Especially sobering is the thought of genetically altered people reproducing and having children – at that point there is no going back. What will the impact be on society if GMIs (genetically altered individuals) develop new incurable diseases, spawn new pandemics much worse than the Corona virus, and/or have new mental or physical issues that cause them to be violent and abusive on a mass scale? (Gillette, 2022)

Yet another related issue is that of UFOs. Since the Rosswell incident of 1948 there have been thousands of UFO sightings – they have become so common that they are now almost ignored by the public. Who and what are they? The SETI program (Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence), with its antenna dishes directed to all points of the universe, has been searching the heavens for evidence of extra-terrestrial populations, and by far the largest portion the NASA budget is dedicated to the search for life on other planets, such as the James Webb deep field telescope. The Catholic Church through the Jesuits have developed the largest radio telescope in existence situated on the top of Mount Graham in Arizona. It is dedicated to scanning the universe in the search for "exo-planets" – worlds that are similar to earth and on which intelligent life supposedly could have evolved. The Jesuit priest Guy Consolmagno is one of the leaders and has set Vatican policy in which we will "look to the Aliens to be the Saviors of humankind." He also considers the Biblical Nephilim to possibly be emblematic of alien life. Catholic theologians at the highest level believe in "panspermia" – that aliens may have initiated life on earth. Being older and more intelligent than we are, after they return to our planet they will teach and evangelize us, and we will learn from them as the sons of God did centuries ago (Putnam & Horn, 2013, pp. 13-25).

A related and more troubling issue is alien abductions via UFOs (Stockton, 2024) and the purported attempts by aliens to use human women to create a population of unknown characteristics (Jacobs, 1993). SETI has found nothing despite searching for over sixty years, and no exo-planets have ever been found. Perhaps the reason is that no other humanoid life exists anywhere in the universe, and that UFOs and alien abductions are actually demonic. Are they an attempt to create an alternate race for the invasion of earth – a contemporary version of the ancient Nephilim? (Henning, 2020)

Demonology is not just another crackpot-ology. It is the ancient and scholarly study of monsters and demons who have seemingly coexisted with man throughout history... The manifestations and occurrences described in this imposing literature are similar, if not entirely identical, to the UFO phenomenon itself. Victims of demonic possession suffer the very same medical and emotional symptoms as the UFO contactees... The Devil and his demons can, according to the literature, manifest themselves in almost any form, and can physically imitate anything from angels to horrifying monsters with glowing eyes. Strange objects and entities materialize and dematerialize in these stories, just as the UFOs and their splendid occupants appear and disappear, walk through walls, and perform other supernatural feats. (Keel, 1996, p. 192)

Are these races only semi-human so that in order to maintain contact with us they need crossbreeding with men and women of our planet? Is this the origin of many tales and legends where genetics plays a great role... the fairy tales involving human midwives and changelings, the sexual overtones of the flying saucer reports, the Biblical stories between the Lord's angels and terrestrial women, whose offspring were giants? (Vallée, 1991, p. 13)

This raises the specter of hybrid armies, and other end-time scenarios from the Book of Revelation:

Their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it strikes a man. In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them. The shape of the locusts was like horses prepared for battle. On their heads were crowns of something like gold, and their faces were like the faces of men. They had hair like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' teeth. And they had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings was like the sound of chariots with many horses running into battle. They had tails like scorpions, and there were stings in their tails. Their power was to hurt men five months. And they had as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, but in Greek he has the name Apollyon. (Revelation 9:7-11)

The conflict in the spirit world which was revealed to the biblical Daniel as mentioned above and alluded to in biblical passages such Ephesians 6:12 has occurred all throughout history. There is an unseen war being fought which – even though we are unaware of it – is nevertheless very real. Just as the sons of God appeared on Mount Hermon in the days of Enoch, they may be preparing to return to the earth as the "saviors of mankind." Using the propaganda already being disseminated they may come to supposedly solve all of distressing social issues of our day such as poverty, social justice, and global warming, and do so by establishing a one-world government like Nimrod's attempt prior to the Tower of Babel. Jesus Christ himself warned us to watch and be on the alert:

False christs and false prophets will arise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect... Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And He will send His angels with the sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. So you also, when you see all these things, know that the time is near – at the door! 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 they did not know until the flood came and took them all away. So also will be the coming of the Son of Man... Watch therefore, for you do not know at what hour your Lord is coming. (Matthew 24:24-25, 29-31, 36-42)

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