

Passing the Baton 19 Giants in the Bible.

25th October 2008

Are there giants in the Bible? That is the question we are looking at today. This is a most fascinating study, you will probably find many questions arising as we go on, but be patient, hopefully we will find our answers.

The Bible is our source of revelation, wonderful things are contained within it, without it we would have no idea and our source of information would simply be speculation. My prayer is that your faith in the word of God may be increased through this study; perhaps you will see and understand things you have never thought about before.

If there are giants in your life today, let your faith rise to know that Jesus has overcome every one of them and you have no need to fear in any way.

I wonder if you have told anyone that you are coming today to a talk on giants. If you did, you probably had a very strange reaction – because most people out there would think that giants are characters found in fairy stories or mythology and nothing more. They would never accept that these could have been real people; we aren't talking about a very tall man here. Apparently, the tallest man recorded was 8'11¾". What we are talking about is men 10 to 12 feet tall and more. If you are a bible believer, you won't read very far before you find that giants are found in the bible. In fact, they have quite a high profile, if I can use the pun.

If you look at some communities around the earth you will find all sorts of stories – supposedly mythological – of a time when God flooded the earth.

There is a particular letter in the Chinese alphabet which depicts 8 people in a boat on water! A friend of mine who went to China on mission was absolutely delighted to find this in his study of the language. You can go to the islands of Polynesia, Hawaii, to the steppes of Russia, to South America, to the red Indians of North America, to Finland, and various other places and you will find isolated groups of people who have stories about the day that God sent a flood on the earth where everyone was wiped out except for a man and his family who built a boat and took a few animals with them as well.

So largely what people call myth and fairy story, has some basis way back in fact. If you look at some of the cuneiform writings from ancient times, you will see depicted a man, a woman, and a serpent...all very interesting stuff.

Who says the Bible isn't fact?

Roger Price, to whom I am indebted for this study, says there are about 177 different versions of the tale about the flood, but if you put them all together you find there are certain common features. Apparently in Hawaii they actually name the man, and his name is Noo, that's not bad, is it for Noah? They say that the rain lasted for 40 days, and then the floods subsided, pretty accurate.

So, there you have mythology that, if you trace it back, has its basis in fact. We saw this particularly when we looked at what lay behind the Christmas story, although steeped in mythology and paganism, there was a basis of fact in that the people who are revered did actually live at one time because Christmas is all about mother son worship. If that has whetted your appetite you will need to get the notes from 'It's a cracker' December 2007 where we explored the origins of the season.

So, what we are going to see today is that behind the stories of giants, there really *were* giants in the land that Moses wanted the children of Israel to occupy. They really *did* feel like grasshoppers in the sight of these huge people.

Incredibly giants are mentioned in Genesis, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, 1 and 2 Samuel and Chronicles. They are also found in a somewhat hidden form in Job, Psalms, Proverbs, and Isaiah. Here the Hebrew word for giant has been used but it has been translated as some other English word, therefore it appears hidden.

The name that is translated as giants in most passages in the Bible is the word 'NEPHILIM' this is the word translated 'giants' in most bibles. It comes from another Hebrew word NAPHAL which is the Hebrew word for 'to fall' or 'to be cast down' – when we look further into their roots, you will see why they were given this name.

The 'Nephilim' as a group, were a warlike people, and the bible speaks of them just like it speaks of any other group of people and gives us the clans of the Nephilim – or giants. There are two named groups or clans –

The **ANAKIM** – that tribe came from a giant named Anak, and

The **REPHAIM** – these descended from a famous giant called Rapha. The 'im' on the end simply is the Hebrew way of saying it is plural. Like *Elohim*, the Hebrew word for God or *Cherubim*, the plural for cherub.

Anakim:

We *find* Anak in -

Numbers 13:22, 28, 33

*“²²When they had gone up into the Negev, they came to Hebron where Ahiman, Sheshai and Talmaj, the descendents of **Anak** were. (Now Hebron was built 7 years before Zoan in Egypt).”*

“²⁸Nevertheless the people who dwell in the land are strong; the cities are fortified and very large, moreover we saw the descendants of Anak there.”

*“³³We saw the **Nephilim** there (the descendants of **Anak** come from the Nephilim). We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them.”*

Anak was very famous and all his children and their children after them became known as the Anakim – these were the people the children of Israel met when they went on their famous reconnaissance into the land God had promised them, who caused Israel as a nation to have a nervous breakdown when they heard the report of the spies. But if you notice the produce

in the land was huge, it took two men to carry one bunch of grapes on a pole – **verse 23** – interesting we may look at that another time.

You will note here that in brackets it says (*Now Hebron was built 7 years before Zoan in Egypt*). The implication here is that as Hebron was a city **built** by the Anakim, so was Zoan in Egypt.

There is a lot of speculation about the building of the pyramids in Egypt, this causes us to wonder if the giants had a hand in the building them, as they were obviously living in Egypt.

Builders looking at them today wonder how any person could have built them. The base on which the pyramids are built is so level that we can only just equal it today, and we can only just about achieve the level of accuracy that existed back then, even with our modern technology, so these were the most amazing feats of engineering.

The question poses itself how did ordinary people move such vast blocks of limestone and how did they cut them so very accurately? There are two and a half *million* blocks of limestone in the three pyramids at Gezer. The blocks are cut so accurately that when you look at them the gaps between them are only 1 or 2 millimetres wide and as I say, engineers today wonder how it was done. The quantity of limestone used, if dismantled, would built a wall around the entire outline of France 9 foot high and 3 foot thick – that gives you some idea of the vastness of the project.

If you want to see an incredible photograph of them look on Wikipedia and search pyramids and you will see these as they presently look at Gezer. The photography is breath-taking.

It is worth considering that the pyramids were built by these giants.

Rephaim:

The second group of people were the Rephaim – the name comes from the other famous giant whose name was Rapha. It is the Rephaim who supply us with the most famous giant of all – GOLIATH, whom David slew.

Goliath was one of the descendants of this man Rapha.

Looking at the rest of the family – this now is after David has killed Goliath and he is seeking the brothers, remember he had five smooth stones in his bag, he intended to take them all out -

2 Samuel 21:15-20

*“¹⁵Now when the Philistines were at war again with Israel, David went down and his servants with him; and as they fought against the Philistines, David became weary. ¹⁶Then **Ishi-benob**, who was among the descendants of the giants, the weight of whose spear was three hundred shekels of bronze in weight, was girded with a new sword, and he intended to kill David. ¹⁷But Abishai the son of Zeruiah helped him, and struck the Philistine and killed him. Then the men of David swore to him, saying “You shall not go out again with us to battle, that you may not extinguish the lamp of Israel.” ¹⁸Now it came about after this that there was a war again with the Philistines at Gob; then Sibbecai the Hushathite struck down **Saph**, who was among the descendants of the giant. ¹⁹And there was war with the Philistines again at Gob, and Ehanan*

*the son of Jaare-oregim the Bethlehemite killed (the brother of) **Goliath** the Gittite, the shaft of whose spear was like a weaver's beam. ²⁰And there was war at Gath again, where there was a man of great stature who had six fingers on each hand and six toes on each foot, twenty-four in number; and he also had been born to the giant."*

In each case where the word giant is used in this passage the word is actually Rapha – it is his name, showing these are his descendants.

1 Chronicles 20:4-8

*"⁴Now it happened afterward that war broke out at Gezer with the Philistines, at which time Sibbecai the Hushathite killed **Sippai**, (another name for Saph) who was one of the sons of Rapha. And they were subdued. ⁵Again there was war with the Philistines, and Elhanan the son of Jair killed **Lahmi** the brother of Goliath the Gittite, the shaft of whose spear was like a weaver's beam. ⁶Yet again there was war at Gath, where there was a man of great stature, with 24 fingers and toes, six on each hand and six on each foot; and he also was born to Rapha. ⁷So when he defied (or taunted) Israel, Jonathan the son of Shimea, David's brother, killed him. ⁸These were born to Rapha in Gath, and they fell by the hand of David and by the hand of his servants."*

This is exactly the same incident, but we get more names of Goliath's brothers.

As I said, you will remember that when David killed Goliath, he took 5 smooth stones from the brook; his intention was not only to take out Goliath, but his four brothers as well.

These scriptures show us the names of three of Goliath's brothers; **Ishbi-benob 2 Samuel 21:16, Saph**, otherwise known as Sippai, which is the Hebrew word for Saph, **verse 18** and **Lahmi, 1 Chronicles 20:5**, the fifth one isn't named, but is just mentioned as another brother.

So, David and his men completely wiped out the giants in the land and completed the job David had intended when he killed Goliath.

Just for completeness, and to see David's intention, let's look at the account of David and Goliath in

1 Samuel 17:38-40

*"³⁸Then Saul clothed David with his garments and put a bronze helmet on his head, and he clothed him with armour. ³⁹And David girded his sword over his armour and tried to walk, for he had not tested them. So David said to Saul, "I cannot go with these, for I have not tested them". And David took them off. ⁴⁰And he took his stick in his hand and chose for himself **five smooth stones** from the brook and put them in the shepherd's bag which he had, even in his pouch, and his sling was in his hand; and he approached the Philistine."*

From the number of stones in David's bag we can establish he wanted to kill off the whole family if they showed up.

These are the two main groups of the Nephilim – the Anakim and the Rephaim.

We do have a reference to three other groups of giants, but by the time we meet them they have already died out.

Deuteronomy 2:1-23, this is forty years after the spies have gone into the land, the children of Israel have been wandering about in the desert and God decides to take them up the east side of Jordan, they are going to cross over into the land now, but He wants to show them one or two things.

One of the things He wants them to see is at the time that their fathers were *afraid* of the giants, people who weren't even Jews were killing them off. Reading here from the NIV – a rather long passage but we need it –

Deuteronomy 2:1-23

¹Then we turned back and set out towards the desert along the route to the Red Sea, as the Lord had directed me. For a long time we made our way around the hill country of Seir. ²Then the Lord said to me ³“You have made your way round this hill country long enough; now turn north”. ⁴Give the people these orders: ‘You are about the pass through the territory of your brothers the descendants of Esau, who live in Seir. They will be afraid of you, but be very careful. ⁵Do not provoke them to war, for I will not give you any of their land, not even enough to put your foot on. I have given Esau the hill country of Seir as his own. ⁶You are to pay them in silver for the food you eat and the water you drink.’ ⁷The Lord your God has blessed you in all the work of your hands. He has watched over your journey through this vast desert. These forty years the Lord your God has been with you and you have not lacked anything. ⁸So we went on past our brothers the descendants of Esau, who live in Seir. We turned from the Arabah road, which comes up from Elath and Ezion Geber and travelled along the desert road of Moab. ⁹Then the Lord said to me ‘Do not harass Moab, nor provoke them to war, for I will not give you any of their land for a possession, because I have given Ar to the sons of Lot as a possession.

*¹⁰(The **Emim** used to live there - a people strong and numerous, and tall as the Anakites. ¹¹Like the Anakites, they too were considered **Rephaites**, but the Moabites call them **Emites**. ¹²Horites used to live in Seir, but the descendants of Esau drove them out. They destroyed the Horites from before them and settled in their place, just as Israel did in the land the Lord gave them as their possession.) ¹³And the Lord said, “Now get up and cross the Zered Valley”. So we crossed the Valley.*

¹⁴Thirty-eight years passed from the time we left Kadesh Barnea until we crossed the Zered Valley. By then, that entire generation of fighting men had perished from the camp, as the Lord had sworn to them. ¹⁵The Lord’s hand was against them until he had completely eliminated them from the camp.

¹⁶Now when the last of these fighting men among the people had died, ¹⁷the Lord said to me, ¹⁸“Today you are to pass by the region of Moab at Ar. ¹⁹When you come to the Ammonites, do not harass them or provoke them to war, for I will not give you possession of any land belonging to the Ammonites. I have given it as a possession to the descendants of Lot.” ²⁰(That too was considered a land of the Rephaites, who used to live there; but the Ammonites called them Zamzummites. ²¹They were a people strong and numerous and as tall as the Anakites.

The Lord destroyed them from before the Ammonites, who drove them out and settled in their place. ²²The Lord had done the same for the descendants of Esau, who lived in Seir, when he destroyed the Horites from before them. They drove them out and have lived in their place to this day. ²³And as for the Avvites who lived in villages as far as Gaza, the Caphtorites, coming out from Caphtor destroyed them and settled in their place.)”

You will know that Moab and Ammon were the offspring of Lot, through his two daughters.

When they fled from Sodom and Gomorrah, when the Lord brought judgement on the cities, Lot settled in the hill country where no one else lived and the girls got their father drunk and each became pregnant through him; Moab and Ammon were the result.

But God honours these descendants of Lot with their own land, despite their beginning.

So, this account is *after* the 40 years of Israel’s wanderings in the wilderness, and we see that the giants had almost been killed off by the people who were not even Israelites. This shows how great the unbelief was of the 12 spies who went into the Promised Land, which was flowing with milk and honey.

Ten brought back a bad report because of the giants in the land – and you know that as a result of this bad report, even though the Lord had said He had given the land to them, they did not go in and possess it, until that generation had died out, and this portion of scripture shows this.

There is such a lesson here for us, if the Lord says, *“go in and possess, you are well able”*, we must obey Him, not our senses or we will find ourselves in a wilderness situation, wandering around for 40 years. Anyway, you can clearly see from this passage that the Moabites had destroyed the giants *without* God’s help, but the Israelites wouldn’t go in, with God’s help.

Let’s look at some more –

“¹²Horites used to live in Seir, but the descendants of Esau drove them out. They destroyed the Horites from before them and settled in their place, just as Israel did in the land the Lord gave them as their possession.)”

Again, they had destroyed the giants.

“¹⁸Today you are to pass by the region of Moab at Ar. ¹⁹When you come to the Ammonites, do not harass them or provoke them to war, for I will not give you possession of any land belonging to the Ammonites. I have given it as a possession to the descendants of Lot.” ²⁰(That too was considered a land of the Rephaites, who used to live there; but the Ammonites called them Zamzummites.)”

The word ‘Emim’ in **verse 10** tells you something about who they were, because it can be translated as ‘fear’ or ‘terror’. The word Zamzummim is the word for plotting or devising evil. Describes them very accurately.

And the word Nephilim as we have seen means ‘to fall’ or be ‘cast down’, it can also mean to overthrow, so these giants were known for filling people with terror, plotting or devising evil and overthrowing others. Nice little lot.

In the days of Moses these giants are almost dying out, there were only a few of them to begin with and they were dying out very rapidly. So, as we have seen by the days of David, they are just about finished.

So, just after this in **Deuteronomy 3** God takes Israel north. They still have these giants to destroy in the land before they go in there.

By delaying their entry into the Promised Land, their problem didn't go away, they still had giants to fight, problems don't go away just because you run away. And like problems, the Israelites had to face these giants eventually, though a whole generation had to die out first before God would let them go in.

There's only one giant left alive on the east side of Jordan, and he's the second most famous giant, his name is Og.

Whilst I was studying this, I wondered if that is where we get our word 'ogre' from which means, giant, troll, tyrant, amongst other things. Just a thought.

Deuteronomy 3:1-3

"¹Then we turned and went up the road to Bashan, and Og, king of Bashan came out to meet us in battle at Edrei.²But the Lord said to me 'Do not fear him, for I have delivered him and all his people and his land into your hand; and you shall do to him just as you did to Sihon king of the Amorites who lives at Heshbon. ³So the Lord our God delivered Og also, king of Bashan, with all his people into our hand, and we smote them until no survivor was left."

And verse eleven; he was a giant all right, look at this -

"¹¹For only Og king of Bashan was left of the remnant of the Rephaim. Behold, his bedstead was an iron bedstead; it is in Rabbah of the sons of Ammon. Its length was nine cubits (13 feet 6 inches) and its width four cubits (six feet wide) by ordinary cubit."

So, we see that Og too, is one of the remnant of the giants in the land.

Joshua 15:13-15 and here is something lovely – you will remember that only Caleb and Joshua were willing to go in and take the land, including the giants.

Now more than 40 years later Caleb gets his desire upon his enemies and kills the giants in the land. Caleb was 80 years old at this point but here he is setting his foot on the neck of his enemies –

Joshua 15:13-15

"¹³Now he gave to Caleb the son of Jephunneh a portion among the sons of Judah, according to the command of the Lord to Joshua, namely, Kiriath-arba, Arba being the father of Anak (that is, Hebron). ¹⁴And Caleb drove out from there three sons of Anak, Sheshai, and Ahiman, and Talmi, the children of Anak ¹⁵Then he went up from there against the inhabitants of Debir; now the name of Debir formerly was Kiriath-sepher."

There we have the destruction of the Anakim, finally only a few remained and David killed them.

That's a potted history of the giants. Having said that, we need to see whether there is any evidence, *outside* of the bible for the existence of giants.

There was a man in the 19th century who published a book in 1867 entitled 'The giant cities of Bashan' his name was J L Porter. He was a Christian and an archaeologist, and he decided to do a complete tour of the Holy Land and in particular the land of Bashan and there he found the most remarkable things of which he had read in -

Deuteronomy 3:4, 5

"⁴These are the cities of the giants sixty cities, all the region of Argob, the kingdom of Og in Bashan. ⁵All these were cities fortified with high walls, gates and bars, besides a great many unwalled towns."

He had not believed that this was possible, that there were 60 cities –

"Such a statement" he says "seems all but incredible, often when reading the passage I used to think that some strange mystery hung over it but mysterious, incredible as it seemed on the spot with my own eyes I have seen that it is literally true."

In an extract from his book which I found on the free encyclopedia - Wikipedia he says this -

"Sixty walled cities are still traceable in a space of 308 square miles. The architecture is ponderous and massive. Solid walls 4 feet thick, and stones on one another without cement; the roofs enormous slabs of basaltic rock, like iron; the doors and gates are of stone 18 inches thick, secured by ponderous bars. The land bears still the appearance of having been called the 'land of giants' under the giant Og. I have more than once entered a deserted city in the evening, taken possession of a comfortable house, and spent the night in peace. Many of the houses in the ancient cities of Bashan are perfect, as if only finished yesterday. The walls are sound, the roofs unbroken, and even the window-shutters in their places. These ancient cities of Bashan probably contain the very oldest specimens of domestic architecture in the world" (Porter, 1867).

He saw ordinary houses which had living rooms 20 feet long and ten feet tall, one house he went into was 25 feet long and 20 feet tall. He saw the most amazing blocks of stone cut out, they had roofs of solid rock across the top some of them were 12' long and 6" thick and they had been cut apparently by ordinary people and put on top of these houses. It was the most incredible sight.

There was another man, Sir Henry Holworth, who wrote a book about the same area, and he discovered skeletons 10 – 12 feet tall. He also found the suits of armour that went with them. He mentions these in his book 'The Mammoths and the Ice Age'.

And John Whitcomb and Henry Morris wrote a book in 1961 about the Genesis flood in which they show photographs of footprints preserved in stone that belonged to giants.

So, it is really interesting that the things we are told in the Bible can be substantiated by archaeological findings - the more you dig, the more you find.

Incidentally the sixty walled cities have since been flattened by the warfare that has gone on around that area, so the only evidence we have of the cities of Bashan now is Mr. Porter's eyewitness account in his book.

For the Bible believer, the Bible is good enough, but when we are talking to the unbeliever, it is quite fun to be able to prove these things historically and archaeologically.

Law of first mention:

There is a thing called the law of first mention when we are studying the Bible; this simply means that you go back to where the subject was mentioned *for the very first time*.

So where in the Bible do we first see mention of these people, and as I said before when we talk about giants, we do not mean just very large men – apart from their height which was 10 – 12 feet one of the distinguishing things about the giants was that they showed signs of being mutants, many of them had six fingers and six toes, so where do we find their origins?

The first undisputed reference to them is in the book of **Genesis**, as you would expect, they were still around at the time of Abraham - here is a reference to various groups -

Genesis 14:5, 6

*"⁵And in the 14th year Chedorlaomer and the kings that were with him came and defeated the **Rephaim** in Ashteroth-karnaim and the **Zuzim** in Ham and the **Emim** in Shaveh-kiriathaim, ⁶and the **Horites** in their Mount Seir, as far as El-paran, which is by the wilderness."*

We can recognize those names now as being groups of giants; but this doesn't tell us where they came from, to find the background to this we need to go to **Genesis 6** and this now becomes our base passage and we will work from here -

Genesis 6:1-13

*"¹Now it came about, when men began to multiply on the face of the land, and daughters were born to them, ²that the **sons of God** saw that the daughters of men were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves, whomever they chose. ³Then the Lord said, 'My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, because he also is flesh; nevertheless his days shall be one hundred and twenty years'. ⁴The **Nephilim** were 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. ⁵Then 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. ⁶And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. ⁷And 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.' ⁸But Noah found favour in the eyes of the Lord. ⁹These are the records of the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his time; Noah walked with God. ¹⁰And Noah became the father of three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. ¹¹Now the earth was corrupt in the sight of God, and the earth was filled with violence. ¹²And God looked on the earth, and behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way upon the earth.*

13Then 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'."

In the first chapters of Genesis, you have the creation of the earth, in Genesis chapter 3 you have the fall of man; when he fell God cursed him, the earth and the serpent who had caused the downfall.

And God said that an ordinary human being, one descended from Eve, would crush the head of the devil – the devil was going to be defeated by an ordinary human being.

Satan heard that and he was looking for this seed to come from the woman. In **chapter 4** he thought it was Abel and quickly incited Cain to rise up against Abel and kill him, he wanted to destroy this seed of the woman, who was going to crush his head.

In **Genesis 5** you find that the descendants of Adam start multiplying rapidly, so the devil has now got a problem, mankind is increasing, he doesn't know which one it is that is going to crush him, so how is he going to stop himself being defeated. He comes up with a brilliant scheme. Knowing that God had said a human being is going to be the means by which he was to be defeated; he set out to pollute the human race.

He decided that he would infiltrate it, so that no such thing as an *ordinary* human being existed anymore.

If he could achieve *that*, no-one could bring forth the Messiah.

A brilliant plan; a cunning plan. But he only obtained partial success.

In **Genesis 6** you see the pollution of the earth by the agents of Satan. The fallen ones – Nephilim – the fallen angels.

Now you understand why they were such ruthless, vicious, strong and powerful, people and why they were called 'the fallen' or 'cast down' ones, these are the fallen angels who followed Satan when he rebelled against God. **Revelation 12:4** and we see that a third of the angels chose to follow Satan when he fell; a little mathematics shows us that there are still 2/3rds who are on our side.

Starting from verse 1 then, the daughters referred to here are ordinary human beings. The 'sons of God' are angels - we know that because the Hebrew word for demonic beings is '*bene ha Elohim*' and that exact phrase is used only five times in the Bible, it's used here twice and in three other places. The other three places it is used it is *always* in connection with angels without exception. Let's just look -

Job 1:6

*"Now there was a day when the **sons of God** came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them."*

Bene ha Elohim and Satan with them – a gathering of the angels.

Job 2:1

*“¹Again there was a day when the **sons of God** came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them to present himself before the Lord.”*

Again we find the same phrase, again a collection of angels.

Job 38:7

*“⁷When the morning stars sang together, and all the **sons of God** shouted for joy?”*

The same phrase again - referring to the angels.

There are other times when *people* are referred to as the son or sons of God, but none of these refer to angelic beings. For instance, Adam is called the son of God, as is Israel, and Jesus Himself, but these references are specifically to ‘*bene ha Elohim*’ – angelic beings – and fallen ones at that.

This was the most devilish attack on the line of Jesus that was ever made, and God looks down and sees that mutants are coming forth - babies were being born half human and half demon. His Son Jesus could not come forth from that and so God says, *“I’ll put a time limit on how long before I move.”*

And He gives the people time to stop this relationship between angels and humans - 120 years to repent before He judged – that does **not** mean as some have said that man’s lifespan was 120 years, that was the period of **grace** God gave before He brought judgement. So -

*“⁴The **Nephilim** (giants) were 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.”*

If you look at Greek mythology, without exception they had a *mother* who was a human, and a *father* who was a ‘god’.

This is where it comes from; these ‘men of renown’ these mythological characters, were the giants of **Genesis 6**. Hercules, Orpheus and the like, had their seed of fact in **Genesis 6**. These are the giants, and they were real.

Notice too that they were also on the earth **after** the flood – Goliath was born **after** the flood.

To find confirmation of all this we have got to understand something about angels, and we have to look to the New Testament for that.

We know really very little about angels, except that they are normally invisible, but they are able to appear in a physical form. Remember Satan appeared as a serpent in Eden, we have to conclude that was because he could form himself into a serpent or anything else that took his fancy. We can also see angels depicted as flames of fire, sometimes as clouds, and **Hebrews 13:1** says definitely that people *“have entertained angels unawares”* - so be open!

Remember too, that Lot took in two men and *they* were angels...the interesting thing is that when angels appear they **always** appear in male form, never as females.

So, let's have a look in the New Testament and see what we can find -

1 Peter 3:18-20 NASB

"¹⁸For Christ also died for sins once for all the just for the unjust, in order that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit; ¹⁹in which He also went and made proclamation to the spirits now in prison, ²⁰who were disobedient, when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through the water."

In **verse 19** the spirits he is referring to are angels who were disobedient in the days of Noah – those which polluted and infiltrated humanity in Genesis 6, remember their main aim was to stop Jesus coming.

So why was Jesus down *there* preaching or proclaiming to the spirits in prison – the word incidentally is 'caruso' – which means to proclaim a victory.

He was there to let them know that He was the one they tried to stop coming. I imagine He said something like *"I've just called in to tell you, you lost!"*

If you remember when we looked at what happens when a person dies, the place they were held in was **Tartarus**; they are still there to this day, awaiting judgement at the Great White Throne and then the Lake of Fire - there's absolutely no way out for them.

These verses are proof to us that these really **were** angels who mated with human women and brought forth half human half demonic offspring and which are now held awaiting judgement. More proof in -

2 Peter 2:4, 5 NASB

"⁴For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell (that simply means the unseen state) and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgement; ⁵and did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly;"

There it is again; He did not spare the angels.

And the last passage, you probably can guess where I am going now –

Jude 6,7 NASB

*"⁶And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for judgement of the great day. ⁷Just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them, since they in the same way as these indulged in gross immorality and went after **strange flesh**, are exhibited as an example, in undergoing the punishment of eternal fire."*

God is dealing here with apostate and rebellious individuals.

In these two verses you have angels mentioned and Sodom and Gomorrah mentioned at the same time – what was the sin of Sodom and Gomorrah? The sin of Sodom and Gomorrah was the ‘abomination’ called homosexuality.

As far as God is concerned, every time His created order is violated it is an abomination to Him, so angels mating with humans is an abomination, humans having sexual relations with an animal – bestiality - is an abomination; likewise men with men and women with women – all these are an abomination in God’s sight.

An abomination is any sin which mixes up men and women, animals and angels, anywhere the categories God created, are mixed up.

The expression ‘*strange flesh*’ is where in Sodom and Gomorrah the men wanted to have sexual relations with the angels Lot had taken in – you remember that of course – so the sin was men wanting to have sex with angels, and this is the sin of these angels in **Genesis 6** they actually mixed up the categories and started co-habiting with humans.

In **verse 6**, ‘*their own domain*’, in some versions it says ‘*their first estate*’. This refers to their *spiritual* bodies. In those bodies they do not marry, they do not have sexual relationships and therefore no children. But Jude shows us that they left the realm of having a spiritual body and they short-circuited themselves to appear as human men and left their spiritual state and they became permanently in a human, male body; they misused the ability they had to appear in human form; everything Satan does is a perversion or a counterfeit of what God does; he can create nothing; he is a created being.

The next word which is most interesting is the one that says they ‘*abandoned their proper abode*’, or in the King James, they ‘*kept not their own habitation*’.

This is a very interesting Greek word ‘*oiketerion*’.

The interesting thing is it is only used twice in the New Testament. Here and in one other passage. The modern translations are all very well but when you are *really* studying, you need to go back to the King James Version because most of the major concordances were compiled from this and the modern translations lose the real meaning sometimes.

Oiketerion’ is an old fashioned word for a house, a place to live; it is in the other verse where it is used that we learn more about it –

2 Corinthians 5:1,2

*“¹For if this earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. ²For indeed in this house we groan; longing to be clothed with our **dwelling** from heaven;”*

The word ‘dwelling’ there is ‘*oiketerion*’, our habitation, from heaven.

The word ‘*oiketerion*’ talks about the form in which you live, your body; so when it talks about the angels ‘*leaving their habitation*’, it is saying, they left their angelic form and exchanged it for a human form.

They had a spiritual body, and they changed it into a physical body.

They went in the opposite direction to us, we're in a physical body and we're going to go into a resurrection body. That's just an interesting bit of information, I hope you enjoyed it, I love such things.

We must examine everything, so I want to turn to a scripture that is found in Matthew where we see that it says that angels do not have sexual relationships.

We do need to look at all aspects of anything we are studying –

Matthew 22:30

*“³⁰For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are **like the angels in heaven.**”*

In this passage the Sadducees are trying to catch Jesus out; the background is that they did not believe in the resurrection, you can see this from the verses preceding verse 30, and they were constantly at loggerheads with the Pharisees who did.

The main thing being talked about here is human beings in their resurrection body – when we get that body, there is a change: we will no longer be sexual beings, we won't be married to anyone, other than Jesus, and there will be no resurrection babies.

The point here is that in your spiritual body, which is your resurrection body, you will be like the angels who also have a spiritual body – that body will be able to pass through walls just like Jesus did when He appeared to the 12 in the upper room – it will be totally different from the flesh and blood one you have right now.

So what Jesus is saying here is that angels don't marry in their spiritual bodies, and they don't have baby angels. This is a parallelism. The angels who fell, remember, **exchanged** their spiritual bodies for physical ones, they short-circuited themselves in an effort to pollute mankind and stop Jesus coming through a woman.

So, the fallen angels became *sexual* beings and were able to have children, they shouldn't have done, God didn't want them to, but that's what they did and the giants were the result.

This passage doesn't prove that angels can't have children, all it does is shows that it was not God's *intention* that they should, even if they had the ability to do so by becoming human.

In a spiritual body it would not have been possible for them, and it won't be possible for us either. I hope that hasn't confused you, but rather has brought light into what could have been a questionable area for you.

So, we see that it is perfectly possible that angels, when they left their spiritual bodies and appeared in human form, were able to procreate. The result was polluted individuals and God had to destroy them. To finish then, we need to deal with how Goliath came about if all these were killed in the flood.

Genesis 6:4

*“⁴The Nephilim were 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.”*

We know that all of those were destroyed in the flood. This little phrase shows us that **after** the flood there were also appearances of these mutants.

After the flood, Satan tried the same old game again – but unlike before the flood, they didn’t grow at the same rate as before the flood where their multiplication rate was huge. After the flood there was a limitation on them, the giants that were born were very few in number as far as we know. So, there must have been a change from before the flood. Those of you who know your bible will know that before the flood man was not a meat eater, he was what we would call a vegan, he only ate vegetation.

Genesis 1:29

“²⁹I have given you every plant yielding seed on the surface of all the earth, and every tree which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you.”

After the flood, however, God changed the rules and meat was included, provided the blood was drained from it.

Genesis 9:3-5

“³Every moving thing that is alive shall be food for you; I give all to you, as I gave the green plant. ⁴Only you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood. ⁵And surely I will require your lifeblood; from every beast I will require it. And from every man, from every man’s brother I will require the life of man”.

We studied this verse particularly when we looked at capital punishment, but here we need to see it in a different context, God has changed the diet drastically – you can eat meat now - but with certain restrictions.

The important thing to see here, and it probably is the most surprising twist, is what the result was of the blood being drained out of all that meat which was now being eaten.

If you know anything about Old Testament sacrifice, you will know that the **life** is in the blood, and it makes atonement for us.

The effect of the outpouring of all this blood, as the human beings began to eat meat, had a cleansing and sanctifying effect on the earth that the enemy could not gainsay; it foreshadowed the precious blood of the Passover Lamb, Jesus Christ, and Satan and his minions could not stay in a land soaked with blood.

It replicated what had happened in the garden, when God slew an innocent animal immediately after the fall, to cover Adam and Eve with its skin; it was a constant reminder to Satan of what his end would be; and this time, his plan did not work.

I will leave you with this thought, you can come to your own conclusions as you study the word.

As an addendum to this, I would say there is nothing wrong with wanting to be a vegetarian, it is your choice, provided you are not putting your desire for animal welfare above God's – He says it is all right to eat meat, so make sure you are doing it for the right reason, but a return to veganism on a major scale would invite quicker than anything, demonic infiltration on the earth – and there's quite a push in that direction right now...

So, there you have it. I trust you have enjoyed learning about the origins of the giants.

May God bless His word to you all.

Thank you for listening. Amen.

PASSING THE BATON 19 PART 2

Angels

25th October 2008

Introduction:

The aim of every Bible study should be to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ, no matter what subject in the Bible we may be looking at. So, as we are going to look at angels, we must remember that it is Jesus we are going to glorify, not them.

I want to make the point at the start, there is a difference between **Christophanies** or as the Americans call it **Theophanies** and the appearance of angels.

Jesus appeared in the Old Testament many times, but that is not the subject of this study. This study is about angels, and particularly the work of the elect (or believing) angels.

Whenever Jesus appeared, He was called the 'Angel of the Lord,' in capital letters, not an angel – just to make the difference clear.

We may look at the appearances of Jesus before His incarnation at another date, today we are looking at angelic beings, created beings, not the pre-incarnate Christ.

We live in exciting times, the days in which Abraham, Moses, Elijah, the disciples and Paul would have been thrilled to see because the rapture of the church and the Second Coming of Jesus are very close.

In these days we are seeing the ministry of angels again as we approach the time of the end and the catching away of the church. If you are unsure about end time events and chronology, I suggest that you listen to the CD's we have produced on the book of Revelation or come along to the weekend at the end of November; details are on the website www.psalm131.com.

The rapture of the church begins with a trumpet blast from an angel and from that time on maximum angelic intervention begins.

If you read through the book of Revelation you will find the ministry of angels in all sorts of ways. In the Old Testament, before the cross of Jesus at Calvary, angels used to appear many times. They would come with messages and visions and other things.

Today we have the Holy Spirit on the inside of us – He was never indwelling Old Testament believers, He only came upon them for specific functions.

As a result of the work of the Holy Spirit, the intervention of angels here on earth has diminished somewhat.

When the church is removed, they will again be active.

In this study we are going to look at the relationship of angels to the Lord Jesus and what it means to us, as believers.

There are three major forms of creation –

- Angelic beings – God’s highest creation, these were made before the earth was established, they were created before we were.
- Human beings – mankind came next, just lower than the angels, “*you have made him a little lower than the angels*” - as we saw in our first study the order has changed slightly and we will see this again in a moment.
- Animals and plants.

Just to be completely clear –

The original created order was:

God (including Jesus)
Angels (including Satan)
Man
Animals and plants

After Jesus died in His humanity and rose again:

God
Jesus Christ the **Man**
Angels, including Satan
Man
Animals and plants

After Jesus death and resurrection and your rebirth in Him

God
The Man Christ Jesus head of The Church and the Believers, the Body of Christ
Angels and Satan
Unbelievers
Animals and plants

Those are the three categories and the order of importance. We will come back to this again later.

Psalm 8: 1-9

"¹O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is Your name in all the earth, You who set Your glory above the heavens! ²Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have ordained strength, because of Your enemies, that You may silence the enemy and the avenger. ³When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars which You have ordained, ⁴what is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him? ⁵For You have made him a little lower than the angels, and You have crowned him with glory and honour. ⁶You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet, ⁷all sheep and oxen – even the beasts of the field, ⁸the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea that pass through the paths of the seas. ⁹O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is Your name in all the earth!"

There is the order, Jesus is above all creation. The scripture tells us that Jesus made everything and -

Revelation 22:8-9

*"⁸Now I, John, saw and heard these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed me these things. ⁹Then he said to me "See that you do not do that. For I am your **fellow servant**, and those of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God.""*

An angel showed John what was to come, and he fell down to worship the angel.

Understandable mistake, but the angel is quick to say "Not me! **Him!**"

John was so overcome by this heavenly messenger that he forgot the lesson he had already learned because there comes a second time he tries to worship an angel –

Revelation 19:10

"¹⁰And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.""

And the angel says to John, "do not worship me because I am a prophetic angel giving you information about the future – worship Jesus!"

So, no worship of angels please.

There is a really good reason for this.

Behind the sects there is a demonic force at work, and eastern religions have a demonic angel behind them, which - unwittingly - people worship, so God would have us steer well clear of any of this.

This is why it is so very important that we do not get involved with New Age stuff and alternative medicines etc.

Again, there is a teaching on that already and if you are interested, let me know and I will arrange for you to have the material which relates to it.

There are many types of angels found in the Bible, and they are listed because of their job function. I want to look at two categories of angels because all angels fall into one of these two. In this I am not talking about fallen angels, demonic beings, but the **elect** angels of God. The two categories are:

1. Cherubim
2. Seraphim

And by the way the 'im' on the end of the word in Hebrew makes it plural. In the beginning God – Elohim – the plurality of the Trinity. in the same way as we would put an 's' on the end of a word to pluralise it, they put 'im'.

Both cherubim and seraphim have particular jobs to do.

1. **Cherub** – the job of a cherub is to guard the Presence and the holiness of God. You can see why they are higher than mankind. **Genesis 3:22-24.**

*“²²Then the Lord God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever” – ²³Therefore the Lord God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. ²⁴So He drove out the man; and He placed **cherubim** – plural - at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.”*

This is after the fall of man, and in the garden of Eden and until the flood, these **cherubim** guarded the tree of Life which represented salvation. The tree was a picture of the Lord Jesus Himself. As we know eating from the leaves of this tree would have meant that man would live forever in his fallen state and that would have meant that sin would have been in the presence of God forever. To prevent this, the cherubim were sent to guard the holiness and the presence of God from fallen mankind with the flaming sword which flashed back and forth.

Exodus 25:17-22

“¹⁷“You shall make a mercy seat of pure gold; two and a half cubits shall be its length and cubit and a half its width. ¹⁸And you shall make two cherubim of gold; of hammered work you shall make them at the two ends of the mercy seat. ¹⁹Make one cherub at one end, and the other cherub at the other end; you shall make the cherubim at the two ends of it of one piece with the mercy seat. ²⁰And the cherubim shall stretch out their wings above, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and they shall face one another; the faces of the cherubim shall be toward the mercy seat. ²¹You shall put the mercy seat on top of the ark, and in the ark you shall put the Testimony that I will give you. ²²And there I will meet with you, and I will speak with you from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are on the ark of the Testimony, of all things which I will give you in commandment to the children of Israel.””

Here we have the things of the Tabernacle and the Ark of the Covenant or Presence, which again was a picture of the Lord Jesus. The Presence of God. As soon as you find the Presence, you get cherubim. Of course, this was symbolic, but it shows the truth of God in heaven. God would speak to Israel from between the cherubim. So they guard the holiness and Presence of God.

2. **Seraph** – their name means ‘burning one’ and that is a reference to their worship to God. Wouldn’t it be great if every Christian would **burn** with worship to God? The Pentecostals have been called holy rollers, but never holy burners – perhaps the day will come when we will be known as the holy burners? Burning and on fire with zeal for God and with the Presence of God.

So, seraphim worshipped God, but they also **purified** the servants of God to see this we need to go to the book of **Isaiah 6:1-7** –

¹In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. ²Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. ³And one cried to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!” ⁴And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke. ⁵Then I said “Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts.” ⁶Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal which he had taken with the tongs from the altar. ⁷And he touched my mouth with it, and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; your iniquity is taken away, and your sin is atoned for”.’

So, the seraphim’s ministry had to do with worship and purification.

Those are the two main categories.

Archangels:

Before the fall the highest of the cherubim was an archangel called Lucifer, the shining one, light bearer, or morning star. The day came when Lucifer fell from the presence of God. Lucifer was there to look after the holiness of the Lord Jesus until he decided he was going to be higher than Jesus. He wanted the worship and adoration that was due only to Jesus Himself. At that moment, he fell, and he took a third of the angels with him. As a result we now have a division between –

- The elect angels – two thirds still loyal to Jesus
- The fallen angels – one third made the wrong choice and followed Lucifer, Satan or the devil, in his rebellion.

Ezekiel 28:14

¹⁴You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; you were on the holy mountain of God; you walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones.”

The 'anointed cherub' means **Messianic cherub**.

Satan's job as Lucifer was to guard the Throne Room of God. He was the highest of God's creation, but he was a cherub, so he is a created being, nonetheless.

Because Satan is a created being and a cherub, he does not like that kind of information about him being known. So what has he done? He has taken everything about cherubs and made them farcical.

When you speak of cherubs you imagine little babes with a bit of ribbon strategically placed around their tum – most people's picture of them is a chubby cheeked baby, and a very healthy baby at that, with a bow and arrow and the ubiquitous ribbon.

So if he can make himself out to be farcical, he becomes – unbelievable, and certainly not a threat.

That shows the brilliance of Satan, his intelligence.

This is why most people today, including some in church, do not believe he exists because of all the caricatures of him.

His second line of defence is the character in a red suit with two horns, a tail and pitchfork.

No-one believes this.

And as we know Satan is nothing like this; he is the most beautiful of God's angelic creation and we are told, "*masquerades as an angel of light*".

So, to the world at large he is a figure of fun; he isn't believed and that is just how he likes it.

From there, he goes forth to deceive the nations.

I often hear people in the church talk as though there is contest going on between the devil on the one hand and God on the other.

Beloved, this is just not the case. Here are just three reasons -

1. God is omnipotent:

I do want to make the point that there is never, ever - and never has been - a contest between God and Satan. Satan is a *created* being; God is the Creator. God is all powerful. Omnipotent. In fact the first name by which we know we know Him is in **Genesis 1:1** '*In the beginning – God*'. The word here is Elohim – plural – the most powerful of all the powerful ones. That is what Elohim means. So, there is no contest. Satan can do nothing without God's expressed permission, and he is nowhere near as powerful as God, he is only a cherub, a powerful cherub, but a cherub nonetheless, part of God's created order.

2. God is omniscient:

God knows everything. Angels do not and neither does Satan. **1 Peter 1:12** –

“¹²To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven – things which angels desire to look into.”

Angels are *limited* in their knowledge and Satan is an angel and therefore his knowledge has limits.

God knows everything, including what Satan is planning. That is why we have such a tremendous victory nothing can come at us except God allows it, and if He allows it, it is for our good. Brilliant. Heads we win, tails we win.

If you want a scripture for that **2 Chronicles 20:16** and here we have Jehoshaphat needing a little help – which God is more than happy to provide when they express their total dependence upon Him.

“¹⁶Tomorrow go down against them. They will surely come up by the ascent of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the brook before the Wilderness of Jeruel.”

So, God is omniscient, angels are not.

3. God is omnipresent:

God is everywhere at once. Omnipresent.

Satan can only be in one place at one time. That is why if two people say Satan is after them, one of them has to be wrong! In fact they are both wrong. Satan’s main role is to accuse believers before God and if he is there, he cannot be here. What is happening is that some of his troops are out on the job.

Daniel 10:10-13

*“¹⁰Then, suddenly, a hand touched me, which made me tremble on my knees and on the palms of my hands. ¹¹And he said to me, “O Daniel, man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for I have now been sent to you”. While he was speaking this word to me, I stood trembling. ¹²Then he 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. ¹³But the **prince** of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, (or the Archangel) came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia.””*

And Daniel is awaiting an answer to prayer. If angels could be everywhere at once, he wouldn’t have had to wait! We know from **Daniel 9:21** –

“²¹Yes, while I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, reached me about the time of the evening offering.”

This angel was Gabriel himself. Notice that this high-ranking angel, Gabriel, the Messenger, has need of assistance from Michael, who is the Archangel covering the nation

of Israel and that he had been “*left alone there with the kings of Persia*”, there is a plural there – he was warring alone with a whole gang of Satan’s army to get to Daniel with the answer to his prayer.

So, angels are not omnipresent.

You can also see references in the Old Testament to the ministry of angels in the following scriptures:

Daniel 7:16-27, Daniel 8:16-26, Daniel 9:20-27 – mostly it is Gabriel, the messenger angel who appears in these scriptures. Michael is the Archangel over Israel, as is apparent from the scripture in Daniel.

Zechariah 1:9, Zechariah 2:3,4, Zechariah 4:1,5, Zechariah 5:5, and Zechariah 6:4,5.

In the New Testament:

Matthew 1:20,21.

Luke 1:11 – 20, Luke 1:26 – 38.

It is a really interesting study if you have time.

There was a time when the angels were around before the earth was created, they didn’t know there was going to be an earth – they were occupied with worshipping in the Throne Room of God.

Then the earth was formed.

Job 38:4-7 – God is answering Job by asking him a question or two -

*⁴ “Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me if you have understanding. ⁵Who determined its measurements? Surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? ⁶To what were its foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone, ⁷when the morning stars sang together, and all the **sons of God** shouted for joy?”*

This phrase ‘**the sons of God**’ is a technical term for the angels. There are many things they do but they are rarely seen –

2 Kings 6:17-18

¹⁷And Elisha prayed, and said, “Lord, I pray, open his eyes that he may see”. Then the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. ¹⁸So when the Syrians came down to him, Elisha prayed to the Lord, and said “Strike this people, I pray, with blindness.” And He struck them with blindness according to the word of Elisha.”

We know from the previous **verses 8-12**, that by the Spirit, Elisha was receiving the Syrian war plan.

Time and again the king of Syria made his plans against Israel, but the Spirit of God told Elisha everything. That is a word of knowledge in full swing!

Elisha knew the presence of angels as well; they were used to provide protection around the man of God, and God showed Gehazi, the servant, what Elisha saw all the time.

Every nation has an angel protecting them - a well-known one is Michael who protects Israel

Daniel 12:1, talking of the time of Great Trouble, or Tribulation, that is to come upon the nation of Israel -

*"¹At that time **Michael** shall stand up, the great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, every one who is found written in the book."*

In **Jude 9** we find a dispute between Michael the Archangel and Satan, the fallen archangel, over the body of Moses.

"⁹Yet Michael the archangel, in arguing with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!""

Moses died and God hid the body.

He has good reasons for this.

Could it be because Moses is coming back again on the earth and God did not want Satan knowing his whereabouts until the time comes?

Just conjecture.

Revelation 11:1-6

"¹Then I was given a reed like a measuring rod. And the angel stood, saying, "Rise and measure the temple of God, the altar, and those who worship there. ²But leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles. And they will tread the holy city underfoot for forty-two months. ³And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth". ⁴These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth. ⁵And if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies. And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this manner. ⁶These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire."

During the tribulation period that is coming on the earth to test everyone who is on the earth, Moses and Elijah will be the witnesses to the Jews in Jerusalem. So, the body of Moses is needed, God Himself took charge of it, and hid it.

A very familiar account of angels is found in

Luke 1:19,26 both times we see it is Gabriel the Messenger –

*"¹⁹The angel answered and said to him "I am **Gabriel**, who stands in the presence of God, and was sent to speak to you and bring you these glad tidings."*

Luke 1:26

*“²⁶Now in the sixth month the angel **Gabriel** was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth.”*

Here we have Gabriel, the Messenger again, coming with a message to Mary.

When Jesus was born, the angels would have been looking and wondering what was going on and Satan would have thought – what is happening now?

Only the angels would have seen Jesus blowing bubbles in His cot at the same time as He held the universe together. That is the greatness of our God.

Luke 2:8-12

“⁸Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. ¹⁰Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. ¹¹For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger”.”

The angels then are not omniscient, they are not all knowing. But they are all Bible students and Satan knows the Bible better than some of us.

He knew Messiah would come, but he didn't know Who He was. He knew from the book of Daniel, which we studied recently in Daniel's 70 weeks, when Jesus was coming and from

Revelation 12:1-4, we see his plot to remove the man child -

“¹Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars. ²Then being with child, she cried in labour and in pain to give birth. ³And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery, red dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born.”

We know that he has been trying to get rid of the One who would bruise his head since the garden. Again, we covered some of this in the recent study on Revelation.

Jesus was taken into Egypt **Matthew 2:13**, again an angel is the messenger –

“¹³Now when they had departed, behold an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying “Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him”.”

And the word of God wrote about it before it all happened.

Hosea 11:1

“¹When Israel was a child I loved him, and out of Egypt I called My son.”

Angels were used to tell people that Jesus had risen –

Luke 24:1-6

"¹Now on the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they, and certain other women with them, came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared. ²But they found the stone rolled away from the tomb. ³Then they went in and did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴And it happened, as they were greatly perplexed about this, that behold, two men stood by them in shining garments. ⁵Then, as they were afraid and bowed their faces to the earth, they said to them "Why do you seek the living among the dead? ⁶He is not here, but is risen! Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee."

Jesus had risen, and as a result of His resurrection, the order of things has changed. Before we had –

1. God and Jesus
2. Angels elect and fallen
3. Mankind
4. Animals and plants

Now we have a new order of things and this applies to every believer:

1. God, including Jesus
2. Born again believers - in Jesus – seated in heavenly places in Christ.
3. Angels, including the fallen ones and Satan himself.
4. Fallen mankind
5. Animals and plants.

That is why the Bible tells us that we are seated in heavenly places, in Christ. Far above all principalities and powers. We are with Jesus positionally, Satan is under our feet, glory to God, we must start living from the place that Jesus died to give us. If you want more about this, please request the notes or CD's from the recent weekend school, *'Conformed to His image'*.

With all that under our belts we can look at a lovely scripture in

Hebrews 1:7, 14

"⁷And of the angels He says: Who makes His angels spirits and His ministers a flame of fire.' And - ¹⁴Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?"

Who inherits salvation? We do, and the angels are there to minister to us – all of us have guardian angels – they are real.

Angels will be used to blow trumpets to signify the catching away of the church.

1 Thessalonians 4:16.

Angels also talked about the ascension of Jesus in **Acts 1:9-11** – I'll let you look those up.

Ephesians 3:9-11 – the angels are still looking at us and every time a person is saved, the angels leap up and down, but there is one who leaps higher than them – there is joy **in the presence** of the angels at every sinner who repents – Who is in the presence of the angels? Jesus Himself. He leaps higher than anyone else, seeing the travail of His soul. **Luke 15:10.**

Finally, consider this.

We have a responsibility to live and be as God want us to be because every time we rebel we give the fallen angels an opportunity to point the finger at us.

Every time we rebel, we covenant, or agree, with Satan and not with God.

We must live a life that functions as God wants it to and give **no place** at all to the devil.

Let us walk worthy of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

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