

# 1 PETER 3:18-4:6 "CHOOSE YOUR OWN PATH IN LIFE!"

**18** For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit,

- **J.M.E. Ross** wrote that verse 18 is "**one of the shortest and simplest, and yet one of the richest summaries given in the New Testament of the meaning of the Cross of Jesus**" ("The First Epistle of Peter," in *A Devotional Commentary*. London: Religious Tract Society, n.d., pp. 151-52).<sup>1</sup>

**19** by whom also He went and preached to the **spirits in prison**,  
**20** who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while *the* ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water.

- We have to start in Genesis to discover who these "**Spirits in prison**" are:  
**Genesis 6:1-7**

**1** Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them,

**2** that the **sons of God** saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose.

**3** 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."

**4** 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.

**5** 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.

**6** And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.

**7** 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."

- "**Sons**": **ben { bane}** "**sons of God**": **bene elohim**  
AV - son 2978, children 1568, old 135, first 51, man 20, young 18, young + 1241 17, child 10, stranger 10, people 5, misc 92; 4906  
GK - 1201 { ÷Be } & 1217 { wnœB } & 4240 { ÷Bel' }\*<sup>2</sup>
- In fact **bnŌlm** ("sons of the gods") in Ugaritic is used of members of the pantheon as well as great kings of the earth.

n.d. no date

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<sup>1</sup> Walvoord, J. F., Zuck, R. B., & Dallas Theological Seminary. (1983-c1985). *The Bible knowledge commentary : An exposition of the scriptures*. Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

<sup>2</sup> *Enhanced Strong's Lexicon*, (Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.) 1995.

- In the Ugaritic legend of the Dawn, the chief god of the pantheon, El, seduced two human women. This union of a god with human women produced Sōh\ʾr (“Dawn”) and Sōlm (“Dusk”) who seem to have become goddesses representing Venus.
- Thus for the pagans, gods had their origin in copulation between gods and humans.
- Any superhuman individual in a myth or any mythological or actual giant would suggest a divine origin to the pagans. 3

**"giants":** n<sup>Λ</sup>ephiyl { nef-eel’} or n<sup>Λ</sup>ephil { nef-eel’}

AV - giant 3; 3

GK - 5872 { μυλιπινὸ }\*

1) giants, the Nephilim 4

**Apocryphal Book Of Enoch:** *"And it came to pass when the children of men had multiplied that in those days were born unto them beautiful and comely daughters. And the angels, the children of heaven, saw and lusted after them, and said to one another: 'Come, let us choose us wives from among the children of men and beget children.' . . . They were in all two hundred. . . . [They] took unto themselves wives, and each chose for himself one, and they began to go into them and to defile themselves with them, and they taught them charms and enchantments. . . . And they became pregnant, and they bare great giants, whose height was three thousand ells. . . . And there arose much godlessness, and they committed fornication, and they were led astray, and became corrupt in all their ways."*

**Genesis 6:4** 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.

- There were a number of tribes after the flood such as the Rephaim, the Emim, the Horim, and Zamsummim, that were giants. (Genesis 14:5; 15:20; Deuteronomy 2:10-12, 22)
- The kingdom of Og, the King of Bashan, was the "land of the giants." (Deuteronomy 3:11, 13; Joshua 12:4;13:12.)
- Later, we also find Arba, Anak, and his seven sons (the "Anakim") also as giants, along with the famed Goliath and his four brothers. (Joshua 14:15; 15:13; 21:11; 1 Samuel 17:4ff.; 2 Samuel 21:16-22)
- When Moses sent his twelve spies to reconnoiter the Land of Canaan, they came back with the report of giants in the land. (The term used was *Nephilim*.)

3Walvoord, John F., and Zuck, Roy B., *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, (Wheaton, Illinois: Scripture Press Publications, Inc.) 1983, 1985.

4Enhanced Strong's Lexicon, (Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.) 1995.

- Their fear of those terrifying creatures resulted in their being relegated to wandering in the wilderness for 38 years.
- When Joshua and the nation Israel later entered the land of Canaan, they were instructed to wipe out every man, woman and child of certain tribes. That strikes us as disturbingly severe. It would seem that in the Land of Canaan, there again was a "gene pool problem." (Joshua 6:21; 9:24; 10:28, 39; 11:24; Deut 2:34; 7:2, 3; 20:16-17; et al. Cf. 1 Sam 15:3, 8, 18, 19; Ps 137:8, 9.)

- Jesus' warning concerning the days near His return to earth:

**Luke 17:26-30**

**26 And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man:**

**27** They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all.

**28** Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built;

**29** but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed *them* all.

**30 Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed.**

- Could this mean a return to the earth of Giants?
- **Nebuchadnezzar's disturbing dream (Daniel 2)**  
**Daniel 2:43 (AV)** And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay.
- Chuck Missler:
  - *As he switches to a personal pronoun, they, "shall mingle themselves with the seed of men..."*
  - *This is extremely suggestive when viewed in light of the warning of our Lord in Luke 17:26, ostensibly directing us to look more closely at Genesis 6.*
  - *Just what (or who) are "mingling with the seed of men?" These would seem to refer to some beings who are not the seed of men themselves!*
  - *Could this be a hint of a return to the mischief of Genesis 6? It staggers the mind to consider the potential significance of Daniel's passage and its implications for the future global governance.*
- **There is more than just Satan locked up in this spirit prison:**  
**Jude 6** 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;

- **Satan and his demons horde will be released from this prison at the end of Christ's millennial reign.**

**Revelation 20:4-10**

4And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received *his* mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

5But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This *is* the first resurrection.

6Blessed and holy *is* he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.

**7 Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison**

**8 and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number *is* as the sand of the sea.**

9They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them.

10The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet *are*. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

- **Will these returning demonic angels once again have relations with the daughters of men as before the flood?**
  - **A new race of giants?**
  - **Super-beings with mythological abilities?**
- **Basically 2 views of "sons of God" (*bene elohim*)**
  1. Sons of Seth (the righteous line) marrying unsaved, wicked Canaanite daughters (the unrighteous line).
  2. **Wicked and fallen angelic beings of some kind who committed immoral and unnatural physical acts with women in general.**
    - Humans never get the gospel preached to them after they die - and there would be no special message from Christ for one generation.
    - No special prison for humans who sinned in Noah's day and another prison for all other human beings who have sinned.
    - Greek word for **"preached"** (*kerusso*, **1 Peter 3**) meaning to proclaim as a public crier, or to announce something - good or bad.
      - Greek word for **"preached"** (*evangelizo*) - glad tidings - refers to a salvation message being proclaimed.

- Hebrew phrase "**bene elohim**" always refers to angels in the O.T.
- The Septuagint translates Genesis 6:2 as "the angels of God"
- N.T. applications support angelic applications. (see above)
- **2 kinds of fallen angels** exist in Scripture:
  1. **Unchained** - that now have access to the high places of God and the bodies of unsaved man.  
*Ephesians 6:12* 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.
  2. **Chained** - presently incarcerated in the Abyss, "**Tartarus**"
    - Their reason for being chained is an obvious connection with events surrounding pre-flood sins of fornication.
    - "disobedience" - 1 Peter 3:19-20
    - "sinned" - 2 Peter 2:4

- **God has a plan for these demonic angels and a plan for you as well:**

**2 Peter 2:4-10**

4For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast *them* down to hell and delivered *them* into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment;  
 5and 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;  
 6and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned *them* to destruction, making *them* an example to those who afterward would live ungodly;  
 7and delivered righteous Lot, *who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked*  
 8(for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented *his* righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing *their* lawless deeds)—  
 9then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment,  
 10and especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority. *They are* presumptuous, self-willed. They are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries,

**21** There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

**22** who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him.

- **Baptism pictures the old life being flooded away.**

**Philippians 3:12-14**

**12** Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.

**13** Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; **but one thing I do,**

**forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead,**

**14 I press toward the goal** for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

**1** Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,

**2** that he no longer should live the rest of *his* time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.

**3 For we have spent enough** of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles—when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries.

**4** In regard to these, **they think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation,** speaking evil of *you*.

**5** They will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

**6** For this reason the gospel was preached also to those who are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.

- I have had enough! How about you?
  - I've spent enough time in the past doing what others told me was "cool."
  - Now I'm old enough, and wise enough to choose my own paths in life.
- Ever had a friend that spoke of you as weird or "pious" because you wouldn't do what they wanted to do?
- **All those "cool" people will give an account of their lives one day!**  
**Romans 14:12** So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.