

The Nephilim of The Old Testament: Who Are They, What Are They Doing, & Why?

By [Josh Peck](#)

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By [Josh Peck](#) In light of growing interest concerning the Nephilim of Genesis 6, I decided to share some of my research into the matter. The average reader may have heard of some of the things contained here, but I am willing to bet there are a few things contained that will be new to that vast majority.

This research comes from my book, *Disclosure: Unveiling Our Role in the Secret War of the Ancients – Updated and Extended*, [available here](#).

We are going to be looking at some things concerning the sixth chapter of Genesis that will lead to various beliefs concerning the end times and supposed alien life-form activity. When we get into such things as aliens and UFOs, there is an almost involuntary sense of skepticism that immediately hits some people, especially us Christians.

I experienced the same thing when I first began to study this. I was brought up with the traditional Christian belief that there is no physical life on other planets and any such evidence saying otherwise is a lie from Satan.

I was taught that aliens do not exist and God did not create intelligent life elsewhere in the universe. I was also taught that the UFOs seen frequently in the sky were just demonic projections and alien entities were just spiritual demons taking form to lie, confuse, and mislead people. I still believe some of these things, in part, only now with a deeper understanding from the Bible.

I am not expecting you to believe everything that is going to be presented in here. I know that most, if not all, will be incredibly difficult to accept and incredibly easy to dismiss. I encourage you to give all of this a chance and test it against scripture. Have an open mind and do your own research into the topic as God leads you. It is important to at least file all of this into your mind and remember it in case these events begin to take place.

Who are the “sons of God”?



I have heard the term “*sons of God*” cause much controversy within the Church. I have heard just about every definition imaginable for this term. I have heard “*sons of God*” called sinful men, descendants of Cain, demons, and even aliens from another planet. This is why I say it is best to compare scripture with scripture.

To understand this viewpoint to the fullest, we must start at the beginning. For that, we go to the Bible. [Genesis 6:1-2](#) reads:

*“And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them, That the **sons of God** saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose.”*

This verse does not directly tell us who the “*sons of God*” are. To define the “*sons of God*”, we must compare scripture with scripture. The term “*sons of God*” is defined for us twice in the book of Job. First we read in [Job 1:6](#):

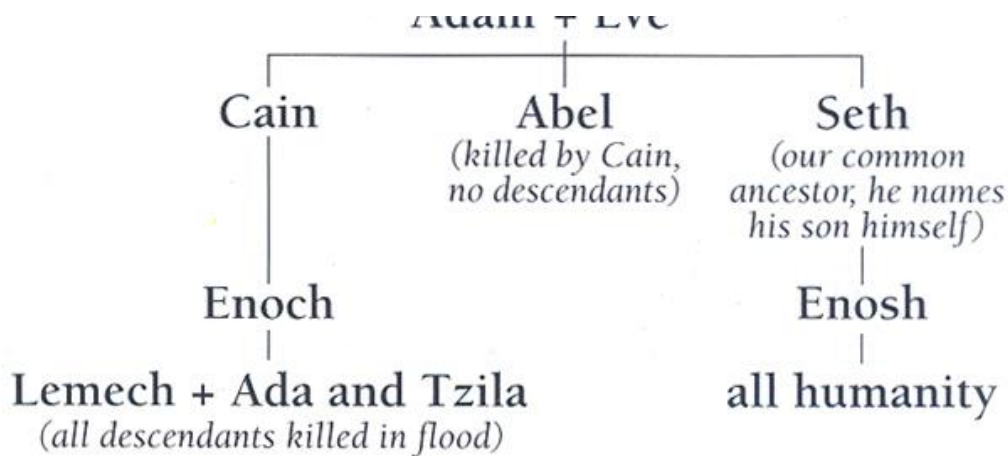
*“NOW THERE WAS A DAY WHEN THE **SONS OF GOD** CAME TO PRESENT THEMSELVES BEFORE THE LORD, AND SATAN CAME ALSO AMONG THEM.”*

Second we read in [Job 38:4-7](#):

*“Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding. Who hath laid the measurements thereof, if thou knowest? Or who hath stretched the line upon it? Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof; When the morning stars sang together, and all the **sons of God** shouted for joy?”*

This is a great example of how we can allow the Bible to define itself for us. Comparing scripture with scripture gives us a clear understanding of who these “*sons of God*” are. They are angels. We know two main things to support this. First is they presented themselves before the Lord. Second is they were present at the creation of the world. This could only mean angels. It doesn’t specify their standing with God, whether good or bad, only what they are.

The Sethite Theory



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There is a misinterpretation of scripture that has been floating around the Church, even to the point that it is being taught in seminaries, that has caused quite a bit of confusion. It is called “*The Sethite Theory*” and I think it bears mentioning. I wasn’t originally planning on writing about this theory but God has laid it on my heart to defend His Word and clear up confusion if at all possible.

I remember when I was first taught this theory. It was before I knew anything about the Nephilim or the pre-flood world. It was before I had any real scriptural backing of my own to base my beliefs on. I had a limited understanding of fallen angels and what actually caused the flood. I was under the impression that angels were nothing but ethereal beings with no physicality whatsoever.

I could not understand how an ethereal being could impregnate a physical woman so I began asking around to find the truth. The problem was I was relying on other people for my answer instead of bringing it up directly with God. When you leave God out of the interpretation process, you get misinterpretations such as what was given to me in the form of “*The Sethite Theory*”.

There are many variations but the theory basically states that the “*sons of God*” mentioned in [Genesis 6:2](#) were not angels but were the male descendants of Seth. The “*daughters of men*” mentioned in the same verse were the ungodly female descendants of Cain.

The theory states that descendants of Seth mated with the descendants of Cain and produced the “giants”. There is disagreement as to what “giant” means within people who subscribe to this theory. Some believe it means actual giants while others believe it means just mighty human warriors. Some even believe it means evil offspring connected to the term “seed of Satan”, referenced from [Genesis 3:15](#). The truth is, as we will discuss later, that it’s a bit of all three.

The problem with this theory is it is completely unbiblical. To make the Sethite theory fit, one would have to completely twist the scriptures, even in the original Hebrew, that define angels ([Job 38:4-7](#)), giants ([Genesis 6:2-4](#)), and man ([Genesis 6:1-7](#)). The Sethite theory just does not add up when it is compared to the rest of the Bible without completely rewriting the scriptures themselves.

This is dangerous because it keeps the believer away from the truth. It can make a believer look for the wrong thing in people by trying to find out who is a descendant of the mating between Cain and Seth’s line instead of looking at their heart and discerning their spirit. It can even lead to the believer lifting the Sethite theory over the validity of the Bible itself.

Giants (Nephilim)



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When we look to the Genesis 6 account, we find that it was angels who saw the daughters of men and took them for wives. Shortly after in [Genesis 6:4](#) we read:

“THERE WERE GIANTS IN THE EARTH IN THOSE DAYS; AND ALSO AFTER THAT, WHEN THE SONS OF GOD CAME IN UNTO THE DAUGHTERS OF MEN, AND THEY BARE CHILDREN TO THEM, THE SAME BECAME MIGHTY MEN WHICH WERE OF OLD, MEN OF RENOWN.”

The word “giants” is translated from the Hebrew word “*nepil*”, meaning “bully” or “tyrant”, which comes from the word “*napal*”, meaning “to fall”. [Isaiah 14:12](#) uses the same word “*napal*” for our English word “fallen” to describe Satan.

A common word used today for these fallen tyrants, or giants, is “*Nephilim*”. There have been some arguments and word studies concerning this term and, though I will refer to the giants as Nephilim, just keep in mind that according to the Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance, the actual Hebrew word is “*nepil*” which comes from the word “*napal*”.

Admitting and acknowledging that fact, referring to them as the Nephilim should be no problem and should not be a source of confusion. “*Nephilim*” is just the plural term, just like “*cherubim*” is the plural form of “*cherub*”. The NIV (New International Version) Bible refers to these beings as “*Nephilim*”, whereas the KJV (King James Version) Bible refers to them as “giants”. Though I am quoting from the KJV, it should not be a problem to refer to these beings by using the word “*Nephilim*”.

An interesting fact to know is the definition of the Hebrew word “*napal*” which is “to fall” and can also mean “cast down, die, fall, fallen, inferior, be lost, perish, rot, throw down” among other things. The Nephilim were fallen, inferior, and lost beings that perished with no hope of salvation.

They were not fallen in the sense that the angels who created them were fallen. The angels once had a high estate in Heaven, disobeyed God, and then *became* fallen. The Nephilim, on the other hand, were fallen right from the start. They were always known as the Nephilim, even from the time they were first born. They were not men that were first created with a hope at redemption. They were born fallen. They were made to perish. In a spiritual sense, they were dead upon creation.

While this may seem harsh at first glance, we need to be aware of what actually happened and what we are dealing with here. When God created Adam, the first man, He breathed into him the breath of life and Adam became a living soul ([Genesis 2:7](#)). Since then, every descendant of Adam has had this spiritual component to their physiology, called a soul, passed on to them. Clearly, this did not happen with the Nephilim.

The Nephilim were something that was never supposed to be created. Given the Hebrew definition of their name, we can see that God did not bless these creatures with the breath of life or a living soul. They were in no sense children of God. They were children of the fallen angels. This begs the question, if the Nephilim did not have the breath of life or a living soul, what did they have?

To answer this question based solely on the Bible, the best we can really do is make informed speculations while admitting it is not completely and biblically provable. We can look at the fact that when a man and a woman make a baby, God blesses that baby with life and a soul.

This is either passed down from Adam or is directly done by God every time a baby is born. I believe, given other biblical examples of things passed down from Adam (sin, genetics, all aspects of human biology, etc.), that the breath of life and the human soul are passed down from the mother and father coming together as one.

In either case, something quite different would happen with an angel and a human offspring. Based on the Hebrew definition, the angel/human hybrid, known as the Nephilim, would not have the breath of life or a living soul as humans do. The Nephilim soul would not be created by God. It would be created by the soul and breath of life of a human combining with whatever an angel has.

This may have been accidental or it may have been done on purpose. The fallen angels may have wanted to create something in their own image. For everything God has, Satan has an evil duplicate or shadow. The fallen angels may have been jealous of God's creation of man and may have decided to create something of their own. This is the belief I tend to lean toward.

The main problem would have been the spiritual part of the angel mixing with the soul of a human. The result would be some sort of abomination that would be halfway between human and angel. It would be enough to give the Nephilim physical life but not enough to carry them on into eternity with God in Heaven. Because of this, the Nephilim would have not had the ability to be a child of God and would have only known rebellion against God. This theory lines up with scripture when you compare it with how the Nephilim are described in the Bible.

There is one more speculation that is interesting to think about. If the Nephilim soul did not have the ability to have eternal life and was dead upon creation, what would happen to the souls when the Nephilim died? It is possible that what we know today as "demons" are actually the disembodied spirits of the dead Nephilim.

If the souls and spirits of the Nephilim were not created by God and could not achieve eternal life, there would be nowhere else to go when it died. According to scripture, the souls and spirits of dead Nephilim would not initially go to Hell upon death before the resurrection and judgment. Speaking of unsaved people at the judgment, Jesus states in [Matthew 25:4](#):

"THEN SHALL HE SAY ALSO UNTO THEM ON THE LEFT HAND, DEPART FROM ME, YE CURSED, INTO EVERLASTING FIRE, PREPARED FOR THE DEVIL AND HIS ANGELS:"

Though unsaved humans take part as well, Hell was originally created for the devil and his angels. This would suggest that the dead Nephilim would be cursed to remain on the Earth until the judgment. They would be what we refer to today as “demons”. Since angels do not die, however, the fallen angels would continue to exist with Satan who reigns as the prince of the power of the air until the judgment ([Ephesians 2:2](#)). This shows that demons and fallen angels are different altogether.

This is just speculation, but look at the nature of demons compared to fallen angels. It is well documented in the Bible that demons (or devils, unclean spirits, etc.) like to possess people and take control of their physical bodies if they can. Fallen angels, on the other hand, have a type of physical body that is far superior to our human bodies, as we will discover a little later in this chapter.

This would seem to mean that fallen angels would have no immediate need for a physical human body. Of course, there are certain exceptions to this made in special circumstances, such as Satan possessing the body of Judas, but we do not see this as typically as we do with demons. If demons are the disembodied spirits of the Nephilim, it would explain why they would want to possess humans in the first place.

Also, before the account of the flood in Genesis, there is no mention of devils or evil spirits of any kind. There is only mention of fallen angels, Heavenly angels, and man. The Bible is not directly clear about what exactly evil spirits are and where they come from but, one thing that is clear, there are different Hebrew words used to differentiate evil spirits from fallen angels.

If demons and fallen angels are different, as the Hebrew language seems to indicate, there would be nothing else for demons to actually be other than spirits of dead Nephilim. Again, this is just speculation but with as strictly descriptive and disciplined of a language as Hebrew is, I believe the same word would have been used to describe both if evil spirits were actually fallen angels. Though, as I said before, this is only a theory.

The Bodies of Fallen Angels



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So now we know that when the fallen angels married human women, the Nephilim were born. From the descriptions given to us in the Bible, such as in Genesis and the story of Goliath among others, we learn that these Nephilim were giants, exceedingly strong, and barbaric.

The fallen angels who committed this act that led to the creation of the Nephilim were in direct violation of God's law. We read about it in the Genesis 6 account, but there is also a familiar verse in the New Testament that may help shed more light to how unacceptable this was to God. Speaking of people at the resurrection, Jesus says in [Matthew 22:30](#):

“FOR IN THE RESURRECTION THEY NEITHER MARRY, NOR ARE GIVEN IN MARRIAGE, BUT ARE AS THE ANGELS OF GOD IN HEAVEN.”

There is a common misconception regarding this verse. Usually when this verse is quoted or explained, the last part saying “...of God in heaven” is left out. This verse is sometimes used to say that all angels in existence have never and will never take part in marriage. Such a statement is a mistake and a misinterpretation.

This verse is explaining an attribute of only “the angels of God in heaven” and not every angel. The angels that took part in the unholy union with human women are not angels of God nor reside in Heaven anymore. The angels that are in Heaven have never committed this terrible sin. In ages past, when certain angels decided to marry women and have children, they fell from Heaven and thus became what we refer to as “fallen angels”. We can read more about this in [Jude 1:6-8](#). It reads:

“And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day. Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire. Likewise also these filthy dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities.”

There are a lot of interesting things in this passage. At first read, we learn about the fallen angels and how their sin of mating with humans, or *“going after strange flesh”* compared with Sodom and Gomorrha, resulted in God locking them in chains until the judgment when they will suffer the *“vengeance of eternal fire”*. The basic understanding of this passage gives us some interesting descriptions, but when we look at the Greek words used, we gain a much deeper insight to what is being said.

We can start at the beginning with the words *“first estate”*. The word *“first”* comes from the Greek word *“arche”* meaning a high rank, such as to be first in position of political power. The word *“estate”* comes from the Greek word *“peri”* which can basically mean a locality. From this we learn that the angels did not keep their highest ranking location. The highest ranking location an angel can have, or exist in, is Heaven. The angels left Heaven.

Now, let’s look at the next part of the verse, *“...but left their own habitation...”*. The word *“habitation”* comes from the Greek word *“oiketerion”* and means a residence, such as a family household. This is saying that certain angels left their heavenly family (God and the other angels) in Heaven which was their home.

These angels forsook God and the other heavenly hosts by leaving Heaven and coming to Earth. Their actions on Earth led to them now being bound in chains and waiting for their judgment of everlasting fire. Also, if we look at [2 Corinthians 5:2](#), Paul is talking about being *“...clothed upon with our house which is from heaven”*.

When you read the entire chapter, it is clear the *“house”* is another word for a body. It is possible that the fallen angels not only forsook God and Heaven, but also forsook their heavenly spiritual bodies for a type of physical body they could use to operate within our physical dimension.

We can see here what actions led to the angels’ judgment. This passage compares what they did to the sins of Sodom and Gomorrha. It says they were *“...giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh...”*. The word *“strange”* comes from the Greek word *“heteros”* meaning *“another, the other, or different”*.

This might be saying that the fallen angels were fornicating with flesh that was different than their own, meaning humans. There are a lot of theories of how this could be possible but apparently the fallen angels have some sort of physical bodies at their disposal.

There are places in the Bible that mention angels with the appearance of men and even having physical attributes. Jacob wrestled with an angel in [Genesis 32:24](#), which I believe was the pre-incarnate Jesus, and even Jesus Himself had a type of physical body after He was resurrected.

So it seems that, at least in some way and some form, some angels can have a type of physical body. It seems that even the fallen angels had this type of physical body and were able to mate with human women.

This body would be different than ours, as we were created lower than the angels ([Hebrews 2:7](#)). The angel's body would be more powerful and able to do things that the human body cannot. The "flesh" of the angel's body would be different than human flesh. I really do not know if "flesh" would even be an appropriate word to describe an angel's body because it is clearly different than the flesh of a human. However, for lack of better word, I will just refer to it as a type of angelic flesh, different than human flesh.

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Generations & Bloodlines



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Going back to where we left off in Genesis, we read in [Genesis 6:9](#)...

“These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God.”

What is interesting here is there are two different Hebrew words used for our English word “generations”. The first time it is used in this verse is the Hebrew word “*toleda*” meaning family descent. The second time the Hebrew word “*dor*” is used, meaning a revolution of time, or an age.

The word “*perfect*” comes from the Hebrew word “*tamim*” and means without blemish, complete, and undefiled. Going back to the Jude passage, the word for “*defiled*” also means corrupt, as in corrupted flesh.

So first [Genesis 6:9](#) makes mention of Noah’s descendants, and next it says he was a just man, then that he was uncorrupted in all his revolution of time. If only Noah was perfect, then by deduction the rest of the world was blemished, or defiled, or corrupted.

In Jude, we learned that the fallen angels corrupted the human flesh by mating with them. It seems [Genesis 6:9](#) is telling us that back in that time Noah and his descendants were the only people in the world that was completely uncorrupted.

The rest of the world was corrupted by mating with the fallen angels and the Nephilim. Noah’s entire bloodline, all the way beginning with Adam, was completely pure and perfect; meaning no one in the bloodline from Adam to Noah had ever mated with a fallen angel or a Nephilim.

Noah’s perfectly human bloodline was the same bloodline that Jesus Christ would be born through. That is why God only saved Noah and his family from the flood. Satan’s plan was to corrupt the bloodline that the Savior would be born through.

Jesus Himself was without blemish so he had to have been born through a perfectly human bloodline. Satan decided to try to corrupt the entire world and knew if he could do that then the Savior could not be born.

Satan was nearly successful until God stepped in, preserved the last uncorrupted bloodline by means of the worldwide flood, and destroyed all corruption Satan had wrought upon the earth.

The Second Influx of Fallen Angels



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This was not the last time Satan tried to corrupt the bloodline of the future Messiah. There are many accounts of giants after the flood as well. One such account can be found in [Numbers 13:33](#), which reads...

“And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.”

Another example can be found in [Amos 2:9](#), which reads...

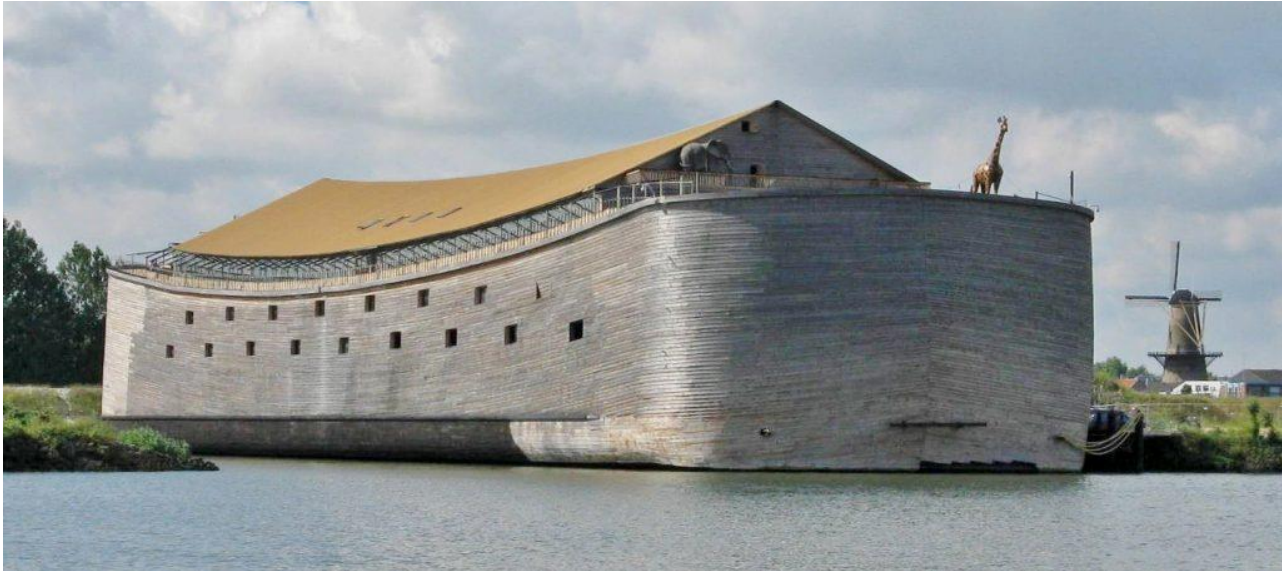
“Yet destroyed I the Amorite before them, whose height was like the height of the cedars, and he was strong as the oaks; yet I destroyed his fruit from above, and his roots from beneath.”

These verses, as well as many other passages in the Bible (including the story of David and Goliath), tell us that giants were once again born on the earth after the flood. There are two main theories that attempt to explain how the second influx of the Nephilim came about.

The first theory states that the fallen angels mated with human women again, after the flood, and brought about the second influx of Nephilim. This is possible since this is how it happened the first time. Unfortunately, the Bible isn't specific as to tell us if this is the origin of the second influx of the Nephilim or if it was something else.

The second theory states that it was not fallen angels who brought about the second influx of the Nephilim, but may have had something to do with corrupted genes surviving on the ark. We know two things about the pre-flood world in connection to the second influx of Nephilim.

First, Noah was pure in all his generations ([Genesis 6:9](#)). Second, all of the rest of humanity was corrupted ([Genesis 6:12](#)). This would mean that Noah and his three sons would have been pure but, being that all other flesh was corrupted, the wives of Noah's sons would not have been. One or more of the wives could have carried the Nephilim gene.



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At first this may not seem to make sense. It certainly did not make sense to me the first time I heard it. It may seem impossible to believe that God would have destroyed the whole world just to allow the Nephilim gene to be preserved in the ark. The problem is, either way we look at it, the Nephilim did manage to return. Whichever way you look at it, if God's purpose for flooding the Earth was only to destroy the Nephilim and prevent them from ever returning, He did not fulfill His task.

God does not make mistakes. Given this, if we are to believe the Bible, we must cast aside our preconceived notions and let the Bible define the reason of the flood for us. Since there was a second influx of the Nephilim on the Earth, the purpose of the flood must not have been to utterly destroy the Nephilim forever.

I think it is entirely more likely that the purpose of the flood was to preserve the bloodline of the Messiah along with removing wickedness from the earth. Before the flood, the entire world was corrupted except for Noah and his sons. If God had let it go any further, eventually the fallen angels would have succeeded in corrupting the bloodline of the Messiah, ensuring Jesus could not be born, thereby winning the war. To preserve the messianic bloodline, God sent the flood and destroyed the main source of the corruption.

God would only need one of Noah's sons to produce a clean bloodline. This means that God would have only needed one bloodline of the many descendants of Noah to be free of the Nephilim gene. It is possible that Ham, Noah's son, had a wife that carried this Nephilim gene.

It is possible that the Nephilim gene presented itself in Canaan, Ham's son. This could help to explain why Noah cursed Canaan instead of Ham in [Genesis 9:25-27](#). Furthermore, when we read Canaan's genealogy, we read that Canaan begat the Amorite ([Genesis 10:15](#)). Again, in [Amos 2:9](#), we read...

"Yet destroyed I the Amorite before them, whose height was like the height of the cedars, and he was strong as the oaks; yet I destroyed his fruit from above, and his roots from beneath."

We also see ties to Ham's son Canaan in [Numbers 13:28-29](#) which reads...

"Nevertheless the people be strong that dwell in the land, and the cities are walled, and very great: and moreover we saw the children of Anak there. The Amalekites dwell in the land of the south: and the Hittites, and the Jebusites, and the Amorites, dwell in the mountains: and the Canaanites dwell by the sea, and by the coast of Jordan."

Then again, [Numbers 13:33](#) reads...

"And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight."

Given these two passages, we can see that the second influx of the Nephilim most likely came from the descendants of Ham through Canaan.

To support this further, [Numbers 13:33](#) says the giants they saw were "of" the giants. It does not say they were of the fallen angels. This seems to state that the second influx of giants came from the first influx of giants and not from fallen angels mating with humans a second time. The only way this could be possible is if Ham's wife carried the Nephilim gene and it passed on to Canaan and his descendants.

Those are the two theories concerning the origin of the second influx of the Nephilim. Both theories are highly speculative since the Bible doesn't state clearly how the giants were able to return after the flood, but there is enough evidence found throughout scripture to form a reasonable hypothesis around either belief.

I believe both have equal footing as valid possibilities but it seems the Nephilim gene theory has more evidence supporting it. This is one of those things that we must research ourselves to come to our own conclusions about which theory we want to believe in and support.

In either case, it seems possible that Satan and his minions were trying to corrupt the messianic bloodline again through the second influx of the Nephilim. I believe this is why, at least in part, God gave such strict rules regarding Jewish people not marrying outside of their own people ([Deuteronomy 7:1-6](#)).

The surrounding lands had Nephilim and God did not want the messianic bloodline to become polluted with the fallen angels' original corruption. The Nephilim were not human and had nothing good in them. They served false gods (which could have been the fallen angels themselves) and even fought against the one true living God ([1 Samuel 17:23-58](#)).

It is clear that, since they did not have a human soul with the possibility of redemption, the Nephilim were soulless abominations to God that needed to be destroyed. This is further proven when we read the account of Jericho. In [Joshua 6:21](#) we read...

“AND THEY UTTERLY DESTROYED ALL THAT WAS IN THAT CITY, BOTH MAN AND WOMAN, YOUNG AND OLD, AND OX, AND SHEEP, AND ASS, WITH THE EDGE OF THE SWORD.”

The only people saved from Joshua and his army was Rahab and her family. She showed faith earlier by contributing to Joshua's success with the destruction of Jericho. I believe this city was full of Nephilim and that's why everyone, even the young, had to be killed.

The faith Rahab showed and her actions would have never taken place if she was of the Nephilim. I believe this is how Joshua and his army knew her whole family was worthy of being saved. Rahab's bloodline must not have been corrupted by the Nephilim. If it were, she would have never helped Joshua against Jericho.

Another interesting thing to look at is the fact that God commanded Joshua and his army to destroy all the animals as well. We read in [Genesis 6:12-13](#) that all flesh was corrupted. The only thing that could cause this type of corruption was the fallen angels. Being that it says “*all flesh*”, this would have to include the animals as well as human beings. It is possible that the fallen angels did something to the animals that corrupted their bloodline as well.