

# **“If Angels Can’t Marry, Then How Could ‘The Sons of God’ Father Giants?”**

Hi Michael, I read your answer to [“Is the Genesis Story of ‘The Sons of God’ True?”](#) and have a question about it. Mark 12:25 tells us that angels cannot marry. So I’m confused as to how the sons of God could have married women who then “bore giants”?

Mark 12:25 is possibly the passage most often cited against the view that the “sons of God” in Gen. 6 refers to fallen angels. And, of course, this view may be correct.

It’s difficult to know with certainty what the passage in Gen. 6 means. However, when one considers how the phrase “sons of God” gets used elsewhere in the Old Testament (e.g. Job 1-2; etc.), it’s clear that it’s often used to refer to angels. Also, New Testament passages like Jude 6-7 and 2 Peter 2:4f, seem to lend support to this interpretation.

One of the Bible.org folks addressing this issue at <http://bible.org/question/who-are-%E2%80%9Csons-god%E2%80%9D-g-enesis-61-8> wrote this about the “marriage” issue:

*“I heartily agree with Bob Deffinbaugh’s arguments and presentation of this passage in his commentary, Genesis: From Paradise to Patriarchs which is on our web site in the Bible Studies / Old Testament / Books / Genesis section. I believe those who reject this view do so through exegetical gymnastics because of their own refusal to believe this could happen. They often refer to Christ’s statement about angels not marrying, but this is talking about God’s normal plan for them. They were created as a host and were not to propagate like mankind and fill the earth. This in no way says that under Satan’s orders and power they could not leave their own*

*(idios, unique, peculiar, distinct, proper) domain (arche, rule, sphere of rule, influence) and abandon their own proper abode (oike,te,rion, habitation, dwelling place) (Jude 6)."*

Since angels have the ability to assume human form, and since fallen angels are said to sometimes "possess" human beings, it seems to me possible that the "Sons of God" in Gen. 6 were angels. But, of course, I don't know this for sure. And I certainly might be wrong.

If you're interested in exploring this issue further, please see some of the discussions on bible.org [here](#).

Hope this helps.

Shalom in Christ,

Michael Gleghorn

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## **"Is the Genesis Story of 'The Sons of God' True?"**

**Pertaining to the old days when the watchers went astray and married women and bore giants—are these stories of any truth?**

**In the days of Noah, when a man in years was nearing his death, say a just man, are there any hints as to what awaited them in the afterlife of that period?**

**Is there something, or has there ever been something, commented on in scripture which disturbs the dead in their rest?**

Thank you for writing Probe Ministries. My own understanding of Genesis 6:1-4 leads me to believe that "the sons of God" mentioned here were indeed fallen angels. Whether or not the offspring of their union with the daughters of men were the giants referred to in v. 4 is difficult to say. The text may indicate that at least some of these giants existed prior to the sexual union of the sons of God with the daughters of men. For my part, I certainly believe these stories are true. It is quite possible that the sons of God in Genesis 6 are the angels referred to by both Jude (v. 6) and Peter (2 Pet. 2:4).

There is not a great deal of biblical revelation concerning the afterlife of the righteous in the days of Noah. But here is something to consider. In Genesis 5:21-24 we have the story of Enoch. Verse 24 states, "And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him." Although this verse does not give us much information, it certainly suggests an afterlife in the presence of God for the just and righteous who, like Enoch, walked with God. [Note: also see [Probe Answers Our E-Mail: Is There a Specific Reference to Heaven or Hell in the OT?](#) ]

Finally, although I'm not entirely sure what you are asking about in your third question, there is an account in 1 Samuel 28 about King Saul and a medium, in which Saul asks the medium to call up the prophet Samuel from the dead. In this case, God allowed Samuel to return to deliver to Saul a message of judgment against both he and Israel. When Samuel appears, he asks Saul, "Why have you disturbed me by bringing me up?" (v. 15). Thus, this may be the sort of example you were looking for. Of course, it's important to point out that this is an exceptional event. Normally, the dead are not permitted to return to the land of the living after death (see Luke 16:19-31). However, in particular cases the sovereign Lord may, for His own purposes, permit such a thing (as in the case of Samuel).

God bless you,

Michael Gleghorn  
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