

The Sons of God

This lesson is a result of a discussion that came up on who the sons of God were in Genesis 6. Some claim, erroneously, that they were angels. There are passages where angels are referred to as such but in order to find truth in in any doctrine we need to exegete each passage without reading into it. In order to do that we first need to establish the context.

Joh 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them gave He power (*Gk.1849- privilege*) to become the sons (*Gk.5043- a child: -daughter, son*) of God, *even* to them that believe on His name (*Gk.3686- authority*): 13 Which were born (*Gk.1080- regenerate*), not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. (*read John 3:1-8*) (*Emp. Added*)

- It is such a privilege then to be considered a child of God through spiritual rebirth. We are **not** automatically born into the family of God through physical birth because that which is born of physical is physical.

Joh 3:6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

- And as children of God we are to all be on the same page when it comes to spiritual things.

Php 3:15 Let us therefore, as many as be perfect (*Gk.5046- complete [in various applications of labor, growth, **mental and moral character**]*), be thus minded: and if in anything ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you. 16 Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us **walk by the same rule**, let us **mind the same thing**. (*Emp. Added*)

- Often when two sons are born of the same parents there are different personalities between them. Such was the case with Cain and Abel. After Cain slew Abel in a fit of jealousy and hid his sin thinking no one would be the wiser he was approached by God Who knows everything. Once realizing the cost of his mistake his punishment was overwhelming.

Gen 4:13 And Cain said unto the LORD, My punishment is greater than I can bear. 14 Behold, Thou hast driven me out this day from the face of the earth; and from Thy face shall I be hid; and I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond in the earth; and it shall come to pass, *that* every one that findeth me shall slay (*Heb.2026- smite with deadly intent*) me. 15 And the LORD said unto him, Therefore whosoever slays Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold. And the LORD **set a mark upon Cain, lest any finding him should kill him**. 16 And Cain went out from the presence of the LORD, and dwelt in the land of Nod, on the east of Eden. 17 And Cain knew his wife; and she conceived, and bare Enoch: and he builded a city, and called the name of the city, after the name of his son, Enoch. (*Emp. Added*)

- Concerning the “mark” that was set upon Cain. It was not a mark that would have been passed down to his offspring as some sort of a genetic characteristic. But could it have been the same mark of Ezekiel 9:4-6? Compare the “mark of the beast” in Rev 14:9-11.

Eze 9:4 And the LORD said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and **set a mark upon the foreheads** of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof. 5 And **to the others** He said in mine hearing, Go ye after him through the city, and **smite**: let not

your eye spare, neither have ye pity: 6 Slay utterly old *and* young, both maids, and little children, and women: but **come not near any man upon whom is the mark**; and begin at my sanctuary*. Then they began at the ancient men which *were* before the house. (*Emp. Added*)

- Christians have received, figuratively, this same mark that Cain and those of Ezekiel 9 did in that we will not suffer the second death after the judgement (*Rev 20:6*). “For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:” (1 Cor 5:7) ...”*through the blood of the everlasting covenant*” (Heb 13:20). We are “sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise” (Eph 1:13).

**1Pe 4:17 For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the Gospel of God?*

Rev 14:9 And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and **receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand**, 10 The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and **he shall be tormented** with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: 11 And the smoke of their torment ascends up (*just as the smoke from the altar of burnt incense [Rev 8:3] but to no avail*) for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and **whosoever receiveth the mark** of his name. (*Emp. Added*)

Gen 4:25 And Adam knew his wife again; and she bare a son, and called his name Seth: For God, *said she*, hath appointed me another seed instead of Abel, whom Cain slew. 26 And to Seth, to him also there was born a son; and he called his name Enos: **then began men to call upon** (APB-1941- *to entitle; by implication to invoke: -surname*) **the name** (Heb.8034-*authority*) **of the LORD**. (*Emp. Added*)

“The marginal reading is, Then began men to call themselves by the name of the Lord; which words are supposed to signify that in the time of Enos the true followers of God began to distinguish themselves, and to be distinguished by others, by the appellation (title) of sons of God; those of the other branch of Adam’s family, among whom the Divine worship was not observed, being distinguished by the name, children of men.”

Adam Clarke

- One class of mankind worshipped God (*the descendants of Seth*) and the other (*descendants of Cain*) did not. Those who did received the distinction of the “sons of God” and their lives, through their actions, revealed it.

Gen 6:1 And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them, 2 That the sons of God (*these would have been the descendants of Seth*) saw the daughters of men (*the descendants of Cain*) that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose.

- There are some who teach, and thus confuse others, that the phrase “sons of God” **here** refers to some of the angels of Heaven who fell.

*Jude 6 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. (Emp. Added)*

- Just as lightning is very fast so was Satan's fall from grace. And each time his angels are mentioned they were to receive the same judgment that he did, giving the idea that when he fell they fell, thus inferring that when he was banished from his original authority in Heaven they also lost theirs.

*Luk 10:18 And He said unto them, I beheld Satan **as lightning** fall from heaven. (Emp. Added)*

*Mat 24:27 For **as the lightning** cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west (very fast); so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. (Emp. Added)*

- Satan's fall happened shortly after he was created just as Jesus said Jerusalem's judgment would be without warning and quick (70 AD), although He did give signs to His followers to look for in advance of that then unknown date.

*Mat 25:41 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**: (Emp. Added)*

*Rev 12:7 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and **his angels**, 8 And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. (They lost whatever authority they once had.) 9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent (Gen 3:1), called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and **his angels were cast out with him**. (Not referring to their original fall from authority but referring to when Satan lost the ability to accuse those clothed in Christ's blood. This incident would have happened when Jesus returned to His throne when He received the kingdom (church) on the day of Pentecost because of the very next verse.) 10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, **Now is come** salvation, and strength, and the **kingdom** of our God, and the **power of His Christ**: for the **accuser of our brethren is cast down**, which accused them before our God day and night (Just as he did in Job 1:11; 2:5). (Emp. Added)*

Job 1:11 But put forth Thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse Thee to Thy face.

Job 2:5 But put forth Thine hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse Thee to Thy face.

- Because they would have fallen **the same time Satan did** in the beginning, these angels were **not** banished because of their allegedly having had relations with the daughters of men. They did not leave their place of origin to come to the earth to procreate. There exists no evidence for that. Not even the wording in the original Hebrew suggests the possibility of such. They are all masculine but are without gender. And since gender is a characteristic of reproductive beings the "sons of God" could not have been referring to them **in this context**. Once in Heaven the saints will be either masculine or feminine but will be as genderless as their Heavenly counterparts.

*Mat 22:30 For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are **as** the angels of God in heaven. (Emp. Added)*

Gen 6:3 And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.

- It was at this point that God announced His intention to flood the earth within the next 120 years. It was also when Noah, the descendent of Seth, was about 480 years old and his sons were yet to be born some 20 years later. They were Shem, Ham and Japheth through whom the next generation of the children of God, those who chose to follow God, and the children of men, those who didn't, would come.

Gen 6:4 There were giants (*Heb.5303-nef-eel'- a **feller**[one who is fierce, cruel], that is, a **bully** or **tyrant**: -giant)* in the earth in those days; and also (*additionally, showing **these** tyrants weren't produced by the result of the union of the sons of God and the daughters of men*) **after that**, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bear children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown. 5 And GOD saw that the wickedness of **man** (not "*angels*") was great in the earth, and *that* every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. (Emp. Added)

- One reason the "sons of God" can be mistaken for angels has to do with the Contemporary English Version on verse 4 which reads into the passage something that is nowhere found in the ancient text.

*Gen 6:4 The children of the **supernatural beings** who had married these women became famous heroes and warriors. They were called Nephilim and lived on the earth at that time and even later. (Emp. Added)*

- Ultimately, though, when wickedness and righteousness are mixed the result is that some of the wicked might become righteous but the fact remains that more of the righteous will succumb to wickedness. It is like playing with fire and someone always gets burnt.

2Co 6:14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

"All relationships with unbelievers that hinder our service to God should be stopped. So long as we can have peaceful relationships with unbelievers that do not affect our service to God adversely, we may continue in them." Gary Hampton

1Co 5:9 I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators: 10 Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world.

1Co 7:12 But to the rest speak I, not the Lord: If any brother hath a wife that believeth not, and she be pleased to dwell with him, let him not put her away. 13 And the woman which hath an husband that believeth not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him.

- There are many who might suggest that marrying someone who is a non-Christian wouldn't hurt their own faithfulness and being "unequally yoked" has more to do with

other relationships such as business, work, social, etc., but what could be more intimate than the marriage? In my opinion a Christian should not take their chances by marrying a non-Christian **until** that person is converted. If they never convert they aren't a good candidate for a saint to marry to begin with. (*And there are many arguments on this subject but for the most part disastrous results are imminent, **especially** when children are added to the mix.*) But, if a person is already married when they themselves are converted they should **never** leave the marriage if their spouse continually refuses to obey the gospel. Marriage laws apply to **everyone, even to the atheist** and whether they **ever** believe it, there will still be judgment to pay in the end. Reason?

1Th 3:13 To the end He may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His **saints** (*Gk.40- sacred*). (*Emp. Added*)

Mat 25:31 When the Son of man shall come in His glory, and all the **holy** (*Gk.40*) angels (*Gk.32- messenger*) with Him, then shall He sit upon the throne of His glory: (*Emp. Added*)

- Thus equating “saint” as a synonym for “holy”.

Context, context, context!

Job 1:6 Now there was a day when the sons (*Heb.1121- son*) of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them.

- In this context the angels of Heaven, a.k.a. the sons of God, who kept their places of authority, stood before God and Satan thought he could sneak himself back in among them. Maybe he thought he might accuse someone all the while attempting to avoid detection. He later lost even the ability to accuse Christians (*sons of God as per Jn 1:12 and other verses*) when Christ rose from the dead having defeated Satan's power of death.

Heb 2:15 And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

- Calling the angels “sons of God” fits the context because of Job 38:7 when God first created the earth.

Job 38:4 Where wast thou (*Job*) when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding. 5 Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it? 6 Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof; 7 When the morning (*Heb.1242- dawn*) stars (*Heb.33556- prince*) sang (*Heb.7442- to creak [or emit a stridulous sound], that is, to shout [usually for joy]*) together, and all the sons (*Heb.1121*) of God shouted for joy?

- Jesus is known as the “morning star” in the New Testament (*Rev 2:28; 22:16*). He is also known as the Angel of the Lord throughout the Old Testament (*Ex 23:23*) and as the Son of God throughout the Bible. So angels, stars and sons of God could be used interchangeably. Context, though, would demand which best fits in the passage under discussion.

How to recognize a child of God

Mat 5:9 Blessed *are* the **peacemakers**: for they shall be called the **children of God**. 10 Blessed *are* they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 Blessed are ye, when *men* shall revile you, and persecute *you*, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for My sake. 12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you. (*Emp. Added*)

- This is the person that makes peace between man and God. In doing so there will always exist those times when we will have to suffer for it.

Rom 8:16 The Spirit Himself beareth witness with our spirit, that **we are the children of God**: 17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; **if so be that we suffer with Him**, that we may be also glorified together. (*Emp. Added*)

Gal 3:26 For ye are all the **children of God by faith in Christ Jesus**. 27 For as many of you as have been **baptized into Christ** have put on Christ. (*Emp. Added*)

- Our faith is an obedient faith in Jesus to save us. We are the children of God when we continue to obey His commandments. Even if it means to the point of dying for others.

1Jn 3:10 In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother. 11 For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should **love one another**. 12 Not as Cain, *who* was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous. 13 Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you. 14 We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we **love the brethren**. He that loveth not *his* brother abideth in death. 15 Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him. 16 Hereby perceive we the love *of God*, because He laid down His life for us: and we ought to **lay down our lives for the brethren**. (*Emp. Added*)

1Jn 4:4 Ye are **of God, little children**, and have **overcome** them: because greater is **He that is in you**, than he that is in the world. (*Emp. Added*)

- *So to those who are not children of God, these are the steps you need to follow in order to become an heir of God through Christ.*

Hear: Romans 10:14 ... "how shall they believe in Him Whom they have not heard?"

Believe: Heb 11:6 ... "for he that commeth to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him."

Repent: Act 3:19 ... "Repent ... be converted, that your sins may be blotted out..."

Confess: Mar 8:38 Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of Me and of My words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when He cometh in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.

Be baptized: 1 Pet 3:21 "...baptism doth **also** (*not the only thing but is necessary to*) now save us..." (*Emp. Added*)

Remain faithful: Rev 3:21 "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with Me in My throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with My Father in His throne."

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