

THE UNSEEN WORLD OF THE BIBLE
Session 4: 'Divine Rebellions'
30 October 2022

Objectives

Describe: Two ancient divine rebellions.

Define: Sons of God, Nephilim, giants & Anakim.

Explain: How freedom led to disobedience.

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Lesson Theme

“God’s own plan for his human family won’t be altered or overturned.” M S Heiser, *Supernatural*, p. 42



Six Biblical Rebellions. Galen Currah. 2022. No rights reserved.

GENESIS 6:1-2 NIV

¹ When human beings began to increase in number on the earth and daughters were born to them, ² the sons of God saw that the daughters of humans were beautiful, and they married any of them they chose.

Translation: בני האלהים *banê hā-’ēlōhîm* = ‘sons of God’ or ‘sons of the gods’ = members of the heavenly host.

Two kinds of being: human and divine.

FIVE VIEWS OF THE SONS OF GOD

Session 4: 'Divine Rebellions'

Mythical: Adapted from near-eastern mythology.*

Sethite: Godly men married non-believing women.

Cainite: Godless men married believing women.

Dynastic: Ancient kings practiced polygamy.

Summary: The world population was growing.

Angelic: Fallen spirits mingled with human women.

* Assyrian apkallu, Sumerian abgal, Jewish 'watchers' (1 Enoch): wise demigods who teach humans.

GENESIS 6:4

⁴The Nephilim were on the earth in those days— and also afterward—when the sons of God went to the daughters of humans and had children by them. They were the heroes of old, men of renown.

Nephilim: The Greek LXX translates this by gigantes (gigantic ones), men of superior strength, as elsewhere in the Bible (not 'fallen ones'). The 'sons of the gods' begot their own 'imagers'. After the flood, enemy tribes of tall folk, such as the Anakim, were said to be 'nephelim'.

2 PETER 2:4

God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them in chains of darkness to be held for judgment.

JUDE 6

The angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their proper dwelling — these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day.

Despite these divine beings now safely incarcerated, there will follow other acts of divine rebellion.

Genesis 1:26, 28-29

²⁶ "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over ... all the creatures that move along the ground. ... ²⁸ Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it... the whole earth"

1. What can we infer about human free will?
2. What could go wrongly?
3. What was God original plan for the whole earth?
4. Will that plan ever succeed?
5. What will have to happen first?

Genesis 2:16-17

¹⁶ "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; ¹⁷ but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die."

1. What can we infer about human free will?
2. What could go wrongly?

Session 4: 'Divine Rebellions'

Imperfect created beings can and will make wrong choices and eventually may rebel.

Eden was God's HQ for subduing the earth.

What beings were present in Eden?

- Human beings (Adam and Eve), 2:15
- Other creatures, 2:19
- The Serpent, 3:1
- Yahweh God, 3:8
- Other cherubim, 3:24
- Other humanoids?

Genesis 1: 3:14-15

¹⁴ So the Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, "Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life.

¹⁵ "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

1. How does the serpent 'eat dust'?
2. When did that or when will that start?
3. Who is the women's offspring? (Messiah: Mat 1:16, Gal 4:4, Rev 12:5)
4. Who are the serpent's offspring? (All wicked: Jn 6:70, 8:44, 1 Jn 3:12)

Revelation 12:1-3

¹ A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head. ² She was pregnant and cried out in pain as she was about to give birth. ³ Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on its heads.

When did this sign appear? (Year 3 BC)

Revelation 12:7-9

⁷ Then war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. ⁸ But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. ⁹ The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.

What was the serpent of Genesis 3? (See Isaiah 27:1)

Isaiah 27:1

Session 4: 'Divine Rebellions'

In that day, the LORD will punish with his sword —
his fierce, great and powerful sword—
Leviathan the gliding serpent

[Hebrew = Gen 3:1],

Leviathan the coiling serpent;
he will slay the monster of the sea.

[Greek OT = Rev 12:9, 'dragon']

Isaiah 14:12-15

¹² How you have fallen from heaven,
morning star, son of the dawn!
You have been cast down to the earth,
you who once laid low the nations!

¹³ You said in your heart,
"I will ascend to the heavens;
I will raise my throne above the stars of God;
I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly,
on the utmost heights of Mount Zaphon.

¹⁴ "I will ascend above the tops of the clouds;
I will make myself like the Most High."

¹⁵ But you are brought down to the realm of the dead,
to the depths of the pit.

1. Addressed to the king of Babylon (verse 4), who or what is depicted in this taunt? (A divine rebellion)
2. What was the serpent's crime?
3. What does he eat? (Dust = metaphor of death, the grace, and the underworld).

Ezekiel 28:14-16

¹⁴ You were anointed as a guardian cherub,
for so I ordained you.
You were on the holy mount of God;
you walked among the fiery stones.

¹⁵ You were blameless in your ways
from the day you were created
till wickedness was found in you.

¹⁶ Through your widespread trade
you were filled with violence,
and you sinned.

So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God,
and I expelled you, guardian cherub,
from among the fiery stones.

1. Addressed to the king of Tyre (verse 11) who or what is depicted in this taunt?
2. What are 'fiery stones'? (stars, representing divine beings)
3. What was the serpent's crime? (Insurrection)
4. What was the penalty? (Expelled from Eden)

Session 4: 'Divine Rebellions'

Reflection

- Did God need evil? (No, but he wisely counters evil with redemption.)
- Did God foreordain evil? (No, but he knew it would happen.)
- Did God prod an angel to become the devil? (No, the angel freely chose to rebel.)
- Did God predestine Adam to disobey Him? (No, Adam sinned when tempted.)
- Did God know that evil could happen? (Yes, so he conceived a plan to judge evil.)
- If God gives real free will to his creatures, then is his sovereignty diminished? (No, for he is able to bring order out of chaos.)
- Will God be able to restore and increase Eden to the entire earth? (Yes, for he has reconciled all things to himself, redeeming and restoring those who repent and remain loyal to him.)

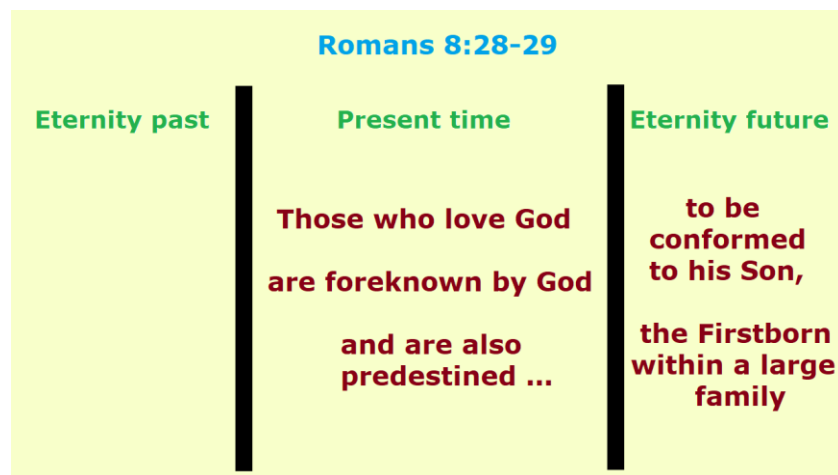
Predestination in Romans 8:28-30

The Greek aorist tense derives its time from its context.

Because the context of Romans 8:28-30 is the present time, its aorist tense verbs may be rendered present-tense or future truth statements:

²⁸ We know that, (for) those loving God, (He) works all (these) things for good, (that is, for) those (who) are (being) called according to plan. ²⁹ (We know) that whom (He) foreknows, (He) foreordains (to) conformity with the Image of his Son, for Him to be Firstborn amongst many siblings; and whom (He) foreordains, those (He) also calls, and whom (He) calls, those (He) also justifies; ³⁰ and whom (He) justifies, those (He will) also glorify.

Thus, human beings are predestined for everlasting glory, when they become Christian believers.



Christian believers remain eternally secure, on one condition: that they remain loyal to Jesus Christ.

“God ... has reconciled you by Christ’s physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation — if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel. Colossians 1:21-23