
DISCERNMENT NEWSLETTER

“...how is it that ye do not discern this time?” Luke 12:56

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Zimbabwe Update

By Jewel Grewe

Throwing Out the Bathwater

We all love it when we have one of those “eureka” moments. The pleasure drifts through one’s mind and keeps on interrupting the tasks of the day. Today was such a day. In looking through a local advertisement paper, there was a heading entitled: “Did You Ever Wonder Where Some of the Old Clichés Came From?” It made for the most interesting reading. There was one, however, that brought me a deep chuckle. How many times has Discernment Ministries been told, “Don’t throw the baby out with the bath water.” This statement often comes from people who are mixed up with things that are not conforming to Scripture, and they don’t want to be faced with the possibility that they may be instead conforming to the “spirit of the age.” The prospect of choosing to do what is biblically right is too daunting—they may lose their position in the church, may be rejected by their circle of friends, or, even worse, family members may turn against them.

Somehow it always seems easier to compromise and come up with excuses. An especially incredible excuse is: “We must just love everybody and be tolerant.” What these folks meant by the statement “don’t throw the baby out with the bathwater” is that they wanted to comfortably merge new heresies in with Biblical truth. Of course, this makes for a very murky mixture of truth and error, which is what we see all around us today.

This particular cliché came from Europe in the 1500s when bathing was for a special occasion. “Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women and finally the children—last of all the

babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it. Hence the saying, ‘Don’t throw the baby out with the bath water.’”

All along this cliché has been the whole point of Discernment Ministries—but we have been warning people to “get the baby *out* of the dirty bath water.” The trends that we have been observing for over twenty years started out as muddy little “streams.” The various “streams” came together and have formed a mighty, raging, defiled river. The water has been tainted with all sorts of heresies and leaven. Dangerous associations were formed creating many murky mixtures, and as a result the simplicity of the Gospel has been watered down with this dirty water in order to “accommodate” the masses. In the name of “unity” at all cost, for many the cost has been too great. They won’t get out. They are wallowing in the mire.

There is only one way to overcome Satan and his forces (1 John 4:4). It isn’t through joining forces and allowing the Word of God to become watered down and corrupted. We are not supposed to stay in the “dirty bath water.” No, we need to separate ourselves from this mess, and especially look out for the young or new believers and their walk with the Lord. So, no, we don’t “throw the baby out with the bathwater;” but yes, we do our best to rescue babes in the Lord out of that dirty bathwater and warn believers about it!

Satan is out to deceive the whole earth. He is the deceiver! He is the accuser of the saints. He never stops. But we are to overcome, Revelation 12:11 says so clearly,

“And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony, and they loved not their lives unto the death.”

Living in Zimbabwe

Living in Zimbabwe for these months has made the reality of the Scriptures alive! We only have a few channels on TV that we are able to watch. One is GODTV, the other a Muslim channel, then France24 which gives in-depth news coverage, and an English speaking channel from South Africa that just has too many commercials and sub-standard programming. The in-depth news coverage has especially focused on the “Arab Spring” and crisis around the world. The suffering and struggles of the masses of people that have been affected is too tragic for words.

If GODTV is supposed to represent the Gospel of Jesus Christ, it is embarrassing! For the continent of Africa that is struggling for its existence—only Christ is the answer. It is the preaching of Him and Him crucified that gives people the hope that they need during these times. They don’t need all the jabber about “heavenly visitation and impartations” and hours upon hours of music by so-called “Christian” rock bands complete with strobe lights and heavy beat. They need hope! They need the preaching of the cross, which is considered foolishness by today’s standards in the so-called church. Instead we are told we must all go to “Israel” where we will be part of a special anointing of the latest “prophet.” How unrealistic. The people here don’t even have the money for their bus fare out to the areas where they live.

Yet, the reality of the situation here is so encouraging. The church is being purified and they are hungry for the Word of God.

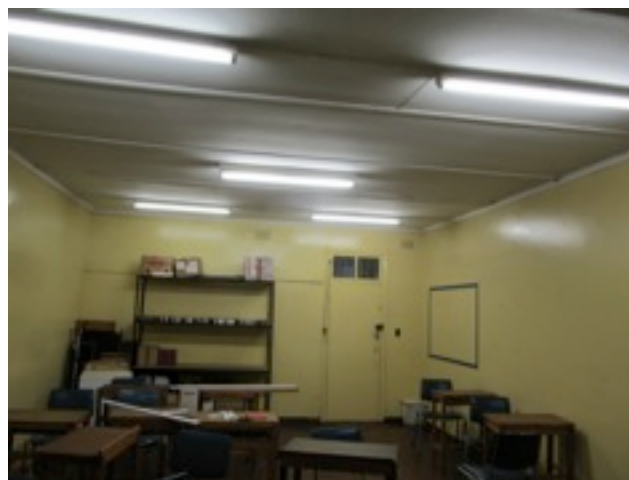
The Bible School (which we wrote about in the last newsletter) is almost ready for the students to enroll, and we are readying the new curriculum. The Prospectus has been put together and the first module is ready. We have been working on giving the classroom a “facelift.” The first step was registering the School with the government, which is now in progress. They will be sending an inspector to look at our classroom, so that is why our focus right now is on getting all the lights

working, putting on a fresh coat of paint, and building shelves for the books in the library.

The first job was to paint the blackboard. When Anton Bosch and Malcolm Harris were teaching they found the shiny black surface just didn’t work with chalk. So my husband David went down and painted the blackboard. We learn in Africa to adapt! For a stirrer for the thick paint, he used a burned out florescent light tube.



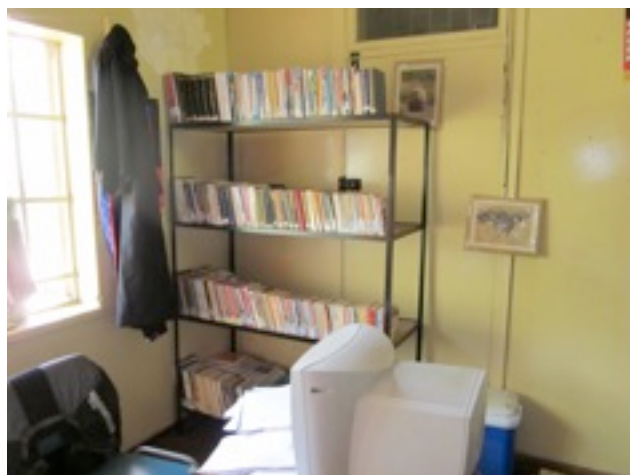
David has just been finishing up giving his exams at the university so the painting will start soon (with volunteers). In the meantime he did fix some of the lights and found that one whole unit has to be replaced as well as the light switch. It is amazing that more buildings do not have fires when you see how they are wired.



David is planning to mount the blackboard and also we will paint the wall white so that we can use it for a screen when necessary. Everything one

does here is a major project it seems. Just finding the things you need is a challenge. We cannot tell what a store sells by just looking at it. The signs probably date back to 20-30 years ago. I have spent hours just looking for coat hangers. So many times I remember how I used to just walk in WalMart and find everything I might need in 20 minutes. But, I'm certain that this is the way of life in many parts of the world.

The library is slowly developing. We need good reference books. Most of our students do not have computers. They can go to an Internet cafe and access a computer, but they will need concordances to do the courses and other study books for their research. If you have any "exhaustive" concordance that you no longer use, please send it to: **Anton Bosch, IFCB, 9070 Sunland Blvd, Sun Valley, CA, 91352**. Support for the Bible School can also be directed to this address and we hope to issue you a tax-exempt receipt at the end of the year.



The library is sparse indeed.

Last Saturday I traveled to Gwanda, which is one of the centers for the Bible School. At the present time there are three centers with a fourth being developed. The students there were eager to have a meeting and wanting to know when the new curriculum will be ready. They also wanted an introduction to the Pentateuch. So with less than 24 hours notice, I found myself driving 2 hours to Gwanda with one of the local pastors who also works with the Bible School. There we had a

lovely meeting with people hungry for God's Word. When I asked them how many concordances would they need for the students there, the answer was 24! I gulped. I had just priced one here and it was \$86 at the only place that offers them. I know in the States they are available for about \$10 and then the shipping costs to get them here.



Some of the group from Gwanda doing stretches as the session was quite long.

The pastor in charge of coordination in Gwanda invited the pastor from here in Bulawayo and myself to their small "council flat" to have something to eat before traveling back. I was touched by the simplicity of his little home that he shared with his wife and three sons. This pastor is so dedicated in going out into the rural areas and starting churches and spreading the gospel. This is what it is all about. These are areas our car would never make it through—yet I would love to visit them.

The African pastors have also requested me to do a seminar for Pastor's Wives. It sounds like quite a big undertaking, but thank the Lord for every opportunity to serve Him.

We have also had inquiries from Ghana and Sierra Leone where they are interested in linking to the Bible School and possibly, running additional centers of the School. Once all the courses have been fully developed we will be able to roll the School out anywhere in the world where there are local pastors and teachers willing to run a

satellite of the School. We also plan to launch the School in the USA by October for any who wish to get a solid biblical education at their own pace and at minimal cost.

The support that has come in so far has enabled us to make progress and we trust that all the needs will be met and everything will be ready in the very near future.

NOTE TO READERS: *On June 10, 2011, our Herescope blog (www.herescope.net) ran a very important article “Doomsday Datesetters 2012” by Gaylene Goodroad with an Afterword by Dr. Martin Erdmann. This article examined the teachings of a man named Tom Horn, who has developed theories about an endtime return of the Nephilim, which he views as mutant offspring of extraterrestrial supernatural beings (“gods”) who came to earth through multi-dimensional heavenly gates. Horn suggests that “traditional methods of spiritual warfare” will be “insufficient” in the face of these coming “godlike machines.” Horn bases his fantastic speculations on extra-biblical sources, even including the Apocrypha, UFO lore, and ancient occult mythology.*

This view of endtimes is rapidly rising in popularity and influence. Dozens of books have been written on this Nephilim topic, and it is appealing to those folks who like to follow biblical prophecy. Unfortunately many of Horn’s endtime speculations bear a startling resemblance to the teachings of New Ager leaders.

It is important to have a solid biblical understanding of this topic. On June 22, Herescope posted an important refutation of Horn’s views by Pastor Larry DeBruyn, titled “Demons, Daughters and DNA” concerning the Nephilim. And below Pastor Anton Bosch has also written an excellent article on this topic.

NEPHILIM

By Pastor [Anton Bosch](#)

The Hebrew word *Nephilim* is translated “giants” in the Old Testament. It only appears twice in Genesis 6:4 and Numbers 13:33. A whole series of doctrines have been built around this word, in spite of the fact that the word only appears rarely. These doctrines on the Nephilim are based on Genesis 6:1-4. (It must be noted that most speculators lean very heavily on extra-biblical writings for most of their information.) The theories can basically be summed up as follows:

Demons/ angels (sons of God) had illicit relationships with women (the daughters of men) and these perverted relations produced genetically mutated beings known as nephilim (giants). God then imprisoned some of the angles who did this and in order to purify the bloodline of man God brought on the Flood. Through genetic engineering these nephilim will be resurrected, one of which will be the Antichrist¹. To these people, the nephilim are also tied up with so-called extra-terrestrial forms of life.

Since these theories are gaining ground and a number of books have been published based on this hypothesis, it is necessary to examine Genesis 6 again and see what exactly it teaches. We will discover that the proponents of these theories break every principle of hermeneutics. Here is the text:

“Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, 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. 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.” 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”.
(Genesis 6:1-4)

Sons of God

The first problem revolves around who in the passage are the “sons of God”. Some make the connection with Job 1:6; 2:1. “Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and

Satan also came among them.” (Job 1:6). It is obvious, and not contested, that the “sons of God” in Job were angels. But does that mean that this term in Genesis 6:2 also refers to angels?

First, the normal meaning of “sons of God” is “believers”. *“But as many as received him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name”* (John 1:12). Job 1:6 (a poetic book) is the only place where angels are called “sons of God”. It is logical and reasonable therefore that the normal meaning be attached to the term here, rather than the exception, as found in Job, unless there were something in the text that made a connection between Genesis 6 and Job 1 – which is absent.

Second Jesus explicitly said that *“in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels of God in heaven.”* (Matthew 22:30) (See also Luke 20:34-36). Therefore in Jesus’ own words, angels are asexual and do not procreate.

So here is the problem. Genesis is obscure about who had the relations. Jesus said angels do not have relations. So either Jesus was mistaken or the “sons of God” were not angels. You choose! It is really as simple as that – there are no other options.

Some try to get around this by saying that the angels inhabited (possessed) human bodies to do this. That sounds good. But here is the question: A Christian man has the Holy Spirit in him. When that man produces a child by his wife, what is the child? God or man? Clearly, it is a man. There are multitudes of people in the world who are demon possessed and who procreate. What do they produce? Human babies or mutants? Obviously human babies. So why should Genesis 6 be any different. If demons entered into men to produce offspring the children would be human, and only human.

One of the principles of hermeneutics is that the Old Testament is interpreted in the light of the New Testament and not the other way round. In order to say that the “sons of God” in Genesis 6 are angels (or demons) we must discard the light of the New Testament and that should never happen.

The nature of the relationships

The next problem is that it is claimed that the angels had illicit relations with women. Yet the text is very clear: *“they took wives for themselves of all whom they*

chose” (Genesis 6:2b). The phrase *“took wives for themselves”* only, and always, means marriage. It never refers to casual, illicit or adulterous relationships. (See Genesis 11:29 & Ruth 1:4). To suggest otherwise is reading into the text that which is simply not there.

Giants

The theory goes that the giants were the product of these illicit relationships. We have shown that the text does not refer to illicit relationships and that the fathers could not be angels.

Genesis 6:4, again is very clear: *“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.”* Notice that it says there were giants (fact number 1) and afterwards the sons of God came into... (fact number 2). There is NO connection between the fact that there were giants and the fact that people had children.

It is exactly like me saying: “There is milk in the supermarket and eggs are \$1.50 a dozen” Milk has no effect on the price, or even the existence of eggs and the other way around. I am simply stating two facts that describe things about food in the supermarket.

In Genesis 6 Moses is describing the state of the world before the flood. He makes no connection between nephilim and the sons of God and daughters of men. If the sentence had been reversed as follows: *“The sons of God came into the daughters of men and they bore nephilim”* then you could postulate some theory about the nature of this process. But the text does not give us any room to connect the nephilim with these marriages.

Genesis 6:4 does say that the children that were produced *“were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown”*. “Mighty men” is a term which is used 154 times in the OT and simply refers to powerful men, either physically or politically. Just like there are many mighty men today and some are men of God and others are worldly and unsaved, so there were mighty men in those days, of which Noah was one.

“Men of old” also holds no mystique, these were simply the heroes of bygone days.

“Men of renown” is also used in Numbers 16:2 and Ezekiel 23:23. These are just famous men, or well-known men. The Hebrew term literally means “men

with a name” meaning they had “made a name” for themselves.

The descendants of these relationships were not monsters, mutants, or anything extraordinary. Some were ordinary people and some were powerful, some were little known and others had made a name for themselves. Genesis 6:5 (the next verse) goes on to describe these people as wicked and worthy of God’s judgment.

Furthermore, the translation of the word *nephilim* in Genesis 6:4 as “giants” is very arbitrary. There are many other possible ways this word could be translated here: Bullies, mighty ones or tyrants. At least one dictionary states that the *nephilim* in Genesis and in Numbers were two different peoples². Once again, we cannot build an entire doctrine on a word which we cannot translate or explain with any measure of certainty.

Genesis 6:4 is simply a description of life before the flood and not a commentary on mysterious genetic mutant life forms. Jesus obviously has this verse in mind when he says: *“But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.”* (Matthew 24:37-39) (note the reference to marriage in both verses).

One of the most important principles of hermeneutics is that the verse has to be read in its context. The context is clear, that life was going on as usual, people were becoming more and more self-absorbed and sinful but judgment was coming.

The cause of the Flood

Those who speculate about the Nephilim, connect them with the reason for the Flood. Once again, there is no connection there. Genesis 6 describes life on earth. Yes, there were nephilim, but more significantly, people were marrying and having children and becoming more wicked. Genesis 6:5-6 cannot be clearer. God’s judgment fell because of the wickedness of man. This had absolutely nothing to do with demons, angels or mutants. Look at these verses again:

“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. And

the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. 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.” (Genesis 6:5-7).

If the flood had anything to do with anything other than man’s sinfulness, either Moses or Jesus would have said something, but both are silent about demons, angels and mutants. The flood had nothing to do with clearing the gene pool. It was all about clearing the earth of sinful and wicked people. Even Sunday school children should be able to tell you that.

If the flood had anything to do with God wanting to destroy the giants because they were “contaminated seed” or to purge the gene pool then, Noah and his sons should have been destroyed also. Noah and his sons carried the gene from which giants were formed. This is obvious since giants (*nephilim*) are born *after* the flood and were present in the Land when the spies were sent to scout out the land (Numbers 13:33). These giants were descendants of Noah since all of humankind after the flood descended from Noah.

Extra-biblical evidence

These speculators quote the Book of Enoch (and other apocryphal books) in support of their ideas as though they are Scripture. Yet, Enoch and the rest of the Apocrypha are not part of the Canon of Scripture for obvious reasons – they are not, and have never been regarded as inspired except by apostate churches.

Once again they break one of the fundamentals of Evangelical and Reformed hermeneutics: We hold only to Scripture and do not add, nor subtract from it (Revelation 22:18; Deuteronomy 4:2; 12:32). It is especially reprehensible to formulate an entire doctrine on extra-biblical evidence as these people are doing.

The fact is that there is overwhelming evidence in very old writings that the Hebrew sages never regarded the “sons of God” as angels or demons. But we dare not use that as evidence lest we sink to the same level as the speculators.

Jude 6

Jude 6 is quoted in support of the theories. This verse says: *“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” (Jude 1:6).

Once again, there is absolutely nothing in the verse, or the context, that connects it with Genesis 6. There is nothing in the context that gives rise to understand that “not keep(ing) their proper domain” has anything to do with having relations with women. These angels sinned by overstepping their boundaries – that is evident. But what those boundaries were can be any of a hundred things. We just cannot draw connection between Genesis 6 and Jude 6, except that the chapter number is the same as the verse number!

2Peter 2:4-5

Verse 4 is similar to Jude 6: *“For 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 and 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.” (2 Peter 2:4-5).*

To those who pluck verses out of their context there appears to be a connection between the sinning angels and the flood. But look at the context:

- **2Peter 2:1-3** There were, and will be, false teachers and they will *“bring upon themselves swift destruction”*.
- **2Peter 2:4** Angels sinned and God *“reserved them for judgment”*
- **2Peter 2:5** The ancient world sinned and God judged them by the flood but spared Noah
- **2Peter 2:6-8** Sodom and Gomorrah sinned and God judged them but spared Lot
- **2Peter 2:9** Therefore in the future, the Lord will judge the unjust and save the godly.

The angels and the pre-flood world are simply two of four examples that Peter quotes to show that God will punish sin. The connections between the sinning angels and the flood are the same connection with false teachers and Sodom – the connections have nothing to do with gene mutation but is all about sin and the consequences.

Conclusion

The purpose of this brief article is not to provide answers to all the questions that surround Genesis 6. In

fact, we do not have all the answers and those who claim they have a full and detailed explanation for these verses is speculating. The point of the text in Genesis 6, as in 2Peter 2 is to warn that God will not tolerate sin and will judge it.

But what we are certain of is that the theories about angels producing mutant life forms are not Biblical and that the conclusions derived from this theory are fictional, at best.

“... charge some that they teach no other doctrine, nor give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which cause disputes rather than godly edification which is in faith”. (1 Timothy 1:3-4).

“But reject profane and old wives' fables, and exercise yourself toward godliness.” (1 Timothy 4:7).

“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.” (2 Timothy 4:3-4)

Endnotes:

1. This is a very brief and highly sanitized summary of some very xtreme and bizarre teachings. But it must also be noted that those who hold to these teachings differ greatly amongst themselves as to how far they take their conclusions.
2. Thomas, R. L. (1998). *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek dictionaries : Updated edition*. Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc

IMPORTANT NOTE TO READERS

Our Texas office will be closed for the month of July. Our secretary Hester will be traveling in July to help us relocate our library to Niles, Michigan. She will not be able to process your orders except for a few of the newer books, MP3s and DVDs which she is taking with her. Call her cell phone 903-288-5120 for these items. All other orders cannot be processed until the beginning of August.

We thank you for your patience during this time.