

~NEPHILIM (434)

(Neph'i-lim) [Fellers, Those Who Cause Others to Fall Down, Hebrew, *nephi-lim'*]

• Identity

• Who Were The Sons Of God That Fathered The Nephilim

• Increased Wickedness

• In Mythology

• A Report Intended To Terrorize

• This is a transliteration of the Hebrew word *nephi-lim'*, plural in its three occurrences in the Bible.

• The **Nephilim** proved to be in the earth in those days, and also after that, when the sons of the true God continued to have relations with the daughters of men and they bore sons to them, they were the mighty ones who were of old, the men of fame. (Genesis 6:4)

• And there we saw the **Nephilim**, the sons of Anak, who are from the **Nephilim**, so that we became in our own eyes like grasshoppers, and the same way we became in their eyes. (Numbers 13:33)

• It evidently stems from the causative form of the Hebrew verb *na-phal'*, **fall**, as found, for example, in;

• And you must strike down every fortified city and every choice city, and every good tree you should **fell**, and all the springs of water you should stop up, and every good tract of land you should mar with stones. (2 Kings 3:19)

• Here I am putting a spirit in him, and he must hear a report and return to his own land, and I shall certainly cause him to **fall** by the sword in his own land. (2 Kings 19:7)

• The Bible account describing Yehowah's displeasure with men in the days of Noah before the Flood relates that the sons of the true God took for themselves wives from among the attractive daughters of men.

• It then mentions the presence of **Nephilim**, saying; The **Nephilim** proved to be in the earth in those days, and also after that, when the

sons of the true God continued to have relations with the daughters of men and they bore sons to them, they were the mighty ones, Hebrew, *hag-gib-bo-rim'*, who were of old, the men of fame.

- Now it came about that when men started to grow in numbers on the surface of the ground and daughters were born to them. (Genesis 6:1)
- Then the sons of the true God began to notice the daughters of men, that they were good-looking, and they went taking wives for themselves, namely, all whom they chose. (Genesis 6:2)
- After that Yehowah said; My spirit shall not act toward man indefinitely in that he is also flesh. Accordingly his days shall amount to a hundred and twenty years. (Genesis 6:3)
- The **Nephilim** proved to be in the earth in those days, and also after that, when the sons of the true God continued to have relations with the daughters of men and they bore sons to them, they were the mighty ones who were of old, the men of fame. (Genesis 6:4)

.. Identity

- Bible commentators, considering. (Genesis Chapter 6), have offered several suggestions as to the identity of these **Nephilim**. Some have thought that the derivation of the name indicates that the **Nephilim** had fallen from heaven, that is, that they were fallen angels who mated with women to produce mighty ones the men of fame. Other scholars, focusing their attention particularly on the statement and also after that;
- The **Nephilim** proved to be in the earth in those days, and also after that, when the sons of the true God continued to have relations with the daughters of men and they bore sons to them, they were the mighty ones who were of old, the men of fame. (Genesis 6:4)
- Have said the **Nephilim** were not the fallen angels or the mighty ones, since the **Nephilim** proved to be in the earth in those days **before** the sons of God had relations with women.
- These latter scholars hold the opinion that the **Nephilim** were simply wicked men like Cain robbers, bullies, and tyrants who roamed

the earth until they were destroyed by the Flood. Still another group, taking into consideration the context of;

- The **Nephilim** proved to be in the earth in those days, and also after that, when the sons of the true God continued to have relations with the daughters of men and they bore sons to them, they were the mighty ones who were of old, the men of fame. (**Genesis 6:4**)
- Conclude that the **Nephilim** were not themselves angels, but were the hybrid offspring resulting from materialized angels having intercourse with the daughters of men.
- Same as, *gib-bo-rim'*. Certain Bible translations adjust the location of the phrase and also after that, placing it near the beginning of;
- The **Nephilim** proved to be in the earth in those days, and also after that, when the sons of the true God continued to have relations with the daughters of men and they bore sons to them, they were the mighty ones who were of old, the men of fame. (**Genesis 6:4**)
- Thus identifying the **Nephilim** with the mighty ones, the *gib-bo-rim'*, mentioned in the latter part of the verse. For example; In those days, as well as afterward, there were giants, Hebrew, *han-nephi-lim'*, on the earth, who were born to the sons of the gods whenever they had intercourse with the daughters of men, these were the heroes, Hebrew, *hag-gib-bo-rim'*, who were men of note in days of old. AT, see also Mo, NIV, and TEV
- The **Nephilim** proved to be in the earth in those days, and also after that, when the sons of the true God continued to have relations with the daughters of men and they bore sons to them, they were the mighty ones who were of old, the men of fame. (**Genesis 6:4**)
- The Greek Septuagint also suggests that both the **Nephilim** and **mighty ones** are identical by using the same word *gi'gan-tes*, **giants**, to translate both expressions.
- Reviewing the account, we see that,
- Now it came about that when men started to grow in numbers on

the surface of the ground and daughters were born to them.
(Genesis 6:1)

- Then the sons of the true God began to notice the daughters of men, that they were good-looking, and they went taking wives for themselves, namely, all whom they chose. (Genesis 6:2)
- After that Yehowah said; My spirit shall not act toward man indefinitely in that he is also flesh. Accordingly his days shall amount to a hundred and twenty years. (Genesis 6:3)
- Tell of the sons of the true God taking wives and of Yehowah's statement that he was going to end his patience with men after 120 years.
- The **Nephilim** proved to be in the earth in those days, and also after that, when the sons of the true God continued to have relations with the daughters of men and they bore sons to them, they were the mighty ones who were of old, the men of fame. (Genesis 6:4)
- Then speaks of the **Nephilim** proving to be in the earth in those days, evidently the days when Yehowah made the statement. Then it shows that this situation continued after that, when the sons of the true God continued to have relations with the daughters of men, and describes in more detail the results of the union of the sons of the true God with women.

•• Who Were The Sons Of God That Fathered The Nephilim

- Who were the sons of the true God that were involved? Were they men who were worshipers of Yehowah, as distinguished from the general run of wicked mankind, as some claim? Evidently not. The Bible implies that their marriage to the daughters of men resulted in **whipping up the badness in the earth.**
- Noah and his three sons, along with their wives, were the only ones in God's favor and were the only ones preserved through the Deluge.
- This is the history of Noah. Noah was a righteous man. He proved himself faultless among his contemporaries. Noah walked with the true God. (Genesis 6:9)

- God now spoke to Noah, saying; (**Genesis 8:15**)
- Go out of the ark, you and your wife and your sons and your sons wives with you. (**Genesis 8:16**)
- Who had once been disobedient when the patience of God was waiting in Noah's days, while the ark was being constructed, in which a few people, that is, eight souls, were carried safely through the water. (**1 Peter 3:20**)
- Hence, if these sons of the true God were merely men, the question arises, Why were their offspring, men of fame more than those of the wicked, or of faithful Noah?
- Also, the question might be asked, Why mention their marriage to the daughters of men as something special? Marriage and childbearing had been taking place for more than 1,500 years.
- The sons of God mentioned at;
- Then the sons of the true God began to notice the daughters of men, that they were good-looking, and they went taking wives for themselves, namely, all whom they chose. (**Genesis 6:2**)
- Therefore, must have been **angels, spirit** sons of God. This expression is applied to angels at;
- Now it came to be the day when the sons of the true God entered to take their station before Yehowah, and even Satan proceeded to enter right among them. (**Job 1:6**)
- When the morning stars joyfully cried out together, and all the sons of God began shouting in applause? (**Job 38:7**)
- This view is supported by Peter, who speaks of the spirits in prison, **who had once been disobedient when the patience of God was waiting in Noah's days.**
- In this state also he went his way and preached to the spirits in prison. (**1 Peter 3:19**)
- Who had once been disobedient when the patience of God was waiting in Noah's days, while the ark was being constructed, in which a few people, that is, eight souls, were carried safely

through the water. ([1 Peter 3:20](#))

- **Also Jude writes of the angels that did not keep their original position but forsook their own proper dwelling place.**
- **And the angels that did not keep their original position but forsook their own proper dwelling place he has reserved with eternal bonds under dense darkness for the judgment of the great day. ([Jude 1:6](#))**
- **Angels had the power to materialize in human form, and some angels did so to bring messages from God.**
- **Afterward Yehowah appeared to him among the big trees of Mamre, while he was sitting at the entrance of the tent about the heat of the day. ([Genesis 18:1](#))**
- **When he raised his eyes, then he looked and there three men were standing some distance from him. When he caught sight of them he began running to meet them from the entrance of the tent and proceeded to bow down to the earth. ([Genesis 18:2](#))**
- **He then took butter and milk and the young bull that he had got ready and set it before them. Then he himself kept standing by them under the tree as they were eating. ([Genesis 18:8](#))**
- **Consequently Yehowah said; The cry of complaint about Sodom and Gomorrah, yes, it is loud, and their sin, yes, it is very heavy. ([Genesis 18:20](#))**
- **I am quite determined to go down that I may see whether they act altogether according to the outcry over it that has come to me, and, if not, I can get to know it. ([Genesis 18:21](#))**
- **At this point the men turned from there and got on their way to Sodom, but as for Yehowah, he was still standing before Abraham. ([Genesis 18:22](#))**
- **Now the two angels arrived at Sodom by evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot caught sight of them, then he got up to meet them and bowed down with his face to the earth. ([Genesis 19:1](#))**
- **And he proceeded to say; Please, now, my lords, turn aside,**

- please, into the house of your servant and stay overnight and have your feet washed. Then you must get up early and travel on your way. To this they said; No, but in the public square is where we shall stay overnight. (**Genesis 19:2**)
- But he was very insistent with them, so that they turned aside to him and came into his house. Then he made a feast for them, and he baked unfermented cakes, and they went to eating. (**Genesis 19:3**)
 - Before they could lie down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, surrounded the house, from boy to old man, all the people in one mob. (**Genesis 19:4**)
 - And they kept calling out to Lot and saying to him; Where are the men who came in to you tonight? Bring them out to us that we may have intercourse with them. (**Genesis 19:5**)
 - Finally Lot went out to them to the entrance, but he shut the door behind him. (**Genesis 19:6**)
 - Then he said; Please, my brothers, do not act badly. (**Genesis 19:7**)
 - Please, here I have two daughters who have never had intercourse with a man. Please, let me bring them out to you. Then do to them as is good in your eyes. Only to these men do not do a thing, because that is why they have come under the shadow of my roof. (**Genesis 19:8**)
 - At this they said; Stand back there! And they added; This lone man came here to reside as an alien and yet he would actually play the judge. Now we are going to do worse to you than to them. And they came pressing heavily in on the man, on Lot, and were getting near to break in the door. (**Genesis 19:9**)
 - So the men thrust out their hands and brought Lot in to them, into the house, and they shut the door. (**Genesis 19:10**)
 - But they struck with blindness the men who were at the entrance of the house, from the least to the greatest, so that they were wearing themselves out trying to find the entrance. (**Genesis 19:11**)

- **And it came about when Joshua happened to be by Jericho that he proceeded to raise his eyes and look, and there there was a man standing in front of him with his drawn sword in his hand. So Joshua walked up to him and said to him; Are you for us or for our adversaries? (Joshua 5:13)**
- **To this he said; No, but I, as prince of the army of Yehowah I have now come. With that Joshua fell on his face to the earth and prostrated himself and said to him; What is my lord saying to his servant? (Joshua 5:14)**
- **In turn the prince of the army of Yehowah said to Joshua; Draw your sandals from off your feet, because the place on which you are standing is holy. At once Joshua did so. (Joshua 5:15)**
- **But heaven is the proper **abode** of spirit persons, and the angels there have positions of service under Yehowah.**
- **I kept on beholding until there were thrones placed and the Ancient of Days sat down. His clothing was white just like snow, and the hair of his head was like clean wool. His throne was flames of fire, its wheels were a burning fire. (Daniel 7:9)**
- **There was a stream of fire flowing and going out from before him. There were a thousand thousands that kept ministering to him, and ten thousand times ten thousand that kept standing right before him. The Court took its seat, and there were books that were opened. (Daniel 7:10)**
- **To leave this abode to dwell on earth and to forsake their assigned service to have fleshly relations would be rebellion against God's laws, and perversion.**
- **The Bible states that the disobedient angels are now spirits in prison, having been thrown into Tartarus and reserved with eternal bonds under dense darkness for the judgment of the great day. This seems to indicate that they are greatly restricted, unable again to materialize as they did prior to the Flood.**
- **In this state also he went his way and preached to the spirits in prison. (1 Peter 3:19)**
- **Certainly if God did not hold back from punishing the angels that sinned, but, by throwing them into Tartarus, delivered them to**

pits of dense darkness to be reserved for judgment. (2 Peter 2:4)

- And the angels that did not keep their original position but forsook their own proper dwelling place he has reserved with eternal bonds under dense darkness for the judgment of the great day. (Jude 1:6)

· Increased Wickedness

- The mighty ones who were of old, the men of fame that were produced by these marriages, were not men of fame with God, for they did not survive the Flood, as did Noah and his family. They were **Nephilim**, bullies, tyrants, who no doubt helped to make conditions worse.

- Their angelic fathers, knowing the construction of the human body and being able to materialize, were not creating life, but lived in these human bodies and, cohabiting with women, brought forth children.

- Their children, mighty ones, were therefore **unauthorized hybrids**. Apparently the Nephilim did not, in turn, have children.

· In Mythology

- The fame and dread of the **Nephilim**, it appears, gave rise to many mythologies of heathen people who, after the confusion of languages at Babel, were scattered throughout the earth.

- Though the historical forms of the Genesis account were greatly distorted and embellished, there was a remarkable resemblance in these ancient mythologies, those of the Greeks being only one example, in which gods and goddesses mated with human's to produce superhuman heroes and fearful demigods having god-man characteristics.

See Also GREECE, GREEKS (Greek Religion)

· A Report Intended To Terrorize

- The ten spies who brought back to the Israelites in the wilderness a false report on the land of Canaan declared; All the people whom we saw in the midst of it are men of **extraordinary size**.

- And there we saw the **Nephilim**, the sons of Anak, who are from the **Nephilim**, so that we became in our own eyes like grasshoppers, and the same way we became in their eyes.
- No doubt there were some large men in Canaan, as other scriptures show, but never except in this bad report, which was carefully couched in language designed to strike terror and cause panic among the Israelites, are they called **Nephilim**.
- But the men who went up with him said; We are not able to go up against the people, because they are stronger than we are. (**Numbers 13:31**)
- And they kept on bringing forth to the sons of Israel a bad report of the land that they had spied out, saying; The land, which we passed through to spy it out, is a land that eats up its inhabitants, and all the people whom we saw in the midst of it are men of extraordinary size. (**Numbers 13:32**)
- And there we saw the **Nephilim**, the sons of Anak, who are from the **Nephilim**, so that we became in our own eyes **like grasshoppers**, and the same way we became in their eyes. (**Numbers 13:33**)
- And the men whom Moses sent to spy out the land and who, when they returned, began making the whole assembly murmur against him, by bringing forth a bad report against the land. (**Numbers 14:36**)
- Yes, the men bringing forth the bad report about the land will die by the scourge before Yehowah. (**Numbers 14:37**)