

THE NEPHILIM

"As In the Days of Noah"

Matt 24:37-39

37 As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.

38 For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark;

39 and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. (NIV)

As we discussed before when we looked at this section of Scripture, Jesus was answering his disciples' question with regard to the sign of his coming and the end of the age. The last days leading up to his coming to earth with the armies of heaven will look like Noah's days, the days when the Nephilim were in the earth. We talked about how the days leading up to the last days would begin to look like the last days.

The amazing thing about the state of affairs in Noah's day is not really the giants, the progeny of the "sons of God" and the "daughters of men." The real amazing thing is the complacency that man lived in in those days. They ate and drank, married and gave in marriage as if life would go on. Indeed, the Apostle Peter gives us some insight into their world view.

2 Pet 3:3-4

3 First of all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires.

4 They will say, "Where is this 'coming' he promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation." (NIV)

It appears to be a common failure of man to move in a holy fear of God and avoid judgment through repentance and obedience. Like King Belshazzar of Babylon, they busy themselves with eating and drinking not recognizing that they have been weighed in the scales and found wanting and that their lives may be demanded at any moment. In Noah's day, people lived their lives as if nothing were amiss. This was not God's opinion of the times.

Gen 6:5-6

5 The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time.

6 The LORD was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain.

11 Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight and was full of violence.

12 God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways.

13 So God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth. (NIV)

In Noah's day, decadence had become common place enough to be seen as the natural order of things. As God's heart was pained over mankind, mankind plunged toward oblivion heedless of the warnings preached to them by righteous Noah for 120 years (1 Pet. 3:20; Gen. 6:3; 2 Pet.

2:5)!

In contrast, when warned about things not yet seen, Noah built the ark in holy fear to save his family (which were redeemed by his righteousness [figure of Christ saving the church]).

[Heb 11:7 (NIV)]

By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.

[Ezek 14:14, 20 (NKJ)]

14 "Even if these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, they would deliver only themselves by their righteousness," says the Lord GOD.

20 "even though Noah, Daniel, and Job were in it, as I live," says the Lord GOD, "they would deliver neither son nor daughter; they would deliver only themselves by their righteousness."

[2 Pet 2:5]

if he did not spare the ancient world when he brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others; (NIV)

This apathy to impending judgment by a holy God will repeat itself in the Tribulation age.

Rev 18:4-5

4 Then I heard another voice from heaven say: "Come out of her, my people, so that you will not share in her sins, so that you will not receive any of her plagues;

5 for her sins are piled up to heaven, and God has remembered her crimes.

Look at man's attitude in contrast to the pronouncement of God.

Rev 18:9-20

9 "When the kings of the earth who committed adultery with her and shared her luxury see the smoke of her burning, they will weep and mourn over her.

10 Terrified at her torment, they will stand far off and cry: "'Woe! Woe, O great city, O Babylon, city of power! In one hour your doom has come!'

11 "The merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her because no one buys their cargoes any more--

12 cargoes of gold, silver, precious stones and pearls; fine linen, purple, silk and scarlet cloth; every sort of citron wood, and articles of every kind made of ivory, costly wood, bronze, iron and marble;

13 cargoes of cinnamon and spice, of incense, myrrh and frankincense, of wine and olive oil, of fine flour and wheat; cattle and sheep; horses and carriages; and bodies and souls of men.

14 "They will say, 'The fruit you longed for is gone from you. All your riches and splendor have vanished, never to be recovered.'

15 The merchants who sold these things and gained their wealth from her will stand far off, terrified at her torment. They will weep and mourn

16 and cry out: "'Woe! Woe, O great city, dressed in fine linen, purple and scarlet, and glittering

with gold, precious stones and pearls!

17 In one hour such great wealth has been brought to ruin! "Every sea captain, and all who travel by ship, the sailors, and all who earn their living from the sea, will stand far off.

18 When they see the smoke of her burning, they will exclaim, 'Was there ever a city like this great city?'

19 They will throw dust on their heads, and with weeping and mourning cry out: "'Woe! Woe, O great city, where all who had ships on the sea became rich through her wealth! In one hour she has been brought to ruin!

20 Rejoice over her, O heaven! Rejoice, saints and apostles and prophets! God has judged her for the way she treated you.'" (NIV)

An hour before destruction befalls Babylon, merchant ships will be steaming toward her docks in hope of making a profit from their cargoes. The daily noise of music, workmen, and milling along with the light of the lamp and the voices of the bridegroom and bride will be brought to a sudden and eternal end in Babylon. On her last day, people will arise to greet the sun like any other day and go about their business as if they had their whole lives before them, heedless of the doom that will befall them in spite of God's many warnings.

The church of Jesus Christ cannot afford to let the times overtake her in such a manner. I do not believe that the church will have to go through the 7 year tribulation period, but I do believe that the time before that period will not look much different than the tribulation itself. The church needs to examine and review the current sociological, political, and scientific practices through a Scriptural world view to receive God's heart for the times. If we do not discuss these issues in the church, then the church runs the risk of being out of touch with her generation. She will find herself unprepared and irrelevant to the world she is supposed to reach.

John the Baptist confronted the immoral practices of the rulers of his day. It cost him his life. Our Lord Jesus Christ confronted the hypocrisy and immorality of the religious leaders of his day. It cost him his life (He's alive!). The Apostle Paul warned against vain philosophies (Col. 2:8) and false knowledge (science falsely so called - KJV 1 Tim. 3:20) as well as confronting religious and governmental rulers. You guessed it: it cost him his life. But the church was made aware of the times it was living in and warned so that it knew how to fight as well as reach the world.

Gen 11:5-6 (KJV)

5 And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded.

6 And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do.

We need to understand that God has invested much power in the imagination of man. What man can envision to do with unity, man can accomplish. When man imagines to do evil, at a certain point in time in the development of their plans, God will judge it and bring it to naught. In our day, scientists in the biotechnical industries have imagined a world rid of its problems through genetic engineering. One critic of the trends in the industry has commented with regard to the seeming conspiracy between corporations and governments to introduce genetically engineered products that "they don't have to conspire if they have the same world-view, aspire to similar

goals and take concerted steps to attain them." (Susan George, quoted by Dr. Mae-Wan Ho in "The Unholy Alliance")

The cornerstone of genetic engineering is cross-species transplantation of genetic material. This is the working in the natural realm of what was the sin in the spiritual realm when the "sons of God" cohabited with the "daughters of men." We have already mentioned several practices already in place in this field. Following are several more.

- ◆ Terminator Technology - Developed by the USDA in partnership with Delta and Pine Land (possibly owned by Monsanto now) is a complex of genes that can be theoretically spliced into any crop plant causing every seed of that plant to be sterile. This would force farmers to have to buy their seed every year. It is one thing to control the money that buys the seed (666), quite another to control the seed itself.
- ◆ Herbicide resistant plants (like RoundUp-Ready soy beans) have been developed so that farmers can be more aggressive in their herbicide use. Most of the trans-genic genes have antibiotic markers that have been shown to be able to enter the food chain and grant antibiotic resistance to known pathogens through horizontal gene transfer.
- ◆ Human growth hormone has been introduced to pigs by the USDA in an effort to produce a larger, more profitable pig for the market. The human growth hormones are produced by genetically altered bacteria. The hormone is also being prescribed to children who are considered to be smaller than average.
- ◆ Headless frogs have been created by scientists, proving the feasibility of creating headless humans that could grow needed organs for transplantation.
- ◆ Animals (particularly mammals) are being genetically engineered to produce pharmaceuticals (in their milk).
- ◆ In June of 1998, the FDA cleared Organogenesis' Apligraf® for marketing. Apligraf® is a genetically engineered human skin tissue grown in the lab from human donor tissue.
- ◆ On September 1, 1999, Genetic Engineering News reported that Cryolife, Inc. had seen two female human patients receive their SynerGraft™ porcine heart valves. These are bio-engineered pig heart valves that have been depopulated of their cells in hopes that the host will repopulate the heart valve structure with its own cells.

Does all this sound scary or useful? What are its implications to us and as a "sign of the times"? To many people, not only do these developments sound useful, they are extremely marketable. Biotechnology helped boost venture capital expenditure on health care companies by 28% in the first quarter of 1999. Biotechnology as a whole is projected to be a \$20-\$30 billion dollar-a-year industry in the first decade of 2000. Most of this industry is controlled by a few companies with huge assets that allows them to bribe governments.

Consider that multinational companies now comprise 51 of the world's 100 largest economies: only 49 of the latter are nations. By 1993, agricultural biotechnology was being controlled by just 11 giant corporations that have since gone through further mergers. (Dr. Mae-Wan Ho, "The Unholy Alliance") These companies have invested large amounts of capital in research and development in hopes of a much larger payoff. Concerns of safety to the public at large are virtually non-existent.

Monsanto's New Leaf Russet Burbank was placed on the market with no independent testing of its safety by any government agency. When pressed, the FDA claimed that since it was considered a pesticide (the entire plant is genetically engineered to produce the Bt pesticide), it was the EPA's job to ensure its safety. The EPA for its part decided not to test the potatoes because: a) the potato was safe, b) the Bt pesticide was safe, so c) a potato that was Bt pesticide must be safe and needed not to be tested. When pressed about this oversight loophole, Monsanto's director of corporate communications, Phil Angell, commented, "Monsanto should not have to vouchsafe the safety of biotech food. Our interest is in selling as much as possible. Assuring its safety is the F. D. A.'s job." (Michael Pollan, "Playing God in the Garden", The New York Times Sunday Magazine, 10/25/98) Mr. Angell's comment exposes the main drive of biotechnology, money.

1 Tim 6:10

For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. (KJV)

In 1971, General Electric and one of its scientists, Anand Chakrabarty, filed a patent application for a bacteria that could digest oil hydrocarbons. Because it involved the patenting of a life form, the patent office denied the patent. The case went to the Supreme Court which in 1980, in a 5-4 opinion by Chief Justice Warren Burger, decided that since the microbe was a "human invention" and not a natural occurrence, it was patentable. In such a manner the United States of America opened the door for the patenting of life forms.

John Moore became the quick recipient of that precedent. In 1976, UCLA doctors removed rare "hairy cell leukemia" cells from his spleen and then developed a line of cells which produced valuable antibacterial and cancer-fighting proteins. In 1984, the doctors received a patent on the so-called "Mo cell line." Moore sued, alleging at the very least that he should receive a share of the profits (potentially several billion dollars) on the grounds that every individual should have property rights over their own body parts. In 1990, the California Supreme Court denied the existence of such a right of control over our own bodies. (Philip L. Boreano, "Body and Soul: The Price of Biotech", the Seattle Times, 8/20/95)

Former U.S. Commerce Secretary, Ron Brown, was of the same mind as the California Supreme Court. He stated that, "Under our laws, as well as those of many countries, subject matter relating to human cells is patentable and there is no provision for considerations relating to the source of the cells that may be the subject of a patent application." The Department of Commerce houses the U.S. Patent Office. (Ibid.)

Exotic genes are the gold being prospected for in this day and age. But unlike mining for gold, the land owners have no rights over their minerals. The only ones who can claim ownership are the ones who discovered them and then replicated them in the lab. The most ambitious genetic prospecting project to date is called the Human Genome Project, established by Dr. James Watson and funded by the Department of Energy, the National Institute for Health (NIH) and private money. Also known as the "vampire project", it is working to take blood samples from 10,000 to 15,000 human beings living in 722 indigenous or isolated communities. Like John

Moore, several indigenous people's genes have had patent applications filed without their consent or knowledge.

Dr. James D. Watson is a leading scientist in the genetic world. He won the Nobel Prize in 1962 for his work in deciphering the structure of DNA. With regard to the possibility of recombinant DNA causing diseases, Dr. Watson wrote in 1979, "I would not spend a penny trying to see if they exist." Time, age, and new discoveries (including recombinant DNA causing diseases) have not tempered his zeal for genetic engineering. He is quoted in 1998 as saying, "If we can make better human beings by knowing how to add genes, why shouldn't we do it? The biggest ethical problem we have is not using our knowledge." (Ron Epstein, "Redesigning the World: Ethical Questions about Genetic Engineering") Clearly, the tree of knowledge of good and evil is still being worshipped.

We may understand a scientist being this aggressive for the implementation of the new technology. But liberal theologians are on the band wagon as well. Philip Heffner, director of the Chicago Center for Religion and Science has this to say:

"We will continue to pursue our knowledge and technology. We have no alternative. My tradition tells me that we will do so as sinners. This means that we will fail to understand fully enough. We will fail to act correctly enough. We will make mistakes. Since we are sinners and fallible, and we are also created co-creators, we ought to engineer in that fallibility-sinner factor, be as humble as hell, spend a lot of time on our knees, and recognize that if Oppenheimer thought that the atomic bomb revealed original sin, the era of genetic engineering will reveal it much more, then, as one of my tradition's mentors has said, 'Full speed ahead and sin boldly!'" (Ron Epstein, "Ethical and Spiritual Issues in Genetic Engineering")

There is a Scriptural term for Mr. Heffner's thinking. It's called reprobation. Fortunately, not all theologians or scientists agree. George Wald, Nobel Prize-winning biologist and Harvard professor has written:

"Recombinant DNA technology [genetic engineering] faces our society with problems unprecedented not only in the history of science, but of life on the Earth. It places in human hands the capacity to redesign living organisms. . . The nub of the new technology is to move genes back and forth, not only across species lines, but across any boundaries that now divide living organisms. . . The results will be essentially new organisms, self-perpetuating and hence permanent. Once created, they cannot be recalled. . .

"It is all too big and is happening too fast. So this, the central problem, remains almost unconsidered. It presents probably the largest ethical problem that science has ever had to face. **Our morality up to now has been to go ahead without restriction to learn all that we can about nature** [again, the worship of the tree of knowledge of good and evil and thus of the snake]. Restructuring nature was not part of the bargain." (Ron Epstein, "Redesigning the World: Ethical Questions about Genetic Engineering")

This statement was published in the Sept./Oct. issue of The Sciences 1976 issue! The misgivings

Professor Wald had over two decades ago have proven to be well grounded in light of current practices in biotechnology.

Erwin Chargoff, a geneticist who is sometimes called the father of modern microbiology, wrote in 1978:

*"Our time is cursed with the necessity for feeble men, masquerading as experts, to make enormously far-reaching decisions. Is there anything more far-reaching than the creation of forms of life?. . . You can stop splitting the atom; you can stop visiting the moon; you can stop using aerosols; you may even decide not to kill entire populations by the use of a few bombs. But you cannot recall a new form of life. Once you have constructed a viable *E. coli* cell to carry a plasmid DNA into which a piece of eukaryotic DNA has been spliced, it will survive you and your children and your children's children. An irreversible attack on the biosphere is something so unheard-of, so unthinkable to previous generations, that I could only wish that mine had not been guilty of it.*

This world is given to us on loan. We come and we go; and after a time we leave earth and air and water to others who come after us. My generation, or perhaps the one preceding mine, has been the first to engage, under the leadership of the exact sciences, in a destructive colonial warfare against nature. The future will curse us for it." (Ibid.)

Questions of mixing seed aside, the fact that in our day and age human genes, the creation of God, are being patented by corporations and government agencies as "human inventions" not only shows the darkened state of man's mind but also gives us a window to the new age of slavery.

Rev 18:13

cargoes of cinnamon and spice, of incense, myrrh and frankincense, of wine and olive oil, of fine flour and wheat; cattle and sheep; horses and carriages; and bodies and souls of men. (NIV)

The history of slavery in Western civilization is different than the previous global history of slavery in that Western civilization led the charge to eradicate this evil on the earth. Though slavery still exists, its role in society and commerce has been severely limited by the efforts and blood of our forefathers. Now, the science of the developed world has genetically engineered mice to produce human sperm and has successfully cloned human fetuses. It is easy to understand how the bodies of men can be in the cargo holds of the ships headed for Babylon. But how does one go about selling the soul of a man? If one owns an enforceable patent on the genetic code in a human sperm line and sells it, is the soul of man being sold?

Again, I must stress the need to be aware of the times we are living in. Even should the Lord tarry in mercy for another 120 years as he did in the days of Noah, let us be found righteous like Noah and preach his word of redemption.

The turbulence of the last days will be unlike any before them in their intensity and distress. The rise of the antichrist is preceded by the displacement of satan from the heavenlies, who then prepares to make war on Israel (Revelation 12). His weapon in this war is the Beast, who is

given the authority of the dragon and with his mouth blasphemes God and those who dwell in the heavenly tabernacle. It is given to him to make war on the holy ones and authority is given to him over every tribe, people, language and nation (Rev. 13). This same period of time was seen by the prophet Daniel.

Dan 8:9-11

9 Out of one of them came another horn, which started small but grew in power to the south and to the east and toward the Beautiful Land.

10 It grew until it reached the host of the heavens, and it threw some of the starry host down to the earth and trampled on them.

11 It set itself up to be as great as the Prince of the host; it took away the daily sacrifice from him, and the place of his sanctuary was brought low. (NIV)

Dan 8:24

And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power: and he shall destroy wonderfully, and shall prosper, and practise, and shall destroy the mighty and the holy people. (KJV)

This final battle will be fought out on earth and in the heavenlies. The kingdom of the antichrist is the final amalgamation of the fourth kingdom, the kingdom of iron, described in Daniel 2.

Dan 2:40-44

40 And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise.

41 And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay.

42 And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken.

43 And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay.

44 And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever. (KJV)

*"They shall mingle themselves with the seed of men" recalls the imagery of mixing different kinds of seed in the same field. Though the commentators have a standard interpretation for verse 43, I cannot help but wonder who the "they" really are. Daniel lays out for us the hope of the days we live in. As we see all these things transpiring in our day, we need to know that the kingdom of **the Rock** is near!*

How will the devil and his minions carry out their plans in the last days? Indeed, how do they carry them out in these days?

Rev 16:13-14

13 Then I saw three evil spirits that looked like frogs; they came out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet.

14 They are spirits of demons performing miraculous signs, and they go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them for the battle on the great day of God Almighty. (NIV)

He does it like he always has, he commands demons with his mouth to do his evil bidding. The churches response has to be in accordance to the command of Jesus.

Rev 16:15

"Behold, I come like a thief! Blessed is he who stays awake and keeps his clothes with him, so that he may not go naked and be shamefully exposed." (NIV)

Matt 24:42-47

42 "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.

43 But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into.

44 So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

45 "Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time?

46 It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns.

47 I tell you the truth, he will put him in charge of all his possessions. (NIV)

We need to be found standing our watch, faithfully praying and interceding for our generation, and feeding the people of God at the proper time. Prayer is not the only thing we can do; prayer is the one thing that we must do. I have informed you of the current practices in biotechnology and how they mirror the sins of Genesis 6 not to cause distress or even as a call to arms for consumer or political action. No, the reason is that we may know the times we are living in that we may redeem the time we have, for the days are evil.

*God told Noah what was to come and he built the ark in holy fear. God has told us what is to come upon the Earth. In holy fear, we need to call out to the lost to enter **the ark**, the Lord Jesus Christ, the only one who can save them from destruction. We need to be zealous for our God and stand steadfast in prayer, with our faces lifted to heaven for we know that our redemption draws nigh. Amen!*