

## **THE NEPHILIM**

### **"Falling Stars and Mutant Locusts"**

*In reviewing all that we have gone over and what still needs to be covered to get a full picture of the Nephilim and their relevance to our walk of faith, I thought it would be helpful to give a small taste of where it is we are going. Our discussion of the Nephilim began in Genesis 6, which documents the days of Noah and how that every inclination of the thoughts of man's heart were only evil continually.*

Matt 24:37 "As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man." (NIV)

*When the Son of Man comes to assume his throne at the end of the tribulation, the days here on earth will be like Noah's days. Now, I believe that the rapture of the church of Jesus Christ and his subsequent return to take up his throne here on earth are only separated by seven years. Things that presage the second part of his coming I believe will be occurring before the rapture.*

*We as a church took on the name Maranatha. The reason we did is that we have a burning desire and hope for our Lord to return. Maranatha means:*

#### **MARANATHA**

(mar-a-nath'-a), (mar-an-a'-tha) (from Aramaic words, marana' 'athah, "Our Lord cometh, or will come"; according to some, "has come"; to others, "Come!" An invitation for his speedy reappearance (compare <Rev 22:20>); maranatha, or maran atha): Used in connection (from International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia, Electronic Database Copyright (C) 1996 by Biblesoft)

*Since we have an expectancy to see Him come, I believe it would behoove us a church to be like the men of Isachar who:*

1 Chr 12:32

men of Issachar, who understood the times and knew what Israel should do-- 200 chiefs, with all their relatives under their command; (NIV)

Matt 16:1-3

- 1 The Pharisees and Sadducees came to Jesus and tested him by asking him to show them a sign from heaven.
- 2 He replied, "When evening comes, you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red,'
- 3 and in the morning, 'Today it will be stormy, for the sky is red and overcast.' You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times. (NIV)

*The Lord holds no praise for men who do not recognize the times they are living in. He expects us to search out what he has said in prophecy and recognize the times we are living in, that we should know what to do. I want us to look at Matthew 24 to receive some of the context of the statement "as in the days of Noah."*

Matt 24:1-3

- 1 Jesus left the temple and was walking away when his disciples came up to him to call his attention to its buildings.
- 2 "Do you see all these things?" he asked. "I tell you the truth, not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down."
- 3 As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. "Tell us," they said, "when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?" (NIV)

*What Jesus tells his disciples is in answer to their question with regard to the end of the age. Understand that they did not have understanding with regard to the age that we now live in. But the end of this church age and the end of the age of the Gentiles, I believe is only separated by seven years. Our end times will begin looking like tribulation days.*

Matt 24:4-8

- 4 Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you.
- 5 For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many.
- 6 You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come.
- 7 Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places.
- 8 All these are the beginning of birth pains. (NIV)

*Have we seen things like this in our days? Certainly. Perhaps you would say that they have been apparent in every age and in a certain sense you would be right. But I believe their frequency is rising. And Jesus said that these things would be the beginning of birth pains. What is he talking about?*

Jer 30:4-7 (NKJ)

- 4 Now these are the words that the LORD spoke concerning Israel and Judah.
- 5 "For thus says the LORD: 'We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace.
- 6 Ask now, and see, whether a man is ever in labor with child? So why do I see every man with his hands on his loins like a woman in labor, and all faces turned pale?
- 7 Alas! For that day is great, so that none is like it; and it is the time of Jacob's trouble, but he shall be saved out of it.

*The time of Jacob's trouble is also known as the Tribulation. Here the Lord compares it to men suffering in childbirth. I know childbirth can be a traumatic and painful experience for women. But they are at least designed for it. Can you imagine the pain of a man giving birth?*

Rom 8:22-25

- 22 We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.
- 23 Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.
- 24 For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has?

25 But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently. (NIV)

*I've told you that our end days will look like tribulation days. Indeed, the Lord says here in Romans 8 that we groan in the pains of childbirth right now!*

Matt 24:21

For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. (KJV)

Matt 24:27-30

27 For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

28 For wheresoever the carcase is, there will the eagles be gathered together.

29 Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be **shaken**<sup>1</sup>:

30 And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. (KJV)

Luke 21:25-31

25 And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring;

26 Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be **shaken**<sup>1</sup>.

27 And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

28 And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.

29 And he spake to them a parable; Behold the fig tree, and all the trees;

30 When they now shoot forth, ye see and know of your own selves that summer is now nigh at hand.

31 So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand. (KJV)

*Thayer's definition-*

4531 **saleuo**<sup>1</sup>-

1) a motion produced by winds, storms, waves, etc.

a) to agitate or to shake

b) to cause to totter

c) to shake thoroughly, used of a measure filled by shaking its contents together

2) to shake down, to overthrow

a) to cast down from one's (secure and happy) state

b) to move, to agitate the mind, to disturb one

*The Lord says that the powers of the heaven shall be shaken and that when we begin to see these things, we need to look up because our ultimate redemption is near. The days are indeed evil,*

*but we take courage in the knowledge that it means his return is soon and that where sin abounds, grace does much more abound!*

Luke 21:34-36

34 And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.

35 For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth.

36 Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man. (KJV)

*He doesn't reveal prophetic things to us just to tickle our ears or satisfy our curiosity. He does it that we may watch and wait and pray and be accounted worthy. He wants us to know the times we are living in that we may redeem the time because the days are evil. We do not want to live riotously without him thinking we will have time to repent. Now is the day of salvation. It is time for the unsaved to get saved and the saved to repent and get holy!*

Mark 13:24-26 (KJV)

24 But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light,

25 And the stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken.

26 And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory.

*Verse 24 is a quotation from Isaiah:*

Isa 13:10-13

10 The stars of heaven and their constellations will not show their light. The rising sun will be darkened and the moon will not give its light.

11 I will punish the world for its evil, the wicked for their sins. I will put an end to the arrogance of the haughty and will humble the pride of the ruthless.

12 I will make man scarcer than pure gold, more rare than the gold of Ophir.

13 Therefore I will make the heavens tremble; and the earth will shake from its place at the wrath of the LORD Almighty, in the day of his burning anger. (NIV)

*Isaiah 13 is the introduction section to the truths laid out in Isaiah 14 that we looked at last. Remember in Isaiah 14:9 the Rephaim were raised up to greet satan as he is cast down into sheol. It is in Isaiah 14 that we learned their description as "chief ones of the earth" or he goats.*

*Verse 25 of Mark 13 is another quotation from the prophet Isaiah:*

Isa 34:4-6

4 All the stars of the heavens will be dissolved and the sky rolled up like a scroll; all the starry host will fall like withered leaves from the vine, like shriveled figs from the fig tree.

5 My sword has drunk its fill in the heavens; see, it descends in judgment on Edom, the people I have totally destroyed.

6 The sword of the LORD is bathed in blood, it is covered with fat-- the blood of lambs and **goats**, fat from the kidneys of rams. For the LORD has a sacrifice in Bozrah and a great slaughter in Edom. (NIV)

*This section in Isaiah we also looked at last week as we examined "the chief ones of the earth." In the same passage of Scripture where the Lord tells of his sword drinking its fill in the heavens, it speaks of it being covered with the blood of goats ("the chief ones of the earth").*

*With regard to quaking and shaking, look at chapter 24 of Isaiah:*

Isa 24:17-23

17 Terror and pit and snare await you, O people of the earth.

18 Whoever flees at the sound of terror will fall into a pit; whoever climbs out of the pit will be caught in a snare. The floodgates of the heavens are opened, the foundations of the earth shake.

19 The earth is broken up, the earth is split asunder, the earth is thoroughly shaken.

20 The earth reels like a drunkard, it sways like a hut in the wind; so heavy upon it is the guilt of its rebellion that it falls-- never to rise again.

21 In that day the LORD will punish the powers in the heavens above and the kings on the earth below.

22 They will be herded together like prisoners bound in a dungeon; they will be shut up in prison and be punished after many days.

23 The moon will be abashed, the sun ashamed; for the LORD Almighty will reign on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem, and before its elders, gloriously. (NIV)

Isa 24:21

And it shall come to pass in that day, that the LORD shall punish the host of the high ones that are on high, and the kings of the earth upon the earth. (KJV)

Eph 6:12

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. (KJV)

Heb 12:26-29

26 At that time his voice **shook**<sup>1</sup> the earth, but now he has promised, "Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens."

27 The words "once more" indicate the removing of what can be **shaken**<sup>1</sup>-- that is, created things-- so that what cannot be **shaken**<sup>1</sup> may remain.

28 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe,

29 for our "God is a consuming fire." (NIV)

Matt 24:30-39

30 "At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory.

31 And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.

32 "Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near.

- 33 Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door.  
34 I tell you the truth, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened.  
35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.  
36 "No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.  
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)

*The comment with regard to the days of Noah has to do with the Tribulation. It will be the days of tribulation when the Son of Man comes to assume his throne on earth, thus cutting those days short and saving the elect. What is the most well know book of the Bible that deals with the Tribulation? The book of Revelation!*

Rev 9:1-6

- 1 The fifth angel sounded his trumpet, and I saw a star that had fallen from the sky to the earth. The star was given the key to the shaft of the Abyss.  
2 When he opened the Abyss, smoke rose from it like the smoke from a gigantic furnace. The sun and sky were darkened by the smoke from the Abyss.  
3 And out of the smoke locusts came down upon the earth and were given power like that of scorpions of the earth.  
4 They were told not to harm the grass of the earth or any plant or tree, but only those people who did not have the seal of God on their foreheads.  
5 They were not given power to kill them, but only to torture them for five months. And the agony they suffered was like that of the sting of a scorpion when it strikes a man.  
6 During those days men will seek death, but will not find it; they will long to die, but death will elude them. (NIV)

*These are locusts who sting like locusts. The following is a quotation from an article entitled "Redesigning the World: Ethical Questions about Genetic Engineering" by Ron Epstein, who is Research Professor at the Institute for World Religions, Berkeley, CA, and Lecturer, Philosophy Department, San Francisco State University:*

"Another bright idea was to genetically engineer plants with scorpion toxin, so that insects feeding on the plants would be killed. Even though a prominent geneticist warned that the genes could be horizontally transferred to the insects themselves, so that they might be able to inject the toxin into humans, the research and field testing is continuing." [Read footnote 37.]

Rev 9:7-10

- 7 The locusts looked like horses prepared for battle. On their heads they wore something like crowns of gold, and their faces resembled human faces.  
8 Their hair was like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' teeth.

- 9 They had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings was like the thundering of many horses and chariots rushing into battle.
- 10 They had tails and stings like scorpions, and in their tails they had power to torment people for five months. (NIV)

*Whatever these creatures are, they are not regular locusts! We are taking steps in science today that could produce a locust with a scorpion's sting!*

Rev 9:11

They had as king over them the angel of the Abyss, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek, Apollyon. (NIV)

*This tells us that these locusts are truly an aberration, for Proverbs 30:27 says, "locusts have no king."*

Rev 9:13-19

- 13 The sixth angel sounded his trumpet, and I heard a voice coming from the horns of the golden altar that is before God.
- 14 It said to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates."
- 15 And the four angels who had been kept ready for this very hour and day and month and year were released to kill a third of mankind.
- 16 The number of the mounted troops was two hundred million. I heard their number.
- 17 The horses and riders I saw in my vision looked like this: Their breastplates were fiery red, dark blue, and yellow as sulfur. The heads of the horses resembled the heads of lions, and out of their mouths came fire, smoke and sulfur.
- 18 A third of mankind was killed by the three plagues of fire, smoke and sulfur that came out of their mouths.
- 19 The power of the horses was in their mouths and in their tails; for their tails were like snakes, having heads with which they inflict injury. (NIV)

*We can be certain that these riders and horses are not regular horses or riders. Read quotation from "Genetic Engineering Gone Mad."*

*We need to understand God's perspective on this and know the times we are living in. Man is transgressing the law of the seed and just retribution is coming. We are seeing the times of the budding of the fig tree and we need to lift up our heads for "our redemption draweth nigh."*