



A Genesis Apocryphon: Are Humans Offspring Of Gods?

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When the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered in 1946, and gradually released to the public over the course of the next few decades, it provided valuable insight into the minds of those who wrote the Bible. The technical name for the Dead Sea Scrolls is the Qumran Cave Scrolls. The caves are located a little over a mile inland from the Dead Sea, in the area now called Israel's West Bank. About 2,000 years ago, they were home to a group of Jewish conservatives called the Essenes, who sought to live a life that would keep them untainted from the outside world. Not



John the Baptist Preaching by Rembrandt (1634) (Public Domain)

wanting to socialize with the "liberals" in Jerusalem, they lived in the desert in order to purify themselves while they awaited the coming of the Messiah. No less a luminary than John the Baptist might have studied with them. The Gospels say he lived "in the desert" until he announced his presence by officiating at the most famous baptism of all time. He was certainly a tough, crusty, fanatic who would fit the part.

The Essenes' Texts

The Essenes had amassed a library of scrolls and believed strongly that *YHVH* (these days translated as either *THE LORD* or *Jehovah*), the God of Light, was someday going to defeat the god of darkness — the being now called the Devil. Their theology was dualistic, no doubt derived from the time the Israelites spent in Persia, absorbing the dualism of Zoroastrianism. Many of the scrolls painted the world in shades of only right and wrong, white and black, light and dark.

In the year 70 AD, a little less than 40 years after Jesus had been crucified (which event, by the way, did not even register on the Essenes' radar), Titus and the Roman legions burned Jerusalem to the ground. Their intent was to retaliate against the Jewish establishment, who refused to honor the Roman emperor in what the Romans thought was the proper fashion. The Essenes were not concerned about their own deaths. They were willing to become martyrs for their cause. As far as they were concerned, whatever happened to them was a fulfillment of prophecy. But they did not want their library destroyed. So they carefully placed the scrolls in clay jars and hid them in caves way up in the mountains. There the forgotten texts sat undisturbed until 1946, when a Bedouin boy discovered some of them while searching for lost sheep.



Qumran's caves (CC BY-SA 2.5)

Thus it was that those clay jars lay hidden for almost 2,000 years. In that time, some of what they contained decayed and was lost forever, but the rest is very similar to the material found in today's Bible. The texts had survived because they were translated over and over again, and many copies had been made. But discrepancies between them are few and far between.

Though it is commonly believed that what is preached in church or synagogue every weekend came straight from the lips of the Hebrew prophets, that is simply not the case. What is preached comes from a translation made from a copy of an older copy which came from another translation written way back before English or most modern languages came about. There is no telling how much could have changed after so many transactions, given the time involved. Copyists make mistakes, especially in the centuries before spell-check. But with the Qumran discovery, scholars could compare modern translations with ancient copies which, although still far removed from the original versions, were much closer to them in time. They were more than 2,000 years old, waiting to be compared to what is read today. The most amazing discovery to come out of the recovery of the scrolls, is that most of what is recorded in the modern Old Testament is spot on! In almost every case, the Dead Sea Scrolls verify that what is read today is amazingly close to what they read back then.



Second Ecumenical council by Vasilie Surikov. (1876) (Public Domain)

Editing The Bible

However, the most interesting material found in the caves are texts that had not been included in the Bible. The committees involved in putting the Bible together were familiar with them, but had not felt some of this material worthy to make the final cut. These

texts contained fragments that had been rejected out of hand. In other words, some of the old scrolls did not agree with what the gate-keeping editors believed. So the ancient redactors just saved what they liked and threw away the rest. Now, for the first time, there arose an opportunity to peek inside the wastebaskets of the Council of Jamnia, where the Hebrew Bible was first compiled.

In some ways, that is what the Dead Sea Scrolls are. They provide an opportunity go back and see what the old timers were reading, and what eventually got thrown out. Parts of the modern Old Testament were discovered at Qumran, but there was much more. There were copies of selections of the scrolls that the Jamnia committee knew about, but discarded. They may have destroyed their rejects back in the first century, but they had no idea that copies of those rejects were buried up in the hills outside of Jerusalem, so that 2,000 years later academics could judge their work.



1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.2 And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.3 And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.4 And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness.5 And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.6 And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.7 And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so.8 And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day.

4Q7, a fragment of the book of Genesis found in Cave 4 (CC0)

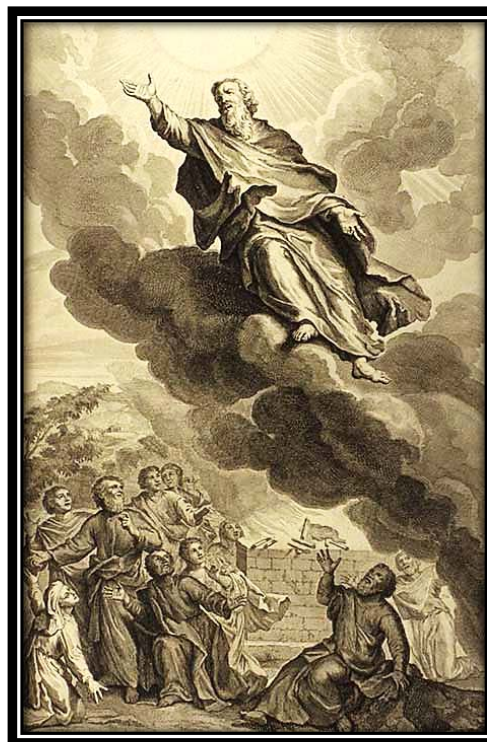
Genesis Apocryphon

One such surviving remnant that did not make the biblical cut was a fragment of a text that has since been called *A Genesis Apocryphon*. That is just another way of expressing it is an alternate version of the book of Genesis contained in today's Bibles. All that survived the centuries underground was a short section of the book that described the birth of Lamech's son, gave an account of Noah's flood, and outlined the travels of Abraham, the patriarch.

In *Genesis 5* there is a long list of what was once popularly called the 'begats'. "So and so was _____ years old when he begat a son called _____." (Never a daughter, by the way. Only sons were listed.) "He lived to be _____ years old and then he died." It is not exactly attention-grabbing material. But the texts recorded that Lamech was the grandson of a man named Enoch, who fathered Methuselah, the oldest man who ever lived. Lamech was the father of none other than Noah himself. Enoch was surrounded with an aura of mystery.

God took Enoch. Illustration from the 1728 Figures de la Bible by Gerard Hoet (1648–1733) (Public Domain)

Every other person listed in Genesis 5 died a natural death, even if that death came about after an unnaturally long life. But not Enoch. After he had done his duty and had a child, "*He walked with God for 300 years ... then he was no more, for God took him.*" In other words, Enoch seems to have lived a long life and then said, "*Okay God, beam me up!*" And he "was taken," whatever that means.



Then came Lamech's father, Methuselah, who lived for 969 years and died in the very year of Noah's flood. Finally, there is Lamech. There seem to be two of them. In Genesis 4, a man named Lamech is said to have been a descendent of Cain, the first murderer. This Lamech was the first bigamist. The Bible carefully points out that he took two wives. The Lamech of chapter 6, however, is said to be related to Adam and Eve through their son Seth. He was the father of Noah and was said to have lived for 777 years.



Lamech and his two wives by Phillip Medhurst (CC BY-SA 3.0)

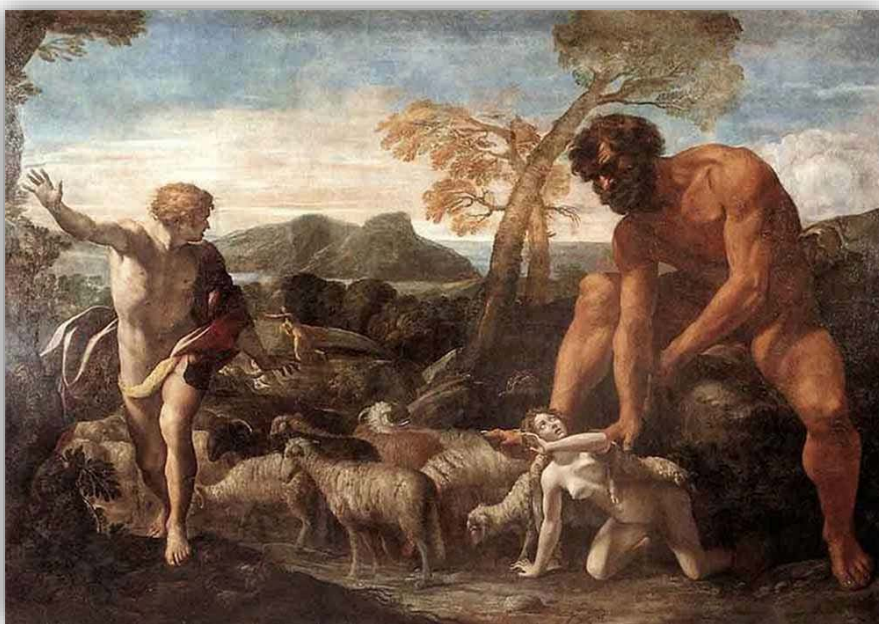
Lamech The Father Of Noah

Now, with the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls, scholars were forced to deal with a real mystery. They had found a 2,000-year-old fragment of a non-biblical book that no one had read since it was buried in the desert. It

mentioned Lamech. But which Lamech was it talking about? It seemed to be the one in chapter 6, the father of Noah. It recounted his surprise when he saw his soon-to-be-famous sailor-son for the first time. Here's what he said: "*Behold, I thought then within my heart that (his) conception*

was (due) to the Watchers and the Holy Ones ... and to the Nephilim ... and my heart was troubled within me because of this child." Lamech seems to be accusing his wife of having an affair with a member of a group called the 'Watchers and the Holy Ones'. These were identical to the group called Anunnaki or Annuna Gods, who fathered a race of giants called Nephilim. Called 'Sons of God' in Genesis, they were obviously familiar to those who had transcribed the Dead Sea Scrolls.

But where did Lamech get the idea that his wife had been having sex behind his back with a 'son of God', or angel? For that matter, can angels even have sex, let alone with humans? If that was not enough, what about Lamech mentioning the Nephilim?



*Norandino and Lucina
Discovered by the Ogre by
Giovanni Lanfranco (1624)
(Public Domain)*

Here, again, is a mystery. The Bible says that the reason God brought about Noah's Flood was that 'the sons of God' saw that 'the daughters of men' were beautiful, *"and they married any of them they chose."*

The results of these sexual liaisons were called Nephilim. The children of these illicit affairs were said to be giants. In *Genesis 6:4 and 5* they were called "*heroes of old, men of renown*". That is why God destroyed the world. *"The Lord saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become ... he was grieved that he had made man on the earth ... and said, "I will wipe mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth."*

Giant Noah Father Of Modern Mankind

The Bible then goes on to say that Noah would be spared because he had "*found grace in the eyes of the Lord.*" But now, after 2,000 years, here was an old, old book about Lamech accusing his wife of being one of those women who had an affair with a Watcher and a Holy One, aka angel, aka 'son of God', aka Anunnaki, who had seen her as nothing less than one of the beautiful 'daughters of men'! In other words, Noah, who "*found grace in the eyes of the Lord,*" now appears to be one of the offspring of the very beings who had caused God to destroy the earth in the first place. Why did Lamech accuse his wife of having an affair with an angel? It could only have been because the child looked like a Nephilim, a giant! And who did this child turn out to be? None other than Noah himself!

So, was Noah a product of a union between an angel and a human? Did he descend from what nowadays one might call an ancient alien, or an entity from a parallel dimension, or even an angel who fell from the grace of heaven? If so, the implications are staggering. Noah was said to be the father of every human now living. He and his sons were God's do-over. Everyone else was destroyed in the flood.

So if Noah is mankind's ancestral father, and he was part angel and part human, or part ancient alien, or even part spiritual entity of some kind, what does that make his descendants? Children of the gods!

Noah and his entourage come down from the ark and make a sac (Wellcome Images / CC BY-SA 4.0)



Noah buildeth an Altar to the Lord, and took of every clean Beast, & of every clean Fowl, and offered burnt Offerings on it. Gen. 8:20.

In other words, people who lived thousands of years ago believed modern humans are descended from something other than earthly apes! And these people lived side by side, and were presumably just as smart, as the venerated people who wrote the Bible that is so revered today. They all wrote books, but no-one has been allowed to read many of them because 2,000 years ago some unknown gatekeepers from the Council of Jamnia decided what was true and what was false. They preserved what they considered the good stuff and burned the rest.



*The Pharisees Debating by Rembrandt van Rijn and William Baillie (1649)
(Public Domain)*

Know That Ye Are Gods

That explains some pretty strange and enigmatic bible verses. *Psalm 82*, for instance, says: "Know ye not that ye are gods?" Jesus even quotes that verse in *John 10*. It is echoed as well in the *New Testament* books of *Hebrews* and *Jude*. Jesus, the supposed Son of God himself, refers to his followers as 'brothers'. (And, one assumes in these more enlightened days, 'sisters'.) These verses, and many more like them, are echoes from the destroyed texts that might have changed the history of religion!

The common way of explaining these things, which are now well-known to professors but rarely brought up in lay circles, is to say: "Don't take these things too seriously. There were quacks and imaginative, superstitious people back then just as now. After all, Noah's Flood was an early Hebrew myth, composed to convey some mysterious ethical or moral lesson. These people were much more primitive than given credit for."



The Qumran Book of Giants tells the story of pre-diluvian origins of evil and the fate of the Watchers and their giant offspring. Fallen Angel by Odilon Redon, (1872). (Public Domain)

But why all this detail? There is no need to insert a lot of extraneous facts if one's purpose is simply convey an ethical or moral lesson. As a matter of fact, too much extra material just clutters up the point. While trying to teach a moral lesson, and the audience is thinking about Lamech's reaction to seeing his first-born son — a future hero named Noah — they might even miss the whole message. So why bring it up? These texts were written long before the birth of Jesus, as were the texts that now make up the book of *Genesis*. Both *Hebrews* and *Jude*, in the *New Testament*, were written after his death. From this one can deduce that the authors of *Jude* and *Hebrews* must have been familiar with at least one manuscript, long since disappeared, that told Enoch's story. Since no such manuscript was known to exist until recently, scholars assumed that as far as Enoch was concerned, his story would forever remain a mystery — one of those puzzling verses that pointed to an unknown and long forgotten historical footnote. They were right about the mystery. But it is a mystery that refuses to stay buried.

Top Image: The four evangelists by Peter Paul Rubens. Sanssouci Picture Gallery. (1614) (Public Domain)

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