

# Facts and Fallacies About the Nephilim

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**T**here certainly are some mysterious and unexplainable things/ events/ creatures/ objects that are mentioned in the Bible. In part, this is because **the Scriptures were written primarily so that we could learn about salvation through faith in Christ Jesus (2 Tim. 3:15) and, therefore, they don't always give much detail about lesser topics.** But in this case, we do have other related Scriptures to gain some insights from on the enigma of the *Nephilim*, a topic that has been mentioned quite frequently over the past decade, with some false information being declared about them.

**The Hebrew word *nephiyl* from which *Nephilim* comes actually means *giant*.** [It is not true that *Nephilim* means *fallen*, as some think.] We read of this term in two different passages, that is, one before the Great Flood in Noah's day and one time afterwards. Hence, the Great Flood did not permanently kill them off:

The **Nephilim [Hebrew word is *nephiyl*]** were on the earth in those days—and also afterward—**when the sons of God went to the daughters of men and had children by them.** They were the heroes of old, men of renown (Gen. 6:4).

We saw the **Nephilim [Hebrew word is *nephiyl*]** there (the descendants of Anak come from the **Nephilim [Hebrew word is *gibbowr*]**). **We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them** (Num. 13:33).

The NASB reads:

There also we saw the Nephilim (**the sons of Anak are part of the Nephilim**); and we became like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight.

Especially the aforementioned passages give us some rare insight into them with Gen. 6:4 stating ***the sons of God went to the daughters of men and had children by them.***

## Angels Can Be Called The Sons Of God

Elsewhere in Scripture, we learn that ***angels can be called the sons of God (Job 1:6; 2:1), the same Hebrew words as found in Gen. 6:4.*** It, therefore, appears that (fallen) angels had sexual union with female humans and the offspring were the *Nephilim*. (Also, please know that **angels are tall, powerful** and created spirit beings. The Hebrew from Gen. 6:4 suggests the possibility that the angels raped the women.)

Furthermore, according to the aforementioned Num. 13:33 *the descendants of Anak* were the offsprings of these *Nephilim*. If we check elsewhere in Scripture we learn more about this:

They went up through the Negev and came to **Hebron**, where **Ahiman, Sheshai and Talmi, the descendants of Anak**, lived (Num. 13:22).

In accordance with the Lord's command to him, Joshua gave to Caleb some of Jephunneh a portion in Judah—Kiriath Arba, that is, Hebron. (**Arba was the forefather of Anak.**) (Josh. 15:13).

From Hebron Caleb drove out the three **Anakites—Sheshai, Ahiman and Talmi—descendants of Anak** (Josh. 15:14).

They gave them Kiriath Arba (that is, **Hebron**), with its surrounding pastureland, in the hill country of Judah. (**Arba was the forefather of Anak.**) (Josh. 21:11).

As Moses had promised, Hebron was given to Caleb, who drove from it **the three sons of Anak** (Judg. 1:20).

Anak had three sons (Sheshai, Ahiman and Talmi) and they lived in *Hebron*. They were the dreaded *Anakites*. The aged Caleb, a man of great faith, drove them from that part of the promised land (Canaan). They were a feared people because of their size and strength:

The people are **strong and tall—Anakites!** You know about them and have heard it said: “Who can stand up against the Anakites?” (Deut. 9:2).

*Arba* was also the ancestor of Anak. We read of Arba and where he was from in Gen. 23:2:

She died at Kiriath **Arba (that is, Hebron)** in the land of Canaan, and Abraham went to mourn for Sarah and to weep over her.

Jacob came home to his father Isaac in Mamre, near Kiriath **Arba (that is, Hebron)**, where Abraham and Isaac had stayed. (Gen. 35:27)

(**Hebron used to be called Kiriath Arba after Arba, who was the greatest man among the Anakites.**) Then the land had rest from war. (Josh. 14:15)

They gave them Kiriath **Arba (that is, Hebron)**, with its surrounding pastureland, in the hill country of Judah. (**Arba was the forefather of Anak.**) (Josh. 21:11)

Arba was from Hebron where the Anakites lived.

### “As Tall As The Anakites”

We actually have the proper names of three *giants*, as already cited, but there were other giants mentioned in Scripture too. If we didn't have any information other than the phrase *as tall as the Anakites*, we could assume from that alone that such people were *extraordinarily tall*:

(The **Emites** used to live there—a people strong and numerous, and **as tall as the Anakites**. Like the Anakites, **they too were considered Rephaites**, but the Moabites called them Emites. (Deut. 2:10,11)

“When you come to the Ammonites, do not harass them or provoke them to war, for I will not give you possession of any land belonging to the Ammonites. I have given it as a possession to the descendants of Lot.” (That too was considered a land of the **Rephaites**, who used to live there; but the Ammonites called them **Zamzummites**. They were a

people strong and numerous, and **as tall as the Anakites**. The LORD destroyed them from before the Ammonites, who drove them out and settled in their place. (Deut. 2:19-21)

**So now we also know the Anakites were not the only *tall* people. The Emites and Rephaites (also known as Zamzummites) were as tall since they are described the same way.**

### **Og of Bashan**

We get more specific information about this man's height than we do any of the other Rephaites. This man slept on **an iron bed that was over 13 feet long and 6 feet wide**:

Only **Og** king of Bashan **was left of the remnant of the Rephaites**. His bed was **made of iron and was more than thirteen feet long and six feet wide**. (Deut. 3:11)

Since his bed was that long, Og could have been about 12-1/2 feet tall. That would make him taller than Goliath, whom David killed with a slingshot. Goliath was over 9 feet tall (1 Sam. 17:4). **Og might have been 3 feet taller than Goliath.**

### **Four Huge and Powerful Descendants of Rapha**

The physical strength of these extremely tall people is hinted at in the following:

And **Ishbi-Benob, one of the descendants of Rapha**, whose bronze spearhead weighed three hundred shekels and who was armed with a new *sword*, said he would kill David. But Abishai son of Zeruiah came to David's rescue; he struck the Philistine down and killed him. Then David's men swore to him, saying, "Never again will you go out with us to battle, so that the lamp of Israel will not be extinguished." In the course of time, there was another battle with the Philistines, at Gob. At that time Sibbecai the Hushathite killed **Saph, one of the descendants of Rapha**. In another battle with the Philistines at Gob, Elhanan son of Jaare-Oregim the Bethlehemite killed **Goliath the Gittite**, who had a spear with a shaft like a weaver's rod. In still another battle, which took place at Gath, there was **a huge man with six fingers on each hand and six toes on each foot — twenty-four in all. He also was descended from Rapha**. When he taunted Israel, Jonathan son of Shimeah, David's brother, killed him. **These four were descendants of Rapha** in Gath, and they fell at the hands of David and his men. (2 Sam 21:16-22)

Apparently, Ishbi-Benob had the physical power to handle a spear with a head that weighed approximately 7.5 pounds! Getting back to Goliath, his spear point weighed *twice* as much or 600 shekels (1 Sam. 17:7), even though he might have been several feet shorter.

There were other tall people too, but much less known:

And he struck down an Egyptian who was **seven and a half feet tall**. Although the Egyptian had a spear like a weaver's rod in his hand, Benaiah went against him with a club. He snatched the spear from the Egyptian's hand and killed him with his own spear. (1 Chr. 11:23)

## Are The Nephilim Going To Return?

Sadly, some have been wrongly teaching that the giants (or half-angel-half-human, *Nephilim*) will return before Christ comes again. This is not supported from Scripture. The two passages cited for such a false notion are:

**As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.** 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; 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.** (Mat. 24:37-39)

**Just as it was in the days of Noah, so also will it be in the days of the Son of Man.** People were **eating, drinking, marrying and being given in marriage** up to the day Noah entered the ark. Then the flood came and destroyed them all. **It was the same in the days of Lot.** People were **eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building.** But the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all. **It will be just like this on the day the Son of Man is revealed.** (Luke 17:26-30)

**One is taking these verses out of their context to force out the interpretation that the phrase, *as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man* means *the Nephilim will be returning*.** Clearly, those passages show what is referred to regarding Noah's day as simply them *eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage*, which is also similar to how it was in Sodom in Lot's day before it was destroyed. **The people in both cases, who were destroyed, were totally unaware of the overhanging danger and just went about their daily routine life as usual.** This is how Christ's return and Noah's day are related. The Nephilim are *not* going to return, but the Lord Jesus certainly is.

## Jesus Is Coming--Ready Or Not

How can you prepare for his return? **You must *repent*, place your faith in the Lord Jesus for your salvation** (Acts 20:21) and ***prove your repentance by your deeds*** (Acts 26:20). If you have done this sometime in the past but since then you have grown lukewarm, lost your first love, backslid, etc., **you need to *repent* again.**

**To actually enter God's kingdom you must endure hatred and persecution for righteous living to the end of your life (Mat. 10:22), hold firmly to the end the confidence you had at first (Heb. 3:14), and remain faithful to God to the point of death (Rev. 2:10,11). This should *always* be your top priority with no close second.** God bless you.

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