

WORD OF THE WEEK

The Subject: Corruption in the church, a sign of the end

Matthew 24:37-39 -- *But as the days of Noe (Noah) were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be - for as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and "giving in marriage", until the day that Noe (Noah) entered into the ark, --And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.*

Genesis 6:4 -- (during the days of Noah) *There were giants in the earth in those days -- when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bear children to them, the same became mighty men -men of renown.*

giant - Hebrew: nephil - a tyrant or bully; one who over throws
renown - Hebrew: shem - honor; authority; conspicuous position

Sons of God were of the lineage of Seth (Gen. 5). They were believers. The daughters of men were descendants of Cain (unbelievers; idol worshippers). "Giving in marriage" meant to mix by marrying truth and a lie. It was to marry belief and unbelief. This was strictly forbidden by God to his people, the Israelites. Abraham forbade his servant to take a wife for his son Isaac of the Canaanites (unbelievers), but rather he sent him to the land of his fathers (Mesopotamia) to bring him a wife who worshiped Jehovah (Rebekah), (Gen. 24:3). Another time, Israel had been held captive in Babylon 130 years. When they were allowed to come back and rebuild their temple, God commanded them not to intermarry with the heathen idolaters, that took possession of their land, while they had been in captivity. Israel ignored God's command and the holy seed mingled themselves with the people of those lands (Ezra 9:2). The Israelites intermarried the law of God with pagan idolatry when their sons and daughters married the children of the unbelievers, seeking to be at peace with them in order to gain their wealth (Ezra 9:12). This is what the church is doing today when they mix just enough lie (deception and opinion) with God's truth, in order to make themselves comfortable. When preachers preach an "easy religion" they are trying to get along with the world (seeking their peace), so that unrepentant men will keep giving their money to the church (seeking their wealth). Jesus said that his preachers are to be "wise as serpents, and harmless as doves." Harmless is the word *akeraios* (GR.). It means to be "unmixed". A mixed gospel that pronounces Jesus name with the lips, but has no repentance and agonizing over sin, is destructive (harmful) to the believers life. Giants are the result of belief marrying unbelief. The word giant in Gen. 6:4 does not mean a tall, burly man. It is a bully or tyrant in authority (renown) ruling in a dictatorship over others. The preacher who marries God's word with his opinions is always a bully, lording himself over the flock of God as though he owned them. We are to be holy (hagios - one substance - unmixed) (1 Pet. 1: 16). As it was in the days of Noah, preachers and believers have corrupted themselves in America. Preachers, repent, God will not hold you guiltless.

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