

The Bible For Our Times

“WEEPING MAY ENDURE FOR A NIGHT, BUT JOY COMETH IN THE MORNING.” PSALM 30:5

BIBLE411.COM

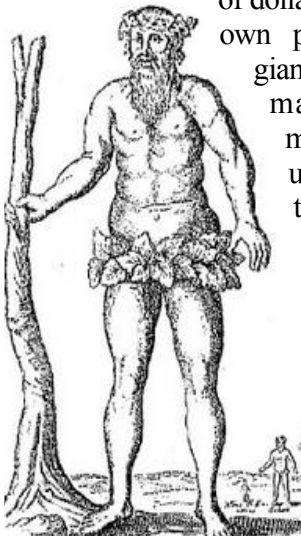
December, 2008

As in the Days of Noah: **Giants in the Earth**

*“There were giants in the earth in those days...And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually....
But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.” Genesis 6:4-8*

Do we actually have “giants” today? Hardly a week goes by without the media announcing some new marriage between major companies, the creation of some new colossus, a mega-merger designed to create the super-giants of the future. The sectors most likely for this monolith-mania have been the auto industry, investment firms, mortgage titans, media, pharmaceuticals, telecommunications, food and agro-industry and the bank. Yes, we have “giants” today!

As a result of many business consolidations, firms have now achieved gargantuan proportions. Corporate dollar turnover of such giants as Wal-Mart, Exxon Mobile, General Electric, Honda and Toyota rival the Gross National Product of some industrialized countries. Side stepping US federal elections laws, giant corporations have contributed millions of dollars in the political process for their own purposes. One powerful global giant—has been cornering various markets with its genetically modified seeds. Almost untouchable, it has been called to task because of environmental pollution and even questionable practices related to milk production. Oil giants certainly affect people and nations. Governments have had to step in to rescue banking giants and other financial institutions and manufacturing firms. Some giants are getting bigger....



The Giants of Noah’s Day

“Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth...and He was grieved in His heart...Then God said to Noah, ‘The earth is filled with violence because of them; and behold, I am about to destroy them with the earth. Make for yourself an ark...’” (NAS)

From Adam until Noah, angels were permitted to manage earth’s affairs. But Apostle Paul wrote that the “world to come” will “not be subject to angels” (Hebrews 2:5). Peter states that “the world that then was [and] perished” was subject to angels (2 Peter 3:6). During that time angels actually materialized (took on human form as men) and married human women. Their children were a hybrid species—“giants” (Gen 6:4). The combination of angelic vitality infused into human stock resulted in a hybrid race of giants—physical and mental giants, brutish and sensual. Since these hybrids were born contrary to divine will or law, they had no right to existence.

“Days of Noah”—Like “Days of the Son of Man”

Actually, Jesus drew a comparison about the time of his return with “the days of Noah.” Yet the main focus of his comparison was not the prevailing evil—but the people’s unawareness and “business as usual” lifestyle routines. The people ignored Noah and what he was doing for 120 years while the Ark was being prepared—until the unprecedented flood occurred.

Luke 17:26-27 'And just as it happened **in the days of Noah**, so it shall be also **in the days of the Son of Man**: they were eating, they were drinking, they were marrying, they were being given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all.' (NAS)

One might expect that the “days of the Son of Man” would be shockingly obvious to people. While many expect they will see the returning Christ with their own eyes, the Scriptures say that he will come like a “thief in the night.”

1 Thess.5:2 “For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a **thief in the night**.”

2 Pet.3:10 “But the **day of the Lord will come** [be here—Greek, *heko*] **as a thief in the night**; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise....”

But, what about Revelation (1:7) which says, “Behold, he cometh with clouds and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him.” And furthermore, isn't there a scripture text which talks about Jesus returning “with a shout” and “with the trump of God” (1 Thessalonians 4:16) Doesn't that say it all? No, it actually doesn't resolve the question. Why? Because thieves don't announce their arrival with a trumpet. Scripture must be harmonized with scripture.

Jesus plainly says, “the world seeth me no more” (John 14:19). “Behold, I come as a thief...” (Rev. 16:15) Also, “I will come on thee as a thief...” (Rev. 3:3). When all these texts are compared with each other, it becomes clear that Jesus will *not be literally seen* in “clouds,” but *rather perceived* as causing the “time of trouble” (Dan. 12:1; Matt. 24:21) in the earth when he returns. The “trumpet” and “shout” of the Archangel would be inconsistent with his stated thief-like return. Thus, during a secret presence people would carry on with their usual routines just as when Noah, “a preacher of righteousness,” was present, preaching and warning the people in his day? (2 Pet. 2:5)

Jesus as a “Thief” coming with a “Shout”

Apostle Paul had confidence that the brethren of Thessalonica knew what he meant when he spoke figuratively of the “shout” and “trumpet” (Ch. 4) then as a “thief” (Ch. 5). Harmonizing what Paul said, in what sense then does Jesus come as “a thief” yet with a “shout” and the “trump” when “every eye shall see him”? The answer is that the meaning of the Greek word for “shout” is *keleusma* and it means a shout of encouragement. That shout is most of all important to his faithful followers who understand time prophecy pointing to his return or “coming” (literally his presence Greek—*parousia*).

Jesus, No Longer Flesh

The scriptures—quoting Jesus and Paul—plainly state and illustrate the manner of the Lord's return. They show that he will be present but unseen, doing a work of which the world for a time will be entirely unaware. His arrival will be unobserved and entirely unknown to the world, just “as a thief” would come, without literal noise or other demonstration to attract attention. Since Jesus gave up his “flesh” in sacrifice “for the “life of the world” (John 6:51)—and has “ascended to [his] Father” (John 20:17), he no longer possesses the literal flesh he had as Man Christ Jesus. He is now a Spirit being. (Remember that during the 40 days Jesus appeared—much as angels had appeared to others in order to convince the disciples of the reality of his resurrection—he was not always recognizable! Of course, as the glorious resurrected King of Kings, Jesus does not have nail prints in his hands as on the occasion of only two of his appearances!) “Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God...” (1 Cor 15:50-51; 1 John 3:2)

Returning what Man Lost

The “shout” (*keleusma*) is actually a wake up call to a sense of long lost rights and privileges when Jesus returns. (This “shout” of encouragement can also picture the people's response to the Jubilee trumpets blown by the priests.) Jubilee was a special time—under Jewish Law every fifty years—to return to every man what he had lost. This prophetic “trumpet” of “Jubilee” points to the time when that which was “lost” by Adam will be restored—beginning with personal human rights:



Leviticus 25:9-10 “Then shalt thou cause the **trumpet of the jubilee to sound** on the tenth day of the seventh month, in the day of atonement shall ye make the trumpet sound throughout all your land. And ye shall hallow the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof: it shall be a jubilee unto you; and ye **shall return every man unto his possession**, and ye **shall return every man unto his family**.”

Jesus explained, “For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost” (Matt 18:11). His return is a time of restoration and restitution of what was lost by mankind

because of Adam’s sin (1 Cor. 15:22). Although the time when Jesus returns is first a time of demanding of rights—with much chaos and trouble—afterwards it will climax in a time of returning of the dead to life! “Ye shall return every man unto his family.” The whole purpose, the object, of Jesus’ return—the theme of the whole Bible—is restoration and restitution!

Acts 3:19-21 “Repent therefore and return, that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord; and that He may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you, whom heaven must receive **until the times of restitution of all things** about which **God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets** from ancient time.”

Giants Gone—People Back

Only the earnest watching Christians see the signs of his invisible “presence” (Greek, *parousia*). “Blessed are your eyes, for they see; and your ears, for they hear.” (Matt. 13:16, 17). But eventually all mankind will understand what is happening: “Every eye shall see him.” (Rev. 1:7) That will finally be possible when generation by generation every man and woman will be “return[ed] to their own family” (Lev. 25:10).

While the “daughters of men” with whom the rebellious angels produced giants (Gen. 6:2, 4)—will be awakened by Jesus, the hybrid giants will not! Neither will the “giants” of today come back! However, the people who now make up these giant multi-national conglomerates, governments and



mega-organizations—they will come back to learn about God. When Satan is fully bound and can “deceive the nations no more” for “a thousand years” (Rev. 20:1-3), those who were blinded (2 Cor. 4:4) will finally have a real opportunity to conform to the righteous principles of God’s Kingdom.

Fallen Angels Restricted in “Chains”— Till Day of Judgment

Since the Flood, the angels who formerly materialized have been restrained. “And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains [figurative] under darkness [“tartaroo”] unto the judgment of the great day” (Jude 6; 2 Peter 2:4,5). Once placed in those “chains” the angels could not materialize! They have been restricted till the Judgment Day which Apostle Peter explains is a thousand years (2 Peter 3:7,8)—the same Thousand Years as Christ’s Kingdom when the deceiver Satan will be bound! Because Paul states that the saints “will judge angels,” it appears likely that some of these angels may have learned their lesson as to the consequences of deviating from God’s will and plan. They have also observed mankind’s evil and sad history in contrast to the lives of Jesus and his followers (1 Tim. 3:16; 1 Cor. 4:9). But others deviously may try to infiltrate mankind’s activities as they are loosed from their “chains,” taking advantage of greater liberty to impersonate the dead—or actually materialize. But after fair probation, these angels will be judged, sentenced and destroyed (1 Cor. 6:3; Matt. 25:41).

Restored Human Beings given Dominion on the Earth

Finally, in God’s Kingdom, instead of people being crushed under “giants,” people will be able to develop to their full potential. The “dominion” that Adam lost for himself and his posterity will be restored. Yes, God cares for man and thus provided that Jesus should be made a Man—humbled, “a little lower than the angels”—to pay the just penalty for Adam’s sin which brought death upon us all.

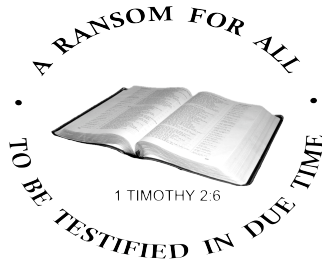
Heb 2:6-9 “What is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? You made him a little lower than the angels; you crowned him with glory and honor and put everything under his feet. In putting everything under him, God left nothing that is not subject to him. Yet at present we do not see everything subject to him. But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for **everyone.**” (NIV)

THE BIBLE STUDENTS CONGREGATION OF NEW BRUNSWICK—WHO ARE THEY?

The Bible Students Congregation is a completely autonomous, non-denominational Christian fellowship. This fellowship has no central head, office or central publishing house. It maintains an association through conventions and enjoys a fellowship that is worldwide. We welcome all to share with us in the study of God’s Word. There is no organization to join and no creed to affirm. Our services are as simple as the church in the days of the Apostles. Our congregation benefits from the prayer support of one another and our fellowship is warm and friendly.

**BIBLE STUDENTS CONGREGATION
OF NEW BRUNSWICK**
PO Box 144 • Edison, NJ 08818-0144

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EDISON, NJ
PERMIT NO. 20



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

This issue...

Giants in the Earth

Kings in all the Earth

Because Christ died for “everyone,” *everyone* will have an opportunity to have life again!

Rev 21:1-4, 24 “And I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away...And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband...Behold, the **tabernacle of God is among men**, and He shall dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be among them, and He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there shall no longer be any death; there shall no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away...And the nations shall walk by its light, and **the kings of the earth shall bring their glory into it [the New Jerusalem].**”

Mankind, with no more mental, moral or physical weakness—or abuse from any “giants,”—will receive back their “dominion.” Yes, every human being will be a King bringing his own glory to God’s Kingdom—to the New Jerusalem, the Bride of Christ.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY SERVICES	Metuchen NJ 10:00AM BIBLE STUDY: The Time is at Hand 11:30AM SERMON or Topical Bible Study
WEEK-NIGHTS	Middlesex County, NJ & Somerset County, NJ
Internet	Website: www.bible411.com Email: info@bible411.com
Telephone	1-877-BIBLE-411 or 732-549-5010

**Bible Students Congregation of New Brunswick
PO Box 144 • Edison, NJ 08818-0144**

**Send me the free booklet,
“I Will Come Again.”**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ St _____ Zip _____