

Fearful Events

The Future, Session 6

End Times – Background

- Lk 21:11, “There will be great earthquakes, famines and pestilences in various places, and fearful events and great signs from heaven.”
 - “fearful events” (Gk, n, *phobetron*): anything that inspires fear or dread

As in the Days of Noah

- Mt 24:37, “As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.”
 - verses 38-41 explain that life continued as usual right up to the day Noah entered the ark
 - most people interpret this to mean it’ll be “business as usual” until the Lord comes and God pours out his destructive wrath on the earth
 - Why didn’t Jesus use his “thief in the night” analogy for his surprising return?
 - There’s something very significant about his reference to the days preceding the flood
- Gen 6:1-2, 4-5, ¹ “When men began to increase in number on the earth and daughters were born to them, ² the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful, and they married any of them they chose.... ⁴ The Nephilim 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. ⁵ The LORD saw how great man’s wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time.”
 - Old Testament describes angels as “sons of God”
 - Job 1:6; 2:1; 38:7
 - 2 Pet 2:4-5. “For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment”
 - Jude 6. “And the angels who did not keep their *positions of authority* but abandoned their own home – these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day.”
 - Those angels are among the ones we call “fallen angels”
- Gen 1:5, “The LORD saw how great man’s wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time.”
- Gen 6:9, “Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God.”
 - “righteous” (Heb, adj, *saddiq*): just, morally innocent
 - “blameless” (Heb, n, *tamim*): (1) complete, entire; (2) perfect, without blemish; (3) sound, healthy
- Gen 6:20, “Two of every kind of bird, of every kind of animal and of every kind of creature that moves along the ground will come to you to be kept alive.”
- There is physical, archeological evidence around the world of giants and bizarre creatures that existed in the past; there also are many reliable & substantiated testimonies of recent encounters with strange beings, including UFO aliens
- “The veil between the spiritual and physical realms is about to be torn, so beings from each realm will have greater access to the other. Fallen angels and demons will seemingly invade the earth and wickedness will escalate dramatically.”

More Biblical History

- Gen 6:4 refers to Nephilim; literally: “fallen ones”
- Nephilim were a genetically-corrupted race; offspring of humans & non-humans
 - “Nephilim” (Heb text) is translated “gigantes” (Gk Septuagint) = “giants”
- Num 13:32(b)-33, ³² “All the people we saw there are of great size. ³³ We saw the Nephilim there (the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim). We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them.”
 - Nephilim & their offspring occupied the Promised Land
 - Gen 15:16, “In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here, for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure.”
 - The timing of Israel’s occupation of the Promised Land was determined in part by the Amorites’ sinful degradation
 - Amos 2:9 describes the Amorites being as tall as the cedars, strong as the oaks
 - Deut 6:1, “These are the commands, decrees and laws the LORD your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess.”
 - Deut 7:1-2, ¹ “When the LORD your God brings you into the land you are entering to possess and drives out before you many nations – the Hittites, Girgashites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites, seven nations larger and stronger than you – ² and when the LORD your God has delivered them over to you and you have defeated them, then you must destroy them totally. Make no treaty with them, and show them no mercy.”
 - “destroy them totally” (Heb, v, *hrm*): to give something exclusively to God with the implication that it must be completely destroyed to avoid human use
 - Deut 7:16, “You must destroy all the peoples”
 - 7:23, “the Lord your God will deliver them over to you ... until they are destroyed.”
 - 7:24, “you will destroy them.”
 - Why would a loving & merciful God order the destruction of entire civilizations?
- What effect would it have on humans if Nephilim or giants appeared on earth?
- How would our spiritual authority, which Jesus gave us, be relevant?

Mythology

- Very likely the “gods” of mythology were fallen angels
- Greek super-human “gods”
 - Each had a specialty or realm of influence
 - Aphrodite – goddess of love & beauty
 - Apollo – god of music, poetry, art, oracles, archery, plague, medicine, sun, light and knowledge
 - Ares – god of war; represented the physical, violent and untamed aspect of war
 - Artemis – virginal goddess of the hunt
 - Athena – goddess of wisdom, poetry, art, war strategy
 - Cronus – god of agriculture
 - Demeter – goddess of agriculture, fertility, harvest
 - Dionysus – god of the grape harvest, wine-making & wine, of ritual madness, religious ecstasy and theater
 - Eros – god of sexual desire, attraction, love and procreation
 - Gaia – goddess of the earth; often referred to as “Mother Earth”
 - Hephaestus – god of fire, metalworking, stone masonry, forges, art of sculpture

- They demanded obedience, servitude, sacrifice from humans, free access to human women of their choice in exchange for help in their specialty
- Greek hybrid “gods”
 - Chimera: “a being made up of grotesquely disparate parts”
 - Pan
 - a vigorous and lustful figure having the horns, hind legs, and ears of a goat; god of nature, the wild; often associated with sexuality
 - Satyr
 - part human, part horse, noted for riotousness and the desire to have sexual intercourse with as many women as possible; had horse-like ears & tail
 - Minotaur
 - had the head of a bull and the body of a man
- If the gods of mythology were based on reality, what effect would it have on humans if beings like the Pan, Satyr or Minotaur appeared on earth today?
- How would the spiritual authority Jesus gave us be relevant?

Biblical Chimera – Cherubim

- “Cherub” (Heb, n, singular, *k^erub*)(Gk, n, singular, *Cheroub*)
- Eze 1:4-11, 14

⁴ I looked, and I saw a windstorm coming out of the north – an immense cloud with flashing lightning and surrounded by brilliant light. The center of the fire looked like glowing metal, ⁵ and in the fire was what looked like four living creatures. In appearance their form was that of a man, ⁶ but each of them had four faces and four wings. ⁷ Their legs were straight; their feet were like those of a calf and gleamed like burnished bronze. ⁸ Under their wings on their four sides they had the hands of a man. All four of them had faces and wings, ⁹ and their wings touched one another. Each one went straight ahead; they did not turn as they moved.

¹⁰ Their faces looked like this: Each of the four had the face of a man, and on the right side each had the face of a lion, and on the left the face of an ox; each also had the face of an eagle. ¹¹ Such were their faces. Their wings were spread out upward; each had two wings, one touching the wing of another creature on either side, and two wings covering its body. ¹² Each one went straight ahead. Wherever the spirit would go, they would go, without turning as they went. ¹³ The appearance of the living creatures was like burning coals of fire or like torches. Fire moved back and forth among the creatures; it was bright, and lightning flashed out of it. ¹⁴ The creatures sped back and forth like flashes of lightning.
- Eze 1:15-18
 - Each creature had a wheel on the ground beside it, appeared to be made like a wheel intersecting a wheel
 - The wheels’ rims were high & awesome, full of eyes all around
- Eze 10 – describes same creatures & identifies them as cherubim
 - v 12, “Their entire bodies, including their backs, their hands and their wings, were completely full of eyes, as were their four wheels.”
- Today we’d call Cherubim “chimera,” because they have human appearance but also animal features – hooves, 4 wings, 4 hands & arms, 4 faces

- Eze 28:12(b)-15
 - ¹² You were the model of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. ¹³ You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone adorned you: ruby, topaz and emerald, chrysolite, onyx and jasper, sapphire, turquoise and beryl. Your settings and mountings were made of gold; on the day you were created they were prepared. ¹⁴ You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones. ¹⁵ You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you.
 - Who does this describe?
 - According to verse 14, what kind of creature was he?
 - Rev 12:9, “The great dragon was hurled down – that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.”
 - “dragon” (Gk, n, *drakon*): a serpent of unknown size; a hideous serpent-like monster
 - “serpent” (Gk, n, *ophis*): serpent, snake
 - “devil” (Gk, n, *diabolos*): devil
 - “Satan” (Gk, n, *Satanas*): accuser, adversary
 - Why are these descriptions so drastically different?
 - What other creatures were thrown to the earth with Satan?
 - Did they necessarily have human appearance?
 - Is it possible other cherubim fell with Satan?
 - What effect would it have on humans if fallen cherubim appeared on earth with super-human strength and abilities?
 - How would our spiritual authority be relevant?

Biblical Chimera – Seraphim

- Seraph (Heb, n, singular, *saraph*); plural, *saraphim*
 - as a verb: to burn (common Semitic term)
 - as a noun: (1) burning one, fiery being; (2) fiery serpent; reptile with poisonous/burning venom; (3) flying serpentine creature (e.g., Isa 30:6)
- Isa 6:1-4
 - ¹ In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. ² Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. ³ And they were calling to one another: “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.” ⁴ At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.
 - Verse 6, “Then one of the seraphs flew to me with a live coal in his hand....”
 - Only other uses of *saraph* or *saraphim* in the Old Testament:
 - Num 21:6, “Then the Lord sent venomous [*fiery*] snakes among them....”
 - Num 21:8, “Make a snake [*fiery serpent*] and put it up on a pole....”
 - Deut 8:15, “... the vast and dreadful desert ... with its venomous [*fiery*] snakes”
 - Isa 14:29, “... a darting [*flying*], *venomous serpent*.”
 - Isa 30:6, “... a land ... of adders and darting [*flying*] *snakes*”
 - The verb form of *saraph* is widely used in OT (117 times), translated to burn, to burn completely, to burn a sacrifice, anger, kindle or get hot with anger

- The flying serpent was a well-known symbol in the ancient Near East, especially in Egypt
- Mythology includes stories of flying serpents & they're depicted on ancient royal crowns, so does that suggest seraphim also were expelled from heaven with Satan?
- What effect would it have on humans if fallen seraphim appeared on earth with super-human strength and abilities?
- How would the spiritual authority Jesus gave us be relevant?

Fallen Angels

- Heb 13:2, "Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it."
 - Do you know if you ever encountered an angel?
- I suggest that as the spiritual conflict of the end times escalates, we'll have many more encounters because it'll be necessary for angels to minister to us more frequently & more openly
- If God's angels can take physical form, can fallen angels do the same?
- What effect would it have on humans if fallen angels appeared openly on earth?
- How would our spiritual authority be relevant?

Medical & Scientific Research

- Research & experimentation are being performed in several major nations on DNA editing in attempts to (1) grow replacement human organs in animals, (2) develop soldiers with super-human strength & abilities, (3) indefinitely extend human life, (4) to see whether we can develop hybrid humans that will evolve the human race to a higher level
- Although many of these projects are top-secret for national security purposes, there is ample evidence that such beings already exist in laboratories
- What effect would it have on the world population if these beings were made public?
- How would our spiritual authority be relevant?

The Future

- Before the Lord returns for us, we will see angels, fallen angels, chimera & giants on earth
- Are you ready to build yourself up spiritually in preparation for what's coming on the earth?
- There's an army of angels watching events developing on earth and waiting for God's command
- Around God's throne, there's no anxiety or confusion
- The Almighty One is the personification of absolute authority (almighty), fully aware of everything (omniscient), capable of doing whatever he decides without limit or fault (omnipotent)
- How is our spiritual authority relevant to God's angels?
- How is our spiritual authority relevant to fallen angels, chimera and giants on earth?

Conclusion

- All these things likely will happen before the Lord snatches us from the earth
- If we learn now to depend on him and confidently anticipate covenant blessings – deliverance, provision, rescue and more – he'll provide everything we need
- "No fear. I choose to let the peace of Christ rule in my heart."