

Sunday, October 29, 2023 - "Genesis - Week 6 - The Nephilim" - Doug Kempton

Key Passages: Genesis 6:1-8, Numbers 13:28, 1 Samuel 17

- Feel free to read the passage(s) out loud as a group
- Allow the group to share freely about what stood out to them from the passage or from Sunday's message

Main Ideas

- Genesis 6:1-8 - bizarre and debated...man's depravity and the need for God's intervention
- Attractive → same word for how God describes creation (it was good), and same word for the fall/fruit
- Literary pattern in Genesis
 - Saw → thought it was attractive → action/inaction
 - Genesis 6:1-8 is a warning to Israelites...they missed/disregarded it
- Bad things happen when our action or inaction doesn't line up with God's words, statutes or commands
- The sons of God
 - Ancient readers would have know this meant non-human angelic/demonic beings
 - Spiritual realm is as real as the physical...sexual/spiritual encounter part of the occult
 - sex and procreation has been distorted and sexual sin is running rampant
- 6:2 - took multiple wives...everywhere in scripture this is a bad thing
- Satan wants to destroy all that is good, including sex
- Nephilim = really large men, not like giants in fantasy/movies (think Goliath)
 - People thought they were descendants from the Gods
 - They were worshipped and revered for their size and success
 - 1 Samuel 17 - David knew he was not a match for the living God
 - They are not to be feared
- Genesis 6:5-8 is the POINT
 - Without Jesus, every intention of our heart is evil continually...we are born sinful people
 - We see what is attractive and take what is forbidden
 - It "grieved God to his heart"
 - Sin's ripple effect...it always has a cost...it doesn't happen in isolation
- Why didn't God just stop it? Free will must exist for there to be love (no choice = coercion or oppression)
- The pattern is not just about boundaries/excluding things
- Numbers 13:28
 - Fear → exaggeration and inaction
 - Fear will always make your foe look larger then it is
 - All under the reign and rule of the living God
- But Noah found favor in the eyes of God (v8)
 - Story of Grace
 - God's relentless pursuit of his people
- See what's attractive → Pause...God do you want me to take it? → action/inaction
- Whatever your Nephilim is, God is bigger

Questions (Feel free to use all of these, some of these, or none of these)

1. How have you experienced the spiritual realm in the past?
2. How have you seen or experienced the ripple effect of sin?
3. Where have you missed out on God's plan because of inaction or fear?
4. What have you taken that wasn't part of God's plan?
5. How is God calling you to pause before taking action?
6. What is God inviting you into as a result of this message or passage?

Songs from the weekend:

[Your Great Name - *Todd Dulaney*] - [Look to the Lamb - *Jesus Image*] - [Reason to Praise - *Bethel Music*]