

Giants in Scripture, History, and Archaeology

Consider the following quote from Glenn A. Kimball in his article “Giants” found in *Ancient American* magazine, Issue Number 74:

Truth is indeed stranger than fiction. Perhaps that is why so many of the things that are disguised as reality in our eyes, are really fiction; and so much of what we deny, is in fact true. If we only knew all the facts of the world in which we live, we would be amazed.

The Nephilim

Giants are first mentioned in scripture in the book of Genesis.

Genesis 6:1-4 – “**1** And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them, **2** That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose. **3** And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years. **4** There were **giants** [H5303] in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown.”

The word “giants” in the above verse was translated from the Strong’s H5303. Some Bible translations translate this directly to “nephilim” instead of “giants”.

Who were the “sons of God”

Reference:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sons_of_God

<http://www.gotquestions.org/sons-of-God.html>

<http://www.sacred-texts.com/bib/bep/bep02.htm>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fallen_angel

<http://www.ccel.org/j/josephus/works/ant-1.htm>

Various theories:

1. Fallen (or corrupt) angels who engaged in unnatural union with human women, resulting in the begetting of the Nephilim. Early Christian writers such as Justin Martyr, Eusebius, Clement of Alexandria, Origen and Commodianus held to this view as did various Jewish sects. Modern Christian scholars have argued against this view by reasoning on Jesus’ comment in Matthew 22:30 – “For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven.” Note that this verse refers to angels in heaven, not necessarily corrupt angels who may have been somehow spiritually and physically compromised to the degree where they could mate with human women, or possibly angels that simply disobeyed God and His nature for them.

2. Descendants of Seth (pure line of Adam). Seth was born to Adam and Eve after Abel was slain by Cain.
3. Descendants of Cain (ungodly line of Adam).
4. Descendants of Seth intermarrying with descendants of Cain.
5. Powerful human rulers or princes.

Other references to the “sons of God” in scripture that seem to plainly refer to angels:

Job 1:6 – “Now there was a day when the **sons of God** came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them.”

Job 2:1 – “Again there was a day when the **sons of God** came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the LORD.”

Job 38:4-7 – “**4** Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding. **5** Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it? **6** Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof; **7** When the morning stars sang together, and all the **sons of God** shouted for joy?”

In the verses above, these “sons of God” were able to present themselves before God in heaven alongside Satan. Humans are not capable of doing this. Therefore, it seems more likely that the “sons of God” mentioned in Genesis 6 were indeed angels. In addition, it seems more probable that a compromised or mutant ‘giant’ race would be produced by angels mating with human women, rather than humans mating with humans.

Consider what Josephus wrote in Antiquities of the Jews, Book 1, Chapter 3:1:

For many angels of God accompanied with women, and begat sons that proved unjust, and despisers of all that was good, on account of the confidence they had in their own strength; for the tradition is, that these men did what resembled the acts of those whom the Grecians call giants. But Noah was very uneasy at what they did; and being displeased at their conduct, persuaded them to change their dispositions and their acts for the better: but seeing they did not yield to him, but were slaves to their wicked pleasures, he was afraid they would kill him, together with his wife and children, and those they had married; so he departed out of that land.

Consider what the book of Enoch states (7:1-2):

It happened after the sons of men had multiplied in those days, that daughters were born to them, elegant and beautiful. And when the angels, the sons of heaven, beheld them, they became enamoured of them, saying to each other, Come, let us select for ourselves wives from the progeny of men, and let us beget children.

Different forms of the word “giant” or “giants” in the Bible

Strong’s H5303: nphiyl nef-eel' or nphil {nef-eel'}; from 5307; properly, a feller, i.e. a bully or tyrant:--giant.

Strong’s H5307: naphal naw-fal' a primitive root; **to fall**, in a great variety of applications (intransitive or causative, literal or figurative):--be accepted, **cast** (down, self, (lots), out), **cease**, die, divide (by lot), (let) fail, (cause to, let, make, ready to) **fall** (away, down, -en, -ing), **fell**(-ing), fugitive, have (inheritance), inferior, be judged (by mistake for 6419), lay (along), (cause to) lie down, light (down), be (X hast) lost, lying, overthrow, overwhelm, perish, present(-ed, -ing), (make to) rot, slay, smite out, X surely, throw down.

Strong’s H7497: rapha' raw-faw' or raphah {raw-faw'}; from 7495 in the sense of invigorating; a giant:--giant, Rapha, Rephaim(-s). See also 1051.

Strong’s H1368: gibbowr ghib-bore' or (shortened) gibbor {ghib-bore'}; intensive from the same as 1397; powerful; by implication, warrior, tyrant:-- champion, chief, X excel, giant, man, mighty (man, one), strong (man), valiant man.

The Amorites

The Amorites descendent from Noah as follows (reference Genesis 10:1,6,15-16):

Noah -> Ham -> Canaan -> Amorites

The Lord speaks regarding His destruction of the Amorites:

Amos 2:9 – “Yet destroyed I the Amorite before them, **whose height was like the height of the cedars**, and he was strong as the oaks; yet I destroyed his fruit from above, and his roots from beneath.”

After the spies returned from their examination of the land of Canaan:

Numbers 13:27-33 – “**27** And they [spies] told him [Moses], and said, We came unto the land whither thou sentest us, and surely it floweth with milk and honey; and this is the fruit of it. **28** Nevertheless the people be strong that dwell in the land, and the cities are walled, and very great: and moreover we saw the children of **Anak** there. **29** The Amalekites dwell in the land of the south: and the Hittites, and the Jebusites, and the **Amorites**, dwell in the mountains: and the Canaanites dwell by the sea, and by the coast of Jordan. **30** And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it. **31** But the men that went up with him said, We be not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we. **32** And they brought up an evil report of the land which they had searched unto the children of Israel, saying, The land, through which we have gone to search it, is a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; **and all the people that we saw in it are men of a great stature. 33** And there we saw the **giants** [H5303], **the sons of Anak**, which come of the **giants** [H1368]: **and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers**, and so we were in their sight.”

Note that in verse 33 above, the sons of Anak (Anakim) are connected with the nephilim.

Note also that this and other scriptures state that giants were present on the earth even after the flood. There are different theories as to how giants came about after the flood (nephilim genes passing down through one of Noah's sons or daughter-in-laws, additional procreation between angels and men, etc.)

Consider what Finis Jennings Dake (a deceased Pentecostal minister) wrote in *Dake's Reference Bible* (<http://www.genesis6giants.com/index.php?s=387>):

The main object of the flood was to do away with all this satanic corruption, destroy the giants, and preserve the pure Adamite stock to as to make good the guarantee of the coming of the seed of the woman, as in the plan of God.

Being defeated before the flood did not stop Satan from making a further attempt to prevent the coming of the Redeemer who should be his final downfall. It was now to his advantage that God had promised never to send another universal flood upon the earth. Satan therefore reasoned that he should make a second attempt to do away with Adamite Stock. If he came within "eight souls" of doing it before the flood his opportunities were now even greater, with the promise that there would be no such flood. This is the reason for the second group of his fallen angels being sent to marry the daughters of men. Once again, the unions produced giants, and races of them occupied the land of promise, where the seed should be born, in advance of Abraham. Limited by His promise of no flood, God was then faced with the problem of destroying the giant races another way. This explains why He commanded Israel to kill them everyone, even to the last man, woman and child. This again explains why He destroyed all the men, women, and children besides Noah and his family, at the time of the flood. It also answers the skeptics question regarding why the children were taken away with the adults in the flood. God had to do away with this corruption entirely in order to fulfill His eternal plan and give the world its promised Redeemer. The Redeemed has come now, and so Satan is reserving his forces for a last stand at the second coming to Christ.

Thus it is clear from scripture that there were giants in the earth both before and after the flood and that they came from a union of fallen angels and the daughters of men.

The above is just one person's theory and speculation of course.

The Anakim

The Anakim are mentioned in several passages herein and in the Bible. They were perhaps the best known of the giants dwelling in the land of Canaan at the time of the Exodus.

Anak was the son of Arba (Joshua 15:13). No more is said of Arba in the Bible.

Joshua fought several battles with the Anakim and Amorites:

Joshua 11:21-23 – “**21** And at that time came Joshua, and cut off the Anakims from the mountains, from Hebron, from Debir, from Anab, and from all the mountains of Judah, and from all the mountains of Israel: Joshua destroyed them utterly with their cities. **22** There was none of the Anakims left in the land

of the children of Israel: only in Gaza, in Gath, and in Ashdod, there remained. **23** So Joshua took the whole land, according to all that the LORD said unto Moses; and Joshua gave it for an inheritance unto Israel according to their divisions by their tribes. And the land rested from war.”

As we see in the above, many of the giants were wiped out by the Israelites.

The Emims

Deuteronomy 2:10-11 – “**9** And the LORD said unto me [Moses], Distress not the Moabites, neither contend with them in battle: for I will not give thee of their land for a possession; because I have given Ar unto the children of Lot for a possession. **10** The **Emims** dwelt therein in times past, a people great, and many, **and tall, as the Anakims; 11 Which also were accounted giants** [H7497], as the Anakims; but the Moabites called them Emims.”

The Zamzummim

Deuteronomy 2:16-21 – “**16** So it came to pass, when all the men of war were consumed and dead from among the people, **17** That the LORD spake unto me, saying, **18** Thou art to pass over through Ar, the coast of Moab, this day: **19** And when thou comest nigh over against the children of Ammon, distress them not, nor meddle with them: for I will not give thee of the land of the children of Ammon any possession; because I have given it unto the children of Lot for a possession. **20 (That also was accounted a land of giants** [H7497]: **giants** [H7497] **dwelt therein in old time; and the Ammonites call them Zamzummims; 21** A people great, and many, **and tall, as the Anakims;** but the LORD destroyed them before them; and they succeeded them, and dwelt in their stead:”

Note that the Ammonites were descendents of Lot (reference Genesis 19:38).

Possibly also called “Zuzim”:

Genesis 14:5 – “And in the fourteenth year came Chedorlaomer, and the kings that were with him, and smote the Rephaim in Ashteroth Karnaim, and the Zuzims in Ham, and the Emims in Shaveh Kiriathaim,”

Og King of Bashan

Deuteronomy 3:11-13 – “**11** For only Og king of Bashan remained of **the remnant of giants** [H7497]; behold his bedstead was a bedstead of iron; is it not in Rabbath of the children of Ammon? **nine cubits was the length thereof**, and four cubits the breadth of it, after the cubit of a man. **12** And this land, which we possessed at that time, from Aroer, which is by the river Arnon, and half mount Gilead, and the cities thereof, gave I unto the Reubenites and to the Gadites. **13** And the rest of Gilead, and all Bashan, being the kingdom of Og, gave I unto the half tribe of Manasseh; **all the region of Argob, with all Bashan, which was called the land of giants** [H7497].”

(Also reference Joshua 12:3-5)

The standard cubit is approximately 18 inches according to various sources. Therefore, Og's "bedstead" was about 13.5 feet long and 6 feet wide.



Engraven of Og's Bed (1770, public domain)

Goliath

1 Samuel 17:4 – “And there went out a champion out of the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, of Gath, **whose height was six cubits and a span.**”

“six cubits and a span” is approximately 9' 9”.

Note that Goliath was from Gath, which is one of the places where the Anakim remained (Joshua 11:22). It is therefore possible that Goliath was a descendent of the Anakim who himself mixed with the Philistine population.

There is an apparent reference to 4 brothers of Goliath in the Bible (5 sons when including Goliath born to “the giant”):

2 Samuel 15:15-22 – “**15** Moreover the Philistines had yet war again with Israel; and David went down, and his servants with him, and fought against the Philistines: and David waxed faint. **16** **And Ishbibenob, which was of the sons of the giant**, the weight of whose spear weighed three hundred shekels of brass in weight, he being girded with a new sword, thought to have slain David. **17** But Abishai the son of Zeruiah succored him, and smote the Philistine, and killed him. Then the men of David swore unto him, saying, Thou shalt go no more out with us to battle, that thou quench not the light of Israel. **18** And it came to pass after this, that there was again a battle with the Philistines at Gob: then Sibbechai the Hushathite slew **Saph, which was of the sons of the giant**. **19** And there was again a battle in Gob with the Philistines, where Elhanan the son of Jaareoregim, a Bethlehemite, **slew the brother of Goliath the Gittite**, the staff of whose spear was like a weaver's beam. **20** **And there was yet a battle in Gath, where was a man of great stature, that had on every hand six fingers, and on every foot six toes, four and twenty in number; and he also was born to the giant**. **21** And when he defied Israel, Jonathan the son of Shimeah the brother of David slew him. **22** **These four were born to the giant in Gath**, and fell by the hand of David, and by the hand of his servants.”

Also reference 1 Chronicles 20:4-8.

An Egyptian Giant?

1 Chronicles 11:22-23 – “**22** Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, the son of a valiant man of Kabzeel, who had done many acts; he slew two lionlike men of Moab: also he went down and slew a lion in a pit in a snowy day. **23** And he slew an Egyptian, **a man of great stature, five cubits high**; and in the Egyptian's hand was a spear like a weaver's beam; and he went down to him with a staff, and plucked the spear out of the Egyptian's hand, and slew him with his own spear.”

5 cubits equals 7' 6”.

Giants in Archaeology

One specific article, from Glenn A. Kimball in "Giants", *Ancient American* magazine, Issue Number 74, regarding some specific mummy giants found in the Americas:

I photographed the mummies of two of these giant men in Lima Peru in 1969 (see "Giants of the Royal Incas," *Ancient American*, Volume 5 Issue #34, pages 36-38). These giants are still in the gold museum in Lima, Peru, today and can be seen by anyone who visits... Their crowns could fit around my waist. Their golden gloves have fingers ten inches long. Their mummies can be measured with a tape and they were both around nine and a half feet tall.

... the average height of the Peruvians, both now and historically, is well under six feet.

Don Cieza de Leon and Agustin de Zarate published texts on South American giants in 1553 and 1555 respectively. These books came just after the arrival of the conquistadores and were published within 20 years of Pizarro. They reported that the natives told the incoming Spanish that the giants came to the Americas on raftlike boats... Cieza de Leon said that when Don Antonio de Mendoza went to Cuzco, Peru, in 1560 he found tombs with extremely large bones, similar to the ones that were already found in Mexico City at the time of Montezuma.

At the ruins of Pachacamac where American and British archaeologists are working today, the giants are mentioned. It is said that they built large beautiful temples with iron tools around 500 B.C. Tradition has it that then giant men had no women in their group and were later consumed in fire from heaven. It is interesting that the stories of these giants parallels the biblical story of the Watchers who married the Daughters of Eve. The daughters of Eve bore the Watchers giant children, but it is never said that these giants themselves had children. The stories of the giants often end in a single generation, though the giants lived a very long time.

In his article, Glenn Kimball also provides many stories and archaeological evidence of giants in many other areas of the world (<http://www.genesis6giants.com/index.php?s=389>).

Stephen Quayle lists other archaeological finds in his book *Genesis 6 Giants* (<http://www.genesis6giants.com/index.php?s=388>). Most of the following items were mentioned in Quayle's book:

Item: In 1891, at Crittenden, Arizona, some workers digging the foundation of a new building at a depth of eight feet struck a huge stone sarcophagus. When they were able to open the lid, inside were the remains of a nine-foot tall giant which time had reduced mostly to a pile of dust.

Item: While searching in a cave near the great canyon of Barranc de Cobre in northern Mexico in the early 1930s, explorer Paxton Hayes came across 34 mummified men and women. All had blond hair. All rose to heights between seven and eight feet.

Item: In 1833, soldiers digging a pit at Lompock Rancho, California unearthed a 12-foot tall giant with double rows of teeth, both on top and on the bottom. The Lompock giant's teeth, while unusual, were not unique. Another ancient skeleton later found on Santa Rosa island off the coast of California showed the same dental peculiarity.

Item: In 1879, some Indiana archeologists dug into an ancient burial mound in Brewersville, Indiana and unearthed a human skeleton that measured 9’8” in length. The bones, which were stored in a grain mill, were swept away in the 1937 Flood.

Item: In the 1880s, while digging in a mound at Sayre in Bradford County, Pennsylvania, a reputable group of antiquarians found skeletons of humans measuring not only above seven feet tall, but having skulls with horns (located about two inches above the eyebrows.) The diggers, including two professors and a Pennsylvania state historian, turned what they found over to the American Investigating Museum in Philadelphia, but the bones were afterwards either misplaced, stolen, or lost.

Item: In 1903, on an archeological outing at Fish Creek, Montana, Professor S. Farr and his group of Princeton University students came across several burial mounds. Choosing one to dig into, they unearthed the skeleton of a man about nine feet tall. Next to him were the bones of a woman who had been almost as tall.

Item: Nature, in its December 17, 1891 issue, reported that at a depth of fourteen feet into a large Ohio burial mound, excavators found the skeleton of a massive man in copper armor. He wore a copper cap, while copper moldings encased his jaws. Copper armor also protected his arms, chest and stomach. At his side lay the skeleton of a woman, probably his wife.

Item: In the 1860s, some excavators digging up a hill in Marion, Ohio uncovered thirty skeletons who ranged in height from seven to eight feet.

Item: In the early years of the 20th century, a team clearing out bat guano from a cavern near Lovelock, Nevada discovered several giant cadavers measuring well over eight feet in height. Their hair, still intact, was said to have been long and “reddish” in color.

Other stories

From:

<http://www.usgennet.org/usa/topic/preservation/bios/chpt19.htm>

http://www.gnosis.org/library/dss/dss_book_of_giants.htm

According to Michael Wise, Martin Abegg Jr., and Edward Cook, *The Dead Sea Scrolls: A New Translation*, (HarperSanFrancisco, 1996) p246-250:

Enoch lived before the Flood, during a time when the world, in ancient imagination, was very different. Human beings lived much longer, for one thing; Enoch's son Methuselah, for instance, attained the age of 969 years. Another difference was that angels and humans interacted freely -- so freely, in fact, that some of the angels begot children with human females. This fact is neutrally reported in Genesis (6:1-4), but other stories view this episode as the source of the corruption that made the punishing flood necessary. According to The Book of Enoch, the mingling of angel and human was actually the idea of Shernihaza, the leader of the evil angels, who lured 200 others to cohabit with women. The offspring of these unnatural unions were giants 450 feet high. The wicked angels and the giants began to oppress the human population

and to teach them to do evil. For this reason God determined to imprison the angels until the final judgment and to destroy the earth with a flood. Enoch's efforts to intercede with heaven for the fallen angels were unsuccessful (1 Enoch 6-16).

The Book of Giants retells part of this story and elaborates on the exploits of the giants, especially the two children of Shemihazah, Ohya and Hahya. Since no complete manuscript exists of *Giants*, its exact contents and their order remain a matter of guesswork. Most of the content of the present fragments concerns the giants' ominous dreams and Enoch's efforts to interpret them and to intercede with God on the giants' behalf. Unfortunately, little remains of the independent adventures of the giants, but it is likely that these tales were at least partially derived from ancient Near Eastern mythology. Thus the name of one of the giants is Gilgamesh, the Babylonian hero and subject of a great epic written in the third millennium B.C.E.

The Dead Sea Scrolls – “The Book of Giants”:

1Q23 Frag. 9 + 14 + 15 2[. . .] they knew the secrets of [. . .] 3[. . . si]n was great in the earth [. . .] 4[. . .] and they killed many [. . .] 5[. . . they begat] giants [. . .]

4Q531 Frag. 2 [. . .] they defiled [. . .] 2[. . . they begot] giants and monsters [. . .] 3[. . .] they begot, and, behold, all [the earth was corrupted . . .] 4[. . .] with its blood and by the hand of [. . .] 5[giant's] which did not suffice for them and [. . .] 6[. . .] and they were seeking to devour many [. . .] 7[. . .] 8[. . .] the monsters attacked it.

“Buffalo” Bill Cody wrote in his autobiography:

During the scouting expedition that followed, the party chanced upon an enormous bone, which the surgeon pronounced the femur of a human body. Will understood the Indian tongues well enough to be in part possession of their traditions, and he related the Sioux legend of the flood.

It was taught by the wise men of this tribe that the earth was originally peopled by giants, who were fully three times the size of modern men. They were so swift and powerful that they could run alongside a buffalo, take the animal under one arm, and tear off a leg, and eat it as they ran. So vainglorious were they because of their own size and strength that they denied the existence of a Creator. When it lighted, they proclaimed their superiority to the lightning; when it thundered, they laughed.

This displeased the Great Spirit, and to rebuke their arrogance he sent a great rain upon the earth. The valleys filled with water, and the giants retreated to the hills. The water crept up the hills, and the giants sought safety on the highest mountains. Still the rain continued, the waters rose, and the giants, having no other refuge, were drowned.

There are many articles and online information that can be found regarding giants. This study only scratches the surface. Many books have been written. Though there are many hoaxes, there are also many reputable sources of information.

Consider the book “Genesis 6, GIANTS” by Stephen Quayle.

Interesting website (Genesis 6 Giants – 100’s of Pages and Photos about GIANTS):
<http://www.genesis6giants.com/index.php?s=25>