

GENESIS 6:1-9



One of the **most puzzling** passages in the Bible, yet one of the **most important** to understand!

Genesis 6:1-4

¹And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them,

²That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose.

³And 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.

⁴There were giants 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.



Genesis 6:5-9

⁵And 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.

⁶And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.

⁷And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.

⁸But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

⁹“These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God.”

What does Genesis 6:1-9 *actually* say?

There are a number of interpretations of this difficult passage: the **plain text reading** (which touches on **supernatural** stuff and unpalatable ideas in our relativistic world) and several **alternatives** that people have come up with. Three common ones:

- the **historical** view (that sees this as real history), where “sons of God” are **fallen angels** who marry human women and breed giants.
- the **allegorical** view (“sons of God” is an allegory for the **pure line of Seth** marrying impure “daughters of men” from Cain’s line).
- A second **allegorical** view where “sons of God” are **corrupt tyrant rulers** and “daughters of men” are common women.

With this in mind and disregarding your own feelings about supernatural beings like angels, etc., as well as what, if anything, you may have learned in the past about Genesis 6:1-9, **what does the plain text of Genesis 6:1-9 actually say?**

Which, if any, of the three views **does the text support:**

1. The Angels (cosmologically mixed races) view,
2. The Sethite (religiously mixed races) view, or
3. The sociologically mixed races view?

This exercise highlights the hermeneutic (theory of interpretation) problem that complicates Bible study for most people.

Genesis 6:1-4

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בְּנֵי־הָאֱלֹהִים

sons of God = *Bene HaElohim* = direct creations of God (e.g., Adam, angels)
OT (Job 1:6, 2:1, 38:7); NT (Lk 20:36); Book of Enoch; Septuagint (LXX).

בְּנוֹת־הָאָדָם

daughters of men = *Benoth Adam* = “daughters of Adam.”

הַנְּפִלִים *Nephilim*: “the fallen ones; a bully or tyrant.”

נָפַל *naphal*: “to fall, be cast down to fall away, desert.”

הַגִּבּוֹרִים *HaGibborim*: “the mighty ones.”

אֲנָשֵׁי הַשֵּׁם *'enowsh shem*: Men of renown

אָנוּשׁ *'enowsh*: properly, a mortal (thus differing from *adam*), wicked

Genesis 6:5-8

⁵And 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.

⁶And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.

⁷And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.

⁸But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

רַע *ra'*: wickedness = bad, evil,
malignant, unkind (vicious), wicked
(ethically)

נָחַם *nacham*: repented = sigh breathe
strongly), to be sorry, rue, suffer grief

מָחָה *machah*: destroy = to blot out,
obliterate

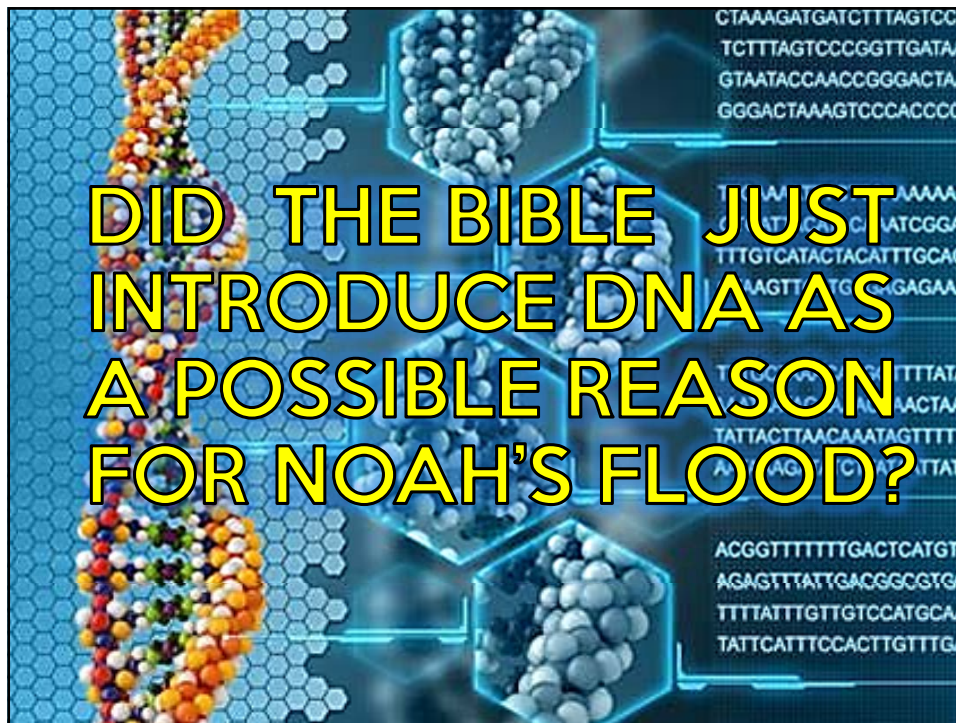
חֵן *chen*: grace = favour, grace,
acceptance

Genesis 6:9

“⁹These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God.”

תָּמִים *tamiym*: perfect = without blemish,
sound, healthful, without spot,
unimpaired.

דּוֹר *dowr*: generation = period or age,
those living during a period, a race
of men.



AS WELL AS GOD'S GENOCIDAL ORDERS TO MOSES & JOSHUA?

But of the cities of these people, which the LORD thy God doth give thee an inheritance, **thou shalt save alive nothing that breatheth**: But thou shalt utterly destroy them; the Hittites and the Amorites, the Canaanites, and the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites; as the LORD thy God hath commanded thee:

Deuteronomy 20:16-17 (KJV) and many other verses



Now look at the NIV version

1 When human beings began to increase in number on the earth and daughters were born to them, 2 the sons of God saw that the daughters of humans were beautiful, and they married any of them they chose.

3 Then the LORD said, "My Spirit will not contend with humans forever, for they are mortal; their days will be a hundred and twenty years."

4 The Nephilim ("bully or tyrant") were on the earth in those days--and also afterward--when the sons of God went to the daughters of humans and had children by them. They were the heroes of old, men of renown.

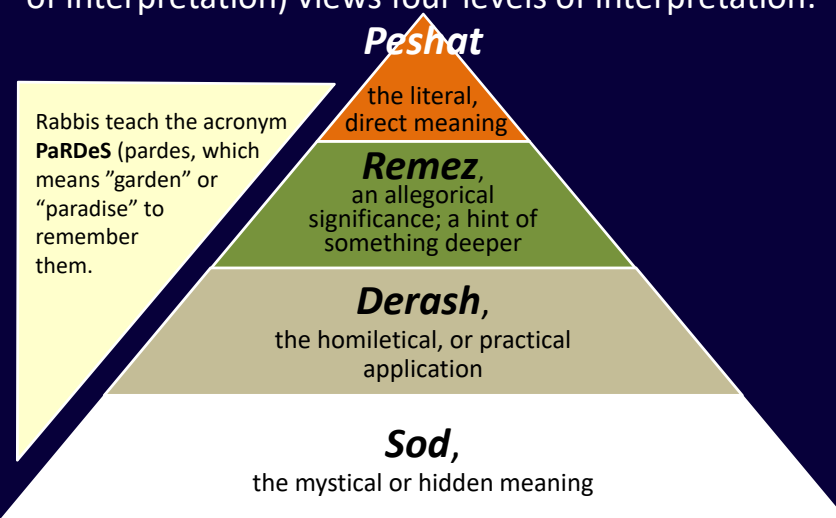
5 The LORD saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time. 6 The LORD regretted that he had made human beings on the earth, and his heart was deeply troubled. 7 So the LORD said, "I will wipe from the face of the earth the human race I have created--and with them the animals, the birds and the creatures that move along the ground--for I regret that I have made them."

8 But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.

9 This is the account of Noah and his family. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked faithfully with God.

For those wanting a bit more

The Hebrew approach to hermeneutics (the theories of interpretation) views four levels of interpretation:

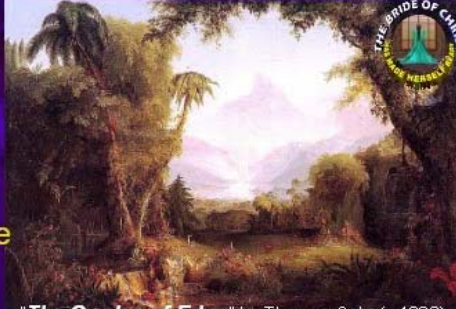


1 Peshat. "*plain*" ("*simple*") or the direct, *literal* meaning.

2 Remez. "*hints*" or the *deep* (allegoric) meaning beyond just the literal sense.

3 Derash. From Hebrew *darash*: "*inquire*" ("*seek*"). The comparative (*midrashic*) meaning, as given through similar occurrences.

4 SOD. "*secret*" ("*mystery*") or the mystical **KABBALAH** meaning.



"The Garden of Eden" by Thomas Cole (c. 1828)

PaRDeS example: Proverbs 30:1

The words of Agur the son of Jakeh, even the prophecy: the man spake unto Ithiel, even unto Ithiel and Ucal,

אגור Agur	Agur ("to collect") is the author of this Proverb. Solomon (aka Koheleth ("preacher", "assembler")) collected wise ("dark") sayings.	1
בן־יָקֵחַ Son of Jakeh	Jakeh ("carefully religious," "obedient," or "pious") was the father of Agur (Solomon), and would thus be David .	2
הַמְּשֵׂא נֶאֱמַר הַגִּבֹּר הַמְּשֵׂא נֶאֱמַר הַגִּבֹּר	"Even the prophecy the man spake": the Hebrew is <i>ha massa</i> (the burden) <i>ne'um</i> (oracle or prophecy) <i>ha-gebber</i> (the mighty)	3
יְתִיאל Ithiel	Ithiel , "God comes, arrives, is with me;" is equivalent to Immanuel, "God with us," a name of Jesus .	4
אֲכָל Ucal	Ucal seems to be a verb, <i>`ukhal</i> , which means "to be consumed."	5

PaRDeS example: *Sod* in Proverbs 30:1

*The words of Agur the son of Jakeh, even the prophecy:
the man spake unto Ithiel, even unto Ithiel and Ucal,*

Substituting names and words from our simplistic translation, we see a possible Messianic allusion:

*The words gathered of the wise son of the pious father,
the burden of the mighty prophecy, that El (God) arrives
to be consumed.*

This has several levels of deeper meaning:

- It can refer to the suffering and death of Jesus on the Cross.
- It can refer to Jesus' Bread of Life discourse in John 6:51.

Can you think of any other possibilities?

WHAT THE
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IS ABOUT

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Scrolls down

My personal favourite – BLUE LETTER BIBLE

The screenshot shows the Blue Letter Bible search interface. A search box contains "Psalm 23" and the version is set to "KJV". A yellow callout box points to the search box with the text "Type in desired verse". Another yellow callout box points to the search button with the text "Press search". A third yellow callout box points to the "KJV" dropdown menu with the text "Reset Bible version if desired". A fourth yellow callout box points to the search results area with the text "or desired passage or group of verses". The page also features a "Home Page" link and a "GROW DAILY" banner.

The screenshot shows the search results for Psalm 23 in the KJV version. The text of the psalm is displayed in a list format. A red callout box points to the "TOOLS" button next to the first verse with the text "Press TOOLS for deeper study of a verse". Another red callout box points to the "PRINT" button in the top right corner with the text "Options appear". A third red callout box points to the search results area with the text "The desired verse or verses appear for reading". The page also features a "Blue Letter Bible" logo and a "KJV" version selector.

The option for this example is "Interlinear."

Experiment with other options to see their power!

Press "Interlinear."

"Interlinear" brings up original language text (here Masoretic Hebrew) for a verse.

And provides searchable options for each word.

It breaks down each verse into by word (חֶסֶר)

English (KJV) [?]	Strong's	Root Form (Hebrew)	Parsing
[[A Psalm of David.]]	H4210	מִזְמוֹר	mizmowr
of David.]]	H1732	דָּוִד	David
The LORD	H3068	יְהוָה	Yehovah
is my shepherd	H7462	רָעָה	ra'ah
I shall not want	H2637	חָסֵר	chacer

to bring up a new page about the word חָסַר.

Press Strong's number

English (KJV) [?]	Strong's	Root Form (Hebrew)
[[A Psalm of David.]]	H4210	מְזֹמֹר <i>mizmowr</i>
of David.]]	H1732	דָּוִד <i>David</i>
The LORD	H3068	יְהוָה <i>Yəhovah</i>
is my shepherd	H7482	רֵעִי <i>ra'ah</i>
I shall not want	H2637	

How many times?

Where it's used.

How it's used.

What חָסַר means?

Lexicon :: Strong's H2637 - chacer

חָסַר

Transliteration: chacer
Pronunciation: khá-sár (Key)

Part of Speech: verb
Root Word (Etymology): A primitive root

Dictionary Aids
TWOT Reference: 705

KJV Translation Count — Total: 21x

The KJV translates Strong's H2637 in the following manner: want (7x), lack (6x), fail (3x), decreased (1x), abated (1x), have need (1x), made lower (1x), bereave (1x).

Outline of Biblical Usage [?]

I. to lack, be without, decrease, be lacking, have a need

A. (Qal)

i. to lack

ii. to be lacking

iii. to diminish, decrease

B. (Piel) to cause to lack

C. (Hiphil) to cause to be lacking

Strong's Definitions [?]

חָסַר *chàçer*, *khaw-sare'*; a primitive root; to lack; by implication, to fail, want, lessen—be abated, bereave, decrease, (cause to) fail, (have) lack, make lower, want.

Gesenius' Hebrew-Chaldee Lexicon [?]

חָסַר *chacer* plur. חָסְרוֹ [“to DIMINISH, TO CUT SHORT”]—(1) TO BE DEVOID OF anything, TO LACK, TO BE WITHOUT, followed by an acc. (like verbs of plenty and want), Deu. 2:7; 8:9; Ps. 34:11; Pro. 31:11. Gen. 18:28, אָגַל יְהוָה וְחָסְרוּ הַמַּיִם מֵהַצֵּדָיִם, אָגַל יְהוָה וְחָסְרוּ הַמַּיִם מֵהַצֵּדָיִם

Click Here for the Rest of the Entry

Word / Phrase / Strong's Search

« Previous Strong's H2636 Next Strong's H2638 »

H2637 KJV Search

Concordance Results Using KJV

Strong's Number H2637 matches the Hebrew חָסַר (*chacer*), which occurs 21 times in 21 verses in the Hebrew concordance of the KJV

Click here to view results using the NASB Hebrew concordance

Click here to view results using the HCSB Hebrew concordance

TOOLS Gen 8:3 And the waters returned from off the earth continually: and after the end of the hundred and fifty days the waters were abated. H2637

TOOLS Gen 8:5 And the waters decreased H2637 continually until the tenth month: in the tenth month, on the first day of the month, were the tops of the mountains seen.

Set up a Bible Reading Plan

- 1 Choose a good Bible version for study!
- 2 Invest in a study Bible of your selected version.
- 3 Record thoughts and questions in a journal.
- 4 Plan your Bible reading. Then follow the plan.

One Method – Inductive Bible Study

- 01 **Observation**
Discover what the Bible says.
- 02 **Interpretation**
Discover what the Bible means.
- 03 **Application**
Discover how the Bible works.

Observation – what to look for

Terms, not just words

Structure

Emphasis

Repetition

Relationship of ideas

Comparisons & contrasts

Literary form

Atmosphere

Now answer these questions

Who? What? Where? When? Why?

