

JUDE: CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH

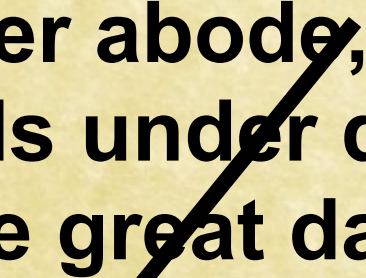
ANGELIC CONFLICT: “SONS OF GOD: APOSTATES, AUTOCRATS, OR ANGELS”

JUDE 6–7



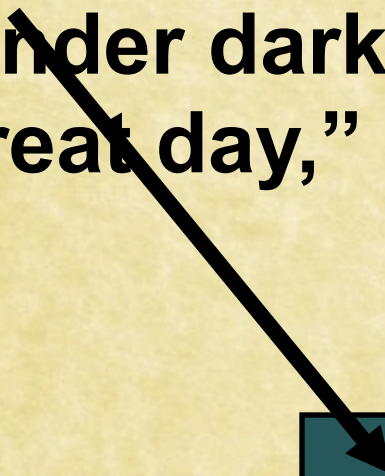
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ἀρχή, *arche* “domain, or sphere of influence or power,” “first in order.”

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οἰκητήριον
oikētérion
“habitation or
dwelling place”

Jude 7, “just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around **them [fem. pl.], since **they** [the cities] in the same way as **these** [masc. pl. *angels*] indulged in gross immorality and went after strange flesh, are exhibited as an example in undergoing the punishment of eternal fire.”**

2 Peter 2:4, “For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment;”

2 Peter 2:5, “and did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly;”

1 Peter 3:18, “For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit;”

1 Peter 3:19, “in which also He went and made proclamation to the spirits now in prison,”

1 Peter 3:20, “who once were disobedient, when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through the water.”

Gen. 6:1, “Now it came about, when men [*adam*- ‘mankind, the human race’] began to multiply on the face of the land, and daughters were born to them,”

Gen. 6:2, “that the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves, whomever they chose.”

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בְּנֵי־הָאֱלֹהִים *bene haElohim*

“sons of God”

**a term for angelic
creation, fallen and holy**

There are three interpretations offered for understanding this episode.

Apostates

The terms “sons of god” and “daughters of men” relate to two classifications of human beings—spiritual and apostate.

Sethites = Believers

Cainites = Unbelievers

APOSTATE VIEW: WEAK EVIDENCE

1. A “one way” problem: only saved men marrying unsaved women.
2. Context suggests only 8 survive, by the time of the flood there were only 8 believers, i.e., “sons of God,” and everyone else on the planet would have been a daughter of men.
3. “Daughters” is made to refer to descendants of Cain, but contextually, daughters were never mentioned in that line, though there were daughters, daughters are only mentioned in the Seth line, and they are mentioned 9×.
4. “Sonship” terminology outside of Genesis relates to the privileged position of Israel as a theocratic, covenant nation.

Autocrats

The second option given is that the sons of God stands for dynastic dictators or autocrats that forced these young, beautiful maidens to marry them and developed huge harems.

Problems with the Autocrat view

1. The terms “sons of God” isn’t used for tyrants.
2. In the alleged support for this view, the judge is a representative of God, but in Genesis 6 they want to make this represent a Cainite, reprobate ruler.

To get around this they try to make it a genitive of description for a class, but then they also want to use Elohim in a positive sense. It is one or the other, not both.

Problems with the Apostate and Autocrat Views

Two problems neither interpretation 1 or 2 seeks to address:

Why, in either case, is it necessary to wipe out almost the entire human race?

And,

This ignores the evidence from the epistles of Peter and Jude.

Angels

The third view is the view that the sons of God is a technical term for angels, in this case fallen angels or demons, who seduced these young women and married them and produced a genetically defiled offspring.

Matt. 22:30, “For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.”

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

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

Job 38:7, “When the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy?”

Psa. 29:1, “Give unto the LORD, O you mighty ones [*bene elim*], Give unto the LORD glory and strength.”

Psa. 89:6, “For who in the heavens can be compared to the LORD? Who among the sons of the mighty [*bene elim*] can be likened to the LORD?”

1 Kings 20:35, “Now a certain man of the sons of the prophets said to his neighbor by the word of the LORD, ‘Strike me, please.’ And the man refused to strike him.”

**Psalm 89:5, “The heavens will praise
Your wonders, O Lord;
Your faithfulness also in the assembly
of the holy ones. (*qadshim*—“holy ones—
here, angels)**

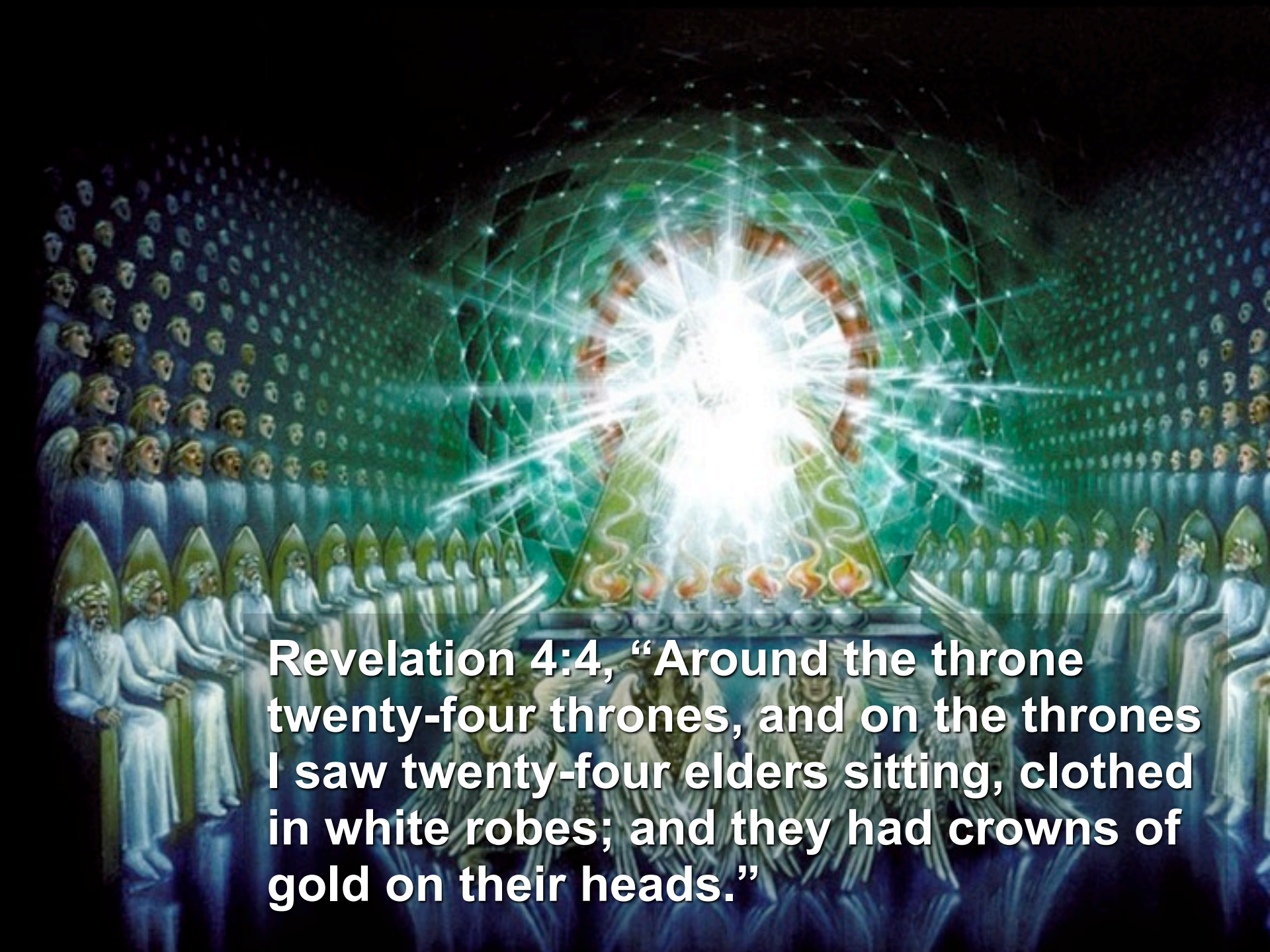
**Psalm 89:6, “For who in the skies is
comparable to the Lord? Who among
the sons of the mighty [sons of God,
bene Elim] is like the Lord,”**

Psalm 89:7, “A God greatly feared in the council of the holy ones, And awesome above all those who are around Him? [all those who encircle or surround him]

Psalm 89:8, “O Lord God of hosts, who is like You, O mighty Lord? Your faithfulness also surrounds You.”

**Revelation 4:2, “Immediately I was in the Spirit;
and behold, a throne set in heaven, and on the
throne One sitting.”**





**Revelation 4:4, “Around the throne
twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones
I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed
in white robes; and they had crowns of
gold on their heads.”**

Num. 13:33, “There we saw the giants (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight.” NKJV

Num. 13:33, “There also we saw the *Nephilim* (the sons of Anak are part of the *Nephilim*); and we became like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight.”