Adopted by Grace: The Mystery of the Sons of God in the Bible

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In the Bible, the phrase “sons of God” has been interpreted in different ways, leading to various theological debates. From the ancient scriptures to modern theologians, there’s been a range of views on who the “sons of God” are, and what that title means for believers today. However, rather than getting lost in complex theories and speculations, the heart of this discussion should focus on one central theme: **God’s purpose for humanity—worship, holiness, and fulfilling His will on Earth**.

## The Sons of God: A Biblical Perspective

### In the Old Testament: Sons of God as Angels

In the **Old Testament**, the phrase “sons of God” most often refers to **angels** or **heavenly beings**. These divine beings are portrayed as beings who exist in God’s presence, worship Him, and sometimes act as messengers or agents of His will.

Some key scriptures highlighting this usage include:

* **Genesis 6:2**: The “sons of God” took human wives, leading to the birth of the Nephilim.
* **Job 1:6**: “One day the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord” (Job 1:6, NKJV), referring to heavenly beings.
* **Job 38:7**: “While the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy” (Job 38:7, NKJV), pointing to angels rejoicing at creation.

These references point to **angelic beings** or **spiritual entities** as the “sons of God,” distinct from humanity.

### In the New Testament: Believers as Sons of God

In the **New Testament**, however, the term “sons of God” takes on a profound new meaning. Once a person accepts Christ, they are given the right to be called **sons of God**, signifying a spiritual adoption into God’s family. This is no longer reserved for celestial beings, but for all believers who have been reconciled to God through Christ.

Key passages include:

* **John 1:12**:  
  > “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.” (John 1:12, NKJV)  
  This verse emphasizes that **believers in Christ** are adopted into God’s family and given the privilege of being called His children.
* **Romans 8:14-17**:  
  > “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.” (Romans 8:14, NKJV)  
  Believers, through the **Holy Spirit**, are now **sons of God** and **heirs** with Christ, a promise that extends beyond human understanding.
* **Galatians 4:7**:  
  > “Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.” (Galatians 4:7, NKJV)  
  Through **Christ’s redemptive work**, believers are no longer slaves to sin but are adopted into God’s family as sons and heirs.

### Conclusion

In the **Old Testament**, the phrase “sons of God” referred to divine beings, often understood as angels. However, in the **New Testament**, the privilege of being called a “son of God” is extended to all who **believe in Jesus Christ** and are **adopted** into God’s family through faith.

This shift from angels to believers highlights the profound grace of God, who, through Christ, invites us into a personal relationship with Him, granting us the honor of being His children.

## The Sons of God: Insights from the Book of Enoch

**Disclaimer:**

As believers, we must recognize that the **Bible** is sufficient for us to walk in the ways of God. The Bible is **God-breathed** and provides everything we need for life and godliness (2 Timothy 3:16-17). While extra-biblical texts like the **Book of Enoch** may offer historical insights and cultural context, they are not necessary for our faith and walk with God. In fact, digging into such texts can sometimes lead to confusion, especially for those who may not have a deep understanding of the Bible.

God, in His wisdom, inspired the writers of the Bible to record everything that is essential for us to know: how to know Him, why we were created, and how we are to live holy lives. The information contained in the Bible is **sufficient** to guide us to salvation and a life of holiness.

**Conclusion:**

The **Book of Enoch** expands significantly on the brief mention of the “sons of God” in **Genesis 6:1-4**, providing a detailed narrative about their rebellion, union with human women, the resulting giants (**Nephilim**), and their ultimate punishment. In this extra-biblical text, the “sons of God” are explicitly described as **angels** who defy God’s intended order and cause corruption on Earth.

While these ideas are not part of the canonical Bible, they provide an intriguing background to the discussion of the “sons of God” and have influenced various theological interpretations, particularly those that emphasize the **angelic** or **divine** nature of the “sons of God” in Genesis.

## The Fate Angels that Sinned:

In the**New Testament**, the fate of the “sons of God” (angels who sinned) is described in a similar context. The New Testament references their punishment for their disobedience.

### - **2 Peter 2:4-5:**

Peter affirms the fate of the angels who sinned, echoing the punishment described in the Book of Enoch:

“For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment; and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly…” (2 Peter 2:4-5, NKJV)

* This passage affirms that the angels who sinned were cast into **hell** (or “Tartarus,” a place of imprisonment for fallen angels) and are being reserved for judgment.

### - **Jude 1:6-7:**

Similarly, the **Book of Jude** speaks of these angels and their punishment, drawing a direct connection with the events described in Genesis 6 and the **Book of Enoch**:

“And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day; as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.” (Jude 1:6-7, NKJV)

* Jude’s reference to angels leaving their “proper domain” and being bound in chains for judgment directly parallels the fate of the “sons of God” in the **Book of Enoch**, reinforcing the idea of their punishment for defying God’s order.

## Theological Perspectives

In this section, we will explore other theological interpretations of the phrase **“sons of God”**, focusing on various arguments put forth by scholars and theologians. These perspectives often present alternative views on the identity of the “sons of God” mentioned in texts like **Genesis 6** and other parts of the Bible.

### 1. **Angels (The Traditional View)**

One common view is that the “sons of God” refers to **angels**, particularly fallen angels, as seen in the **Book of Enoch** and some early Jewish writings. This interpretation is based on the premise that the angels took human wives, leading to the birth of the **Nephilim**. This view is supported by passages such as **Job 1:6** and **Job 38:7**, where the “sons of God” are clearly identified as heavenly beings.

### 2. **Sethite View (Righteous Line of Seth)**

Another interpretation is the **Sethite View**, which suggests that the “sons of God” were not angels, but rather the **descendants of Seth**, Adam’s son. According to this perspective, the “sons of God” were **righteous men** who married women from the line of Cain, often referred to as the “daughters of men.” The sin was not angelic rebellion, but the **intermarriage between the godly and ungodly** that led to corruption.

### 3. **Royalty or Rulers View**

Some theologians argue that the “sons of God” in Genesis 6 refers to **ancient kings or rulers**, who were often regarded as divine or semi-divine in the ancient Near East. According to this view, the “sons of God” were human rulers who abused their power by taking multiple wives, resulting in the Nephilim—giants or mighty men who were born of these unions.

### 4. **The “Divine Council” View**

A more metaphorical approach views the “sons of God” as representatives of **God’s divine council**. In this view, the term “sons of God” refers to celestial beings who act as God’s heavenly court or council, where their decisions or actions influence the unfolding of divine plans. This interpretation aligns with passages like **Psalm 82:1**, where the “gods” (often translated as **divine beings**) are referred to in a way that suggests a kind of **heavenly assembly**.

### 5. **Nephilim as Symbolic**

Lastly, some scholars suggest that the **Nephilim** mentioned in Genesis 6 are **symbolic** rather than literal. In this view, the “sons of God” may refer to righteous men, and the **Nephilim** represent a corrupt generation or symbolize evil influence, rather than actual hybrid beings resulting from unions between angels and humans.

### Conclusion

These theological perspectives provide different lenses through which to interpret the phrase **“sons of God”**, ranging from the **angelic** to **human** interpretations. While the **angelic** view is perhaps the most widely discussed due to its prevalence in ancient texts like the **Book of Enoch**, other perspectives—such as the **Sethite view** or the idea of **divine council**—offer alternative readings of these biblical passages. However, as believers, we must recognize that the focus of Scripture is ultimately on Christ, who reveals the ultimate purpose and destiny of those who are truly called the **sons and daughters of God**.

## Our Purpose: Worship, Holiness, and Fulfillment of God’s Will

Regardless of the precise theological interpretation of “sons of God,” the Bible is clear on God’s ultimate purpose for humanity. From the beginning, God created us to **worship** and **honor Him** (Revelation 4:11). He created us in His image (Genesis 1:26-27), giving us the responsibility to **reflect His glory** through our actions, thoughts, and relationship with Him.

The most important aspect of being a **son or daughter of God** is **living holy lives**—lives set apart for God’s purpose. Holiness isn’t about perfection but about surrendering our lives to God, allowing the Holy Spirit to transform us. **Christ’s work on the cross** solved the problem of sin and separation from God. It’s not about having all the answers to complex theological questions but about recognizing that Jesus’ sacrifice was enough to restore us to God’s family.

## Avoiding Disputes over Unclear Doctrines

Many modern-day Christians fall into the trap of trying to resolve theological mysteries—often debating topics that the Bible doesn’t explicitly answer, like the identity of the “sons of God” in Genesis or the precise nature of angels. But the Bible itself encourages us not to focus on things that are unclear but to focus on what has been revealed to us for our salvation. **2 Timothy 3:16-17** tells us that **all Scripture is inspired by God** and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so that we may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

We do not need to **argue over speculative doctrines** or chase after theories that are not foundational to our salvation. Christ came and died to solve the problem of sin and death once and for all. Our focus should be on **living in the freedom** Christ has given us and **pursuing holiness** through the power of the Holy Spirit. This is why God created us—to live out His purpose on earth and to honor Him with our lives.

## The Role of the Holy Spirit

While we are called to study the Bible and learn from its teachings, it is the **Holy Spirit** who ultimately reveals God’s truth to us. No matter how much we strive to obey the word, our efforts are in vain without the Spirit of God working in us. **Christ must dwell in our hearts** through faith (Ephesians 3:17), and it is through the Holy Spirit that we can fully live out God’s commands (Romans 8:4).

The Spirit helps us understand Scripture, empowers us to live holy lives, and **guides us in fulfilling God’s will**. We cannot live in sin and expect the Holy Spirit to be with us (Romans 8:9), and we cannot expect to fulfill God’s purpose on our own strength. The Holy Spirit is the one who sanctifies us, making us more like Christ and helping us to fulfill God’s calling.

## Conclusion: Living Out Our Purpose

As we reflect on the **sons of God**, let us remember that the key is not in theological debates but in understanding our **identity in Christ**. We are called to worship and honor God with our lives, living according to His will and fulfilling His purpose on earth. This is the foundation of our faith—**to live holy lives**, empowered by the Holy Spirit, and to focus on the eternal truths revealed in God’s Word.

The mysteries of Scripture that are not revealed to us should remain a mystery. Our task is not to solve every theological puzzle but to focus on **what God has clearly revealed**: His love for us, His salvation through Jesus Christ, and His call for us to live holy lives, fulfilling His will on earth. This is the essence of our calling as **sons and daughters of God**.

So, let’s seek God’s will in what He has made clear and trust that He will lead us, through the Holy Spirit, into the fullness of life He has planned for us.

### Focus on Christ:

While these topics may spark curiosity, it is important to remember that Christ is the center of our faith and the ultimate answer to any spiritual conflict. Colossians 2:15 tells us that Jesus “disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in Him.” Therefore, as Christians, our focus should be on Jesus Christ and His redemptive work on the cross rather than the mysterious, often dark forces that may surround us.

### A Word of Caution:

As you rightly noted, while these topics are deep and can be intriguing, the Bible is clear that we are not to dig into areas of speculation or things that God hasn’t revealed to us for our benefit. As believers, we are to resist any temptation to entertain curiosity about things that are not central to our salvation and the pursuit of holiness. The Bible is sufficient, and it’s through Christ that we find freedom from all spiritual bondage.