

The Sethite Interpretation

Another widely discussed explanation of the Genesis 6 passage is known as the Sethite interpretation. This view takes a different approach to understanding the phrase “sons of God.”

According to this perspective, the “sons of God” were not angels but the descendants of Seth, the son of Adam who was associated with a faithful lineage. In contrast, the “daughters of men” were understood to be descendants of Cain, whose family line was often portrayed as morally corrupt.

The passage is therefore interpreted as describing intermarriage between two different cultural or spiritual groups. As the descendants of Seth began marrying into the line of Cain, the moral distinction between the groups gradually disappeared.

In this interpretation, the story reflects the breakdown of spiritual boundaries within human society. As these lines blended together, the corruption and violence already present in the world became even more widespread.

Many later Christian theologians favored this explanation because it avoids the idea of angels producing human offspring and focuses instead on human responsibility for moral decline.