

## Giants in the Hebrew Bible

### Taught By Pastor Matthew Jackson, Ekklesia, Evangelism and Teaching

The Hebrew Bible mentions three main groups often translated as "giants."

- **Nephilim** (*nəfilīm*): Appears in Genesis 6:4 and Numbers 13:33. The name means "fallen ones," and interpretations vary. They are considered either the offspring of divine beings and humans, giants, or fallen warriors.
  - **Anakim** (*ʿānaqīm*): Descendants of Anak, described as unusually large people. The Israelites felt like "grasshoppers" next to them (Deut 1:28).
  - **Rephaim** (*rəṣā'īm*): Can refer to either giants or departed spirits. King Og of Bashan is noted as "the last of the Rephaim" (Deut 3:11).
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## "Sons of God"

The Hebrew term **b'nei ha'elohim** (בְּנֵי הָאֱלֹהִים) translates to "sons of God" or "divine beings." Its meaning is debated, but it is not the consistent Hebrew term for angels.

- **Biblical Debate:** In Genesis 6:2, the "sons of God" marry human women. This passage has three main interpretations:
    - **Angels:** Fallen angels or divine beings marrying humans (supported by extra-biblical texts like 1 Enoch).
    - **Godly Humans:** Descendants from the righteous line of Seth marrying ungodly humans.
    - **Kings/Mighty Men:** Rulers who exercised power and authority.
  - **Angels vs. "Sons of God":** The Hebrew word for angel is **mal'akh** (מַלְאָךְ), meaning "messenger." This term is consistently used for angels in the Bible. Genesis 6 does **not** use the word *mal'akh*.
  - **Interpretation:** The "Sons of God" are understood to be created beings under God's authority. The term can refer to:
    - Celestial beings in God's heavenly court (Job 1:6).
    - Godly humans.
    - Mighty rulers.
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## Key Takeaway

The Hebrew Bible's terms for giants and "Sons of God" are distinct. While extra-biblical texts connect the "Sons of God" in Genesis 6 to fallen angels, the Bible itself does not explicitly make this connection. Interpreting these terms requires careful attention to context and a recognition of the ambiguity in the original language.