

## **Why Isn't Life Like a Horror Movie?**

(appropriate for High Schoolers and older)

Michael R. Daily 9/4/07

Tonight we are going to answer 4 questions. The first three are ones that people seem to wonder about a lot. The fourth one is something I have always wondered about.

### **The questions are:**

- 1) How can a loving God allow suffering in the world?
- 2) During the days of Noah, God sent a flood to destroy all mankind including innocent children and babies. How can a loving God do such a thing?
- 3) Many times the Old Testament records that, in battle with other nations, Israel was specifically commanded by God to not only win the battle but to destroy every man, woman, child, and newborn baby and to leave no survivors. How can a loving God command his followers to do such a thing?

But for me the questions have been a little different. The bible teaches that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one (Satan). If that is true then my question is:

- 4) *Why isn't life on the Earth like a horror movie?* Have you ever wondered that?

Let's start with question #1. There are many reasons for suffering that can be identified but what about the times when there is no obvious reason?

### **Revelation 12:7-9**

**And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war, 8and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven. 9And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.**

Where do Satan and his angels live? On the Earth. Someday they will live in the Lake of Fire but they are not there yet. They roam about on the Earth causing trouble. The point is, we live in enemy territory.

### **Ephesians 2:1-3**

**And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, 2in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. 3Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.**

When we are born we were, by our very nature, children of wrath – we have no right to expect not to suffer.

### **I John 5:19**

**We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.**

The world is under demonic control.

If these things are true is suffering any surprise?

### **I Peter 4:12-16**

**Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; 13but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation. 14If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. 15Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler; 16but if anyone suffers as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name.**

Suffering proves our faith (and will be rewarded). It can also occur as a consequence of sin.

Let's move on to questions 2, 3, and 4.

#### **Luke 9:38-42**

**And a man from the crowd shouted, saying, "Teacher, I beg You to look at my son, for he is my only boy, 39and a spirit seizes him, and he suddenly screams, and it throws him into a convulsion with foaming at the mouth; and only with difficulty does it leave him, mauling him as it leaves. 40"I begged Your disciples to cast it out, and they could not." 41And Jesus answered and said, "You unbelieving and perverted generation, how long shall I be with you and put up with you? Bring your son here." 42While he was still approaching, the demon slammed him to the ground and threw him into a convulsion. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, and healed the boy and gave him back to his father.**

This reminds me of a horror movie.

The question is not, "how can a loving God allow suffering in the world". The real question is, "how come life on the Earth is not a 24 hour a day horror movie"?

Rosemary's Baby, The Exorcist, The Omen. Three famous horror movies that depict demonic children. I don't watch R rated movies or horror movies but these were quite famous so I have read about them. Why is the world not like those movies? What would the world be like if half the children born into it were partially demonic in nature?

Let's see why life on the Earth is not like living in a horror movie.

#### **Genesis 6:1-4**

**Now it came about, when men began to multiply on the face of the land, and daughters were born to them, 2that the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves, whomever they chose. 3Then the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, because he also is flesh; nevertheless his days shall be one hundred and twenty years." 4The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men, and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown.**

What is going on in these verses? Who are the "daughters of men"? (women). Who are the "sons of God"? (angels).

Who are the "Nephilim"? The Nephilim are people whose mothers were human women and whose fathers were fallen angels (demons). In Genesis chapter 6, the "horror movie" actually did occur. The Nephilim were people who were half demonic and half human – they were also about 9 to 12 feet tall, about twice as tall as normal humans (we'll see that later in other verses).

#### **Genesis 6:5-13**

**Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. 6The LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. 7The LORD said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, from man to animals to creeping things and to birds of the sky; for I am sorry that I have made them." 8But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD. 9These are the records of the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his time; Noah walked with God. 10Noah became the father of three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. 11Now the earth was corrupt in the sight of God, and the earth was filled with violence. 12God looked on the earth, and behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way upon the earth. 13Then God said to Noah, "The end of all flesh has come before Me; for the earth is filled with violence because of them; and behold, I am about to destroy them with the earth.**

The Nephilim (half human, half demonic giants) had proliferated to the point that almost all the bloodlines of man had been polluted by them. It was not a case of one "Rosemary's Baby" or one "Damien" – it was a whole world full of these types of people and, like a horror movie, they had filled the world with violence.

More importantly, they were a direct threat to the plan of salvation. The Savior had to be born of a woman. But if all the women were partially demonic in nature the Savior could never be born which means that no people could ever go to heaven. But God being rich in mercy waited as long as possible but then sent the flood to destroy them all and, except for one family, to exterminate the human race.

If God had not sent the flood, the plan of salvation would have been thwarted and no one in this room would be going to heaven – no one.

Because of the flood the bloodlines of mankind were restored, the savior was born and, as a result, men like you and me now have the chance to go to heaven. So, that is why a loving God sent the Flood.

In the Bible the Nephilim are also referred to as the Anakim, Emim, Rephaim, and the Zamzummim.

So, why don't we have a Nephilim problem today? Let's look at what God did to the demons that caused this problem.

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

**And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day, just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them, since they in the same way as these indulged in gross immorality and went after strange flesh, are exhibited as an example in undergoing the punishment of eternal fire.**

God took action against the demons who committed these acts by removing them from Earth and chaining them in darkness until the time of their judgment. The Bible calls the place where these demons are chained the "Abyss". It is a prison where the demons who caused the Nephilim problem are chained in total darkness until Judgment Day. They cannot move and they cannot see.

So, if you are a demon you have two choices:

- 1) Roam about on the Earth for a few thousand years causing trouble and deceiving people. Then, at the end of the age, be judged by God and then thrown into the Lake of Fire for the rest of eternity.
- 2) Immediately be put into the Abyss, a prison of chains and darkness for a few thousand years where you can't see and you can't move. Then, at the end of the age, be judged by God and then thrown into the Lake of Fire for the rest of eternity.

Most demons chose to remain on the Earth to roam around and cause trouble but the ones who caused this problem were removed and put into the Abyss. The example of what happened to them acts as a deterrent to the other demons who remain on the Earth not to cross that line or any other limit that God imposes on them.

We know from Luke 8 that demons are terrified of the Abyss.

### **Luke 8:27-32**

**And when He came out onto the land, He was met by a man from the city who was possessed with demons; and who had not put on any clothing for a long time, and was not living in a house, but in the tombs. 28Seeing Jesus, he cried out and fell before Him, and said in a loud voice, "What business do we have with each other, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, do not torment me." 29For He had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For it had seized him many times; and he was bound with chains and shackles and kept under guard, and yet he would break his bonds and be driven by the demon into the desert. 30And Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion"; for many demons had entered him. 31They were imploring Him not to command them to go away into the abyss. 32Now there was a herd of many swine feeding there on the mountain; and the demons implored Him to permit them to enter the swine. And He gave them permission.**

The demons feared the abyss, the prison of darkness. They begged Jesus to send them anywhere, even into some pigs, anything except the Abyss.

Having said all of this, it turns out there were a few demons who did not get the memo.

So, sometime after the Flood, pockets of Nephilim start popping up again. Before the Flood the whole world was full of them. After the Flood it was a much smaller problem – but God still had to deal with them because if they were allowed to proliferate they could, once again, threaten the plan of salvation.

So, let's turn to Numbers 13. Now we are with Moses and Israel after they have left Egypt and are at Kadesh-Barnea on the edge of Canaan (the promised land) and they are about to send in the 12 spies to spy out the Land.

### **Numbers 13:30-33**

**Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses and said, "We should by all means go up and take possession of it, for we will surely overcome it." 31But the men who had gone up with him said, "We are not able to go up against the people, for they are too strong for us." 32So they gave out to the sons of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying, "The land through which we have gone, in spying it out, is a land that devours its inhabitants; and all the people whom we saw in it are men of great size. 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."**

The people in the promised land given to Israel were also Nephilim (Anakim) that had been created after the flood. Some people will say that the spies were exaggerating by calling the people giants but they were not – there was a pocket of Nephilim in the Promised Land – they really were giants!

### **Joshua 11:18-23**

**Joshua waged war a long time with all these kings. 19There was not a city which made peace with the sons of Israel except the Hivites living in Gibeon; they took them all in battle. 20For it was of the LORD to harden their hearts, to meet Israel in battle in order that he might utterly destroy them, that they might receive no mercy, but that he might destroy them, just as the LORD had commanded Moses. 21Then Joshua came at that time and cut off the Anakim from the hill country, from Hebron, from Debir, from Anab and from all the hill country of Judah and from all the hill country of Israel. Joshua utterly destroyed them with their cities. 22There were no Anakim left in the land of the sons of Israel; only in Gaza, in Gath, and in Ashdod some remained. 23So Joshua took the whole land, according to all that the LORD had spoken to Moses, and Joshua gave it for an inheritance to Israel according to their divisions by their tribes Thus the land had rest from war.**

Israel's invasion of Canaan destroyed most of the remaining Nephilim. To not destroy them totally meant that the plan of salvation was still at risk. So, this is why God sometimes commanded Israel to leave no survivors.

### **Deuteronomy 3:1-3,6,11**

**"Then we turned and went up the road to Bashan, and Og, king of Bashan, with all his people came out to meet us in battle at Edrei. 2"But the LORD said to me, 'Do not fear him, for I have delivered him and all his people and his land into your hand; and you shall do to him just as you did to Sihon king of the Amorites, who lived at Heshbon.' 3"So the LORD our God delivered Og also, king of Bashan, with all his people into our hand, and we smote them until no survivor was left. 6"We utterly destroyed them, as we did to Sihon king of Heshbon, utterly destroying the men, women and children of every city. 11(For only Og king of Bashan was left of the remnant of the Rephaim Behold, his bedstead was an iron bedstead; it is in Rabbah of the sons of Ammon. Its length was nine cubits and its width four cubits by ordinary cubit.)**

A cubit was about 1.5 feet. This verse shows that one of the Nephilim kings had a bed that was 13.5 feet long and 6 feet wide.

Goliath was also a descendant of the Nephilim and was over 9 feet tall.

### **I Samuel 17:1-11**

Now the Philistines gathered their armies for battle; and they were gathered at Socoh which belongs to Judah, and they camped between Socoh and Azekah, in Ephes-dammim. 2Saul and the men of Israel were gathered and camped in the valley of Elah, and drew up in battle array to encounter the Philistines. 3The Philistines stood on the mountain on one side while Israel stood on the mountain on the other side, with the valley between them. 4Then a champion came out from the armies of the Philistines named Goliath, from Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span. 5He had a bronze helmet on his head, and he was clothed with scale-armor which weighed five thousand shekels of bronze. 6He also had bronze greaves on his legs and a bronze javelin slung between his shoulders. 7The shaft of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and the head of his spear weighed six hundred shekels of iron; his shield-carrier also walked before him. 8He stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel and said to them, "Why do you come out to draw up in battle array? Am I not the Philistine and you servants of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves and let him come down to me. 9"If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will become your servants; but if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall become our servants and serve us." 10Again the Philistine said, "I defy the ranks of Israel this day; give me a man that we may fight together." 11When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid.

So, the Nephilim people were somewhere between 9 to 12 feet tall, about twice as tall as normal people!

### **II Samuel 21:15-22**

Now when the Philistines were at war again with Israel, David went down and his servants with him; and as they fought against the Philistines, David became weary. <sup>16</sup>Then Ishbi-benob, who was among the descendants of the giant, the weight of whose spear was three hundred shekels of bronze in weight, was girded with a new sword, and he intended to kill David. <sup>17</sup>But Abishai the son of Zeruiah helped him, and struck the Philistine and killed him Then the men of David swore to him, saying, "You shall not go out again with us to battle, so that you do not extinguish the lamp of Israel." <sup>18</sup>Now it came about after this that there was war again with the Philistines at Gob; then Sibbecai the Hushathite struck down Saph, who was among the descendants of the giant. <sup>19</sup>There was war with the Philistines again at Gob, and Elhanan the son of Jaare-oregim the Bethlehemite killed Goliath the Gittite, the shaft of whose spear was like a weaver's beam. <sup>20</sup>There was war at Gath again, where there was a man of great stature who had six fingers on each hand and six toes on each foot, twenty-four in number; and he also had been born to the giant. <sup>21</sup>When he defied Israel, Jonathan the son of Shimei, David's brother, struck him down. <sup>22</sup>These four were born to the giant in Gath, and they fell by the hand of David and by the hand of his servants.

The last of the Nephilim were Goliath and his children. King David and his army completed the final elimination of the Nephilim threat.

### **Conclusion**

At one time life on the Earth had elements of a horror movie because of the Nephilim. The flood and Israel's military extermination of children which at first may seem extreme, were part of God's plan to protect the human bloodlines so that a savior could be born while also not infringing on the free will of men or angels.

## Other Passages Referring To "The Abyss"

Satan himself will be imprisoned in the Abyss during the 1000 year Millennial Kingdom and released for a short time at the end of it.

### Revelation 20:1-3

And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. 2He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. 3He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time.

The following passages show that the demons currently in the Abyss will be released for various purposes during the 7 year Tribulation period before Christ's return.

### Revelation 9:1-11

The fifth angel sounded his trumpet, and I saw a star that had fallen from the sky to the earth. The star was given the key to the shaft of the Abyss. 2When he opened the Abyss, smoke rose from it like the smoke from a gigantic furnace. The sun and sky were darkened by the smoke from the Abyss. 3And out of the smoke locusts came down upon the earth and were given power like that of scorpions of the earth. 4They were told not to harm the grass of the earth or any plant or tree, but only those people who did not have the seal of God on their foreheads. 5They were not given power to kill them, but only to torture them for five months. And the agony they suffered was like that of the sting of a scorpion when it strikes a man. 6During those days men will seek death, but will not find it; they will long to die, but death will elude them. 7The locusts looked like horses prepared for battle. On their heads they wore something like crowns of gold, and their faces resembled human faces. 8Their hair was like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' teeth. 9They had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings was like the thundering of many horses and chariots rushing into battle. 10They had tails and stings like scorpions, and in their tails they had power to torment people for five months. 11They had as king over them the angel of the Abyss, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek, Apollyon.

### Revelation 11:1-14

I was given a reed like a measuring rod and was told, "Go and measure the temple of God and the altar, and count the worshipers there. 2But exclude the outer court; do not measure it, because it has been given to the Gentiles. They will trample on the holy city for 42 months. 3And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth." 4These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth. 5If anyone tries to harm them, fire comes from their mouths and devours their enemies. This is how anyone who wants to harm them must die. 6These men have power to shut up the sky so that it will not rain during the time they are prophesying; and they have power to turn the waters into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague as often as they want. 7Now when they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up from the Abyss will attack them, and overpower and kill them. 8Their bodies will lie in the street of the great city, which is figuratively called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified. 9For three and a half days men from every people, tribe, language and nation will gaze on their bodies and refuse them burial. 10The inhabitants of the earth will gloat over them and will celebrate by sending each other gifts, because these two prophets had tormented those who live on the earth. 11But after the three and a half days a breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and terror struck those who saw them. 12Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they went up to heaven in a cloud, while their enemies looked on. 13At that very hour there was a severe earthquake and a tenth of the city collapsed. Seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the survivors were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven. 14The second woe has passed; the third woe is coming soon.

### Revelation 17:3-8

Then the angel carried me away in the Spirit into a desert. There I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was covered with blasphemous names and had seven heads and ten horns. 4The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet, and was glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls. She held a golden cup in her hand, filled with abominable things and the filth of her adulteries. 5This title was written on her forehead: MYSTERY BABYLON THE GREAT THE MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. 6I saw that the woman was drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of those who bore testimony to Jesus. When I saw her, I was greatly astonished. 7Then the angel said to me: "Why are you astonished? I will explain to you the mystery of the woman and of the beast she rides, which has the seven heads and ten horns. 8The beast, which you saw, once was, now is not, and will come up out of the Abyss and go to his destruction. The inhabitants of the earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the creation of the world will be astonished when they see the beast, because he once was, now is not, and yet will come.

**QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD**

***JEREMIAH 15:16***

**THEME: *Why Isn't Life Like A Horror Movie?***

**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Revelation 12:7-9, I John 5:19***

**How does this passage relate to the theme?**

**When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:**

**How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Ephesians 2:1-3***

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**PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: *Revelation 11:1-14, 17:3-8***

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