

## STRIVING OF GOD'S SPIRIT

**Request:** Could you explain what the Bible means by “My Spirit shall not strive with man forever.”

This phrase was given by the Lord to the people of the Ante-diluvian civilization (AC) in Genesis 6:3.

In context, it was not given to any specific person but rather to the people of the (AC) (Gen.6:1-8).

The occasion was the daughters of men co-habiting with the sons of God resulting in children known as Nephilim (Gen.6:5-8,17).

“The phrase ‘sons of God’ here has been interpreted to refer either to angels or to human beings. In such places as Job 1:6; 2:1, it refers to angels and perhaps also in Psa.29:1 (where it is translated ‘mighty ones’). Some interpreters also appeal to Jude 6-7 (as well as Jewish literature) in referring the phrase here to angels.” (NIV, Gen.6:2)

It is important to identify five groupings of the AC given in the only historical record on the subject (Gen.6:1-8). The Spirit of God strived with these five groupings.

- Mortal man (6:1-3)
- Daughters born to mortal men (6:1-2)
- Sons of God (fallen angels) (6:2)
- Nephilim (children of daughter of men and sons of God) (heroes of old and men of renown; Greek mythology) (6:4-5; Num13:31-33)
- Noah (believer) (8:8-9,19; 7:1) (favor, righteous, blameless, walked with God)

We want to look at five parts of Gen.6:3.

- My spirit (ruach/ breath of life and/or Holy Spirit) (6:17)
- Will not contend (din/ plead the cause of/ strive)
- With man forever (ha adam) (limited time)
- Because (shagag/ by reason of being led astray) he is mortal (flesh, basar, AOS)
- His days (ha adam) will be 120 years

“The verse seems to announce that the period of grace between God’s declaration of judgment and its arrival would be 120 years (1 Pet.3:20). But if the NIV note reading is accepted, the verse announces that man’s life span would henceforth be limited to 120 years (see 11:10-20).” (NIV, Gen.6:3)

<b>This lesson will study SIX aspects STRIVING OF GOD’S SPIRIT.</b>
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### **1. The Spirit of God strived (din) through 10 generations of the Ante-diluvian civilization after the fall of Adam (Gen.5).**

The Ante-diluvian civilization went from Adam to Noah. The divine agency for the AC was the Sethites. They were responsible for evangelism and custodians of the word of God.

There were three races in AC (Sethites, Cainites, Nephilim) (Gen.4-6).

**2. In spite of the Spirit of God striving with mankind, evil permeated the entire Ante-diluvian civilization (Gen.6:5).**

Evil (cosmos diabolicus) became the norm and standard of duty living in anarchy against God and His word (Rom.1:18,20-22, 23,25, 28).

“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.*” (Gen.6:5/ pre-flood)

“I will never again curse the ground on account of man, for the *intent of man’s heart is evil from his youth*; and I will never again destroy every living thing, as I have done.” (Gen.8:21/ post-flood)

**3. Maximum saturation of evil grieved God’s heart because it would bring divine judgment upon that civilization (Gen.6:6; Psa.78:40-41; Eph.4:30).**

Once again mankind chose evil over God and His word for acquiring the good life in spite of its historical failures (Gen.3 and 4; 1 Pet.3:19-20; Jude 6-7; 2 Pet.2:4-5; Heb.11;7).

**4. Cosmos diabolicus big lie tell mankind that acting independent of God’s will greatly enhance his life (Gen.2:17; 3:7,13; 2 Thess.2:9-11; Eph.2:1-7).**

There are two spheres of spiritual influence in every civilization of mankind.

- One sphere is cosmos diabolicus (Satan) (1 John 5:19).
- The other sphere is divine dynasphere (God) (1 John 4:9-10; 2 Cor.5:17).

**5. God purges the world of the maximum saturation of evil in every biblical civilization.**

God purged the AC with the flood (Gen.6-9).

God will purge the Post-diluvian and Millennium civilization with fire (2 Pet.3:7-10).

God will rescue the believer from the divine judgment upon his civilization (Noah and Church) (Matt.24:37-41; 25:31-46; 1 Thess.4:13-18).

“For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains will do so until he is taken out of the way.” (2 Thess.2:7/ Parakletos/ John 14:26; 16:5-11).