Genesis 6:1-4, a literal translation: And it was, when mankind (*Adam*) began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them (2) Then the sons of God (*or, the sons of the deity*) saw the daughters of mankind (*Adam*), that they were good *(good looking?*), and they took for themselves women from any they chose. (3) And the LORD said, “My spirit will not *yadon* (*this verb is otherwise unknown*) among mankind forever, since he is flesh. And his days shall be 120 years. (4) And the fallen ones (*Nephilim*) came about in the land in those days, and also afterwards, when the sons of God (*or, sons of the deity*) came to the daughters of mankind (*Adam*) and they bore children for them. The mighty warriors of ancient times, the famous men.

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| **Sons of God identity** | **What allegedly happened** |
| Fallen angels | Satan and/or his fallen angels bred with human women and had offspring that were called Nephilim. |
| Fallen believers | Godly men of the line of Seth (sons of God) took ungodly wives, and their descendants (Nephilim) followed after the false gods, rejected God, and fell far from God in wickedness. |
| Fallen rulers | Kings or rulers (Sons of God) took for themselves all sorts of women (sons of men) and caused mass social degradation. |

**What is meant by “Sons of God”?**

**Sons of God as (unfallen) angels:**

Job 1:6-8: Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them. The LORD said to Satan, “From where do you come?” Then Satan answered the LORD and said, “From roaming about on the earth and walking around on it.” … Cf. Job 2:6 and 38:7.

**Sons of God as judges**

Exodus 18:19: Jethro advised Moses to set up a system of judges, starting this way, “You are to be in the place of God for the people”… in other words, judges stand in the place of God.

Exodus 21:5-6 NIV translation: 5 “But if the slave declares, ‘I love my master, my wife, and my children; I do not want to leave as a free man,’ 6 his master is to bring him to the judges and then bring him to the door or doorpost. His master will pierce his ear with an awl, and he will serve his master for life.

Exodus 21:6, Tanakh translation: …6 his master shall take him before God. He shall be brought to the door or the doorpost, and his master shall pierce his ear with an awl; and he shall then remain his slave for life.

Exodus 22:7-8: 7 if the thief is not caught, the owner of the house shall depose before God that he has not laid hands on the other’s property. 8 In all charges of misappropriation…the case of both parties shall come before God: he whom God declares guilty shall pay double to the other.

Deuteronomy 17:9; 19:17; 25:1 makes it clear they were to go before judges.

**Sons of God as rulers:**

Psalm 82:1-7: God has taken his place in the divine council; in the midst of the gods he holds judgment: 2  “How long will you judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked? … 5 They have neither knowledge nor understanding, they walk about in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken. 6 I said, “You are gods, sons of the Most High, all of you; 7 nevertheless, like men you shall die, and fall like any prince.”

John 10: 30 I and the Father are one.” 31 The Jews picked up stones again to stone him. …The Jews answered him, “It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you but for blasphemy, because you, being a man, make yourself God.” 34 Jesus answered them, “Is it not written in your Law, ‘I said, you are gods’? 35 If he called them gods to whom the word of God came—and Scripture cannot be broken— 36 do you say of him whom the Father consecrated and sent into the world, ‘You are blaspheming,’ because I said, ‘I am the Son of God’? 37 If I am not doing the works of my Father, then do not believe me; 38 but if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works…

**Adam called the Son of God in NT:**

Luke 3:38: the son of Enosh, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.

**Believers called sons of God in NT:**

Matthew 5:9: Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.

Romans 8:14: because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

Romans 8:19: The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed.

Galatians 3:26: You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus

**Is there anything in the immediate context that suggests one interpretation? Who are the sons of God, and what was their sin?**

**Who are the Nephilim, the product of this sin?**

**Numbers 13:32-33**: “The land we passed through to explore is one that devours its inhabitants, and all the people we saw in it are men of great size. 33 We even saw the Nephilim there—the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim! To ourselves we seemed like grasshoppers, and we must have seemed the same to them.”

**Ezekiel 32:26-28** describes how Egypt will go down to Sheol: 26 “Meshech and Tubal, are there, with all their hordes. Their graves are all around them. All of them are uncircumcised, slain by the sword, although their terror was once spread in the land of the living. **They do not lie down with the fallen warriors of the uncircumcised**, who went down to Sheol with their weapons of war, whose swords were placed under their heads and their shields rested on their bones, although the terror of these warriors was once in the land of the living. But you will be shattered and will lie down among the uncircumcised, with those slain by the sword.