

***The Theology of the Unseen Realm:
How God Uses Angels, Demons and the Holy Assembly***

“Epilogue Lesson #3: Mound Builders Across America”

I. Introduction

A. The startling quote from the last lesson.



1. “The eyes of that species of extinct giants whose bones fill the mounds of America, have gazed on Niagara as ours do now.”

- a. Why this statement from Abraham Lincoln in 1848? (The Civil War would begin in 1860.)

- b. It was during the late 1700s through most of the 1800s that unusual sized skeletons (giant) were being discovered by farmers, explorers and archeologists within America.

1. Around the time of Lincoln was the peak for giant findings.

- c. Skeletons were reported to have been seen within ancient mounds. Reports came in even from the far west, but most were located within the Mississippi Valley region. The State of Ohio is noted as having the most burial mounds of any state.



B. You may be wondering – What mounds? And Where?

1. Daniel A. Biddle, “Nephilim”, *Genesis Apologetics*, 2024, remarks:

“The ‘mounds’ that Lincoln was talking about were creating quite a stir in America. After decades of pioneer explorers, farmers, and treasure hunters improperly excavating the mounds and finding interesting treasures and unusual skeletons, Congress finally commissioned the Smithsonian to investigate these mounds and the people who built them.”

2. European settlers, who began at the east coast, traveled west and became fascinated by tens of thousands of mounds and earthworks.
 - a. Strange artifacts and huge skeletons were being reported.
 - b. By the 1890s, newspapers were full of strange skeleton findings.
3. In order to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the archeology, the Smithsonian Institution received a \$5000 grant from congress to investigate the mounds. The commissioning by congress in 1881 reads:

“For the purpose of continuing ethnological research among the North American Indians under the direction of the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, \$25,000 is granted, and \$5,000 of which shall be expended in continuing archaeological investigations relating to Moundbuilders and prehistoric mounds, the funds of which shall be available immediately.” [IBID, p. 52]

II. A Certain Mound has Special Acclaim.

A. “The Serpent Mound in Ohio” (Largest in the world)

1. Adams County, Ohio.
2. A national historic landmark site.
 - a. The park closed in 2009 due to deteriorating infrastructure, but may be open now.
 - b. The structure is that of a serpent with an open mouth to devour an egg (likely interpretation.)
 - c. The image is only fully discernable from the air.
 1. Note previous lessons on sky worship and Satan being the Prince of the Air.

B. Video

1. Great Wonder of the Ancient World – The Great Serpent Mound in Ohio. Length 4:12.

2. The Mound is estimated to be 2100-2300 years old with construction likely to have begun around 300-100 BCE (Before the common era). Some research suggests that it may have been built or repaired by the Fort Ancients culture around 900 years ago, but additional evidence points to an older construction by the Adena culture.

III. Research by Daniel A. Biddle team.

A. In researching giant remains there are two main problems.

1. **Problem one** – The skeletons disintegrated when exposed to the air. Noted in newspaper articles. Newspapers articles are the main evidence for the findings.
2. **Problem two** – Junk sightings or forgery.

B. Daniel Biddle put together a team to research the Smithsonian archives.

1. They examined all accounts and gave grades indicating authenticity – A – B – C.
 - a. About 400 of the Grade A and B findings were measured in the field and produced an average giant height of about 8 feet with standard deviation of 17 inches. “This means that about 25 percent of the skeletons were nine feet or taller, putting them as tall as Goliath.” [IBID, 28]

C. Genesis Apologetics has produced a video to convey the research.

1. “The Nephilim – Was There a Giant Problem in the Americans” 36 minutes.
Permission granted through email, March 28, 2025.

IV Stemming the tide of the Powers of Darkness.

A. Storms and the Forces of Evil.

1. Storms
 - a. There are unsettling seasons within our lives.
 - b. Uncomfortable to frightening.
 - c. Areas of life

1. Family
2. Job
3. Financial
4. Health
5. Relationships – Neighbors to church.

B. Let's turn to a familiar portion of Scripture.

1. Mark 4:35 – 5:13



“³⁵ On that day, when evening came, He said to them, ‘Let us go over to the other side.’ ³⁶ Leaving the crowd, they took Him along with them in the boat, just as He was; and other boats were with Him. ³⁷ And there arose a fierce gale of wind, and the waves were breaking over the boat so much that the boat was already filling up. ³⁸ Jesus Himself was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke Him and said to Him, ‘Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?’ ³⁹ And He got up and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, ‘Hush, be still.’ And the wind died down and it became perfectly calm. ⁴⁰ And He said to them, ‘Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?’ ⁴¹ They became very much afraid and said to one another, ‘Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?’”




“¹ They came to the other side of the sea, into the country of the Gerasenes. ² When He got out of the boat, immediately a man from the tombs with an unclean spirit met Him, ³ and he had his dwelling among the tombs. And no one was able to bind him anymore, even with a chain; ⁴ because he had often been bound with shackles and chains, and the chains had been torn apart by him and the shackles broken in pieces, and no one was strong enough to subdue him. ⁵ Constantly, night and day, he was screaming among the tombs and in the mountains, and gashing himself with stones. ⁶ Seeing Jesus from a distance, he ran up and bowed down before Him; ⁷ and shouting with a loud voice, he said, ‘What business do we have with each other, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I implore You by God, do not torment me!’ ⁸ For He had been saying to him, ‘Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!’ ⁹ And He was asking him, ‘What is your name?’ And he said to Him, ‘My name is Legion; for we are many.’ ¹⁰ And he began to implore Him earnestly not to send them out of the country. ¹¹ Now there was a large herd of swine feeding nearby on the mountain. ¹² The demons implored Him, saying, ‘Send us into the swine so that we may enter them.’ ¹³ Jesus gave them permission. And coming out, the unclean spirits entered the swine; and the herd




rushed down the steep bank into the sea, about two thousand of them; and they were drowned in the sea.”

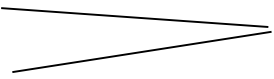
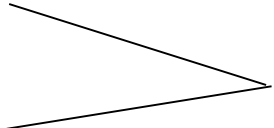
C. Looking closely at the text

1. Jesus’ humanity and divinity on display.

a. Humanity.

1. Jesus is sleeping while the storm is raging. He is exhausted from teaching, healing and delivering. This is the only place in the New Testament where it is recorded that he slept.

b. Divinity

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|--|--------|
| 1. Sovereign over Nature |  | Mark 4 |
| 2. Sovereign over Demons | | |
| 3. Sovereign over Disease |  | Mark 5 |
| 4. Sovereign over Death | | |

2. This was no ordinary storm.

a. Experienced seamen (fishermen) were afraid for their lives (Mark 4:38).

b. The Septuagint uses the same Greek term used in Mark 4 “fierce gale of wind” in Job 38:1. God spoke to Job in a “Whirlwind”. No mere gust of air on a windy day.

c. Storms blow up quickly on the Sea of Galilee because of being situated with mountains surrounding it. Storms are also noted as being worse at night. It was in the evening that Jesus chose to make the voyage. (Verse 35).

1. There is something else often missed regarding a view into the unseen realm.

a. The “other side” of the lake was known as Gerasenes. This is old Bashan – a place known for powers of darkness. The former region of Og and the Anakim, It is of note that having disembarked the boat, Jesus encounters Legion.

b. The storm is not simply a natural occurrence. Satanic power is likely.

Also keep in mind that while the “sea” was a mainstay source of food, it was also a place of fear and death.

1. People have wondered why no sea when the heavens and earth are remade (Rev. 21:1).

2. Revelation 21:1-4

“¹ Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. ² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, ‘Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, ⁴ and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.’”

a. “No Longer **any Sea.**”

b. “No Longer **any Death.**”

c. “No Longer **any Mourning.**”

d. “No Longer **any Crying.**”

e. “No Longer **any Pain.**”

3. Of note is that it was Jesus’ decision to proceed to the other side.

a. God, the Christ, led the disciples into the storm.

1. We often desire to go to the other side. We believe it is God’s leading, but when the fierce gale arises, we question our decision. Note my argument with God in staying at Community Church over the first ten years.

2. Romans 8:28 is easy to stand on when things are going well, but in the middle of trouble, it does not sound as comforting. It is comforting, but we just don’t believe it.

3. Where is our faith? (vs. 40)
4. One pastor remarked that older saints have more favorite passages. The reason is because they have gone through more storms. Particularly when God seems to hide His face (Isaiah 45:15).

D. How did Jesus slumber on a boat in danger of capsizing?

1. He is assured in God's fatherly oversight.
 - a. Parents always want to know where their children are located.
 - b. Kids learn this over time.
2. He is assured in the Father's absolute control over things.
 - a. R.C. Sproul, "If there is one molecule running roughshod in the universe, then none of the promises of God are certain."
3. He is assured in the power and effectiveness of His own Word.
 - a. "Let us cross over to the other side." (vs. 35)
 - b. Declaring the journey meant no possibility of failure.

E. Yet, there is something else of note here.

1. The fierce storm could not awaken the Lord, but the cry of His sheep immediately aroused Him.
 - a. Have you ever wondered if God hears your cries for help?

F. Jesus was beginning his provocation of the powers of darkness. His mission was to set in order both the seen and the unseen realm.

1. He traveled to their historic region and calmed nature. Then he delivered a man held captive by demons.
2. We need not fear the storm or those beings who wish to do us harm.
 - a. Philippians 1:6

“⁶ For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.”

- b. The mounds and giant remains strewn across America are testimony to the presence of the Powers of Darkness, but also Christ's triumph over them.



1. Colossians 2:13-15

“¹³ When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, ¹⁴ having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. ¹⁵ When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.”

2. Do not fear traveling to the other side. God not only has your back, but sustains your very life. You cannot fail no matter how fierce the storm.

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