

Signs of Collapse

Ray Stedman

I. Introduction.

A. Text: Genesis 6:1-12.

B. The seasons are the joints of the times where one period is closed and another begins.

II. The signs of imminent collapse.

A. Demonic invasion.

1. Every use of sons of God refers to the angels outside of believers.
2. The angels fell during the time of Noah. (I Peter 3, Jude 6-7, II Peter 2:4)
3. The sons of man cohabit with the sons of angels and produce a new race. Only angels in heaven are sexless, so there may have been a time that angels did have sexual powers. (Matthew 22)
4. The Nephilim were half god-half man.
5. A similar incursion occurred after the flood resulting in the Canaanites.
6. The people refused to hear God's word of grace before the flood.
7. The demonic manifests itself in open and unchecked wickedness.

B. Wickedness.

1. This is always described as the absence of God.
2. The flesh brings enmity against God. (Galatians 5)
3. The presence of wickedness in a society is always marked by sexual perversity.
4. A collapsing society shows signs of urges for kicks—the arts are given over to the salacious.
5. Corruption and outward violence become marks of wickedness.

III. God's response.

A. God's anger burns and it appears that He goes against His original design.

B. God is also grieved—God's love and wrath are two sides of the same coin.

C. Noah found grace in God's eyes—only God's grace has ever kept us.

Application questions:

1. Are demons something we are to fear today? If so, how are we to fear them?

2. How would you assess the signs of our own time according to the principles outlined in the message? Explain.

3. How did Noah respond in times that were marked by collapse and what lesson can we learn?
