

The Meaning of the Rainbow

Simply put, rainbows appear when sunlight passes through water droplets in the air. The droplets act like prisms that separate the sunlight into its visible component colors (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet) and then reflect the sunlight back to you in a glorious display!

In actuality, there is nothing simple about a rainbow. It points us to our Creator. Without the creation of water and light, there would be no rainbow. Without the incredible design of the human eye, we would not be able to see them. Without His creation of the human intellect, we would not be able to wonder at them.

Rainbows have been adopted as symbols of various organizations, religions, and cultures for generations. Meaning has been attached to them that does not correlate with God's Word, and so the true meaning of the rainbow has been forgotten by many. The rainbow is a manifestation of the Creator's Glory, and He has attached to it special meaning.

God declares in the Book of Genesis that the rainbow would be a sign of the covenant He made with Noah to never destroy the earth again with a global flood.

This is the sign of the covenant which I make between Me and you, and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations: I set My rainbow in the cloud, and it shall be for the sign of the covenant between Me and the earth. It shall be, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the rainbow shall be seen in the cloud; and I will remember My covenant which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. The rainbow shall be in the cloud, and I will look on it to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth. This is the sign of the covenant which I have established between Me and all flesh that is on the earth."

Genesis 9:12-17

**This is known
as the Rainbow
Covenant.**

God sent the Flood of Noah because of man's wickedness.

Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

—Genesis 6:5

And God said to Noah, “The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth.” —Genesis 6:13

But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord, “because I have seen that you are righteous before Me in this generation” *Genesis 7:1*. God instructed him to build an Ark, thus providing a way of escape for Noah, his family, and the animals from the devastating flood. Noah obeyed God.

The same wickedness that was found in the days of Noah still plagues the world today. And just as God judged the sin of mankind then, so will He do it again. The “good news” is that He is still providing a way of escape for mankind! And just like Noah, we have a choice to obey God.

We too can find grace in the eyes of God by recognizing our own sinfulness and understanding and receiving by faith that Jesus is the perfect Son of God, who took on human flesh and paid the price for our sins with His death on the cross. God raised Him from the dead, and He now resides in heaven but will return one day to judge the earth and to save all who have come to Him in repentance and faith to be forgiven (Mark 1:14–15).

Placing our faith in Christ and repenting of our sin (Romans 6:23, 10:9) is like Noah and his family stepping onto the Ark. They left their old lives behind and embarked on a new journey. Likewise, followers of Christ today leave their old lives behind to follow Christ in loving obedience.

