

RAINBOW



There are few things more exciting than looking up at the sky and seeing a rainbow. It seems to be a painting in the sky made by the hand of God Himself.

Rainbows might be large or small depending upon where you are standing. They may be bright and easy to see or very faint and hard to see depending on the angle of the light in the sky. Sometimes you can see two rainbows at the same time with one just above the other.

What can we learn from God's creation of the rainbow?

The rainbow is a very real sign of God's love and mercy. After the great flood in which every living thing that lived on the land drowned except for Noah, his family and the animals on the ark, God made a promise (covenant) to Noah never to destroy all life on earth again. This promise is found in Genesis 9:12-16, "And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: I have set my rainbow in the clouds and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds I will remember my covenant between me and you

and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life. Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth.”

What is so special about this covenant (agreement) made by God? It is a one-sided agreement. God did not say that He would not destroy all life on earth if we did something in return. God knew how sinful we are and that we would not keep the promises we make to Him. God’s love for us is so great that He made this promise in which only He had to keep His word not to destroy all life on earth. This promise is a gift with nothing expected in return.

Another example of God’s great love for us that is a one-sided agreement is our salvation. God knew that we could never live a life without sin. If we were to be saved from our sins, God would have to take away our sins as a free gift. To do this, God the Father sent His Son Jesus to live a perfect life

without sin and then to sacrifice His life on the cross to pay for our sins. The forgiveness of our sins is a free gift. All we need to do to accept this free gift is to believe in Jesus as our Savior. The Bible teaches us in Ephesians 2:4-10, "But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions (sins) - it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved through faith - and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship created in Christ Jesus to do good works which God prepared in advance for us to do."

Our faith and our salvation are gifts from God. We did not earn this gift and we cannot buy this gift. It is freely given to us by God. All of our good works cannot make up for our sins. Forgiveness of sins,

salvation and eternal life are gifts. Even the good things that we do are gifts from God. We may think we have done some good work but it is God who prepared every good work we do and makes us want to do these good works. Every good thing comes from God.

Next time you look up at the sky and see a rainbow, remember that it is God's way of showing us His eternal promises are real and still being given to us as a free gift. The rainbow connects God's love and mercy in the Old Testament to His love and mercy in the New Testament in a very beautiful display of light and color.

