



**The Oaks
Baptist Church**
Grand Prairie, Texas

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:
Every rainbow reminds us of our promise-keeping God

COMMENT FOR THE WEEK:
The next time you see a rainbow, remember God's abundant mercy and grace

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:
I set My rainbow in the cloud, and it shall be for the sign of the covenant between Me and the earth.
(Gen 9:13 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", Apr 13, 1997)

Series: Covenants with God
UNIT: Signs of God's Covenant

NEXT WEEK

Circumcision

(Gen 17:1-14)

The Rainbow

Gen 8:20-22; 9:8-17

Aim and Application of the Lesson

The lesson reviews the promise and the unconditional nature of God's covenant related to **The Rainbow**. The **study's aim** is to grow in confidence that God is faithful to His promises. The **study's application** is to recall God's promise and faithfulness at all times, especially when seeing a rainbow.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

Lesson Introduction and Background

It is often hard to trust God in this world. Things happen. Life has many twists and turns. Disappointments are frequent. God can seem absent. But God has at times given us signs of His presence to remind us that He is alive, sovereign, and devoted to His redeemed people. God's signs go way back to the earliest beginnings of His dealings with humanity. Even the lights of the heavens were called "signs" in the Creation narrative; they help humanity find its way in this world (Gen. 1:14). We should consider a few of these signs to properly understand how we are to walk with God through this world. The first sign we will consider is the sign of the rainbow, given after the destruction of the earth by water in Noah's time. The rainbow is a sign of a covenant God made with man. A covenant is an agreement that carries with it certain promises and obligations. When God establishes a covenant with man, it has a gracious aspect. God is promising something and obligating Himself to be faithful to what He has promised. When we see a rainbow, it is a sign that God will never again destroy the world by a flood. What does this mean for us? First, it was a promise given to the whole world. This sign came early, before Israel and before the church existed. It was given to common humanity. The promise found in the sign of the rainbow goes out graciously to the whole world. As time has marched along, the world has grown more complex and diverse. Yet the promise of this covenant remains true to all. Second, it represents the gift of God's grace. God showed His willingness to enter into a covenant with us, His willingness to bind Himself graciously into a relationship with His sinful creatures. Even today He continues to be willing to receive the sinner by faith in Christ. His promise of a relationship is intact. The sign of the rainbow reminds us not only that God will never again destroy the world by a flood but also that He is a covenant-making God and a sinner-receiving God. Third, the sign of the rainbow shows the gift of time. God's Word states that as long as there are storms and rain and sunshine afterward, producing the rainbow, there is still time to enter a covenant with God. Obviously it is dangerous to presume that we have plenty of time. I always fear for the person who says, "I will come to God and receive salvation through Christ, but not yet." The truth is that none of us knows how much time we have left. We could depart from this life at any time. How good it was of God to give us a sign of His grace for all generations! We see His gracious gift of time in the sign of the rainbow. This is made emphatic in Genesis 9:9, in which God added that He would confirm His covenant with Noah and all his descendants. Each generation can look up at the rainbow and know that God is gracious. There is time left to come to the place of salvation. It is a sign to prompt and guide us in this world.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

The Covenant Promise (Gen 8:20-22)

A promise worthy of worship (20)

Worship in spirit and truth (John 4:23-24)

Worship to glorify God (Phil 3:3)

Worship with reverence and awe (Heb 12:28)

Worship because we are God's people (Ps 95:6-7)

A promise of grace (21)

Grace that provides blessings (John 1:16)

Grace that is given to His people (Rom 5:15)

Grace that is sufficient (2 Cor 12:9)

Grace that is part of God's predestined plan (Eph 1:5-7)

A promise that endures (22)

Promises and purposes that stand forever (Ps 33:11)

Promises God remembers forever (Ps 105:8)

Promises that are eternal (Heb 9:15)

Promises confirmed by an oath (Deut 4:31)

The Covenant Bond (Gen 9:8-11)

Bond with humans (8-9)

Bond with humans motivated by compassion (Isa 54:8-10)

Bond with humans through Jesus becoming human (Rom 1:2-4)

Bond with humans so that Satan's slavery could be destroyed (Heb 2:14-18)

Bond with humans because God is sovereign (2 Sam 7:18-19)

Bond with animals (10)

Bond with animals because God is good to all He created (Ps 145:9)

Bond with animals because He knows they need food (Matt 6:26)

Bond with animals because God can provide better than man (Matt 6:28-29)

Bond with animals because they look to God to satisfy them (Ps 104:25-29)

Bond components (11)

Forty days of flood (Gen 7:17-21)

God's promise (Heb 10:23)

God's patience (2 Peter 3:5-9)

God's power (Ps 104:6-9)

The Covenant Sign (Gen 9:12-17)

Sign of the rainbow (12-13)

Sign of the rainbow is God's faithful witness in the sky (Ps 89:35-37)

Sign of the rainbow is a sign that God will do what He promised (Isa 38:7)

Sign of the rainbow should be a constant remembrance of God and His power (1 Cor 11:23-26)

Sign significance (14-15)

Significant because when we are sinful, God will remember His covenant (Lev 26:42-45)

Significant because God is faithful in keeping His covenant of love (Deut 7:9)

Significant because God is attentive to our prayers for the sake of His covenant (Ps 106:43-45)

Significant because of God's unfailing love (Isa 54:8-10)

Sign between God and all living creatures (16-17)

Sign of God's promises to all living creatures (Gen 8:20-21)

Sign of God's covenant promises to all descendants (Gen 17:19)

Sign of God's kindness and compassion to all creatures (Isa 54:8-10)

Sign for all the other creation of God eagerly awaiting redemption (Rom 8:19-22)