

Nov 25, 2018



# Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

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

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## Thanksgiving and a Promise Genesis 8:15-22

### Aim and Application of the Lesson

The lesson examines the events to show that righteous Noah was a grateful man by worshipping with **Thanksgiving God's Promise**. In addition we see that God made a promise that is to the whole world that is still valid today. The study's aim is to realize that God's goodness to us demands a response of gratitude. The study's application is to turn to God in gratitude when we experience His goodness.

*(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)*

### Lesson Introduction and Background

In our area of Ohio, we get some pretty nasty summer storms. We are then subject to high winds, driving rain, and lightning. These are normal, and we are usually not unduly alarmed by them. I was driving home after one of these storms one day and happened to glance up into the sky. There above me was something so beautiful that it took my breath away. I was awed at the sight of a perfectly formed double rainbow. I pulled into my driveway and sat in my car a moment, gazing as it gently faded. In our world, we tend to overlook the wonder of a rainbow. We take it for granted, glancing at it and then going on with our lives. Place yourself in Noah's shoes. You have spent many days on a ship, surrounded by animals needing your attention. Perhaps tempers are flaring as your family members start to irritate one another. Finally, the ark reaches ground. Walking down the gangplank, you realize that the world you left behind is gone. Familiar people and familiar towns no longer exist. As the animals leave your lifeboat, you know you are starting over. More than that, the world you are stepping into has been purified, freed (for now at least) from the troubles of ages past. These truths could elicit only one response from Noah. Before Noah did anything else, he built an altar and offered praise to God for His mercy. While Noah praised God, he looked up to the sky. He must have marveled at a sight he had not seen before. As he looked at the colors splashing across the heavens, he heard God speaking once more of a covenant (Gen. 9:12-17). Even though we tend to forget it, that covenant endures to this day. Because our God does not change His mind (cf. Num. 23:19), that promise remains true. As a wedding ring is a symbol of a promise, so the rainbow is also symbolic of God's promise from long ago. As we have said, however, it is easy to forget about this promise. When I saw the double rainbow, it made me wonder, Is this a promise that God has remembered His original promise? Is He reassuring me that He has not forgotten? I think that we need reassurance at times. When was the last time you thought about God's rainbow promise from long ago? We may put it into the back of our minds as something given to someone in history. In fact, it applies to us as a great demonstration of God's mercy. When we see the rainbow, it is often after the strongest rains. It appears to remind us that God has sealed His promise and will keep it (cf. Gen. 9:13). This was a reason for Noah to rejoice. We sometimes face the storms of life. When the deluge threatens to engulf us, it is easy to feel overwhelmed. We need to remember that Christ has gained victory for us (Col. 2:15). Because of this, we need not fear (John 14:27). His death and resurrection seals the victory of His people. The next time you look at a rainbow, what will you remember? How about the cross? Both the rainbow and the cross are symbols of God's promises that still ring true. His promises give us reasons to offer Him praise.

*(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)*

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

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

**COMMENT FOR THE WEEK:**  
The rainbow, seen against the clouds of judgment, spoke of grace. But the rainbow fades when compared to God's grace shown at Calvary. At the cross, God's wrath against sin was placed on Jesus Christ, the believer's substitute

**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)*

**New Series: Our Love For God**

**UNIT: God is Worthy of Our Love**

### NEXT WEEK

**Love and Obey God**

**(Deut 6:1-9)**

## NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

### **The Thanksgiving (Gen 8:15-20)**

#### *Thanksgiving for deliverance (15-16)*

- Deliverance from death (2 Cor 1:9-10)
- Deliverance from calamities (Job 5:19-21)
- Deliverance from troubles (Ps 34:19)
- Deliverance so that we can comfort others (2 Cor 1:3-4)
- Deliverance from trials (2 Peter 2:9)
- Deliverance from temptation (1 Cor 10:13)
- Deliverance that sometimes brings double blessings (Job 42:10-11)

#### *Thanksgiving for restoration (17-19)*

- Restoration that cannot be hindered by distance (Deut. 30:4)
- Restoration that proves God's grace (2 Chron. 30:9)
- Restoration that is promised (Acts 3:21)
- Restoration of the soul (Psalm 23:3)
- Restoration of joy (Psalm 51:12)
- Restoration of God's pleasure (Psalm 85:4)

#### *Thanksgiving through worship (20)*

- Worship of God only (Matt 4:10)
- 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 with reverence (Ps 2:11)
- Worship in the splendor of God's holiness (Ps 29:2)
- Worship to bring glory to God's name (Ps 86:9-10)
- Worship our God and Maker (Ps 95:6-7)

### **The Promise (Gen 8:21-22)**

#### *Promise to remove curse (21)*

- A curse that consumes the earth (Isa 24:5-6)
- A curse because of disobedience (Gen 3:17-19)
- A curse because of not living according to Word (Gal 3:10-13)
- A curse because of being an evildoer (Matt 7:22-23)
- A curse because of being disobedient (Deut 28:15)
- A curse because of turning away from God (Jer 17:5)
- A curse because of continual sin (Heb 10:26-27)

#### *Promise of sustainment (22)*

- God sustains by upholding those who fall (Ps 37:23-24)
- God sustains from birth (Ps 71:6)
- God sustains through a willing spirit (Ps 51:12)
- God sustains because He will never forsake His own (Ps 55:22)
- God sustains because He promised to do so (Ps 119:116)
- God sustains because He always finishes what He starts (Phil 1:6)