

Noah's Rainbow

“Ordinary Object, Extraordinary Meanings”



“While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.” Genesis 8:22

The rainbow and all the events leading up to it are another one of those great leaps of faith that we have to take if we accept the Bible to be the word of God. It is hard to comprehend that a man and his sons could build a boat large enough to house two of every living creature. It was about 450 feet long, 75 feet wide and 45 feet high, with 3 decks. Some comparisons that stand out to me include the fact that it was taller than a three story building, had deck areas that would equal 20 basketball courts, and as long as a football field. I know they build much bigger buildings today, so the fact that Noah was able to do that with God's help isn't near as awesome to me as the rainbow. The beauty of the colors is there and sometimes they are somewhat faded and sometimes they are very vibrant. That is how our faith is at times, but God is always there. Even if we want to do it “our way” He allows us to do it, but He never leaves us.

When we think of Noah we often think of the ark, but there was something more important than the ark. The rainbow was a promise to Noah, but it is also a promise to each one of us. God made a promise to Noah that He would never destroy the earth again with a flood as He did. We have that promise today also. In addition, we have the knowledge that God actually came down to earth through the person of His son, Jesus, who died for our sins. We know that this earth we live on will never be destroyed again, but we know that if we accept Christ as our Personal Saviour, we will someday be in a wonderful Heavenly Kingdom with God and we will not even have the trials we now have on this earth. What wonderful promises.

Each time I see the rainbow, I think of two things, the beauty of it and where it ends. As a child we were told there was a pot of gold at the end of it! Is there? I've never found the end, but then I've never found the end of God's grace and love.

I am reminded of an old enchanting musical called Finian's Rainbow.* It is about an Irish man and his daughter who have a pot of gold. They bring it to the United States and think that if they bury it at Fort Knox it will multiply. A leprechaun follows them and they run into several problems. It is an amusing story, but the pot of gold is interesting. Finian's rainbow is mythical, but our rainbow is real. His rainbow has three wishes and there are real problems as to how he can use those three promises. We have unlimited promises. We abuse them many times, but there are always more. We are not limited to three.

One song from Finian's Rainbow "Look to the Rainbow" has a wonderful message for us also.

"Look to the Rainbow"

"On the day I was born,
Said my father, said he.
I've an elegant legacy
Waitin' for ye,
'Tis a rhyme for your lips
And a song for your heart,
To sing it whenever
The world falls apart.

"Look to the rainbow.
Follow it over the hill
And the stream.
Look to the rainbow.
Follow the fellow
Who follows a dream."

When I was born, I had parents who taught me about a wonderful legacy waiting for me. It was the gift of eternal life. I am fortunate to have never known anything else. I was taught to follow Jesus and all His teachings. What a wonderful birthright that I just always took for granted. But that heritage isn't just for me. It is available to everyone whether they were born into a home where that was taught or whether they are just finding it in later life. It is there just like the rainbow for all of us. We don't have to sing about it or shout it from the mountain tops. We can just accept that promise in the quietness of our own prayer time, and it will be there for us today and tomorrow. The rainbow has so many promises. I hope you will always look at it in a different way now and know that the rainbow and the pot of gold and all God's promises are there for you today and always.

Prayer: Dear God. You have created such beauty for us each day and yet we don't appreciate it. We don't take time to see the rainbow and think of its promises or smell the grass and watch the beautiful sunsets. We have such beautiful seasons and just take so much for granted like Your love. Help us to appreciate Your beauty in nature and within each other. Help us to love each day and know that You are always there and there will always be a rainbow waiting for us. Amen.

1. Did the flood really happen? Is it important to find the ark?
2. What is the real promise behind the story of Noah's Ark?
3. What is the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow?
4. Why did God make a promise never to destroy the earth by a flood again?
5. What promises do you have from Noah's rainbow?

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*Finian's Rainbow by E. Y Harburg and Fred Saidy debuted on stage in 1947.