

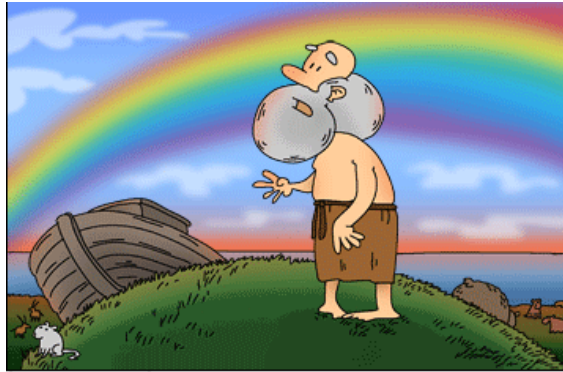
# Noah's Rainbow

“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. In fact, man has even built a replica of the ark itself but without all the live animals. Housekeeping must have been a real chore! 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. The ark was God's promise to Noah and his family, but the rainbow is a promise to each one of us.



(See Genesis 6-8)

03-04-2013

**THIS IS A PRETTY BIG PROMISE ... WE REALLY DON'T NEED PAPERWORK OR LEGAL?**

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 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. We know that if we accept Christ as our Personal Savior, 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. 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.

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

*“Be thou the rainbow in the storms of life. The evening beam that smiles the clouds away, and tints tomorrow with prophetic ray.”*

Lord Byron

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. Noah built an altar and thanked God and selected clean animals and offered them as burnt offerings. God was pleased with Noah just as He is pleased with us when we thank Him for His generous gifts and return a portion of His offerings to fulfill His Kingdom's work.

*"Try to be a rainbow in someone's cloud."*

Maya Angelou

PS. This is just a little light reading about Noah and the ark from a musical TWO BY TWO. It never made it big on Broadway, but it has some interesting songs.

Noah's sons think the ark needs a rudder. Noah protests that if God had wanted it to have a rudder, He would have said to make a rudder, but God didn't say make a rudder, so there was not going to be a rudder. The sons are very disturbed because they thought Noah was crazy anyway, and especially if he doesn't want to put a rudder on it so he can guide it. Noah was going on God's guidance. He certainly must have had enough faith to think God would also guide him after it was built. Do we sometimes forget to let God be our rudder! The song shows disagreement between Noah's sons and their father. Sometimes we also have disagreements in today's world. This is a time when we need God's rudder.

Another song "Hey Girlie" is a love song between Noah and his wife. According to this song, Noah's wife, Esther, dies in his arms before they leave the ark. The musical is of course very loosely based on the actual Bible story, but it gives us thought as to what might have been going through the mind of Noah and his family as they were building this ark when no one else knew why. Sometimes we are called to do something that no one else can understand, but God has a plan for us if we ask. But -"Don't ask God for guidance if you don't want it!"

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. How do you suppose Noah's wife and the children reacted to this vision from God? Remember an angel appeared to both Mary and Joseph!
2. Can we compare anything in our life to the faith shown by Noah at that time?
3. How can we believe the story of Noah to be true? What signs do we have?
4. Has God ever asked you to do something that you thought was out of line? What about talking to someone about your faith? What about taking a stand or not going along with "the crowd?" Can we accept that prayer is the only answer in difficult times?
5. Is God our rudder?
6. Will you be a rainbow for someone today?

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