

3. An intimate relationship with God

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: ¹³I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. Genesis 9:12,13

Rainbow tells us all we need to know about having an intimate relationship with God.

- Rainbows are the bi-product of stormy weather
- Rainbows form a picture of God's grace.

The Hebrew word translated rainbow here in Genesis 9:13 "I have set my rainbow in the clouds ..."
Literally means "battle bow" or "war bow".

Charles Spurgeon-Great London preacher:
"We should know the reason God is able to lay his bow up, because it's aimed up not down.

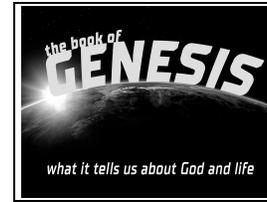
God is aiming his arrows of wrath somewhere else.
Do you know where those arrows went? Isaiah 53 tells us.

...we thought his troubles were a punishment from God, a punishment for his own sins! ⁵But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed.⁶ All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the Lord laid on him the sins of us all. Isaiah 53:4-6

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Corinthians 5:21

On the cross, the storm of eternal justice met the sunshine of God's love, and that's why you have a rainbow.

Sierra Community Church August 1st, 2021 Part 9- Dan Wilvers



Rainbow Covenant Genesis 9:1-17

¹Then God blessed Noah and his sons, saying to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth. ²The fear and dread of you will fall upon all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air, upon every creature that moves along the ground, and upon all the fish of the sea; they are given into your hands. ³Everything that lives and moves will be food for you. Just as I gave you the green plants, I now give you everything. ⁴But you must not eat meat that has its lifeblood still in it. ⁵And for your lifeblood I will surely demand an accounting. I will demand an accounting from every animal. And from each man, too, I will demand an accounting for the life of his fellow man. ⁶Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made man. ⁷As for you, be fruitful and increase in number; multiply on the earth and increase upon it."

⁸Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him: ⁹"I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you ¹⁰and with every living creature that was with you—the birds, the livestock and all the wild animals, all those that came out of the ark with you—every living creature on earth. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you: Never again will all life be cut off by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth." ¹²And 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: ¹³I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, ¹⁵I 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. ¹⁶Whenever 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." ¹⁷So God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant I have established between me and all life on the earth."

Three relationships that form God's Covenant with Noah

I. A relationship with all Creation.

"The fear and dread of you will fall upon all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air ... Everything that lives and moves will be food for you." Genesis 9:2,3

"I will establish my covenant with you and with every living creature that was with you." Genesis 9:10

"This is the sign of the covenant I'm making between you and every living creature with you." Genesis 9:12

"When 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." Genesis 9:16

...it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. Genesis 9:13

A relationship humans affected because of their sin

"Never again will I curse the ground because of man ..." Genesis 8:21,22

For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed.

²⁰For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Romans 8:19-22

Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let the sea resound, and all that is in it.¹² Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them; let all the trees of the forest sing for joy.¹³ Let all creation rejoice before the Lord, for he comes, he comes to judge the earth. Psalm 96:11-13

II. A relationship with all people.

"And I will require the blood of anyone who takes another person's life. If a wild animal kills a person, it must die. And anyone who murders a fellow human must die. ⁶If anyone takes a human life, that person's life will also be taken by human hands. For God made human beings in his own image. Genesis 9:5,6

God says, "I have put my glory and dignity into every single one, and anyone who dares to raise a hand to violate their life, I will take that as an assault on me, and my honor as creator.

Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. Galatians 6:10

But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! ⁴⁵In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:44,45

"The Lord commands us to do good to all without exception, but when we look around at our fellow human beings, we see so many who are unworthy if judged by their own merits. But here Scripture helps us in the very best way when it teaches us we are never to consider what men merit of themselves, but to look upon the image of God in all to which we owe honor and love. Therefore, whatever one you meet who needs your aid, you have no reason to refuse to help them. You say, 'Ah, but he is contemptible and worthless,' but the Lord shows him to be one to whom he has deigned to give the beauty of his image." John Calvin Pastor and Reformer