

"What Does The Rainbow Say?" Jarrod Jacobs and Murray Wade

I want to thank you brethren here in Brooklyn for the opportunity to present lessons today and tomorrow. I spent many years in New York from 1974 through 1990 and have visited many times since. The brethren in this area are in our prayers on a continual basis. We in Oak Ridge have been blessed to be able to support brother Gary for many years as he labors in Brooklyn. I hope our time together today and tomorrow will be profitable and done in a way that brings glory to God in Heaven. Our lesson now has to do with **"What Does The Rainbow Say?"**

In **Genesis 8:20-9:17**, we read of God's promise to Noah and his family after the Flood. Noah and his family had just come off the ark and had offered sacrifices to God (**Genesis 7:2-3, 8:18-21**). God then says that He will not destroy the earth by water again (**Genesis 8:21-22**) and is going to establish a covenant to this effect with Noah, his family, and all the animals (**Genesis 9:9-11**). God then says that they can know His promise is true because he will "set" His "rainbow in the cloud" (**Genesis 9:13**). This rainbow is to remind God of His promise to not destroy the earth with a flood (**Genesis 9:15-16**).

After a rainstorm, a rainbow can be seen in the clouds even today. When we see it, we need to remember God's promise. But, the rainbow not only stands for a promise God has made, it also says a number of things to us today. **What does the rainbow say?**

God Is Alive.

Some deny the existence of God. However, when looking at the rainbow, we see that God is! David said in **Psalm 19:1**, *"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament (expanse of heaven) shows His handiwork"*. **Psalm 90:1-2** declares, *"Lord, You have been our dwelling place (refuge) in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, Or ever You had formed (gave birth to) the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God."* Looking to the New Testament, Paul spoke in **Acts 14:15** of *"We also are men with the same nature as you, and preach to you that you should turn from useless things to the living God, who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and all things that are in them"* to the people of Lystra. Let us never forget about the living God who is the Father of us all!

God Has The Power To Destroy The World.

Seeing that God has the power to create, He also has the power to destroy! **Genesis chapters 1 and 2** record God creating this world and all things that are in it, both visible and invisible (**Romans 1:20**). Just a few chapters later in **chapter 6**, we read of God deciding that His creation was so wicked and corrupt that He would destroy mankind from off the earth (**Genesis 6:5-7, 13**). In the Bible, God is declared as being Omnipotent, Omnipresent, and Omniscient (**Amos 4:13**). In fact, one of the Hebrew names for God is "El Shaddai" which means "God Almighty." (**Isaiah 40:25-26**). There is none that can compare with God, and no man is His equal! God has the power to destroy this world, and the rainbow declares this!

God Keeps His Word.

When God promised to destroy the earth by water, He did it (**Genesis 6:13, 17, 7:21-23**). In **Genesis 9:16**, we learn that God promised never to do it again -- and He's kept that promise! Why mention this? Because if God has kept His promise to those throughout history, we can know that God will keep His promises today. God has promised to save those who come to him in faith and obedience (**Mark 16:16**). God has promised a home in Heaven for the faithful (**John 14:1-4; Revelation 22:14**). He has also promised death and destruction to those who are disobedient (**Matthew 25:46**). We know that He will keep these promises! *"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise..."* (**2 Peter 3:9**) and the rainbow tells us this!

God Is In Control Of This World.

When God declared that the waters would destroy the earth, they did just that (**Genesis 6:13, 17**)! When God then said that it would not happen again, it hasn't! **Genesis chapters 7 through 9** deal extensively with the

world-wide flood that occurred. While we understand that God made this world and set in motion the laws of nature, we must remember that God, as Creator and Sustainer of us all, can intervene anytime He pleases! God is in absolute control of things! He has determined where man will live and for how long! (**Psalm 90:10; Acts 17:25-26**). God gives to all life, and breath, and ALL things!! Let us never forget this. God is still in control!

God Wants A Personal Relationship With You!

After Noah offered burnt offerings on the altar to God, God blessed Noah and his sons (**Genesis 9:1**). Up to this point God had been communicating only with Noah. Then in **Genesis 9:8** we see that God spoke to Noah and his sons with him. Noah set an example that ended up with his sons having a personal relationship with God. It is a blessing when a father or mother can lead their children to embrace a personal relationship with God. God wants a personal relationship with you! Notice **Acts 17:27, 1 John 3:1, and Revelation 3:20 (Here He is saying "LET ME IN!")**. *Do you have a personal relationship with God this morning?*

God Rewards the Righteous and Punishes the Sinner.

The rainbow says that God will not allow people to act as they please without consequences. God will punish the wicked and reward the righteous. Paul knew this and taught the Romans this truth (**Romans 11:22**). David also understood that the end of the wicked was destruction and desolation; while the righteous would draw near to God (**Psalm 73:27-28; James 4:8**). We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ to give an account of our lives (**2 Corinthians 5:10**). The righteous will be rewarded and the sinner will be punished.

God will punish the sinner! This is why I must make sure I am right with God and am pleasing Him while I have the time and opportunity to do so (**Romans 13:11-12, 2 Corinthians 6:2**).

Let us all be like Noah (**Genesis 6:22**)! We see Noah and his family were saved physically by the water (**1 Peter 3:20**), and in like manner God will take care of His righteous people today. God has promised that those who seek first His Kingdom will be provided for (**Matthew 6:33**). Not second or third or fourth but first! Jesus has also promised spiritual blessings and rest to those who are faithful to Him (**John 14:1-4, Hebrews 4:8-9**). **1 Peter 1:4** tells us that the inheritance God promises is *"incorruptible (imperishable) and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you"*. Yes, God will reward His children as well as punish the wicked! The rainbow from long ago declares this truth for all ages!

God Will Destroy The Earth.

The rainbow says that one day God will destroy this world. However, it won't be with water (**Genesis 9:13-16**)! Paul writes about this in **2 Thessalonians 1:6-10**. This passage shows that God will destroy the earth, but next time, it will be with fire! You see, God keeps His promises, and He will not destroy this world by water ever again -- the rainbow declares this!

Are you prepared for Christ's coming? I hope so. The preparation begins by hearing God's word (**Romans 10:17**), believing that Jesus is the Son of God (**John 8:24**), repenting of your sins (**Luke 13:3**), confessing your faith in Christ (**Matthew 10:32-33**), and being baptized for the remission of your sins (**Matthew 28:18-20**). Too many think that after they are baptized they have completely fulfilled their obligations to God. That is not so! This is only the beginning of our lives in preparation for Heaven (**1 Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10**)!

The rainbow was set in the heavens to remind and prepare people, and we must not forget it! We will close by reading **Revelation chapter 4**. If we can help you now, please come forward as we stand and sing!