

Lesson Text

Genesis 8:20-22 (NIV)

²⁰ Then Noah built an altar to the Lord and, taking some of all the clean animals and clean birds, he sacrificed burnt offerings on it. ²¹ The Lord smelled the pleasing aroma and said in his heart: “Never again will I curse the ground because of humans, even though every inclination of the human heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done.

²² “As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease.”

Genesis 9:8-17

⁸ Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him: ⁹ “I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you ¹⁰ and 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. ¹¹ I establish my covenant with you: Never again will all life be destroyed by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth.”

¹² 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:

¹³ I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴ Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, ¹⁵ I 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. ¹⁶ Whenever 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.”

¹⁷ So God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant I have established between me and all life on the earth.”

Today’s Lesson Aims

- **Learning Facts:** To list elements of the covenant God made with Noah and all living creatures on the earth after the flood.
- **Biblical Principle:** To understand the value of the Noahic covenant God made.
- **Daily Application:** To write a statement of commitment to honor the covenant relationship he or she enjoys as a believer in Christ.

Power Hour Lesson
Summary for
September 3, 2017

“The Rainbow”

Lesson Text:
Genesis 8:20-22;
9:8-17

Background Scripture:
Genesis 8:20-9:17

Devotional Reading:
Isaiah 51:1-10

INTRODUCTION

It's a Sign!

A quick glance at an object, image, or document can give us information in an instant. When we see a diamond on the ring finger of a woman's left hand, we immediately know that a proposal for marriage has been accepted. The presence of a license plate on an automobile indicates that the vehicle is allowed to operate on public roads. That framed diploma in our doctor's office assures us that he or she has completed a course of study in preparation for treating our ailments.

By these and many other visual devices we communicate. It should not surprise us, then, that God does the same. Today we will look at a sign from God that communicates not only an important promise but also a fact of history.

LESSON BACKGROUND

Time: unknown

Place: mountains of Ararat

The biblical account of the great flood is indeed accurate! The Bible's unerring track record on other historical matters and the divine inspiration of Scripture (2 Timothy 3:16) assure us of this fact.

The biblical account of the great flood is detailed in giving specifics for the beginning of the flood, the length of time the rain fell, how long the floodwaters covered the earth, and how long it took for the waters to recede. The total amount of time adds up to a little more than a year (Genesis 7:11; 8:14).

What Do You Think?

- What are some ways to express thanks to God for a deliverance or other special blessing?
- How can we use Genesis 8:22 to comfort someone after a disastrous weather event (such as recent Hurricane Harvey)?
- How can the fact that we are included in a covenant God made first with Noah encourage us?
- How would you respond to someone who says that floods today prove that God has not kept His promise?
- How does knowing the science of a rainbow affect your appreciation of it as a covenant symbol from God?

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POINTS TO PONDER

- In all things give thanks to the Lord. (Genesis 8:20)
- God responds to those who sincerely seek Him. (Gen. 8:21a)
- God is full of grace and mercy, and always keeps His promises. (Gen. 8:21b-22; 9:8-11)
- Rainbows are reminders to the world of God's grace. (Gen. 9:12-17)

CONCLUSION

I Promise

Being something of a grammar purist, I chafe when I hear people say "I promise" when they really mean "I assure you." Sometimes the two are interchangeable, but sometimes they are not. An example of the latter is when someone says "I promise you, I was not the one who did that." A promise always looks to the future. I can make assurances about the past, but I can promise only for the future, as in "I promise I will never do such a thing again!" God promised that "the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh" (Genesis 9:15). The rainbow assures us that He will keep His promise!

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, as the rainbow comforts us with Your promise never again to destroy the earth by flood, may we also be moved to action by Your grace to share Jesus with the world! We pray in His name, Jesus. Amen.

THOUGHT TO REMEMBER

Nothing is more certain than a promise from the God who cannot lie!

ANTICIPATING THE NEXT LESSON

Next week's lesson is "**Circumcision**," where we learn the symbolic value of circumcision. Study Genesis 17.

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