

Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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The Rainbow

(Jerry Fite)

After the flood, God made a covenant with man and every living creature that walked on the earth or flew in the heavens. He would not cut off all flesh, or destroy the earth any more with the waters of the flood. *“And God said, ‘This is the token of the covenant which I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations: I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth. And it shall come to pass, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud, and I will remember my covenant, which is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh.’”* (Genesis 9:13-15).

When, after a rainstorm, your children or grandchildren ask you, “What is that?” do you say, “It is a miracle from God”? Yes, it is from God, but does it transcend or suspend natural law? The rainbow is light refracted as it moves through drops of rain. The

sun light, which appears white when entering the drops of water at an angle, bends into the colors which we see. The sun behind you shining its rays of light, and the moisture before you receiving the light beams produce the colors we see in the rainbow. We see this phenomenon by spraying the water hose at different angles with the sun behind us. These are natural laws at work, not a miracle.

What God did is point man to the clouds as His watery canvas for the presentation of a perceived colorful arch. God said, *“...the bow shall be seen in the cloud”*. When man sees the bow in the cloud, he will know that God is remembering His promise. Every time the sun is shining while moisture still fills the sky, a natural process unfolds signifying a token or a pledge from God.

God is remembering His promise to not do something. He will not bring *“a flood to destroy all flesh.”* All flesh, in what sense? When a man who has lost his family and livestock in a flood looks at the sky after the rain

storm, what should he think of God’s promise? Sun shining at a 42 degree angle against a dark cloud still full of moisture will be there in the sky for him to see. What should he remember?

God pointing to the rainbow is a reminder of His universal flood. When the waters came on the earth, *“all the high mountains that were under the whole heaven were covered.”* (Genesis 7:19). A depth of either 15 to 22 ½ feet of water prevailed over the mountains (Genesis 7:20). The token of the rainbow is God’s promise to not again destroy *“all flesh that is upon the earth”* (Gen. 9:16). God does not point us to the rainbow as a pledge that He will not allow any more local flooding or consequent loss of life. He pledges to not bring again a universal flood to destroy all flesh.

The next time we see a rainbow, may we reflect on the moment. The sun is now shining against the rain that is diminishing and ending. God is looking at the rainbow and remembering His everlasting covenant to man and animals (Gen. 9:16).