

# The Rainbow

Symbols, Metaphors, Similes



*"And God said to Noah: I will make a covenant with you. Never again will all men die because of a flood. This is my token to remind you of my promise. I will set a rainbow in the sky."  
Genesis 9:11-17*

We always know that the sun will come out after the rain, and if we see the rain and the sun together, we always think there should be a rainbow somewhere whether or not we can see it. The rainbow stirs up hope in us because God promised Noah that He would never again destroy the world by flood. But it also gives us a promise which we feel again when we see a rainbow.

Noah had a rough life in many ways, but he was most blessed also for his faithfulness to God. God had created mankind and had given him everything. But all the gifts just made them do whatever they wanted. You see, God had also given them free will, just as He gives it to us today. What we do with it is our blessing or curse.

God was so upset with the way the people He had created in love were acting that He threatened to destroy everyone. The Bible tells us *"And the Lord regretted that He had made man on the earth, and it grieved Him to His heart. So the Lord said, 'I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them.'"* Genesis 6:6-7. Then He remembered Noah, a man that He could trust. So God told Noah to build an ark and take two of everything into it for safe keeping while He destroyed the rest of the earth. You know the story. In many ways the ark was a symbol that God was not going to destroy everything. He would save the creatures he had created. And He would save Noah and his family. Can you imagine the neighbors when he started building an ark three stories high! Noah was six hundred years old. Whether or not they counted years the same way we do today is immaterial. He was an older man and was about to do something that the Lord told him to do regardless of how silly he looked to other people.

Then, the Lord continues to help Noah and his family. When the rain stops and the dove finally comes back with an olive branch in his beak, Noah knows that the Lord has kept his promise. He tells Noah *"Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. And as I gave you the green plants, I give you everything."* Genesis 9:3 That's quite a promise, but God wasn't finished.

But more importantly, he promises Noah *"This is the sign of the covenant that I make between Me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between Me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember My covenant that is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh. And the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth."* Genesis 9:12-17. This covenant comes down to us! That is amazing and we just think of it as a pretty arc in the sky.

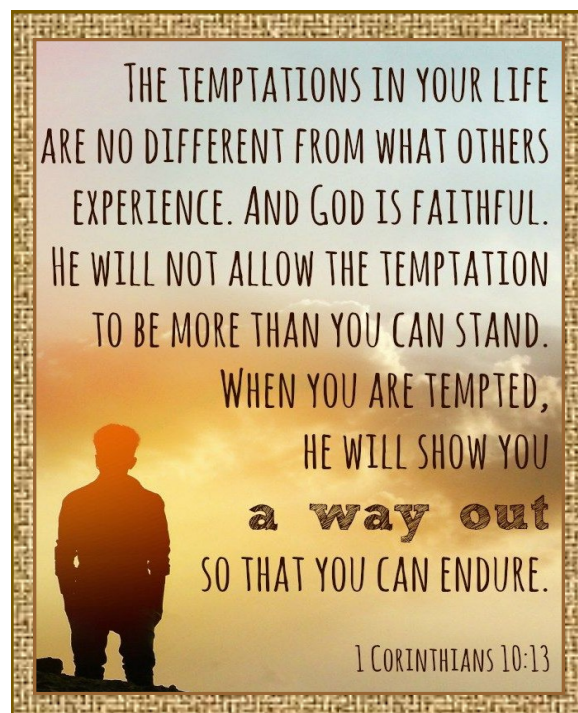
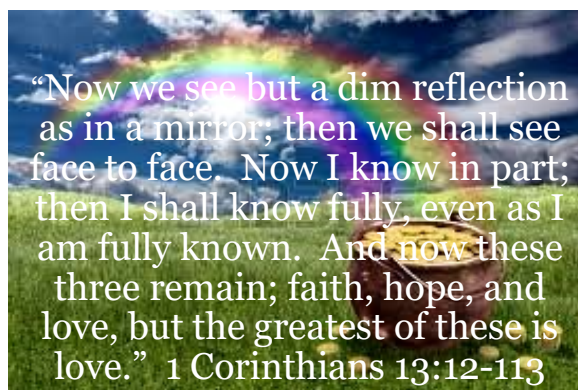


Does it have a pot of gold at the end? Maybe. What is a pot of gold? Is it gold bullion, or is it promises that will never fail? The poet, Robert Frost in an interview was asked about Keats, another poet, who was upset when he found that the rainbow was merely the refraction of the sunlight by raindrops. Frost said that knowledge did not spoil the rainbow for him. Rather it told him that there would always be something more out there that mankind had not yet found or discovered. There would always be the omniscient.

The poet sometimes sees things we don't. I think Robert Frost saw a lot that we don't see until we stop and take time to smell the roses as they say and remember that God not only promised a rainbow to Noah, He promised us that He would always protect us. He would always feed us. There would always be beauty if we looked for it.



The rainbow promises us that there will always be God's love, there will always be colors. There will always be the blue sky, and we can pray to God who loves us and cares for us. That is some "pot of gold."



Prayer: Awesome and magnificent God. You have promised us eternal life with you if we believe. Help us to see the promises You have made in just our everyday life like the rainbow, the grass, the sun and the moon and know that you have given all of this to us freely. Then help us to serve You here on this earth so that one day we will see that other greatest promise come true when we will spend eternity with You. Amen.

1. What do you think of when you see the sun out and the rain falling?
2. Do you think God's promise will be forever, or will there someday be another flood that covers the entire earth?
3. Do you agree with the poet that was upset that it is only a refraction of the sunlight by raindrops?
4. Do you agree with the poet, Frost, who said it told him that there was always the omniscient, something more for mankind to find or discover?
5. Is the pot of gold mentioned by some a symbol for you today?

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