

THANK GOD FOR THE RAINBOW!

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Genesis 9:12-17 KJV

12 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: 13 I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth. 14 And it shall come to pass, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud: 15 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. 16 And the bow shall be in the cloud; and I will look upon it, that I may remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is upon the earth. 17 And God said unto Noah, This is the token of the covenant, which I have established between me and all flesh that is upon the earth.

Genesis 9:12-17 CEV

12-13 The rainbow that I have put in the sky will be my sign to you and to every living creature on earth. It will remind you that I will keep this promise forever. 14 When I send clouds over the earth, and a rainbow appears in the sky, 15 I will remember my promise to you and to all other living creatures. Never again will I let floodwaters destroy all life. 16 When I see the rainbow in the sky, I will always remember the promise that I have made to every living creature. 17 The rainbow will be the sign of that solemn promise.

SUBJ: Thank GOD for the rainbow!

INTRO: How many of y'all have seen a rainbow in the sky and then when you

see the rainbow, you say let me go to the end of the rainbow and find the treasure?

We've been saying let me go to the end of the rainbow to get the treasure, but this passage scripture reveals that the rainbow is the treasure!

(NOTE: See GOD promises is worth more than any pot of gold!)

(EXP#) Because a pot of gold can run out...But GOD'S promises will never run out!

(EXP#) A pot of gold can be stolen...But GOD'S promises cannot be stolen!

(EXP#) A pot of gold can lose its value...But GOD'S promises will never lose their value!

(EXP#) A pot of gold can make you rich...But GOD'S promises can make you blessed!

(SONG) There's a song that says, "Silver or Gold, Silver or Gold, I'd rather have JESUS, than Silver or Gold!"

And I came to tell somebody this morning:

GOD is worth more than any amount of riches you could have in life!

(EXP#) See, with GOD I have peace, but with riches and wealth everybody wants a piece!

And I ain't got no peace!

(EXP#) With GOD I have joy everlasting, but with riches and wealth, neither my joy nor the wealth will last!

(EXP#) With GOD I have a promise that will never change!

EXP# With GOD I have a covenant that will never fail!

EXP# With GOD I have a Savior who will never leave me!

EXP# With GOD I have a hope that will never disappoint me!

EXP# And with GOD, I have something that money cannot buy:

I HAVE HIS PRESENCE!

(EXPOUND) In this passage of scripture, the Lord declares that he put the rainbow in the sky as a sign of the covenant that he made with man and that he'll keep his promise forever!

And he said When he send clouds over the earth, and a rainbow appears in the sky, he'll remember his promise!

(EXPOUND) Now, in Genesis chapter 9, Noah and his family have just come through one of the greatest storms the world had ever seen.

The rain had fallen.

The waters had risen.

The earth had been covered.

But GOD preserved Noah!

And when the flood was over, Noah came out of the ark.

And GOD made a covenant with Noah.

And GOD said:

"I do set my bow in the cloud."

In other words:

I am going to put a visible reminder in the sky that I keep My promises!

The rainbow wasn't there because GOD needed help remembering **because GOD doesn't forget!**

But GOD gave Noah a visible sign of an invisible promise.

And every time Noah looked up and saw that rainbow, he could remember:

GOD SAID IT!

GOD MEANT IT!

AND GOD WILL KEEP IT!

(EXPOUND) And I want you to notice something about this rainbow.

GOD didn't put it in the ground, but He put it **in the cloud!**

(NOTE: The very place where Noah could see the reminder of GOD'S promise, was the same place where the storm clouds appeared.)

And somebody needs to hear this:

GOD can put a promise right in the middle of your storm!

(EXP#) In the middle of your heartache and heartbreak!

(EXP#) In the middle of your hurt and your pain!

(EXP#) In the middle of your trials and tribulations!

(EXP#) In the middle of your financial problem and your job problem!

GOD can put a promise right in the middle of your storm!

(EXPOUND) Now normally when you see a rainbow, it happens after the rain is gone and the sky's are clear.

But I saw something the other day that I don't ever recall seeing before!

Wednesday evening I was driving and it was very cloudy and the sky was dark. It looked like it was about to start storming and I saw some flashes of lightning, but in the midst of those dark clouds, I saw a rainbow and when I saw the rainbow, I felt a spirit of peace come over me like nothing I've ever felt before!

And I heard the Lord say to me, I'm here!

(EXP#) And I thought about what the LORD said to Joshua in

Joshua 1:9

Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

(EXP#) And then I thought about what the LORD said to Isaiah in

Isaiah 41:10

Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

(EXP#) And then I thought about what the LORD said in

Hebrews 13:5

Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

And Somebody needs to know today that the LORD is with you!

(EXP#) No matter how dark it is, the LORD is with you!

(EXP#) No matter how hard it is, the LORD is with you!

(EXP#) No matter how long you've been going through, the LORD is with you!

(EXP#) No matter how you feel, the LORD is with you!

(EXP#) No matter what the doctor said, the LORD is with you!

(EXP#) No matter what the enemy said, the LORD is with you!

(EXP#) No matter what you lost, the LORD is with you!

(EXP#) No matter what you're facing, the LORD is with you!

SOMEBODY SHOUT, "HE'S WITH ME!"

(EXPOUND) In this passage of scripture, the Lord declares that he put the rainbow in the sky as a sign of the covenant that he made with man and that he'll keep his promise forever!

And he said When he send clouds over the earth, and a rainbow appears in the sky, he'll remember his promise!

(EXPOUND) Now, the LORD revealed some things to me about rainbows!

BODY:

#1 YOU HAVE TO LOOK UP!

(EXPOUND) To see a rainbow, you have to look up!

(NOTE: You can't see the rainbow looking down.)

And I believe there is a spiritual lesson in that.

(EXP#) Sometimes your problem will make you look down.

(EXP#) Your disappointment will make you look down.

(EXP#) Your pain will make you look down.

(EXP#) Your circumstances will make you look down.

(EXP#) Your failures will make you look down.

But GOD is saying:

"LOOK UP!"

Luke 21:27-28

27 And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. 28 And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.

Jesus said:

“LOOK UP!”

(EXP#) When you look up, you can see that GOD is still working!

(EXP#) When you look up, you can see that GOD is still in control!

(EXP#) When you look up, you can see that your redemption is coming!

(EXP#) When you look up, you can see the glory of GOD!

(NOTE) You need to understand that GOD is not asking you to deny what's happening around you.

He's telling you:

DON'T LET WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND YOU MAKE YOU FORGET WHO IS ABOVE YOU!

David said:

Psalms 24:7-8

7 Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. 8 Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle.

(EXP#) When your head is lifted up, you're positioned to receive the glory of GOD!

(EXP#) When your head is lifted up, you can see the King of Glory!

(EXP#) When your head is lifted up, you can see that your battle isn't bigger than your GOD!

(EXP#) You need peace of mind? **LOOK UP!**

(EXP#) You need joy? **LOOK UP!**

(EXP#) You need a miracle? **LOOK UP!**

(EXP#) You need deliverance? **LOOK UP!**

(EXP#) You need to be set free? **LOOK UP!**

(EXP#) You need strength to endure? **LOOK UP!**

(EXP#) You need restoration? **LOOK UP!**

(EXP#) You need help with forgiveness? **LOOK UP!**

(EXP#) You need healing? **LOOK UP!**

(EXP#) You need direction? **LOOK UP!**

David said:

Psalms 121:1-2

**1 I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. 2
My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth.**

(EXPOUND) Your help comes from above!

Your answer comes from above!

Your strength comes from above!

Your peace comes from above!

Your joy comes from above!

Your hope comes from above!

So if you keep looking down at your problem, you'll miss the GOD who is bigger than your problem!

LOOK UP!

#2 RAINBOWS REMIND YOU THAT THE STORM IS OVER!

(EXPOUND) Normally you see rainbows after the rain is gone!

The storm has passed.

The clouds begin to break.

The sun begins to shine.

And then you look up...

AND THERE IT IS — THE RAINBOW!

And I came to tell somebody:

YOU NEED TO REJOICE BECAUSE YOU MADE IT THROUGH THE STORM!

You're still standing!

You're still here!

You're still breathing!

You're still believing!

You're still praising!

You're still trusting GOD!

And the rainbow is reminding you:

THE STORM DIDN'T DESTROY YOU!

(SONG) "The storm is over now!"

Somebody needs to hear that in your spirit:

THE STORM IS OVER NOW!

It may not look like it yet...

But GOD has already brought you through some things you thought would take you out!

1 Peter 5:10

But the GOD of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.

(EXPOUND) The Bible says:

"After that ye have suffered a while..."

That means your suffering has a limit!

Your storm has a limit!

Your trial has a limit!

Your trouble has a limit!

But GOD'S grace has no limit!

(EXP#) The storm may have shaken you, but it didn't destroy you!

(EXP#) The storm may have bent you, but it didn't break you!

(EXP#) The storm may have made you cry, but you're still here!

(EXP#) The storm may have tested your faith, but you're still trusting GOD!

(EXP#) The storm may have lasted all night, but joy is still coming in the morning!

Psalms 30:5

Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.

(EXP#) Night doesn't last forever!

(EXP#) Rain doesn't last forever!

(EXP#) Clouds don't last forever!

(EXP#) Storms don't last forever!

BUT GOD DOES!

And Jesus said:

John 16:33

These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

Jesus didn't say you wouldn't have trouble.

He said:

"BE OF GOOD CHEER!"

Why?

Because **"I HAVE OVERCOME THE WORLD!"**

(EXPOUND) Your victory is not based on whether you have a storm.

Your victory is based on **WHO IS WITH YOU IN THE STORM!**

And somebody needs to remind yourself:

I HAVE VICTORY OVER MY STORM!

I made it!

I'm still here!

I'm still standing!

I'm still praising!

I'm still believing!

I'm still trusting!

AND I'M COMING OUT OF THIS!

CONCLUSION

#3 RAINBOWS REMIND YOU THAT GOD HASN'T FORGOTTEN ABOUT YOU!

(EXPOUND) Look again at what the Lord said in Genesis 9.

He said:

"I will remember my covenant."

Now, this does not mean that GOD had forgotten His promise and then suddenly saw the rainbow and said, "Oh, I remember what I said!"

No!

GOD doesn't forget.

The word "remember" here speaks to GOD **acting according to His covenant and promise.**

In other words:

GOD remembers you by keeping His Word concerning you!

And I came to tell somebody:

GOD HAS NOT FORGOTTEN ABOUT YOU!

You may feel forgotten...

But GOD hasn't forgotten you!

You may feel overlooked...

But GOD hasn't forgotten you!

You may feel like your prayers have gone unanswered...

But GOD hasn't forgotten you!

You may have been waiting a long time...

But GOD hasn't forgotten you!

(EXP#) Noah had to wait while the rain was falling.

(EXP#) Noah had to wait while the waters were rising.

(EXP#) Noah had to wait while he was inside the ark.

(EXP#) Noah had to wait until the waters went down.

But when Noah came out...

GOD HAD NOT FORGOTTEN HIM!

Somebody say:

"GOD HASN'T FORGOTTEN ME!"

Genesis 8:1

And GOD remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the cattle that was with him in the ark...

(EXPOUND) Before GOD gave Noah the rainbow in chapter 9...

GOD showed Noah in chapter 8:

"I REMEMBERED YOU!"

And that's good news!

Because while Noah was waiting...GOD was working!

While Noah was waiting...GOD was moving!

While Noah was waiting...GOD was keeping His covenant!

(EXP#) Just because GOD hasn't answered yet doesn't mean GOD has forgotten you!

(EXP#) Just because you haven't seen it yet doesn't mean GOD isn't working!

(EXP#) Just because the door hasn't opened yet doesn't mean GOD doesn't have a door for you!

(EXP#) Just because you've been waiting doesn't mean you've been overlooked!

(EXP#) GOD HAS NOT FORGOTTEN YOU!

The psalmist said:

Psalms 27:13-14

13 I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. 14 Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.

(EXPOUND) Sometimes faith is simply believing that GOD is working when you can't see Him working!

Sometimes faith is trusting GOD when you don't understand GOD!

Sometimes faith is holding on when you feel like letting go!

Sometimes faith is saying:

"I DON'T SEE IT YET, BUT I KNOW GOD HASN'T FORGOTTEN ME!"

And here's the blessing:

The rainbow wasn't just for Noah.

GOD said it was for:

"PERPETUAL GENERATIONS."

That means GOD wanted future generations to look at that rainbow and know:

"I AM A GOD WHO KEEPS MY PROMISES!"

And that's why we can thank GOD for the rainbow!

Because every time we see it, we can remember:

GOD KEEPS HIS WORD!

(EXP#) So when you see the rainbow...Don't just think about the colors.

Think about the **COVENANT!**

(EXP#) When you see the rainbow...Don't just think about the storm.

Think about the **PROMISE!**

(EXP#) When you see the rainbow...Don't just think about the sky.

Think about the **GOD WHO MADE THE SKY!**

(EXP#) So when you see a rainbow, don't go looking for the pot of gold.

LOOK FOR THE PROMISE!

Because the real treasure isn't at the end of the rainbow.

THE TREASURE IS THE GOD WHO PUT THE RAINBOW THERE!

(EXP#) Thank GOD for the rainbow because **GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES!**

(EXP#) Thank GOD for the rainbow because **GOD IS WITH ME!**

(EXP#) Thank GOD for the rainbow because **THE STORM DIDN'T DESTROY ME!**

(EXP#) Thank GOD for the rainbow because **GOD HASN'T FORGOTTEN ME!**

(EXP#) Thank GOD for the rainbow because **GOD IS STILL FAITHFUL!**