

Genesis 9:8-17 ESV

# The True Meaning of the Rainbow!

Sunday, July 26 at 8:00 & 10:45 + Monday, July 27 at 7 PM

9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost / 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity – 2015

**Introduction:** Dear friends in Christ: There are many man-made signs, *such as road signs* – STOP, YIELD, MERGE, etc. Each sign has a particular purpose (BTW, *STOP does not mean YIELD* and *MERGE does not mean STOP*).

God is also in the sign-making business; the word “[sign](#)” is used 100 times in the ESV Bible. For example: God said to Abraham: **Circumcision** is “[a sign of the covenant between me and you](#)” (Gen. 17:11 NIV); the LORD said to Moses about the **Passover lambs**, “[The blood shall be a sign for you... And when I see the blood, I will Passover you](#)” (Ex. 12:13 ESV); and regarding **Sabbath Days** – *thus days of rest and worship, which pointed ahead to the Christ* – the LORD said to Moses: “[Above all you shall keep my Sabbaths, for this is a sign between me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I, the LORD, sanctify you](#)” (Ex. 31:13 ESV).

So there are *man-made signs* and *God-made signs*; as it is *unlawful* to YIELD when the sign says STOP, so it seems *wrong* to change the *holy God-made sign of the rainbow* into an *unholy sign of perversion* (Rom. 1:21-27)! Let’s go to Genesis 9:

1. **The Beneficiaries of the Covenant:** <sup>8</sup> Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, <sup>9</sup> “Behold, I establish my covenant with [you](#) and [your offspring after you](#), <sup>10</sup> and with [every living creature that is with you](#), the birds, the livestock, and every beast of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark; it is for every

**beast of the earth.** // So the beneficiaries were clearly stated: All the people *and* all the animals. **But** what did God mean when He said: “**I establish my covenant with you**”? It was a *one-sided* promise! God stated it or promised it; *then He obligated Himself to keep it!*

2. **The Actual Covenant:** <sup>11</sup> **I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.”** // Try to imagine living on the earth with Noah before the flood; there were many people – millions, even billions *like today*; some estimate *even trillions!*<sup>1</sup>
  - a. What was true right before the flood? “...the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and...every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.... 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’” (Gen. 6:5,7 ESV).
  - b. How extensive was the flood? “...the waters prevailed so mightily on the earth that all the high mountains under the whole heaven were covered.... Everything on the dry land in whose nostrils was the breath of life died” (Gen. 7:19,22 ESV).
  - c. Afterward, what would people tend to think when it rained? “Oh no, here comes another flood!” Therefore, God’s **promise** to “**never again**” destroy all flesh with a flood was huge! But a *special sign* or *reminder* would be some nice assurance!

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://biblesciencesguy.wordpress.com/2014/06/18/4-population-growth-how-many-died-in-noahs-flood/>

3. **The Sign of the Covenant:** <sup>12</sup> And God said, “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: <sup>13</sup> I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. // So God not only made His promise but He established a visible sign – *the rainbow!*

- a. Believers – They ▶ admit their sin, ▶ believe the account of the worldwide flood, and ▶ are thankful for *God’s covenant* and *the sign He established*.
- b. Non-Believers – They ▶ do not admit their sin, ▶ reject the worldwide flood, and ▶ see the rainbow as only a refraction of light from a droplet of water.
- c. Others – They have turned God’s sign of promise—*I will never flood the whole earth again*, into a sign of international immorality—*I am free to do whatever with whomever!*
  - i. They disregard God’s strong warning: “*Woe to those who call evil good and good evil*” (Isaiah 5:20 ESV). Now, *God’s holy sign is perverted!* Recently, John Berry, *the US ambassador to Australia*, declared same-sex marriage to be a God-given right 😊!
  - ii. It’s interesting that even though there are *seven* colors in a rainbow, the LGBT flag has *six* colors; we could relate that to various negatives, such as the Sixth Commandment (sexual sin), Jesus on His cross for six hours, 666, etc.

4. **The Meaning of the Covenant:** <sup>14</sup> When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> 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.” <sup>17</sup> God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.” // So, again, God made the meaning of the rainbow clear; *it is a special blessing for all who understand and believe God’s promise!*

**Conclusion:** But what about us? Are we free from sin? *By no means!* Whether we are LGBT or not, *we have **all** gone against the Almighty God in countless ways!* Therefore, God gave His Son to pay for *every sin of every person!*

So the real issue is not specific sin *but repentance*. Jesus said: “...**unless you repent, you will all likewise perish**” (Luke 13:3 ESV); *that includes you and me!* Therefore, let us, by God’s grace, ♦know God’s truth – *from His Holy Word*, ♦be sorry for our sins – *desiring to turn from them*, ♦trust in Jesus – *as our only Savior*, and, *powered by the Holy Spirit*, ♦seek to go and sin no more!

Let us also ►care about others, ►speak God’s truth in love, and ►share the good news that, *through Jesus’ perfect living and sacrificial dying*, forgiveness is available to everyone!

And all God’s people said: **Amen!**