



What Are Rainbows?

(Aside from the scientific definition)

by

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I was amazed to learn that not everyone was aware of what a rainbow is (aside from the scientific definition). I'd heard of the true function many times as a child, but when I found out that not everyone had this information, you could have knocked

me over with a feather. Sure, rainbows are a pretty thing you see in the sky when it rains, but what is its function? Does it do something other than look nice? The answer is a surprising YES.

And as I'm sure you've guessed by now, the answer can be found in the Holy Bible. If you open your bible, and turn to the book of Genesis (not too hard to find... it's the first one), and scroll down to chapter 9, you'll find the answer between verses 8 and 17. It goes something like this...

8 And God spake unto Noah, and to his sons with him, saying,

9 And I, behold, I establish my covenant with you, and with your seed after you;

10 and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the cattle, and every beast of the earth with you. Of all that go out of the ark, even every beast of the earth.

11 And I will establish my covenant with you; neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of the flood; neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth.

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.

So what we have here is God creating a perpetual contract between himself, and every living thing on Earth, that promises to never again destroy all life on Earth by use of floodwaters... and the rainbow is made to become the symbol of this contract. So, when we see one of these rainbows, we can feel safe in knowing that the rain isn't going to continue long enough to destroy us all.

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