

Unseen Rainbows

Long Beach Alliance Church • April 30th, 2006 • Pastor Chris Lankford

**BY FAITH NOAH, BEING WARNED
BY GOD ABOUT THINGS NOT YET
SEEN, IN REVERENCE PREPARED
AN ARK FOR THE SALVATION
OF HIS HOUSEHOLD, BY WHICH
HE CONDEMNED THE WORLD,
AND BECAME AN HEIR OF THE
RIGHTEOUSNESS WHICH IS
ACCORDING TO FAITH.**

~HEBREWS 11:7 (NASB)

1) Freshly Washed With Blessings & Prohibitions

- A) Paralleling the creation account (cf. Genesis 1:28, 2:24-25, 4:1ff), Noah's family is blessed with the task of repopulating the earth (Genesis 9:1), clearly the washed creation will have consistencies with the original creation.

- B) Despite many consistencies, the washed creation will also have many inconsistencies with the original creation.
 - i) The relationship between man and beast is forever changed, beasts will fear mankind (9:3).
 - ii) Mankind can now eat animals (with conditions) for food (9:4, cf. Genesis 1:29-30).
 - iii) Killing any man/woman is prohibited, upon penalty of death. Note "Whoever..." (9:6).

2) The Noachin Covenant (בְּרִית /bare-eeth)

- A) Biblical covenants (there are several -- Noachin, Abrahamic, Davidic, New Covenant) exist between God and man. They involve a binding obligation, which, depending on the conditions, can result in reward. Biblical covenants are always initiated by God, not mankind.
- B) God promises (covenants) with "every living creature" (Genesis 9:10) and "all successive generations" (9:12) that He will never destroy the earth with water again. God does this without regard to evil (8:21-22).
- C) Three times in the Bible (Genesis 9:12, 17:11 & Exodus 31:16-17), there are 'signs' attached to the covenants (really four, but the last one is spiritual (cf. Colossians 2:8-12), non-physical). The sign of the Noachin covenant is the rainbow.

3) The Sign Of The Rainbow

- A) Noah and his family would have seen both the beauty of the rainbow (it was colorful) and the direction of the rainbow (the "bow" pointed toward God). Normally, if a "bow and arrow" were pointed at someone, it would be dangerous.
- B) But there is no danger in the "bow" of God. The rainbow communicates (for God and for mankind) that God's promises are both believable and trustworthy. There will be no "forgetting" of God's promises, they are a part of the substance of His own creation (cf. Romans 1:18-22). God stands by His word!
- C) Noah lived a life of faith in God (Hebrews 11:7). Noah did not know what the future held at all times, but made choices based on God's trustworthy character, he lived by faith.