
Lesson 20 — RECLAIMING THE RAINBOW



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: I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth."

[Genesis 9:12-13]



The Irish are known for their ancient myths about leprechauns and the hidden pot of gold at the end of the rainbow, and few can forget the classic song, "*Somewhere Over the Rainbow*," as actress Judy Garland sang it for the first time on the silver screen. But if we want to understand the true meaning behind the rainbow, we must first look to the original source — the word of God and the God of the word.

In the aftermath of the global flood, the surviving remnant of all life on earth departed the ark to repopulate the planet. As Noah built an altar and worshiped the LORD in humble adoration, the Creator painted the sky with the most vivid colors of the rainbow to signify his promise to all mankind. The LORD was making His very first covenant with humankind, and the rainbow would be the sign of His covenant.

- ❖ Read Genesis 9:8-17. With whom did the LORD make His covenant? What did He promise? How long did God promise to remember His covenant?

- ❖ Read Ezekiel 1:26-28 and Revelation 4:1-6. How is the throne of God described? What is the connection between the rainbow and God's glory and majesty?

Woe to Those who call Evil Good

In June of 2015, the Supreme Court of the United States ruled to legalize same-sex marriage in America, attempting to redefine the oldest and most sacred tradition in human history. A week later, President Barak Obama showed his overwhelming support for the landmark decision by lighting up the White House in rainbow colors to express his own "gay pride." Much of the world celebrated and applauded both the ruling and the public display of approval in our nation's capitol.



Without even saying a word, the President made one of the most brazen moral and cultural statements in American history. He didn't need words. All he needed was a sign. All he needed was the rainbow to send his message loud and clear for the world to see. In deliberate defiance against God and His Word, both the Supreme Court and the President of the United States openly called evil good and good evil.

"Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!" [Isaiah 5:20]

Why the Rainbow?

In just over 50 years, the rainbow purposely has been hijacked and redefined as the universal symbol, the clarion call, the cultural banner, and political icon of the sexual "liberation" movement. Those who proudly fly the rainbow flag today do so in celebration of every form of sexual perversion under the sun. An entire generation has been indoctrinated to associate the rainbow with the LGBTQ+ movement. Just for clarity, LGBTQ+ is the acronym which advocates for the social inclusion and acceptance of those who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, pedophile, and any other form of sexual expression.

But we must be willing to ask, why the rainbow? Why did the founders of the LGBTQ+ movement choose the rainbow as their universal symbol? Was this merely a coincidence? Or was the rainbow deliberately chosen by the LGBTQ+ community to mock those who affirm God's design for marriage and the Biblical view of sexuality? How long will it take for God's people to reclaim the rainbow and proclaim the gospel to this wicked generation?

The LGBTQ+ Agenda

The founders and advocates of the LGBTQ+ movement have been working relentlessly to normalize homosexuality in mainstream culture through a comprehensive propaganda campaign. The agenda has been clear from the very start. Consider how the entire world has been conditioned to not only tolerate homosexual sin but actually celebrate it.

1. Establish political momentum by casting “gay rights” as the new “civil rights” movement of our generation. This is seen in the popular slogan — **gay is the new black**.
2. Infiltrate the public school system with gay-advocacy groups and clubs that train young children how to explore alternative sexual expressions and identities.
3. Use the power of movie, music, and television platforms to positively portray gay characters as the smartest, brightest, most beautiful and successful in society.
4. Launch gay-pride events and host gay-pride parades all over the country, especially in high-profile locations like Disney World and professional sporting venues.
5. Create social sympathy by shaming and labeling those who disagree with the LGBTQ+ agenda as bigots, hate mongers, and nazis. Use the power of peer pressure to intimidate and humiliate children and adults who hold traditional beliefs about marriage and sexuality.
6. Lobby lawmakers to classify any anti-gay messages as hate speech and even criminalize those who “discriminate” against the LGBTQ+ community.

In just a few short decades, the advocates of the LGBTQ+ movement overwhelmingly have succeeded in totally transforming public perception about homosexuality in America. Unfortunately, normalization and social acceptance is not enough for these groups. They will never be satisfied until every facet of society approves, endorses and even celebrates all forms of sexual perversion, calling that which is evil good. It has been said that those who have come “out of the closet” will not be satisfied until they put everyone who disapproves of them back into the closet — shutting them up for good.

Sadly, we have seen the effects of the LGBTQ+ agenda make its way into the church. Pastors dare not preach a message about the sin of homosexuality lest they be labeled unloving hate mongers. If a pastor does dare to address the issue, he feels obligated to use the majority of his message apologizing to the gay community, as not to offend anyone. Many mainline denominations have gone even further and have fully embraced homosexuality as a normal, healthy lifestyle choice and perform gay marriage ceremonies at large.

Just as the earth was filled with wickedness, sexual immorality, and evil in the days of Noah before the flood, so it is in our corrupt generation. Man can always try to redefine, pervert, and break God’s law, but the word of God never changes. The truth of God’s word transcends all time, place, culture, and civilization. His Word endures forever.

Reclaiming the Rainbow through the Cross

When the LORD gave Noah the rainbow as a sign, He promised never to destroy the earth again **with a flood**, yet God has promised to judge the ungodly by fire on the Day of the LORD. Every time we see a beautiful rainbow in the sky, two things should immediately come to mind. First, we should remember the holiness and righteousness of God, who cannot look upon our sin and who will not leave the guilty unpunished, but second we also should remember the great mercy of God who is patient with us, not wishing that any should perish, and forever faithful to keep His promise.

The world in Noah's day deserved to die because they refused to repent and believe the gospel — the only way of salvation in their generation. We must face the sobering reality that many more today are in the same danger of God's judgment as in the days of Noah.

If only the world knew that God made a new covenant about 2,000 years ago that provided the only way for any of us to be forgiven of our sin and brought into relationship with God. That covenant is the New Covenant of Jesus Christ, who freely died in our place and was resurrected to give eternal life to all who believe in Him, and God has provided another symbol of this New Covenant.

That symbol, of course, is the cross. The only way we will ever reclaim the true meaning of the rainbow is by proclaiming the cross of Jesus Christ to a lost and dying world.

- ❖ Read Leviticus 18:22, 20:13. What is God's law regarding homosexuality? What was the punishment for such sin? Why is sexual sin so grievous in God's sight?

- ❖ Read 2 Peter 2:6-10 and Jude 1:6-7. What was the primary sin of Sodom and Gomorrah? How does the Bible describe their actions and God's judgment?

- ❖ Read 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 and 1 Timothy 1:8-11. How does the Apostle Paul classify homosexuality? What should our message be to those who embrace and practice such a lifestyle?

- ❖ Read Romans 1:16-32. In what ways does this passage describe our generation? What is the most loving thing we can share with those who are lost in sin? Why?