

God's Everlasting Covenant

presents

The Covenant with Noah – God's Bow in the Sky

There is always so much to learn from studying God's Word. Last year, as part of my own personal return to the Hebraic roots of my faith, I began studying the Jewish way...reading through the Torah and Haftorah portions each year according to the Jewish calendar. This is the way it has been done for thousands of years. This week, we are on the portion entitled "Noach" or Noah, and for my personal study, I am using First Fruits of Zion's Torah Club, Volume 2, "Shadows of the Messiah."

There are many great lessons in this section of the Torah that shadow Yeshua's first coming. For example, Noah was one righteous man who stood alone in his generation and walked with God.

Just as Messiah stands alone as the single righteous man, blameless among peoples, so too Noah "was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God" (*Genesis 6:9*). Just as Messiah proclaimed a gospel of repentance to His generation, so too Noah is called a "preacher of righteousness" who called his generation to repent. Just as Messiah warned His generation of an imminent day of wrath and judgment, so too Noah warned his generation of the coming flood. Just as Messiah is called "Savior of the World," so too Noah saved the world through his obedience. Just as Messiah made a means for deliverance by which men might be saved, so too Noah built the ark. (*Torah Club v. 2, Parashat Noach*, Daniel Lancaster, First Fruits of Zion, 800-775-4807, www.ffoz.org)

One of the most remarkable lessons that Noah teaches us is that God established His covenant with all mankind on the earth to never again destroy the earth by a flood, and the sign of that covenant is the rainbow, God's bow in the sky. Just as I was finished reading the portion earlier this week, a rainbow appeared in the sky over the hills outside of my window. Amazing! That can't be any coincidence.

That reminded me of something that happened several years ago, when the LORD taught me that there is something else I should remember when a rainbow appeared in the sky. Around this same time of year in 1996 or 1997, I had a dream that Yeshua returned. In the dream was a bright and vividly colored rainbow. My children and I were in a small room with only one window and as we peered out the window and looked intently at the rainbow, Yeshua came through the midst of it. I remember feeling myself rising off the ground. I remember the thrill and exhilaration in my heart, realizing that finally He had come and I was going to see Him face to face! When I awoke, I could hardly believe it was only a dream because it was so real. I felt such disappointment for a few seconds, and then I heard that still small voice that I have

come to know as my heavenly Father speaking to me. And He said that whenever I looked at a rainbow, He wanted me to remember that Yeshua is coming back one day for me...it is all true, and to carry this in my heart.

How gracious is my Abba! The message of that dream has comforted me through many dark times of despair and pain. And to this day, each time I see a rainbow, I do indeed remember the dream and that Yeshua is returning one day for me, to take me as His bride, and I will be with Him forever. This is our hope in this world. It is a day that we who love Him look forward to with great joy and anticipation!

As is always true with the Scriptures, I have learned something new this year in studying about Noah. The Word of God is truly alive. It lives and breathes and has the power to change us, and I never cease to be amazed at the layers of truth about our God that are waiting to be discovered by anyone who is willing to hunt for them. Like buried treasure, each word holds veiled mysteries, rich in beauty, depth and meaning, unlocking secrets that can only be discovered by the most intense search. I am a treasure hunter. I love to spend hours searching through the Scriptures, investigating, scouring through every nook and cranny to see if there is something hidden just below what is on the surface. I call these times that I spend with God my "quiet time", where I hunt for buried treasure. Some days, there are no discoveries of anything new. But other days, my search is rewarded with precious jewels that become my most prized possessions! It reminds me of something Yeshua said..."For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." (Luke 12:34)

So, what did I discover this year? I discovered more nuggets of truth about the rainbow. Let's read again from the Torah Club commentary on Noah:

The rainbow teaches us about Messiah. Like Messiah, God offers it as a token of peace between Himself and us. He sets it in the sky as a sign of His covenant of faithfulness and mercy. It is the first specific 'sign' given to mankind. In its full arc, it spans the distance between heaven and earth. It is a glimmer of the radiance of God's glory. The prophet Ezekiel likens the glory of God to the resplendence of the rainbow:

As the appearance of the rainbow in the clouds on a rainy day, so was the appearance of the surrounding radiance. Such was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. (Ezekiel 1:28)

Like the rainbow, Messiah is a reflection of the radiance of the glory of God. A rainbow is caused by light intersecting airborne moisture. The moisture in the atmosphere causes the light to refract, splitting it into the multiple colors that we see. In the language of the Torah, "the bow will be seen in the cloud" (Genesis 9:14). This helps us understand Messiah. Yeshua can be likened to the intersection of light and water. Light emanates from heaven. Water is one of the elements of earth. When heaven and earth intersect,

the result is a beautiful refraction, a splendid display of the divine. When the Eternal Word intersects an earthly man, it refracts in a beautiful demonstration of God's glory on earth. (*Torah Club v. 2, Parashat Noach*, Daniel Lancaster, First Fruits of Zion, 800-775-4807, www.ffoz.org)

What a beautiful and wonderful picture of the work of our Messiah the rainbow paints for us! But this is not all that I learned. It is interesting to note that the Hebrew word for rainbow is *qesheth*. In other places in the Scriptures, the same word, *qesheth*, is used to describe the bow as a weapon. Genesis 27:3 is the first instance, when Jacob asks Esau to go out and use his bow to kill some game for him, and to prepare a meal before he would bless him. In every other place where the word *qesheth* is used, with the exception of Ezekiel 1:28, the context for its use is as a weapon. The rainbow is then, in another sense, a sign of judgment from God. It is true that it is a reminder that He will never destroy the earth again with water. The Scriptures clearly teach us that mankind is worthy of destruction. Our evil and sin natures will once again cause Him to bring His righteous judgment on the earth. This time, He will destroy the earth in a judgment of fire. Only those who have placed their hope and trust in Messiah will be saved and hidden from the horrors that will come upon this world. The rainbow, a symbol of God's covenant of peace, will one day become a powerful weapon in His mighty hand! The prophet Isaiah tells us that Messiah is that weapon. He is the "select arrow" that is hidden in God's quiver.

He has made my mouth like a sharp sword while hiding me in the shadow of his hand; he has made me like a sharpened arrow while concealing me in his quiver. (Isaiah 49:2)

These are not pleasant things that we like to think or talk about. Yet the Scriptures teach us that one day, Messiah Yeshua will be placed into God's bow and He will be thrust out of it upon the earth like an arrow. He will pierce through the veil of the eternal to pierce men's hearts...

Look! He is coming with the clouds! Every eye will see him, including those who pierced him; and all the tribes of the Land will mourn him. (Revelation 1:7)

And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb. (Revelation 6:15-16)

Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, all the tribes of the Land will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with tremendous power and glory. (Matthew 24:30)

What is it that appears in the clouds? What is the sign of the Son of Man? Could it be the rainbow? The Torah says:

Whenever I bring clouds over the earth, and the rainbow is seen in the cloud; I will remember my covenant...The rainbow will be in the cloud...(Genesis 9:14)

It seems very probable that what every eye on earth will see is the Son of Man, coming in the clouds in a rainbow. It will be no ordinary rainbow for this final showdown between good and evil is no ordinary event. Suddenly, all mankind will shudder with the terrible knowledge that they are coming face to face with the Creator of the Universe, and the One they have rejected. They will see the Almighty's sharpened arrow catapulted from His bow in the sky...the sign that reflects God's great glory, who is none other than Messiah. This is exactly what I saw in my dream. Yeshua popped right out of the center of the most glorious rainbow I had ever seen!

The Torah brings us face to face with our eternal destiny and the choice that each person must make. Will the rainbow be a symbol of hope, joy and our peace with God? Or will it be a symbol of our destruction and separation from Him forever? Let's be about our Father's business and make sure we are telling others about the story of Noah and what the real meaning of the rainbow is!