

GOD'S RAINBOW COVENANT — GE.9:8-17

1 THE COVENANT — Genesis 9:8-11 (v.8, “Then God spoke to Noah”)

F·E·A·T·U·R·E·S

A The Covenant is **UNILATERAL** — v.9,11,12,17

- A covenant made by One alone. God determined to make this promise on His own, without consultation with man.

B The Covenant is **UNCONDITIONAL** — v.9,11

- There are no conditions on the part of man to validate or invalidate this covenant.
- Man does not deserve this grace promise, and will soon be as wicked as before the Flood.

C The Covenant is **INVIOABLE** — v.11,15

- This covenant cannot be violated by man. It is made by the eternal God who cannot change nor lie.
- The attribute of God as faithful is linked to His keeping His promises.

D The Covenant is **EXPLICIT** — v.11,12,15,16,17

- This is the basis for common grace. It is universal. No one is left out of this covenant.

E The Covenant is **PERPETUAL** — 9:12,16; 8:22

- It lasts as long as the earth remains. In the future there will be a new heaven and new earth.

F The Covenant is **PHYSICAL** — v.9,10,12,15,16,17

- Because all animals share in this covenant, this indicates it is physical and temporal. It is not spiritual.



2 THE SIGN — Genesis 9:12-16 (v.12, “And God said”)

- This sign or oath is the evidence that God has made a promise to all man, animals, and creatures on the earth.
- This is a sign that everyone can see. This ‘bow’ is the assurance or guarantee God will keep His promise.
- The word “rainbow” is the same Hebrew word for a battle bow (*qesheth*) which is a weapon of death.
- God has hung His ‘bow’ in the sky for all to see because now is not the time of judgment, but of peace.
- God hung His ‘bow’ as a sign of His mercy toward a world of sinners.
- In the future God will pick up His bow again, and will by fire (2Pe.3), bring in a new heaven and earth.
- You see a rainbow after a rain storm when the sun shines through. A rainbow is a picture of grace after judgment.



3 THE SUMMARY — Genesis 9:17 (v.17, “And God said to Noah”)

- “And God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant which I have established between Me and all flesh that is on the earth.”” (Ge.9:17)
- The bow of a warrior hangs it over the earth against the clouds of judgment.

