


“I have placed my rainbow in the clouds. It is the sign of my covenant with you and with all the earth. When I send clouds over the earth, the rainbow will appear in the clouds, and I will remember my covenant with you and with all living creatures. Never again will the floodwaters destroy all life. When I see the rainbow in the clouds, I will remember the eternal covenant between God and every living creature on earth.” Genesis 9:13-16 NLT

lectio // Genesis 9:8-17

Rain rain on my face, It hasn't stopped Raining for days. My world is a flood. Slowly I become One with the mud. But if I can't swim after 40 days, And my mind is crushed By the crashing waves. Lift me up so high That I cannot fall. Lift me up. Lift me up when I'm falling. Lift me up I'm weak and I'm dying. Lift me up I need you to hold me. Lift me up and keep me from drowning again. Jars of Clay, 1995 (https://youtu.be/EfAhpX_wlBk). It's raining this morning. Well, it's sprinkling, spritzing as my mother-in-law used to say. My wife, Robin, loves the rain. She loves cloudy, overcast days. I don't. She doesn't see clouds and rain as gloomy, but rather, romantically beautiful and mysterious. This rain, that Moses wrote about was more than a few clouds or an overcast day. It was a torrential storm that lasted for over a month. And whether it was regional or global, it still brought water from the sky enough to fill the whole known area up to the highest mountain - Mount Ararat, in modern day Turkey - 16,854 feet tall. Total destruction of all land life outside the ark! So God makes a promise and a contract with humankind - I won't destroy the earth again by water. As a reminder, a sign, I'll put a rainbow in the sky. So when it rains you can look up and see the promise God made to Noah (and us). As much as it might sound like mythology of gods and humans, I think about this. Science can tell me how rainbows form and when they form, but not necessarily WHY they form. Scientist know about the light refraction and the multiple, seven basic colors. Scientists can even tell us why it is arched. Cool huh. By why does it exist at all? Why is it so beautiful, so stunning? Why is there a child-like sense of wonder and hope when one is seen? Of course, science try's to answer all those questions, but Moses just says, "God put it there for a purpose, for a promise." I can enjoy the physiological aspects of the , but I can also enjoy the promise! And, it reminds me that God keeps his word.

Dad,

In this ancient story of a total restart of the planet, of all humankind, there is a silver lining to that cloud and every cloud since. You are faithful to keep your promises. And, I for one, LOVE physical reminders, object lessons in life to help me.