Lessons From The Rainbow

Intro:
- story of the rainbow
  - God saw the sin of man, and was sorry that He created mankind
  - so, He decided to destroy all living things except the fish
  - but Noah was a righteous man, so God wanted to save him
  - God commanded Noah to build an ark
    - told him the size of the ark, and what to use to build it, what to put in it
  - after Noah built the ark, God told him to get in the ark with his family and specific animals
  - then God made waters come out of the earth, and it rained for 40 days and 40 nights
  - after the land dried, God commanded Noah to come out of the ark
  - after Noah came out, he worshiped God
  - God established a covenant with Noah and mankind, promising there would never be another flood to destroy the earth
  - the sign of the covenant was the rainbow

- What are some lessons we can learn from the rainbow?
The rainbow shows we need to be reminded as human beings
- joke:
  - wives, husbands need constant reminding
  - parents have to remind kids all the time

- Gen. 9:12, 13, 17 rainbow is a sign of the covenant, from generation to generation
  - rainbow a reminder of the covenant God made with the human race

- God has given us His word to be a constant reminder to us
  - Jn. 14:26 Holy Spirit brought to apostles’ remembrance all Jesus said
    - God’s word is the record of the remembrance brought to their minds
  - 2 Pet. 1:12-13, 15 Peter, wrote, to remind
    - God’s word used to remind us, so not forget, even though apostles dead

- Jesus instituted the Lord’s Supper as a remembrance of Him – memorial, memory, remember
  - 1 Cor. 11:24-26 Jesus, Lord’s Supper, do this in “remembrance” of Me, proclaim death
    - we need to be reminded every week, of what Jesus did for us
    - proclaim: we remind ourselves, and the whole world
  - 1 Cor. 11:27-30 Christians who don’t do it in remembrance of Christ, die spiritually

- circumcision: a sign (reminder) our covenant with God – Abraham, Law of Moses
  - Rom. 4:10-11a physical circumcision, Moses, sign of the covenant (Gen. 17:11)
  - Col. 2:11-12a as Christians, we are circumcised with the circumcision of Christ when baptized
    - Rom. 2:28-29 circumcision of heart by the Spirit, a Jew inwardly and not of the flesh
    - Phil. 3:3 we are the true circumcision, worship in the Spirit of God and glory in Christ, put no confidence in the flesh
  - our inward circumcision seen by the way we live, is a sign of our covenant with God
    - Phil. 1:28 our manner of life a sign of our salvation

- we need spiritual reminders today
  - not those created by man (Christmas), but those created by God
  - ongoing reading and studying Bible
  - continually teaching in the church: doctrine, practical application
  - Lord’s Supper: weekly reminder until Jesus comes again
  - teaching in the home needs to be reinforced and constantly reviewed
  - the reminder that every Christian shares with everyone he contacts: his life, walking in the footsteps of Jesus
The rainbow shows God’s power over nature – we are responsible for seeking Him out and obeying
- Gen. 9:12-14 rainbow created, laws of nature changed
  - God created world (universe), laws of nature, changes they at will – miracles

- illus.: God made the sun stop moving for a day – i.e., likely made the earth stop rotating around the sun for a day
  - Josh. 10:12-14 Joshua defended Gibeon, attacked the armies of 5-king-coalition who attacked Gibeon, Joshua prayed and God made the sun stop moving for a day
  - What would happen if the earth stopped rotating, without God suspending or changing the laws of nature?
    - part, if not the whole universe, ripped apart
    - note: earth is rotating at a speed just over 1,000 MPH, and moving around the sun about 67,000 MPH

- illus.: God made the sun go backward 10 degrees – i.e., the earth to reverse its rotation
  - 2 Ki. 20:8-11 God made sun move backwards 10 degrees (prob. 5 hours)
  - Is there any possible way the earth could stop its rotation and reverse direction, without God changing the laws of nature (universe)?

  - application:
    - the rainbow (and all creation) shows us we have a responsibility to seek out God and obey Him
      - Rom. 1:20 creation of the world, His invisible attributes, eternal power and divine nature, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse
    - God uses His creation (nature, universe) to accomplish His will, whatever He desires

The rainbow shows that when God makes a covenant with man, the covenant applies to future generations, as long as it is in effect
- Gen. 9:12-13 rainbow a sign of the covenant made to Noah and successive generations
  - today, covenant with rainbow still in effect, and it will be for as long as the earth stands
  - application: the covenants God makes last for as long as they stay in effect, for successive generations

- illus.: God’s covenant He made with Israel upon their exodus from Egypt was in effect until the new covenant He made through Christ (Heb. 7-8)
  - the covenant continued from generation to generation for as long as it’s in effect

- illus.: God’s covenant made with Abram, through which we’re saved in Christ today, will remain in force forever – sign changed from spiritual circumcision to spiritual circumcision, law of Christ
  - if not, we wouldn’t be saved

- God’s covenant with man for salvation in Christ will never be replaced, it will stay in effect for all generations
  - Heb. 5:9-10 all men today are bound to obey the law of Christ, or suffer eternal damnation (Gal. 6:2)
  - illus.: everyone bound by God’s laws of marriage, whether they’re Christians or not
The rainbow is a symbol of God’s eternal glory – we’ll see and be part of for eternity in heaven
- Rev. 4:3; 10:1 rainbow emblematic of beauty, majesty, and peace

- the rainbow was created by God as a symbol of peace, to remind us of His covenant with us not to destroy the earth with a flood again

- prophetically, rainbow a sign of the peace we have in Christ today, which we’ll enjoy with God in heaven, as we worship before His beautiful and majestic throne

Summary / Inv.
- summary: review PP

- inv.: would you like to have peace with God for eternity