**R924\_Rumination for October 9, 2022**

The **T**heme: **The Rainbow** [berita-bethel-ung.com](http://www.berita-bethel-ung.com/)

The **T**ext: *The* ***rainbow*** *shall be in the cloud, and I will look on it to remember the everlasting covenant*

 *between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth."* Gen. 9:16, NKJV

The **T**hots:

The Hebrew word *qeshet* translated *bow* in Gen. 9:13-16 (KJV) referring to a rainbow occurs only three times.

Its other 74 occurrences (first in Gen. 21:20) are rightly translated *bow*, a **W**eapon of **W**ar or an instrument used by the hunter. The *rainbow* occurs only in three books in the Bible – Genesis, Ezekiel (1:28) and Revelation.

The Greek equivalent *iris* translated *rainbow* occurs twice only in Revelation. 4:3: 10:1

1. **Noah saw the Rainbow, the Sign of God’s Covenant. Gen. 9:13-16**
2. The **A**ppearance of the Rainbow: it was **A**fter the **S**torm and Flood had **S**ubsided! Gen. 8:14

*And in the second month, on the seven and twentieth day of the month, was the earth dried.*

1. The **A**ssurance of the Rainbow. It was…
2. God’s **P**erpetual **C**ovenant Sign to Noah and the inhabitants of the Earth. 9:13, 16

*And the bow shall be in the cloud; and I will look upon it, that I may remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is upon the earth.*  Cf. 9:17

1. God’s **P**romise of **P**eace to *every living* ***C****reature of all* ***F****lesh;*

*… the waters shall no more become a* ***F****lood to destroy all* ***F****lesh.* 9:15

1. The **A**dmonition of the Rainbow – it was a **R**eminder that…
2. God destroyed the **P**revious earth for their **W**ickedness by the **F**lood. II Pet. 3:6

*Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:*

1. God would destroy the **P**resent **W**orld this time with **F**ire in **F**uture. II Pet. 3:7

 *But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store,*

*reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.* Cf. 3:10

1. Hence for now, **W**alk **W**orthy **W**hile **W**aiting for that day to come: II Pet. 3:11-12
2. *See****ing*** *then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be*

*in all holy conversation and godliness,*

1. *Look****ing*** *for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens*

*being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?*

* Note: When Noah came out of the **A**rk, he built an **A**ltar and **Worshipped** **God.** Gen. 8:20, 21

*And Noah builded an altar unto the LORD…and offered burnt offerings on the altar.
And the LORD smelled a sweet savour; and the LORD said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done.*

1. **Ezekiel saw the Rainbow Surrounding the Splendour of God’s Throne. Eze. Chs. 1-3 (1:28)**
2. The Appearance of the **S**apphire **S**tone Throne: 1:26a

*…over their heads was the likeness of a throne, as the appearance of a sapphire stone:*

1. The Appearance of the **M**agnificent **M**an:
2. *And upon the likeness of the throne was the likeness as the appearance of a man above upon it.* 1:26b
3. *And I saw as the colour of amber, as the appearance of fire round about within it, from the appearance of His loins even upward, and from the appearance of His loins even downward, I saw as it were the appearance of fire, and it had brightness round about.* 1:27
4. The Appearance of the **R**ound **R**adiant **R**ainbow as in the day of **R**ain: 1:28a, NKJV

*Like the appearance of a rainbow in a cloud on a rainy day, so was the appearance of the brightness all around it*

1. The Appearance of the **G**lory of **G**od: 1:28b, NKJV

*This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD.*

* The **A**we of God led Ezekiel to bow down and **Worship** – *when I saw it, I fell on my face…* 1:28c, NKJV
1. **John saw the Rainbow in Heaven –** two occurrences of the ***R****ainbow* in **R**evelation**.**
2. The Rainbow **A**round the Throne. Rev. 4:3
3. The **S**overeign **P**erson on the throne – *He that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone:*

Only the **E**xquisiteness of His Character is **E**xhibited for all to see!

1. The **S**trange **P**eculiarity of the *Rainbow - a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald*

The **E**merald (Green) Rainbow **E**nhances the throne so that all can see – a Green Rainbow!

* **M**ysterious, but then it is His **M**ajesty on the Throne.
1. The Rainbow **A**bove the **A**ngel’*s Head.* Rev. 10:1

The Angel was **R**obed in a Cloud – *clothed with a cloud*

 With a **R**ainbow *upon his head.*

His face **R**adiantly brilliant with glory *as it were the sun*

 *and his feet* **R**obustly strong *as pillars of fire:*

* Who is this Angel?
* The **R**ainbow **R**eminds of the **P**ower, **P**urpose and **P**romises of the Sovereign God. See #A.1, 2

*When the clouds hang dark and heavy, And the rolling surge we hear,*

*When no earthly power can shield us From the storm that most we fear,*

*O ’tis then our Father’s presence To the trusting heart is shown,*

 *In a bright and glorious vision Of the rainbow round the throne.* Fanny Crosby

**REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK R. 924**

1. Below is reproduced the Archbishop of Canterbury's full sermon at Queen Elizabeth II's funeral in Westminster Abbey on Monday 19th September, 2022:

*The pattern for many leaders is to be exalted in life and forgotten after death. The pattern for all who serve God – famous or obscure, respected or ignored – is that death is the door to glory.*

*Her late Majesty famously declared on a 21st birthday broadcast that her whole life would be dedicated to serving the nation and Commonwealth.*

*Rarely has such a promise been so well kept! Few leaders receive the outpouring of love that we have seen.*

*Jesus – who in our reading does not tell his disciples how to follow, but who to follow – said: ‘I am the way, the truth and the life.’ Her late Majesty’s example was not set through her position or her ambition, but through whom she followed. I know His Majesty shares the same faith and hope in Jesus Christ as his mother; the same sense of service and duty.*

*In 1953 the Queen began her coronation with silent prayer, just there at the High Altar. Her allegiance to God was given before any person gave allegiance to her. Her service to so many people in this nation, the Commonwealth and the world, had its foundation in her following Christ – God himself – who said that he “came not to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

*People of loving service are rare in any walk of life. Leaders of loving service are still rarer. But in all cases those who serve will be loved and remembered when those who cling to power and privileges are long forgotten.*

*The grief of this day – felt not only by the late Queen’s family but all round the nation, Commonwealth and the world – arises from her abundant life and loving service, now gone from us*

*She was joyful, present to so many, touching a multitude of lives.*

*We pray especially for all her family, grieving as every family at a funeral – including so many families round the world who have themselves lost someone recently – but in this family’s case doing so in the brightest spotlight.*

*May God heal their sorrow, may the gap left in their lives be marked with memories of joy and life.*

*Her late Majesty’s broadcast during COVID-19 lockdown ended with: ‘We will meet again’ -- words of hope from a song of Vera Lynn. Christian hope means certain expectation of something not yet seen.*

*Christ rose from the dead and offers life to all, abundant life now and life with God in eternity.*

*As the Christmas carol says, “where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.”*

*We will all face the merciful judgment of God: we can all share the Queen’s hope which in life and death inspired her servant leadership.*

*Service in life, hope in death. All who follow the Queen’s example, and inspiration of trust and faith in God, can with her say: ‘****We will meet again****.’”*

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/world/we-will-meet-again-read-the-archbishop-of-canterbury-s-full-sermon-at-queen-s-funeral-1.6074113>

It was also reported that …

*Just as the news of Queen Elizabeth's death was announced,* ***rainbows*** *appeared over different locations, including the Windsor Castle, where the Union flag was lowered, and outside the Buckingham Palace where crowds were gathered*.

What do you think of this extraordinary “*rainbow*” event occurring on the announcement of the death of Queen Elizabeth II compared to the testimony of her life given at her funeral? Could it be also a sign of approval by the Queen’s Heavenly King Whom she served so fervently and faithfully as His appointed Queen on earth? **REFLECT**.

1. When the earth was dried up and Noah came out of the Ark, he *builded an altar unto the LORD…and offered burnt offerings on the altar. And the LORD smelled a sweet savour; and the LORD said in His heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake…* (Gen. 8:20-21) *And God said,* ***This is the token of the covenant*** *which I make between Me and you and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations: I do set My* ***bow*** *in the cloud, and it shall be for* ***a token of a covenant*** *between Me and the earth…that the* ***bow*** *shall be seen in the cloud…and the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh. And the* ***bow*** *shall be in the cloud; and I will look upon it, that I may remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is upon the earth. And God said unto Noah,* ***This is the token of the covenant****, which I have established between Me and all flesh that is upon the earth.* (Gen. 9:12-17)*.* The **R**ainbow in the cloud is ever God’s **P**ersonal **R**eminder (*Token*) of His Covenant with us and a **R**emembrance to Him of His **P**romise to us no more to flood the whole earth. It is also a **R**eassuring Covenant of **P**eace that we will meet Him again. Do you believe it? **REFLECT**

**Points To Ponder:** *The* ***R****ainbow indicates* ***R****ain ahead* ***B****ut Sunshine* ***B****ehind and where we are!*