



**International Bible Lesson**  
Uniform Sunday School Lessons Series  
L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

## **Signs of God's Grace**

### **September 3, 2017**

### **Genesis 8:20-22 & 9:8-17**

*“The LORD smelled the pleasing aroma and said in his heart: ‘Never again will I curse the ground because of humans, even though every inclination of the human heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done’” (Genesis 8:21).*

Imagine living in a world where you believed in God and tried to do right while everyone else only thought of doing evil, where violence increased around you daily. Noah and his family faced that exact situation before God sent the great flood (see Genesis 6:5, 11, 13). After the great flood, God said that He would never again destroy all living creatures as He had done, and He set His rainbow in the sky as a pledge and symbol of that covenant and promise. The rainbow remains a sign of God's grace, for even though human hearts have inclined toward evil since childhood or youth, God has promised never to send a universal flood again. To restrain our evil tendencies and violent actions, God began giving moral laws to humanity, laws that coincided with the conscience He instilled within each person. In the Old Testament, God gave some of His moral laws to Noah and supremely through Moses. God's moral laws required enforcement by human governments, and when enforcement was ignored immorality and violence naturally increased. The tendency to sin and the refusal to enforce and obey God's moral laws with justice and mercy reveal our need for a Savior. To meet that need, God sent His only Son into the world to suffer and die as a sacrifice for our sins. Through the gift of Christ, God has won the hearts of believers and His Spirit now guides their thoughts and actions.

### **Thinking Further**

1. Why did God send the great flood upon the earth? Why did God save Noah and his family?

2. Do human beings need to do anything or stop doing something for God to keep His promise never to send a great flood again over all the earth?

3. Did God say that He would never judge or destroy the earth again as a just judgment for human evil and rebellion?

4. Why did God say that when He saw the rainbow that He would remember His covenant and promise?

5. Why do you think God emphasized repeatedly that when He saw the rainbow that He would remember His promise and covenant?

Begin or close your class by reading the short weekly *International Bible Lesson*.

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