

A Message from Robin+

When was the last time you saw a rainbow? In general, rainbows appear early morning or late afternoon, just before or after a storm. The sun has to be at just the right angle to slant sideways through water droplets that hang in the air. The water droplets become prisms for the light. The explanation of a rainbow is much more complicated and scientific than that, which is why I prefer the story in Genesis. Sometimes it's good to trust that scientists have the explanation when we are unable to wrap our brains around it. Sometimes it's good to know that God is miraculously in the midst of all the science, that God has given us the glory of creation and waits for us to notice it, enjoy it, and be grateful for its beauty.

A line of storms passed over the ocean this week and I was able to be in the right place at the right time to see not one but two rainbows. Usually I am inside when there is weather outside so I cannot remember the last time I saw this rain/light phenomenon. I took dozens of photos but none of them really captured the beauty, the color, the intensity of the rainbows.

All of this got me thinking about the story of Noah and the covenant God made with Noah and his family after the flood. You can find it in Genesis 6-9 and be reminded that Noah was a man who pleased God, yet the wickedness of the people on the earth grieved God's heart. Because the earth was corrupt and filled with violence, God instructed Noah to build an ark to contain Noah and his family and 2 of every kind of living thing, that they might be saved from what was to come.

You know how the story goes – it rained 40 days and 40 nights and the waters covered the earth. Water is a powerful force, a cleansing force, out of which new life emerges. Water is also destructive, as we witness each time a hurricane makes landfall, as Laura did last week.

Not everyone believes this story in a literal sense, but it is filled with truth. Creation is beautiful, humankind can be wicked, violence is a sinful reality and the people of the earth grieve God's heart. Our current events are stormy. There will always be storms to disrupt our lives whether they are the literal ones produced in nature, or the ones we inflict on one another.

The grace is that God is always with us, always waiting for us to notice the beauty of creation and the beauty and worth in the people of every race. God has established a covenant with us, setting a bow in the clouds to remind us that we are loved beyond measure and are called to love one another that the earth never again be destroyed. The next time it storms in your life, watch for the rainbow!