

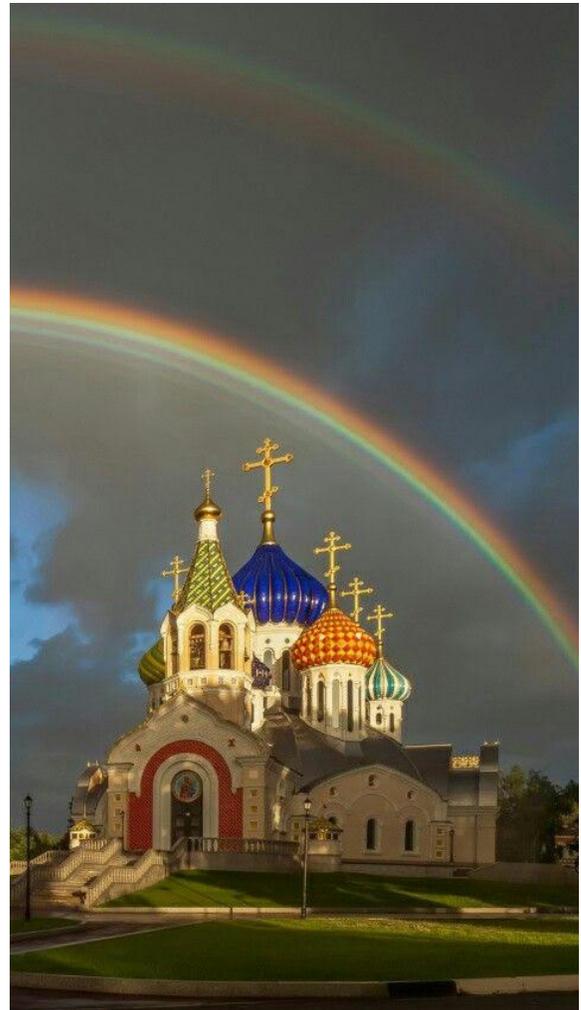
The True Meaning of the Rainbow

*“Behold the rainbow and bless Him who made it,
exceedingly beautiful in its brightness!”
(Sirach 43:11).*

The Rainbow is a sign and symbol of God’s promise of enduring unmerited love for man (Gen 9:13-17). But it also recalls God’s judgment: When once He judged the world because of sin and destroyed it by water (Gen 6:11-12).

God gave us the Rainbow as a sign that “the waters will never again become a flood to destroy all flesh.” But His act of Divine judgment, in which only eight souls including Noah were saved through water (1 Peter 3:20), remains a type and foreshadowing of the last day when there will be an inescapable final judgment for all mankind.

As St. Peter states, many “deliberately ignore this fact that by the *Logos* of God the heavens existed long ago, and an earth formed out of water and by means of water, through which the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished.” Not only this, “But by the same *Logos* the heavens and earth that now exist have been stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men” (2 Pet 3:5-7).



Thus, while some misrepresent the Rainbow as a celebration of man’s liberation from God’s law and in an attempt to be “one nation over God” ...in the end, the aforementioned “Logos of God,” Jesus Christ will return in judgment and “Jesus

Christ will Conquer” (IC XC NIKA). The Rainbow, each time it is displayed, is in fact a reminder of God’s judgment and His eternal and unchanging law. Jesus Christ the Divine Son of God the Father “is the same yesterday, today and for all ages” (Heb 13:8), and His truth “once for all delivered to the saints” does not change (Jude 1:3).



God requires us to live our lives for Him and in Him. The Holy Spirit calls us not to pride but to humility and repentance, in order to allow Jesus Christ to conquer sin in our hearts and in our lives. For “we shall all appear before the judgment seat of Christ” (2 Cor. 5:10).

St. Paul states, "Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God” (1 Cor. 6-9-11). We all have a choice on who we will listen to: The World, False Religion, or Jesus Christ. In order to have true peace, we must know Him and His truth. Jesus said, “These things I have spoken to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have conquered the world” (John 16:33).

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December 6, A.D., 2020
Feast of St. Nicholas,
Archbishop of Myra and Lycia