

**Oak Arbor New Church Sunday School – Lessons for Intermediate Level**

**Lesson 41: RAINBOWS**

**Genesis 9: 13; Revelation 4: 2-3; Conjugal Love 76; Heaven and Hell 185; Arcana Coelestia 1623; Revelation 10: 1**

*A 3 week project*

**Lesson 41-A**

**READING:**

Read aloud to the children from six stories involving rainbows – three from the Word, and three from the Writings.

- 1) **Noah** Read about the rainbow after the flood in Genesis 9:12-14.
- 2) **The Throne Room in Heaven** Read Revelation 4:2-8. (Or read pages 8-9 in the picture book by Mary Cooper, *The Story of Revelation*.)
- 3) **The Mighty Angel** Read Revelation 10:1-2, 8-10. (Or read pages 26-27 in the picture book by Mary Cooper, *The Story of Revelation*.)
- 4) **The Silver Age Rainbow** Read the part about the rainbow in “A Visit to the Silver Age” (included with this lesson). (Or read pages 30-31 from Heather King’s book on *The Silver Age*, which is a simpler retelling of the story with a color illustration.)
- 5) **Rainbow Gardens in Heaven** Read the quotation from *Heaven and Hell* 185 (included in this lesson).
- 6) **The Rainbow Heaven** Read the quotation from *Arcana Coelestia* 1623 (included in this lesson).

**PROJECT**

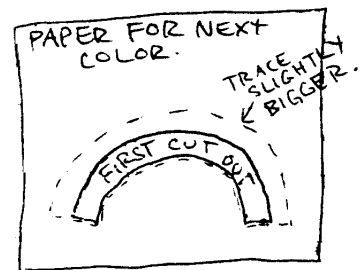
**A poster about rainbows from the Word and the Writings**

*(This project will probably take two or more Sundays)*

Use the diagram provided to inspire you and the children to create this poster.

**Supplies:**

- glue
- scissors
- colored paper (shiny colors would be the most fun)
- rainbow colored paint
- 1 poster board



**A suggestion for cutting out rainbows**

1. Decide what color will be *lowest* on the rainbow.
2. Cut a rainbow-shaped arc out of that color.
3. Take what you you’ve cut, and lay it onto the paper you’ll use for the next color up.

***Lesson 41 – Oak Arbor New Church Sunday School, page 2***

4. Using your cut-out to guide you, trace a shape onto the new color that is a bit bigger than your cut-out, and will fit nicely over it (see diagram above).
5. Cut out the shape from the new color.
6. Now use this new cut-out to guide you to draw a slightly bigger arc from your next color and so on.
7. When finished cutting all the colored arcs, glue them together, or glue them onto the poster.

**Lesson 41-B**

**READING:**

Read the enclosed talk on Rainbows by Rev. Clark Echols.

**PROJECT:**

Continue with the project.

When it is all finished, find a place to put a nice title on the poster, perhaps **RAINBOWS IN THE WORD** or maybe just **RAINBOWS**. (We used stencils to cut letters out of colored paper.)

**Lesson 41-C**

**READING:**

Read the whole book entitled *The Silver Age* by Heather King, illustrated by Mary Cooper. Or read the enclosed text, "A Visit to the Silver Age." (If you are teaching this lesson to younger children, you may wish to simplify the enclosed retelling of this story.)

**PROJECT:**

Finish up the poster. (Note: You might need to touch up paint splatters with white out.)

If children finish early, they can work on the enclosed word search.

## **RAINBOWS**

Based on a family talk by the Rev. Clark Echols

Text: Genesis 6: 13-14, 17-19

7: 1, 7, 17

8: 1,4, 20

9: 12-17

The story of Noah and the ark is probably familiar to you. The Lord warns Noah of a coming flood and tells him to build an ark to fill with pairs of animals. Noah does as he is told, and then the great flood comes. The whole earth is covered. Finally the rains stop, and eventually the ark comes to rest on Mount Ararat.

And what is the very first thing Noah does, after coming out of the ark? He builds an altar to thank the Lord for saving him. And the Lord answers Noah with a beautiful rainbow, stretching out from horizon to horizon, ablaze with its full range of colors.

Did you know that when you see a rainbow, it is caused by only two simple things? It takes sunlight and water, which is why rainbows appear after rain. The rays of sunlight go through the raindrops, and when they go through, they bend. This bending of sunlight causes each ray to split into separate colors, and the process of bending light through water is called “refraction.” Light goes through water — and suddenly you see a miraculous arch of color across the sky. This miracle of color and light is what, after forty days and nights of floods and rain, Noah saw.

Children, look around you. Do you see anything right now that is from the world of nature? Do you see the fiery flames of a candle? Is there sunlight coming through the window? Can you see any trees, plants, or sky? If it has just been raining, can you see any raindrops?

The Lord tells us that everything in nature is a picture of His truth. Every created thing — every physical thing in this world — is *caused* by something spiritual — something *not* physical, but still very real — like love, or happiness, or truth. So the Lord uses physical things that you *can* touch and see as a way of showing us those spiritual things we cannot see.

The rainbow, for example, is a picture of the Lord’s Word. The ideas that you have from the Word create a rainbow in your mind, a multi-colored light in which you can see how to “walk with God” and become a good person, like Noah.

Noah is that part of you that wants to be good and obey the Lord. The ark is your conscience, keeping you afloat when evil and falsity try to drown your mind. And the

**Lesson 41 – Oak Arbor New Church Sunday School, page 4**

rainbow is all of the beautiful shining truths from the Lord's Word, parting the clouds of darkness and doubt, stretching out in glorious color from horizon to horizon of your mind. The story of Noah is a perfect picture of how the Lord protects your mind from any flood of evil. He builds in you a conscience, like Noah's ark — a safe and protected wall of truth to surround you and help you to rise above evil loves and false ideas.

He urges you, in those times of flood, to strive to look upward. Look through the rain for the Lord in His Word. He will help you to break through your clouds.

For it is in times of storm in your life, when you feel sadness, or sorrow, or doubt — when temptations are flooding your mind — *that* is when rainbows appear.

For the Lord has made a promise. He has made a covenant with you: if you err; if you disobey; if you doubt that the Lord can help you; if you think the Lord ever condemns you, instead of lifting you up; if you are confused about what is right and wrong, or what is true and false. If, when these things are happening, you can look up, look t the Lord, and study His Word for the answers — then you are seeing His rainbow. And you will know that the Lord remembers His covenant to take care of you and protect you.

"I set My rainbow in the cloud," the Lord says, "and it shall be for the sign of the covenant between Me and the earth." A "covenant" is an important and holy promise. The Lord's covenant is the Lord speaking to *you*.

"I swore an oath to you  
and entered into a covenant with you,  
and you became Mine, says the Lord God."  
(Ezekiel 18:8)

You become the Lord's when you seek His rainbow — the bright shining truths of His Word. As rays of sunlight going through raindrops, His truths will sparkle for you. Like the heaven of rainbows Swedenborg saw, you too will begin to see limitless sparkles and colors unfold — each showing you its own truth.

And all of these glorious colors and lights will do what they do after a storm. They will blend together with each other in your mind, as if forming one unified rainbow. And you will remember the Lord's covenant with you. You will know that it is the Lord's Word — His rainbow — that will lead you to heaven.

**Quotes for Poster**

Photocopy these pages of quotes, then cut out the quotes to glue on the poster.

**“I set My rainbow in the cloud,  
and it shall be for the sign of the covenant  
between Me and the earth.”**

**(Genesis 9:13)**

**“Behold, a throne set in heaven,  
and One sat on the throne.  
And there was a rainbow around  
the throne in appearance like an emerald.”**

**(Revelation 4:2-3)**

**In the heaven of the Silver Age, Swedenborg visited the home of a married couple. There on the wall he saw a rainbow, composed of three colors: crimson, hyacinthine, and white. These colors flowed into each other and affected each other, showing how the forms of conjugal love in the husband and wife affected each other.**

***(Conjugal Love 76)***

Swedenborg wrote:

“I have seen palaces in heaven. Above they glittered as if made of pure gold, and precious stones. There were parks, where, too, every thing shone, in some places the leaves glistening as if made of silver while the flowers in their beds formed rainbows with their colors.”

(see *Heaven and Hell* 185)

“There is as it were a rainbow heaven, where the whole atmosphere throughout appears to be made up of minute rainbows. Around is the encompassing form of an immense rainbow, most beautiful, composed of similar smaller ones that are the beautiful images of the larger.”

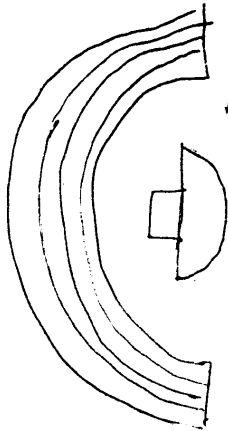
(see *Arcana Coelestia* 1623)

“And I saw still another mighty angel  
coming down from heaven,  
clothed with a cloud.  
And a rainbow was on his head,  
his face was like the sun,  
and his feet like pillars of fire.”  
(Revelation 10:1)

**Possible layout for Poster**

*Possible  
Layout:*

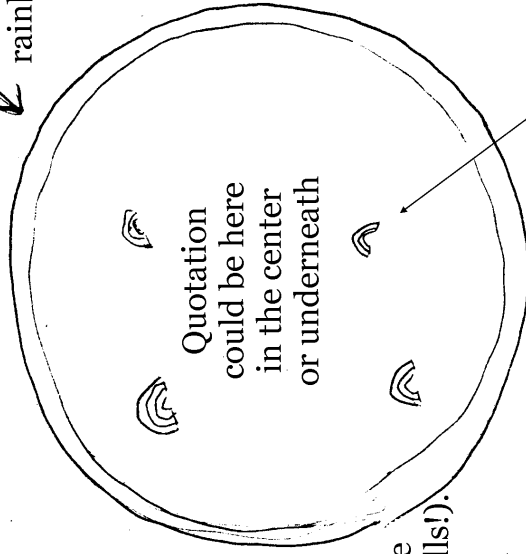
**TITLE**



Cut out and glue rainbow and ark

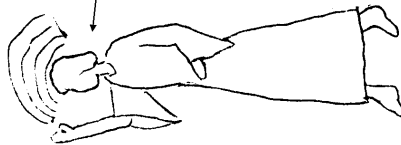
GLUE ON  
QUOTATION

Paint a circular rainbow



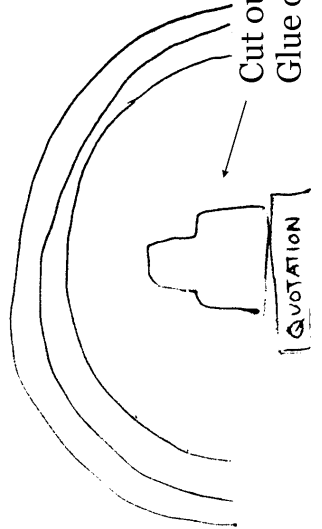
Quotation could be here in the center or underneath

Cut out MANY LITTLE RAINBOWS to glue inside.

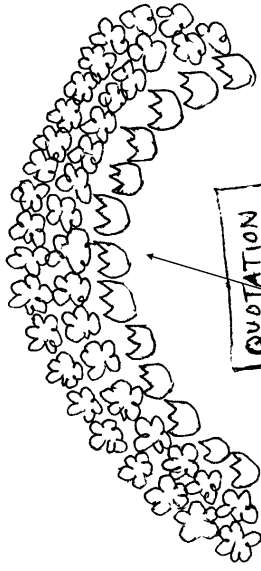


Add things to angel before gluing him on, like gold shine around his head, shining flame around his feet, even some cloud around him (maybe out of stretched balls!). Then glue him on, and glue a rainbow around his head.

GLUE ON  
QUOTATION

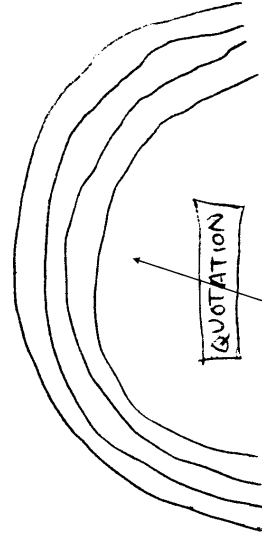


Cut out gold throne and figure of Lord. Glue on, make rainbow of shining green.



QUOTATION

Make rows of cut-out flowers in the shape of a rainbow, each row a different color.



QUOTATION

Make rainbow of:  
purple  
flaming red  
blue  
white tinged with dark blue  
white

**Project Pictures**



Photocopy this page.  
Cut out photocopied  
picture of the angel.

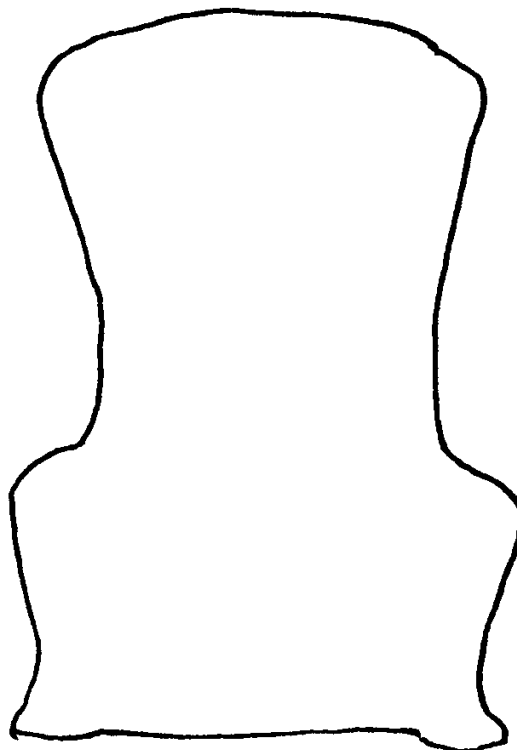


Photocopy this page.



Cut out photocopied figure of the Lord.

Use as pattern to cut a throne out of gold paper.



# Word Search

## WORD SEARCH

Listed below are words about the rainbows in the Word. Can you find and circle them in this puzzle?

ARK	DIVINE TRUTH	LIGHT	THRONE
BLUE	EMERALD	NOAH	WATER
BRIGHTNESS	EZEKIEL	PROMISE	WHITE
CLOUDS	FLOWERS	RAINBOW	
COVENANT	GLORY	SIGN	
CRIMSON	THRONE	SUN	

E J R A I N B O W O R T Y D I  
W N F L O W E R S E S I G N C  
H A R K C B T W A G B U G L Q  
C V T K A R L N A C F K N P H  
N D U E A I S U E O H J C T E  
O I L G R G T C E V Y E L N Z  
A V I E I H N C H E X C O H E  
H I G T S T H R O N E D U J K  
R N H C R N B I L A A Q D A I  
V E T E H E A M K N W R S T E  
H T L G U S Z S G T J H R I L  
P R O M I S E O L Y D K I O N  
E U C S A L N N O L C H S T M  
R T B H R E M E R A L D G A E  
L H V A F K P U Y J I Z E P J

## A TRIP TO THE SILVER AGE

(Adapted from *Conjugal Love* 76, as translated by Lisa Hyatt Cooper)

An angel came to me and asked, "Do you want me to show you the way to the groups of people who lived in the Silver Age?" I went followed my guide.

First we came to a hill and looked around us. We saw a valley and mountains in the distance. As we crossed the valley, we noticed wood and stone sculptures placed here and there at the sides. They were in the shape of people and of various animals, birds, and fish. "What are these?" I asked the angel. "Are they idols?"

"Not at all," he answered. "They remind the people of the Silver Age about moral virtues and spiritual truths. Every person, animal, bird, and fish has a spiritual meaning; so each statue 'corresponds' to some quality."

We continued on through the valley. When we started across the plain, what a sight we saw! There were horses, and carriages of many different shapes. Some of the carriages were carved like eagles, some like whales, and some like horned deer and unicorns. When we got closer, the horses and carriages disappeared. In their place we saw people. They were walking two by two, talking together and arguing.

"At a distance we saw what looked like horses, carriages, and stables," the angel said to me. "That's how the intelligence of Silver Age people appears. A horse stands for understanding the truth; a carriage stands for the way the church views it; and stables stand for the ways it's taught. The appearance of everything in the spiritual world depends on correspondence."

We went past these things, and finally came to a city. All the houses were palaces, built of marble. We also saw temples made of precious stone the color of sapphires.

"Their houses are made of stone," the angel told me, "because stones stand for truth in the natural world and precious stones for truth in the spiritual world."

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In looking around the city we saw husbands and wives talking. We hoped to be invited in somewhere, and one couple invited us into their house as we passed by.

The angel told them that I wanted to learn about marriage from people who lived

long ago.

"We were from the peoples of Asia," they replied. "The people of our time were eager to learn about truths and correspondences. This brought us intelligence."

The angel then asked them to say something about marriage among them.

"Spiritual marriage is the marriage of truth with goodness," said the husband. "Natural marriage is the marriage of a man with one woman. All of us who live here say that a husband is truth and a wife is the good that goes with it. What's more, goodness can't love any other truth than its own; nor can truth in return love any other goodness than its own."

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Afterwards we were led into a chamber leading to the bedroom. This room had a number of pictures on the wall and silver figurines. "What are these?" I asked.

"They're representations," they said. "They provide an image of the many qualities, virtues, and joys that go to make up the love in marriage. The ones you see here stand for oneness of souls, uniting of minds and agreement of heart."

Then I noticed a beautiful rainbow on the wall. It was red, blue, and white but the colors changed places and flowed together.

"Do you understand all this?" the husband asked me.

"Teach me," I answered.

"These colors have spiritual meanings," he said. "The meanings come from correspondence. Red is a wife's love in her marriage. White is the husband's intelligence. Blue is married love taking its start with what the wife senses in her husband. The purple color, which tinged the white, is married love then in the husband. This color flowed back through the blue into the red and gave it a fiery glow. That's the husband's love flowing back to his wife. We see these rainbows when we think deeply about love and marriage."

At this point a carriage drawn by white ponies appeared in the distance. When he saw it my angel guide said, "That carriage is a sign for us to leave."

We walked down the steps and our host gave us a cluster of white grapes with the leaves from the vine still clinging to it. The leaves, though, turned silver before our very eyes! We took them with us as a reminder of our conversation with the people of the Silver Age.