

# RABBI JACK'S MESSAGE IN A MINUTE



***Keshet* in Hebrew means rainbow. In this week's famous Torah portion of Noah and the Great Flood we encounter the biblical, and probably allegorical origin of the rainbow.**

**After God saw all the venom, violence and bloodshed caused by the earliest generations of humankind, the Almighty saw fit to bring a torrential storm, a deluge that would last long enough to wash away all the evil in the known world. Noah, his family, and the members of the animal kingdom were saved in the ark. Finally, the Lord ended the rain, and promised, perhaps with regret for the harsh response, to never destroy the entire planet ever again. And how did the Creator demonstrate this new covenant? With a rainbow after all the water receded. So, why a rainbow?**

**First, let's take a second look at the word *keshet*. Its traditional translation is bow, as in bow and arrow. Based upon its shape the word was then utilized to signify a rainbow. Remember too, that the visual of the rainbow necessarily includes the wide variety of colors in the sky.**

**Hence the ancient sages were convinced that Heaven was sending a creative, yet clear and powerful message. The diversity of colors represents the uniqueness of all people. We are yellow, red, brown-- we come in all colors, but we are equal in beauty and in God's eyes. The bow, as a weapon of war, is a warning not to use our differences to attack one another. This is what led to the tragic consequence of the flood.**

**The rainbow that appears in our sacred text was both a vow by God not to bring destruction to our world, and a reminder to all of us as to how we can achieve the same result.**

**L'shalom,  
Rabbi Jack**