

## Rainbows

The “Rainbow in Mythology” document is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License

<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/>

The descriptions of the rainbow myths are taken from

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rainbows\\_in\\_mythology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rainbows_in_mythology)

(I would normally be more thorough, but this whole piece is an after thought!)

### The rainbow in the lampstand

Arch of Titus Menorah from

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Arc\\_de\\_Triumph\\_copy.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Arc_de_Triumph_copy.jpg)

user: בית השלום

<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/deed.en>

Cropped to show Menorah only

‘the gems of the lamps flashing forth of different colours, and of the lamp-stand of stone, and of emerald, and hyacinth, and sapphire’ (Testament of Solomon 116; Conybeare, 1898, p. 41)

The Menorah

[https://he.wikipedia.org/wiki/קַיִבִּיץ:Tabernacol\\_cortul\\_Întâlnirii\\_mediu.png](https://he.wikipedia.org/wiki/קַיִבִּיץ:Tabernacol_cortul_Întâlnirii_mediu.png)

NOTE: the image is actually copyright Logos Bible Software, who have given me permission to use it (it has since been taken down, but had the items in the Tabernacle underneath the main image).

gems

<https://ifitshipitshere.blogspot.co.uk/2013/10/mordauntes-coffin-shaped-gemstones-are.html>

<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/us/>

Also added to this is, “If you reproduce or re-purpose, be sure to credit this blog and link back to the post”, so I take it my use of the beautiful stones for a rainbow is ok. The light blue stone has a pink recolouring to make it violet/purple-ish for the rainbow.

### Epic of Ishtar and Izdubar

Izdubar sees the "glistening colors of the rainbow rise" in the fountain of life next to Elam’s Tree of Immortality, in the garden of the gods (Lee & Fraser, 2001, p. 5)

<https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=kZcCtT1ZeaEC&pg=PA5#v=onepage&q&f=false>

tree of life

<http://www.publicdomainpictures.net/view-image.php?image=76278>

Dawn Hudson

Public domain

Fountain

<https://pixabay.com/en/well-fountain-stone-bowl-basin-576519/>

public

I made the rainbow image myself

29 Then he carved all the walls of the temple all around, both the inner and outer sanctuaries, with carved figures of cherubim, **palm trees, and open flowers**. - 1 Kings 6:29 NKJV

“later tradition suggest that this **tree** [of life] had been represented by the **menorah** ... ‘For with thee is the fountain of life, and in thy light we see light’ (Ps. 36.9). The **fountain of life, he said, is the supernal oil** which flows continually” (Barker, 2003, pp. 129, 132). After quoting this, the Garden of Eden and the temple are linked.

Solomon's temple

<https://www.q-files.com/history/ancient-middle-east/land-of-the-bible/>

09/08/2016

Dear Richard,

Apologies for the delay in getting back to you.

It is fine to use that image on your site. **Please could you just add a credit (under the image) with Q-files.com and preferably as a link.**

Thanks and best wishes,

Sarah

<http://q-files.com/>

cropped due to size and people removed

trees on temple walls

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:%22Pond\\_in\\_a\\_Garden%22\\_\(fresco\\_from\\_the\\_Tomb\\_of\\_Nebamun\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:%22Pond_in_a_Garden%22_(fresco_from_the_Tomb_of_Nebamun).jpg)

public, cropped

## Crock of gold

<http://www.freestockphotos.biz/stockphoto/14050>

public

rainbow removed as it is wrong!

21 Then he brought the **Ark** of the Covenant into the Tabernacle and hung the inner curtain to shield it from view, just as the LORD had commanded him. ... 24 He set the **lampstand** in the Tabernacle across from the table on the south side of the Holy Place. - Exodus 40:21, 24 NLT

Ark

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Arca\\_da\\_Alianca\\_de\\_Deus\\_\(3815219934\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Arca_da_Alianca_de_Deus_(3815219934).jpg)

Fernando Shoiti Schatzmann from Suzano, Brasil

<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/deed.en>

## Noah

13 I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. - Genesis 9:13 NIV

Noah and Ark

<http://cliparts.co/clipart/2510569>

Clip art image by Cliparts.co

Rainbow and cloud (MS shape) added

9 The voice of the LORD makes the deer give birth, And strips the forests bare; And **in His temple** everyone says, "Glory!" 10 The LORD sat enthroned at **the Flood**, And the LORD sits as King forever. - Psalm 29:9-10 NKJV

13 There in the LORD's presence he will put the incense on the burning coals so that a **cloud of incense** will rise over the Ark's cover--the place of atonement--that rests on the Ark of the Covenant. If he follows these instructions, he will not die. - Leviticus 16:13 NLT

altar of incense

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Incensoebraico2.jpg>

public

background removed

10 As for the likeness of their faces, each had the face of a man; each of the four had the face of a lion on the right side, each of the four had the face of an ox on the left side, and each of the four had the face of an eagle. - Ezekiel 1:10 NKJV

Cherub

[http://powerlisting.wikia.com/wiki/Cherubim\\_Physiology](http://powerlisting.wikia.com/wiki/Cherubim_Physiology)

Superpower Wiki is a Fandom Comics Community.

<http://www.wikia.com/Licensing>

<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>

## **Other stories not included in the main text (due to space!)**

### **Bridge to heaven**

The high priest walked past the Menorah with its rainbow gemstones into the Holy of Holies.

### **goddess messenger & changing gender**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iris\\_\(mythology\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iris_(mythology))

There were twelve gem stones in the high priest's 'breastplate'.

"... by those twelve stones which the high priest bare on his breast, and which were inserted into his breastplate, when they should be victorious in battle; for so great a splendor shone forth from them before the army began to march, that all the people were sensible of God's being present for their assistance." (quoting ref "Ant." iii. 8, § 9)

<http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/articles/14609-urim-and-thummim>

Also, "the whole Hebrew alphabet had to be included [on these 12 stones], in order that, on consulting the Urim and Thummim, the high priest might be enabled to form words from the different colors of the individual letters on the stones of the breastplate, and hence might be able to answer questions put to him"

<http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/articles/3668-breastplate-of-the-high-priest>

So the divine rainbow messenger were these 12 colourful stones which gave messages from God. The fact that the vestments were woven by women yields the female symbolism used of the high priest: "I am giving you a high priestly garment which is woven from every wisdom ... Wisdom your Mother" (Barker, 2003, p. 242), quoting ref "The Teaching of Silvanus, CG VII.4.89, 91". This would also explain the Bulgarian myth that going under a rainbow changes your gender (!).

She had a serpent pole

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caduceus>

The bronze serpent which Moses set upon a pole was destroyed in a later temple purge (Num 21:8; 2 Kgs 18:4). This implies that it has a place somewhere in the temple precinct, so the serpent on a pole was a temple item.

### **rainbow serpent**

the priests wore "a girdle often going round, four fingers broad, but so loosely woven, that you would think it were the skin of a serpent" (Josephus, Antiquities 3.7.2; Whiston, 1737)

So since the high priest could also represent a rainbow, with his serpent belt, he could be a rainbow serpent.

## **Buddhism**

For Buddhists, the rainbow is "the highest state achievable before attaining Nirvana, where individual desire and consciousness are extinguished."

Nirvana is a symbol of entering the Holy of Holies, heaven itself, the Holy of Holies being pat the Menorah

## **Bibliography**

Barker, M. (2003). *The Great High Priest: The Temple Roots of Christian Liturgy*. Bloomsbury Academic.

Conybeare, F. (1898). The Testament of Solomon. *The Jewish Quarterly Review* , 11.

Lee, R., & Fraser, A. (2001). *The Rainbow Bridge: Rainbows in Art, Myth, and Science*. Washington: Pennsylvania State University Press.

Whiston, W. (1737). *The Works of Flavius Josephus*. From Internet Sacred Text Archive: <http://sacred-texts.com/jud/josephus/>