

God's Promise.

AND the rain was upon the earth forty days and forty nights," read Albert. Then he looked up and said, "Oh, what an awful time that must have been! Rain! rain! day after day, and week after week, for nearly six weeks."

"Yes, it was an awful time," said his mother, "the most awful time the earth ever saw. It was worse than the most deadly plague, for no plague ever spread over all the earth. If it was bad in one place there was always some part where it was not."

"When it rains now for many days together, are not people afraid that there will be another flood?" asked Albert.

"Floods do take place in many parts of the world," said his mother. "From time to time great damage is done by water, which destroys houses and crops and drowns animals and men."

"Yes, I have read about them," said Albert, "and they always make me think of the great flood, when all the people and all the animals that were not in the ark were drowned."

"That will never happen again," said his mother.

"Why won't it?" said Albert. "If the rain kept falling day after day we should all be drowned."

"I suppose such a thing could take place," was the reply.

"Then why do you say it never will?" he asked.

"God says so, and we can always depend on the word of God."

"Did He promise not to let such an awful thing happen again?"

"Yes, when the great flood had all passed away, and Noah and those who were with him came out of the ark and offered a sacrifice to God for saving them, He made Noah a promise."

"What did He say?" asked the boy.

"He said that He would never drown the world again, and even if men were very wicked He would remember His promise, and He gave man a sign of this."

"What was it?" asked Albert.

"The beautiful rainbow," said his mother. "When we see it we think of God's words that, 'While the earth remaineth, seed-time and harvest shall not cease'."