

## “What Is Heaven Like?”

***At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with some-one sitting on it. And the one who sat there had the appearance of jasper and ruby. A rainbow that shone like an emerald encircled the throne. (Revelation 4:2,3)***

The Beloved Disciple, John, is allowed to see into heaven. The door represents the inability for human eyes to see into or humans enter heaven. (Revelation 4:1) But John saw the door was open. The Spirit allowed him to look beyond the door, to view what his physical eyes could not see.

The Apostle was suddenly through the open door and in the presence of the Sovereign Ruler of the Universe. From this throne room God controls nations and insects, stars and galaxies, mankind and demons. John must have felt great awe when he found himself in the control center of the universe!

The first thing John saw was a throne. That throne is a central theme of the Book of Revelation. It is essential to remember that behind all human events is the government of God. This runs contrary to the thought and spirit of the present age. The fact that heaven is represented by God's throne means there are absolutes that cannot be altered or changed which have come down from the Sovereign of the Universe. There are moral absolutes that cannot be altered, no matter how far society drifts from these standards. God maintains and enforces them constantly by the authority of his throne. John saw that the throne was occupied. Someone was sitting on it. Now finally, we are going to find out what God looks like! Have you ever wondered what God looks like? John does not see this “Someone who sits on the throne” of heaven. But we know it is the Lord God, because we see His glory.

John sees the glory and majesty of God. His presence is represented by colors — flashing colors, glowing and sparkling like jewels — brilliant, flashing, and pure colors. No one could or can ever describe God's features, for God is more than a human being. No one has seen the features of God. Here He manifests Himself in wonderfully significant colors, and they are full of meaning. The first color is jasper, (a diamond), the most beautiful of all gems because of its ability to capture light and flash the colors of light in brilliant displays. This stone reflects the dominant attribute of Divine holiness and perfection. The second representation is the carnelian, which is a blood-red stone in color — a glowing, beautiful stone. This immediately suggests the price of admission into heaven,

the precious blood of the Son who willingly provided His own blood on our behalf. He who has the Son has life. He is the Lamb of God, slain from before the foundation of the world. We would expect heaven to extol the work of the Lord Jesus to save sinners. The third color is the emerald, a deep green stone. John saw a great emerald-green rainbow circling the throne. Green is the color of royalty, the gem of the presence of Deity. This rainbow, with various shades of green circling the throne, speaks of the Holy Spirit who is the Lord Jesus' Administrator of His promise to build the Church His work is to convict the world, produce the New Birth (conversion) and progressively develop life-long Christlikeness (sanctification). The green color represents God's glory in the Church. That is the beginning of John's description of heaven. Does it look like you thought it would?