

*Rev 4:2-6 (NLT)*

*And instantly I was in the Spirit, and I saw a throne in heaven and someone sitting on it! The one sitting on the throne was as brilliant as gemstones--jasper and carnelian.*

*And the glow of an emerald circled his throne like a rainbow. Twenty-four thrones surrounded him, and twenty-four elders sat on them. They were all clothed in white and had gold crowns on their heads. And from the throne came flashes of lightning and the rumble of thunder. And in front of the throne were seven lampstands with burning flames. They are the seven spirits of God. In front of the throne was a shiny sea of glass, sparkling like crystal.*

*In the center and around the throne were four living beings, each covered with eyes, front and back.*

How many times have we thought about heaven and what it's like there? For me, to many times to count. We read God's word hoping to get a glimpse of what heaven will look like, but they say a picture is worth a thousand words.

We don't have a picture of heaven, but God does tell us what heaven is like throughout the bible.

So why can't we picture it?

Well, Paul is the one who wrote the book of Revelations and tried his best to describe what he saw in heaven. (also read the book of Daniel and Isaiah where they tried to describe it as well.) But it would be like having someone live in the desert all their lives and someone else who lived by the ocean try to explain where they lived and what it was like.

Someone who lives in the desert has never seen the ocean, so to try and explain palm trees when all they have seen were cactus, or try to explain the waves of the sea when all they know is the hot desert dirt blowing in the wind, makes it very hard to explain. But then you could explain the trees as cactus with no stickers on it, tall and skinny with big green leaves at the top. And even though they haven't seen the ocean you could explain it like the heat on the desert and how you can see the heat flowing over the burning sand, or the way the wind will lift the sand and swirl it through the air like the waves of the sea.

But it's not quite that easy with heaven, the closest things that John could come up with on this earth that we would understand were rare and precious jewels, gold and lightning and thunder.

Jewels and gold are precious and beautiful just like heaven is, and thunder and lightning represents the power of God.

And what about the size of heaven? Well, in the book of Isaiah, God explained it, but we still can't phantom His awesomeness.

† **Isaiah 66:1** *Thus says the LORD: "Heaven is My throne, and earth is My footstool. Where is the house that you will build Me? And where is the place of My rest?"*

Now that's pretty big.

Even with my little examples of heaven here today, I know you still have no idea of what heaven looks like, but then neither do I.

But one thing I do know, it will be the most beautiful place we could ever imagine. And the reason it's so beautiful, is because Jesus is there.

† **Rev 21:23** *The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light.*

† **Rev 21:4-5** *"And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful."*

What could be more beautiful than that?