Colour in the Bible

The following chapter is an extract from The Symbolic Meaning of Colours in the Bible by Ruth Marrion (unpublished). It is used with Ruth's permission. I believe that Ruth has revelation that will revolutionise how colour is used in the church. This section contains just a taste of what Ruth has begun to document, as well as some of the meanings the Western world has assigned to colours. It is important to understand this when you begin to wield colour in the world's context. Scripture references in this chapter are from the New King James Version (NKJV) unless otherwise stated.

God, Humans and Colour

Unlike many of God's creatures, humans have colour vision and colour seems to us to be a property of what we see. We can describe things in terms of their colour as we perceive it to be and other humans will agree with us.

God uses colours to communicate something to us in Genesis 9:13. The rainbow is described as a reminder to Him as well as to us that He has promised not to cleanse the earth by a flood of water ever again. Why should colours be used to give this message? When He specified priestly garments in gold, blue, purple, scarlet and the white of fine linen in Exodus 28:5, did God have a reason for choosing those colours?

Colours seem to be a means of communication from God to mankind. I have explored the subject of colours in Scripture as a non-verbal communication system. I offer this information for not only your enlightenment and enjoyment but also to enhance your worship of the Most High God our Heavenly Father, as you use or design banners to depict and emphasize the various attributes which make up His Glory.

And There Was Light

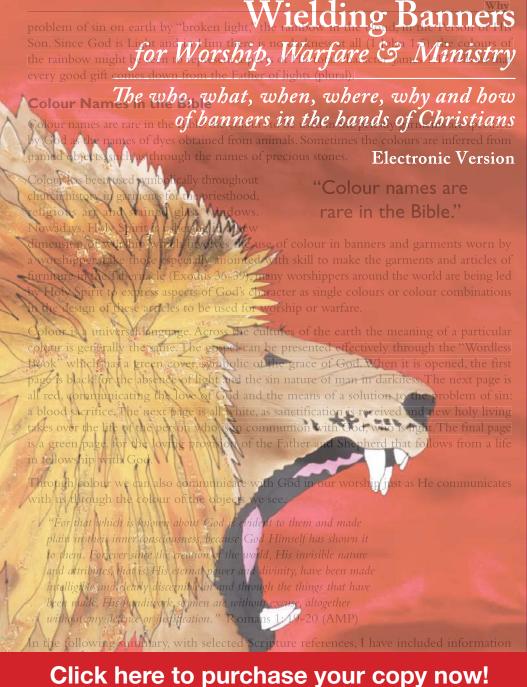
"When Isaac Newton used a prism to break up white sunlight into its various wavelengths and saw the rainbow projected on the wall, he identified seven separate colours."

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. Then God said: 'Let there be light.' and there was light." Genesis 1:1-3 (NKJV)

Sunlight contains all the colours in the spectrum, but it must be broken to reveal them. When Isaac Newton, a Christian and a famous scientist, used a prism to break up white sunlight into

its various wavelengths and saw the rainbow projected on the wall, he identified seven separate colours. These were red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet (purple).

After the flood, God covenanted with the earth to never again judge it by a deluge of water. Unstated but revealed in the rest of Scripture is the promise that He would deal with the



the afterimage of a colour can express something about the origina David J. Stanfield