

Jonathan Edwards' reflections on green

Revelation 4:3. "And there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald.": ...there is a rainbow, the sign of God's gracious covenant, round about the throne that he sits on. This rainbow was "in sight like unto an emerald," which is a precious stone of an exceeding lovely green color, so green that this color appears in nothing else so lively and lovely. This color is a most fit emblem of divine grace; it is a very lively color, not so dull as blue or purple, and yet most easy to the sight, more easy than the more fiery colors of yellow and red. It is the color of all the grass, herbs, and trees, and growth of the earth, and therefore fitly denotes life, flourishing, prosperity, and happiness, which are often in Scripture compared to the green and flourishing growth of the earth. As the benign influence of the sun on the face of the earth is shown by this color above all others, so is the grace, and benign influence, and communication of God fitly represented by this color. This color is the color of joy and gladness. The fields are said to shout for joy, and also to sing, by their appearing in a cheerful green. As the color red is made use of to signify God's revenging justice, in Zech. 1:8 and elsewhere, so is green the emblem of divine grace.<sup>1</sup>

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FOOTNOTES

<sup>1</sup> From *Notes on Scripture*, entry 270 [in Stephen J. Stein, ed., *Notes on Scripture* (New Haven/London: Yale University Press, 1998), 224-225].