

"SPECTRUM OF THE LIGHT"

INDIGO

What is the technical significance of this color?

Indigo is the color that falls directly halfway between blue and violet in the visible light spectrum. Light that contains both violet and blue frequencies is also referred to as indigo.

The human eye is relatively insensitive to indigo's frequencies and some otherwise well-sighted people cannot distinguish indigo from blue and violet. For this reason some commentators including Isaac Asimov have suggested that indigo should not be regarded as a color in its own right but merely as a shade of blue or violet.

[<< discuss Gay Pride flag - only 6 colors >>](#)

[In ancient Mayan cultures indigo was the one color that was recognized for its soothing effect on pregnant women and their unborn children. Pregnant women often wore this color in order to protect themselves and their child from danger and to ensure a safe and successful delivery.](#)

During colonial times, America had numerous indigo plantations. The indigo plant is a leguminous plant that is used as an inter-crop because it gives nitrates to the soil. These nitrates help rejuvenate the soil to allow other crops to grow. The process of extracting indigo dye was very labor-intensive and quite complicated. The plants were soaked in a sloping tank. Two or three people would actually get into the tank and paddle the water continuously for two to three days. The blue would rise to the top and the water was then drained out. The blue substance that remained was taken out and made into cakes. The resulting tint of blue that is produced is distinct and cannot be made any other way. The term "blue collar" worker is derived from the indigo workers, who used to wear the cheap blue cloth.

Does this color have any symbolic meaning?

The ancient Israelites used an indigo colored dye called *tekhelet*. This dye was very important in both Jewish and non-Jewish cultures of this time, and was used by royalty and the upper-class in dyeing their clothing, sheets, curtains, etc.

In the Torah the Israelites are commanded to dye one of the threads of their *tallit* (prayer shawl) with *tekhelet*; when they look at this dye they will think of the blue sky, and of the God above them in Heaven. *Tekhelet* corresponds to the color of the divine revelation.

This command can be found in Numbers 15:38-40 (which we also used in our study of the color blue).

"Speak to the children of Israel: Tell them to make tassels on the corners of their garments throughout their generations, and to put a blue thread in the tassels of the corners. [39] And you shall have the tassel, that you may look upon it and remember all the commandments of the Lord and do them, and that you may not follow the harlotry to which your own heart and your own eyes are inclined, [40] and that you may remember and do all My commandments, and be holy for your God."

Blue/indigo is used to remind the Israelites what God has commanded them to do.

Consider Exodus 24:10.

"and they saw the God of Israel. And there was under His feet as it were a paved work of sapphire stone, and it was like the very heavens in its clarity."

It is interesting that Blue and Sapphire (which can also refer to indigo) appear 37 times in the book of Exodus, 4 times in the Book of Ezekiel, and twice in the book of Revelation. Wherever God is present, the color blue/indigo is present.

In our study of blue, we saw that it represented God's omnipresence. But in our study of indigo, these same verses literally take on another shade of meaning...

What attribute of Jesus does this color represent?

His Revelation. Revelation is something revealed, especially a dramatic disclosure of something not previously known or realized. Jesus is revelation from God, and revelation about God...because Jesus IS God!

How did Jesus demonstrate His REVELATION?

By revealing who He is...

Jesus speaking to the Pharisees in **John 8:58**, "*Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM."* To understand the importance of this statement, we need to look at the Old Testament, **Exodus 3:14**, "*And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"*

Jesus revealed that He is the Lord God of Israel.

By revealing who God the Father is...

John 10:30 "*I and My Father are one.*"

John 14:7, "*If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him.*"

Jesus spells it out for the disciples. But Philip must not have gotten it, because he asks Jesus to show him the father...

John 14:9, "*Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?'*" These verses make it crystal clear. We can know what God the Father is like by look at God the Son... Jesus. His love, His grace, His faithfulness, His mercy, His compassion... the earthly life of Jesus reveals the heart of God the Father. And what a revelation that is! God is NOT an angry god just waiting for us to mess up so that He can zap us. He may correct us, but He doesn't "punish" us. 1 John 4:16 clearly says that GOD IS LOVE.

1John 5:7, *"For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one."* The verse reveals the triune nature of God (The Trinity). Note: The NIV and NASB translations do not include the entire verse.

By revealing how to we can be reconciled with God...

John 3:3, *"Jesus answered and said to him, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.'*"

John 3:16-18, *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. [17] For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. [18] He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."* We've heard those verses 100's of times. But how many of us remember that it was Jesus who said those words while He was speaking with Nicodemus?

John 14:6, *"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.'*"

Again, Jesus makes is clear.

How can we demonstrate this attribute in OUR life?

Jesus didn't draw attention to Himself. He directed people's attention to God the Father. The only times He made reference to Himself was in revealing who He is in the context of God's plan for salvation. That is our model for how we are to present ourselves.

By sharing the Gospel with people where they are at...

Jesus revealed God's plan for salvation with those around Him by speaking in terms and imagery that the common person could understand. When sharing the "Good News" with others, we need to keep things simple. We need to ask for the Holy Spirit to

equip us to speak to a person where they are at that particular moment in their lives. Maybe they need a comforting word...and the healing aspect of salvation. Maybe they're a bit head-strong...and need the challenge that salvation poses.

<< there is no super-spiritual formula of how we are to share the Gospel and witness to others... we need to be sincere... we need to be genuine... we need to be real... we need to be ourselves.>>

By being “transparent”...

Ironically, the best way to REVEAL the Gospel is to be TRANSPARENT! Our thoughts, words, and actions need to converge on those demonstrated by Jesus Himself. We are never a better representative of Jesus as when we are acting like Him. Jesus is not only our savior, but He is our Lord! We need to yield to His Lordship...die to ourselves and yield to His will. When others see us... we should want them to see Jesus.

That is a lesson that I've been learning these last couple of weeks. I've been “all over” the blessings that I receive by having Jesus as my savior, but the Lord has really been working on my heart on the Lordship aspect...that my obedience to His will does not require me to understand. I need to obey first, regardless of whether I know why... after I obey, THEN I might know why. But I might not.

I am not my own... I have been bought with a price.

In Closing...

As I mentioned earlier, people with good eyesight have difficulty identifying the color indigo. In much the same way, people who are otherwise healthy and normal individuals have difficulty identifying the revelation of Jesus Christ. The cause for this difficulty can be found in...

John 3:19, *“And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.”*