

SCRIPTURE: Ezekiel 1, Revelation 1:16, Psalm 19:1
HYMN: All Things Bright and Beautiful

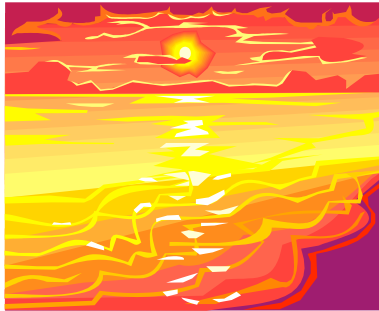
Sparkles!

This is just a simple story, but it was such a blessing to me that I wanted to share it.

I have always marveled at the beauty of a fresh, white snowfall on a clear, bright day- the snow takes on a gorgeous, sparkly shimmer. It is the same with a lake on a sunny day. As the water gently moves, sparkles of light dance and shine like diamonds. I don't think that any artist can capture the beauty of what our eyes have the privilege to behold. A few years ago, my heart truly understood so much more about these sparkles.



One morning, when thinking about this beauty, I was moved to search God's word for descriptions of the light of Our Creator. Revelation 1:16 says, "His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance." Ezekiel described "visions of God". In Ezekiel 1, he uses descriptions, "sparkling like ice, and awesome" (v.22)," a throne of sapphire" (v. 26) "and brilliant light



surrounded Him" (v.27), "they sparkled like chrysolite" (v. 16). My heart began to soar! The Lord put a glimpse of Himself in His creation. I finally saw it for myself! I wrote that morning, "Oh Lord, your creation is so full- in far-reaching ways- of intricately designed, incredible displays of your brilliance and beauty, creativity and intelligence. I can imagine that You took immense pleasure and delight in making these wonderful displays."

Could it be that when we see a sparkle, we can be reminded of the splendor of our matchless God? a hint of heaven and the glory that is to come? a little wink from the heavenlies, a promise from the Father like, "Oh, my child, wait until you see!!"

Here is another one I love to see- have you ever seen the shimmery sparkle in hair? It is so amazing to me to look at a few hairs on my head on a sunny day- that our Lord fully knows, right?- and see a golden gleam in them. The Lord made it so beautifully! He put His own glory even in the hairs on our head!! Even when our hair loses it's color and turns gray and white – it still has that wonderful silvery sparkle!

I bet that there are an infinite amount of reflections of God's character in His creation. Psalm 19:1 says, "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands." Oh, what wonders there are all around us to behold! They are there to remind us of our living God- the One who sustains us and cares for us so perfectly; the One who holds so many promises for His children, and the God who never changes. Thank you, Lord!

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