

The Color Purple

There are many signs that indicate that we as created beings are inclined to love colors. Our schools have their colors (all you need to do is watch an Ohio State football game to see a sea of **scarlet** and **gray**), the national flag of the United States bears the colors of **red**, **white**, and **blue**, and each state has their own colors on their state flags.

Our Wonderful Creator God is all about **color**. Just step outside and look at the earth, the sea, and the sky and all they contain to behold this wonderment (**Genesis**). In the book of **Exodus**, our God placed a high importance on color. **Exodus 26** expounds on the many colors contained within His temple. For example, the "fine twisted linen of **blue**, **purple**, and **crimson** yarns" for the tabernacle curtain. In **Exodus 28**, the priestly vestments included a breastplate with

beautiful colored stones such as green emeralds, blue sapphires, and blue-green turquoise.

It is no wonder then that our early Christian brothers and sisters incorporated colors into the only celebration of the year that testifies to our faith... Passover, Resurrection Sunday, and Pentecost. It is very probable that when Christianity was legalized in the 300's AD by Emperor Constantine, outward celebrations of faith with symbols and colors grew.

Beautiful colors abound during this Holy season. Christians are wonderfully inundated with the rich hues of purple, crimson, white, black, blue, and gold. In the Hebrew language, the name for Adam can be translated as "man" or "red". Blue is thought to represent God and the heavenlies, thus the choice of blue and white for Israel's national flag (Revelations 21: 18-21). Purple is produced by the combination of red and blue and this color is prophetic of the coming Messiah who

would be both God and man and who would be the mediator between man and God (1 Timothy 2:5-6a).

Purple dyes in ancient times were very expensive thus came to be associated with kings and royalty. The day Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey the people hailed him with Hosannas as if He were a King. Luke 19:34-38. Thus, the color purple is often used on Palm Sunday commemorating that day. The Roman soldiers, after scourging our Jesus, gave him a purple "royal" robe (Mark 15:16-20, Matthew 27:28). The term purple in the book of Mark is translated to mean shades of rose to purple, and in Matthew the word used is scarlet. Using a robe made of "cheap" or "fake" purple dye added to the mockery of Jesus implying He was a "fake" king. Thus, scarlet is often used during the Easter season. Red also represents our sins that Jesus took on to His

Sinless Self so that we would be made **white** as snow (Isaiah 1:18, Revelation 19:13, 16).

It is natural that the very first followers of Jesus would hold Resurrection Sunday, the Sunday after Passover

(Mark 16:1) and Pentecost 50 days later as sacred days.

It is the anniversary of that wonderful time when they had firsthand experience of our Risen Lord still among them for 40 days. Jesus' Resurrection fulfilled all that the Passover had meant to them. It was an exodus or passage from the old times of the oppression of slavery into the new times of physical and spiritual freedom. Jesus was and still is the Paschal Lamb slain for us to achieve this freedom.

Continuing with the symbolisms of colors, the Christian Church uses **white** and **gold** to symbolize the hope of our resurrection as well as purity and newness that comes from victory over sin and

death. The **gold** symbolizes the Risen Christ as the Light of the world and the city of **gold** where our Lord reigns as King and where we too will be (**Revelation 19:13-16**).

When the church of Jesus the Christ, with Him as the Head and we as the members, bear witness to our faith everyday (**Isaiah 43:10**), Resurrection Sunday is the time we wave our **colors** for the entire world to see as we exclaim, "**JESUS LIVES AND WE ARE SAVED, ALLELUIAH!**"

At this time of year, many churches will drape these defining colors on the outside of their buildings, on their doors, or on crosses. These acts testify our belief to the whole world that Jesus is the Messiah Who died for our sins, was Resurrected by the Power of the Holy Spirit, and Who reigns as King as prophesied in the books of **Daniel 7: 9-14, Hebrews 7:25, and 1 John 5:1-15.**

HAPPY RESURRECTION SUNDAY!

Thank you, **Diana Popovich**, for this awesome and timeless submission!! 😊