

QUESTION: Stephen looked toward heaven and saw God and Jesus. How can this be when the Bible says no one has ever seen God?

ANSWER:

- **Acts 7:55** "But being full of the Holy Spirit, he (Stephen) gazed intently into heaven and **saw the glory of God**, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God."
- **John 1:18** "No one has SEEN GOD at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him."
- **I Timothy 6:16** "...Who alone possesses immortality and **dwells in unapproachable light**; whom no man has seen or can see..."

Notice, it says that Stephen "**saw the glory of God**". Moses also saw the glory of God, when God hid him in the cleft of the rock, and passed by him. No one has ever actually seen **God in His divine ESSENCE or FACE TO FACE**. In the Old Testament, a few people "saw God," but it was either a VISION of God on His throne (see Ezekiel 1:1 & 1:26-28, Isaiah 6:1-6, Daniel 7:9-14), or **they saw a PORTION of God's glory** as Moses did (see Exodus 33:17-23), or they saw the pre-incarnate Jesus, as did Abraham, who saw the Lord in appearance as a man (see Genesis 18:1-22. The other "two men" were angels - see Gen. 19:1). We, as sinful beings, cannot stand in God's presence, we would be burned up in an instant by His radiance and glory. Only by **BEING BORN of the SPIRIT are we re-created into a being** who will be able to be in God's very PRESENCE for all eternity.

- **Ezekiel 1:1 & 28** "Now it came about in the thirtieth year, on the fifth day of the fourth month, while I was by the river Chebar among the exiles, the heavens were opened and **I saw visions of God.**" ".....Such was the appearance of **the likeness of the glory of the Lord....**"
- **Isaiah 6:1** ".....**I saw the Lord** sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple." (according to John 12:41, this was Jesus that Isaiah saw on the throne).
- **John 12:41** "These things Isaiah said, because he saw His (Jesus') glory, and he spoke of Him."
- **John 6:46** "Not that any man has seen the Father, except the One (Jesus) who is from God, He has seen the Father."
- **Colossians 1:13-15** ".....His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. And He (Jesus) is **the image of the invisible God**, the firstborn of all creation."