

## *Rembrandt: Held by God*, by Renée Ellison

A long time ago there lived a little old man who had very unusual eyes. They didn't LOOK unusual; they just had an unusual way of SEEING. These rare eyes saw ordinary things in unusual splendor. Things that you and I would pass right by held HIS gaze until in his mind they turned into something beautiful.



What was even more unusual was that he didn't just see objects, he saw the space around the objects and found all the beauty he could in that, too. His name was Rembrandt, and he was a painter.

It was God that made Rembrandt van Rijn to be a visual genius. Whenever God makes a genius, (that is, a person with extraordinary ability), He doesn't give the person this unique ability for themselves only. God gives a genius such ability in order to bless all of the rest of us, too. God made sure that all the wonderful things Rembrandt saw would be captured and fixed on canvas in one painting after another so that many people could continue to enjoy those works for years to come.

God's love for us is so special that he cares for our needs far beyond merely giving us food for our stomachs and clothes for our bodies. God feeds and nourishes our emotions, too. And he does it through art. Sometimes when we hear a strong piece of music or see a lovely graceful dance or our eyes behold a banquet of color on a hillside, our insides grow strangely warm, like our hearts are being fed and comforted! Often when we are having a hard time, or experiencing sorrow, art can make life more bearable. It can help us get over these rough patches. Let us go now and look into this gift that God has given us in Rembrandt. Let's look at a little piece out of this great man's life.

A publication of **HOMESCHOOL How-To's**

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