



Sunday 7th June 2009

PRECIOUS STONES, PRIVILEGED PEOPLE

17 And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.

18 Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not. MALACHI 3:17-18

In recent weeks we've been hearing a lot in prophecy and visions about jewels, crowns, sceptres and gates and we have been blessed by strong anointed word from Graham – all of which seems to be confirming that the Holy Spirit is urging us to come up higher in this hour.

The Lord is making up His jewels – and 'jewels' are 'special possessions'. We have been purchased at a price to be those Special Possessions, – and that makes us 'Precious Stones' and 'Privileged People' [the title I have given to this meditation this morning] – and as '**pearl[s] of great price**', we are being prepared to be set into His crown – to rule and reign with Christ. '**And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts...**'

4 But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. I PETER 3:4

That is what The LORD desires to see – a meek and quiet spirit – precious in His sight. Scripture has so much to say about jewels and precious stones – we can only skim the surface of that rich treasure this morning.



Gill's vision of jewels on the riverbed brought me to Revelation 21.

Reading from verse 18 we have this:

18 And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass.

19 And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones. The first foundation was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, a chalcedony; the fourth, an emerald;

20 The fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, a topaz; the tenth, a chrysoprasus; the eleventh, a jacinth; the twelfth, an amethyst.

21 And the twelve gates were twelve pearls: every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass.

22 And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.

23 And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.

24 And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it.

25 And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there.

26 And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it.

27 And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

REVELATION 21:18-27

There are 12 jewels here – just as there were 12 in Exodus 28 on the ephod of the High Priest. In Exodus these jewels represented each of the 12 tribes of Israel – here in Revelation they form the foundations of the Holy City, but whether you are in Exodus or Revelation, the Old Testament or the New, what we are looking at here is The Government of God.

The visions and prophecies that have been flowing in our midst so recently are putting the Government of God foursquare before us – just as the Holy City is described in verse 16 as being a perfect cube of 12 thousand furlongs to reveal the perfecting work the LORD is doing. We have TWELVE = DIVINE GOVERNMENT. Then a THOUSAND = DIVINE COMPLETENESS – THE GLORY OF GOD – THE AGE OF THE KINGDOM, and finally FURLONGS = from a root word meaning to ABIDE, COVENANT or ESTABLISH. God is going to establish a Divine Kingdom to govern and rule all of Creation. A spiritual dwelling-place the foundations of which are of Jasper, Emerald, Sapphire, Diamond and so on – perfected saints, Sons who will be His instruments because they are His Nature personified.

But what we should understand in all this – cutting through the imagery – is God's desire that we give ourselves fully to Him and to His nature – allowing the aspect of His Government to work His bejewelled presence in us – preparing us for all that He has for us.

Be in no doubt – the calling we have answered is not the easy road – our LORD desires us to be a complete expression of Him. To do this He must have a Holy Habitation – a place to dwell and from which He can be seen.

As a artist, I know that I cannot sell work unless they can be seen, and our LORD is looking for a body in which to reveal Himself to a groaning creation – and He can be revealed to the earth through a people who are the expression of their creator. An outworking of being governed by the Spirit of the Living God, we have to dwell in the Holy City of the nature of Jesus Christ, so that we are fit to be a dwelling-place for the Most High. To come to that much desired state, we must choose to abandon ourselves to Him.

And the jewels in the vision
are a pattern
for the path we are to tread
to be *in* the nature
to *reveal* the Son
and *live* the life we were called to lead
from before the beginning of time
and thus fulfill *our* part
in the outworking of the plan of God.
Hallelujah!

We know already that 12 in the numerology of scripture represents perfect or divine government, so that we know that whenever we see this in The Bible we know that scripture is talking of God's government of His Kingdom.

6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

7 Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from

henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this. ISAIAH 9:6-7

We have heard that word brought to us in recent days – a clear exhortation to come under His authority – government is the head and the head sits on the shoulder [the body]. **Government shall be upon his shoulder.** These verses speak prophetically in their time, and remind us now, that Christ, is our head – we the body. And the head governs the body. **Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice.** Remember that we are not part of a religion – we are part of His kingdom. Jesus did not come amongst us to establish a religion, but to proclaim the Kingdom of God – a theocratic government that will bring in the millennial reign.

I don't know how many of us are familiar with the Tabernacle pattern, but a revelation of the Tabernacle pattern is that we are now entering into the Age of the Kingdom of God.

If you take the dimensions given in Exodus for the Outer Court of the Tabernacle, you read that it is 5 cubits high x 100 cubits long x 50 wide, and if you add the length and width together and multiply by the height of the linen fence you get 1500 = the number of years from Moses receiving the tablets of the law until the time of Christ. That was the Age of the Law.

If you do the same calculation with the dimensions of the Holy Place, which is 20 cubits x 10 cubits x 10 cubits you get the answer 2000, the number of years from Christ to the present time, which is the Church Age.

The Holy of Holies is 10 cubits x 10 x 10 which is 1000, and this represents the Age of the Kingdom – the Day of the Lord, for scripture says that to God ‘a day is as a thousand years’.

Now the 5-fold ministry was created for the perfecting of the saints during the Church Age to take us and prepare us as a Melchisedec Order for the coming Kingdom Age. All of which is perhaps an un-necessarily complicated and long-winded way of proving that if we come under His Government, God wants us the way God wants us – and it is His way or no way.

‘A New Man in a New Age in a New Order’ – Christ ushering in the Kingdom Age through the Melchisedec Order.

We can have three types of Government in the realms of the Spirit. DICTATORSHIP relates to the time of The Law, but is something all too prevalent in these days. And people generally like being told what to do. It saves them from thinking for themselves – it makes life easier [or it often seems so – until you transgress the law – which is also easy – because it is impossible not to].

DEMOCRACY is what has characterised the Church Age, something I once heard described [by Sir Alec Guinness as King Charles I] as ‘a Greek drollery, based on the foolish notion that there were extra-ordinary possibilities to be found in very *ordinary* people’. But from our point of view it is the shoulder telling the head how to turn. And while this is infinitely preferable to a dictatorship, it leaves [spiritual] government in a place where it cannot know the truth – ‘**and the truth will set you free.**’ It is what has had the church become the churches, dividing and sub-dividing, following this doctrine and that doctrine – instead of seeking the truth. But we cannot know the truth from down in the valley. Only from the mountaintop can you see the

whole picture. We've spent 2000 years telling God what His plan should be – instead of listening to what His plan actually is!

So what we really need is a THEOCRACY which places God in His rightful place as ruler of His Kingdom. But God is so gracious – He always lets us choose who we shall be governed by – Him or us. And by us I mean self. I want to govern me. I want to say what happens in my life. The reality is, of course, that it is not my life. It belongs to God, so I should relinquish my inappropriate pretensions to governing this vessel.

God ensures that we have all the information to ensure that we make the right choice – by pointing out that all the other possibilities end in disaster. I don't know about anyone else, but I would rather be one of the King of Kings' special possessions than a lifeless phantom.

Being a 'Precious Stone' in the crown of the King is more than the opportunity to accept a privileged position at the King's court. The crown is the symbol of Kingship, just as in Irene's vision, the Sceptre is a symbol of the king's authority or government – and in the spiritual realms, also of righteousness and of Christ. These jewels are an expression of the entry qualifications we need to be able to enter into the Kingdom – and in a neat twist – we can only find these qualities by going to the only source – God himself, though the intercession of Jesus Christ. We can rise above the coarseness of the natural man by having **'Christ within us – the hope of glory.'**

In Exodus 28:17-21 we see the jewels as set into the ephod, or chest adornment, of the High Priest – remembering that Jesus is our High Priest after the order of Melchisedec, and therefore our source of all heavenly authority.

17 And thou shalt set in it settings of stones, even four rows of stones: the first row shall be a sardius, a topaz, and a carbuncle: this shall be the first row.

18 And the second row shall be an emerald, a sapphire, and a diamond.

19 And the third row a figure, an agate, and an amethyst.

20 And the fourth row a beryl, and an onyx, and a jasper: they shall be set in gold in their inclosings.

21 And the stones shall be with the names of the children of Israel, twelve, according to their names, like the engravings of a signet; every one with his name shall they be according to the twelve tribes.

We do not have the time today to study the truth revealed in each of these jewels, so I shall quickly go through them to hopefully give you a flavour of the riches they contain.

The SARDIUS of the tribe of Judah is sometimes described as a ruby. Judah means 'praise', and is the tribe that Jesus was born into, so it is no surprise that it is given the 'position of honour' at top left [which is on the right hand, if viewed from the throne]. It is the Hebrew for 'blushing', which is what someone praising from the heart with joy would be doing – your face is glowing with the blood.

The TOPAZ of the tribe of Issachar. Issachar means 'bearer of burdens / discerning the times' – and you can see that in following The LORD we need that spirit of discernment – to see and know [with crystal clarity] as The LORD sees. It also brings those qualities of prophecy and vision, of leadership and understanding – and these are all burdens. [type – Winston Churchill]

The CARBUNCLE of the tribe of Zebulon reveals His dwelling-place [abiding in Him, and He in us], while the EMERALD of Reuben speaks of the first-born son nature. [The inheritor?]

The heavenly SAPPHIRE of Simeon brings a hearing ear [understanding], and the DIAMOND of the tribe of Gad is a company of overcomers. [The remnant seed?]

The LIGURE, or JACINTH of the tribe of Ephraim makes Doubly Fruitful, while the AGATE of Manasseh shows forgetfulness [I think]. Our sins are not only forgiven, but forgotten by His mercy. The AMETHYST of Benjamin is the Son of The Right Hand – when we are in Jesus nature we are seated at The Right Hand of God. The BERYL of the tribe of Dan brings judgement –not necessarily something to fear if we are to be found in Him, in which case the ONYX of the tribe of Asher will reveal happiness and Blessings.

Finally the JASPER of the tribe of Naphtali. Naphtali means wrestling. Now we have much to wrestle with in our lives, not least our own natures. We *do* tend to the nature of Jacob and like to wrestle with angels, but Genesis 30:8 says '**I wrestled with my sister and I have prevailed**' about the birth of Naphtali the man. I believe it speaks of overcoming, of victory in the LORD, but I have also heard mention that this is a type of the true church – the true church and the man-made church being 'sisters'. Still a type for the overcoming nature, I feel.

This is a marvellous blueprint for living a Godly life, for each jewel is an aspect and a revelation of God's nature, and we each have something to learn depending on what the LORD is revealing in each heart.

And we should also notice and pay special attention to the fact that all these stones are 'set in' and 'enclosed' in gold – the nature of God, but also revealing how God encloses, covers and protects His special possessions with His own nature

13 Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created.
EZEKIEL 28:13

Hallelujah! Not only are we jewels for God, but that precious stone nature has been '**prepared in us, in the day we were created**' – all that is needed is for Jesus Christ's nature to be awakened in us for that to grow. '**Every precious stone was thy covering**'. But as subsequent verses make clear, we must remain under that covering – under that government.

Some weeks ago, John had a vision for Gill and I – and I remember him talking of seeing a fence – and that this was a fence around us – hedging us in. I believe that – just as the stones are 'enclosed' in the gold of God's nature – the garden [**Eden, the garden of God**'] is an enclosure – and it is a fundamental with God to protect, cover and enclose His special possessions, if we will allow Him to do so.

And our LORD wants to protect His creation – He desires to hedge us about. And that is what 'paradise' really means – an enclosure, a garden enclosed, a park.

Throughout scripture we see God again and again protecting His special possessions:

- Moses in his basket among the bulrushes

- Noah and his family and two of each kind in the Ark
- The Ark of the Testimony in the Holy of Holies – a protecting enclosure to hold the most precious of all – the Ark itself enclosed and covered by the Mercy Seat.
- The infant Jesus in His manger [also a parallel with Moses in his basket]. And incidentally the word 'basket' comes from an Hebrew root meaning to exalt, prize or esteem highly.
- The apostle Paul in Acts chapter 9: **25 Then the disciples took him by night, and let him down by the wall in a basket.**
- Deuteronomy 26 opens with such a profound and foundational word **'1 And it shall be, when thou art come in unto the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance, and possessest it, and dwellest therein; 2 That thou shalt take of the first of all the fruit of the earth, which thou shalt bring of thy land that the LORD thy God giveth thee, and shalt put it in a basket, and shalt go unto the place which the LORD thy God shall choose to place his name there.'**

Oh what a blessed people we are with such a God – protecting and securing us – enclosing and covering us!

God has hedged us about with 'ancient landmarks' for our protection and governance. Deuteronomy 27:17 **'17 Cursed be he that removeth his neighbour's landmark. And all the people shall say, Amen.'** These 'ancient landmarks' – like the stones we see just out there, were pegs or stones marking the boundaries of territory. They create an enclosure. Now, the Devil wants to continually 'move the goalposts' in a spiritual sense. He came to rob and to steal and to kill, and he is out to move those landmarks within – steal your land from you, rob you of your inheritance, lead you from life in the LORD into death – and at the same time purloin another jewel from God's treasure chest.

If you remember Job, and how God had Job 'hedged about' – Job 3
**'23 Why is light given to a man whose way is hid, and whom
God hath hedged in?'** Job was sealed by God, so that however
much the Devil tried, Job still could choose God – **'though He
slay me, yet will I trust in Him'** JOB 13:23

These landmarks are God's truth sealed in us. The kingdom of
God. **'...for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.'**
Hallelujah!

And every kingdom has a government – and if God is not your
government, then it is not God's kingdom you are dwelling in.
But I want to come to a close now, and I would like us to return
to where we were with Graham – was it last week? Val certainly
read from here only yesterday. Isaiah 58:11 **'And the LORD shall
guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make
fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a
spring of water, whose waters fail not.'**

What a wonderful depiction of His covering. When Gill shared
her vision about the jewels I imagined a spring of water, with the
jewels at the base – the clear spring water bubbling through
them, brightening and polishing those precious stones. The
scripture says 'like a watered garden' – what a wonderful image!
In verse 12 we read...

**'12 And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places:
thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and
thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of
paths to dwell in.'**

Again, how wonderful. Our Lord will restore – so long as we 'be
of thee'. Our God has the strength, the power, and better still,
the will to do it – to restore us when we stray from the narrow
path. I want His protection – for myself – for us all. As it says in

Song of Solomon 2 '6 His left hand is under my head, and his right hand doth embrace me.'

I remembered the song – written by Sam Fife many years ago, that Gill and I were trying to recall before, which I feel is particularly appropriate now. I shall croak it to you now and if you can forgive the wrong key and the bad notes, maybe you can get an idea of the expression.

**There is a path that no fowl knoweth
The vulture's eye hath never seen
Where no thorn tree nor thistle groweth
No hedge to hinder, completely clean.**

**High on the mountains
Above earth's stormy sphere
Above the heaven's coral plain
It's paved with gold
And precious stones so dear
It leads to life, the highest gain.**

**To walk this path there is a cross to bear
But at the end there is a crown to wear
A crown of life and love unheard before
When we shall pass o'er on the other shore.**