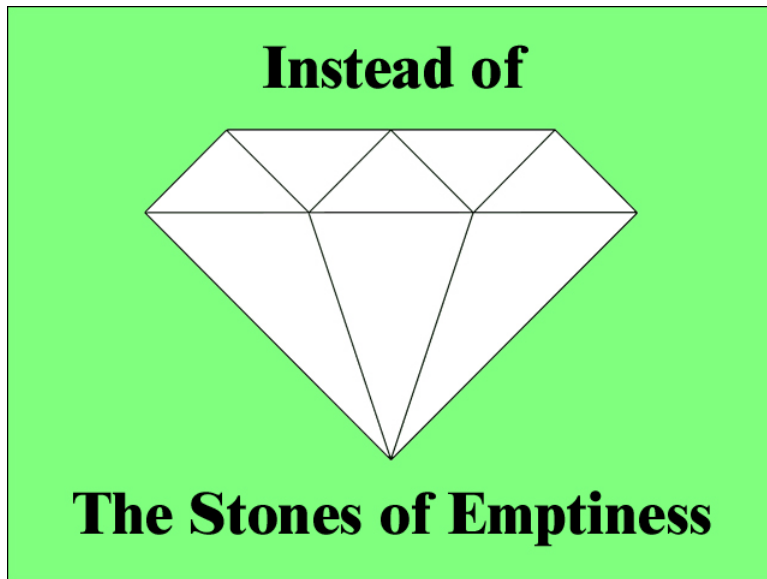


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INSTEAD OF THE STONES OF EMPTINESS
By Duane V. Maxey



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"For it is The Day Of The Lord's Vengeance, and the year of recompences for the controversy of Zion... and he shall stretch out upon it the line of confusion, and THE STONES OF EMPTINESS" (Isaiah 34:8, 11).

In the recent past, I have heard a certain jewelry dealer advertise over the radio: "A diamond is forever." And, it was asserted that a diamond is what every woman wants. Many vain women who delight in decking themselves out with jewelry may indeed want them, but in their present state those prized stones are not forever. On "The Day of the Lord's Vengeance," mentioned in verse 8 above, "the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up" (2 Pet. 3:10); -- and that includes the diamonds, the gold, the silver, and all other precious metals and stones of this earth and this universe. How empty it is to seek after such prized, but mundane treasures. Proud people shall pass away from these "stones of emptiness" and in their present state the stones themselves shall also pass away, and undergo a change into that "better and enduring substance" mentioned in Hebrews 10:34.

"Though the world from you withhold
Of its silver and its gold,
And you have to get along with meager fare,
Just remember in His Word how He feeds the little bird,
Take your burden to the Lord and leave it there."

"We brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out" (1 Tim. 6:7). But, the fact that we cannot take anything out of this world does not mean that God's children shall HAVE NOTHING in the New Heavens and New Earth, for "the wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just" (Prov. 13:22). Today, so to speak:

"All the gold in California
Is in a bank in the middle of Beverly Hills
In somebody else's name,"

but in the world to come, "all the gold in California" and all the gold God ever created will belong to Christ and His children! -- and, it will be there in its "better and enduring" state. Saint of God, you are going to be so rich in heaven that you will be walking on that glorified gold! -- "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" (Rev. 21:21).

Furthermore, though diamonds really ARE FOREVER, they shall not so exist as the adornments and jewels of the proud wicked. With all other gems in their glorified state they shall glisten in glory for Christ and His children!

Following the great "reaping" at Christ's Return, the wicked shall "beg in harvest, and have nothing" (Prov. 20:4). Those who, in their pride, sought, bought, owned, and bedecked themselves with this earth's jewels shall have "nothing" -- either materially or spiritually. Bereft of all, they shall be impoverished beggars who eternally "have nothing"! The wealth they laid up on earth shall become the eternal inheritance of the just.

When God tells his humble and holy people in 1 Corinthians 3:21, "ALL THINGS ARE YOURS," HE MEANS WHAT HE SAYS. Saint of God, along with Christ and all spiritual things, all of the substance that Christ has created is yours also -- in its glorified state: "because the creature (the ktisis -- the creation) itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God" (Rom. 8:21). Along with God's children, the innocent animal and material creation of God shall be transformed into their glorified state at Christ's Return, and that glorified matter shall be inherited by the just.

Child of God, have you had to "get along with meager fare" in this world? Remember, your

**"Father is rich in houses and lands,
He holdeth the wealth of the world in His hands;
Of rubies and diamonds, of silver and gold,
His coffer are full -- He has riches untold!"**

And He says in Rev. 21:7, "He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son."

The day fast approaches when "the Lord of Hosts" shall "make up His jewels" (Mal. 3:17), and those jewels shall consist of "a better and an enduring substance" -- and along with "all things" in Heaven, they shall be inherited by His children.

Of course, Christ and all spiritual things shall be the greatest treasure in Heaven, but the glorified stones and substance of His Creation shall also be part of Heaven's treasure:

"And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass. 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; 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. 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" (Rev. 21:18-21).

Do I hear a doubter? saying, "I think that all of the above is figurative language." I shan't argue the MATTER. Whatever the case about the MATTER in the above passage, "INSTEAD OF THE STONES OF EMPTINESS," in heaven God's people shall inherit "THE STONES OF FULLNESS" through "the fulness of Him that filleth all in all" (Eph. 1:23).

Do I hear a loud HALLELUJAH!? Both now, and in glory, the saints shall not let the stones shout Christ's praises first!

On this earth, when Jesus "was come nigh, even now at the descent of the mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen; Saying, Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord: peace in heaven, and glory in the highest. And some of the Pharisees from among the multitude said unto him, Master, rebuke thy disciples. And He answered and said unto them, I tell you that, IF THESE SHOULD HOLD THEIR PEACE, THE STONES WOULD IMMEDIATELY CRY OUT" (Luke 19:37-40).

It may be that THE STONES OF FULLNESS in Heaven will not only SHINE, but also SHOUT the praises of Him who "filleth all in all"! Shall it be? in the Holy City that "the stone shall cry out of the wall," PRAISE THE LORD! "and the beam out of the timber shall answer it," AMEN! (Hab 2:11).

It IS certain that all of the "lively stones" (1 Pet. 2:5) of God's "spiritual house" in Heaven will be shining and shouting the praises of Christ, "for Whom are all things, and by Whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory" (Heb 2:10). "Unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. AMEN" (Eph 3:21).

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THE END