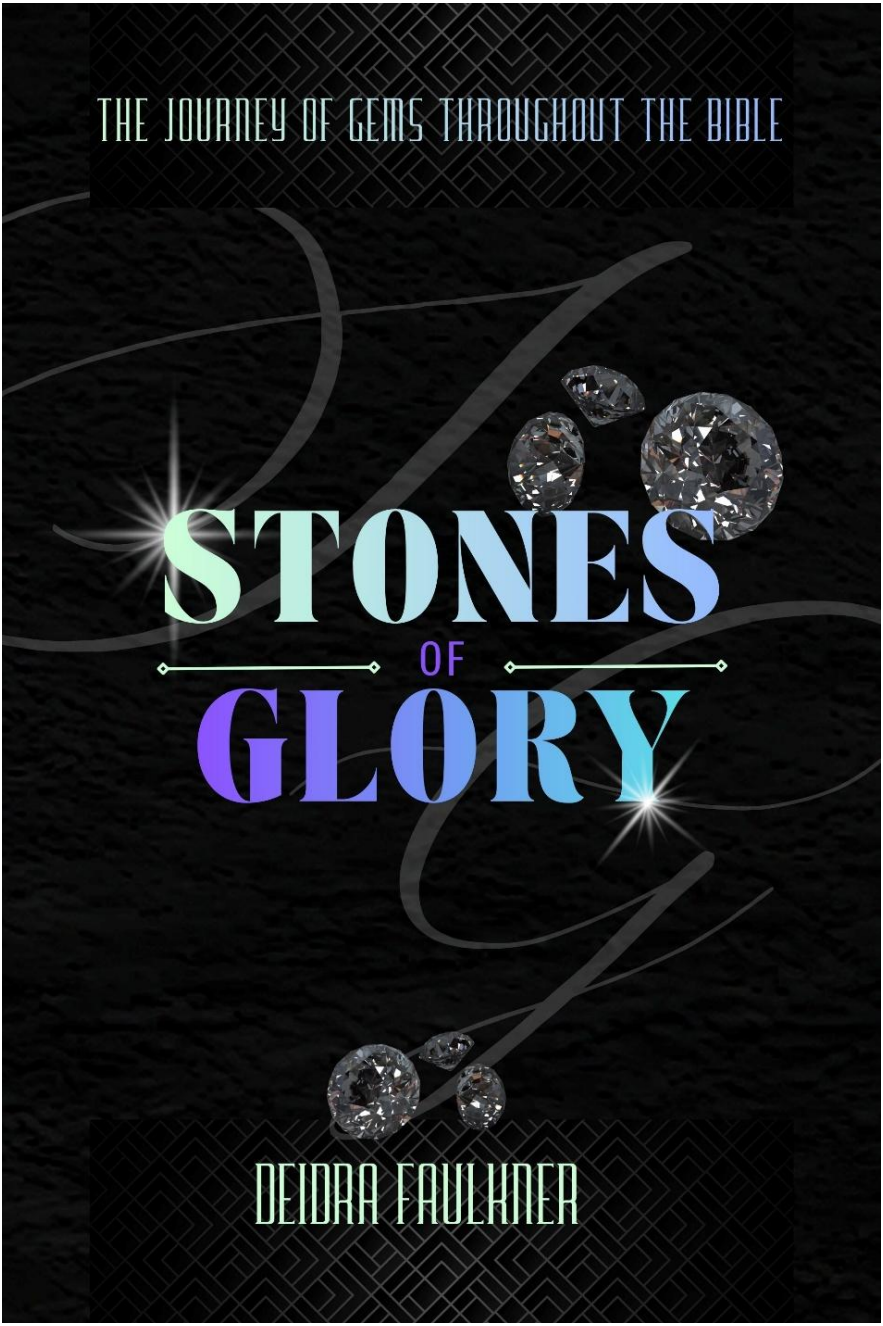
THE JOURNEY OF GEMS THROUGHOUT THE BIBLE



STONES OF GLORY

DEIDRA FAULKNER

Stones of Glory: The Journey of Gems Throughout the Bible
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DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to the loving memory of my father,
John I. Sheppard.

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Every book is a journey, and no journey is traveled alone. This work was born through prayer, refined through patience, and strengthened by the love and support of many hearts whose faith and encouragement became its foundation stones.

To God

First and always, I give glory to God, the Master Builder, the Author and Finisher of my faith, and the One who laid the foundations of heaven and of my life. The words in these pages are inspired by Him. May His presence continue to shape, purify, and illuminate all who read.

To My Family

To my husband, Tyrone, whose steadfast love and quiet strength have been my anchor. You are a gift from God. Thank you for always being there. To my children, Nigel, LaShanda, Tyrone, Jr., and grandchildren, your laughter, wisdom, and faith remind me daily of God's generational promise. You are my living legacy, my joy, and my reason to keep building. To my mother, Alfreda Levaine, thank you for loving and encouraging me in so many ways. I admire your beauty and strength. To my mother-in-law, Mary Anderson, thank you for your love and support. To my siblings, Alfred, John, and Antoinette, I love you more than words can say. To all my extended family, I love you all.

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To My Creative Collaborators

To Dee Lashawn Lockett, who helped shape the design, editing, and presentation of this book, your artistry and precision brought beauty to revelation. You turned words into architecture and ideas into light.

To Every Reader

You are the reason this book exists. May these pages remind you that you are chosen, crafted, and placed by God. May you discover your own foundation stones and build your life upon His eternal design.

Final Gratitude

To every unseen hand, whispered prayer, and moment of grace from those who impacted my life and this work, thank you. This book is not only mine; it is ours. Together, we are being built into a spiritual house, strong and radiant, for His glory.

PREFACE

A Book Built of Stones

This book began as a whisper.

A whisper from Scripture… A whisper from the foundations of heaven… A whisper from the heart of God calling His people to remember who they are, what they carry, and what they are becoming.

The twelve stones of the New Jerusalem are beautiful mysteries; shimmering symbols tucked inside Revelation's closing chapters. But as I prayed, studied, and listened, I realized they were not simply decorations of a future city. They were revelations of a present work. They were mirrors of the believer's transformation. They were the architecture of God's process in His people.

Each stone carries a message. Each message carries a meaning. Each meaning carries a transformation. This book is the unfolding of those messages.

Why Stones?

Stones are permanent. Stones are foundational. Stones are chosen. Stones are shaped. Stones are placed. And so are you.

The stones of the New Jerusalem reveal the nature of God; His glory, His wisdom, His purity, His fire, His life. But they also reveal the nature He is forming within His people. As you journey through these chapters, you will discover that

the stones are not only beneath heaven's city, but they are also beneath your feet, within your spirit, and woven into your destiny. This book is not about gemstones. It is about transformation.

A Journey of Becoming

You will walk through glory, revelation, strength, life, identity, passion, purity, refreshing, illumination, hope, fire, and wisdom; not as distant theological concepts, but as spiritual realities God is building within you.

You will see yourself as:

- **A living stone** shaped by God's hand
- **A kingdom builder** assigned to God's work
- **A finisher** empowered by Holy Spirit

This journey is not linear; it is layered. It is the slow, beautiful, intentional construction of a life aligned with heaven.

A Book for Builders, Believers, and Seekers

This book is written for those who:

- Sense God shaping them
- Feel heaven calling them
- Know there is more within them
- Desire deeper identity and a stronger foundation
- Long to understand the architecture of their spiritual life

It is written for those who are building something — a ministry, a calling, a family, a legacy — and need the strength of heaven beneath their feet. It is written for those who want to finish well.

A Word to the Reader

As you turn these pages, I pray you feel the weight of glory and the warmth of God's presence. I pray you see yourself in the stones, not as a spectator, but as a participant in God's eternal design. Understand that you are not random, unfinished, nor overlooked, but you are chosen, crafted, and placed. You are becoming.

May this book awaken your identity, strengthen your foundation, and align your life with the architecture of heaven. Welcome to the journey. Welcome to the stones. Welcome to the building of you.

Notes

CHAPTER ONE
The God of Creation and Color

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."
(Genesis 1:1)

In the beginning, before time ever unfurled its first breath, the Lord God Almighty created the heavens and the earth. Every mountain peak, every ocean depth, every whisper of wind was shaped by His sovereign hand. His thoughts rise higher than the highest star, and His ways stretch beyond the imagination of man. When I consider His works, I stand in awe — humbled, inspired, and awakened to the beauty of His divine design.

God is the Creator of light, and within light dwells the mystery of color. Every hue, every shade, every radiant glimmer in creation reflects His brilliance. As one gemologist wrote, *"The color of a gem depends largely on the way it absorbs light."*

What a powerful truth: even the stones cry out and preach the gospel of light. From the beginning, God wove color into creation not merely for beauty, but for purpose. The colors speak. The stones speak. Creation itself speaks, declaring the glory of God to all who pause long enough to see.

The Creative Spark Within

Because God created me in His image and likeness, the creative nature within Him also lives within me. It has

always been there, even when I was a little girl sewing tiny garments for my dolls with nothing more than fabric scraps, a needle, and thread. What began as childhood play grew into a lifelong skill. I learned to sew clothing for myself and eventually for others, discovering joy in the work of my hands. Designing jewelry came later, almost unexpectedly.

I once owned a beautiful stacked-stretch bracelet set; colorful, vibrant, full of life. I wore it nearly every day until one day one bracelet snapped, scattering beads across the floor. Thankfully, every bead fell where I could retrieve it. For a long time, the broken bracelet sat untouched in my jewelry box. I didn't know how to fix it.

But one day, a simple thought came to me: Maybe I can repair it. I bought stretch cord, restrung the beads, tied the knot, and just like that, the bracelet was whole again. That small moment opened a door I didn't know existed. Soon I was buying beads, tools, and supplies. Bracelets turned into earrings, earrings into necklaces, and necklaces into full sets. I was creating, exploring, imagining, and loving every moment of it!

The colors stirred something spiritual in me. They made me wonder about the precious stones God Himself created, stones mentioned throughout Scripture, stones woven into the foundations of heaven, stones chosen to represent tribes, covenants, and divine truth.

Genesis 1:31 declares, *"And God saw everything that He had made, and behold, it was very good."* If God called it good, then surely there is purpose in every stone He formed.

The Enemy's Counterfeit

Where God creates, Satan counterfeits. He twists what is holy and distorts what is pure. That is why this book does not exist for mysticism, superstition, or the worship of minerals. It exists to glorify God, to illuminate His symbolism, and to honor the One who crafted every stone with intention.

Revelation 21:19-20 describes the heavenly city, its foundations adorned with precious stones of every kind: jasper, sapphire, chalcedony, emerald, sardonyx, sardius, chrysolite, beryl, topaz, chrysoprase, jacinth, and amethyst. These stones are not random. They are divine choices. Their meanings and symbolism matter. Their presence in Scripture invites us to explore the heart of God.

A Firm Foundation

Before we study each stone, we must begin with the greatest stone of all, Jesus Christ, the Chief Cornerstone. Matthew 16:18 declares*: "Upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."*

Christ is the Rock of Ages; steady, immovable, eternal. He is the foundation upon which every believer stands. As believers, we're called lively stones, built into a spiritual

house, strengthened by His presence and secured by His covenant.

When life shakes us, we cling to the Rock. When storms rise, we anchor ourselves in Him. When faith is tested, we remember that our foundation cannot fail. Our anchor holds and grips to the solid Rock.

Covenant: The Stones of Promise

"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. And the second row shall be an emerald, a sapphire, and a diamond. And the third row a ligure, an agate, and an amethyst. And the fourth row a beryl, and an onyx, and a jasper: they shall be set in gold in their inclosings. 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." (Exodus 28:17-21)

Precious stones also symbolize the twelve tribes of Israel, God's chosen people. Each tribe was engraved upon the breastplate of the high priest, set in four rows of stones — twelve stones for twelve tribes, twelve tribes for one covenant.

Covenant is the heartbeat of God. The Hebrew word ***b'riyth*** means agreement or alliance — a binding promise sealed by God's character.

God is not a man that He should lie. His promises to the believers are yes and amen.

Though humanity has broken covenant with God again and again, God remains faithful. Through Jesus Christ, the breach is repaired. The gap is closed. We can now come boldly before the throne of grace, carrying His Word written upon our hearts.

To walk in covenant with God is to walk in alignment with Him. This means we deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow Him daily. When we do, the Holy Spirit nourishes us like a watered garden, causing rivers of living water to flow from within us.

When we delight ourselves in Him, the blessings of covenant unfold:

We are blessed going out and coming in. We are the head and not the tail. We are above only and not beneath. We are lenders and not borrowers. We are first and not last. All of this, every promise, rests upon covenant with God.

The Journey Ahead

This book is an invitation, an exploration. It's a spiritual excavation of the stones God created, the meanings He embedded within them, and the truths they reveal about His nature, His covenant, and His people. Let's explore.

Reflections

1. Where do you see evidence of God's creativity and intentional design in your own life?
2. What gifts or creative abilities has God placed within you that you may have overlooked or undervalued?
3. How can you become more intentional about recognizing God's purpose in the things He has created?

CHAPTER TWO
Light, Color, and Divine Symbolism

"And God said, Let there be light: and there was light."
(Genesis 1:3)

Light was the first gift God spoke into existence. Before land, before sky, before the separation of waters, before the formation of man, God said, "Let there be light," and light obeyed. Light is not merely a physical phenomenon; it is revelation, truth, and the unveiling of God's nature. Everything that exists is seen, understood, and interpreted through light. Without light, we would be in darkness. But Jesus came and delivered us out of darkness and into the marvelous light of the kingdom of God.

Color is born from light. Every shade, every hue, every radiant glimmer in creation is a testimony of how light interacts with matter. When light touches a surface, it reveals what that surface is capable of reflecting. In this way, color becomes a language, a divine vocabulary woven into creation. Much like man, when the light of Christ shines on us, it reveals who we really are.

Scientists explain that the color of a gem depends on how it absorbs and reflects light. But spiritually, color is more than physics. It is symbolism, meaning, and message. God is a great communicator, and He uses color throughout Scripture to communicate truth, identity, and purpose. The color red speaks of redemption, blue speaks of heaven,

green speaks of life, purple speaks of royalty, and gold speaks of glory. Creation is not silent. It speaks loudly, clearly, and consistently to those who have ears to hear.

Light as Revelation

Light reveals what darkness hides. It exposes truth, uncovers beauty, and brings clarity. When God created light, He established the principle that everything He does is meant to be seen. God does not work in shadows; He works in revelation.

Throughout Scripture, light symbolizes:

- **God's presence**
- **God's truth**
- **God's guidance**
- **God's glory**

When Moses encountered God on Mount Sinai, the glory of the Lord shined so brightly that Moses' face radiated light. When Jesus was transfigured, His face shined like the sun. When the Apostle Paul met Christ on the Damascus Road, he was surrounded by a light brighter than the noonday sun. Light is God's signature. He is the God of light. And because color is the child of light, color becomes part of God's signature as well.

Color as Divine Communication

Color is not random. It is intentional, purposeful, and spiritual.

God instructed Moses to use specific colors in the tabernacle — blue, purple, and scarlet — each carrying symbolic meaning. The priestly garments were adorned with colors that represented heaven, royalty, sacrifice, and holiness. Even the curtains and coverings were dyed with colors that preached sermons without words.

Color communicates:

- **Identity**
- **Covenant**
- **Holiness**
- **Purpose**
- **Promise**

When God chose stones for the breastplate of the high priest, He chose stones of color, each one representing a tribe, a destiny, and a divine promise. When He designed the foundations of the heavenly city, He chose stones of color, each one reflecting His glory in a unique way. Color is a divine language and gemstones are divine messengers.

The Enemy's Counterfeit

Where God uses color and stones to reveal truth, Satan uses them to distort truth. He counterfeits what God creates. He twists symbolism into superstition, spirituality into mysticism, and divine meaning into worldly deception.

This is why believers must approach symbolism with discernment. We do not worship stones. We do not assign mystical powers to minerals. We do not seek energy from

creation. We seek revelation from God the Creator. He alone reveals the truth.

The purpose of this book is not to worship stones, but to worship God, who created them. It is to illuminate the divine symbolism He embedded within creation, symbolism that points us back to Him.

Seeing God Through Creation

When we look at creation through spiritual eyes, we begin to see God everywhere:

- In the sunrise that paints the sky with color
- In the rainbow that arches across the heavens
- In the gemstone that glimmers with divine brilliance
- In the flowers that bloom in radiant hues
- In the ocean that shifts from deep blue to emerald green

Creation is a canvas and color is the paint. Light is the brush and God is the Artist. When we understand this, we begin to appreciate the beauty of stones not as objects of fascination, but as reflections of God's glory.

The Invitation to See Differently

God invites us to see beyond the surface — to look deeper, to perceive spiritually, to recognize His fingerprints in the natural world. When we understand the symbolism of color and light, we begin to understand why God chose specific

stones to represent His covenant, His people, and His heavenly city.

This chapter is an invitation to see differently: Allow yourself to see color as revelation, light as truth, stones as symbols, creation as a message, and God in everything He made. As we journey through the stones of Scripture, may our spiritual eyes be opened to the beauty, depth, and divine intention behind each one.

Reflections

1. In what area of your life do you need God's light to bring greater truth or clarity?
2. How has God used something in creation to help you recognize or understand something about Him?
3. What might change if you began looking beyond what you see naturally and asked God to help you perceive spiritually?

Notes

- We are above only and not beneath
- We are lenders and not borrowers
- We are first and not last

These blessings are promised to those who walk in alignment with God.

Covenant and the Stones of Heaven

The twelve stones in Revelation 21:19-20 echo the twelve stones of Exodus 28:17-21. The covenant God established on earth is reflected in heaven. The identity He gave His people is engraved in eternity.

The foundations of the New Jerusalem are not just architectural, but they are covenantal. They declare that God's promises endure forever.

The stones of heaven remind us:

- God remembers His people
- God fulfills His promises
- God honors His covenant
- God establishes His Word
- God completes what He begins

Covenant is eternal, written in stone, sealed in heaven, and fulfilled in Christ.

A Call to Covenant Living

To live in covenant is to live in:

- Alignment
- Obedience
- Surrender
- Faithfulness
- Identity
- Purpose

It is to walk with God daily, to honor His Word, and to reflect His nature. As we journey into the symbolism of the precious stones, let us remember that each stone is rooted in covenant, a reminder that God's promises are unbreakable, His love is unwavering, and His faithfulness is eternal.

Reflections

1. What promise of God do you need to remember and stand upon in this season?
2. Is there an area where God is calling you back into greater obedience, surrender, or alignment with Him?
3. How does understanding God as a covenant-keeping God affect the way you view your identity and future?

CHAPTER SIX
Jasper: The Stone of Glory

Jasper is the first stone named in the foundations of the heavenly city, and Scripture introduces it with a sense of awe. When John the Revelator saw the New Jerusalem descending out of heaven, he described its brilliance as "like a jasper stone, clear as crystal." Jasper is not merely a mineral; it is a revelation of God's glory.

In the natural world, jasper appears in many colors — red, yellow, brown, green, and even multicolored patterns. But the jasper John saw was not earthly jasper. It was heavenly jasper — radiant, crystalline, and filled with divine light. Earthly jasper reflects the beauty of creation; heavenly jasper reflects the beauty of the Creator.

Jasper is the stone of glory because it symbolizes the nature of God Himself: brilliant, radiant, pure, and eternal.

Jasper in Scripture

Jasper appears in both the Old and New Testaments, and each appearance reveals something about God's character.

In Exodus, jasper is one of the stones on the high priest's breastplate, representing one of the tribes of Israel.

In Ezekiel, jasper is part of the vision of God's throne, shining with fiery brilliance.

In Revelation, jasper is the first stone mentioned in the foundation of the New Jerusalem and is used to describe the appearance of God on His throne.

Jasper is consistently associated with glory, holiness, purity, and the presence of God. When God chooses a stone to represent His glory, He chooses jasper.

The Color of Glory

Color carries meaning, and jasper's colors speak prophetically.

Red Jasper — The Glory of Redemption

Red symbolizes the blood of Jesus, the sacrifice that cleanses and restores. Red jasper reminds us that glory is not possible without redemption. The glory of God is revealed through the finished work of Christ.

Green Jasper — The Glory of Life

Green symbolizes life, growth, and renewal. Green jasper reflects the glory of God as the giver of life, the One who restores, refreshes, and causes all things to flourish.

Yellow Jasper — The Glory of Light

Yellow symbolizes illumination, revelation, and divine insight. Yellow jasper reminds us that God's glory brings clarity, wisdom, and understanding.

Building Through Sacrifice

Building the kingdom requires sacrifice: time, energy, resources, comfort, and convenience. But sacrifice is not loss; it is investment. Jesus said in Matthew 6:21, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Builders invest in eternity.

Building What God Assigns

Not every believer builds the same thing. God assigns different roles:

Some build through teaching

Some build through serving

Some build through giving

Some build through intercession

Some build through leadership

Some build through evangelism

Some build through creativity

Some build through compassion

Every assignment matters. Every role is sacred. Every builder is needed. You are assigned to build something only you can build. What is your assignment?

Building With Eternal Vision

Kingdom builders do not build for today; they build for eternity. They see beyond the present moment and recognize that their work echoes into generations and into heaven itself.

Eternal vision means:

- Seeing what God sees
- Building what God desires
- Planting what God will grow
- Establishing what God will complete

Builders of the kingdom build with eternity in mind.

The Reward of a Kingdom Builder

God honors those who build His kingdom. Scripture promises:

- Eternal reward
- Divine favor
- Spiritual authority
- Heavenly recognition
- Lasting impact

Your labor is not in vain. Your sacrifice is not unnoticed. Your work is not forgotten. Builders receive the reward of the Builder.

A Call to Build

Chapter Nineteen is your commissioning. God is calling you to:

- Build intentionally
- Build faithfully
- Build courageously
- Build sacrificially
- Build eternally

You are not only a living stone, you are a kingdom builder!

Reflections

1. What has God entrusted you to build in this season of your life?
2. Are you building that assignment on Christ, or have ambition, fear, comparison, or personal preference begun influencing the foundation?
3. What specific action can you take to become a more faithful, excellent, and collaborative kingdom builder?

A Prayer of Commissioning

Father, thank You for calling me to build Your kingdom. Equip my hands. Strengthen my heart. Clarify my assignment. Unify me with Your people. Help me build with excellence, obedience, and eternal vision. Let my life construct something that brings You glory. In Jesus' name, amen.

Notes