

Chapter 2 – Simeon and the Topaz

The second stone is **topaz (6357)**: (pitdah /pit-daw’/)¹ a yellow gem. Topaz is the ninth foundation stone of New Jerusalem (Rev. 21:20).

Symbols in the stone

Yellow represents liberty and divine exaltation through the Holy Spirit (Ps. 68:13); faith in God and purity (Zech. 13:9; Rev. 3:18); works that please God (1 Cor. 3:12-15; 2 Tim. 2:19-21) *Note: Since gold is yellow, the color takes on the symbolic properties of the element.*

Observation: In the context of Ps. 68 where “yellow” is mentioned, it speaks of how even those who do the lowliest tasks and may have the lowest status in life by man’s standards are the ones God will reward in due time if they are faithful saints.

Symbols in the order of the stone

Two is the number of witness or testimony (Deut. 19:15; Matt. 18:16); it also means teamwork, partnership, and companionship (Deut. 32:30; Eccl. 4:9-11; Amos 3:3). The cardinal number two and the ordinal number *second* can also refer to division and separation (Gen. 1:6-8; 2 Chron. 10:16-19; 1 Ki. 16:21; Acts 15:36-41). This separation can result from either positive or negative situations. The Lord will one day divide people into two camps--the sheep and the goats (the children of God and the children of the devil). Until that day, believers are to be separate (sanctified) from the world’s way of thinking and behaving (2 Cor. 6:14-17).

Facts about Simeon

- ▶ He was Jacob’s second son through Leah.
- ▶ His name means “Hearing” because the Lord heard that Leah was hated for her lack of physical beauty and blessed her.
- ▶ Simeon, with Levi’s help, slew all the Hivite men in the town where Hamor and his son Shechem lived because Shechem laid with their sister Dinah.
- ▶ The men of Simeon helped the men of Judah drive out the Canaanites when Judah was ready to settle in the promised land.

Jacob’s prophecy concerning Simeon

“Simeon and Levi are brethren; instruments of cruelty are in their habitations. O my soul, come not thou into their secret; unto their assembly, mine honour, be not thou united: for in their anger they slew a man, and in their selfwill they digged down a wall. Cursed be their anger, for it was fierce; and their wrath, for it was cruel: I will divide them in Jacob, and scatter them in Israel.” (Gen. 49:5-7)

¹ Strong, p. 94.

This is a negative prophecy. Therefore, we should take it as a warning and its spiritual application should be taken as the opposite of what is said.

Simeon (“hearing”) and Levi (“joined”) share this prophecy. They are brothers literally and figuratively which means they share the same fate and are united in accomplishing certain goals. They have a partnership. Since Simeon and Levi were united in bringing forth evil, when settling the promised land they were to be divided and scattered.

Simeon is the only tribe without a specific blessing from Moses. The tribe settled right in the middle of the land of Judah and eventually was assimilated into Judah to disappear. Levi was not allowed to own property when Israel was settled. Instead, they were assigned to live in 48 cities scattered throughout the land of Israel.

Spiritually speaking, God *hears* us because we are *joined* to him and we are *joined* to him because he *hears* us at the moment we believe and confess that Jesus is Lord. God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble (Jas. 4:6; 1 Pet. 5:5). If we want him to hear us, we must be a repentant and contrite people (Ps. 34:18; 51:17; Isa. 57:15). One of our goals as Christians should be to constantly place ourselves in a position to hear God.

Applications:

- ▶ As Christians, we should not be instruments of cruelty but of mercy and longsuffering toward others (Mat. 5:7; Col. 3:12, 13). However, there are times we are to carry out judgments against people which might seem cruel but must be carried out because we love God (e.g. 1 Tim 6:3-5).
- ▶ Avoid entering into partnerships and friendships with those who let their anger lead them into sin because they will influence you to become like them (Prov. 22:24,25; 1 Cor. 15:33).
- ▶ Christians are allowed to be angry as long as they don’t sin in the process (Eph. 4:26). Uncontrolled anger leads to harming others needlessly which, in turn, leads to severe judgment (Matt. 5:21-22).
- ▶ Selfwill is dangerous because people under its influence end up destroying walls of protection that are built up to keep them safe.
- ▶ Fierce anger and cruel wrath bring a curse, i.e. severe consequences. A Christian, therefore, must display gentleness and temperance (restraint).

Observation: When unity hinders God’s purposes from being fulfilled, he causes divisions in the midst of the united parties to scatter them away from each other (Gen. 11:5-9; Matt. 10:34-36).

In summary, Simeon and the topaz represent the following: Liberty and exaltation through the Holy Spirit; faith in God; purity; works that please God; witnessing; blessings from the Lord on our godly partnerships but curses on our ungodly ones; sanctification; the process of God hearing us and us hearing God; mercy; longsuffering; gentleness; temperance.