

## Chapter 6–Naphtali and the Diamond

The sixth stone is the **diamond(3095)**: (yahalom /yah-hal-ome’/) from the root word *halam /haw-lam’/* meaning to strike down or hammer; to conquer; the use of this root word denotes the hardness of the stone.<sup>1</sup> As a matter of fact, the diamond is the hardest known jewel.

### Symbols in the stone

The hardness of the diamond is symbolic of Christians conquering sin, the devil, the world, and hell through the Lord Jesus Christ (Rom. 8:37; 1 Cor. 15:57; 1 John 5:4).

The crystal clearness of the diamond is symbolic of purity or the lack of guile (deceit). This encompasses purity of character as well as purity of motives.

### Symbols in the stone’s order

Six is symbolic of the finishing and fulfillment of God’s works; the reproduction of a thing after its kind (sowing and reaping); fruitfulness; replenishment; exercising God-given dominion over something (Gen. 1:24-31).

### Facts about Naphtali

- ▶ His name means “my wrestling.”
- ▶ He was Jacob’s sixth son and the second son of Bilhah, Rachel’s maid.
- ▶ Rachel rejoiced that she had offspring through Bilhah and compared her competition with her sister to bear children as a wrestling match in which she was the victor.

*Observation:* The Christian life is like a wrestling match. Our godly nature is constantly wrestling our sin nature to the point where we do the things we hate and don’t do the things we know we should (Rom. 7:15-21). As if that isn’t enough, we have to wrestle against devils also (Eph. 6:12). Furthermore, we must contend for the faith (Jude 1:3).

- ▶ This tribe settled in the northernmost region of Israel.
- ▶ It was a tribe full of valiant men who helped Deborah and Barak defeat Sisera (Jud. 4:6,10), helped Gideon defeat the Midianites (Jud. 6:35, 7:23-25), and helped David defend his right to rule Israel (1 Chron. 12:34).
- ▶ They were a visible part of the congregation that praised God in the sanctuary (Ps. 68:27).
- ▶ Isaiah predicted that Naphtali along with Zebulun would have the light (the Messiah) shine on them (Isa. 9:1-2). This was fulfilled when Jesus ministered in Capernaum, Chorazin, and Tiberias.

### Jacob’s prophecy about Naphtali

“*Naphtali is a hind let loose: he giveth goodly words.*” (Gen. 49:21)

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<sup>1</sup> Strong, pp. 33, 48.

A *hind* is a female deer that runs along the rocks of mountains (Job 39:1). It could be that the hind is similar to, or the same as, the roe (compare 1 Chron. 12:8 and Ps. 18:33). It was known for its swiftness and grace when running on the rocky mountains. Naphtali would be known for its freedom to move swiftly and gracefully. This proved true whenever Israel needed help to defeat their enemies. As mentioned above, Naphtali moved quickly to Israel's aid when hard times came.

Naphtali's words to Israel during troublesome times were beautiful words of comfort and encouragement. The tribe was also known for blessing God in the congregation (Ps. 68:26-27).

*Application:* Once we repent and surrender to Christ, we are *let loose* from our sins. The Lord gives us freedom to live graciously.

Believers should be ready to move swiftly to aid a cause that pleases God when the opportunity arises. It could be as simple as giving a brother or sister financial assistance, visiting someone who is sick, telling a lost person about Christ, or volunteering time to a Christian organization.

In the same way a hind can move across rocky hills and mountains gracefully without stumbling, saints have the God-given ability to walk through troublesome times with grace as we remain humble so God can order our steps.

When we speak, it should be as the "oracles of God" (1 Pet. 4:11). What a Christian says should "be alway (in every manner) with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how you ought to answer every man" (Col. 4:6). This means we allow God to speak through us to others, which requires us to listen to him first and to apply what he says to our own lives first. We must be mindful that "[a] word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver" (Prov. 25:11). In other words, "a word spoken in due season, how good is it!" (Prov. 15:23)—it's priceless! Our goodly words not only include pleasant, encouraging words, but at times can include rebukes and correction when error and sin need to be addressed. Either way, they should be spoken in love.

### **Moses' prophecy about Naphtali**

*"And of Naphtali he said, O Naphtali, satisfied with favour, and full with the blessing of the LORD: possess thou the west and the south."* (Deut. 33:23)

Naphtali would experience the fullness of God's favour and his blessings which would saturate every aspect of the tribe's existence.

Where this prophecy mentions that Naphtali should possess the west and south, further explanation of what this means is given in Josh. 19:32-39 when the land is divided to the 12 tribes. The bulk of their land was west of the Jordan and to the south of the northern territory of the tribe of Dan. The word *west* here can also be translated *sea* and some Bible commentators take it to refer to the Sea of Chinnereth, which later became known as the Sea of Galilee at the southern border of Naphtali. *West* and *south* can also be used figuratively.

The west is the direction where the sun sets. At the setting of the sun, men rest from their labors since the day has come to an end. Spiritually speaking, this has to do with the setting of the Son (Ps. 2:6,7) to reign on the earth starting with the Millennium and afterwards. At the time Christ comes to reign, he will show favour to those who have lived to please him. Therefore, Naphtali possessing the west means that the tribe will receive great rewards from the Lord after they accomplish the things he called them to do.

The south is known as the direction where there is warmth, comfort, leisure, and

refreshment (Job 37:17; Ps. 126:4; Lu. 12:55). Naphtali, therefore, possesses the comfort and refreshment of the Lord. Also as a result of their obedience to him, they will be at ease.

*Application:* The saints of God experience the favour (grace) and blessings of Jehovah in abundance even in the midst of our wrestling in this world. It is important that we work the works of the Father while it is day, for the night comes when no man can work (Jn. 9:4). The setting of the Son will soon be upon us and if we are faithful to the end, we will receive great rewards. Our obedience will bring rest, comfort, and ease in the end, so we must labour to enter into the Lord's rest (Heb. 4:10,11).

**Summary of ideas & characteristics in Naphtali and the diamond:** Victory through Christ in the midst of our spiritual wrestling; fulfillment of our godly works; fruitfulness; sowing and reaping godly blessings; replenishment; comfort; gracefulness in the midst of tribulation; godly speech; freedom from sin; swiftness to do what's right.