

## Chapter 7 – Gad and the Ligure

The seventh stone is **ligure (3958)**: (leshem /leh'-shem/) from the root word *luwsh* (3888) meaning “to knead”; it is a synonym of *Laish* (3919, compare Josh. 19:47 and Jud. 18:29), meaning lion, referring to a lion’s blows to crush his prey.<sup>1</sup> By deduction of these related terms, *ligure* probably means lion and was probably used to crush other substances. Ligure is called *jacinth* in the NT and is the eleventh foundation stone of New Jerusalem.

### Symbols in the stone

Since jacinth is **yellow** (see Rev. 9:17), it symbolizes 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). Since the name of the stone means *lion*, it also represents boldness (Prov. 28:1 “...the righteous are bold as a lion.”). The power to crush and subdue enemies is also implied.

*Observation:* Christ’s enemies have been put under his feet (1 Cor. 15:25) and God will eventually place Satan under the feet of the saints (Rom. 16:20).

### Symbols in the stone’s order

Seven is symbolic of completeness and godly rest (Gen. 2:1-3).

### Facts about Gad

- ▶ His name means “a troop” (Gen. 30:11).
- ▶ Son of Zilpah, Leah’s maid.
- ▶ Jacob’s seventh son.
- ▶ Leah was still competing with her sister to have more children than her, so she gave Zilpah to Jacob to bear more children since she was temporarily unable to conceive.
- ▶ The more children Leah could give Jacob, the more she would be pleasing to her husband, blessed by other women, and blessed by God.
- ▶ Although Leah had the underlying issue of strife between her and her sister, her ultimate goal was to please her husband and to show others that God was pleased with her because she was despised and rejected by others based on her looks. Therefore, her giving Zilpah to be Jacob’s wife was really a selfless act for which God later blessed her.
- ▶ When Leah’s ministry of childbearing for her husband was put on hold, she selflessly supported Zilpah to continue the ministry for her husband and God showed he was pleased by making Zilpah fruitful.

*Application:* If for some reason a ministry that God gives us as a Christian is temporarily stalled, we should give selfless support to another godly ministry until God says otherwise.

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<sup>1</sup> Strong, p. 60.

- ▶ Leah named Zilpah's first son Gad because she knew God would bless her and Zilpah with many descendants.

*Application:* Our ministry at times may seem ineffective. Nevertheless, our determination to please God as Leah was determined to please Jacob must not diminish. If we selflessly support other godly ministries God will cause us and the ministry we support to be fruitful and influence many lives.

### **Jacob's prophecy concerning Gad**

*"Gad, a troop shall overcome him: but he shall overcome at the last."* (Gen. 49:19)

Although Gad was a troop himself, there would be a time when he would be defeated by another troop, but he would eventually be the victor in the end.

*Observation:* Saints are God's troop. There are times when we are defeated by the devil's troop. This will really be evident when the Antichrist comes on the scene to make war with the saints. Nevertheless, because of our faith in Christ, we have been made overcomers (1 Jn. 5:4,5) and will be victorious in the end when Christ physically returns to establish his physical kingdom on the earth (Dan. 7:21,22,25-27; Rev. 13:6,7; 17:14).

### **Moses' prophecy concerning Gad**

*"And of Gad he said, Blessed be he that enlargeth Gad: he dwelleth as a lion, and teareth the arm with the crown of the head."* (Deut. 33:20)

Anyone who causes Gad to expand and increase is blessed. This is also a blessing of God since it is ultimately the Lord who causes increase and enlargement to occur. Expansion includes all things pertaining to Gad whether territorial, population, spiritual, etc.

*Application:* Those who aid in the expansion of God's troops are blessed. They are not ashamed of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ (Rom. 1:16) and they know that he that winneth souls is wise (Prov. 11:30). They rejoice when they see the power of God overtake the lives of others around them.

Like a lion, Gad lives in pursuit of conquering new prey. The men of Gad, like their name implies, were known to be "men of might, and men of war fit for the battle, that could handle shield and buckler, whose faces were like the faces of lions, and were as swift as the roes upon the mountains;" (1 Chron. 12:8). Their faces were like lions' faces because of their fierceness and determination to overpower enemies. Just as roes (small deer) have an uncanny ability to move quickly on steep, rough terrain without stumbling, the Gadites were known to be very agile in the heat of battle.

*Application:* True believers should be a people strong in their convictions to serve God, working together with the Lord to be fit for spiritual battle against all the devil's works. How do we become fit for battle? By putting on the whole armour of God so we can stand against every wicked device of the enemy (Eph. 6:11-17) and through prayer. Like lions, we should be fiercely

determined to overcome our flesh, the mindset and customs of the world, and ultimately, spiritual forces of wickedness in high places (Eph. 6:12). In the same manner that roes move swiftly on mountains, we should be swift to carry out what pleases God even when our way is steep and rough. The Lord has us on call 24/7 and we must be prepared to carry out his assignments at a moment's notice.

In the midst of conquering, Gad tears the arm as well as the crown of his enemy's head. In other words, he totally annihilates his enemies. The arm is symbolic of one's power and might (2 Ki. 17:36). The crown of one's head symbolizes high status and authority (Job 19:9).

*“And he provided the first part for himself, because there, in a portion of the lawgiver, was he seated; and he came with the heads of the people, he executed the justice of the LORD and his judgments with Israel.”* (Deut. 33:21)

Gad, along with Reuben and the half tribe of Manasseh, settled east of the Jordan River which was the first part of the land that was conquered for Israel (Num. 32:1,5,33). The region where Gad settled was Gilead (Deut. 3:16). In this prophecy, the area where Gad was seated was referred to as “a portion of the lawgiver.” From scripture, we know the lawgiver is the LORD in the person of Jesus Christ (Isa. 33:22; Jas. 4:12). This is also alluded to in the prophecies concerning Judah since that was the tribe from which Jesus descended. *A portion* of Jesus' ministry was in this region (Perea and Decapolis (ten cities)).

Gad sent all their mighty men across the Jordan to help the rest of Israel settle the Promised Land, which was part of their agreement with Moses. By helping conquer the Promised Land, they “executed the justice of the LORD and his judgments with Israel.”

*Application:* Christians are called upon by the Lord to execute his justice and judgment in the earth (Prov. 21:3; Mic. 6:8; Jn. 16:8-11). However, this does not refer to physical force, but the preaching of the gospel, a portion of it being to speak out against sin. Furthermore, it is imperative that we confront others when they do wrong in the midst of our assemblies, turning them over to Satan if necessary so their carnal ways can be broken and they can have godly sorrow to repent (1 Cor. 5:1-5; 2 Cor. 7:8-10; 1 Tim.1:19-20). Nevertheless, all of this must be done with love and mercy.

**Summary of ideas and characteristics represented by Gad & the figure:** Liberty; exaltation through the Holy Spirit; faith in God; purity; boldness; defeating enemies; completion of godly works; the Lord's rest; soldiering for God; evangelism; skill in the midst of spiritual battles; strong determination to do God's will; the portion every believer has in Christ's kingdom; executing God's justice and judgment in the earth.