

MARSHALL COUNTY DEVOTIONAL PAGE

"And you take unto thee Aaron thy brother... that he may minister unto Me in the priest's office... And you shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother for glory and for beauty. And you shall make the breastplate of judgment with cunning work; And you shall 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 figure, an agate, and an amethyst. And the fourth row a beryl, and an onyx, and a jasper: they shall be set in gold..."

And the stones shall be with the names of the children of Israel, twelve, according to their names..." - **Exodus 28:1,2, 15, 17-21**

On this day in 1905, the world's largest diamond was discovered. Frederick Wells, a manager at the Premier Number 2 mine in Cullinan, South Africa came across the Cullinan Diamond. This was three times the size of the Excelsior Diamond. The Cullinan Diamond came in measuring approximately 4 inches long, 2.5 inches wide, 2.3 inches deep, and weighing just over 1 pound, which is equivalent to about 3,106 carats.

After its discovery, the diamond went on display at the Standard Bank in Johannesburg before being sent to London. To avoid attempted robberies, guards were put on board the steam-liner, and the diamond was ceremoniously locked in the captain's safe. However, this was a diversion. The real Cullinan Diamond was sent in a box inconspicuously to London by standard delivery. The precious jewel was eventually cut into nine diamonds. The largest was cut into a pear shape and became known as the Great Star of Africa, which is estimated, to be worth over 50 million dollars today.

If we are honest these gems have no value. They are actually just pretty rocks or colorful minerals. That's it. However, the reason they have such value to us is because God gave them value, such as gold in Genesis chapter 2. Therefore, in our opening scriptures, we see God using these jewels in a valuable fashion as He instructed Moses in the way he should make the breastplate for the high-priest Aaron. That is why such gems held a greater significance in the life of the Hebrew people. In the Old Covenant, God purposely had these beautiful and precious gems inserted into the breastplate accord-

ing to the number of their tribes - representing His love for them. Now fast-forward to the New Covenant where the Lord Jesus Christ is the last and only high-priest of God (Hebrews 3:1; 8:1; 9:11; 10:21). Now, the breastplate was to cover the heart of the high-priest, and the precious jewels set in the gold breastplate of Jesus Christ, pictures His love for His redeemed people. Those whom Jesus Christ the High Priest has died for are near and dear to His heart. They are truly the Jewels of the Lord (Malachi 3:17).

David C. Hale, pastor
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