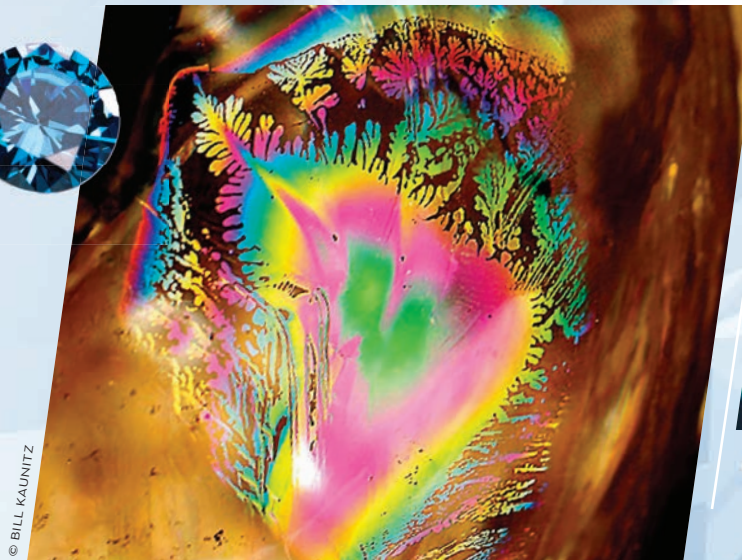


TREASURE DEEP WITHIN

by Elizabeth Van Tassel



Rainbow colors shine from quartz crystals.



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This "silk" glows in a natural blue sapphire.

God created everything in heaven and earth with beauty and worth. Sometimes it's obvious, like when we look at a glistening field of snow or see a newborn baby. Other treasures are hidden.

Scientists recently discovered our planet is priceless. Deep inside, they believe the earth is packed with diamonds! If we drill down 100 miles, we'd likely find a quadrillion tons of this precious stone. That's a 1 with 15 zeroes. We'd be million, billion, trillion, quadrillionaires. Amazing!

Diamonds sparkle with beauty, but did you know God's intricate fingerprints are hidden within these gems as well? Gemologists use

magnification to look deep within diamonds and other jewels. What they see points to an ordered and caring Creator.

Mark of the Trinity

Diamonds are the hardest natural object on earth. They're also the world's most popular gem. When diamonds are mined, they appear dull and come in many shapes. Diamond cutters determine the best way to cut the diamond to bring out its beauty.

When they look through a magnifier, they see little triangles, called *trigons*, on the "skin" of an uncut diamond. Trigons form when diamonds are growing.

The gems undergo immense heat and pressure. The trigons are a sign that the diamond struggled and persevered as it grew. Only real diamonds contain trigons.

For thousands of years, Christian thinkers and philosophers have seen the triangle as a reflection of God's Holy Trinity (see "The

Trinity" on page 7). The Bible talks about God the Father, Jesus the Son and the Holy Spirit (2 Corinthians 13:14, ESV). Each "person" of God is distinct, but there is only One God.

If you don't totally understand how God can be three-in-one, that's OK. He's infinite. Humans are finite. We can't understand everything about God. And that's OK too.

But we can still know lots of important things about Him. He loves us and cares about us. God knows it can be a struggle to grow up. We have to overcome obstacles and persevere in our faith. Just like trigons form on a diamond, we can trust that God is always with us. He lives within us and can put a God-shaped love spot on our heart, or feelings, that helps us heal and grow.

Trapped Rainbows

Did you know gems may have rainbows trapped inside? Some stones contain liquid from when they first formed. Rainbows can appear when light shines through this liquid.

God made rainbows in brilliant colors. The Bible says God's "bow in the clouds" (Genesis 9:13) is a sign of

His love. When God put a rainbow in the sky after the flood, He promised Noah that all living creatures would be under His protection. No flood would ever wipe them out.

God always keeps His promises. It was true in Old Testament times, and it's true today. Big rainbows outside on rainy days and little ones that can only be seen through a microscope remind us of God's consistent goodness and love.

Stars in Stones

Special effects in sci-fi films look amazing, but they're nothing compared to the dazzling show happening inside God's precious stones.

Little characteristics, known as *inclusions*, inside sapphires, rubies and emeralds can look like they're from a deep-space movie. These specific crystals, called *silk*, cause light to dance like the stars in the heavens.

Precious stones aren't perfect. Neither are we. But these

imperfections don't decrease our worth. Our flaws give God the opportunity to shine. That's when we become a dazzling picture to the world of His power and the peace He brings.

All beauty points to God's glory. Sometimes we may not see it at first. We may have to be shaped by a Master diamond cutter or have God's light shine through our words, attitudes and actions. But when others take a deeper look at us, they should see the story of God's goodness and love continue to unfold. ✪



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Diamond trigons show the gem is real.

Gems in the Bible

- In Exodus 28:15-21, the Lord tells Moses how to make a breastplate for the high priest to wear during ceremonies in the temple. He says to use 12 gemstones, including topaz, emerald, diamond, onyx, turquoise and sapphire, to represent the 12 tribes of Israel.
- Proverbs 8:11 says, "Wisdom is better than jewels, and nothing desirable can compare." Gems are worth a lot of money, but remember that wisdom is far more valuable.
- In Ezekiel 28, the prophet warns the king of Tyre about the pride he has in his wealth and beauty. Many Bible experts believe this passage, which mentions topaz, diamond, emeralds and other precious stones, also refers to Satan being cast out of heaven. In his pride, Satan directly defied God. But there is only one all-powerful God, who threw Satan down to earth (Ezekiel 28:17).
- Revelation 21 describes a new heaven and earth where believers in God will live with Him forever. This place is incredibly beautiful, made from jasper, sapphire, emerald, carnelian, topaz and every kind of precious stone.

