

THE

PRECIOUS STONES

SEEN IN THE

WORD of GOD

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The use that is frequently made of colour & precious stones in the Bible is to express the perfections of the Divine Nature.

Throughout the Bible and creation the Holy Spirit marshals the wealth of typology and symbolism fulfilling His great function (John 16:13-15) in telling forth the glories of God which shine forth in our Lord Jesus Christ. This reaches a marvellous climax in the closing book of Revelation. We see the various colours/glories shine out in Joseph's coat and in the various articles of the tabernacle. In the Revelation the Holy Spirit calls into requisition sun and stars, scrolls and seals, seas and ships, sacred altars and sharpened sickles all of which contribute to the marvellous merits of the Lord Jesus in His many vocations.

As Son of Man, He is described in His prevailing might, consuming the Divine purpose, with the seven stars, the sealed roles, the sacred censer and the sharpened sickle successively in His hand. These are in turn related to His administrative power in the Church, His executive right in creation and His mediatorial office in the commonwealth of His Kingdom.

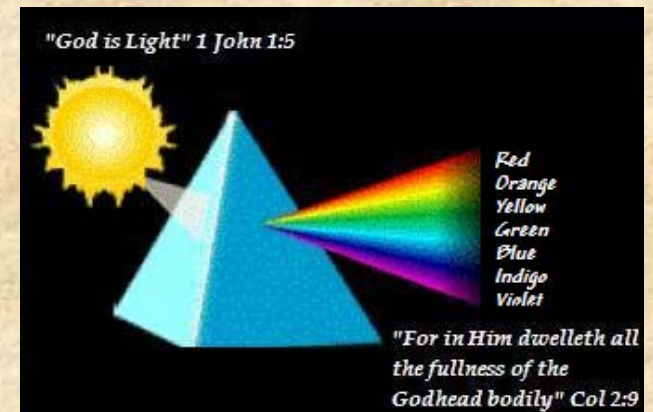
The Jasper stone in the context of (Rev 4) is the finest form of Diamond, one of clearest lustre and sets forth Christ's character which ENDURED as well as His character which is so DESIRABLE. In this contest there is the rainbow about the throne of God reassuring man of the covenant made with Noah that the earth would never again be destroyed by a flood (Gen 9:13) and that even in judgment there is mercy. The nature of Christ is thus represented as crystal clear, in the whiteness of perfect light, so transparently lovely and beauteous in its transcendent lustre.

This represents His essential pureness, His holy character which is unmarred, unblemished, and unspotted by any taint or stain. He is holy, guileless and undefiled. The merging of these many virtues, which harmonize so perfectly and blend so delicately, warrants the greatest admiration and calls for our devoutest adoration!


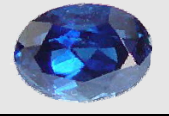

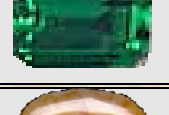



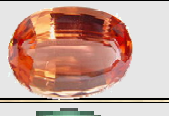
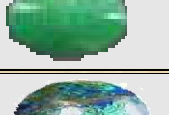



Aside from Christ Jesus, the Lord of Glory, where are we to look for a stable foundation in support of moral purity? Where else are we to find a final standard of spiritual piety? Where may we turn for access to the spring of truth and drink at its fountain and secure a lasting satisfaction? Indeed "He is altogether lovely" and "Unto us therefore which believe He is the preciousness ..." Solomon's Song 5:16; 1Pet 2:7 JND

"God is light and in Him is no darkness at all." 1 John 1:5

"In Him was life and the life was the light of men." John 1:4



THE PRECIOUS STONES - A FEW INTERESTING FACTS

#	STONE		COMMENTS
1		Jasper	In ancient times JASPER was a collective name for opaque stones but it is clear that in the New Testament the Jasper is a crystal clear transparent stone thought to be a high grade diamond. It is thus a fitting symbol to tell forth the glory of God. It is the last stone of the breastplate and the first stone of the New Jerusalem. Christ's high priestly work will end and He then begins His administration rule in His millennial Kingdom! "When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe." 2 Thess 1:10
2		Sapphire	The SAPPHIRE is a bright blue colour. It is the fifth stone of the breastplate and the second of New Jerusalem. Like the blue colour in the tabernacle our thoughts are lifted to the glory of God which shines out perfectly in Christ Jesus, the heavenly Man, who went so low to lift us up. "For we know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich yet for our sakes He became poor, that we through His poverty might be rich." 2 Cor 8:9
3		Chalcedony	The CHALCEDONY is a lighter blue colour and possibly pictures the heavenly people who Christ has redeemed. They are to reflect His glory and display His beautiful character. "Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the Kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear!" Matt 13:43
4		Emerald	The EMERALD is one of the most beautiful of precious stones. Its bright green colour is the colour of trees, grass, meadows and also of life and expectation. It has a deep shine and a sparkling fire and is interpreted as a 'burning coal' in the Greek. It may figure the view of earth from heaven. "And Jehovah will create over every dwelling-place of mount Zion, and over its convocations, a cloud by day and a smoke, and the brightness of a flame of fire by night: for over all the glory shall be a covering." Is 4:5 JND
5		Onyx	The SARDONYX has white layers creating an artistic masterpiece. It is the eleventh stone on the High Priest's breastplate and represented Joseph (He will add). This same stone was found on the shoulder pieces of the ephod and signified strength. It is the fifth stone in the New Jerusalem. "It is God that girdeth me with strength, and maketh my way perfect." Psa 18:32
6		Sardius (Ruby)	The SARDIUS is also call RUBY. It has a very red colour similar to blood. The stone is the first stone in the breastplate, the sixth in New Jerusalem and stands with the Jasper in describing the wondrous beauties of the Lord Jesus in Rev 4:3. In the Revelation it no doubt represents the glory of God in judgment. "But the LORD of hosts shall be exalted in judgment, and God that is holy shall be sanctified in righteousness." Isa 5:16
7		Chrysolite	CHRYSLITE is greenish gold in colour from the Greek (chrysolos=gold + lithos=stone). The oldest source of this stone is the island of Zabargad in the Red Sea. One day we will know more of the meaning of the glory that this stone represents. "For now we see through a glass darkly; but then face to face: ... Then shall I know even as also I am known." 1Cor 13:12
8		Beryl	The BERYL is the source of the much sought after metal Beryllium which is used in rockets, jets and nuclear reactors. This beautiful stone is sometimes blue in colour and then called AQUAMARINE. Perhaps it speaks of the glories of the Lord who is over the land and sea. "And he had in his hand a little book open" and he set his right foot upon the sea, and the left foot on the earth ..." Rev 10:2
9		Topaz	The TOPAZ has a rich yellow-orange lustre. It is found on an island in the Red Sea which bears its name 'Topzos' which means "sought and found". This reminds us of the One who "found a treasure in a field, and sold all that He had and bought it." Mat 13:44
10		Chrysoprasus	The CHRYSOPRASUS is an apple green colour and is translucent. It is found only in Rev 21 in describing New Jerusalem and may be a reference to the wondrous fertility which will be evident through heaven and earth. "The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose." Isa 35:1
11		Jacinth	The JACINTH is a brilliant stone with excellent optical qualities second only to the diamond. It spreads light into its various primary colours. It is the seventh stone of the breastplate and the eleventh in New Jerusalem. "The sun shall be no more thy light by day; neither for brightness shall the moon give light unto thee: but the LORD shall be unto thee an everlasting light, and thy God thy glory." Isa 60:19
12		Amethyst	The Amethyst is a dark violet colour. Man mocked the Lord Jesus and clothed Him in a purple robe (MK 15:17) but He will come forth in judgment as the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords in that day. "Even so, come, Lord Jesus" Rev 22:20

OVERVIEW OF THE PRECIOUS STONES mentioned in the Bible

#	Ez 28:13-15 Cherub	STONE	Ex 28:17-21 Breastplate	STONE	Son of Man Rev 4:2-6	STONE	New Jerusalem Rev 21:19-20	STONE
1	Sardius (Ruby)		Sardius (Ruby)		Jasper		Jasper	
2	Topaz		Topaz		Sardius (Ruby)		Sapphire	
3	Diamond		Emerald		Emerald		Chalcedony	
4	Chrysolite		Carbuncle				Emerald	
5	Onyx		Sapphire				Onyx	
6	Jasper		Diamond				Sardius (Ruby)	
7	Sapphire		Opal				Chrysolite	
8	Emerald		Agate				Beryl	
9	Carbuncle		Amethyst				Topaz	
10			Chrysolite				Chrysoprasus	
11			Onyx				Jacinth	
12			Jasper				Amethyst	

THE PRECIOUS STONES SEEN IN SATAN AS THE ANOINTED CHERUB BEFORE HIS FALL SHOWING THE GLORY OF GOD

#	Ez 28:13-15 Cherub	STONE
1	Sardius (Ruby)	
2	Topaz	
3	Diamond	
4	Chrysolite	
5	Onyx	
6	Jasper	
7	Sapphire	
8	Emerald	
9	Carbuncle	



Satan before his fall displayed many of the varied glories of God. It is to be noted that he did not have the full complement of '12' stones but was missing the Opal (blue - Son of God), the Agate (varied colours - Son of Man) and the Amethyst (purple - King of Israel)

"Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee." Ez 28:12-15

The three stones immediately below are the stones that could not be seen in Satan. They display the glories of God that could only be seen in Christ. They were displayed in the High Priest's breastplate and also the New Jerusalem. *"For in Him dwelleth the fullness of the Godhead bodily."* Col 2:9

Opal	
Agate	
Amethyst	

THE PRECIOUS STONES SEEN IN THE BREASTPLATE OF THE HIGH PRIEST



#	Ex 28:17-21 Breastplate	STONE	Birth Order	Meaning of Name
1	Sardius (Ruby)		Rueben	"see a son"
2	Topaz		Simeon	"heard"
3	Emerald		Levi	"attached"
4	Carbuncle		Judah	"Praise"
5	Sapphire		Dan	"he that judges"
6	Diamond		Naphtali	'that struggles or fights'
7	Opal		Gad	"a band" "a troop"
8	Agate		Asher	"happy"
9	Amethyst		Issachar	'hire' "wages"
10	Chrysolite		Zebulon	'dwelling' "habitation"
11	Onyx		Joseph	"He will add"
12	Jasper		Benjamin	"Son of the right hand"

The High Priest's Breastplate is seen with the respective precious stones of the Sons of Jacob listed in their order of birth. This is a beautiful picture of how the Lord Jesus carries each of us continually on His heart!



The eleventh stone is the same as the two stones on the shoulder pieces (Onyx) and speak of His strength for us and perhaps also represents Joseph's two sons (Ephraim and Manasseh). He has also 'added' so much for us!

THE PRECIOUS STONES SEEN IN REVELATION 4:3

#	Son of Man Rev 4:3	STONE
1	Jasper	
2	Sardius (Ruby)	
3	Emerald	

"And he that sat was to look upon like a JASPER and a SARDINE stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald."
Rev 4:3

This glorious scene describes the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of Man sitting on His throne of judgment. He is likened to the Sardius and the Jasper stones which are the first and the last stones seen in the High Priest's breastplate. The One who has carried His beloved people so faithfully is the only One who has the right to judge the world in righteousness.

The Lord Jesus displayed, in perfection, the glory of God in every circumstance from the manger to the cross and on to the glory where He now sits crowned with glory and honour.

The Emerald may have significance in speaking of the earth which after judgment is to bring forth renewed glory. The earth so blighted by sin grew thorns and thistles but it will blossom like a rose in the coming Kingdom throughout the 1000 years.

It is our delight to learn more of the glories seen in the Lord Jesus. They are indeed infinite and it will take spiritual energy, diligence and self-judgment on our part to allow the Holy Spirit to reveal them to us.

"My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee; So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding" Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding: If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding." Prov 2:1-6

THE PRECIOUS STONES SEEN IN THE HOLY CITY – NEW JERUSALEM

#	New Jerusalem Rev 21:19-20	STONE
1	Jasper	
2	Sapphire	
3	Chalcedony	
4	Emerald	
5	Onyx	
6	Sardius (Ruby)	
7	Chrysolite	
8	Beryl	
9	Topaz	
10	Chrysoprasus	
11	Jacinth	
12	Amethyst	

"And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones. The first foundation was JASPER; the second, SAPPHIRE; the third a CHALCEDONY; the fourth, an EMERALD; The fifth, SARDONYX; the sixth, the sixth, SARDIUS; the seventh, CHRYSOLITE; the eighth, BERYL; the ninth, a TOPAZ; the tenth, a CHRYSOPRASUS; the eleventh, a JACINTH; the twelfth, an AMETHYST. And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; every several gate was of one pearl; and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass." Rev 21:19-21

"Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner. And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: where unto also they were appointed." 1 Pet 2:7, 8

"To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ." 1 Pet 2:4, 5

"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy. Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation." 1 Pet 2:9-12

It is wonderful to see that in spite of how much we have failed in administering the mind of God we are seen, by sovereign grace, to display in perfection and the glories of God in perfect administration throughout the 1000 year Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ!

"... Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever." Rev 5:13