

~JEWELS AND PRECIOUS STONES (699)

.. Uses Associated With Worship

.. Figurative Use

- A jewel may be a precious stone, a gem, a cut and polished precious or semiprecious stone, or a decorative ornament made of precious metal, principally gold or silver, set with such stones. Jewels have been worn by both men and women from early Biblical days for purposes of adornment.
- Today the diamond, emerald, ruby, and sapphire are strictly considered to be precious stones, whereas other rare and beautiful stones are viewed as semiprecious. However, the **Hebrew** term rendered precious stone has a broader application, as is shown at;
- Son of man, lift up a dirge concerning the king of Tyre, and you must say to him; This is what the Sovereign Lord Yehowah has said; You are sealing up a pattern, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. (**Ezekiel 28:12**)
- In Eden, the garden of God, you proved to be. Every **precious stone** was your covering, ruby, topaz and jasper, chrysolite, onyx and jade, sapphire, turquoise and emerald, and of gold was the workmanship of your settings and your sockets in you. In the day of your being created they were made ready. (**Ezekiel 28:13**)
- These **precious stones** are distinguished from other minerals chiefly because they are rare, beautiful, and durable.
- The first Biblical reference to any precious stone is at;
- The first ones name is Pishon. It is the one encircling the entire land of Havilah, where there is gold. (**Genesis 2:11**)
- And the gold of that land is good. There also are the bdellium gum and the onyx stone. (**Genesis 2:12**)
- Where Havilah is identified as a land containing good gold, bdellium gum and the onyx stone.

- Wealth was partially measured by ones possession of **precious stones**, such kings as Solomon and Hezekiah apparently had them in great quantity.
- And Hiram's fleet of ships that carried gold from Ophir also brought from Ophir timbers of algar trees in very great amount and **precious stones**. (1 Kings 10:11)
- And, besides, the servants of Hiram and the servants of Solomon who brought gold from Ophir brought timbers of algar trees and **precious stones**. (2 Chronicles 9:10)
- And Hezekiah came to have riches and glory to a very great amount, and storehouses he made for himself for silver and for gold and for **precious stones** and for balsam oil and for shields and for all the desirable articles. (2 Chronicles 32:27)
- **Precious stones** were given as gifts.
- Finally she arrived at Jerusalem with a very impressive train, camels carrying balsam oil and very much gold and **precious stones**, and she came on in to Solomon and began to speak to him all that happened to be close to her heart. (1 Kings 10:2)
- Then she gave the king a hundred and twenty talents of gold and a very great deal of balsam oil and **precious stones**. There never came anymore the like of that balsam oil for quantity such as the queen of Sheba gave to King Solomon. (1 Kings 10:10)
- And the queen of Sheba herself heard the report about Solomon, and she proceeded to come to test Solomon with perplexing questions at Jerusalem, along with a very impressive train and camels carrying balsam oil, and gold in great quantity, and **precious stones**. At length she came in to Solomon and spoke with him about everything that happened to be close to her heart. (2 Chronicles 9:1)
- Then she gave the king a hundred and twenty talents of gold, and balsam oil in very great quantity, and **precious stones**, and there had not come to be the like of that balsam oil which the queen of Sheba gave to King Solomon. (2 Chronicles 9:9)
- Might constitute part of war booty.

- Accordingly David gathered all the people and went to Rabbah and fought against it and captured it. (2 Samuel 12:29)
- And he got to take the crown of Malcam off its head, the weight of which was a talent of gold, along with precious stones, and it came to be upon David's head. And the spoil of the city that he brought out was very much. (2 Samuel 12:30)
- But David took the crown of Malcam off its head, and found it to be a talent of gold in weight, and in it there were precious stones, and it came to be on David's head. And the spoil of the city that he brought out was very much. (1 Chronicles 20:2)
- And, as among the ancient Tyrians, were used as articles of trade.
- Edom was your merchant because of the abundance of your works. For turquoise, wool dyed reddish purple and material of various colors and fine fabric and corals and rubies, your stores were given in exchange. (Ezekiel 27:16)
- The traders of Sheba and Raamah themselves were your traders, for the finest of all sorts of perfumes and for all sorts of precious stones and gold, your stores were given. (Ezekiel 27:22)
- In an inspired dirge concerning the king of Tyre, Ezekiel stated;
- Son of man, lift up a dirge concerning the king of Tyre, and you must say to him; This is what the Sovereign Lord Yehowah has said; You are sealing up a pattern, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. (Ezekiel 28:12)
- In Eden, the garden of God, you proved to be. Every precious stone was your covering, ruby, topaz and jasper, chrysolite, onyx and jade, sapphire, turquoise and emerald, and of gold was the workmanship of your settings and your sockets in you. In the day of your being created they were made ready. (Ezekiel 28:13)
- Symbolic Babylon the Great is represented as being richly adorned with precious stones.
- And he carried me away in the power of the spirit into a wilderness. And I caught sight of a woman sitting upon a scarlet-colored wild beast that was full of blasphemous names

and that had seven heads and ten horns. ([Revelation 17:3](#))

- And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and was adorned with gold and **precious stone and pearls** and had in her hand a golden cup that was full of disgusting things and the unclean things of her fornication. ([Revelation 17:4](#))
- And upon her forehead was written a name, a mystery. Babylon the Great, the mother of the harlots and of the disgusting things of the earth. ([Revelation 17:5](#))
- Also, the traveling merchants of the earth are weeping and mourning over her, because there is no one to buy their full stock anymore. ([Revelation 18:11](#))
- A full stock of gold and silver and **precious stone** and pearls and fine linen and purple and silk and scarlet, and everything in scented wood and every sort of ivory object and every sort of object out of most precious wood and of copper and of iron and of marble. ([Revelation 18:12](#))
- Also cinnamon and Indian spice and incense and perfumed oil and frankincense and wine and olive oil and fine flour and wheat and cattle and sheep, and horses and coaches and slaves and human souls. ([Revelation 18:13](#))
- Yes, the fine fruit that your soul desired has departed from you, and all the dainty things and the gorgeous things have perished from you, and never again will people find them. ([Revelation 18:14](#))
- The traveling merchants of these things, who became rich from her, will stand at a distance because of their fear of her torment and will weep and mourn. ([Revelation 18:15](#))
- Saying; Too bad, too bad, the great city, clothed with fine linen and purple and scarlet, and richly adorned with gold ornament and **precious stone** and pearl. ([Revelation 18:16](#))
- Because in one hour such great riches have been devastated! And every ship captain and every man that voyages anywhere, and sailors and all those who make a living by the sea, stood at a distance. ([Revelation 18:17](#))

- While the ancients rounded and polished precious stones, generally they do not seem to have angled, or faceted, them, as do craftsmen of modern times.
- The emery stone, corundum, or emery powder was employed by the Hebrews and Egyptians to polish precious stones. Often these were sculptured and engraved.
- The Hebrews apparently knew how to engrave precious stones long before their bondage in Egypt, where engraving was also an art. Judah's seal ring had evidently been engraved.
- And he continued; What is the security that I shall give you? To which she said; Your seal ring and your cord and your rod that is in your hand. Then he gave them to her and had relations with her, so that she became pregnant by him. ([Genesis 38:18](#))
- For further discussions of specific ancient jewelry and ornament items;

See Also ANKLET

See Also BEADS

See Also BRACELET

See Also BROOCH

See Also EARRING

See Also NECKLACE

See Also NOSE RING

See Also ORNAMENTS

See Also RING

·· **Uses Associated With Worship**

- The Israelites, in the wilderness, were privileged to contribute various valuable things for the tabernacle and the High Priest's ephod and breastpiece, no doubt contributing articles that the Egyptians had given to them when urging them to depart.
- And the sons of Israel did according to the word of Moses in that they went asking from the Egyptians articles of silver and articles of gold and mantles. ([Exodus 12:35](#))
- And Yehowah gave the people favor in the eyes of the Egyptians, so that these granted them what was asked, and they stripped the Egyptians. ([Exodus 12:36](#))

- These included onyx stones and setting stones for the ephod and for the breastpiece.
- And Yehowah proceeded to speak to Moses, saying; ([Exodus 25:1](#))
- Speak to the sons of Israel, that they may take up a contribution for me: From every man whose heart incites him you people are to take up the contribution of mine. ([Exodus 25:2](#))
- And this is the contribution that you are to take up from them: gold and silver and copper. ([Exodus 25:3](#))
- And blue thread, and wool dyed reddish purple, and coccus scarlet material, and fine linen, and goats hair. ([Exodus 25:4](#))
- And ram skins dyed red, and sealskins, and acacia wood. ([Exodus 25:5](#))
- Oil for the luminary, balsam oil for the anointing oil and for perfumed incense. ([Exodus 25:6](#))
- And onyx stones and setting stones for the ephod and for the breastpiece. ([Exodus 25:7](#))
- From among yourselves take up a contribution for Yehowah. Let every willing-hearted one bring it as Yehowah's contribution, namely, gold and silver and copper ([Exodus 35:5](#))
- And onyx stones and setting stones for the ephod and for the breastpiece. ([Exodus 35:9](#))
- And the chieftains brought onyx stones and setting stones for the ephod and the breastpiece. ([Exodus 35:27](#))
- The High Priest's ephod had two onyx stones on the shoulder pieces, with the names of 6 of the 12 tribes of Israel inscribed on each stone.
- The breastpiece of judgment was embellished with four rows of precious stones, the account stating; A row of ruby, topaz and emerald was the first row.

- And the second row was turquoise, sapphire and jasper. And the third row was **lesh'em stone**, agate and amethyst. And the fourth row was chrysolite and onyx and jade. They were set with settings of gold in their fillings.
- The name of one of Israel's 12 tribes was inscribed on each of these stones.
- Then they made the onyx stones set with settings of gold, engraved with the engravings of a seal according to the names of the sons of Israel. (**Exodus 39:6**)
- So he placed them upon the shoulder pieces of the ephod as memorial stones for the sons of Israel, just as Yehowah had commanded Moses. (**Exodus 39:7**)
- Then he made the breastpiece with the workmanship of an embroiderer, like the workmanship of the ephod, out of gold, blue thread and wool dyed reddish purple and coccus scarlet material and fine twisted linen. (**Exodus 39:8**)
- It proved to be foursquare when doubled. They made the breastpiece, when doubled, a span of the hand in its length and a span in its width. (**Exodus 39:9**)
- Then they filled it with four rows of stones. A row of ruby, topaz and emerald was the first row. (**Exodus 39:10**)
- And the second row was turquoise, sapphire and jasper. (**Exodus 39:11**)
- And the third row was leshem stone, agate and amethyst. (**Exodus 39:12**)
- And the fourth row was chrysolite and onyx and jade. They were set with settings of gold in their fillings. (**Exodus 39:13**)
- And the stones were according to the names of the sons of Israel. They were twelve according to their names, with the engravings of a seal, each according to its name for the twelve tribes. (**Exodus 39:14**)
- And you must take two onyx stones and engrave upon them the names of the sons of Israel. (**Exodus 28:9**)

- Six of their names upon the one stone and the names of the six remaining ones upon the other stone in the order of their births. (**Exodus 28:10**)
- With the work of a craftsman in stones, with the engravings of a seal, you are to engrave the two stones with the names of the sons of Israel. Set in settings of gold is how you will make them. (**Exodus 28:11**)
- And you must put the two stones upon the shoulder pieces of the ephod as memorial stones for the sons of Israel, and Aaron must carry their names before Yehowah upon his two shoulder pieces as a memorial. (**Exodus 28:12**)
- And you must make settings of gold. (**Exodus 28:13**)
- And two chains of pure gold. As cords you will make them, with the workmanship of a rope, and you must attach the ropelike chains to the settings. (**Exodus 28:14**)
- And you must make the breastpiece of judgment with the workmanship of an embroiderer. Like the workmanship of the ephod you will make it. Of gold, blue thread and wool dyed reddish purple and coccus scarlet material and fine twisted linen you will make it. (**Exodus 28:15**)
- It should be foursquare when doubled, a span of the hand being its length and a span of the hand its width. (**Exodus 28:16**)
- And you must fill it with a filling of stones, there being four rows of stones. A row of ruby, topaz and emerald is the first row. (**Exodus 28:17**)
- And the second row is turquoise, sapphire and jasper. (**Exodus 28:18**)
- And the third row is leshem stone, agate and amethyst. (**Exodus 28:19**)
- And the fourth row is chrysolite and onyx and jade. Sockets of gold should be in their fillings. (**Exodus 28:20**)
- And the stones should be according to the names of the sons of

Israel, the twelve according to their names. With the engravings of a seal they should be, each one according to its name, for the twelve tribes. ([Exodus 28:21](#))

See Also BREASTPIECE

- **Though Yehowah would not permit David to build the temple in Jerusalem.**
- **Moreover, he called Solomon his son that he might command him to build a house to Yehowah the God of Israel. ([1 Chronicles 22:6](#))**
- **And David went on to say to Solomon his son; As for myself, it became close to my heart to build a house to the name of Yehowah my God. ([1 Chronicles 22:7](#))**
- **But Yehowah's word came against me, saying; Blood in great quantity you have spilled, and great wars you have waged. You will not build a house to my name, for a great deal of blood you have spilled on the earth before me. ([1 Chronicles 22:8](#))**
- **Look! There is a son being born to you. He himself will prove to be a restful man, and I shall certainly give him rest from all his enemies all around, for Solomon is what his name will become, and peace and quietness I shall bestow upon Israel in his days. ([1 Chronicles 22:9](#))**
- **It is he that will build a house to my name, and he himself will become a son to me, and I a father to him. And I shall certainly establish the throne of his kingship firmly over Israel to time indefinite. ([1 Chronicles 22:10](#))**
- **The aged king joyfully prepared valuable materials for its construction, including, onyx stones, and stones to be set with hard mortar, and mosaic pebbles, and every precious stone, and alabaster stones in great quantity.**
- **He made substantial contributions of materials, and the people in general also contributed.**
- **And according to all my power I have prepared for the house of my God the gold for the goldwork, and the silver for the silverwork, and the copper for the copperwork, the iron for the**

ironwork, and the timbers for the timberwork, onyx stones, and stones to be set with hard mortar, and mosaic pebbles, and every precious stone, and alabaster stones in great quantity. (1 Chronicles 29:2)

- **And since I am taking pleasure in the house of my God, there is yet a special property of mine, gold and silver, I do give it to the house of my God over and above all that I have prepared for the holy house. (1 Chronicles 29:3)**
- **Three thousand talents of gold of the gold of Ophir, and seven thousand talents of refined silver, for coating the walls of the houses. (1 Chronicles 29:4)**
- **Of the gold for the goldwork, and of the silver for the silverwork and for all the work by the hand of the craftsmen. And who is there volunteering to fill his hand today with a gift for Yehowah? (1 Chronicles 29:5)**
- **And the princes of the paternal houses and the princes of the tribes of Israel and the chiefs of thousands and of hundreds and the chiefs of the business of the king proceeded to volunteer. (1 Chronicles 29:6)**
- **Accordingly they gave to the service of the house of the true God gold worth five thousand talents and ten thousand darics and silver worth ten thousand talents and copper worth eighteen thousand talents and iron worth a hundred thousand talents. (1 Chronicles 29:7)**
- **And what stones were found with any persons they gave to the treasure of the house of Yehowah under the control of Jehiel the Gershonite. (1 Chronicles 29:8)**
- **And the people gave way to rejoicing over their making voluntary offerings, for it was with a complete heart that they made voluntary offerings to Yehowah, and even David the king himself rejoiced with great joy. (1 Chronicles 29:9)**
- **When Solomon built the temple, he overlaid the house with precious stone for beauty, or studded it with precious stones.**
- **Further, he overlaid the house with precious stone for beauty, and the gold was gold from the gold country. (2 Chronicles 3:6)**

·· Figurative Use

- The apostle Paul, after identifying Jesus Christ as the foundation on which Christians should build, mentioned building materials of various kinds in connection with the Christian ministry.
- He indicated that the choice materials would include figurative precious stones capable of withstanding the force of fire.
- According to the undeserved kindness of God that was given to me, as a wise director of works I laid a foundation, but someone else is building on it. But let each one keep watching how he is building on it. (1 Corinthians 3:10)
- For no man can lay any other foundation than what is laid, which is Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 3:11)
- Now if anyone builds on the foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood materials, hay, stubble. (1 Corinthians 3:12)
- Each ones work will become manifest, for the day will show it up, because it will be revealed by means of fire, and the fire itself will prove what sort of work each ones is. (1 Corinthians 3:13)
- If anyone's work that he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. (1 Corinthians 3:14)
- If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, but he himself will be saved, yet, if so, it will be as through fire. (1 Corinthians 3:15)
- Precious stones are sometimes used Scripturally to symbolize qualities of heavenly or spiritual things or persons. The heavens were opened for Ezekiel, and in two visions he beheld four winged living creatures accompanied by four wheels, the appearance of each wheel being likened to the glow of chrysolite, that is, having a hue of yellow or possibly green.
- Now it came about in the thirtieth year, in the fourth month, on the fifth day of the month, while I was in the midst of the exiled people by the river Chebar, that the heavens were opened and I began to see visions of God. (Ezekiel 1:1)

- On the fifth day of the month, that is, in the fifth year of the exile of King Jehoiachin. ([Ezekiel 1:2](#))
- The word of Yehowah occurred specifically to Ezekiel the son of Buzi the priest in the land of the Chaldeans by the river Chebar, and upon him in that place the hand of Yehowah came to be. ([Ezekiel 1:3](#))
- And I began to see, and, look! There was a tempestuous wind coming from the north, a great cloud mass and quivering fire, and it had a brightness all around, and out of the midst of it there was something like the look of electrum, out of the midst of the fire. ([Ezekiel 1:4](#))
- And out of the midst of it there was the likeness of four living creatures, and this was how they looked. They had the likeness of earthling man. ([Ezekiel 1:5](#))
- And each one had four faces, and each one of them four wings. ([Ezekiel 1:6](#))
- As I kept seeing the living creatures, why, look! There was one wheel on the earth beside the living creatures, by the four faces of each. ([Ezekiel 1:15](#))
- As for the appearance of the wheels and their structure, it was like the glow of chrysolite, and the four of them had one likeness. And their appearance and their structure were just as when a wheel proved to be in the midst of a wheel. ([Ezekiel 1:16](#))
- And I continued to see, and, look! There were four wheels beside the cherubs, one wheel beside the one cherub and one wheel beside the other cherub, and the appearance of the wheels was like the glow of a chrysolite stone. ([Ezekiel 10:9](#))
- Later, Daniel saw an angel, a certain man clothed in linen, whose body was like chrysolite.
- In the third year of Cyrus the king of Persia there was a matter revealed to Daniel, whose name was called Belteshazzar, and the matter was true, and there was a great military service. And he understood the matter, and he had understanding in the thing seen. ([Daniel 10:1](#))

- **And on the twenty-fourth day of the first month, while I myself happened to be on the bank of the great river, that is, Hiddekel. (Daniel 10:4)**
- **I also proceeded to raise my eyes and see, and here was a certain man clothed in linen, with his hips girded with gold of Uphaz. (Daniel 10:5)**
- **And his body was like chrysolite, and his face like the appearance of lightning, and his eyes like fiery torches, and his arms and the place of his feet were like the sight of burnished copper, and the sound of his words was like the sound of a crowd. (Daniel 10:6)**
- **Ezekiel also, when beholding a vision of Yehowah's glory, saw something in appearance like sapphire stone, a deep blue, the likeness of a throne.**
- **And there came to be a voice above the expanse that was over their head. When they stood still, they would let their wings down. (Ezekiel 1:25)**
- **And above the expanse that was over their head there was something in appearance like sapphire stone, the likeness of a throne. And upon the likeness of the throne there was a likeness of someone in appearance like an earthling man upon it, up above. (Ezekiel 1:26)**
- **And I got to see something like the glow of electrum, like the appearance of fire all around inside thereof, from the appearance of his hips and upward, and from the appearance of his hips and downward I saw something like the appearance of fire, and he had a brightness all around. (Ezekiel 1:27)**
- **There was something like the appearance of the bow that occurs in a cloud mass on the day of a pouring rain. That is how the appearance was of the brightness round about. It was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of Yehowah. When I got to see it, then I fell upon my face, and I began to hear the voice of one speaking. (Ezekiel 1:28)**
- **And I continued to see, and, look! Upon the expanse that was over the head of the cherubs there was something like sapphire stone, like the appearance of the likeness of a throne, appearing above them. (Ezekiel 10:1)**

- The glory of Yehowah God himself is likened to the dazzling beauty of gemstones, for when the apostle John beheld God's heavenly throne.

- After these things I saw, and, look! An opened door in heaven, and the first voice that I heard was as of a trumpet, speaking with me, saying; Come on up here, and I shall show you the things that must take place. ([Revelation 4:1](#))

- After these things I immediately came to be in the power of the spirit, and, look! A throne was in its position in heaven, and there is one seated upon the throne. ([Revelation 4:2](#))

- And the one seated is, in appearance, like a jasper stone and a precious red-colored stone, and round about the throne there is a rainbow like an emerald in appearance. ([Revelation 4:3](#))

- And whenever the living creatures offer glory and honor and thanksgiving to the one seated upon the throne, the one that lives forever and ever. ([Revelation 4:9](#))

- The twenty-four elders fall down before the One seated upon the throne and worship the One that lives forever and ever, and they cast their crowns before the throne, saying; ([Revelation 4:10](#))

- You are worthy, Yehowah, even our God, to receive the glory and the honor and the power, because you created all things, and because of your will they existed and were created. ([Revelation 4:11](#))

- The holy city, New Jerusalem, that is, the Lambs wife, is represented as having a radiance like a most precious stone, as a jasper stone shining crystal-clear.

- The 12 foundations of its wall were adorned with every sort of precious stone, a different stone for each foundation, jasper, sapphire, chalcedony, emerald, sardonyx, sardius, chrysolite, beryl, topaz, chrysoprase, hyacinth, and amethyst.

- The city's 12 gates were 12 pearls.

- I saw also the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God and prepared as a bride adorned for her

husband. (**Revelation 21:2**)

- And there came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls which were full of the seven last plagues, and he spoke with me and said; Come here, I will show you the bride, the Lambs wife. (**Revelation 21:9**)
- So he carried me away in the power of the spirit to a great and lofty mountain, and he showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God. (**Revelation 21:10**)
- And having the glory of God. Its radiance was like a most precious stone, as a jasper stone shining crystal-clear. (**Revelation 21:11**)
- It had a great and lofty wall and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names were inscribed which are those of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel. (**Revelation 21:12**)
- On the east were three gates, and on the north three gates, and on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. (**Revelation 21:13**)
- The wall of the city also had twelve foundation stones, and on them the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. (**Revelation 21:14**)
- Now the one who was speaking with me was holding as a measure a golden reed, that he might measure the city and its gates and its wall. (**Revelation 21:15**)
- And the city lies foursquare, and its length is as great as its breadth. And he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs, its length and breadth and height are equal. (**Revelation 21:16**)
- Also, he measured its wall, one hundred and forty-four cubits, according to a man's measure, at the same time an angels. (**Revelation 21:17**)
- Now the structure of its wall was jasper, and the city was pure gold like clear glass. (**Revelation 21:18**)
- The foundations of the city's wall were adorned with every sort

of precious stone, the first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald. ([Revelation 21:19](#))

- The fifth sardonyx, the sixth sardius, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh hyacinth, the twelfth amethyst. ([Revelation 21:20](#))
- Also, the twelve gates were twelve pearls, each one of the gates was made of one pearl. And the broad way of the city was pure gold, as transparent glass. ([Revelation 21:21](#))
- See also separate articles on individual types of precious stones.

See Also CORAL