

## ~ONYX (178)

[Greek, *o'nyx*]

- A semiprecious gemstone, a hard variety of agate, the term also applies to a banded form of chalcedony. The onyx has white layers alternating with black, brown, red, gray, or green.
- The pale color produced by the combination of the red layers showing through the translucent white layers of this stone evidently reminded the Greeks of the fingernail, which in Greek is *o'nyx*.
- From early times, onyx has been prized for ornaments, rings, and beads. The varicolored layers made it especially popular for cameo work.
- The land of Havilah was a prominent source of onyx in early Bible times.
- 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](#))
- **Onyx stones** were among the valuables contributed for the making of things associated with Israel's tabernacle.
- 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 onyx stones and setting stones for the ephod and for the breastpiece. ([Exodus 25:7](#))
- The names of the sons of Israel in the order of their births were engraved upon two onyx stones, six names on each stone, placed upon

the shoulder pieces of the High Priest's ephod as memorial stones for the sons of Israel. Another **onyx stone** was engraved with the name of one of the 12 tribes of Israel and was set in the center position of the fourth row of stones on the High Priest's breastpiece of judgment.

- 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 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**)
- 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**)
- 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**)
- Later, David personally prepared many valuable things, including **onyx** stones, for the construction of the prospective temple at Jerusalem.
- 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**)
- **Onyx** was also among the precious stones serving as a figurative covering for the king of Tyre in the dirge recorded by Ezekiel.
- 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**)
- Recognizing wisdoms value, Job stated that with the rare **onyx stone** and other precious things one could not buy priceless, godly wisdom.
- But wisdom, where can it be found, and where, now, is the place of understanding? (**Job 28:12**)
- It cannot be paid for with gold of Ophir, with the rare **onyx stone** and the sapphire. (**Job 28:16**)