

~PEARL (133)

.. Illustrative Use

- **A smooth, relatively hard, globular, and generally white gem with a soft iridescent luster, which has from ancient times been used for adornment.**
- **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)**
- **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)**
- **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)**
- **Likewise I desire the women to adorn themselves in well-arranged dress, with modesty and soundness of mind, not with styles of hair braiding and gold or **pearls** or very expensive garb. (1 Timothy 2:9)**
- **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)**
- **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)**

- It is a hardened mass of calcium carbonate that forms inside oysters and certain other mollusks. When a foreign particle, such as a grain of sand or a small parasite, enters the area between the body and the shell of a mollusk, it stimulates the creature's secretion of a calcareous substance called nacre, which hardens into a **pearly** layer around the irritating intruding material.
- Successive layers of this shell-like substance are built up around the foreign particle that serves as a nucleus. If the nucleus remains free from the shell because of contractions of the mantle lining the shell, a beautiful **pearl** is formed in the course of several years.
- **Pearls** of gem quality are taken from the **sea pearl oyster**, a native of most warm tropical waters, and notably those of the vicinity of Bahrain in the Persian Gulf, and of the Red Sea.

• Illustrative Use

- The Bible at times alludes to the preciousness of **pearls** in an illustrative way. With reference to the surpassing value of true wisdom, Job said,
- Coral and rock crystal themselves will not be mentioned, but a bagful of wisdom is worth more than one full of **pearls**. (**Job 28:18**)
- In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus Christ counseled,
- Do not give **what is holy** to dogs, neither throw your **pearls** before swine, that they may never trample them under their feet and turn around and rip you open. (**Matthew 7:6**)
- Evidently Jesus meant that, if a person shows that he is like a dog or a swine, with no appreciation for spiritual things, one should not further endeavor to share spiritual thoughts and teachings with him.
- Such corrupt persons would only trample upon valuable spiritual things and abuse or injure anyone endeavoring to share these with them. Jesus also illustrated the preciousness of the Kingdom of the heavens by speaking of **one pearl** of such high value that a traveling merchant seeking fine **pearls** promptly sold all the things he had and bought it.

- Again the kingdom of the heavens is like a traveling merchant seeking fine **pearls**. (**Matthew 13:45**)
- Upon finding one **pearl** of high value, away he went and promptly sold all the things he had and bought it. (**Matthew 13:46**)
- Thereby Jesus showed that an individual appreciating the true worth of gaining the Kingdom of the heavens would be willing to part with everything in order to gain it.
- But from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of the heavens is the goal toward which men press, and those pressing forward are seizing it. (**Matthew 11:12**)
- Now a certain man said to him; Lord, are those who are being saved few? He said to them. (**Luke 13:23**)
- Exert yourselves vigorously to get in through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will seek to get in but will not be able. (**Luke 13:24**)
- When once the householder has got up and locked the door, and you start to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying; Sir, open to us. But in answer he will say to you, I do not know where you are from. (**Luke 13:25**)
- Why, for that matter, I do indeed also consider all things to be loss on account of the excelling value of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord. On account of him I have taken the loss of all things and I consider them as a lot of refuse, that I may gain Christ (**Philippians 3:8**)
- And be found in union with him, having, not my own righteousness, which results from Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness that issues from God on the basis of faith. (**Philippians 3:9**)
- So as to know him and the power of his resurrection and a sharing in his sufferings, submitting myself to a death like his. (**Philippians 3:10**)
- To see if I may by any means attain to the earlier resurrection from the dead. (**Philippians 3:11**)

