

## ~TOPAZ (64)

[Greek, *to-pa'zi-on*]

- The **variety used for gemstones is a hard, transparent, crystalline mineral composed of aluminum fluosilicate**. It is harder than quartz and is often found in cavities of granitic rocks.
- Topaz may be colorless, but it also occurs in a great range of colors that include white, yellow, light brown, pinkish red, and sometimes pale green or blue.
- The most popular shade is wine-yellow. The name topaz is from the **Greek word *to-pa'zi-on***, which alludes to the Topaz Island situated in the Red Sea where the Greeks obtained the topazes familiar to Pliny the Elder and to other early writers.
- The book of Job links topaz with Cush, a region that bordered the Red Sea.
- A topaz was among the precious stones **on the breastpiece of judgment** worn by High Priest Aaron. It was set as the middle stone in the first row of gems, and engraved upon it was the name of one of Israel's 12 tribes.
- And you must make holy garments for Aaron your brother, for glory and beauty. (**Exodus 28:2**)
- 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**)
- 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 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**)

- Then they filled it with four rows of stones. A row of ruby, **topaz** and emerald was the first row. (**Exodus 39:10**)
- The foundations of the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, were adorned with every sort of precious stone, the ninth foundation being **topaz**.
- 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**)
- 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**)