

## *The Twelve Precious Stones?* Rev. 21:19-20:

“(19) The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with all kinds of precious stones: the first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, (20) the fifth sardonyx, the sixth sardius, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysope, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst.”...

***The Twelve Precious Stones: They are the foundations and privileges upon which God built Mary, the Holy City of God, Rev 21:19-20 (Venerable Maria of Agreda, the Conception, par. 285-296).***

1. ***Jasper***: This stone whose variegated tints and durability indicate the constancy and fortitude, which from the moment of her Conception was infused into this great Lady in order that during the course of her life She might continue to exercise all the virtues with invincible magnanimity and constancy. The virtues and habits, conceded and infused into the most holy Mary at her Conception and typified by these precious stones, at the same time are connected with special privileges, and I will as far as possible, explain them, in order that the full mystery of these twelve foundations may become known. This gift of strength included a special superiority and sovereignty for repressing, subduing and vanquishing the ancient serpent, and for inspiring all the demons with an inexpressible terror. On that account they fly from Her and fear Her from afar, being filled with trembling at her mere presence. They cannot come near the most holy Mary without excruciating pain. So liberal was divine Providence with her Majesty that She was not only exempt from the common laws of the children of Adam, but also freed from original guilt as well as from subjection to the demon contracted thereby. Setting Her apart from these evils, He at the same time endowed Her with sovereign power over the devil, which all men have lost together with their innocence. More than that: as Mother of the Son of the eternal Father (whom She bore in her womb for the very purpose of putting an end to the evil power of the enemies) She was invested with actual authority which emanated from God himself and in virtue of which this most exalted Mistress subdued the demons and sent them repeatedly to the infernal dungeons, as I will relate farther on..
2. ***Sapphire***: This stone imitates the colour of the clear and serene firmament and shows a scattering of gold spots or atoms. Its colour typifies the serenity and tranquillity of the gifts and graces of the most holy Mary, enabling Her to enjoy an unchanging, heavenly and serene peace, free from any cloud of disorder and illumined from the moment of her Conception with visions of the Divinity. By the likeness of her virtues to the divine attributes and by her participation in them, especially in their unchangeableness, She made Herself worthy to see God. Many times during her pilgrimage through life was She favoured with unveiled and clear vision of God, as will be described. In virtue of this singular privilege the Almighty endowed Her with the power of communicating tranquillity and peace of spirit to those, who will ask for her intercession. Therefore let all the faithful, who are agitated and stirred up by the tormenting anxiety of their vices, pray to Her, that so they may obtain from Her this gift of peace.
3. ***Chalcedony***: This stone takes its name from the country where it is found. It is of the colour of the ruby and in the night resplendent as a beacon-light. The hidden signification of this stone points to the holiness and power of the name of Mary. For She took her name from that part of the world, where She first came into being, calling herself a daughter of Adam, and her name, by the mere change of the accent signifies in Latin the collective oceans, for She was the ocean of the graces and gifts of the Divinity. She came into the world in her Immaculate Conception, submerging and inundating it with these gifts, sweeping off the malice of sin and its effects, illuminating the darkness of the abyss with the light of her spirit and the brightness of her heavenly wisdom. This foundation-stone signifies that the Most High conceded to her most holy name the power to disperse the clouds of infidelity spread over the earth, and to destroy the errors of heresy, of paganism, idolatry and all uncertainty in matters of the Catholic faith. If the infidels would turn toward this light by invoking Mary's name, it is certain that their understanding would quickly expel the darkness, their errors would be drowned as in a sea in virtue of the power conceded to Her from on high.
4. ***Emerald***: This stone, whose colour is a pleasant green, delighting the sight without fatigue. It mysteriously typifies the graces of the most holy Mary in her Conception for, being most amiable and gracious in the eyes of God and his creatures. She preserved in Herself, without the least offence against his name and memory, all the verdure and strength of the holiness, virtues and gifts then conferred upon Her. Accordingly the Most High granted Her the privilege of insuring a like stability to her devout followers, obtaining for them perseverance and fidelity in the friendship of God and in the practice of virtue.
5. ***Sardonyx***: This stone is transparent, though favouring the flesh-colour and usually containing three different tints: dark below, whitish in the centre, and nacreous or like mother-of-pearl above, a most graceful variety of colour. The mysterious signification of this stone pointed to the close relation between the Mother and the Son, whom She was to bring forth. The dark colour points to the inferior and terrestrial portion of the body of Mary, obscured by mortification and labours during her stay on earth, and also to the humanity of her Son, obscured by taking upon Himself our guilt. The white typifies the purity of the soul of Mary, the Virgin, and of Christ, our highest good. The carnation bespeaks in Him the hypostatical union of his humanity and Divinity, and in Mary her participation in the love of her most holy Son, and her communication in all the splendours of the Divinity. In virtue of this foundation-stone the great Queen of heaven enjoys the power of interceding and obtaining for her clients the efficacious application of the superabundant merits of the Incarnation and Redemption, including also a special devotion toward the mysteries and the life of Christ our Lord through his merits.
6. ***Sardius***: This stone is transparent, and because it at the same time flashes like the clear flame of a fire, it is the symbol of the flame of divine love, which incessantly burns in the Queen of heaven, for there is no cessation nor diminution of that conflagration of love in her bosom. From the very moment of her Conception, which was the time and place of its beginning, it continued to grow, and now, having reached that highest state of exaltation, which ever can fall to the lot of a creature, it burns and shall burn still brighter through all the eternities. This includes her privilege of distributing the influence, the love and the gifts of the Holy Ghost to those who ask in her name.
7. ***Chrysolite***: This stone resembles in its colour gold refulgent with flaming fire; and this latter is more apt to show itself by night than by day. It symbolized the ardent love which Mary entertains for the Church militant, its ministers, and for the law of grace in particular. This love shone forth more especially during the night of the Death of her most holy Son, also during the time, when in the beginnings of the evangelical law, She held the office of teacher and when She prayed so ardently for the establishment of the Church

and its Sacraments. In those times, as will be said in its place, She coöperated by her most burning love toward the salvation of the whole human race. She alone knew and appreciated the value of the most holy law of her Son. With this love She was prepared and endowed from the moment of her Conception in order to be the Coadjatrix of Christ our Lord. This includes the prerogative of being able to obtain for those that invoke Her, the grace of a good disposition toward the fruitful reception of the Sacraments of the holy Church and of clearing away obstacles that prevent their full effects.

8. **Beryl:** This stone is of a green and yellow colour; but the green predominates, having a great resemblance to olive and being of resplendent brilliancy. It represents the singular faith and hope given to Mary in her Conception, enabling Her to understand and execute arduous and sublime works, such as She in reality accomplished for the glory of Her Creator. In virtue of this gift of unfailing assistance of the Lord, was conferred upon Her the power to endow her servants with fortitude and patience in the tribulations and difficulties of their undertakings.
9. **Topaz:** This stone is transparent and of a mulberry colour, much prized and esteemed. It represents the most honourable virginity of Mary, our Mistress, and her mothership in regard to the incarnate Word; moreover during her whole life these two prerogatives were held by Her as of inestimable value and worthy of the most humble thanks. At the instant of her Conception She asked the Most High for the virtue of chastity and She promised the observance of it during the rest of her earthly life. She was aware that it was conceded to Her in a degree far above her vows and desires. Not only that, but She knew that the Lord had made Her the Teacher and the Guide of all the virgins and lovers of chastity, and that through her intercession, She could obtain these virtues and perseverance in them for all her devotees.
10. **Chrysoptase:** the colour of which is green with touches of gold. It signified the most firm hope planted in the heart of the most holy Mary at her Conception, and the love with which it was impregnated and embellished. Hope lived inextinguishably in the bosom of our Queen, as was befitting for Her who was to communicate similar quality to the rest of mankind. The firmness of her confidence was founded in the stability of her high and generous nature during all the labours and exercises of her most holy life, and especially in the Passion and Death of her most holy Son. At the same time with this virtue the power of efficacious mediation was given Her, so that She might obtain the same firmness of hope for her clients.
11. **Hyacinth:** which is of an exquisite violet colour. In this foundation-stone is disclosed the love of Mary for the Redemption of the human race. This love was infused into Her at her Conception and was applied to Her in view of the merits of the death of the Redeemer, her Son. As the whole remedy of guilt and the justification of all the souls was to take its rise from the Redemption, this love of the great Queen for the Redemption from that first instant, earned Her the power of demanding that no sinner, how great and abominable soever he might be, should be excluded from the fruit of the Redemption and justification, nor fail to attain eternal life if he invoked the intercession of this powerful Lady and Advocate.
12. **Amethyst:** is of a refulgent violet colour. The mystery of this stone or foundation corresponds in part with that of the first. It imports a kind of inherent power conceded to the most holy Mary from the moment of her Conception against all the devilish host, so that the demons, without any command or action on her part, feel a distressing and torturing force proceeding from Her, as soon as they wish to approach her presence. It was given to Her as a reward of her incomparable zeal in exalting and defending the glory and honour of God. Hence the mere sound of her sweetest name is sufficient to expel from the bodies of men the malignant spirits. For her holy name is so powerful that at the mere intimation of it, they are overcome and deprived of strength.

These are in short the mysteries of the foundations upon which God built the holy City of Mary. But they point to many other mysteries and favours received by Her, and in so far as the Lord will give me light and strength, I will manifest them in the farther course of this history.

#### **Summary of the attributes symbolized by each of the twelve precious stones that God gave to Mother Mary:**

1. **Jasper:** Constancy and fortitude. Mary was infused with these virtues at her Conception, granting her sovereignty over the devil and inspiring demons with fear.
2. **Sapphire:** Serenity and tranquillity. This stone represents Mary's unchanging peace and her ability to communicate tranquility and peace of spirit to those who seek her intercession.
3. **Chalcedony:** Holiness and power of Mary's name. It signifies the power of Mary's name to dispel infidelity, heresy, paganism, and errors of faith.
4. **Emerald:** Grace and amiability. This stone signifies Mary's stability in holiness and her ability to secure perseverance and fidelity for her followers.
5. **Sardonyx:** Union with Christ. This stone symbolizes Mary's relation to her Son, her purity, and her participation in the divine mysteries and the redemption.
6. **Sardius:** Divine love. It represents the burning and unceasing divine love in Mary's heart and her role in distributing the love and gifts of the Holy Spirit.
7. **Chrysolite:** Love for the Church and its sacraments. This stone signifies Mary's ardent love for the Church and her ability to obtain the grace of fruitful reception of the sacraments for her devotees.
8. **Beryl:** Faith and hope. This stone symbolizes Mary's singular faith and hope, enabling her to accomplish great works and endow her servants with fortitude and patience.
9. **Topaz:** Virginity and motherhood. It represents Mary's honoured virginity and motherhood, and her role as the guide for all virgins and lovers of chastity.
10. **Chrysoptase:** Firm hope. This stone signifies Mary's firm hope and her power to instil similar hope in her followers, especially during trials and tribulations.
11. **Hyacinth:** Love for redemption. It symbolizes Mary's love for human redemption and her power to ensure no sinner is excluded from the fruits of redemption if they invoke her intercession.
12. **Amethyst:** Power against demons. This stone represents Mary's inherent power against demonic forces and the ability of her name to expel malignant spirits.

These stones collectively highlight various virtues, powers, and privileges attributed to Mary, reflecting her unique role and divine grace.