

DID YOU KNOW?

- Birthstones originate from biblical times.
- Rubies are amongst the rarest and most expensive gemstones in the world.
- According to astrologers, the wearer of peridot will enjoy happiness in marriage

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CRYSTALS-BIRTHSTONES

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Where did Birthstones come from?

It is generally accepted that birthstones originated from the gemstones used to embellish the breastplate made according to very strict instructions for the priest Aaron, which was then blessed by Moses. The breastplate is described in some detail in the Old Testament (Exodus chapter 39 verses 8—14), along with other holy garments to be used by Aaron in ministering the Lord's work.

Each of the stones is believed to have represented one of the twelve tribes of Israel. 'Israel' was the name given to 'Jacob' and the twelve tribes are his sons, namely Reubon, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph and Benjamin.

Different nations have interpreted these stones in different ways and there is a slight variation on what is the 'true' stone for a particular month.



HIGH PRIEST IN ROBES AND BREASTPLATE. —Exo. VII. 8.

Breastplate of Aaron.

Courtesy of www.breadside.org

However, there is an official list published in 1912 by the *American National Associa-*

tion of Jewelers which is accepted by most as the 'standard' for birthstones. Folk Lore and tradition have added alternative, secondary, semi-precious stones to the list and so you have a choice!

Wearing birthstones in Jewellery is popular because it makes the Jewellery more personal, more in tune with the individual person and also because it has a certain talismanic feel to it.



RUBY

Birthstone for July

Courtesy of Gladstone.uoregon.edu

Birtstones by month

January

Garnet or Rose Quartz

May

Emerald or Chrysoprase

September

Sapphire or Lapis Lazuli

February

Amethyst or Onyx

June

Pearl or Moonstone

October

Opal or Tourmaline

March

Aquamarine or Jasper

July

Ruby or Carnelian

November

Topaz or Tigers Eye

April

Diamond or Rock Crystal
(Clear Quartz)

August

Peridot or Aventurine

December

Turquoise or Zircon