

Exodus 24:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they saw the God of Israel: and there was under his feet as it were a paved work of a sapphire stone, and as it were the body of heaven in his clearness.

Analysis

And they saw the God of Israel: and there was under his feet as it were a paved work of a sapphire stone, and as it were the body of heaven in his clearness.

The staggering statement: 'they SAW the God of Israel' (וְיָרָא אֶת אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל) vayir'u et Elohei Yisrael). God is spirit (John 4:24), invisible (1 Timothy 6:16), yet they saw some manifestation—likely the Angel of the LORD, pre-incarnate Christ. What they saw: sapphire pavement under His feet, clear as heaven—dazzling, crystalline beauty. Ezekiel 1:26 describes similar sapphire throne. Revelation 4:3, 6 depicts heavenly throne with jasper, carnelian, sea of glass—echoing this scene. They saw the King's footstool; the King Himself remained veiled. Still, this is unprecedented—seeing God and living (v. 11).

Historical Context

Sapphire (or lapis lazuli) was precious blue stone suggesting heavens. The vision's glory is restrained—they see under His feet, not His face. Exodus 33:20 says 'no one can see My face and live,' yet here elders see God without dying.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How can the text say 'they saw God' when God is invisible spirit—what did they see?
2. Why do they see only 'under His feet'—what does partial revelation teach about God's accommodation to human weakness?

Interlinear Text

וְכֹל יְהוָה יְרָא וְ	וְתִמְךָתְּ	וְשָׁבָא לְ	אֱלֹהִים	וְתִמְךָתְּ	וְכֹל יְהוָה יְרָא וְ
And they saw	H853	the God	of Israel	H8478	and there was under his feet
H7200		H430	H3478		H7272
בְּמַעַשְׂה	לְבָנָה	תְּ	בְּסֶפֶת	ירָא	וְכֹל
work	as it were a paved	of a sapphire stone	and as it were the body		
H4639	H3840	H5601		H6106	
הַשְׁמָמָה	לְבָרָה:				
of heaven	in his clearness				
H8064	H2892				

Additional Cross-References

John 1:18 (References God): No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.

Ezekiel 10:1 (Parallel theme): Then I looked, and, behold, in the firmament that was above the head of the cherubims there appeared over them as it were a sapphire stone, as the appearance of the likeness of a throne.

Revelation 4:3 (Parallel theme): And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald.

Exodus 33:23 (Parallel theme): And I will take away mine hand, and thou shalt see my back parts: but my face shall not be seen.

Exodus 33:20 (Parallel theme): And he said, Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live.

1 Timothy 6:16 (Parallel theme): Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.

Genesis 32:30 (References God): And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: for I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved.

Revelation 21:11 (References God): Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal;

1 John 4:12 (References God): No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.

Matthew 17:2 (Parallel theme): And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.