

Exodus 28:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the second row shall be an emerald, a sapphire, and a diamond.

Analysis

The second row: emerald, sapphire, diamond (or jasper). Revelation 21:19-20 connects these stones to the New Jerusalem's foundations. Sapphire's blue suggests heaven; emerald's green suggests life; diamond's clarity suggests purity. Together they picture redeemed humanity—heavenly, living, pure in Christ. The continuity from breastplate to eternal city shows that what the high priest bore on his chest prefigured what God eternally treasures.

Historical Context

Ancient sapphires (Hebrew סַפִּיר, sappir) were likely lapis lazuli, deep blue stones highly prized. The emerald (בִּרְקָת, bareqeth) was bright green. These second-row stones continued the pattern of maximum beauty and value.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does your identity in Christ reflect heaven, life, and purity simultaneously?
2. What does the connection between the breastplate and New Jerusalem teach about covenant continuity?

Interlinear Text

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|------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| וְהָטָוּר | וְהָשֵׁנִי | נִפְרָה | סַפִּיר | וְהַלֵּלִים: |
| row | And the second | shall be an emerald | a sapphire | and a diamond |
| H2905 | H8145 | H5306 | H5601 | H3095 |

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