

Revelation 21:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass.

Analysis

Jasper wall construction represents clarity and brilliance. Jasper (see 4:3) resembles God's appearance—clear as crystal, allowing divine glory to shine through unhindered. The city being pure gold, transparent as glass, combines maximum value with complete transparency. This unprecedented description defies earthly physics, indicating transformed reality where matter itself reflects divine glory. Reformed theology sees this as creation freed from corruption's curse (Romans 8:21), displaying God's glory without obstruction. The transparency suggests nothing hidden—perfect holiness allows complete openness.

Historical Context

Ancient architecture prized precious materials, but opaque gold was universal. Transparent gold and crystal-clear jasper transcend earthly materials, communicating supernatural transformation. The vision uses earthly language (gold, jasper) to describe realities beyond complete human comprehension. First-century readers understood this represented something far beyond earthly cities' glory.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What does transparent gold teach about the new creation's nature—material yet transformed to perfectly display God's glory?
2. How does the wall's clarity (jasper like crystal) illustrate that in the new creation, God's glory will be visible without obstruction?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ἦν	ἡ	ἐνδόμησις	τοῦ	τείχους	αὐτῆς	ἴασπις	καὶ
And	was	G3588	the building	G3588	of the wall	of it	of jasper	And
G2532	G2258		G1739		G5038	G846	G2393	G2532
ἡ	πόλις	χρυσίον	καθαρῷ	ὅμοια	ὑάλῳ	καθαρῷ		
G3588	the city	gold	unto clear	like	glass	unto clear		
	G4172	G5553	G2513	G3664	G5194	G2513		

Additional Cross-References

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

Revelation 21:21 (Parallel theme): And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass.

Revelation 21:19 (Parallel theme): And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones. The first foundation was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, a chalcedony; the fourth, an emerald;