

Revelation 21:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, a topaz; the tenth, a chrysoprasus; the eleventh, a jacinth; the twelfth, an amethyst.

Analysis

The continuation of foundation stones' description emphasizes comprehensive beauty and variety. The specific stones (sardonyx, sardius, chrysolite, beryl, topaz, chrysoprase, jacinth, amethyst) showcase different colors and properties, demonstrating that the foundation's beauty is multifaceted. Each stone's uniqueness within the unified foundation illustrates unity in diversity. Reformed theology sees this as the church's catholicity—diverse members united on one foundation. The precious nature of all twelve emphasizes that apostolic witness is uniformly valuable, not ranking some higher than others.

Historical Context

Ancient gemology recognized these stones' varying properties—hardness, color, transparency. Together they represented comprehensive beauty. The list's specificity (naming each stone) reflects attention to detail in God's design. This vision assured believers that the foundation supporting eternal dwelling was both beautiful and secure, built on the comprehensive witness of all twelve apostles.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does each stone's unique beauty within the one foundation encourage you to appreciate diversity within the unified church?
2. What does the precious nature of all twelve stones teach about the equal inspiration and authority of all New Testament Scripture?

Interlinear Text

ὁ G3588	πέμπτος G3991	σαρδόνυξ G4557	ὁ G3588	ἕκτος G1623	σάρδιος· G4556	ὁ G3588	ἕβδομος G1442
	The fifth	sardonyx		the sixth	sardius		the seventh
χρυσόλιθος G5555	ὁ G3588	ὄγδοος G3590	βήρυλλος G969	ὁ G3588	ἕνατος G1766	τοπάζιον G5116	
	chrysolite	the eighth	beryl		the ninth	a topaz	
ὁ G3588	δέκατος G1182	χρυσόπρασος G5556	ὁ G3588	ἐνδέκατος G1734	ὑάκινθος G5192	ὁ G3588	
	the tenth	a chrysoprasus		the eleventh	a jacinth		
δωδέκατος G1428	ἀμέθυστος G271						
	the twelfth	an amethyst					

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