

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

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

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

ο πέμπτος σαρδόνυξ ο ἕκτος σάρδιος ο ἕβδομος
G3588 **The fifth** G3588 **the sixth** G3588 **the seventh**
G3991 G4557 G1623 G4556 G1442

χρυσόλιθος ο ὅγδοος βήρυλλος ο ἔνατος τοπάζιον
chrysolite G3588 **the eighth** G3590 **beryl** G969 G3588 **the ninth** G1766 **a topaz** G5116

ο δέκατος χρυσόπρασος ο ἐνδέκατος ὑάκινθος ο
G3588 **the tenth** G5556 G3588 **the eleventh** G1734 **a jacinth** G3588
G1182 G1734 G5192

δωδέκατος ἀμέθυστος
the twelfth G1428 **an amethyst** G271