

12 FOUNDATIONS of the NEW JERUSALEM



#12 AMETHYST

Greek name: Amethystos

Color: Purple (from light pink-violet to a deep purple)

Description: The amethyst is a variety of quartz. The name amethyst comes from "not" and "intoxicate", a reference to the belief that the stone protected its owner from drunkenness.



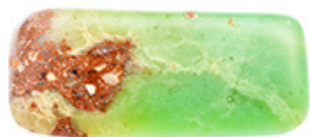
#11 JACINTH

Modern or other names: Hyacinth or perhaps the zircon

Greek name: Hyakinthos

Color: Deep blue

Description: The jacinth or modern-day hyacinth is a precious stone and of the same color as the dark blue hyacinth flower. The hyacinthus of ancient writers may be similar to modern-day sapphire or blue corundum.



#10 CHRYSOPRASUS

Modern or other names: Chrysoprase or chrysophrase

Greek name: Chrysoprasos

Color: Apple green to deep green

Description: Chrysoprasus is a variety of chalcedony. The word chrysoprase comes from the Greek word chrysos meaning 'gold' and prasinon, meaning 'green'.



#9 TOPAZ

Modern or other names: Peridot (see description)

Greek name: Topazion

Color: Golden green

Description: Ancient topaz is probably our modern-day chrysolite or peridot. Historically, the most important deposit of topazion was on the volcanic island of Zabargad located in the Red Sea. This island's topazion was very well known in the ancient world.



#8 BERYL

Modern or other names: (see description)

Greek name: Beryllos

Color: Pale green

Description: According to Bible commentaries, beryl was a pale green precious stone. The emerald, aquamarine, heliodor, maxixe and morganite are varieties of beryl. Many people don't recognize the name beryl, but are more familiar with its varieties.

#7 CHRYSOLYTE

Modern name: Topaz (see description below)

Greek name: Chrysolithos

Color: Golden yellow

Description: The Chrysolite of Bible times is the equivalent of modern-day topaz and is a precious stone of golden color. The Greek name, chrysolithos, means “gold stone” and likely refers to the yellow topaz.



#6 SARDIUS

Modern or other names: Carnelian or odem

Greek name: Sardion

Color: Orange red

Description: A precious stone related to the chalcedony with two possible varieties. The first is carnelian and is flesh-colored. The second variety is sard which is deep reddish-brown in color, rarely its color is almost black.



#5 SARDONYX

Greek name: Sardonyx

Color: Reddish-brown

Description: Sardonyx is related to chalcedony and is a combination of onyx (white) and sard or carnelian (red) in alternating layers. In ancient times the sardonyx was a popular engraving stone because of its soft nature.



#4 EMERALD

Greek name: Smaragdos

Color: Green

Description: Emeralds are a variety of beryl. The name emerald comes from the Greek word smaragdos, which means green gem.



#3 CHALCEDONY

Greek name: Chalkedon

Color: Grey mist

Description: Chalcedony is a type of quartz primarily having a blue grey color. It can also have yellow, blue or purple pigments.



#2 SAPPHIRE

Greek name: Sapphiros

Color: Blue

Description: The sapphire is a blue and translucent variety of corundum. Commentaries also note that the sapphire of the Bible may be the modern-day lapis lazuli.



#1 JASPER

Greek name: Iaspis

Color: Green or clear (perhaps even red)

Description: The jasper mentioned as the first foundation may have been clear. Revelation 21:11 states that the city would be like jasper, as clear as crystal. Pliny states that the white jasper called “Astrios” was like crystal and no doubt transparent.

