

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God,
a workman that needeth not to be ashamed,
rightly dividing the word of truth.”

2 Timothy 2:15 (KJV)

FOUNDATIONS

Thank you for joining me on a walk through the Word of God (with the help of visual aids, of course). Throughout our study we will refer to the tabernacle of Moses, Solomon's temple, Herod's temple, and the millennial temple. According to Hebrews 8:5, the priests "serve at a sanctuary that is a copy and shadow of what is in heaven." So, what is in Heaven now? Well, we know that the New Jerusalem is in Heaven. And one day it will come down to the New Earth where God will live with His people forever (Revelation 21:2-3). When this happens, we will actually get to experience Heaven on Earth!

As we get a glimpse of the New Jerusalem in Scripture, let's take a moment to research three of the foundations. Please keep a heavenly perspective as we look at the photographs in light of God's Word.

I have reached the conclusion that the picture below represents the east side of the temple. When the man brought Ezekiel to the temple's entrance (probably the millennial temple), he saw water coming out from under the threshold and it was flowing toward the east (Ezekiel 47:1).



Kirk and I got blessed with a trip to Israel two years ago. After an extremely hot day in Masada, we were able to visit the Dead Sea. I have never seen so many people from all over the world having so much fun! We were like children, laughing and floating. It was a wonderful time.

Interestingly enough, the river that will come out from underneath the temple's threshold will flow east all the way to the Dead Sea (Ezekiel 47:8). At that time, the salty water

will become fresh. Verse 9 tells us that “swarms of living creatures will live wherever the river flows.”

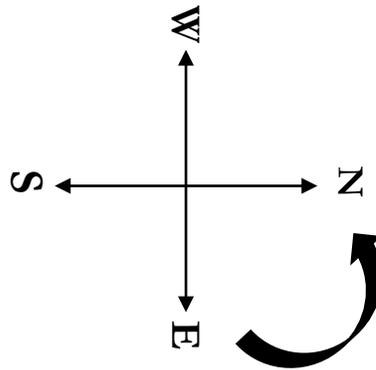
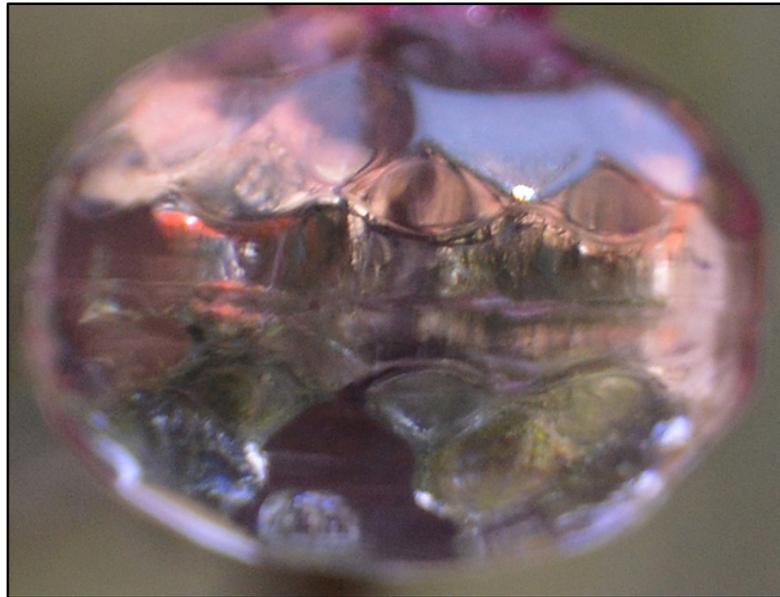
As we look at the button picture, we can see the water flowing over steps or plateaus. The green banks on either side of the river, I believe, represent marshlands and trees. Therefore, I don't think the green on the ground represents a foundation.

The first three foundations of the New Jerusalem listed in Revelation are jasper, sapphire, and agate (21:19). Verse 18 tells us that the wall was also made of jasper. So, what color is jasper? Stones from ancient times do not necessarily go by the same names as what we have today. Therefore, we need to make an educated guess. One person said that red was the most common color of jasper, although it could also be found in yellow, brown, or green. The wall in this picture appears to have red, brown, green, and perhaps even a hint of yellow. It is possible, therefore, that the jasper wall has a variety of the jasper stone colors.

When John saw the Holy City, he described it as a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal (v. 11). Some of the edges of the button could represent a transparent red jasper.

When the angel showed John the city, they began with the three gates on the east (v. 13). Therefore, I think the east side corresponds with the first three foundations in the list. We find the gates listed in the following way: east, north, south, and west. That means they would have started on

the left side of the picture (our left) with the red stone and moved across to the right. As they turned the right corner, they would have arrived on the north side.



One day it occurred to me that the bright red stone on the ground could be the Lord's way of pointing out the first foundation, which is jasper. The next color we see lit up on the ground is light purple. Remember the last three colors

of the rainbow? They are blue, indigo, and violet. When I first read that the second foundation was sapphire, I automatically thought of blue. The Strong's Concordance describes the stone as "a gem, perhaps used for scratching other substances." It says that it is probably the sapphire. Since the color is not clear in this explanation, I started to think that the stone could be different from what I originally imagined.

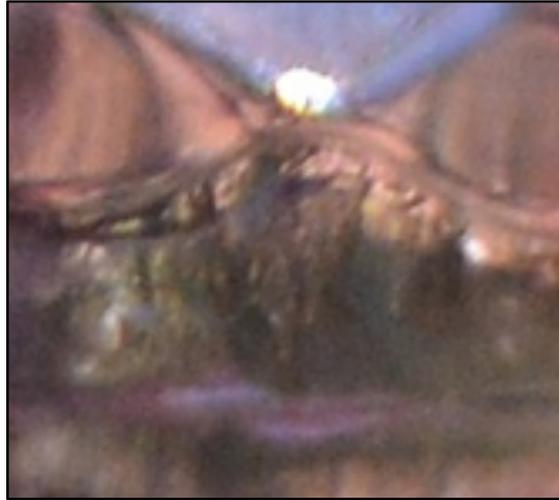


Since the sky in the picture on the left has a lavender tint (probably from the pink button), it is possible that the foundation contains more blue than what is pictured. In actuality, I believe the sapphire stone could be violet-blue.

Pliny the Elder lived around the time that the Book of Revelation was written. In his writing, he described "sappir" as "being like the night sky, spangled with stars." This points to the lapis lazuli stone, which can also have a violet-blue color.

A very interesting story in the Bible is when Moses, Aaron, Nadab, Abihu, and the seventy elders went up the mountain to see God (Exodus 24:9). "Under his feet was something like a pavement made of lapis lazuli, as bright

blue as the sky” (v. 10). Please note how the violet in the center of the stone is like the sky in this picture.

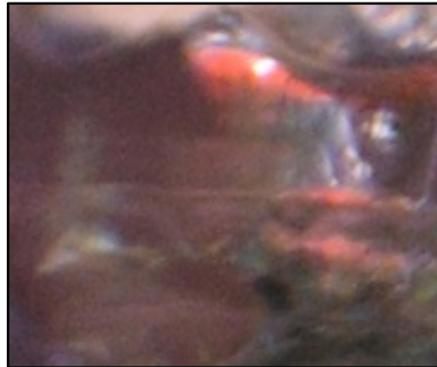


Finally, we arrive at the third foundation of the east wall. It is agate, which is also known as chalcedony. The Strong’s Concordance describes it as “copper-like.” On the right side of the picture, we can see the copper color just beginning to surface below the sapphire. If the foundations are in layers, they may look something like this.



I tend to think that only one foundation represents one section of the city’s wall. It is possible, however, that layers may exist where the foundations meet. This, of course, is only a theory.

Many years ago I had a dream about the New Jerusalem. This was before I knew anything about it. In my dream, Kirk and I were traveling through the mountains, which were gigantic red stones. It was similar to the red jasper in the picture. We met a man on the road who was making furniture out of the stone. It was all hand-carved with a garden filled with animals on each piece. I learned that he was making the furniture for our home, specifically for me. Like the Lord says, He has gone to prepare a place for us (John 14:2-3).



As we will see throughout our study, everything in Heaven and in the New Jerusalem points to Jesus. Without a strong foundation in Christ, our lives would crumble. Jesus told His disciples that “everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock” (Matthew 7:24). There is no foundation more secure than our Rock, the chief cornerstone, Jesus (Matthew 21:42; Romans 9:33). In fact, the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb are written on the twelve foundations (Revelation 21:14). These men shared the Good News of Jesus and, as a result, laid the foundation for the church.