the cubit was peculiar: it was larger than the ordinary  
cubit by a hand-breadth. Ezek. xl. 5; xliii. 13.  
 The cubit used by the angel was an ordinary one.  
The angel’s size was not gigantic: it was a man’s  
ordinary height: and the cubit is a measure taken  
from a man’s stature. Does not this prove the description to be literal?  
 The city, as I suppose, towers above the walls on  
every side, street above street, and terrace above  
terrace, till its highest point is attained in the great  
square in which stand the throne of God and the tree  
of life.

THE CITY’S MATERIALS

18-21. “And the superstructure of the wall of it was jasper;  
and the city was clear gold, like clear glass. The foundations of  
the wall of the city were adorned with every precious stone. The  
first foundation was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third,  
chalcedony; the fourth, emerald; the fifth, sardonyx; the sixth,  
sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth,  
topaz; the tenth, chrysoprasus; the eleventh, hyacinth; the  
twelfth, amethyst.”  
  
 The wall is considered as consisting of two parts—its  
superstructure and its foundations. The part rising  
above the lowest level of the city was of jasper; the  
foundations of the wall in their twelve stages are then  
given. In Hebrews, the apostle speaks of the foundations of the *city*. The Holy Spirit here speaks of the  
foundations of the *wall*. The same precious stones  
were foundations of both. The false city rested on  
seven mountains: the Holy City on twelve, or on one—according as we notice the foundations separately, or  
regard the unity of the whole result.  
 The material of the city in general is gold, the most  
costly and beautiful metal known to man. The house  
of Solomon was framed of wood and stone, plated over