

The Symbolism

associated with



The Book of the Revelation of John



Disclaimer: Symbols are powerful teaching tools. John's work makes great use of symbolic language. This reference card should act as a study tool when reading the Book of Revelation. Though the information listed below can be helpful, it may or may not apply to John's vision. Symbolic definitions are based on typical applications of the words at and around John's time. John's application may have differed from tradition use, or the words may have had literal application rather than symbolic.

Definition of Symbols

- 2 – Opposition, opposing parts
- 4 – Symbol of perfection, associated with the square, which has four equal sides and four equal angels.
- 6 – the number of earth's telesial existence, the six dispensations. Symbolized completeness in mortality
- 7 - The word seven in Hebrew is *sheva*, and could also be translated as "to take an oath". Often this number is used to symbolize it's alternative translation. It can represent covenant making, or quite simply the devotion or dedication to something. The number seven can also symbolize completion and perfection in that the earth was created in seven days, the temporal existence of the earth is seven dispensations.
- 12 – number of God's children, the 12 tribes, the 12 apostles...
- 12 Stars – the 12 apostles
- 1,000 – A large number
- 1,600 furlong – 184 miles, the length of Israel...represents all of God's children
- 144,000 – 12 x 12 x 1,000, represents all of God's children
- Abaddon - Hebrew for the "the place of the lost" or "destruction"
- Air - usually represents the life of man
- Altar – Being before the Lord
- Angels – servants and messengers of the Lord
- Apollyon - Greek for "Destroyer"
- Ark of the Covenant – the presence of God, all that God has promised to those that follow Him
- Armageddon - translated from Hebrew to Greek as "*har meggido*" or the mountain of Megiddo, meaning "Mount of Destruction".
- Babylon – wickedness of the world
- Bear – gluttony, selfishness, greed
- Beast – Beasts can be used to represent carnalness, evil, and violence. The wicked nations under Satan's rule.
- Belly – the belly is often used as a symbol for friendliness, peace, and well being.
- Black – Symbol for mourning, grief, sadness, sin, unrighteousness and sorrow.
- Blood – adulteration, atonement, sin, life-force
- Book - representing a mission, work, knowledge, direction and ordination
- Bottomless – without end, extensive, large in size, all encompassing
- Bow – Symbol of War, if used in reference to a rain'bow' it symbolizes covenants between God and man.
- Breastplate - Symbol of protection, it is the main and frontal part of a Soldiers armor.
- Brimstone - Represents the wrath, indignation, and Judgment of God on the wicked. It is also used to symbolize total destruction.
- Calf /Bull– Symbol for the tribe of Dan, the cardinal direction 'north', and the king of the domestic animals. The Bull is also a symbol of brute strength.

- Candlesticks - represent the seven (7) churches
- Chariot - Symbol of movement, and becoming and passing away.
- Clothed - clothed with something indicated what one stands for, or what one is
- Clothing – represents the wearers true identity, clothed in white symbolized the wearers purity
- Clouds - Clouds symbolize mysteries, veiling, completely unrecognizable, and the glory and dwelling place of God.
- Crowns (of gold) – Symbol for royalty, dominion, victory, exaltation, nobility, power, majesty, and elevated stature.
- Cry – sorrow, pain, distress
- Cup – abundance and fullness
- Day – a period of time, a year or another unspecified period
- Deep green – life
- Dragon - The dragon represents greed, worldly wealth, destruction, evil, power, and dominion.
- Drink – to partake or make part of one's self
- Eagle – Symbol for the tribe of Rueben, the cardinal direction 'south', and the king of the sky. The Eagle is also a symbol of strength and agility. Sometimes represents eternal life.
- Earth - The earth is the giver of life. From it's dust man was formed. It is also the taker of life, when man dies he is laid to rest in the earth. It represents the physical death.
- Earthquake – Symbolizes a voice of warning, or something that brings about repentance. A symbol of God's power and glory
- East – Associated with the abode of God
- Eating – acceptance, consumption, make something part of one's self
- Emeralds - Royalty and Glory
- Eyes – power, light, knowledge
- Eyes before and behind – knowledge and light or truth
- Faces - Symbolizes the countenance, or the state of ones being.
- Feet - feet often make reference to foundation, or that which supports the whole. The symbolism of the foot being set upon something goes back to the days of ancient battles, where the victor would place his foot upon his slain enemy or upon the rubble of a conquered castle as a sign of victory and total dominion.
- Fire - Fire represents wrath, cleansing, and destruction. It can be used to symbolize hell, torment and anguish.
- Flames – power, sanctification
- Flee - The word fled carries the idea of being chased after, or running from danger.
- Flood - The Lord used the flood in ancient times to destroy the wicked. The great flood has since been used to symbolize, mass destruction, and the all encompassing power of God
- Forehead - shows where one's allegiances are.
- Fountains – cleansing and purification
- Four Beasts – four creatures that lived up to the measure of their creation. Also, they represent all the creations of God's hand. They represent heaven, the paradise of God, The happiness of man, and the happiness of beasts. They represent the spiritual and temporal creation of God.
- Four Corners of the Earth – Completeness on Earth, four elements (Earth, Air, Water and Fire), the four cardinal Directions (North, South, East and West), four winds....
- Frogs - Symbols for the devil or that which comes from him.

Furnace - The great furnace is a symbol of the terror, horror and anguish that awaits those who have rejected the voices of warning from their God

Girdle – strength

Glass - symbolizes purity, perfection, and clarity.

Gog – the King of Magog, who could be used to symbolize the wicked rulers of the earth.

Gold – Royalty, the celestial kingdom, God the Father. Also a Symbol for nobility, earthly possessions, love, the highest values of virtue, perfection, and eternity.

Golden Altar - The color gold is used to represent nobility, earthly possessions, love, the highest values of virtue, perfection, and eternity. The altar represents sacrifice, communication with God, and being in the presence of God.

Golden oil - used to represent the spirit that fills the body.

Golden pipes or golden vessel - represent the physical body given to us from God.

Grapes and grapevines – A symbol of abundance and life.

Hail – God’s judgment, power and glory

Hair - Symbol of strength.

Hand - represents covenants and oaths.

Harps – Symbolic bridge between heaven and earth

Heads - Symbolizes intelligence and leadership. They also symbolize capitals, leaders, or centers.

Honey - represents the highest earthly and heavenly good. It symbolizes immortality, calmness, and peace

Horns – Symbolizes royalty, kings, power, authority, and strength

Horse – Used to Symbolize Life and Danger. They are also symbols of strength, conflict, movement and most common in the scriptures, War.

Iron - Symbol for power, durability, inflexibility. Note that in the making of Solomon's temple iron tools could not be used. This might give iron an unfavorable symbol in the light of it's religious symbolism.

Jacinth - Is a gem, more specifically a bright red zircon, which is used to symbolize blood or death, and the atonement.

Jasper stone – life

Keys - represent power and authority

Keys of David – Represents absolute power, the Priesthood

Lamb – The Savior

Leopard - to symbolize wildness, aggression, battle, and pride.

Lightning - Symbol of God’s power and glory

Lion – Symbol for the tribe of Judah, the cardinal direction ‘east’, and the king of the jungle or wild animals. The Lion is also a symbol of kingship, royalty, strength and valor. Also known as the "King" of terrestrial animals. The lion can symbolize courage, wildness, wisdom, light, power, justice, and the resurrection of the dead at the day of justice.

Lion of the Tribe of Judah – Jesus Christ

Locust - used to symbolize invading armies, and the destruction and devastation associated with them. In Hebrew it means "many". Symbol of voracity, destruction, devastation.

Magog – references a land north east of the Black sea, anciently called Magog. It could be used to reference the wicked nations of the world.

Man – Symbol for the tribe of Ephraim, the cardinal direction ‘west’, and the king or lord of the earth. Man is a symbol of

God’s creations. Symbolize mortality, the carnal state, and the natural man.

Manchild – the Savior, or the priesthood thereof. The man child would represent preservation, strength, deliverance, and the supply of essential elements.

Mark on the hand of forehead - The mark indicates that one has made certain covenants with the person or thing symbolized by the mark.

Moon – light and knowledge, the gospel

Mountain - The word mountain often refers to the wicked, individually or collectively. It can be used to symbolize a strong hold of a group, much like the temple is referred to as the mountain of the Lord. It can also be used to refer to wicked nations.

Mouth - Represent the whole person, for example, "the mouth of the Lord spoke."

New – exaltation, perfection, redemption

Olive Tree – The kingdom of God on earth

Pale – A yellow-green color that is used to symbolize death. It is the pale color of a corpse (grayish green).

Palms – Tree of Life, victory, peace, royalty, eternal life and resurrection.

Pit – Often used in reference to the grave; however, it is used in a very negative fashion. It would appear that the wicked are associated with this pit. It represents the physical and spiritual death of those that provoke God.

Pot of Manna – Spiritual food, God’s mercy, and the Love of God.

Power to shut Heaven - power to shut heaven can be symbolic of holding back the rains that replenish the earth. It can also be used with reference to the great sealing powers...the lower to bind on earth and in heaven.

Rainbows - covenants and that the Lord will return to earth and dwell in Celestial glory

Red - the color of blood, is often a symbol of life. It also symbolizes the atonement, sin, and death.

Right Hand – Righteousness, God’s glory, inheritance. The right hand of God is reserved for his saints while to his left will be those that are awaiting eternal damnation. It can also be used as a symbol of the justice and mercy of God. The right is said to represent justice and the left mercy.

Robe - symbol of wholeness, and royalty

Rod - A rod is used to symbolize exactness

Rod of Aaron – the power and authority of the Priesthood

Root – Descendant

Running to Battle - This could symbolize readiness, eagerness, or desire to engage in battle.

Sackcloth – sign of mourning and sadness

Sardine stone (better known as Carnelian stone, is a reddish quartz color.) – life

Scales or Balances – Represent Law and Justice

Scorpions - symbolize pain and torment.

Scroll – knowledge

Sea - The sea generally represents the abyss, which swallows up all things. It symbolizes the eternal hell that awaits the wicked. It is used to represent the spiritual death or a large number of people like the inhabitants of the earth..

Sea of Glass like unto crystal – The immortal, sanctified, earth.

Sealing in the Forehead – Binding powers of the Temple

Serpent - Symbolize fear and deception. It can be used as a metaphor to show the ability to strike quickly, or bring death quickly.

Seven flaming lamps – 7 leaders of the seven churches

Seven Heads – Seven mountains

Seven Seals – the seven dispensations of the earth’s temporal existence, each being approximately 1,000 years

Sickle - The sickle is a symbol of Hope, Renewal, and Rebirth. It is a tool typically used in the harvest of grain. Hence it symbolizes the gathering of God’s children

Sign in the Forehead – A symbol of one allegiance or devotion

Silence – Absence of divine direction and blessings.

Six (6) - work, labor or action. The world was created in six (6) days. We are also told to work for six (6) days and rest on the seventh (7) day.

Smoke - indicates the connection between heaven and earth

Squared - a # squared symbolizes absoluteness & perfection

Stars - represent the leader, or servant of each church.

Stings or Stingers – Symbolizes power to inflict pain & torment.

Sun - greatness, glory, power, the Priesthood, and Jesus Christ.

Sweetness - Sweetness, indicates pleasure, satisfaction, and joy

Sword – truth, strength and power

Tablets of Moses – The commandments of God, Justice, and the order of God.

Tail - Tails are often used to indicate the power over ones following. Satan took 1/3 of the host of heaven with his tail.

Teeth - Symbols of strength, vitality, and aggressiveness.

Temple – The house or Abode of God

Thunder – Power and glory of God

Tongue - the word of the Lord

Tread - Tread is defined by dictionaries as to be walked on or stepped on. It is often used in connotations of occupation, in slavery, or defeat in war.

Trump – warning, announcement, proclamation

Twelve eyes – complete knowledge

Twelve horns – the twelve apostles

Twenty-four Elders – deceased members of the 7 churches

Vial or Bowl – Sacred offering, the atonement, cleansing

Vial of odours – prayers of the saints

Virgins – pure, clean, righteous, undefiled

Voice – warning

Water – renewal of both body and spirit, spiritual cleansing.

Dirty water represents wickedness, filth, and destruction. It can also symbolize people.

White – perfection, purity

Without mixture - not diluted; no reprieve; nothing held back

Wilderness - The wilderness is defined literally as an uninhabited region, or an area where there is no man.

Winepress – the atonement of Jesus Christ

Wings - An expression for the power of action or movement on a celestial plane. The symbol of wings have also been used scripturally to symbolize the protection of the Lord.

Woe - Deep distress or misery, as from grief; wretchedness, synonym – regret, misfortune; calamity. used to express sorrow and dismay.

Woman – could symbolize the organization of the Church, though many say that ‘she’ is the priesthood.