

Biblical Symbols —Specially from Revelation

JND: (General symbols)

Sun Supreme authority set up over the earth

Moon a reflected, subordinate vessel, to reflect governmental authority on the earth

Stars smaller independent authorities—vessels of light and power

Sea/Great Waters masses of people, unformed and undirected

Rivers portions of peoples/population to which a given form and direction has been given. More connected with the influences which flow from God's presence

Water When used by itself, is the Word in the power of the Spirit of God—still the divine source of truth. It is used as 'cleansing' and 'refreshing'.

Great Waters/Many Waters a mighty unformed mass, see often in tumultuous motion, - not characterized by particular forms institutions - the outflow of active principles whether of God or of the world. 'Rivers' can also symbolically mean nations, armies of people under certain direction or influence, flowing actively in a given direction.

Great Tree - exalted power and greatness in the earth.

Green Grass general prosperity

Mountain established seat of authority.

Hills are used in the same sense, only of inferior power

Fig Tree man under divine culture and hence, specially Israel

Vine/vineyard God's planting and what He has formed religiously and ecclesiastically so, first Israel, the Christ Himself, always of course, on earth; lastly corrupt and apostate, still on earth, and the finally of it, though under a religious or ecclesiastical form.

Cherubim judicial power

Brass judgment of evil

Gold what is fit for the presence of God

Silver the faithfulness and stability of God's purpose

Glass Purity-that in and on which we walk where no defilement can be contracted

gold transparent as glass divine righteousness and perfect holiness are united in our state and all we are conversant with.

Fire added to brass the searching trial of judgement-the full trial of everything

White referring to robes is blamelessness-pure humanity to which nothing could be found to reproach

Horse spirit of power from God, gone forth to execute His purpose in judgment by whatever His instrument may be

white horse imperial triumph and victory; other colors give the character of the intervention of God.

Horn expression of power, and habitually in a kingdom and so in a king, but in a king as having the power of the kingdom centered in him, not the king personally ... save, so far as that is the case

Heads forms of government

Wings rapidity of execution, also used for protecting power

Earth the revealed scene of God's dealings-hence often immediately connected with the land of Palestine.

earthquake a violent disturbance of the order and quiet of the ordered earth

darkening of the sun supreme authority over the earth losing its ordering power

sun black as sack cloth the same, only stronger, and with the idea of trouble, and extinction as a guiding, governing light

the moon into blood subordinate and derivative power violently losing its native character
Stars of Heaven falling on the earth smaller local powers losing all their luster and authority
Heaven rolled as a scroll the whole seat and place of authority subverted; and so of the mountains and islands, the stable seats of authority subverted, and what was ordered, and rose above the vague mass of peoples, is removed
times seven, completeness in spiritual things and what is directly established of God; **twelve** perfection, according to God, in human institution
Dragon open, idolatrous rejection of the Gospel of Christ by Satan's actual power
Beast the civil associate glory, and assumed power of the Roman empire under whatever form.
False prophet the concentration, in moral iniquity, of the influence of what was the second beast, or hierarchical energy of spiritual deception.



Symbols in Revelation According to each Chapter
 (A general summary of what has been taught by others)

Chapter 1

- 1:1 **Angel** the mystical representation of one not actually seen.
- 1:4 **The Seven Spirits** The Holy Spirit in His varied operations of governmental power.
- 1:12 **Seven Golden Candlesticks** (“Lamp Stands”) Responsible vessels of light on earth in their totality.
- 1:13 **Garment Down to the Foot** Garb of priestly discrimination, not now in service, but judging.
Golden Girdle Divine righteousness and faithfulness (Isa. 11:5)
- 1:14 **White like wool** The divine glory of the Ancient of Days, viewed in that character. (Dan. 7:9).
Eyes as a flame of fire Attribute of searching, intelligent judgment, judicial discernment.
- 1:15 **Feet like fine brass** Righteousness in dealing with man in his responsibility
Voice as the sound of many waters overwhelming power and majesty (Ezek. 1:24; 43:2)
- 1:16 **Seven Stars** Completeness of subordinate authority under Christ in light
Sharp two-edged sword Searching judgment of the Word of God. (Isa. 49:2; Heb. 4:12).
Countenance as the Sun Splendor of supreme authority
- 1:18 **Keys of Death and of Hades** Power over death and the departed state.
- 1:20 **Angels of the Seven Churches** The moral representatives of the responsibility of the assemblies. A symbolical representation of the assembly viewed in those responsible in it.

Chapter Two

- 2:7 **Tree of Life** food for heavenly inhabitants, constant refreshment (same as chp 22:2)
- 2:9 **Jews** Professing Christians who had turned back to hereditary religion. (Phpp. 3:2)
- 2:10 **Ten days** A determinate period of suffering and persecution (may possible refer to the awful 10 year reign of persecution of Christians during the rule of the Roman Emperor Diocletian —though there was a long period of persecution from the rule of Trajan through the time of Diocletian's reign. (After this time of severe persecution, Constantine ruled and supported Christianity).
- 2:14 **To eat Idol sacrifices** Association with the false worship of devils in the world (1 Cor. 10:20).
Fornication Illicit commerce (socializing, fellowship, intercourse) with the world.
- v.17 **Hidden Manna** The once humbled and rejected One known in heaven.
White Stone Individual approbation by Christ
- v.20 **Jezebel** Systematic allowance of worldliness, immorality, and idolatry
- v.23 **Death** Apostasy from God

- Reins and Hearts** Inward affections and thoughts
- v.27 **Rod of Iron** Power of the kingdom
- v.28 **Morning Star** Harbinger of day; Christ known as such by the saints now before the day comes

Chapter Three

- v.5 **Book of Life** Register of Christian profession, true or false; but assumed true till proved false (Ex. 32:33; Psa 69:28)
- v.7 **Key** Delegated authority. Trust (Isa. 9:6,7; 22:22)
- v.12 **New Name** Mark of supreme authority
- v.18 **Gold tried in the Fire** True and approved righteousness
- White Raiment** Clothing for moral nakedness
- Nakedness** Spiritual destitution
- Eye-Salve** True spiritual vision

Chapter 4

- v.2 **Throne** the royal seat of authority and government
- v.3 **Jasper and Sardine** Divine glory visible to man (Rev. 21:11)
- Rainbow** sign of God's unchanging covenant with the earth in mercy. Post-diluvian relationship. (Gen. 9:13,14; Ezek. 1:28)
- v.4 **Twenty Four** Priestly completeness. The number of courses of the priesthood in Israel (1 Chron 24:4). Twice the administrative perfection in man
- Elders** Glorified saints as invested with wisdom and intelligence
- White Raiment** Recognition of righteousness (chap 6:11)
- Crowns of Gold** royal dignity
- v.5 **Lightnings and Thunderings and Voices** signs of judicial dealing
- seven lamps of fire The consuming power of the Spirit of God in perfect development (Heb. 12:29; Rev. 1:4)
- v.6 **Sea of Glass** Solid purity, in contrast with water of the laver (Ex 30:17-21)
- Four Beasts** (living creatures) God's attributes in judicial and governmental power on earth. Types of power, firmness, intelligence, and rapidity of execution.
- v.8 **Six wings** Supernatural swiftness (Ezek. 1)
- Full of eyes** perfect intelligence

Chapter 5

- v.1 **Seven Sealed Book** Revelation of God's counsels and mysteries wholly secret.
- v.6 **A Lamb as it had been slain** Messiah in power, but recognized as the same as the suffering Redeemer
- Seven Horns** Perfection of power and exaltation (Deut. 33:17, 1 Sam. 2:1,10, Psa. 75:10)
- Seven Eyes** perfect intelligence (Zech 3:9; 4:10; 2 Chron 16:9)
- Seven Spirits** The fulness of the perfection in which He will govern the earth (Isa. 11:2)
- v.8 **Harps** Choral services of praise (Psa 98:5)
- Golden Vials** Priestly service.

Chapter 6

- v.2 **White Horse** conquering aggressive power in providential action (Zec 6)
- Bow** Victorious warfare (Psa 7:12,13)
- Crown** Imperial authority

- Red Horse** Power with frightful carnage
- Sword** war - slaughter
- v.5 **Black Horse** sorrow and mourning
- Pair of balances** Accuracy in measure because of scarcity (Ezk 4:16; 5:1,10,12; 14:13)
- v.6 **Oil and wine** the luxuries of the rich
- v.8 **Pale Horse** excessive mortality by sword, famine, and pestilence (Ezk 5:16,17; 14:12-21)
- Fourth part of the earth** a limited portion of the Roman earth
- v.9 **Under the Altar** as having been as sacrifices to God; their lives offered up
- v.11 **White Robe** Recognition of practical righteousness (Rev 19:8)
- v.12 **Earthquake** convulsion of the whole structure of society. darkening and subversion of established authorities
- Moon as blood** all derived authority in a state of death morally
- v.13 **Stars fallen from Heaven** open apostasy of subordinate authorities
- v.14 **Heaven departed as a scroll** General convulsion and overthrow of all governmental order
- Mountains** Seats of authority in stability
- Islands** Mercantile seaports as sources of wealth; independent interests (Isa. 23:2,6; Jer 25:22; Ezk 27:3,15)

Chapter 7

- v.1 **Winds of the earth** Universal troubles and political tumults. Satanic agencies (Job 1:19; Jer 49:36; 51:1; Dan 7:2)
- v.2 **Seal** that which marks for preservation (Ezk 9:4; Hagg 2:23; 2 Tim 2:19)
- v.3 **Earth** (see Rev 10:2) Sea (Rev 13:1) Trees (Rev. 8:7)
- v.4 **144,000** An elect mystical number of Israel sealed for preservation
- v.9 **White Robes** recognition of righteousness
- Palm tree** Triumphant joy after a period of suffering; Millennial rest (Ex 15:27; Lev 23:40; Num 33:9; Neh 8:15; Ezk 41:18)
- v.15 **Temple** The place of God's veiled presence

Chapter 8

- v.1 **Silence in Heaven** Temporary suspension of judgment
- v.2 **Trumpets** Loud announcements of God's interference (Ex 15:27; Joel 2:1)
- v.3 **Another Angel** Christ
- Altar** the brazen altar, the first point of contact between God and man on earth
- Incense** The precious perfume of the graces of Christ
- Golden Altar** Effectual intercession of the great High Priest (Ex. 30)
- v.5 **Fire of the Altar** judgment in favor of saints in reply to intercession (Ezk 10:2)
- Voices and Thunderings and Lightnings and an Earthquake** signs of God's power in the subversion of all established order on the earth
- v.7 **Hail** Sudden stormy judgment from God (Isa. 28:2; Rev. 16:21)
- Fire** consuming judgment
- Blood** death morally; apostasy
- Third part** The Western Roman earth (the dragon with seven heads and ten horns drew the third part of the stars) (Rev 12:3,4)
- Trees** exalted position among men; human power and pride (Ezk 31; Dan 4)
- Green Grass** Earthly prosperity; human weakness (Isa 40:6,8; 1 Pet 1:24)
- Mountain burning with fire** A great established power replete with judgment (Jer 51:25)

- Sea** (See Rev 13:1)
Blood (see this chapter, v.7)
- v.9 **Death** public apostasy from God; the power of Satan. (Rev 2:23)
Ships Lucrative commerce
Star, burning as it were a lamp a fallen and apostate dignitary
Rivers The activity of bodies of people under certain influences
Fountains of waters The source and origin of these influences
- v.11 **Wormwood** The bitterness and misery of apostasy (Jer 9:15,16; 23:15; Lam. 3:5,19)
- v.12 **Sun** Supreme ruling power (Isa. 13:9,10; Ezk 32:7; Joel 3:15)
Moon Derived light; that which reflects the light of the sun in his absence
Stars Subordinate authorities
Darkness No perception of God's will; strong delusion to believe a lie [the four trumpets affect all parts of symbolic creation]

Chapter 9

- v.1 **Star fallen from Heaven** an apostate subordinate power
Bottomless Pit The place where Satanic evil is shut up and chained (luke 8:31; 2 Pet 2:4; Rev 20:1,3)
- v.2 **Smoke of a great Furnace** Blinding Satanic delusion
Sun (see Rev. 8:12)
Air the medium through which political vitality is communicated to the masses (see Rev 16:17)
The sphere of Satan's rule (Eph. 2:2)
- v.3 **Locusts** Warlike instruments of Satanic power in the earth, used providentially
Scorpion power Infliction of pain and anguish of heart, mental agony
- v.5 **Five Months** a determinate, limited time
- v.7 **Horses prepared unto battle** see Rev. chap 6
Crowns of Gold victorious power affecting divine righteousness
Faces as the faces of Men masculine energy
- v.8 **Hair as of women** subjection to others (1 Cor. 11:15)
Teeth as of Lions ferocity, cruelty (Psa 57:4; Prov 30:14)
- v.9 **Breastplates of Iron** steeled [hardened] consciences
Sound of Chariots, & etc. fanatical and rapid warfare
- v.10 **Stings in their tails** the venom of false principles. poisonous doctrines (Isa 9:15; Psa 140:3)
- v.13 **Golden Altar** (see Rev 8:3)
- v.14 **Euphrates** the barrier of the Roman earth
- v.15 **Hour, Day, Month, and Year** a prescribed period
- v.16 **Two myriads of myriads** (200,000,000) countless swarms of moral locusts
- v.17 **Breastplates of Fire and Jacinth and Brimstone** the defensive armour of hell
Fire and Smoke and Brimstone inflicted judgments of a darkening and hellish character
- v.19 **Tails like Serpents, & etc.** Serpent-like influence and mischief (Rom 1:28; 2 Thess. 2:11)

Chapter 10

- v.1 **Mighty Angel** Christ asserting His claim over the earth.
Cloud Sign of Jehovah's presence (Exo 13:21; Isa 4:5, Ezk 10:4; Matt. 17:5)
Rainbow (see Rev 4:3)
Sun supreme sovereign glory (Psa 136:8,9)
Feet as Pillars of Fire firmness of discriminating judgment

- v.2 **Little Book** open prophetic revelations of circumscribed character
- Sea** (see Rev. 13:1)
- Earth** The ordered scene of God's government
- v.8 **Seven Thunders** The perfection of God's intervention in judgment
- v.9 **To Eat** to meditate, digest (Josh 1:8; Psa 119:103)

Chapter 11

- v.1 **Temple and Altar Measured** Preservation and acceptance of true Jewish worshippers
- v.2 **The Court** Outward profession under Gentile oppression
- v.4 **Two olive-trees and two Candlesticks** God's declared witness to the reestablishment of Israel with royalty and priesthood (Zech. 4)
- v.7 **Beast** (see Rev 13:1)
- v.8 **The great Street of the City** Jerusalem
- v.12 **A great Voice** A call from Him who is the resurrection and the life
- v.13 **Earthquake** (see Rev 6:12)
- Tenth part of City** One of the ten horns or kingdoms
- Seven Thousand Names of men** The complete organized systems of the earth
- v.19 **Temple opened** The public recommencement of God's dealings with the Jews on earth from Heaven
- Ark of the Covenant** Sign of God's faithfulness to Israel; the outward link of His connection with His people.
- Lightnings, & etc.** (see Rev 8:5; 16:18)

Chapter 12

- v.1 **Woman** Israel; the Jewish mother of Christ personified in Jerusalem (Isa. 6:9)
- Clothed with the Sun** Israel or Jerusalem invested with supreme authority
- The Moon under her Feet** The whole reflected light of her previous state under her feet
- Crown of Twelve Stars** Complete human authority (compare Gen 37:9; Isa. 60)
- v.3 **Red Dragon** Satan viewed in connection with earthly power
- Seven Heads** Completeness of power in evil
- Ten Horns** The ideal aggregate of the rules of the divided Roman Empire; incomplete kingly administration. (The Lamb had seven horns. Twelve is completeness of power in man)
- Seven Crowns - Diadems** completeness in form of power
- v.4 **Tail of the Dragon** malignant influence through false teaching (Isa 9:15)
- Third part of the Stars** rulers of the Roman Empire (see Rev. 8)
- v.5 **Man Child** Christ
- v.6 **Wilderness** Isolation from the present resources of the civilized earth
- v.10 **A great voice** Authoritative announcement from heaven by Christ of a great public fact
- v.14 **Eagle's Wings** means of rapid escape
- v.15 **Water as A Flood (river)** The movements of people under Satanic influence (Psa. 93:3,4)

Chapter 13

- v.1 **Sand of the Sea** Position of moral separation from the tumultuous movements of the people
- Beast** Revived form of the Roman Empire (Dan 7)
- Sea** The turbulent mass of unsettled, unreclaimed nations in anarchy and confusion (Isa. 57:20)
- Seven Heads** (see Rev 12:3; 17:9)
- Ten Horns** (see Rev 12:3)

- Ten crowns/diadems** Kingly power in an incomplete form
Names of Blasphemy Open enmity to God and His Christ
- v.2 **Leopard** Swiftness of conquest; cruelty (Jer. 5:6; Dan 7:6; Hos 13:7; Hab 1:8)
Bear Voracity; tenacity of grasp
Lion Ferocity, strength (Judges 14:8) [The characteristic qualities of the Macedonian, the Persian, and the Babylonian Empires]
- v.3 **Deadly wound by a sword** Political calamity inflicted by war
v.8 **Lamb's Book of Life** Register of the elect (Rev 3:5; 20:12)
v.11 **Two horned Beast** Imitator of Christ's power as king and prophet, the same as the false prophet; the Antichrist (Dan 7:8; 11:36; 2 Thess 2)
Earth The Roman earth, including those who dwell, or have their portion in it
- v.16 **Mark in the Right Hand or on the Forehead** Public profession or appearance before men

Chapter 14

- v.1 **144,000** The suffering Jewish remnant of the Psalms. Judah and Benjamin. Christ's brethren of Matt 25:40; Psa 69:26; 1 Sam 22:1,2; Dan 3.
Name in their foreheads Open confession of Christ (compare Rev 13:16)
- v.2 **Harpers** perhaps the same as those of Rev 15:2
v.4 **Virgins** Those who had kept apart from the idolatries of the great harlot
v.8 **Babylon** City of confusion (see Rev 17:5)
v.14 **A White Cloud** (see Rev 10:1)
Golden Crown royal dignity
- v.15 **Harvest** Discriminating judgment (Matt. 24:40,41)
v.17 **Vine of the Earth** Religious apostasy; Jewish (Isa 5; Joel 3:13)
v.19 **Winepress** The fierce, unsparing wrath of God; unmixed vengeance on the apostate Jews and nations with them (Psa 75:8; Psa 83; Isa 34; 61:1,6; Jer. 25:15,16)
v.20 **1,600 Furlongs [200 miles]** wide spread human carnage (this distance is approximately to the extent of the land of Canaan)

Chapter 15

- v.2 **Sea of glass** Fixed purity; washing of water by the word no longer needed
Mingled with fire mark of great fiery tribulation through which they had passed
Harps of God Perfect joy and praise (see Rev. 14:2)
- v.5 **Temple Opened** Judicial testimony to man's guilty state
v.6 **Pure and White Linen and Golden Girdles** a judgment which required purity and divine righteousness
- v.7 **Golden Vials - Bowls** the expression of God's wrath against the corruption of the earth.
v.8 **Smoke from the Glory** The solemn darkness in which God is shut up preceding active judgment, so that man cannot find Him (Isa 6:4)

Chapter 16

- v.2 **Noisome Sore** Moral distemper and misery (Ex 9:8; Isa 1:6)
v.3 **Blood as of a Dead Man** Final open apostasy and alienation from God.
v.4 **Rivers and fountains of water** (see Rev 8:10) These popular influences became the power of death
- v.7 **Altar** Witness of the blood shedding of saints (Rev. 6:9)
v.8 **To scorch with fire** Intolerable tyranny and persecution

- v.12 **Euphrates** The securing boundary of the Western prophetic power. The commercial prosperity of Babylon
- v.13 **Three Unclean Spirits like Frogs** The open energy and hostility of Satan; the renewed Roman Empire as come up out of the bottomless pit; and Antichrist, a certain analogy with the evil of Cain, Balaam, and Core
- v.16 **Armageddon** A mystic name (compare Judg. 5:9,10)
- v.17 **Air** The universal moral influence that acts on man (compare Rev. 9:2)
- v.18 **Voices, Thunders, Lightnings, and Earthquake** (see REv 8:5)
- v.19 **The great city** The public confederation of European civilization; all that was established within the Roman Empire
- The Cities of the Nations** All that the nations outside of Rome had built up politically. The other European centers of social life
- Babylon** (see Rev 17:5)
- v.20 **Islands and mountains** (see Rev 6:14)
- v.21 **Hail the weight of a talent** Rapid and overwhelming incursions of hostile armies (Joel 2:2,9; Isa 28:2; 30:30)

Chapter 17

- v.1 **Waters** People under Satanic power and influence (see v 15)
- v.2 **Fornication** (see Rev. 2:14)
- v.3 **Wilderness** Place of desolation and drought where no springs of God exist
- Woman** The great imperial city in her corrupt religious character. Papal Rome.
- Scarlet-colored beast** Imperial Rome in its blasphemous form
- v.4 **Purple** Imperial raiment: [combined with scarlet a mixture of heavenly and earthly]
- Scarlet** Human glory and splendor
- Gold, Precious Stones and Pearls** Affection of divine righteousness, glory, and beauty
- Abominations and Filthiness** Idolatry and corruption, prostitution of Christianity.
- v.5 **Babylon** The great licentious and idolatrous corruptress of religion; Western civilization in its religious aspect (Jer 51:7).
- Mystery** Pretension to the truth
- v.9 **Seven Mountains** seven forms of government
- Kings**
- Consuls**
- Dictators**
- Decemvirs**
- Military Tribunes** "*Five are fallen*"
- Imperial** "*One is*" ... in the time of John, administered by Domitian
- Emperor?** "*And the other is not yet come*" (foreshadowed in type by Napoleon, according to some)
- v.18 **The Great City** Rome (see Rev. 16:19)

Chapter 19

- v.11 **White Horse** Divine energy of government in the earth; triumphant imperial power (Psa 45:3,4)
- v.12 **Eyes as a Flame of Fire** (see Rev 1:14)
- Many Crowns** Possession of all titles to sovereignty
- v.13 **Vesture dipped in blood** Character of Christ's display in vengeance
- v.15 **Sharp Sword** (see Rev 1:16)

Chapter 20

- v.1 **Key** Power in administrative responsibility to God.
Bottomless Pit [Abyss] (see Rev 9:1)
Chain Hindrance from action
- v.8 **Gog and Magog** Countless hordes from the four quarters of the earth. Repetition on a larger scale of Ezk 38
- v.11 **Great White Throne** Sessional judgment at the end
- v.12 **Book of Life** (see Rev 3:5; 13:8)
- v.14 **Death and Hell [Hades]** The enemies of man personified; and so of the Lord as Saviour, wherein body and soul had been held temporarily imprisoned (“Hades” - temporarily separated). This condition is over

Chapter 21

- v.2 **The Holy City** New Jerusalem. The bride displayed in glory; not her dwelling place.
- v.11 **Jasper** (see Rev 4:3)
- v.12 **Wall** Security, salvation (Isa 26:1; 60:18; Zech 2:5)
Twelve Gates Perfect judicial administration [Twelve is administrative perfection in man] (Gen.19:1; Deut 22:15; Dan 2:49; Amos 5:15).
At the gates Twelve Angels Providential administration
Names of the Twelve Tribes Direct earthly administration, as in Israel
- v.14 **Twelve Foundations, and in them the Names of the Twelve Apostles:** The church apostolically founded by the twelve (Eph 2:20)
- v.15 **Golden Reed** Measurement by the divine standard
- v.16 **Fore-square** Completeness; the same all ways; the perfection of a city whose builder and maker is God
- v.18 **Pure Gold clear as Crystal** Purity without spot or blemish
- v.19 **Precious Stones** Rays of divine glory reflected through the bride
- v.21 **Pearl** Christ’s estimate of the beauty and comeliness of the bride; seen externally by men and angels (Matt. 13:45,46)

Chapter 22

- v.1 **River of Water of Life** Life-giving blessing flowing through the bride, the Lamb’s wife
- v.2 **Tree of Life** food for the heavenly inhabitants; constant refreshment
Leaves of the Tree Blessing to those on earth; healing for the nations
- v.4 **His Name on the Forehead** perfect reflection of Himself (1 Jn 3:2; compare Rev 13:16)