

Serpent—Satan
Silver—Pure words/Understanding
Stars—Angels
Sun—Jesus
Sword—Word of God
Thief—Suddenness of Jesus' coming
Thorns/Thorny Ground—Cares of this life
Time—360 Days/One year
Times—720 Days/Two years
Tongue—Language/Speech
Tree—Cross/People/Nation
Trumpet—Loud warning of God's approach/War
Vinyard—Church that should bear fruit
Water—Everlasting life/Holy Spirit/Cleansing
White—Purity/Conquest
White Robes/Linen—Victory/Righteousness
Winds—Strife/Commotion/Winds of war
Wine—Blood/Covenant/Doctrines
Wings—Speed
Wolf—False prophets that hunt in a time of darkness
Woman (Corrupt)—Apostate church
Woman (Pure)—True church
Zion—God's people

And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye
shall search for me with all your heart.

(Jeremiah 29:13-15)

BIBLE SYMBOLISM

In order to understand the Bible better, it is necessary to have a basic knowledge of the metaphors, similes and symbolism it uses. The Bible is rich in imagery, style and variety which can often lead to misunderstandings, so it is important to ask God's help through prayer and study Scripture (the Bible) with an open and teachable heart. Often the Bible will interpret itself and it can be useful to see where else the same word or image is used as this may provide an explanation. God gave us His book to reveal Himself—it was meant for us to understand—but some passages can be very difficult to discern, especially when the subject is prophetic, and we might only realise what these things meant after certain events have taken place. Some preachers like to over-complicate matters, which can result in the average reader feeling inadequate in their ability to understand Scripture but, for now, please be assured that all God asks of us is to do our best and we can trust that He will reveal what He wants us to know when the time is right. This short guide contains some of the more common symbolical words and their meanings to help you get started.

- 1—Oneness of God
- 2—The truth of God's word
- 3—The resurrection
- 4—Universal truth (as in the four directions and four winds)
- 5—Teaching (five books of Moses, five wise virgins, five barley loaves)
- 6—Man and the worship of man, his rebellion, imperfection, works and disobedience
- 7—God and His perfection. The sign of divine worship, completion, obedience and rest
- 10—Law and restoration—the Ten Commandments
- 12—The church and God's authority: 12 disciples, 12 tribes of Israel, etc.
- 40—One generation, as well as times of testing and purification
- 50—Power and celebration
- 70—Human leadership and judgment

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Adultery—Backsliding/Unfaithfulness to God/Idolatry/Worshipping other gods
Amber—Glory of God
Ancient of Days—God
Angel—Messenger of God
Arrows—Bitter words/False witness/tongue
Ashes—Mankind is like dust and ashes
Asleep—Dead, death (physical or spiritual)
Babel/Babylon—Confusion/Rebellion/Apostasy
Bear—Destructive power/Wicked ruler
Beast—Kingdom/Government
Black—Famine
Blood—Life
Blue—Law/Obedience
Brass/Bronze—Rebels and slanderers/Earth
Bread—Word of God
Bride (of Christ)—God's people/New Jerusalem
Bridegroom—Jesus Christ
Christ—Anointed One
Circumcision (Those of the Circumcision)—Jews
Clothing/Garments—Character
Clouds—Angels
Crimson (Red colour)—Sin/Death/Corruption/Persecution/Destruction
Crown—A glorious ruler or rulership
Darkness—Wickedness/Evil/Lack of understanding/Blindness/Spiritual error/Covering of God/Death
Day—Literal year
Dove—Holy Spirit (God)
Dragon—Satan or his agency
Eyes—Spiritual discernment
Famine—Dearth of truth
Feet—Your walk
Field—World
Fig Tree—A nation that should bear fruit
Fire—Holy Spirit
Forehead—Mind
Fornication—Illicit connection between church (woman) and world (kings)

Fruit—Results of works or actions
Goat—Greece
Gold (colour)—Holiness/Rulership/Spiritual wealth
Gold (metal)—Pure character/Precious and rare
Hand—Deeds/Works/Actions
Harlot—Apostate church or religion
Harvest—End of the world
Heads—Major Powers/Rulers/Governments
Healing—Salvation
Honey—Happy life
Horn—King or kingdom
Horse (Black)—Famine
Horse (Pale)—Death
Horse (Red)—War
Horse (White)—Conquest
Horse—Strength/Power in battle/Swiftness/Stubbornness/Lust/Misguided trust
Jar/Vessel—Person
Lamb—Jesus/Sacrifice
Lamp—Word of God
Leaven—Sin
Leprosy/Sickness—Sin
Lion—Powerful king, that is, Babylon/Jesus
Mark—Sign or seal of approval or disapproval
Mountains—Political or religio-political powers/Holiness
Oil—Holy Spirit
Prostitution—Idolatry
Purple—Royalty
Ram—Medo-Persia
Reapers—Angels
Red/Scarlet—Sin/War
Ring—Authority
Rock—Jesus/Truth
Sea—Nations
Seal—Sign or seal of approval or disapproval
Seed—Children of God/Jesus

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