

SYMBOLS

FROM

THE

BIBLE

Book 1

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INTRODUCTION

As I watched (on TV) Robert Morris give his sermons to Gateway Church in Texas, he shared what it meant to him when he discovered that the Bible has many parabolic or symbolic uses of words in it. He explained some of them in his sermons.

I became interested in writing down the symbolic meanings of some of the words in the Bible as Robert taught it, and as I read the Word, and as I read other books also.

I compiled these into a file which is following.

I also put in this file some of the descriptions of "figurative words" listed in my KJV Bible. Therefore when it says "Figurative of: " that is from:

The Holy Bible, King James Version, PTL Counselors Edition, Bible Study Helps, Biblical Cyclopedic Index, p. 23ff

(All Scriptures are in NIV version unless otherwise indicated)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Book 1
A to C

Book 2
D to G

Book 3
H to R

Book 4
S to 144,000

ADULTERY

Figurative of:

Worldliness

James 4:4

You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God?

False teaching

Revelation 2:14, 15, 20

I have a few things against you: You have people there who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin by eating food sacrificed to idols and by committing sexual immorality...by her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols.

ADVERSARY

Descriptive of:

Satan

Zechariah 3:1, 2

Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right side to accuse him. The Lord said to Satan, "The Lord rebuke you, Satan! The Lord, who has chosen Jerusalem, rebuke you! Is not this man a burning stick snatched from the fire?"

1 Peter 5:8 KJV

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.

Gospel's enemies

1 Corinthians 16:8-9 RSV

But I will stay in Ephesus until Pentecost, for a wide door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.

Israel's enemies

Joshua 5:13 KJV

And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand; and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, Art thou for us, or for our adversaries?

A Jew-hater

Esther 7:6

Esther said, "The adversary and enemy is this vile Haman." Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen.

An opponent

1 Samuel 1:6 RSV

And her rival (adversary) used to provoke her sorely, to irritate her, because the Lord had closed her womb.

God's agent

1 Kings 11:14, 23, 25

Then the Lord raised up against Solomon an adversary, Hadad the Edomite, from the royal line of Edom...And God raised up against Solomon another adversary, Rezon son of Eliada, who had fled from his master, Hadadezer king of Zobah...Rezon was Israel's adversary as long as Solomon lived, adding to the trouble caused by Hadad.

God's angel

Numbers 22:22 RSV

But God's anger was kindled because he went; and the angel of the Lord took his stand in the way as his adversary.

AGATE

Figurative of:

The new Israel

Isaiah 54:11, 12

O afflicted city, lashed by storms and comforted, I will build you with stones of turquoise, your foundations with sapphires. I will make your battlements of rubies [agate], your gates of sparkling jewels, and all your walls of precious stones.

AGE

Descriptive of:

Old Testament period

Ephesians 3:5 KJV

Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit.

Eternity

Ephesians 2:7 KJV

That in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

AIRPLANE

Scriptures sounding to some like the modern airplane

Isaiah 31:5

Like birds hovering overhead, the Lord Almighty will shield Jerusalem; he will shield it and deliver it, he will 'pass over' it and will rescue it.

Isaiah 60:8

Who are these that fly along like clouds, like doves to their nests?

Jeremiah 48:40

This is what the Lord says: "Look! An eagle is swooping down, spreading its wings over Moab."

Ezekiel 1:19-24

When the living creatures moved, the wheels beside them moved; and when the living creatures rose from the ground, the wheels also rose. Wherever the spirit would go, they would go, and the wheels would rise along with them, because the spirit of the living creatures was in the wheels. When the creatures moved, they also moved; when the creatures stood still, they also stood still; and when the creatures rose from the ground, the wheels rose along with them, because the spirit of the living creatures was in the wheels.

Spread out above the heads of the living creatures was what looked like an expanse, sparkling like ice, and awesome. Under the expanse their wings were stretched out one toward the other, and each had two wings covering its body. When the creatures moved, I heard the sound of their wings, like the roar of rushing waters, like the voice of the Almighty, like the tumult of an army. When they stood still, they lowered their wings.

Revelation 12:14

The woman was given the two wings of a great eagle, so that she might fly to the place prepared for her in the desert, where she will be taken care of for a time, times and half a time, out of the serpent's reach.

ALIENS

Descriptive spiritually of:

Estrangement from friends

Job 19:15

My guests and my maidservants count me a stranger; they look upon me as an alien.

The state of the Gentiles

Ephesians 2:12 RSV

Remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

Spiritual deadness

Ephesians 4:18 RSV

They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart.

ANGELS

Described as:

Flames of fire, God's servants

Psalm 104:4

He makes winds his messengers, flames of fire his servants.

Exodus 3:2

There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up.

Ministering spirits

Hebrews 1:14

Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?

Heavenly hosts, mighty ones, servants:

Psalm 103:20-21

Praise the Lord, you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, who obey his word. Praise the Lord, all his heavenly hosts, you his servants who do his will.

Seraphs

Isaiah 6:2-4

Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory." At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.

Cherubim

2 Samuel 22:10-11

He parted the heavens and came down; dark clouds were under his feet. He mounted the cherubim and flew; he soared on the wings of the wind.

Archangel

1 Thessalonians 4:16

For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

Thrones, powers, rulers, authorities

Colossians 1:16

For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.

Angel of the Lord

Numbers 22:22-31

The angel of the Lord stood in the road to oppose him... The donkey saw the angel of the Lord standing in the road... she turned off the road into a field. Balaam beat her...Then the Lord opened Balaam's eyes, and he saw the angel of the Lord standing in the road with his sword drawn.

Judges 6:12

When the angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon, he said, "The Lord is with you, mighty warrior."

Men

Acts 1:9-11

After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

Revelation 1:20

The seven stars that you saw in my right hand and of the seven golden lampstands is this: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

Revelation 2:1

To the angel of the church of Ephesus write.

The spirit of man

Acts 12:15

When she recognized Peter's voice, she was so overjoyed she ran back without opening it and exclaimed, "Peter is at the door!"

"You are out of your mind," they told her. When she kept insisting that it was so, they said, "It must be his angel."

Spirits

Psalm 104:4 KJV

[The Lord] who maketh his angels spirits; his ministers a flaming fire.

Heavenly beings

Psalm 8:4-5

What is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor.

Harvesters

Matthew 13:39, 41-42

The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels...The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. They will throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Chief prince, great prince

Daniel 10:13, 21

But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia... no one supports me against them except Michael.

Daniel 12:1-2

At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people - everyone whose name is found written in the book - will be delivered.

Morning stars

Job 38:4, 7

Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation?...while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy?

Holy

Mark 8:38

If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels.

Strangers

Hebrews 13:2

Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it.

Celestial beings

2 Peter 2:11

Bold and arrogant, these men are not afraid to slander celestial beings; yet even angels, although they are stronger and more powerful, do not bring slanderous accusations against such beings in the presence of the Lord.

ANCHOR

Figurative of:

The believer's hope

Hebrews 6:19

We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.

ANIMAL

Figurative of:

Universal peace

Isaiah 11:6-9

The wolf will lie down with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. The infant will play near the hole of the cobra, and the young child put his hand into the viper's nest. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

Man's innate nature

Jeremiah 13:23

Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard its spots? Neither can you do good who are accustomed to doing evil.

World empires

Daniel 7:2-4, 5, 6, 7

Daniel said: "In my vision at night I looked, and there before me were the four winds of heaven churning up the great sea. Four great beasts, each different from the others, came up out of the sea. The first was like a lion...a second beast which looked like a bear...there before me was another beast, one that looked like a leopard...there before me was a fourth beast...it had ten horns."

Satanic powers

Revelation 12:4, 9

The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that he might devour her child the moment it was born... The great dragon was hurled down - that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray.

Christ's sacrifice

1 Peter 1:18-19

For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

APPAREL

Apparel: righteousness, salvation

Revelation 3:18

I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness, and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.

Isaiah 4:1

In that day seven women will take hold of one man and say, "We will eat our own food and provide our own clothes; only let us be called by your name. Take away our disgrace."

Seven women represent the churches (Revelation 2 and 3). The churches will say to the one man (Jesus) that they will eat their own food (choose what they will believe rather than His Word), provide their own clothes (their own righteousness rather than His), but still want to be called by His name (Christians) so they won't be disgraced. (Ideas from Robert Morris)

Isaiah 61:10

I delight greatly in the Lord; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness.

Figurative of:

Christ's blood:

Isaiah 63:1-3

Who is this coming from Edom, from Bozrah, with his garments stained crimson? Who is this, robed in splendor, striding forward in the greatness of his strength?

"It is I, speaking in righteousness, mighty to save."

Why are your garments red, like those of one treading the winepress?

"I have trodden the winepress alone; from the nations no one was with me. I trampled them in my anger and trod them down in my wrath; their blood spattered my garments, and I stained all my clothing."

Christ's righteousness:

Zechariah 3:1-5

Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right side to accuse him. The Lord said to Satan, "The Lord rebuke you, Satan! The Lord who has chosen Jerusalem, rebuke you! Is not this man a burning stick snatched from the fire?"

Now Joshua was dressed in filthy clothes as he stood before the angel. The angel said to those who were standing before him, "Take off his filthy clothes."

Then he said to Joshua, "See, I have taken away your sin, and I will put rich garments on you."

Then I said, "Put a clean turban on his head." So they put a clean turban on his head and clothed him, while the angel of the Lord stood by.

The church's righteousness:

Psalm 45:13-14

All glorious is the princess within her chamber; her gown is interwoven with gold. In embroidered garments she is led to the king; her virgin companions follow her and are brought to you.

APPLE OF THE EYE

(A figurative expression for something very valuable)

Figurative of:

God's care

Deuteronomy 32:10

In a desert land he found him, in a barren and howling waste. He shielded him and cared for him; he guarded him as the apple of his eye.

God's law

Proverbs 7:2

Keep my commands and you will live, guard my teachings as the apple of your eye.

The saint's security

Psalms 17:8

Keep me as the apple of your eye; hide me in the shadow of your wings, from the wicked who assail me, from my mortal enemies who surround me.

APPLES OF GOLD

Something of great value

Proverbs 25:11

A word aptly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver.

ARCHERS

Figurative of:

Invincibility

Genesis 49:23-25

With bitterness archers attacked him [Joseph]; they shot at him with hostility. But his bow remained steady, his strong arms stayed limber, because of the hand of the Mighty One of Jacob, because of the Shepherd, the Rock of Israel, because of your father's God, who helps you.

The Lord's chastisement

Job 16:12-13

He [God] has made me his target; his archers surround me.

Loss of glory

Isaiah 21:17

All the pomp of Kedar will come to an end. The survivors of the bowmen, the warriors of Kedar, will be few.

Divine judgment

Jeremiah 50:29

Summon archers against Babylon, all those who draw the bow. Encamp around her; let no one escape.

ARK IN HEAVEN

Symbol of the new covenant

Revelation 11:19

Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and within his temple was seen the ark of his covenant.

ARM OF GOD

Descriptive of, God's:

Redeeming

Exodus 6:6

Therefore, say to the Israelites: "I am the Lord, and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. I will free you from being slaves to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment."

Saving

Psalm 44:3

It was not by their sword that they won the land, nor did their arm bring them victory; it was your right hand, your arm, and the light of your face, for you loved them.

Victorious

Psalm 98:1

Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things; his right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

Ruling

Isaiah 40:10

See, the Sovereign Lord comes with power, and his arm rules for him.

Strengthening

Psalm 89:21

My hand will sustain him; surely my arm will strengthen him.

Protecting

Deuteronomy 7:19

You saw with your own eyes the great trials, the miraculous signs and wonders, the mighty hand and outstretched arm with which the Lord your God brought you out.

Destroying

Isaiah 30:30

The Lord will cause men to hear his majestic voice and will make them see his arm coming down with raging anger and consuming fire, with cloudburst, thunderstorm and hail.

ARROW

Arrow: what the evil one shoots at a believer

Ephesians 6:16

In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

Figurative of:

* God's judgments

Deuteronomy 32:23, 42

I will heap calamities upon them and spend my arrows against them... I will make my arrows drunk with blood, while my sword devours flesh.

* Intense affliction

Job 6:4

The arrows of the Almighty are in me, my spirit drinks in their poison; God's terrors are marshaled against me.

* Wicked intentions

Psalms 11:2

The wicked bend their bows; they set their arrows against the strings to shoot from the shadows at the upright in heart.

* Messiah's mission

Psalms 45:5

Let your sharp arrows pierce the hearts of the king's enemies; let the nations fall beneath your feet.

* Bitter words

Psalms 64:3

They sharpen their tongues like swords and aim their words like deadly arrows.

* God's power

Psalm 76:3

There he [God] broke the flashing arrows, the shields and swords, the weapons of war.

* Daily hazards

Psalm 91:5

You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day.

* Children

Psalm 127:3-5

Sons are a heritage from the Lord, children a reward from him. Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are sons born in one's youth. Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them.

* A false witness

Proverbs 25:18

Like a club or a sword or a sharp arrow is the man who gives false testimony against his neighbor.

* A deceitful tongue

Jeremiah 9:8

Their tongue is a deadly arrow; it speaks with deceit.

ASHES

Symbolic of:

Mourning

2 Samuel 13:19

Tamar put ashes on her head and tore the ornamented robe she was wearing. She put her hand on her head and went away, weeping aloud as she went.

Esther 4:1

When Mordecai learned of all that had been done, he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the city, wailing loudly and bitterly.

Dejection

Job 2:8

Then Job took a piece of broken pottery and scraped himself with it as he sat among the ashes.

Repentance

Job 42:6

Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes.

Matthew 11:21

Woe to you, Korazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! If the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.

Fasting

Daniel 9:3

So I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with him in prayer and petition, in fasting, and in sackcloth and ashes.

Figurative of:

Frailty

Genesis 18:27

Then Abraham spoke up again: "Now that I have been so bold as to speak to the Lord, though I am nothing but dust and ashes..."

Destruction

Ezekiel 28:18

By your many sins and dishonest trade you have desecrated your sanctuaries. So I made a fire come out from you, and it consumed you, and I reduced you to ashes on the ground in the sight of all who were watching.

Victory

Malachi 4:3

"Then you will trample down the wicked; they will be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day when I do these things," says the Lord Almighty.

Worthlessness

Job 13:12

Your maxims are proverbs of ashes; your defenses are defenses of clay.

Transformation

Isaiah 61:3

And provide for those who grieve in Zion - to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes.

Vanity

Isaiah 44:20

He feeds on ashes, a deluded heart misleads him.

Afflictions

Psalms 102:9

I eat ashes as my food and mingle my drink with tears.

Destruction

Jeremiah 6:26

O my people, put on sackcloth and roll in ashes; mourn with bitter wailing as for an only son, for suddenly the destroyer will come upon us.

ASP

A deadly snake

Figurative of:

Man's evil nature

Deuteronomy 32:33

Their wine is the venom of serpents, the deadly poison of cobras [asps].

Romans 3:13

Their throats are open graves; their tongues practice deceit. The poison of vipers is on their lips. Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness.

Man's changed nature

Isaiah 11:8

The infant will play near the hole of the cobra [asp], and the young child put his hand into the viper's nest.

ATOMIC ENERGY?

The power resident in the atom

To terminate the world

Hebrews 1:10-12

In the beginning, O Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment. You will roll them up like a robe; like a garment they will be changed. But you remain the same, and your years will never end.

2 Peter 3:10-12

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.

Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat.

Revelation 20:9-11

They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God's people, the city he loves. But fire came down from heaven and devoured them. And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented forever and ever.

Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them.

Prophecies probably dealing with

Psalm 46:1-3, 6

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging...He lifts his voice, the earth melts.

Micah 1:4

The mountains melt beneath him and the valleys split apart, like wax before the fire, like water rushing down a slope.

Habakkuk 3:9, 10

You uncovered your bow, you called for many arrows. You split the earth with rivers; the mountains saw you and writhed. Torrents of water swept by; the deep roared and lifted its waves on high.

AX

As a figure of:

Judgment

Matthew 3:10

The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

Wrath

Jeremiah 51:20 TLB

"You are my battle-ax and sword," says the Lord. "With you I will shatter nations and destroy many kingdoms."

God's sovereignty

Isaiah 10:15

Does the ax raise itself above him who swings it, or the saw boast against him who uses it?

BABY - INFANT

Figurative of:

Unenlightened

Romans 2:20

...An instructor of the foolish, a teacher of infants, because you have in the law the embodiment of knowledge and truth...

True believers

Matthew 11:25

At that time, Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children."

Matthew 21:16

From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise.

New Christians

1 Peter 2:2

Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Carnal Christians

1 Corinthians 3:1

Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly - mere infants in Christ.

Hebrews 5:13

Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness.

BABYLON

The mystical city - Rome

Fall predicted

Revelation 14:8

A second angel followed and said, "Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great, which made all the nations drink the maddening wine of her adulteries."

Wrath visited upon

Revelation 16:19

The great city split into three parts, and the cities of the nations collapsed. God remembered Babylon the Great and gave her the cup filled with the wine of the fury of his wrath.

Called "the Mother of Harlots"

Revelation 17:3, 5

There I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was covered with blasphemous names and had seven heads and ten horns...This title was written on her forehead: *Mystery, Babylon the Great, the mother of prostitutes and of the abominations of the earth.*

Fall described

Revelation 18:1-24

Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great! ...Give her as much torture and grief as the glory and luxury she gave herself... in one day her plagues will overtake her; death, mourning and famine. She will be consumed by fire, for mighty is the Lord God who judges her.

BALANCES - SCALES

Scales/Balances: True righteousness

Proverbs 16:11

Honest scales and balances are from the Lord; all the weights in the bag are of his making.

Figurative of:

God's justice

Job 31:6

Let God weigh me in honest scales and he will know that I am blameless.

Man's smallness

Psalm 62:9

Lowborn men are but a breath, the highborn are but a lie; if weighed on a balance, they are nothing; together they are only a breath.

Isaiah 40:12, 15

Who has held the dust of the earth in a basket or weighed the mountains on the scales and the hills in a balance? ...Surely the nations are like a drop in a bucket; they are regarded as dust on the scales; he weighs the islands as though they were fine dust.

God's judgment

Daniel 5:26-28

***Mene:* God has numbered the days of your reign and brought it to an end. *Tekel:* You have been weighed on the scales and found wanting. *Peres:* Your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians.**

Man's tribulation

Revelation 6:5

When the Lamb opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come!" I looked, and there before me was a black horse! Its rider was holding a pair of scales in his hand.

BALDNESS

Figurative of judgment upon:

Israel

Isaiah 3:17

The Lord will bring sores on the heads of the women of Zion; the Lord will make their scalps bald.

Amos 8:2, 10

Then the Lord said to me, "The time is ripe for my people Israel; I will spare them no longer...I will make all of you wear sackcloth and shave your heads."

Moab

Isaiah 15:2

Ar in Moab is ruined, destroyed in a night! ...Every head is shaved and every beard cut off.

Philistia - Gaza

Jeremiah 47:5

Gaza will shave her head in mourning.

Tyre

Ezekiel 27:31

They will shave their heads because of you and will put on sackcloth...Who was ever silenced like Tyre, surrounded by the sea?

BANNER

Figurative of:

Jehovah/s name ("Jehovah - my banner")

Exodus 17:15

Moses built an altar and called it The Lord is my Banner.

God's salvation

Psalm 20:5

We will shout for joy when you are victorious and will lift up our banners in the name of our God.

Psalm 60:4

But for those who fear you, you have raised a banner to be unfurled against the bow.

God's protection

Song of Songs 2:4

He has taken me to the banquet hall, and his banner over me is love.

God's power

Song of Solomon 6:4, 10 RSV

You are beautiful as Tirzah, my love, comely as Jerusalem, terrible as an army with banners..."Who is this that looks forth like the dawn, fair as the moon, bright as the sun, terrible as an army with banners?"

BAPTISM

Symbolism of:

Forecast in prophecy

Joel 2:28, 29

And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days.

Prefigured in types

1 Corinthians 10:2

They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea.

1 Peter 3:20-21

When God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also - not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God.

Visualized by the Spirit's descent

John 1:32, 33

Then John gave this testimony: "I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. I would not have known him, except that the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is he who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' "

Acts 2:3, 4, 41

They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them... Those who accepted his [Peter's] message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

Acts 10:44, 46-48

While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message... Then Peter said, "Can anyone keep these people from being baptized with water? They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have. So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

Expressive of spiritual unity

1 Corinthians 12:13

For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body - whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free - and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

Galatians 3:27, 28

You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Figurative of resurrection

Romans 6:3-5

Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection.

Illustrative of cleansing

Acts 22:16

And now, what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.

Titus 3:5-6

He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior.

BAREFOOT

Expression of great distress

2 Samuel 15:30

But David continued up the Mount of Olives, weeping as he went; his head was covered and he was barefoot.

Symbolic of repentance

Isaiah 20:2-4, 6

At that time the Lord spoke through Isaiah son of Amoz. He said to him, "Take off the sackcloth from your body and the sandals from your feet." And he did so, going around stripped and barefoot.

Then the Lord said, "Just as my servant Isaiah has gone stripped and barefoot for three years, as a sign and portent against Egypt and Cush, so the king of Assyria will lead away stripped and barefoot the Egyptian captives and Cushite exiles, young and old, with buttocks bared - to Egypt's shame."

In that day the people who live on this coast will say, "See what has happened to those we relied on, those we fled to for help and deliverance."

Indicative of reverence

Exodus 3:5

"Do not come any closer," God said [to Moses]. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground."

BARN

Spiritually a storehouse of:

God's blessings

Proverbs 3:9-10

Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.

Malachi 3:10

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it."

Man's vanity

Luke 12:16-20

And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop. He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.'

"Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I'll say to myself, 'You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.' "

"But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?'"

Heaven itself

Matthew 13:30, 43

Let them both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: "First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn." ...Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father.

BASKETS

Symbolic of:

Approaching death

Genesis 40:16-19

When the chief baker saw that Joseph had given a favorable interpretation, he said to Joseph, "I too had a dream. On my head were three baskets of bread. In the top basket were all kinds of baked goods for Pharaoh, but the birds were eating them out of the basket on my head."

"This is what it means," Joseph said. "The three baskets are three days. Within three days Pharaoh will lift off your head and hang you on a tree. And the birds will eat away your flesh."

Israel's judgment

Amos 8:1-3

This is what the Sovereign Lord showed me: a basket of ripe fruit. "What do you see, Amos?" he asked.

"A basket of ripe fruit," I answered.

Then the Lord said to me, "The time is ripe for my people Israel; I will spare them no longer."

"In that day," declares the Sovereign Lord, "The songs in the temple will turn to wailing." Many, many bodies - flung everywhere! Silence!"

Judah's judgment

Jeremiah 24:1-2

After Jehoiachin son of Jehoiakim king of Judah and the officials, the craftsmen and the artisans of Judah were carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, the Lord showed me two baskets of figs placed in front of the temple of the Lord. One basket had very good figs, like those that ripen early; the other basket had very poor figs, so bad they could not be eaten.

BEAM

Figurative of:

The cry for vengeance

Habakkuk 2:10-11

You have plotted the ruin of many peoples, shaming your own house and forfeiting your life. The stones of the wall will cry out, and the beams of the woodwork will echo it.

God's power

Psalm 104:2-3

He wraps himself in light as with a garment; he stretches out the heavens like a tent and lays the beams of his upper chambers on their waters.

Notorious faults

Matthew 7:3-5

Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank [beam] in your own eye. How can you say to your brother, "Let me take the speck out of your eye, when all the time there is a plank [beam] in your own eye?"

BEAR

Figurative of:

Fierce revenge

2 Samuel 17:8

You know your father and his men; they are fighters, and as fierce as a wild bear robbed of her cubs.

Fools' folly

Proverbs 17:12

Better to meet a bear robbed of her cubs than a fool in his folly.

Wicked rulers

Proverbs 28:15

Like a roaring lion or a charging bear is a wicked man ruling over a helpless people.

World empire

Daniel 7:5

And there before me was a second beast, which looked like a bear. It was raised up on one of its sides, and it had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth.

Final antichrist

Revelation 13:1-4

I saw a beast coming out of the sea. He had two horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on his horns, and on each head a blasphemous name. The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion. The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority.

Messianic times

Isaiah 11:7

The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox.

BEASTS, BEASTS OF FIELD

Beasts, beasts of field: demonic spirits

Ezekiel 34:5 RSV

So they were scattered, because there was no shepherd; and they became food for all the wild beasts.

Genesis 3:1

Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made.

Typical of

Man's folly:

Psalm 73:22

I was senseless and ignorant; I was a brute beast before you.

Unregenerate men:

Titus 1:10-12, 15-16

For there are many rebellious people, mere talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision group. They must be silenced, because they are ruining whole households by teaching things they ought not to teach - and that for the sake of dishonest gain. Even one of their own prophets has said, "Cretans are always liars, evil brutes, lazy gluttons."

For their minds and consciences are corrupted. They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him. They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good.

False prophets:

2 Peter 2:12

These men blaspheme in matters they do not understand. They are like brute beasts, creatures of instinct, born only to be caught and destroyed, and like beasts they too will perish.

Antichrist:

Revelation 13:1-4

The dragon stood on the shore of the sea. And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. He had two horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on his horns, and on each head a blasphemous name. The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion. The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority.

BED

Figurative of:

The grave

Job 17:13-16

If the only home I hope for is the grave, if I spread out my bed in darkness, if I say to corruption, "You are my father," and to the worm, "My mother" or "My sister," where then is my hope? Who can see any hope for me? Will it go down to the gates of death? Will we descend together into the dust?

Divine support

Psalm 41:3

The Lord will sustain him on his sickbed and restore him from his bed of illness.

Worldly security

Isaiah 57:7

You have made your bed on a high and lofty hill; there you went up to offer your sacrifices...forsaking me, you uncovered your bed, you climbed into it and opened it wide.

BELLS

Bells: symbols of consecration

Zechariah 14:20

On that day HOLY TO THE LORD will be inscribed on the bells of the horses.

BINDING

(A restraint; a tying together)

Used figuratively of:

A fixed agreement

Numbers 30:2 RSV

When a man vows a vow to the Lord, or swears an oath to bind himself by a pledge, he shall not break his word; he shall do according to all that proceeds out of his mouth.

God's Word

Proverbs 3:3

My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart, for they will prolong your life many years and bring you prosperity. Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart.

The afflicted

Isaiah 61:1

He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted.

Satan

Luke 13:16

Then should not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has kept bound for eighteen long years, be set free on the Sabbath day from what bound her?

The wicked

Matthew 13:30

Let both [wheat and weeds] grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie [bind] them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.

Ceremonialism

Matthew 23:4

They tie [bind] up heavy loads and put them on men's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them.

The keys

Matthew 16:19

I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

A determined plan

Acts 20:22 RSV

And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, bound in the Spirit, not knowing what shall befall me there; except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me.

Marriage

Romans 7:2

By law a married woman is bound to her husband as long as he is alive, but if her husband dies, she is released from the law of marriage.

BIRD CAGE

Used figuratively as:

Deceit

Jeremiah 5:27

Like cages full of birds, their houses are full of deceit.

BIRDS OF THE AIR

Birds of the air: devil, demons, enemy, the evil one

Mark 4:3-4

A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up.

Matthew 13:18-19

Listen to what the parable of the sower means: When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed along the path.

Figurative of:

Escape from evil:

Psalm 124:7

We have escaped like a bird out of the fowler's snare; the snare has been broken, and we have escaped.

A wanderer:

Proverbs 27:8

Like a bird that strays from its nest is a man who strays from his home.

Snares of death:

Ecclesiastes 9:12

Moreover, no man knows when his hour will come: As fish are caught in a cruel net, or birds are taken in a snare, so men are trapped by evil times that fall unexpectedly upon them.

Cruel kings

Isaiah 46:11

From the east I summon a bird of prey; from a far-off land, a man to fulfill my purpose.

Hostile nations:

Jeremiah 12:9

Has not my inheritance become to me like a speckled bird of prey that other birds of prey surround and attack?

Wicked rich:

Jeremiah 17:11

Like a partridge that hatches eggs it did not lay is the man who gains riches by unjust means.

BIT

(A part of a horse's bridle)

Figurative of:

Man's stubborn nature

Psalm 32:9

Do not be like the horse or the mule, which have no understanding but must be controlled by bit and bridle or they will not come to you.

James 3:3

When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal.

BITTER HERBS

Part of Passover meal

Exodus 12:8

That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast.

Numbers 9:11

They are to celebrate it on the fourteenth day of the second month at twilight. They are to eat the lamb, together with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.

Descriptive of

Sorrow

Lamentations 3:15 NLT

He has filled me with bitterness (bitter herbs) and given me a bitter cup of sorrow to drink.

BLACK

Descriptive of:

Sorrow, calamity

Joel 2:6 KJV

Before their face the people shall be much pained: all faces shall gather blackness [turn pale].

Hell

Jude 13 NLT

They are like wild waves of the sea, churning up the foam of their shameful deeds. They are like wandering stars, doomed forever to blackest darkness.

BLACKNESS

(Destitute of light)

Figurative of:

Affliction

Job 30:30

My skin grows black and peels; my body burns with fever.

Lamentations 5:10 KJV

Our skin was black like an oven, because of the terrible famine.

Mourning

Jeremiah 8:21 KJV

For the hurt of the daughter of my people am I hurt; I am black; astonishment hath taken hold on me.

Foreboding evil

Joel 2:6 KJV

Before their face the people shall be much pained: all faces shall gather blackness.

Hell

Jude 13

They are wild waves of the sea, foaming up their shame; wandering stars, for whom blackest darkness has been reserved forever.

BLOOD

Figurative of:

Sin

Isaiah 59:2-3

But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear. For your hands are stained with blood, your fingers with guilt. Your lips have spoken lies, and your tongue mutters wicked things.

Cruelty

Habakkuk 2:12

Woe to him who builds a city with bloodshed and establishes a town by crime!

Abominations

Isaiah 66:3-4

But whoever sacrifices a bull is like one who kills a man, and whoever offers a lamb, like one who breaks a dog's neck; whoever makes a grain offering is like one who presents pig's blood, and whoever burns memorial incense, like one who worships an idol. They have chosen their own ways, and their soul delight in their abominations; so I also will choose harsh treatment for them and bring upon them what they dread.

Guilt

Matthew 27:25

All the people answered, "Let his blood be on us and on our children!"

Ancestral sins

Matthew 23:35

And so upon you will come all the righteous blood that has been shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah son of Berekiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar.

Vengeance

Ezekiel 35:6

Therefore as surely as I live, declares the Sovereign Lord, I will give you over to bloodshed and it will pursue you. Since you did not hate bloodshed, bloodshed will pursue you.

Retribution

Isaiah 49:25-26

I will make your oppressors eat their own flesh; they will be drunk on their own blood, as with wine. Then all mankind will know that I, the Lord, am your Savior, your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob.

Slaughter

Isaiah 34:6-8

The sword of the Lord is bathed in blood, it is covered with fat - the blood of lambs and goats, fat from the kidneys of rams. For the Lord has a sacrifice in Bozrah and a great slaughter in Edom. And the wild oxen will fall with them, the bull calves and the great bulls. Their land will be drenched with blood, and the dust will be soaked with fat. For the Lord has a day of vengeance, a year of retribution, to uphold Zion's cause.

Judgment

Revelation 16:4-6

The third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood. Then I heard the angel in charge of the waters say: "You are just in these judgments, you who are and who were, the Holy One, because you have so judged; for they have shed the blood of your saints and prophets, and you have given them blood to drink as they deserve."

Victory

Psalm 58:10

The righteous will be glad when they are avenged, when they bathe their feet in the blood of the wicked.

BLUE

Descriptive of:

Divine revelations

Exodus 24:10 NLT

There they saw the God of Israel. Under his feet there seemed to be a surface of brilliant blue lapis lazuli, as clear as the sky itself.

Heavenly character

Exodus 28:31

Make the robe of the ephod entirely of blue cloth, with an opening for the head in its center.

BOAR

(Male wild hog)

Descriptive of

Israel's enemies

Psalm 80:13

Boars from the forest ravage it and the creatures of the field feed on it.

BODY OF CHRIST

Descriptive of: the true church:

Identified

Colossians 1:24

Now I rejoice in what was suffered for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church.

Described

Ephesians 2:15-16

His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility.

Christ, the head of

Ephesians 1:22-23

And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

Christ dwells in

Ephesians 1:22-23

And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

BODY OF MAN

Figurative descriptions of:

House

2 Corinthians 5:1

Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands.

House of clay

Job 4:19

How much more those who live in houses of clay, whose foundations are in the dust.

Earthen vessel - jar of clay

2 Corinthians 4:7

But we have this treasure in jars of clay [earthen vessels] to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.

Tent - Tabernacle

2 Peter 1:13

I think it is right to refresh your memory as long as I live in the tent [tabernacle] of this body.

Temple of God

1 Corinthians 3:16-17

Do you not know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; for God's temple is sacred, and you are that temple.

Members of Christ

1 Corinthians 6:15

Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself?

BOOK OF LIFE

Contains:

The names of the saved

Philippians 4:3

I ask you, loyal yokefellow, help these women who have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.

The deeds of the righteous

Malachi 3:16-18

Then those who feared the Lord talked with each other, and the Lord listened and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in his presence concerning those who feared the Lord and honored his name. "They will be mine," says the Lord Almighty, "in the day when I make up my treasured possession. I will spare them, just as in compassion a man spares his son who serves him. And you will again see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not."

Excludes:

Renegades

Exodus 32:33

The Lord replied to Moses, "Whoever has sinned against me I will blot out of my book."

Psalms 69:28

May they be blotted out of the book of life and not be listed with the righteous.

Apostates

Revelation 13:8

All the inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast - all whose names have not been written in the book of life belonging to the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world.

Revelation 17:8

The beast, which you saw, once was, now is not, and will come up out of the Abyss and go to his destruction. The inhabitants of the earth whose names have not been

written in the book of life from the creation of the world will be astonished when they see the beast, because he once was, now is not, and yet will come.

Affords, basis of:

Joy

Luke 10:20

However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.

Hope

Hebrews 12:23

[You have come] to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven.

Judgment

Daniel 7:10

A river of fire was flowing, coming out from before him [The Ancient of Days]. Thousands upon thousands attended him; then thousand times ten thousand stood before him. The court was seated, and the books were opened.

Revelation 20:12-15

And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

BORN AGAIN

Born again: produced by the Holy Spirit

John 3:5:3-6

Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."

"How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born?"

Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit."

Born again: new birth, regeneration

1 Peter 1:23

For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.

Born again: one who believes Jesus is the Christ

1 John 5:1, 4

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God... everyone born of God overcomes the world.

BOW

Illustrative of:

Strength

Job 29:20

My glory will remain fresh in me, the bow ever new in my hand.

The tongue

Psalm 11:2

The wicked bend their bows; they set their arrows against the strings to shoot from the shadows at the upright in heart.

Defeat

Hosea 1:5

In that day I will break Israel's bow in the Valley of Jezreel.

Peace

Hosea 2:18, 19

In that day I will make a covenant for them with the beasts of the field and the birds of the air and the creatures that move along the ground. Bow and sword and battle I will abolish from the land, so that all may lie down in safety.

BRANCH

Branch: people, person

John 15:1-2, 4-6

I am the vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ...No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

I am the vine; you are the branches...If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.

Branch: Jesus Christ

Isaiah 4:2

In that day the Branch of the Lord will be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the land will be the pride and glory of the survivors in Israel.

Jeremiah 33:15

In those days and at that time I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David's line; he will do what is just and right in the land.

Figurative of:

A king

Ezekiel 17:3

Say to them, "This is what the Sovereign Lord says: A great eagle with powerful wings, long feathers and full plumage of various colors came to Lebanon. Taking hold of the top [highest branch] of a cedar, he broke off its topmost shoot and carried it away to a land of merchants, where he planted it in a city of traders....

Say to them: "The king of Babylon went to Jerusalem and carried off her king and her nobles.

Heathen king

Daniel 11:7

In those times a branch from her roots [one from her family line] shall arise in his place; he shall come against the army and enter the fortress of the king of the north, and he shall deal with them and shall prevail.

Israel

Romans 11:16, 21

If the part of the dough offered as firstfruits is holy, then the whole batch is holy, if the root is holy, so are the branches... For if God did not spare the natural branches, he will not spare you either.

The Messiah

Isaiah 11:1-2

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him.

Christians

John 15:5, 6

I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.

Prosperity

Proverbs 11:28 KJV

He that trusteth in his riches shall fall; but the righteous shall flourish as a branch.

Adversity

Job 15:32

Before his time he will be paid in full, and his branches will not flourish. He will be like a vine stripped of its unripe grapes, like an olive tree shedding its blossoms.

BREAD

Bread: Word of God

Deuteronomy 8:3

He humbled you by letting you go hungry and then feeding you with manna, a food previously unknown to you and your ancestors. He did it to teach you that people do not live by bread alone; rather, we live by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.

1 Corinthians 5:6-8

Don't you know that a little yeast works through the whole batch of dough? Get rid of the old yeast that you may be a new batch without yeast - as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. Therefore let us keep the Festival, not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and wickedness, but with bread without yeast, the bread of sincerity and truth.

Bread: body of Christ

John 6:51

I am the living bread that comes down from heaven, which a man may eat and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.

John 6:53

Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whatever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven.

1 Corinthians 10:16

Is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ?

Figurative of:

Christ

John 6:33, 35

For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world...I am the bread of life.

Christ's death

1 Corinthians 11:26

For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Communion with Christ

1 Corinthians 10:17

Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.

Affliction

Isaiah 30:20

Although the Lord gives you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, your teachers will be hidden no more; with your own eyes you will see them.

Extreme poverty

Psalms 37:25

I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging for bread.

Wickedness

Proverbs 4:17

They eat the bread of wickedness and drink the wine of violence.

Sloth

Proverbs 31:27

She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness.

BREASTPLATE

Figurative of:

Christ's righteousness

Isaiah 59:17

He [The Lord] put on righteousness as his breastplate, and the helmet of salvation on his head; he put on the garments of vengeance and wrapped himself in zeal as in a cloak.

Faith's righteousness

Ephesians 6:14

Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place.

BREATH

Psalm 33:6

By the word of the Lord were the heavens made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth.

Figurative of:

New life

Ezekiel 37:5-10 KJV

Thus saith the Lord God unto these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live.

BRIDE

Bride: those who belong to Christ

Revelation 19:7

Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready.

John 3:29

The bride belongs to the bridegroom.

John 3:36

Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life.

Matthew 25:6, 10

At midnight the cry rang out: "Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!" ...The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet.

Isaiah 62:5

As a bridegroom rejoices over his bride, so will your God rejoice over you.

Figurative of:

Israel

Ezekiel 16:3, 8

This is what the Sovereign Lord says to Jerusalem: ...I gave you my solemn oath and entered into a covenant with you, declares the Sovereign Lord, and you became mine.

Church

Revelation 19:7

Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready.

Revelation 21:2, 9, 27

I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband...One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb." And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God...Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will

anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

BRIDEGROOM

Bridegroom: The Lamb, Jesus Christ

Matthew 25:6, 10

**At midnight the cry rang out: "Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!"
...The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet.**

Revelation 19:7

Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready.

Figurative of:

God

Ezekiel 16:8

I gave you my solemn oath and entered into a covenant with you, declares the Sovereign Lord, and you became mine.

Christ

John 3:29

The bride belongs to the bridegroom. The friend who attends the bridegroom waits and listens for him, and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom's voice.

BRIERS

Briers: demons

Ezekiel 2:6

Do not be afraid, though briers and thorns are all around you, and you live among scorpions.

Isaiah 10:17

The Light of Israel will become a fire, their Holy One a flame; in a single day it will burn and consume his [Assyria] thorns and his briers.

Figurative of:

* Sinful nature

Micah 7:4

The best of them is like a brier, the most upright worse than a thorn hedge.

* Change of nature

Isaiah 55:13

Instead of the thornbush will grow the pine tree, and instead of briers the myrtle will grow.

* Rejection

Isaiah 5:6

I will make it a wasteland, neither pruned nor cultivated, and briers and thorns will grow there. I will command the clouds not to rain on it.

BRIDLE

Figurative of:

God's control

Isaiah 30:28 RSV

His [the Lord] breath is like an overflowing stream that reaches up to the neck; to sift the nations with the sieve of destruction, and to place on the jaws of the peoples a bridle that leads astray.

Self-control

James 1:26 RSV

If any one thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this man's religion is vain.

Imposed control

Psalm 32:9

Do not be like the horse or the mule, which have no understanding but must be controlled by bit and bridle or they will not come to you.

BRONZE

Figurative of:

Grecian empire

Daniel 2:39

After you, another kingdom will rise, inferior to yours. Next, a third kingdom, one of bronze, will rule over the whole earth.

Obstinate sinners

Isaiah 48:4

For I knew how stubborn you were; the sinews of your neck were iron, your forehead was bronze.

Endurance

Jeremiah 15:20

I will make you a wall to this people, a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you but will not overcome you.

God's decrees

Zechariah 6:1, 5

I looked up again - and there before me were four chariots coming out from between two mountains - mountains of bronze! ..."These are the four spirits of heaven, going out from standing in the presence of the Lord of the whole world."

Christ's glory

Daniel 10:6

His body was like chrysolite, his face like lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze, and his voice like the sound of a multitude.

Revelation 1:15

His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters.

BROOKS - STREAMS

Figurative of:

Wisdom

Proverbs 18:4

The words of a man's mouth are deep waters, but the fountain of wisdom is a bubbling brook.

Prosperity

Job 20:17

He will not enjoy the streams, the rivers flowing with honey and cream.

Deception

Job 6:15

But my brothers are as undependable as intermittent streams, as the streams that overflow when darkened by thawing ice and swollen with melting snow, but that cease to flow in the dry season, and in the heat vanish from their channels.

Refreshment

Psalm 110:7

He will drink from a brook beside the way; therefore he will lift up his head.

BROTHER, BRETHREN

Figurative of:

An ally

Amos 1:9

Because she sold whole communities of captives to Edom, disregarding a treaty of brotherhood I will send fire upon the walls of Tyre that will consume her fortresses.

Christian disciples

Matthew 23:8

But you are not to be called "Rabbi"; for you have only one Master and you are all brothers.

A spiritual companion

1 Corinthians 1:1

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes.

BRUISED

Figurative of:

Evils

Isaiah 1:6 RSV

From the sole of the foot even to the head, there is no soundness in it, but bruises and sores and bleeding wounds.

Weaknesses

2 Kings 18:21

Now behold, thou trustest upon the staff of this bruised reed, even upon Egypt, on which if a man lean, it will go into his hand, and pierce it, so is Pharaoh king of Egypt unto all that trust on him.

The afflicted

Luke 4:18 KJV

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised.

The Messiah's pains

Isaiah 53:5 RSV

But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities.

Satan's defeat

Romans 16:20 KJV

And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly.

BUCKLER

(A small shield)

Figurative of:

The Lord

Psalm 18:2, 30 KJV

The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower...he is a buckler to all those that trust in him.

God's truth

Psalm 91:4 RSV

He will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.

God's help

Proverbs 2:7 KJV

He is a buckler to them that walk uprightly.

BULL

Symbol of:

Evil men

Psalm 22:12

Many bulls surround me; strong bulls of Bashan encircle me.

Mighty men

Psalm 68:30

Rebuke the beast among the reeds, the herd of bulls among the calves of the nations.

BURDEN

Figurative of:

Care

Psalm 55:22

Cast your cares [burdens] on the Lord and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous fall.

Prophet's message

Habakkuk 1:1

The oracle [burden] that Habakkuk the prophet received.

Rules, rites

Luke 11:46

Jesus replied, "And you experts in the law, woe to you, because you load people down with burdens they can hardly carry, and you yourselves will not lift one finger to help them."

Sin

Psalm 38:4

My guilt has overwhelmed me like a burden too heavy to bear.

Responsibility

Galatians 6:2-5

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. If anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing he deceives himself. Each one should test his own actions. Then he can take pride in himself, without comparing himself to somebody else, for each one should carry his own load.

Christ's law

Matthew 11:28-30

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.

BUTTER

Illustrative of:

Prosperity

Deuteronomy 32:14

With curds [butter] and milk from herd and flock and with fattened lambs and goats, with choice rams of Bashan and the finest kernels of wheat.

Figurative of:

Smooth words

Psalm 55:21

His speech is smooth as butter, yet war is in his heart; his words are more soothing than oil, yet they are drawn swords.

CAKE

Figurative of:

Defeat

Judges 7:13

Gideon arrived just as a man was telling a friend his dream. "I had a dream," he was saying. "A round loaf of barley bread came tumbling into the Midianite camp. It struck the tent with such force that the tent overturned and collapsed."

Weak religion

Hosea 7:8-9

Ephraim mixes with the nations; Ephraim is a flat cake not turned over. Foreigners sap his strength, but he does not realize it.

CALF

Figurative of:

Praise

Hosea 14:2 KJV

Take with you words, and turn to the Lord: say unto him, "Take away all iniquity, and receive us graciously: so will we render the calves [offerings] of our lips.

Saints sanctified

Malachi 4:2

But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings. And you will go out and leap like calves released from the stall.

Patience

Ezekiel 1:7

Their legs were straight, their feet were like those of a calf and gleamed like burnished bronze.

CAMEL

Illustrative of:

The impossible

Matthew 19:24

I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.

CAMP

(To pitch a tent)

Spiritual significance of:

Christ's crucifixion outside

Hebrews 13:12-13

And so Jesus also suffered outside the city gate to make the people holy through his own blood. Let us, then, go to him outside the camp, bearing the disgrace he bore.

God's people

Revelation 20:9

They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God's people, the city he loves. But fire came down from heaven and devoured them.

CANDLE

(LAMP)

Figurative of:

Conscience

Proverbs 20:27 NIV

The lamp [candle] of the Lord searches the spirit of a man; it searches out his inmost being.

Prosperity

Job 29:3

When his lamp [candle] shone upon my head, and by his light I walked through darkness!

Industry

Proverbs 31:18

She sees that her trading is profitable, and her lamp [candle] does not go out at night.

Death

Job 18:5-6

The light of the wicked is put out, and the flame of his fire does not shine. The light is dark in his tent, and his lamp (candle) above him is put out.

God's justice

Zephaniah 1:12

At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps and punish those who are complacent, who are like wine left on its dregs, who think, "The Lord will do nothing, either good or bad."

CANDLESTICK

(see lampstand)

CAPTAIN

Applied spiritually to:

Angel of the Lord

Joshua 5:14 KJV

And he said, Nay; but as captain of the host of the Lord am I now come.

God

2 Chronicles 13:12 KJV

And behold, God himself is with us for our captain, and his priests with sounding trumpets to cry alarm against you.

Christ

Hebrews 2:10 KJV

For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

CAPTIVE

Applied figuratively to those:

Under Satan

2 Timothy 2:26

And that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.

Under sin

2 Timothy 3:6 KJV

For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts.

Liberated by Christ

Luke 4:18 RSV

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind.

CARBUNCLE

A precious gem

Figuratively of glory

Isaiah 54:12 RSV

I will make your pinnacles of agate [rubies], your gates of carbuncles [sparkling jewels], and all your walls of precious stones.

Descriptive of the king of Tyre's (referring to Satan) beauty

Ezekiel 28:12, 13 RSV

Son of man, raise a lamentation over the king of Tyre, and say to him, Thus says the Lord God: "You were the signet of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering, carnelian, topaz, and jasper, chrysolite, beryl, and onyx, sapphire, carbuncle, and emerald; and wrought in gold were your settings.

CARCASS

Used figuratively of:

Those in hell

Isaiah 66:24

And they will go out and look upon the dead bodies (carcasses) of those who rebelled against me; their worm will not die, nor will their fire be quenched, and they will be loathsome to all mankind.

Attraction

Matthew 24:28

Wherever there is a carcass, there the vultures will gather.

CARNAL

Used spiritually of:

Unregenerate nature

Romans 8:6, 7 KJV

For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

Old nature

Romans 7:14 RSV

We know that the law is spiritual; but I am carnal, sold under sin.`

Spiritual immaturity

1 Corinthians 3:1, 3 KJV

And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ...For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?

CART

Figurative of:

Sin

Isaiah 5:18

Woe to those who draw sin along with cords of deceit, and wickedness as with cart ropes.

CEDAR TREE

Figurative of:

Israel's glory

Numbers 24:5-6

How beautiful are your tents, O Jacob, your dwelling places, O Israel! Like valleys they spread out, like gardens beside a river, like aloes planted by the Lord, like cedars beside the waters.

Christ's glory

Ezekiel 17:22, 23

This is what the Sovereign Lord says: I myself will take a shoot from the very top of a cedar and plant it; I will break off a tender sprig from its topmost shoots and plant it on a high and lofty mountain. On the mountain heights of Israel I will plant it; it will produce branches and bear fruit and become a splendid cedar. Birds of every kind will nest in it; they will find shelter in the shade of its branches.

Growth of saints

Psalm 92:12

The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon.

Mighty nations

Amos 2:9

I destroyed the Amorite before them, though he was tall as the cedars and strong as the oaks. I destroyed his fruit above and his roots below.

Arrogant rulers

Isaiah 2:12-13

The Lord Almighty has a day in store for all the proud and lofty, for all that is exalted (and they will be humbled), for all the cedars of Lebanon, tall and lofty, and all the oaks of Bashan.

CHAFF

Chaff: wicked people, the ungodly

Psalm 1:4

Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

Emptiness

Isaiah 33:11

You conceive chaff, you give birth to straw.

False doctrines

Jeremiah 23:28

"Let the prophet who has a dream tell his dream, but let the one who has my word speak it faithfully. For what has straw to do with grain?" declares the Lord.

God's judgment

Isaiah 17:13

Although the peoples roar like the roar of surging waters, when he rebukes them they flee far away, driven before the wind like chaff on the hills, like tumbleweed before a gale.

Punishment

Matthew 3:12

His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

CHAIN

Figurative of:

Oppression

Lamentations 3:7

He has walled me in so I cannot escape; he has weighed me down with chains.

Sin's bondage

Psalm 68:6 KJV

God setteth the solitary in families; he bringeth out those which are bound with chains.

Punishment

2 Peter 2:4 KJV

For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment.

Satan's defeat

Revelation 20:1

And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years.

CHAMBERS

Figurative of:

Heavens

Psalm 104:2-3, 13

He [God] wraps himself in light as with a garment; he stretches out the heavens like a tent and lays the beams of his upper chambers on their waters...He waters the mountains from his upper chambers.

Protection

Isaiah 26:20 RSV

Come, my people, enter your chambers, and shut your doors behind you; hide yourselves for a little while until the wrath is past.

Idoltrous practices

Ezekiel 8:12 KJV

Then he said to me, Son of man, hast thou seen what the ancients of the house of Israel do in the dark, every man in the chambers of his imagery?

Lewdness

Romans 13:13

Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.

Death

Proverbs 7:27

Her house is a highway to the grave, leading down to the chambers of death.

CHARIOT

Illustrative of:

Clouds

Psalm 104:3

He [The Lord] makes the clouds his chariot and rides on the wings of the wind.

God's judgments

Isaiah 66:15

See, the Lord is coming with fire, and his chariots are like a whirlwind; he will bring down his anger with fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire.

Angels

2 Kings 6:16, 17

"Don't be afraid," the prophet answered. "Those who are with us are more than those who are with them," And Elisha prayed, "O Lord, open his eyes so he may see." Then the Lord opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all round Elisha.

CHEEK

Descriptive of:

Beauty

Song of Solomon 5:13

His cheeks are like beds of spice yielding perfume.

Patience

Matthew 5:39

But I tell you, Do not resist an evil person. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also.

Inner and outer life (Jeanne Guyon, *The Song of the Bride*, p.13)

Song of Solomon 1:10

Your cheeks are beautiful with earrings.

CHEESE

Figurative of:

Trials

Job 10:10

Did you not pour me out like milk and curdle me like cheese?

CHILDREN

Children: those belonging to God

1 John 3:1

How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God. And that is what we are!

Children: whatever is produced by a union

Revelation 2:22-23

So I will cast her (Jezebel) on a bed of suffering, and I will make those who commit adultery with her suffer intensely, unless they repent of her ways. I will strike her children dead.

Some Descriptions of:

Scorners:

Proverbs 30:17

The eye that mocks a father, that scorns obedience to a mother, will be pecked out by the ravens of the valley, will be eaten by the vultures.

Rebels:

Matthew 13:12

Children will rebel against their parents.

Good - Jesus

Luke 2:51

Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them.

Bad - Samuel's children

1 Samuel 8:1-3

When Samuel grew old, he appointed his sons as judges for Israel. The name of his firstborn was Joel and the name of his second was Abijah, and they served at Beersheba. But his sons did not walk in his ways. They turned aside after dishonest gain and accepted bribes and perverted justice.

Figurative:

Disciples of a teacher

Mark 10:24

The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God!"

God's own

Romans 8:16

The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

Christians

Ephesians 5:8

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light.

Devil's own

1 John 3:10

This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not a child of God, nor is anyone who does not love his brother.

CHOSEN

(See Elect-chosen)

CHRISTIANS

Sometimes referred to as:

Brethren beloved

1 Thessalonians 1:4

For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you.

Children of God

Romans 8:16

The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

Children of light

Ephesians 5:8

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light.

Dearly loved children

Ephesians 5:1

Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children, and live a life of love.

Disciples

Acts 9:25 RSV

But his disciples took him by night and let him down over the wall, lowering him in a basket.

The elect

Romans 8:33 RSV

Who shall bring any charge against God's elect. It is God who justifies; who is to condemn.

Friends

John 15:14

You are my friends if you do what I command.

Heirs of God

Romans 8:17

Now if we are children, then we are heirs - heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

Light of the world

Matthew 5:14

You are the light of the world.

Little children

1 John 2:1

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin.

Pilgrims

1 Peter 2:11 KJV

Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul.

Priests

Revelation 1:6

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father - to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.

Saints

Romans 8:27

And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.

Salt of the earth

Matthew 5:11
You are the salt of the earth.

Servants of God

Acts 16:17
This girl followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved."

Sheep

John 10:27
My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.

Soldier

2 Timothy 2:3-4
Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs - he wants to please his commanding officer.

Sons of God

Romans 8:14
Those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

Instrument for noble purposes

2 Timothy 2:21
If a man cleanses himself from the latter, he will be an instrument for noble purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.

Witness

Acts 1:8
But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

Ambassadors

2 Corinthians 5:20

We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.

Chosen

1 Peter 2:9

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

CIRCUMCISION

Spiritual significance of:

Regeneration

Deuteronomy 10:16

Circumcise your hearts, therefore, and do not be stiff-necked any longer.

Deuteronomy 30:6

The Lord your God will circumcise your hearts and the hearts of your descendants, so that you may love him with all your heart and with all your soul, and live.

Jeremiah 4:4

Circumcise yourselves to the Lord, circumcise your hearts, you men of Judah and people of Jerusalem.

The true Jew (Christian)

Romans 2:29

A man is a Jew if he is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code.

The Christian

Philippians 3:3

For it is we who are the circumcision, we who worship by the Spirit of God, who glory in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh.

Colossians 2:11

In him you were also circumcised, in the putting off of the sinful nature, not with a circumcision done by the hands of men but with the circumcision done by Christ, having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.

CISTERN

Figurative of:

Wife

Proverbs 5:15

Drink water from your own cistern, running water from your own well.

Heart

Ecclesiastes 12:6-7 RSV

Before the silver cord is snapped, or the golden bowl is broken, or the pitcher is broken at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern, and the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the spirit returns to God who gave it.

False religion

Jeremiah 2:13

My people have committed two sins: they have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns, that cannot hold water.

CITY

City: nation of Israel

Isaiah 1:8

The Daughter of Zion (Israel) is left like a shelter in a vineyard, like a hut in a field of melons, like a city under siege.

City: New Jerusalem

Revelation 21:2

I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

City: Jerusalem

Daniel 9:24

Seventy "sevens" are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy.

Revelation 11:2

But exclude the outer court; do not measure it, because it has been given to the Gentiles. They will trample on the holy city for 42 months.

City: prophetic description of Zion

Psalm 48:1-2

Great is the Lord, and most worthy of praise, in the city of our God, his holy mountain. It is beautiful in its loftiness, the joy of the whole earth. Like the utmost heights of Zaphon is Mount Zion, the city of the Great King.

City: Abode of God

Psalm 46:4

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells.

City: sought by the saints

Hebrews 11:10, 16

For he [Abraham] was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God...Instead, they [people living by faith] were longing for a better country - a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

City: Descriptive of the heavenly Jerusalem

Revelation 21:2

I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

CLAY

Figurative of:

Man's weakness

Isaiah 64:8

O Lord, you are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand.

Unstable kingdom

Daniel 2:33-35, 42

The head of the statue was made of pure gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of baked clay. While you were watching, a rock was cut out, but not by human hands. It struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and smashed them. Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were broken to pieces at the same time and became like chaff on a threshing floor in the summer...As the toes were partly iron and partly clay, so this kingdom will be partly strong and partly brittle.

Trouble

Psalm 40:2 KJV

He brought me up also out of a horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings.

Wealth

Habakkuk 2:6 KJV

Shall not all these take up a parable against him, and a taunting proverb against him, and say, "Woe to him the increaseth that which is not his! How long? And to him that ladeth himself with thick clay [pledges]!"

CLEAN

Used spiritually of:

Men's nature

Job 9:30, 31 NLT

Even if I were to wash myself with soap and clean my hands with lye, you would plunge me into a muddy ditch, and my own filthy clothing would hate me.

Repentance

Genesis 35:2 NLT

So Jacob told everyone in his household, "Get rid of all your pagan idols, purify yourselves, and put on clean clothing.

Regeneration

Ezekiel 36:25

I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean.

Sanctification

Psalm 24:3-4

Who may ascend the hill of the Lord? Who may stand in his holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart.

Glorification

Revelation 19:8, 14

Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear. (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.) ...the armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean.

CLOAK

Figurative of:

Covering for sin

John 15:22 KJV

If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin; but now they have no cloak for their sin.

Covering for license to sin

1 Peter 2:16 KJV

Not using your liberty for a cloak of maliciousness, but as the servants of God.

CLOTHES

Clothes: feelings, attitudes, thoughts

Psalm 30:11 NLT

You have taken away my clothes of mourning and clothed me with joy.

Clothes: righteousness

Revelation 3:18

I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness, and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.

Clothes: salvation

Isaiah 61:10

I delight greatly in the Lord; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness.

Clothes: that which you put on to cover yourself

Romans 13:14

Clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.

Clothes: disguise

Matthew 7:15

Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves.

CLOUD

Cloud: group of believers gathered together

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 NIV

For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

1 Thessalonians 4:17 NKJV

Caught up together with them in clouds [*nephos*] to meet the Lord in the air.

Luke 21:27

At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud [*nephos*] with power and great glory.

Acts 1:9

After he had said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud [*nephos*] hid him from their sight.

Matthew 24:30

At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory.

Revelation 1:7 NKJV

Behold, he is coming with clouds, and every eye will see him, even they who pierced him: and all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of him.

Figurative of:

God's unsearchableness

Psalm 97:2

Clouds and thick darkness surround him.

Sins

Isaiah 44:22

I have swept away your offenses like a cloud, your sins like the morning mist.

Witnesses

Hebrews 12:1

Therefore since we are surrounded by such a great cloud [*nephos*] of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

False teachers

2 Peter 2:1, 17

But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you...These men are springs without water and mists driven by a storm.

Baptism

1 Corinthians 10:1, 2

For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers, that our forefathers were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea.

COAL

Figurative of:

Lust

Proverbs 6:25, 28

Do not lust in your heart after her beauty or let her captivate you with her eyes...Can a man walk on hot coals without his feet being scorched?

Purification

Isaiah 6:6

Then one of the seraphs flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for."

Good deeds

Romans 12:20

If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.

Posterity

2 Samuel 14:7

Now the whole clan has risen up against your servant; they say, "Hand over the one who struck his brother down, so that we may put him to death for the life of his brother whom he killed; then we will get rid of the heir as well." They would put out the only burning coal I have left, leaving my husband neither name nor descendant on the face of the earth.

COLD

Figurative of:

God's power

Psalm 147:17

He hurls down his hail like pebbles. Who can withstand his icy blast?

Indolence

Proverbs 20:4 KJV

The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold; therefore shall he beg in harvest, and have nothing.

Good news

Proverbs 25:25

Like cold water to a weary soul is good news from a distant land.

Apostasy

Jeremiah 18:13-15

A most horrible thing has been done by Virgin Israel. Does the snow of Lebanon ever vanish from its rocky slopes? Do its cool waters from distant sources ever cease to flow? Yet my people have forgotten me; they bury incense to worthless idols, which made them stumble in their ways and in the ancient paths.

Spiritual decay

Matthew 24:12

Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved.

COBRA

Figurative of:

Man's evil nature

Deuteronomy 32:33

Their wine is the venom of serpents, the deadly poison of cobras.

Romans 3:13

Their throats are open graves; their tongues practice deceit. The poison of vipers is on their lips. Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness.

Man's changed nature

Isaiah 11:8

The infant will play near the hole of the cobra, and the young child put his hand into the viper's nest.

COIN

Coin: joy over repenting, something of value

Luke 15:8-9

Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Does she not light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, "Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin." In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.

CREATION

Illustrative of:

The new birth

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

Renewal of believers

Psalm 51:10

Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

The eternal world

Isaiah 65:17

Behold, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind.

2 Peter 3:11, 13

Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.

CROSS

Figurative of:

Duty

Matthew 10:38

Anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.

Christ's sufferings

Colossians 1:20

And through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

The Christian faith

1 Corinthians 1:18

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Reconciliation

Ephesians 2:16

His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility.

CROWN

Figurative of:

A good wife

Proverbs 12:4

A wife of noble character is her husband's crown.

Old age

Proverbs 16:31

Gray hair is a crown of splendor; it is attained by a righteous life.

Children

Proverbs 17:6

Children's children are a crown to the aged.

Honor

Proverbs 27:24

Riches do not endure forever, and a crown is not secure for all generations.

Material blessings

Psalm 65:11

You crown the year with your bounty, and your carts overflow with abundance.

Applied spiritually to:

Christ

Psalm 132:17-18

I will make a horn grow for David and set up a lamp for my anointed one. The crown on his head will be resplendent.

Christ at His return

Revelation 19:12

His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns.

Christ glorified

Hebrews 2:7, 9

You made him a little lower than the angels; you crowned him with glory and honor and put everything under his feet...But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

The church

Isaiah 62:3

You will be a crown of splendor in the Lord's hand, a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

The Christian's reward

2 Timothy 2:5

If anyone competes as an athlete, he does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the rules.

The minister's reward

Philippians 4:1

Therefore, my brothers, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, that is how you should stand firm in the Lord, dear friends!

Soul winners

1 Thessalonians 2:19

For what is our hope, our joy, or the crown in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes? Is it not you?

The Christians' incorruptible prize

1 Corinthians 9:25

Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.

CRUCIFIXION

Figurative of

Utter rejection

Hebrews 6:6

If they fall away, to be brought back to repentance, because to their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace.

Godly living

Galatians 5:24

Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires.

Union with Christ

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.

Separation

Galatians 6:14

May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

Sanctification

Romans 6:6

For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer sin.

Dedication

1 Corinthians 2:2

For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.

CUP

Figurative of:

Blessings

Psalm 23:5

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

One's portion

Psalm 16:5

Lord, you have assigned me my portion and my cup; you have made my lot secure.

Suffering

Matthew 20:22

"You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said to them. "Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?"

Matthew 26:39

Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me.

Hypocrisy

Matthew 23:25

Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence.

God's wrath

Isaiah 51:17

Wake, awake! Rise up, O Jerusalem, you who have drunk from the hand of the Lord the cup of his wrath, you who have drained to its dregs the goblet that makes men stagger.

New Covenant

1 Corinthians 10:16

Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ?

CYMBAL

Figurative of:

Pretense

1 Corinthians 13:1

If I speak in the language of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.