

SYMBOLS

FROM

THE

BIBLE

Book 2

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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)

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DARKNESS

Illustrative of:

God's unsearchableness

Psalm 97:2

Clouds and thick darkness surround him.

The way of sin

Ephesians 5:11

Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.

Afflictions

Psalm 112:4

Even in darkness light dawns for the upright, for the gracious and compassionate and righteous man.

Satan's dominion

Colossians 1:13

For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Moral depravity

Romans 13:12

The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.

Ignorance

1 John 2:8-11

Yet I am writing you a new command; its truth is seen in him and you, because the darkness is passing and the true light is already shining. Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates his brother is still in the darkness. Whoever loves his brother lives in the light, and there is nothing in him to make him stumble. But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness; he does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded him.

Death

Job 10:21-22

Before I go to the place of no return, to the land of gloom and deep shadow, to the land of deepest night, of deep shadow and disorder, where even the light is darkness.

Hell

Matthew 22:13

Then the king told the attendants, "Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

DART

Figurative of:

Sin's penalty

Proverbs 7:22-24 NLT

He was like a stag caught in a trap, awaiting the arrow (dart) that would pierce its heart. He was like a bird flying into a snare, little knowing it would cost him his life.

Satan's weapons

Ephesians 6:16

Taking the shield of faith, with which you can quench all the flaming darts of the evil one.

DAY

Descriptive of:

Believers

1 Thessalonians 5:5, 8

You are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness...But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled.

Christ's return

1 Thessalonians 5:2

For you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.

Prophetic period

Daniel 12:11

From the time that the daily sacrifice is abolished and the abomination that causes desolation is set up, there will be 1,290 days.

Revelation 2:10

Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days.

Eternity

Daniel 7:9, 13

As I looked, "thrones were set in place, and Ancient of Days took his seat... In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence.

Present age

Hebrews 1:2

But in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe.

DEAD

Figurative of:

Unregenerate

Ephesians 2:1-2

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.

Unreal faith

James 2:17

In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

Decadent church

Revelation 3:1

I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead.

Legal requirements

Hebrews 9:14 RSV

How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify your conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

Freedom from sin's power

Romans 6:11

In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Freedom from the law

Romans 7:4 NLT

You died to the power of the law when you died with Christ.

DEAF

Figurative of:

Spiritual inability

Isaiah 42:18, 19, 20

Hear, you deaf; look, you blind, and see! Who is blind but my servant, and deaf like the messenger I send? ...You have seen many things, but have paid no attention; your ears are open, but you hear nothing.

Patience

Psalm 38:13

I am like a deaf man, who cannot hear, like a mute, who cannot open his mouth. I have become like a man who does not hear, whose mouth can offer no reply.

DEATH

NATURAL DEATH

Return to dust

Genesis 3:19

By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.

Removal of breath

Genesis 25:8

Then Abraham breathed his last and died at a good old age, an old man and full of years; and he was gathered to his people.

Sleep

John 11:11, 14

After he had said this, he went on to tell them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up." ...Then he told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead."

Departure

Philippians 1:23

I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far.

Giving up life

Acts 5:10

At that moment she fell down at his feet and died.

ETERNAL DEATH

Everlasting punishment

Matthew 25:46

Then they [the cursed] will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.

Resurrection of damnation

John 5:29

A time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out - those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned.

God's wrath

1 Thessalonians 1:10

And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead - Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

Destruction

2 Thessalonians 1:8-9

He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of your Lord Jesus. they will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord.

Perishing

2 Peter 2:12

But 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.

Second death

Revelation 20:14-15

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.

DEATH OF SAINTS

Sleep in Jesus

1 Thessalonians 4:14

We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.

Blessed

Revelation 14:13

Then I heard a voice from heaven say, "Write: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on."

A gain

Philippians 1:21

For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

Peace

Isaiah 57:1, 2

The righteous perish, and no one ponders it in his heart; devout men are taken away, and no one understands that the righteous are taken away to be spared from evil. Those who walk uprightly enter into peace; they find rest as they lie in death.

Crown of life

2 Timothy 4:8

Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day - and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

DEBT - DEBTOR

Figurative of

Sins

Matthew 6:12

Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

Works

Romans 4:4 KJV

Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt.

Moral obligation

Romans 1:14 KJV

I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise.

DEEDS

Descriptive of one's:

Past record

Luke 11:48 KJV

Truly ye bear witness that ye allow the deeds of your father: for they indeed killed them, and ye build their sepulchers.

Present achievements

Acts 7:22 RSV

And Moses was instructed in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and he was mighty in his words and deeds.

Future action

2 Corinthians 10:11 KJV

Let such a one think this, that, such as we are in word by letters when we are absent, such will we be also in deed when we are present.

DELUGE

Type of:

Baptism

1 Peter 3:20, 21

(the spirits in prison) who disobeyed long ago 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. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Christ's coming

Matthew 24:36-39

No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.

Destruction

Isaiah 28:2

See, the Lord has one who is powerful and strong. Like a hailstorm and a destructive wind, like a driving rain and a flooding downpour, he will throw it forcefully to the ground.

The end

2 Peter 3:5-7

By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.

DEW

Figurative of:

The Messiah

Isaiah 26:19

But your dead will live, their bodies will rise. You who dwell in the dust, wake up and shout for joy. Your dew is like the dew of the morning; the earth will give birth to her dead.

God's blessings

Genesis 27:28

My God give you of heaven's dew and of earth's richness - an abundance of grain and new wine.

God's truth

Deuteronomy 32:2

Let my teaching fall like rain and my words descend like dew; like showers on new grass, like abundant rain on tender plants.

Man's fleetingness

Hosea 6:4

What can I do with you, Ephraim? What can I do with you, Judah? Your love is like the morning mist, like the early dew that disappears.

Peace and harmony

Psalms 133:1, 3

How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity! ...It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion. For there the Lord bestows his blessing, even life forevermore.

DOGS

Dogs: unbelievers, the lost

Philippians 3:2

Watch out for those dogs, those men who do evil, those mutilators of the flesh.

Figurative of:

Contempt

1 Samuel 17:43

He [Goliath] said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come at me with sticks?"

Worthlessness

2 Samuel 9:8

Mephibosheth bowed down and said, "What is your servant, that you should notice a dead dog like me?"

Satan

Psalms 22:20

Deliver my life from the sword, my precious life from the power of the dogs.

Unregenerate man

Matthew 7:6

Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and then turn and tear you to pieces.

Gentiles

Mark 7:27

"First let the children (children of Abraham) eat all they want," he told her, "for it is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to their dogs (not children of Abraham)."

False teachers

2 Peter 2:22

Of them the proverbs are true: "A dog returns to his vomit," and "A sow that is washed goes back to her wallowing in the mud."

The lost

Revelation 22:15

Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

DONKEY

Figurative of:

Wilderness

Genesis 16:12

He [Ishmael] will be a wild donkey of a man; his hand will be against everyone and everyone's hand against him, and he will live in hostility toward all his brothers.

Stubbornness

Hosea 8:9

For they have gone up to Assyria like a wild donkey wandering alone.

Promiscuity

Jeremiah 2:24

[Israel - You are] a wild donkey accustomed to the desert, sniffing the wind in her craving - in her heat who can restrain her? Any males that pursue her need not tire themselves; at mating time they will find her.

DOOR

Door: entrance into kingdom of God, Jesus

Mark 10:23-25

Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!"

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

Luke 13:23-25

He said to them, "Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to. Once the owner of the house gets up and closes the door, you will stand outside knocking and pleading, 'Sir, open the door for us.' "

Matthew 25:10-13

But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.

Later the others also came. "Sir! Sir!" they said. "Open the door for us."

But he replied, "I tell you the truth, I don't know you." Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

Figurative of:

Christ

John 10:7, 9

Jesus said again, "I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep... I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved.

Christ's return

Matthew 24:32-33

Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door.

Day of salvation

Matthew 25:10-13

But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.

Later the others also came. "Sir! Sir!" they said. "Open the door for us."

But he replied, "I tell you the truth, I don't know you."

Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

Inclusion of Gentiles

Acts 14:27

On arriving there, they gathered the church together and reported all that God had done through them and how he had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles.

Opportunity

2 Corinthians 2:12

Now when I went to Troas to preach the gospel of Christ and found that the Lord had opened a door for me, I still had no peace of mind, because I did not find my brother Titus there.

DOVE

Dove: symbol of the Holy Spirit

Matthew 3:16-17

As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him.

Figurative of:

Loveliness

Song of Solomon 2:14

My dove in the clefts of the rock, in the hiding places on the mountainside, show me your face, let me hear your voice; for your voice is sweet, and your face is lovely.

Desperate mourning

Isaiah 38:14

I cried like a swift or thrush, I moaned like a mourning dove.

Foolish insecurity

Hosea 7:11

Ephraim is like a dove, easily deceived and senseless - not calling to Egypt, now turning to Assyria.

Israel's restoration

Hosea 11:11

They will come trembling like birds from Egypt, like doves from Assyria.

Harmlessness

Matthew 10:16

I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.

DRAGON

Dragon: the devil, Satan

Revelation 12:7-9

And there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. The great dragon was hurled down - that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who lead the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.

Applied to:

Wicked men

Isaiah 43:19, 20 KJV

Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

The beast of the field shall honor me, the dragons and the owls: because I give waters in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert, to give drink to my people, my chosen.

Sea monster

Genesis 1:21

So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living and moving thing with which the water teems, according to their kinds.

Great serpents

Exodus 7:8-14

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, "When Pharaoh says to you, 'Perform a miracle,' then say to Aaron, 'Take your staff and throw it down before Pharaoh.' And it will become a snake. So Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and did just as the Lord commanded. Aaron threw his staff down in front of Pharaoh and his officials, and it became a snake. Pharaoh then summoned wise men and sorcerers, and the Egyptian magicians also did the same things by their secret arts: Each one threw down his staff and it became a snake. But Aaron's staff swallowed up their staffs.

Cruel tyrants

Isaiah 51:9

Was it not you who cut Rahab to pieces, who pierced that monster through?

Isaiah 27:1

In that day, the Lord will punish with his sword, his fierce, great and powerful sword, Leviathan the gliding serpent, Leviathan the coiling serpent; he will slay the monster of the sea.

Psalms 73:13

It was you who split open the sea by your power; you broke the heads of the monster in the waters. It was you who crushed the heads of Leviathan and gave him as food to the creatures of the desert.

Satan

Revelation 12:9

The great dragon was hurled down - that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who led the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.

Antichrist

Revelation 12:3

Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on his heads. His tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth. 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.

DRINK

Used figuratively of:

Famine

2 Kings 18:27

But the commander replied, "Was it only to your master and you that my master sent me to say these things, and not to the men sitting on the wall - who, like you, will have to eat their own filth and drink their own urine?"

Misery

Isaiah 51:22

This is what your Sovereign Lord says, your God, who defends his people: "See, I have taken out of your hand the cup that made you stagger; from that cup, the goblet of my wrath, you will never drink again."

Married pleasure

Proverbs 5:15

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

Unholy alliances

Jeremiah 2:18

Now why go to Egypt to drink water from the Shihor? And why go to Assyria to drink water from the Rivers?

God's blessings

Zechariah 9:15-17

They will drink and roar as with wine; they will be full like a bowl used for sprinkling the corners of the altar.

Spiritual communion

John 6:53, 54

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. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day."

Holy Spirit

John 7:37-39

On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him." By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive.

DROSS

Figurative of:

Israel

Isaiah 1:21-22, 25

See how the faithful city has become a harlot! She once was full of justice; righteousness used to dwell in her - but now murderers! Your silver has become dross... I will turn my hand against you; I will thoroughly purge away your dross and remove all your impurities.

DROUGHT

Descriptive of:

Spiritual barrenness

Jeremiah 14:1-3, 7

This is the word of the Lord to Jeremiah concerning the drought: "Judah mourns, her cities languish; they wail for the land, and a cry goes up from Jerusalem. The nobles send their servants for water; they go to the cisterns but find no water. They return with their jars unfilled; dismayed and despairing, they cover their heads... Although our sins testify against us; O Lord, do something for the sake of your name. For our backsliding is great; we have sinned against you."

DRUNKENNESS

Figurative of:

Destruction

Isaiah 49:26

I will make your oppressors eat their own flesh; they will be drunk on their own blood, as with wine.

Roaring waves

Psalm 107:25-27

For he spoke and stirred up a tempest that lifted high the waves. They mounted up to the heavens and went down to the depths, in their peril their courage melted away. They reeled and staggered like drunken men.

Giddiness

Isaiah 19:14

The Lord has poured into them a spirit of dizziness; they make Egypt stagger in all that she does, as a drunkard staggers around in his vomit.

Error

Isaiah 28:7

And these also stagger from wine and reel from beer: Priests and prophets stagger from beer and are befuddled with wine; they reel from beer, they stagger when seeing visions, they stumble when rendering decisions.

Spiritual blindness

Isaiah 29:9-11

Be stunned and amazed, blind yourselves and be sightless; be drunk, but not from wine, stagger, but not from beer. The Lord brought over you a deep sleep: He has sealed your eyes (the prophets); he has covered your heads (the seers). For you this whole vision is nothing but words sealed in a scroll. And if you give the scroll to someone who can read, and say to him, "Read this, please," he will answer, "I can't; it is sealed."

International chaos

Jeremiah 25:15-17

This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, said to me: "Take from my hand this cup filled with the wine of my wrath and make all the nations to whom I send you drink it. When they drink it, they will stagger and go mad because of the sword I will send among them." So I took the cup from the Lord's hand and made all the nations to whom he sent me drink it.

Persecution

Revelation 17:6

I saw that the woman was drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of those who bore testimony to Jesus.

DUMB

Figurative of:

External calamity

Psalm 38:13

But I am like a deaf man, I do not hear, like a dumb man who does not open his mouth.

Submissiveness

Isaiah 53:7 RSV

He was oppressed and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is dumb, so he opened not his mouth.

In efficient leaders

Isaiah 56:10 RSV

His watchmen are blind, they are all without knowledge; they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark.

Helplessness

1 Corinthians 12:2

You know that when you were heathen, you were led astray to dumb idols, however you may have been moved.

Lamb before shearer is

Acts 8:32 RSV

As a sheep led to the slaughter or a lamb before its shearer is dumb, so he opens not his mouth.

With silence

Psalm 39:2 RSV

I was dumb and silent, I held my peace to no avail; my distress grew worse.

DUST

Dust: the body

Ecclesiastes 12:6-7

Remember him - before the silver cord is severed or the golden bowl is broken; before the pitcher is shattered at the spring, or the wheel broken at the well, and the dust returns to the ground it came from, and the spirit returns to God who gave it.

Dust: physical death

Genesis 3:19

By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.

Figurative of:

Man's morality

Genesis 3:19

By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.

Great multitude

Genesis 13:16

I will make your offspring like the dust of the earth, so that if anyone could count the dust, then your offspring could be counted.

Judgment

Deuteronomy 28:24

The Lord will turn the rain of your country into dust and powder; it will come down from the skies until you are destroyed.

Act of cursing

2 Samuel 16:13

So David and his men continued along the road while Shimei was going along the hillside opposite him, cursing as he went and throwing stones at him and showering him with dirt.

Dejection

Job 2:12

When they saw him from a distance, they could hardly recognize him; they began to weep aloud, and they tore their robes and sprinkled dust on their heads.

Subjection

Isaiah 49:23

Kings will be your foster fathers, and their queens your nursing mothers. They will bow down before you with their faces to the ground; they will lick the dust at your feet. Then you will know that I am the Lord; those who hope in me will not be disappointed.

The grave

Isaiah 26:19

But your dead will live, their bodies will rise. You who dwell in the dust, wake up and shout for joy. Your dew is like the dew of the morning; the earth will give birth to her dead.

Rejection

Matthew 10:14

If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake the dust off your feet when you leave that home or town.

EAGLE

Eagle: king

Ezekiel 17:3, 12

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 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.

Eagle: Renewal of youth

Psalms 103:5

Who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

Eagle: transportation

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.

Figurative of:

God's care

Exodus 19:4

You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagle's wings and brought you to myself.

Swift armies

Jeremiah 4:13

Look! He advances like the clouds, his chariots come like a whirlwind, his horses are swifter than eagles.

Spiritual renewal

Isaiah 40:31

But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles.

Flight of riches

Proverbs 23:5

Cast but a glance at riches, and they are gone, for they will surely sprout wings and fly off to the sky like an eagle.

False security

Jeremiah 49:16

"Though you build your nest as high as the eagle's, from there I will bring you down," declares the Lord.

EARS TO HEAR

Ears to hear: spiritual ears, ears that listen

Mark 4:9

He who has ears to hear, let him hear.

Matthew 12:11-12 NLT

You are permitted to understand the secrets of the Kingdom of Heaven, but others are not. To those who listen to my teaching, more understanding will be given, and they will have an abundance of knowledge. But for those who are not listening, even what little understanding they have will be taken away from them.

So those who “listen to His teaching” are contrasted here with those who “are not listening”. Those who “are not listening” will have what understanding they have taken away from them.

LISTENING to Him and His teaching is the key. There are those who listen and continue to listen, and continue to listen. And there are those who listened for awhile, and gained a little understanding, but stopped listening. It is important to listen every day. It is important to develop a “listening ear” to hear the Lord moment by moment.

Promises concerning:

Prophecy

Isaiah 64:4

Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eyes has seen any God besides you.

Fulfillment

Matthew 13:16, 17

But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear. For I tell you the truth, many prophets and righteous men longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.

A miracle

Mark 7:35

At this, the man's ears were opened, his tongue was loosened and he began to speak plainly.

A foretaste

2 Corinthians 12:3, 4

And I know that this man...was caught up to paradise. He heard inexpressible things, things that man is not permitted to tell.

Final realization

1 Corinthians 2:9

No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him.

EAT

Eating what God allows: refers to taking Jesus and His Word into us.

Eating what God does not allow: refers to taking Satan and what he says into us.

Genesis 2:17

You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.

Genesis 3:4-5

"You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

Genesis 3:6

When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

Isaiah 55:1

Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat.

Isaiah 55:2

Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and your soul will delight in the richest of fare.

Matthew 26:26

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat, this is my body."

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. Whoever 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 11:26

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

Revelation 3:20

Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.

Spiritual significance of:

Covenant

Exodus 24:9, 11

Moses and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and the seventy elders of Israel went up and saw the God of Israel...But God did not raise his hand against these leaders of the Israelites; they saw God, and they ate and drank.

Adoption

Jeremiah 52:33, 34

So Jehoiachin put aside his prison clothes and for the rest of his life ate regularly at the king's table. Day by day the king of Babylon gave Jehoiachin a regular allowance as long as he lived, till the day of his death.

Fellowship

Luke 22:15-16

When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God.

EDEN

Eden: delight, pleasantness, first home of man

Genesis 2:8-15

Now the Lord God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. And the Lord God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground - trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil... The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.

Eden: Zion becomes like it

Isaiah 51:3

The Lord will surely comfort Zion and will look with compassion on all her ruins; he will make her deserts like Eden, her wastelands like the garden of the Lord.

Eden: garden of God

Ezekiel 28:13

You were in Eden, the garden, the garden of God.

Eden: terrible contrast

Joel 2:3

Before them the land is like the garden of Eden, behind them, a desert waste.

ELECT - CHOSEN

Elect can refer to:

Prophet

Jeremiah 1:4-5

The word of the Lord came to me, saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew (or chose) you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."

Israel

Isaiah 45:4

For the sake of Jacob my servant, of Israel my chosen, I summon you by name and bestow on you a title of honor.

Good angels

1 Timothy 5:21

I charge you, in the sight of God and Christ Jesus and the elect angels, to keep these instructions without partiality, and to do nothing out of favoritism.

Believers

Titus 1:1

Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ for the faith of God's elect and the knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness.

Matthew 24:22, 31

If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened...And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.

Christian ministers

Acts 9:15

But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel."

Individuals/the church

2 John 1, 13

To the chosen lady and her children, whom I love in the truth...The children of your chosen sister send their greetings.

Messiah

1 Peter 2:6

See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.

Isaiah 42:1 KJV

Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him.

ELEMENTS

Figurative of:

Rudiments of the law

Galatians 4:3 RSV

When we were children, we were slaves to the elemental spirits of the universe

Rudiments of tradition

Colossians 2:8, 20

See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles [elements] of this world rather than on Christ... Since you died with Christ to the basic principles of this world, why, as though you still belonged to it, do you submit to its rules.

First principles of God's Word

Hebrews 5:12

Though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food!

ENEMY

Applied to:

Satan, devil

Matthew 13:24-25

Jesus told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away."

Matthew 13:37-39

He answered, "The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of man. The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the people of the kingdom. The weeds are the people of the evil one, and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels."

Foreign nations

Genesis 14:17-20

After Abram returned from defeating Kedorlaomer and the kings allied with him, the king of Sodom came out to meet him in the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley).

Then Melchizadek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High, and he blessed Abram, saying... "And blessed be God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand."

Israel

Micah 2:3, 8

The Lord says...Lately my people have risen up like an enemy.

Gentiles

Colossians 1:21

Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior.

Unregenerate men

Romans 5:10

For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!

The world

Matthew 22:44

The Lord said to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand until I put your enemies under your feet."

Death

1 Corinthians 15:25-26

For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

EYE

Of God, figurative of:

Omniscience

2 Chronicles 16:9

For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him.

Justice

Amos 9:8

"Surely the eyes of the Sovereign Lord are on the sinful kingdom. I will destroy it from the face of the earth - yet I will not totally destroy the house of Jacob," declares the Lord.

Holiness

Habakkuk 1:13

Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrong.

Guidance

Psalms 32:8 RSV

I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

Protection

Psalms 33:18

But the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, on those whose hope is in his unfailing love, to deliver them from death and keep them alive in famine.

Of men, figurative of:

Revealed knowledge

Numbers 24:3

The oracle of Balaam son of Beor, the oracle of one whose eye sees clearly.

Lawlessness

Judges 17:6 RSV

In those days there was no king in Israel; every man did what was right in his own eyes.

Jealousy

1 Samuel 18:9

And from that time on Saul kept a jealous eye on David.

Understanding

Psalms 19:8

The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes.

Agreement

Isaiah 52:8

Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices; together they shout for joy. When the Lord returns to Zion, they will see it with their own eyes.

Great sorrow

Jeremiah 9:1

Oh, that my head were a spring of water and my eyes a fountain of tears!

Retaliation

Matthew 5:38

You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.

The essential nature

Matthew 6:22, 23

The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

Moral state

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 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 in your own eye?"

Spiritual inability

Matthew 13:15

For this people's heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.

Spiritual dullness

Mark 8:18

Do you have eyes but fail to see, and ears but fail to hear?

Future glory

1 Corinthians 2:9

No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him.

Illumination

Ephesians 1:18

I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe.

Unworthy service

Ephesians 6:6

Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but like slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart.

Worldliness

1 John 2:16

For everything in the world - the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does - comes not from the Father but from the world.

Evil desires

2 Peter 2:14

With eyes full of adultery, they never stop sinning.

FARMER

Farmer: person who plants God's word and/or God's message in people

Mark 4:3, 14

A farmer went out to sow his seed. ...The farmer sows the word.

John 15:1 MSG

I am the Real Vine and my Father is the Farmer.

Diligence required

Proverbs 24:30-31

I went past the field of the sluggard, past the vineyard of the man who lacks judgment; thorns had come up everywhere, the ground was covered with weeds, and the stone wall was in ruins.

Reward of

2 Corinthians 9:6, 8, 11

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously...And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work...You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion.

Unwise

Luke 12:16-21

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?'

"This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God."

FATHER

Figurative of:

Source

Job 38:28

Does the rain have a father? Who fathers the drops of dew?

Original inventor

Genesis 4:20-21

Adah gave birth to Jabal; he was the father of those who live in tents and raise livestock. His brother's name was Jubal; he was the father of all who play the harp and flute.

Creator

James 1:17

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

Spiritual likeness

John 8:44

You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire.

Counselor

Genesis 45:8

He [God] made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt.

Superior

2 Kings 2:12

Elisha saw this and cried out, "My father! My father! The chariots and horsemen of Israel!" And Elisha saw him no more.

Praise-seeking

Matthew 23:9

And do not call anyone on earth "father," for you have one Teacher, and he is in heaven.

FEATHERS - WINGS

Feathers - Wings: covering, shelter, place to hide, refuge

Psalm 35:7

Both high and low among men find refuge in the shadow of your wings.

Psalm 91:4 NLT

He will cover you with his feathers. He will shelter you with his wings.

Psalm 91:4 NCV

He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you can hide.

Ruth 2:12

May you be richly rewarded by the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge.

Exodus 12:12-13

On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn - both men and animals - and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the Lord. The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt.

Perry Stone, in his book *Breaking the Code of the Feasts*, interprets "I will pass over you" as this: The Lord will spread out His wings over them to shelter them from death.

So in the case of the death of the firstborn, when God saw the token of the covenant, the blood, He spread His wings over that home and prevented the destroyer from entering. (Perry Stone, *Breaking the Code of the Feasts*, pg 81)

Isaiah 31:5 NKJV

"Like birds flying about, so will the Lord of hosts defend Jerusalem. Defending, He will also deliver it; passing over, He will preserve it.

When the Lord "passes over" Jerusalem, it is like a "bird flying"; the passing over infers that His wings are spread over Jerusalem in order to defend and protect it. (Perry Stone, *Breaking the Code of the Feasts*, pg 81)

FEED

Figurative of:

Instruction and care

2 Samuel 5:2

The Lord said to thee [David], Thou shalt feed my people Israel, and thou shalt be a captain over Israel.

Spiritual provision

John 21:15

Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?"

"Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."

Messiah

Ezekiel 34:23 NCV

Then I will put over them one shepherd, my servant David. He will feed them and tend them and be their shepherd.

Good deeds

Matthew 25:37

Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?"

Supernatural supply

Revelation 12:6

The woman fled into the desert to a place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of for 1,260 days.

Elemental teaching

1 Corinthians 3:2

I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it.

Change of nature

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.

Corruption

Psalm 49:13-14

This is the fate of those who trust in themselves, and of their followers, who approve their sayings. Like sheep they are destined for the grave, and death will feed on them.

Vanity

Hosea 12:1

Ephraim feeds on the wind; he pursues the east wind all day and multiplies lies and violence.

Eternal provision

Revelation 7:16-17

Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst... For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water.

FEET

Figurative of:

God's holiness

Exodus 3:5 RSV

Then he said, "Do not come near; put off your shoes from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground."

God's nature

Exodus 24:9-10

Moses and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and the seventy elders of Israel went up and saw the God of Israel. Under his feet was something like a pavement made of sapphire, clear as the sky itself.

Clouds

Nahum 1:3 NCV

Where the Lord goes, there are whirlwinds and storms, and the clouds are the dust beneath his feet.

God's messengers

Romans 10:15

As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

Final conquest

Romans 16:20

And the God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.

FETTERS

Figurative of:

Trouble

Job 36:8-9 RSV

If they are bound in fetters and caught in the cords of affliction, then he declares to them their work and their transgressions, that they are behaving arrogantly.

Subjection

Psalm 149:8-9

To bind their kings with fetters, their nobles with shackles of iron, to carry out the sentence written against them. This is the glory of all his saints.

FIELD

Figurative of:

World

Matthew 13:24-25

Jesus told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away."

Matthew 13:37-39

He answered, "The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of man. The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the people of the kingdom. The weeds are the people of the evil one, and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels."

Harvest

John 4:35

Do you not say, 'Four months more and then the harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.

FIG TREE

Figurative of:

Prosperity and peace

1 Kings 4:25

During Solomon's lifetime Judah and Israel, from Dan to Beersheba, lived in safety, each man under his own vine and fig tree.

Righteous and the wicked

Jeremiah 24:1-10

The Lord showed me two baskets of figs...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...Then the word of the Lord came to me: "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: 'Like these good figs, I regard as good the exiles from Judah, whom I sent away from this place to the land of the Babylonians...But like the poor figs...so I will deal with Zedekiah king of Judah, his officials and the survivors from Jerusalem...I will make them abhorrent and an offense to all the kingdoms of the earth, a reproach and a byword, an object of ridicule and cursing.'"

Fathers of Israel

Hosea 9:10

When I found Israel, it was like finding grapes in the desert; when I saw your fathers, it was like seeing the early fruit on the fig tree.

Barren religion

Matthew 21:19

Seeing a fig tree by the road, he went up to it but found nothing on it except leaves. Then he said to it, "May you never bear fruit again!" Immediately the tree withered.

Jewish nation

Luke 13:6-9

Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree, planted in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it, but did not find any. So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, 'For three years now I've been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree, and haven't found any. Cut it down! Why should I use up the soil?' "

" 'Sir,' the man replied, 'leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig around it and fertilize it. If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.' "

Christ's return

Matthew 24:32, 33

Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and the leaves come out, you know that summer is near. Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it [the Son of Man coming] is near, right at the door.

Final judgment

Revelation 6:13

I watched as he opened the sixth seal. There was a great earthquake. The sun turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair, the whole moon turned blood red, and the stars in the sky fell to earth, as late figs drop from a fig tree when shaken by a strong wind.

FINGER

Figurative of:

God's power

Exodus 8:19

The magicians said to Pharaoh, "This is the finger of God."

Inspiration

Exodus 31:18

When the Lord finished speaking to Moses on Mount Sinai, he gave him the two tablets of the Testimony, the tablets of stone inscribed by the finger of God.

Suggestiveness

Proverbs 6:12-14

A scoundrel and villain, who goes about with a corrupt mouth, who winks with his eye, signals with his feet and motions with his fingers, who plots evil with deceit in his heart - he always stirs up dissension.

Contrast of burdens

1 Kings 12:10

The young men who had grown up with him replied, "Tell these people who have said to you, 'Your father put a heavy yoke on us, but make our yoke lighter' - tell them, 'My little finger is thicker than my father's waist.' "

Lord's authority

Luke 11:20

But if I drive out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come to you.

FIRE

Fire: Word of God

Jeremiah 5:14

I will make my words in your mouth a fire, and these people the wood it consumes.

Fire: Jesus Christ

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 thorns and his briers.

Figurative of:

God's protection

Zechariah 2:5

"And I myself will be a wall of fire around it," declares the Lord, "and I will be its glory within."

God's vengeance

Hebrews 12:29

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our "God is a consuming fire."

God's word

Jeremiah 5:14

I will make my words in your mouth a fire, and these people the wood it consumes.

Christ

Malachi 3:2-3

But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver.

Holy Spirit

Acts 2:3-4

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.

Angels

Hebrews 1:7

Speaking of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, his servants flames of fire."

Tongue

James 3:6

The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.

Persecution

Luke 12:49, 51

"I have come to bring fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! ..Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division."

Affliction

Isaiah 43:2

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.

Purification

Isaiah 6:5-7

"Woe is me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty."

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."

Love

Song of Solomon 8:6

Place me like a seal over your heart, like a seal on your arm; for love is as strong as death, its jealousy unyielding as the grave. It burns like blazing fire, like a mighty flame.

Lust

Proverbs 6:27, 28

Can a man scoop fire into his lap without his clothes being burned? Can a man walk on hot coals without his feet being scorched? So is he who sleeps with another man's wife.

FIREPOT

Firepot: that which consumes

Zechariah 12:6

On that day I will make the leaders of Judah like a firepot in a woodpile, like a flaming torch among sheaves. They will consume right and left all the surrounding peoples, but Jerusalem will remain intact in her place.

FIRST FRUITS

Figurative of:

Israel's position

Romans 11:16

If the part of the dough [Israel] offered as firstfruits is holy, then the whole batch is holy; if the root is holy, so are the branches.

Christ's place on resurrection

1 Corinthians 15:20, 22-23

But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep... For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him.

Christians

James 1:18

He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.

First converts

Romans 16:5 KJV

Salute my beloved Epenetus, who is the firstfruits of Achaia unto Christ.

FISH

Figurative of:

Men in the sea of life

Ezekiel 47:9, 10

Swarms of living creatures will live wherever the river flows. There will be large numbers of fish, because this water flows there and makes the salt water fresh, so where the river flows everything will live. Fishermen will stand along the shore; from En Gedi to En Eglaim there will be places for spreading nets. The fish will be of many kinds - like the fish of the Great Sea.

Ministers as fishermen

Matthew 4:19

"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men."

Ignorant men

Ecclesiastes 9:12

Moreover, no man knows when his hour has 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.

FLEA

Figurative of:

Insignificance

1 Samuel 24:14

Against whom has the king of Israel come out? Whom are you pursuing? A dead dog? A flea?

FLIES

Figurative of:

Egypt

Isaiah 7:18

In that day the Lord will whistle for flies from the distant streams of Egypt and for bees from the land of Assyria.

FLINT

Figurative of:

A fixed course

Isaiah 50:7

Because the Sovereign Lord helps me, I will not be disgraced. Therefore have I set my face like flint, and I know I will not be put to shame.

Ezekiel 3:9

I will make your forehead like the hardest stone, harder than flint. Do not be afraid of them or terrified by them.

FLOOD

Flood: demonic attack, trials, troubles

Luke 67:46-49

"Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say? I will show you what he is like who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice. He is like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built. But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete."

Figurative of:

Ungodly men

2 Samuel 22:3, 5

He is my stronghold, my refuge and my savior - from violent men you save me...The waves of death swirled about me; the torrents of destruction overwhelmed me.

Great trouble

Psalms 32:6

Therefore let everyone who is godly pray to you while you may be found; surely when the mighty waters rise, they will not reach him.

Hostile world powers

Psalms 93:3

The seas have lifted up, O Lord, the seas have lifted up their voice; the seas have lifted up their pounding waves.

An enemy

Isaiah 59:19

From the west, men will fear the name of the Lord, and from the rising of the sun, they will revere his glory. For he will come like a pent-up flood that the breath of the Lord drives along.

An invading army

Jeremiah 46:7, 8

Who is this that rises like the Nile, like rivers of surging waters? Egypt rises like the Nile, like rivers of surging waters. She says, 'I will rise and cover the earth; I will destroy cities and their people.'

Great destruction

Daniel 9:26

After the sixty-two 'sevens' the Anointed One will be cut off and will have nothing. The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed.

Testing

Matthew 7:24-27

Therefore, anyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.

Persecution

Revelation 12:15, 16

Then from his mouth the serpent spewed water like a river, to overtake the woman and sweep her away with the torrent. But the earth helped the woman by opening its mouth and swallowing the river that the dragon had spewed out of his mouth.

FOOT

To sit at, figurative of:

Obedience

Deuteronomy 33:3

At your feet they all bow down, and from you receive instruction.

Instruction

Acts 22:3

I am a Jew, born at Tarsus in Cilicia, but brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, educated according to the strict manner of the law of the fathers, being zealous for God as you all are this day.

Teachableness

Luke 10:39

She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said.

To be under, figurative of:

God's sovereignty

Psalm 8:6

You made him ruler over the works of your hands, you put everything under his feet.

Christ's victory

Psalm 110:1

The Lord says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet."

Conquest

Joshua 10:24

They came forward and placed their feet on their necks.

Examples, figuratively of:

Prosperity

Deuteronomy 33:24

About Asher he said: "Most blessed of sons is Asher; let him be favored by his brothers, and let him bathe his feet in oil.

Possession

Joshua 1:3

I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses.

Reverence

Joshua 5:15

The commander of the Lord's army replied, "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy." And Joshua did so.

Whole person

Proverbs 1:15

My son, do not go along with them, do not set foot on their paths; for their feet rush into sin, they are swift to shed blood.

FOOTSTOOL

Figurative of:

Earth

Matthew 5:35

Do not swear at all: either by heaven, for it is God's throne; or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King.

Ark

1 Chronicles 28:2

King David rose to his feet and said: "Listen to me, my brothers and my people. I had it in my heart to build a house as a place of rest for the ark of the covenant of the Lord, for the footstool of our God, and I made plans to build it."

Temple worship

Psalm 99:5

Exalt the Lord our God and worship at his footstool; he is holy.

Subjection

Acts 2:35

The Lord said to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet."

FOREHEAD

Forehead: thoughts

Deuteronomy 6:6, 8

These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts...Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads.

Ezekiel 9:3-4

Then the Lord called to the man clothed in linen who had the writing kit at his side and said to him, "Go throughout the city of Jerusalem and put a mark on the foreheads of those who grieve and lament over all the detestable things that are done in it."

Figurative of:

Shamelessness

Revelation 17:5

This title was written on her forehead: Mystery Babylon the great the mother of prostitutes and of the abominations of the earth.

Stronger power

Ezekiel 3:8, 9

But I will make you as unyielding and hardened as they are. I will make your forehead like the hardest stone, harder than flint.

Devotion to God

Ezekiel 9:3-4

Then the Lord called to the man clothed in linen who had the writing kit at his side and said to him, "Go throughout the city of Jerusalem and put a mark on the foreheads of those who grieve and lament over all the detestable things that are done in it."

Christ's true servants

Revelation 7:3

Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God.

FOREST

Forest: a group of people

Isaiah 44:23

Sing for joy, O heavens, for the Lord has done this; shout aloud, O earth beneath. Burst into song, you mountains, you forests and all your trees, for the Lord has redeemed Jacob, he displays his glory in Israel.

Figurative of:

Army

Isaiah 10:18-19

The splendor of his forests and fertile fields it will completely destroy, as when a sick man wastes away. And the remaining trees of his forests will be so few that a child could write them down.

Kingdom

Jeremiah 21:14

"I will punish you as your deeds deserve," declares the Lord. "I will kindle a fire in your forests that will consume everything around you."

Unfruitfulness

Hosea 2:12

I will ruin her vines and her fig trees, which she said were her pay from her lovers; I will make them a thicket [forest], and wild animals will devour them.

FOUNDATION

Used figuratively of:

Christ

Isaiah 28:16

So this is what the Sovereign Lord says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation: the one who trusts will never be dismayed."

Matthew 16:18

And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock (Christ) I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

Christian truth

Ephesians 2:20

[You are] fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.

God's decrees

2 Timothy 2:19

God's foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: 'The Lord knows those who are his.'

Security of salvation

1 Timothy 6:19

In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they make take hold of the life that is truly life.

The eternal city

Hebrews 11:10

For he was looking forward to the city with foundations whose architect and builder is God.

FOUNTAIN

Fountain: cleansing

Zechariah 13:1

On that day a fountain will be opened to the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and impurity.

Fountain: life

Psalms 36:9

For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light.

FOWLER

(One who catches birds)

Figurative of:

False prophets

Hosea 9:8-9 RSV

The prophet is the watchman of Ephraim, the people of my God, yet a fowler's snare is on all his ways, and hatred in the house of his God. They have deeply corrupted themselves as in the days of Gibeah.

Temptations

Psalm 91:3

Surely he will save you from the fowler's snare and from the deadly pestilence.

Psalm 124:7

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

FOX

Figurative of:

False prophets

Ezekiel 13:4 RSV

Your prophets have been like foxes among ruins, O Israel.

Enemies

Song of Songs 2:15

Catch for us the foxes, the little foxes that ruin the vineyards, our vineyards that are in bloom

Deceivers

Luke 13:32

He replied, "Go tell that fox, 'I will drive out demons and heal people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will reach my goal.' "

FRANKINCENSE

Figurative of

Worship

Psalm 141:2

May my prayer be set before you like incense; may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice.

FROST

Figurative of:

God's power

Job 37:10 KJV

By the breath of God frost is given.

God's creative ability

Job 38:29 NLT

Who is the mother of the ice? Who gives birth to the frost from the heavens?

FRUIT

Fruit: what is produced

Psalm 1:2-3

He [the blessed man] is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.

Psalm 92:13-15

The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon; planted in the house of the Lord, they will flourish in the courts of our God. They will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green, proclaiming, "The Lord is upright; he is my Rock, and there is no wickedness in him."

Matthew 7:16, 17-20

By their fruit you will recognize them... Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.

Proverbs 12:14

From the fruit of their lips people are filled with good things.

Proverbs 11:30

The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life and he who wins souls is wise.

Figurative of:

Repentance

Matthew 3:8

Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.

Industry

Proverbs 31:16 RSV

She considers a field and buys it; with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard.

Christian graces

Galatians 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Holy life

Proverbs 11:30

The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life.

Christian converts

John 4:36 RSV

He who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life.

Christ

Psalms 132:11 KJV

The Lord hath sworn in truth unto David; he will not turn from it; "Of the fruit of thy body will I set upon thy throne."

Sinful life

Matthew 7:16

Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit you will recognize them.

Reward of righteousness

Philippians 1:11

Filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ.

FURNACE

Figurative of:

Egyptian bondage

Deuteronomy 4:20

But as for you, the Lord took you and brought you out of the iron-smelting furnace, out of Egypt, to be the people of his inheritance, as you now are.

Spiritual refinement

Psalm 12:6

The words of the Lord are flawless, like silver refined in a furnace of clay, purified seven times.

Lust

Hosea 7:4

They are all adulterers, burning like an oven whose fire the baker need not stir from the kneading of the dough till it rises.

Hell

Matthew 13:42

They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Punishment

Ezekiel 22:18-22

Son of man, the house of Israel has become dross to me; all of them are the copper, tin, iron and lead left inside a furnace. They are but the dross of silver. Therefore this is what the Sovereign Lord says: "Because you have all become dross, I will gather you into Jerusalem. As men gather silver, copper, iron, lead and tin into a furnace to melt it with a fiery blast, so will I gather you in my anger and my wrath and put you inside the city and melt you. I will gather you and I will blow on you with my fiery wrath, and you will be melted inside her. As silver is melted in a furnace, so you will be melted inside her, and you will know that I the Lord have poured out my wrath upon you."

GARDEN

Garden of Eden: delight, pleasantness, first home of man

Genesis 2:8-15

Now the Lord God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. And the Lord God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground - trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil... The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.

Garden of Eden: Zion becomes like it

Isaiah 51:3

The Lord will surely comfort Zion and will look with compassion on all her ruins; he will make her deserts like Eden, her wastelands like the garden of the Lord.

Garden of Eden: Garden of God

Ezekiel 28:13

You were in Eden, the garden, the garden of God.

Garden: unproductive

Isaiah 1:30

You will be like an oak with fading leaves, like a garden without water.

Figurative of:

Desolation

Amos 4:9

Many times I struck your gardens and vineyards, I struck them with blight and mildew.

Fruitfulness

Isaiah 51:3

The Lord will surely comfort Zion and will look with compassion on all her ruins; he will make her deserts like Eden, her wastelands like the garden of the Lord.

Prosperity

Isaiah 58:11

You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail.

Righteousness

Isaiah 61:11

For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign Lord will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations.

GARDENER

Gardener: Father God

I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn't produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more. You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you. Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me. (John 15:1-4 NLT)

Gardener: Adam, the first gardener

Genesis 2:15

The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.

Gardener: God the Father

John 15:1

I am the vine, and my Father is the gardener.

Gardener: Christ, mistaken for

John 20:15-16

"Woman," he said, "why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?"

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."

Jesus said to her, "Mary."

GARMENTS

(see clothes)

Garments: 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 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.

GATES

Narrow gate: entryway into kingdom of God

Matthew 7:13

Enter through the narrow gate.

Luke 13:23-25

He said to them, "Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to. Once the owner of the house gets up and closes the door, you will stand outside knocking and pleading, 'Sir, open the door for us.' "

Gate: Jesus

John 10:7, 9

Jesus said again, "I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep... I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved.

Wide Gate: the way that leads to destruction, to death, the way of the lost - the unbelievers

Matthew 7:13

For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it.

:

Floodgates

Genesis 7:11-12

In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, on the seventeenth day of the second month - on that day all the springs of the great deep burst forth, and the floodgates of the heavens were opened. And rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights.

Figurative of:

Satanic power

Matthew 16:18

On this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

Death

Isaiah 38:10

I said, "In the prime of my life must I go through the gates of death and be robbed of the rest of my years?"

Righteousness

Psalm 118:19-20

Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter and give thanks to the Lord. This is the gate of the Lord through which the righteous may enter.

Salvation

Matthew 7:13

For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

Heaven

Revelation 21:25

On no day will its [Jerusalem, the Holy City] gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there.

GAZELLE

Gazelle: a small, graceful, and swift animal of the antelope family. (1 Chronicles 12:8)

1 Chronicles 12:8

From the Gadites there went over to David at the stronghold in the wilderness mighty and experienced warriors, expert with shield and spear, whose faces were like the faces of lions, and who were swift as gazelles upon the mountains.

Song of Solomon 8:14

Come away, my lover, and be like a gazelle or like a young stag on the spice-laden mountains.

SOS 2:8-10

Listen! My lover! Look! Here he comes, leaping across the mountains, bounding over the hills. My lover is like a gazelle or a young stag. Look! There he stands behind our wall, gazing through the windows, peering through the lattice. My lover spoke and said to me, "Arise, my darling, my beautiful one, and come with me."

SOS 2:16-17

My lover is mine and I am his; he browses among the lilies. Until the day breaks and the shadows flee, turn, my lover, and be like a gazelle or like a young stag on the rugged hills.

My thoughts and I read this: "Until the day breaks" = Until the day of the Lord is finished. "And the shadows flee" = When the darkness is gone from the earth. Therefore these verses means to me that I am the Lord's and He is mine until His "day" (the tribulation) is done/finished, and the darkness is gone from the earth.

GIRDLE

Figurative of:

Strength

Isaiah 22:21 RSV

I will clothe him with your robe, and will bind your girdle on him, and will commit your authority to his hand; and he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the house of Judah.

Gladness

Psalm 30:11 RSV

Thou hast turned for me my mourning into dancing; thou hast loosed my sackcloth and girded me with gladness.

Truth

Ephesians 6:14 RSV

Stand therefore, having girded your loins with truth.

Readiness

Luke 12:35 RSV

Let your loins be girded and your lamps burning.

1 Peter 1:13 RSV

Therefore gird up your minds, be sober, set your hope fully upon the grace that is coming to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

GLASS

Figurative of:

Imperfect knowledge

1 Corinthians 13:12 KJV

Now we see through a glass darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

Christ's glory

2 Corinthians 3:18 KJV

But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

God's Word

James 1:23, 25 KJV

For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass (mirror): for he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway fogetteth what manner of man he was.

God's nature

Revelation 4:6

Also before the throne there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal.

New Jerusalem

Revelation 21:18, 21

The wall was made of jasper, and the city of pure gold, as pure as glass.

GOAT

Figurative of:

Great leaders

Jeremiah 50:8

Flee out of Babylon; leave the land of the Babylonians, and be like the goats that lead the flock.

Greek Empire

Daniel 8:5

As I was thinking about this, suddenly a goat with a prominent horn between his eyes came from the west, crossing the whole earth without touching the ground.

Devils

2 Chronicles 11:15

And he [Jeroboam] appointed his own priests for the high places and for the goat and calf idols he had made.

Wicked

Matthew 25:32-33

All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

GOLD

Gold: Christ, Word of God

Colossians 2:3

My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Figurative of:

Saints refined

Job 23:10

But he knows the way that I take; when he has tested me, I will come forth as gold.

Babylonian empire

Daniel 2:37-38

You, O king, are the king of kings. The God of heaven has given you dominion and power and might and glory; in your hands he has placed mankind and the beasts of the field and the birds of the air. Wherever they live, he has made you ruler over them all. You are that head of gold.

Redeemed

2 Timothy 2:20

In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for noble purposes and some for ignoble. 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.

Faith purified

1 Peter 1:7

These have come so that your faith - of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire - may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

Christ's doctrine

Revelation 3:18

I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich.

GOLDEN BOWL

Golden bowl: that which ties you to life

Ecclesiastes 12:6-7

Remember him - before the silver cord is severed or the golden bowl is broken; before the pitcher is shattered at the spring, or the wheel broken at the well, and the dust returns to the ground it came from, and the spirit returns to God who gave it.

GOMORRAH

Symbol of:

Evil

Isaiah 1:10

Hear the word of the Lord, you rulers of Sodom; listen to the law of our God, you people of Gomorrah.

Destruction

Amos 4:11

I overthrew some of you as I overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah.

GRAPES

Figurative of:

Judgment

Revelation 14:18-19

Still another angel, who had charge of the fire, came from the altar and called in a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, "Take your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of grapes from the earth's vine, because its grapes are ripe." The angel swung his sickle on the earth, gathered its grapes and threw them into the great winepress of God's wrath.

GRASS

Figurative of:

Life's shortness

Psalm 90:5, 6

You sweep men away in the sleep of death; they are like the new grass of the morning - though in the morning it springs up new, by evening it is dry and withered.

Prosperous wicked

Psalm 92:6-

The senseless man does not know, fools do not understand, that though the wicked spring up like grass and all evildoers flourish, they will be forever destroyed.

God's grace

Psalm 72:6 NLT

May the king's rule be refreshing like spring rain on freshly cut grass, like the showers that water the earth.

GREEN

Descriptive of:

Spiritual privileges

Jeremiah 11:16 RSV

The Lord once called you, "A green olive tree, fair with goodly fruit".

Spiritual life

Psalm 52:8 RSV

But I am like a green olive tree in the house of God. I trust in the steadfast love of God for ever and ever.

Psalm 92:12-15

The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon; planted in the house of the Lord, they will flourish in the courts of our God. They will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green, proclaiming, "The Lord is upright; he is my Rock, and there is no wickedness in him."