

SYMBOLS

FROM

THE

BIBLE

Book 3

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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

HABITATION

Figurative of:

Eternity

Isaiah 57:15 RSV

For thus says the high and lofty One who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite."

God's throne

Isaiah 63:15 RSV

Look down from heaven and see, from thy holy and glorious habitation.

Sky

Habakkuk 3:11 RSV

The sun and moon stood still in their habitation at the light of thine arrows as they sped, at the flash of thy glittering spear.

Heaven

Luke 16:9 RSV

I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous mammon, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal habitations.

Jerusalem

Isaiah 33:20 RSV

Look upon Zion, the city of our appointed feasts! Your eyes will see Jerusalem, a quiet habitation, an immovable tent.

HAIL

Illustrative of:

Wonders

Job 38:22

Have you entered the storehouses of the snow or seen the storehouses of the hail, which I reserve for times of trouble, for days of war and battle?

Glory

Psalm 18:12

Out of the brightness of his presence clouds advanced, with hailstones and bolts of lightning.

Chastening

Isaiah 28:2; 17

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... I will make justice the measuring line and righteousness the plumb line; hail will sweep away your refuge, the lie, and water will overflow your hiding place.

Wrath

Revelation 8:7

The first angel sounded his trumpet, and there came hail and fire mixed with blood, and it was hurled down upon the earth. A third of the earth was burned up, a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up.

HAIR

Figurative of:

Minuteness

Judges 20:16

Among all these soldiers there were seven hundred chosen men who were left-handed, each of whom could sling a stone at a hair and not miss.

Complete safety

1 Samuel 14:45

But the men said to Saul, "Should Jonathan die - he who has brought about this great deliverance in Israel? Never! As surely as the Lord lives, not a hair of his head will fall to the ground, for he did this today with God's help." So the men rescued Jonathan, and he was not put to death.

Fright

Job 4:14, 15

Fear and trembling seized me and made all my bones shake. A spirit glided past my face, and the hair on my body stood on end.

Great numbers

Psalms 40:12

For troubles without number surround me; my sins have overtaken me, and I cannot see. They are more than the hairs of my head, and my heart fails within me.

Grief

Ezra 9:3

When I heard this, I tore my tunic and cloak, pulled hair from my head and beard and sat down appalled.

Respect

Proverbs 16:31

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

Attractiveness

Song of songs 5:2, 11

My head is drenched with dew, my hair with the dampness of the night...His head is purest gold; his hair is wavy and black as a raven.

Affliction

Isaiah 3:17, 24

Therefore the Lord will bring sores on the heads of the women of Zion; the Lord will make their scalps bald...instead of well-dressed hair, baldness.

Entire destruction

Isaiah 7:20

In that day the Lord will use a razor hired from beyond the River - the king of Assyria - to shave your head and the hair of your legs, and to take off your beards also.

Decline and fall

Hosea 7:9

Foreigners sap his strength, but he does not realize it. his hair is sprinkled with gray, but he does not notice.

HAMMER

Hammer: Word of God

Jeremiah 23:29

Is not my word like fire," declares the Lord, "and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?"

2 Corinthians 10:4-5

The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

And we do that with the hammer - the Word of God!

Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

Figurative of:

God's Word

Jeremiah 23:29

Is not my word like fire," declares the Lord, "and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?"

Babylon

Jeremiah 50:23

How broken and shattered is the hammer of the whole earth! How desolate is Babylon among the nations!

HAND

Hand: actions

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.

HARVEST

Harvest: end of the age

Matthew 13:24-25, 37-39

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... "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."

Figurative of:

Seasons of grace

Jeremiah 8:20

The harvest is past, the summer has ended.

Judgment

Jeremiah 51:33

The Daughter of Babylon is like a threshing floor at the time it is trampled; the time to harvest her will soon come.

God's wrath

Revelation 14:15-16

Then another angel came out of the temple and called in a loud voice to him who was sitting on the cloud. "Take your sickle and reap, because the time to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is ripe." So he who was seated on the cloud swung his sickle over the earth, and the earth was harvested.

Gospel opportunities

Matthew 9:37-38

Then he said to his disciples, "the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

World's end

Matthew 13:30, 39

"Let 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."

Measure of fruitfulness

2 Corinthians 9:6

Remember this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.

HARVESTERS

Harvesters: angels

Matthew 13:30, 39

"Let 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."

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."

HEAD

Figurative of:

God

1 Corinthians 11:3

Now I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.

Christ

Ephesians 1:22

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.

Husband

1 Corinthians 11:3

Now I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.

Protection

Psalms 140:7

O Sovereign Lord, my strong deliverer, who shields my head in the day of battle.

Judgment

Isaiah 15:2

Every head is shaved and every beard cut off. In the street they wear sackcloth; on the roofs and in the public squares they all wail, prostrate with weeping.

Confidence

Luke 21:28

When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.

Pride

Psalm 83:2

See how your enemies are astir, how your foes rear their heads

Exaltation

Psalm 27:6

Then my head will be exalted above the enemies who surround me.

Joy and prosperity

Psalm 23:5

You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

HEART

Heart: What is inside man, his thoughts

Proverbs 27:19

As water reflects a face, so a man's heart reflects the man.

1 Chronicles 28:9

For the Lord searches every heart and understands every motive behind the thoughts.

Romans 10:10

It is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

Luke 6:45

For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks.

Matthew 6:21

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

HEAT - HOT

Figurative of:

God's wrath

Deuteronomy 9:19 RSV

For I was afraid of the anger and hot displeasure which the Lord bore against you, so that he was ready to destroy you.

Man's anger

Deuteronomy 19:5-6 RSV

He may flee to one of these cities and save his life; lest the avenger of blood in hot anger pursue the manslayer and overtake him, because the way is long, and wound him mortally, though the man did not deserve to die.

Determination

Genesis 31:36 RSV

Then, Jacob became angry, and upbraided Laban: Jacob said to Laban, "What is my offense? What is my sin, that you have hotly pursued me?"

Most intense

2 Samuel 11:15 KJV

And he wrote in the letter, saying, Set ye Uriah in the forefront of the hottest battle, and retire ye from him, that he may be smitten, and die.

Zeal

Psalms 39:3 RSV

My heart became hot within me. As I mused, the fire burned; then I spoke with my tongue.

Impatience

Ezekiel 3:14 RSV

The Spirit lifted me up and took me away, and I went in bitterness in the heat of my spirit.

Persecution

Matthew 13:6, 21 RSV

But when the sun rose they were scorched; and since they had no root they withered away... yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away.

Heavy toil

Matthew 20:12 RSV

And on receiving it they grumbled at the householder, saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat."

Real faith

Revelation 3:15 RSV

I know your works; you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were cold or hot! So because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew you out of my mouth.

HEAVY

Figurative of:

Fatigue

Matthew 26:43

When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy.

Burdens

2 Chronicles 10:11

My father laid on you a heavy yoke; I will make it even heavier.

Sins

Isaiah 24:20

The earth reels like a drunkard, it sways like a hut in the wind; so heavy upon it is the guilt of its rebellion that it falls - never to rise again.

Sullenness

1 Kings 21:4 KJV

And Ahab came into his house heavy and displeased because of the word which Naboth the Jezreelite had spoken to him.

Discouragement

Proverbs 31:6 KJV

Give strong drink unto him that is ready to perish, and wine unto those that be of heavy hearts.

Unwillingness

Isaiah 59:1 KJV

Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear.

God's judgments

1 Samuel 5:6

The Lord's hand was heavy upon the people of Ashdod and its vicinity; he brought devastation upon them and afflicted them with tumors.

HEIFER

Figurative of:

Improper advantage

Judges 14:18

Samson said to them, "If you had not plowed with my heifer, you would not have solved my riddle."

Contentment

Jeremiah 50:11

Because you rejoice and are glad, you who pillage my inheritance, because you frolic like a heifer threshing grain.

Obstinacy

Hosea 4:16

The Israelites are stubborn, like a stubborn heifer.

HELMET

Figurative of:

Salvation prepared

Isaiah 59:17

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

Salvation provided

Ephesians 6:17

Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Salvation promised

1 Thessalonians 5:8

But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet.

HIDE

Figurative of:

God's face

Deuteronomy 31:17-18

On that day I will become angry with them and forsake them; I will hide my face from them, and they will be destroyed...And I will certainly hide my face on that day because of all their wickedness in turning to other gods.

Protection

Isaiah 49:2

In the shadow of his hand he hid me.

God's Word

Psalms 119:11

I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

Darkness

Psalms 139:11-12

If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me," even the darkness will not be dark to you.

The Gospel

2 Corinthians 4:3-4 NLT

If the Good News we preach is hidden behind a veil, it is hidden only from people who are perishing. Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe.

Believer's life

Colossians 3:3

For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.

HIGH

Descriptive of:

Rich

Psalm 49:1-2

Hear this, all you peoples; listen, all who live in this world, both low and high, rich and poor alike.

Eminent people

1 Chronicles 17:17 KJV

And yet this was a small thing in thine eyes, O God; for thou hast also spoken of thy servant's house for a great while to come, and hast regarded me according to the estate of a man of high degree, O Lord God.

Pride

Psalm 101:5 KJV

Him that hath a high look and a proud heart will not I suffer.

God's love

Psalm 103:11

For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him.

HIGHWAY - WAY - ROAD

Figurative of:

Holy way

Proverbs 16:17

The highway of the upright avoids evil; he who guards his way guards his life.

Israel's restoration

Isaiah 11:16

There will be a highway for the remnant of my people that is left from Assyria, and as there was for Israel when they came up from Egypt.

Gospel's call

Isaiah 40:3

A voice of one calling: "In the desert prepare the way for the Lord, make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God."

Way of salvation

Isaiah 35:8-10

And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness. The unclean will not journey on it; it will be for those who walk in that Way; wicked fools will not go about on it. No lion will be there, nor will any ferocious beast get up on it; they will not be found there. But only the redeemed will walk there, and the ransomed of the Lord will return.

Two destinies

Matthew 7:13, 14

Enter through the narrow gate. 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.

Christ

John 14:6

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

HILLS

Hills: high place, people in high places, places of authority

Isaiah 2:2

In the last days the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and all nations will stream to it. Many peoples will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths."

Isaiah 55:12

You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you

(see mountains)

HIRE

(Wages)

Figurative of:

Spiritual adultery

Ezekiel 16:32-33

You adulterous wife! You prefer strangers to your own husband! Every prostitute receives a fee, but you give gifts to all your lovers, bribing them to come to you from everywhere for your illicit favors.

Sexual relations

Genesis 30:16

So when Jacob came in from the fields that evening, Leah went out to meet him. "You must sleep with me," she said. "I have hired you with my son's mandrakes." So he slept with her that night.

Things consecrated

Isaiah 23:17-18

At the end of seventy years, the Lord will deal with Tyre. She will return to her hire as a prostitute and will ply her trade with all the kingdoms on the face of the earth. Yet her profit and her earnings will be set apart for the Lord; they will not be stored up or hoarded. Her profits will go to those who live before the Lord, for abundant food and fine clothes.

Reward (wages)

John 4:36

HONEY

Figurative of:

God's Word

Psalm 19:9-10

The he ordinances of the Lord are sure and altogether righteous. They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey from the comb.

God's blessings

Exodus 3:8

I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey.

Wisdom

Proverbs 24:13, 14

Eat honey, my son, for it is good; honey from the comb is sweet to your taste. Know also that wisdom is sweet to your soul; if you find it, there is a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off.

Pleasant words

Proverbs 16:24

Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.

Prostitute's enticements

Proverbs 5:3

The lips of an adulteress drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil.

Immanuel's diet

Isaiah 7:14, 15

Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. He will eat curds and honey when he knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right.

HORN

Horn: power

Revelation 17:12 RSV

The ten horns that you saw are ten kings who have not yet received royal power, but they are to receive authority as kings for one hour, together with the beast.

Figurative of:

God's power

Habakkuk 3:4 KJV

And his [God's] brightness was as the light; he had horns coming out of his hand: and there was the hiding of his power.

Christ's power

Revelation 5:6

Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing in the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth.

Power of the wicked

Psalms 22:21

Rescue me from the mouth of the lions; save me from the horns of the wild oxen.

Power of the earthly kingdoms

Daniel 7:7, 8, 24

After that, in my vision at night I looked, and there before me was a fourth beast - terrifying and frightening and very powerful. It had large iron teeth; it crushed and devoured its victims and trampled underfoot whatever was left. It was different from all the former beasts, and it had ten horns...The ten horns are ten kings who will come from this kingdom.

Power of the antichrist

Revelation 13:1

And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. He had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on his horns, and on each head a blasphemous name.

Arrogance

1 Kings 22:11

Now Zedekiah son of Kenaanah had made iron horns and he declared, "This is what the Lord says: 'With these you will gore the Arameans until they are destroyed.'"

Conquests

Deuteronomy 33:17

In majesty he is like a firstborn bull; his horns are the horns of a wild ox. With them he will gore the nations, even those at the ends of the earth.

Exaltation

1 Samuel 2:1, 10

Then Hannah prayed and said: "My heart rejoices in the Lord; in the Lord my horn is lifted high."

Destruction

Jeremiah 48:25

"Moab's horn is cut off; her arm is broken," declares the Lord.

Salvation

Luke 1:69

He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David.

HORSE

Figurative of

Human trust

Hosea 14:3

Assyria cannot save us; we will not mount warhorses.

Obstinacy

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.

Impetuosity in sin

Jeremiah 8:6

No one repents of his wickedness, saying, "What have I done?" Each pursues his own course like a horse charging into battle.

God's protection

2 Kings 2:11

As they were walking along and talking together, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind.

HOST OF HEAVEN

Used of stars as objects or worship

Objects of idolatry

Deuteronomy 4:19

When you look up to the sky and see the sun, the moon and the stars - all the heavenly array - do not be enticed into bowing down to them and worshiping things the Lord your God has apportioned to all the nations under heaven.

Practiced in Israel

2 Kings 17:16

They forsook all the commands of the Lord their God and made for themselves two idols cast in the shape of calves, and an Asherah pole. They bowed down to all the starry hosts, and they worshiped Baal.

Introduced by Manasseh

2 Kings 21:5

In both courts of the temple of the Lord, he built altars to all the starry hosts.

Abolished by Josiah

2 Kings 23:4-12

The king ordered Hilkiah the high priest, the priests next in rank and the doorkeepers to remove from the temple of the Lord all the articles made for Baal and Asherah and all the starry hosts. He burned them outside Jerusalem in the fields of the Kidron Valley.

Worship of, on roofs

Jeremiah 19:13

The houses in Jerusalem and those of the kings of Judah will be defiled like this place, Topheth - all the houses where they burned incense on the roofs to all the starry hosts and poured out drink offerings to other gods.

Used of stars as created things

Created by God

Isaiah 45:12

It is I who made the earth and created mankind upon it. My own hands stretched out the heavens; I marshaled their starry hosts.

Cannot be numbered

Jeremiah 33:22

I will make the descendants of David my servant and the Levites who minister before me as countless as the stars of the sky and as measureless as the sand on the seashore.

Named by God

Isaiah 40:26

Lift your eyes and look to the heavens; Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one, and calls them each by name.

To be dissolved

Isaiah 34:4

All the stars of the heavens will be dissolved and the sky rolled up like a scroll; all the starry host will fall like withered leaves from the vine, like shriveled figs from the fig tree.

Used of angels

Created by God

Nehemiah 9:6

You made the heavens, even the highest heavens, and all their starry host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. You give life to everything, and the multitudes of heaven worship you.

Around the throne

1 Kings 22:19

Micaiah continued, "Therefore hear the word of the Lord: I saw the Lord sitting on his throne with all the host of heaven standing around him on his right and on his left."

HOUR

(Hour: a division of time)

Used literally and descriptively of:

Christ's death

Mark 14:35

Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him.

Christ's betrayal

Matthew 26:45

Then he returned to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour is near, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us go! Here comes my betrayer!"

Christ's glorification

John 12:23

Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified."

Christ's set time

John 7:30

At this they tried to seize him, but no one laid a hand on him, because his time [hour] had not yet come.

Christ's predestined time

John 12:27

"Now, my heart is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour."

Used prophetically of:

Gospel age

John 4:21 RSV

Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father...But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth."

Great tribulation

Revelation 3:10

I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth.

God's judgment

Revelation 14:7

He said in a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come.

Christ's return

Matthew 24:42, 44, 50

Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come...So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him...The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of.

HOUSE

House: person

Matthew 12:44

When an evil spirit comes out of a man, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, "I will return to the house I left."

House: the 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.

House: life

Isaiah 38:12

Like a shepherd's tent my house has been pulled down and taken from me.

Figurative of:

Grave

Job 30:23 RSV

I know that thou wilt bring me to death, and to the house appointed for all living.

Body

2 Corinthians 5:1 NLT

For we know that when this earthly tent we live in is taken down (that is, when we die and leave this earthly body), we will have a house in heaven, an eternal body made for us by God himself and not by human hands.

Church here

Galatians 6:10 RSV

So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all men, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Whole church

Hebrews 10:21

Since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith.

Earthly life

Psalm 119:54 RSV

Thy statutes have been my songs in the house of my pilgrimage.

Heaven

John 14:2

In my Father's house are many rooms.

Security and insecurity

Matthew 7:24-27

Therefore everyone 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.

Division

Mark 3:25

If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand.

HYSOP

Typical of:

Spiritual cleansing

Psalm 51:7

Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

INCENSE

Typical of:

Prayer

Revelation 5:8

Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

Praise

Malachi 1:11

"In every place incense and pure offerings will be brought to my name, because my name will be great among the nations," says the Lord Almighty.

Approved service

Ephesians 5:2

Live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Christ's merits

Revelation 8:3, 4

Another angel, who had a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense to offer, with the prayers of all the saints, on the golden altar before the throne. The smoke of the incense, together with the prayers of the saints, went up before God from the angel's hand.

INHERITANCE OF ISRAEL

Figurative of:

Messianic blessings

Psalm 2:8

Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession.

Call of the Gentiles

Isaiah 54:3 RSV

For you will spread abroad to the right and to the left, and your descendants will possess the nations and will people the desolate cities.

Eternal possessions

Isaiah 60:21

Then will all your people be righteous and they will possess [inherit] the land forever. They are the shoot I have planted, the work of my hands, for the display of my splendor.

INSANITY

Figurative of:

Moral instability

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.

Jeremiah 51:7

Babylon was a gold cup in the Lord's hand; she made the whole earth drunk. The nations drank her wine; therefore they have now gone mad.

God's judgment

Zechariah 12:4

"On that day I will strike every horse with panic and its rider with madness," declares the Lord. "

INSECURITY

(A state of anxiety about earthly needs)

Descriptive of:

Wicked

Psalm 37:1, 2, 10

Do not fret because of evil men or be envious of those who do wrong; for like the grass they will soon wither, like green plants they will soon die away... a little while, and the wicked will be no more; though you look for them, they will not be found.

Riches

1 Timothy 6:17

Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.

Those trusting in themselves

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."

IRON

Figurative of:

Affliction

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.

Barrenness

Deuteronomy 28:23

The sky over your head will be bronze, the ground beneath you iron.

Authority

Psalm 2:9

You will rule them with an iron scepter.

Stubbornness

Isaiah 48:4

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

Slavery

Jeremiah 28:13, 14

"Go and tell Hananiah, 'This is what the Lord says; You have broken a wooden yoke, but in its place you will get a yoke of iron. This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says: I will put an iron yoke on the necks of all these nations to make them serve Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and they will serve him.' "

Strength

Daniel 2:40

There will be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron - for iron breaks and smashes everything - and as iron breaks things to pieces, so it will crush and break all the others.

Insensibility

1 Timothy 4:2

Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron.

ISRAEL

Used spiritually of:

Messiah

Isaiah 49:3

He said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will display my splendor."

God's redeemed ones

Romans 9:6-8

For not all who are descended from Israel are Israel. Nor because they are his descendants are they all Abraham's children... It is not the natural children who are God's children, but it is the children of the promise who are regarded as Abraham's offspring.

True church

Galatians 6:16

Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; what counts is a new creation.

ITCHING EARS

(Descriptive of desire for something exciting)

Characteristic of:

The last days

2 Timothy 4:3

For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.

JAW

Figurative of:

Power

Job 29:17 KJV

And I brake the jaws of the wicked, and plucked the spoil out of his teeth.

Proverbs 30:14

[There are] ...those whose teeth are swords and whose jaws are set with knives to devour the poor from the earth, the needy from among mankind.

God's sovereignty

Isaiah 30:28

He [the Lord] places in the jaws of the peoples a bit that leads them astray.

Human trial

Hosea 11:4 RSV

I led them with cords of compassion, with the bands of love, and I became to them as one who eases the yoke on their jaws, and I bent down to them and fed them.

JEWELS

Significance of:

Betrothal present

Genesis 24:22, 53

The man took out a gold nose ring weighing a beak and two gold bracelets weighing ten shekels...Then the servant brought out gold and silver jewelry and articles of clothing and gave them to Rebekah; he also gave costly gifts to her brother and to her mother.

Sign of wealth

James 2:2

Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes.

Standard of value

Proverbs 3:15

She [Wisdom] is more precious than rubies.

Tokens of repentance

Genesis 35:4

So they gave Jacob all the foreign gods they had and the rings in their ears, and Jacob buried them under the oak at Shechem.

Tokens of love

Ezekiel 16:11-13

I adorned you with jewelry: I put bracelets on your arms and a necklace around your neck, and I put a ring on your nose, earrings on your ears and a beautiful crown on your head. So you were adorned with gold and silver.

Indications of worldliness

1 Timothy 2:9

I also want women to dress modestly, with decency and propriety, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or expensive clothes, but with good deeds, appropriate for women who profess to worship God.

Figurative of:

God's own

Matthew 13:45, 46

The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

JUBILEE

Figurative of:

Christ's mission

Isaiah 61:1-3

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me because the Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion - to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor.

Earth's jubilee

Romans 8:19-24

The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God.

We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved.

KNIFE

Figurative of:

Inordinate appetite

Proverbs 23:1-2

When you sit to dine with a ruler, note well what is before you, and put a knife to your throat if you are given to gluttony.

Cruel oppressors

Proverbs 30:14

[There are] those whose teeth are swords and whose jaws are set with knives to devour the poor from the earth, the needy from among mankind.

LADY

Figurative of:

Babylon

Isaiah 47:5-7 AMP

Sit in silence and go into darkness, O daughter of the Chaldeans; for you shall no more be called the lady and mistress of kingdoms. I was angry with My people, I profaned My inheritance [Judah]; and I gave them into your hand [Babylon]. You showed them no mercy; upon the old people you made your yoke very heavy. And you said, I shall be the mistress forever! So you did not lay these things to heart, nor did you [seriously] remember the certain, ultimate end of such conduct.

Elect

2 John 1, 5

To the chosen lady and her children, whom I love in the truth...And now, dear lady, I am not writing you a new command but one we have had from the beginning.

LAMB

Lamb: Christ, God's people

Descriptive of Christ:

Isaiah 53:7

He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

John 1:29

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

Revelation 5:6

Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing in the center of the throne.

Descriptive of Christ as:

Sacrifice

Revelation 7:13, 14

Then one of the elders asked me, "These in white robes - who are they, and where did they come from?"

I answered, "Sir, you know."

And he said, "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

Redeemer

Revelation 5:9

And they sang a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation."

King

Revelation 15:3

Great and marvelous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are your ways, King of the ages.

Figurative of:

God's people

Isaiah 5:17

Then sheep will graze as in their own pasture; lambs will feed among the ruins of the rich.

God's ministers

Luke 10:3

Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves.

Messiah's reign

Isaiah 11:6

The wolf will live with the lamb.

LAME

Figurative of:

Extreme weakness

2 Samuel 5:6

The king and his men marched to Jerusalem to attack the Jebusites, who lived there. The Jebusites said to David, "You will not get in here; even the blind and the lame can ward you off." They thought, "David cannot get in here."

Inconsistency

Proverbs 26:7

Like a lame man's legs that hang limp is a proverb in the mouth of a fool.

Weak believers

Jeremiah 31:8

See, I will bring them from the land of the north and gather them from the ends of the earth. Among them will be the blind and the lame, expectant mothers and women in labor, a great throng will return.

Transformation

Isaiah 35:6

Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy.

LAMP

Lamp: Word of God

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. (Psalm 119:105 KJV)

Figurative of:

God

2 Samuel 22:29

You are my lamp, O Lord; the Lord turns my darkness into light.

God's Word

Proverbs 6:23

For these commands are a lamp, this teaching is a light.

Christ

Daniel 10:6 KJV

His body also was like the beryl, and his face as the appearance of lightning, and his eyes as lamps of fire, and his arms and his feet like in color to polished brass, and the voice of his words like the voice of a multitude.

Revelation 1:13-14

And among the lampstands was someone "like a son of man," dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. In his right hand he held seven stars, and out of his; mouth came a sharp double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.

(CANDLE)

(LAMP)

Figurative of:

Conscience

Proverbs 20:27 RSV

The spirit of man is the lamp of the Lord, searching all his innermost parts.

Proverbs 20:27 KJV

The spirit of man is the candle of the Lord, searching all the inward parts of the belly.

Proverbs 20:27 NIV

The lamp 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."

LAMPSTAND

Lampstand: church

Revelation 1:20 NIV

The mystery of 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 1:20 KJV

The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels [messengers] of the seven churches; and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.

Figuratively of:

Christ

Zechariah 4:2

I answered, "I see a solid gold lampstand with a bowl at the top and seven lights on it, with seven channels to the lights. Also there are two olive trees by it, one on the right of the bowl, and the other on its left."

Zechariah 4:11, 14

Then I asked the angel, "What are these two olive trees on the right and the left of the lampstand?"

So he said, "These are the two who are anointed to serve the Lord of all the earth."

The church

Revelation 1:13

And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, and among the lampstands was someone "like a son of man."

Revelation 1:20

The mystery of 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.

LEAVEN

Figurative of:

Kingdom of God

Matthew 13:33

Corrupt doctrines

Matthew 16:6, 12

Infectious sin

1 Corinthians 5:5-7

False doctrines

Galatians 5:1-9

LEBANON

LIGHTNING

Figurative of:

Swiftness

Nahum 2:4

The chariots storm through the streets, rushing back and forth through the squares. They look like flaming torches; they dart about like lightning.

Brightness

Matthew 28:2-3

There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow.

God's judgments

Revelation 11:19

Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and within his temple was seen the ark of his covenant. And there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake and a great hailstorm.

Christ's coming

Luke 17:24

For the Son of Man in his day will be like the lightning, which flashes and lights up the sky from one end to the other.

Satan's fall

Luke 10:18

He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven."

LION

Figurative of:

Tribe of Judah

Genesis 49:9

You are a lion's cub, O Judah; you return from the prey, my son. Like a lion he crouches and lies down, like a lioness - who dares to rouse him?

Christ

Revelation 5:5

See, the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed.

Devil

1 Peter 5:8

Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

Transformation

Isaiah 11:6-8

The wolf will live 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.

Victory

Psalm 91:13

You will tread upon the lion and the cobra, you will trample the great lion and the serpent

Boldness

Proverbs 28:1

The wicked man flees though no one pursues, but the righteous are as bold as a lion.

World empire

Daniel 7:1-4

In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel had a dream, and visions passed through his mind as he was lying on his bed. He wrote down the substance of his dream.

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, and it had the wings of an eagle. I watched until its wings were torn off and it was lifted from the ground so that it stood on two feet like a man, and the heart of a man was given to it.

Antichrist

Revelation 13:2

The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion.

LIVING WATER

(See water)

Living water: The Holy Spirit

John 4:10

Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.

LOCUSTS

Locusts: evil spirits, demons

Revelation 9:1-3

The fifth angel sounded his trumpet, and I saw a star that had fallen from the sky to the earth. The star was given the key to the shaft of the Abyss. When he opened the Abyss, smoke rose from it like the smoke from a giant furnace. The sun and sky were darkened by the smoke from the Abyss. And out of the smoke locusts came down upon the earth and were given power like that of scorpions of the earth.

Amos 4:9

"Many times I struck your gardens and vineyards, I struck them with blight and mildew. Locusts devoured your fig and olive trees, yet you have not returned to me," declares the Lord.

Figurative of:

Weakness

Psalm 109:23, 24

I fade away like an evening shadow; I am shaken off like a locust.

Terrible onslaught

Isaiah 33:4

Your plunder, O nations, is harvested as by young locusts; like a swarm of locusts men pounce on it.

Nineveh's departing glory

Nahum 3:15, 17

There the fire will devour you [Nineveh]; the sword will cut you down and, like grasshoppers, consume you. Multiple like grasshoppers, multiply like locusts! You have increased the number of your merchants till they are more than the stars of the sky, but like locusts they strip the land and then fly away. Your guards are like locusts, your officials like swarms of locusts that settle in the walls on a cold day - but when the sun appears they fly away, and no one knows where.

Final plagues

Revelation 9:3, 7

And out of the smoke locusts came down upon the earth and were given power like that of scorpions of the earth... The locusts looked like horses prepared for battle. On their heads they wore something like crowns of gold, and their faces resembled human faces.

MEASURING LINE

JUSTICE - ISAIAH 28:17

MESSENGER

Messenger: angel

Revelation 2:1

To the angel (or messenger) of the church in Ephesus write...

Examples of:

John the Baptist

Malachi 3:1

See, I will send my messenger who will prepare the way before me.

Jesus Christ

Malachi 3:1

"Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple, the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the Lord Almighty.

Paul's thorn

2 Corinthians 12:7

To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me.

Gospel workers

2 Corinthians 8:23 RSV

As for Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker in your service; and as for our brethren, they are messengers of the churches, the glory of Christ.

Philippians 2:25

But I think it is necessary to send back to you Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger, whom you sent to take care of my needs.

MOON

Moon: mother

Genesis 37:9

Then he [Joseph] had another dream, and he told it to his brothers. "Listen," he said, "I had another dream, and this time the sun and moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me."

When he told his father as well as his brothers, his father rebuked him and said, "What is this dream you had? Will your mother and I and your brothers actually come and bow down to the ground before you?"

Moon: the lesser light

Genesis 1:16

God made two great lights - the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night.

Moon: mother of Joseph, Jacob's wife

Revelation 12:1-2

A great and wondrous sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head. She was pregnant and cried out in pain as she was about to give birth.

The sun, moon, and stars symbolize Jacob, his wife, and his twelve sons, which were the root of the tribe of Israel (Jacob) so this sign of the woman represents Israel. Out of Israel came the birth of Jesus Christ.

Illustrative of:

Eternity

Psalm 72:5, 7

He will endure as long as the sun, as long as the moon, through all generations...In his days the righteous will flourish; prosperity will abound till the moon is no more.

Universal praise

Isaiah 66:23

From one New Moon to another and from one Sabbath to another, all mankind will come and bow down before me," says the Lord.

God's faithfulness

Jeremiah 31:35, 37

This is what the Lord says, he who appoints the sun to shine by day, who decrees the moon and stars to shine by night, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar - the Lord Almighty is his name..."Only if the heavens above can be measured and the foundations of the earth below be searched out will I reject all the descendants of Israel because of all they have done."

Greater light of gospel age

Isaiah 30:26

The moon will shine like the sun, and the sunlight will be seven times brighter, like the light of seven full days, when the Lord binds up the bruises of his people and heals the wounds he inflicted.

MORNING

For the righteous, a time for:

Joy

Psalm 30:5

His favor lasts a lifetime; weeping may remain for a night, but rejoicing comes in the morning.

God's love

Psalm 92:1-2

It is good to praise the Lord and make music to your name, O Most High, to proclaim your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night.

God's mercies

Lamentations 3:23

His compassions never fail. They are new every coming.

Figurative of:

Man's unrighteousness

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.

Judgment

Zephaniah 3:5

Morning by morning he dispenses his justice, and every new day he does not fail.

God's light

Amos 5:8

He who made the Pleiades and Orion, and turns deep darkness into the morning, and darkens the day into night.

Christ's return

Revelation 2:28 NLT

To all who are victorious, who obey me to the very end...They will have the same authority I received from my Father, and I will also give them the morning star.

Revelation 22:16

I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star.

MOUNTAIN

Mountain: the place of power and authority

Isaiah 2:2

In the last days the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and all nations will stream to it. Many peoples will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths."

Isaiah 55:12

You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you

Figurative of:

God's protection

Isaiah 31:4-5

So the Lord Almighty will come down to do battle on Mount Zion and on its heights. 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.

God's abode

Isaiah 8:18

Here am I, and the children the Lord has given me. We are signs and symbols in Israel from the Lord Almighty, who dwells on Mount Zion.

God's judgments

Jeremiah 13:16 RSV

Give glory to the Lord your God before he brings darkness, before your feet stumble on the twilight mountains, and while you look for light he turns it into gloom and makes it deep darkness.

Gospel age

Isaiah 27:13

And in that day a great trumpet will sound. Those who were perishing in Assyria and those who were exiled in Egypt will come and worship the Lord on the holy mountain in Jerusalem.

Messiah's advent

Isaiah 40:9

You who bring good tidings to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Sovereign Lord comes with power, and his arm rules for him.

Great joy

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.

Great difficulties

Matthew 21:21-22

Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, if you have faith and do not doubt, not only can you do what was done to the fig tree, but also you can say to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and it will be done. If you believe you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer."

Pride of man

Luke 3:5

Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low.

Supposed faith

1 Corinthians 13:2

If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

MYRTLE

Figurative of:

The Gospel

Isaiah 41:19

I will put in the desert the cedar and the acacia, the myrtle and the olive. I will set pines in the wasteland, the fir and the cypress together, so that people may see and know, may consider and understand, that the hand of the Lord has done this, that the Holy One of Israel has created it.

Isaiah 55:12-13

You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands. Instead of a thornbush will grow the pine tree, and instead of briars the myrtle will grow.

NEW JERUSALEM

Symbolizes

Bride of Christ

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.

OLIVE TREE

Figurative of:

Peace

Genesis 8:11

When the dove returned to him in the evening, there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf! Then Noah knew that the water had receded from the earth.

Kingship

Judges 9:8, 9

One day the trees went out to anoint a king for themselves. They said to the olive tree, "Be our king." But the olive tree answered, "Should I give up my oil, by which both gods and men are honored, to hold sway over the trees?"

Israel

Jeremiah 11:16

The Lord called you a thriving olive tree with fruit beautiful in form.

The righteous

Psalms 52:8

But I am like an olive tree flourishing in the house of God; I trust in God's unfailing love for ever and ever.

Faithful remnant

Isaiah 17:6

"Yet some gleanings will remain, as when an olive tree is beaten, leaving two or three olives on the topmost branches, four or five on the fruitful boughs," declares the Lord, the God of Israel.

The entire church

Romans 11:17-18, 24

If some of the branches have been broken off, and you, though a wild olive shoot, have been grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing sap from the olive root, do not boast over those branches... After all, if you were cut out of an

olive tree that is wild by nature, and contrary to nature were grafted into a cultivated olive tree, how much more readily will these, the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree!

Prophetic symbols

Zechariah 4:3, 11, 12

Also there are two olive trees by it, one on the right of the bowl and the other on its left... then I asked the angel, "What are these two olive trees on the right and the left of the lampstand?" ...Again I asked him, "What are these two olive branches beside the two gold pipes that pour out golden oil?"

OXEN

Figurative of:

Easy victory

Numbers 22:4

The Moabites said to the elders of Midian, "This horde is going to lick up everything around us, as an ox licks up the grass of the field."

Youthful rashness

Proverbs 7:22

All at once he followed her like an ox going to the slaughter, like a deer stepping into a noose.

Sumptuous living

Proverbs 15:17 RSV

Better is a dinner of herbs where love is than a fatted ox and hatred with it.

Gospel broadcast

Isaiah 32:20 RSV

Happy are you who sow beside all waters, who let the feet of the ox and the ass range free.

Minister's support

1 Corinthians 9:9-12

For it is written in the Law of Moses: "Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain." Is it about oxen that God is concerned? Surely he says this for us, doesn't he? Yes, this was written for us, because when the plowman plows and the thresher threshes, they ought to do so in the hope of sharing in the harvest. If we have sown spiritual seed among you, is it too much if we reap a material harvest from you? If others have this right of support from you, shouldn't we have it all the more?

Saints under persecution

Jeremiah 11:19 KJV

But I was like a lamb or an ox that is brought to the slaughter; and I knew not that they had devised devices against me, saying, Let us destroy the tree with the fruit thereof, and let us cut him off from "the land of the living, that his name may be no more remembered.

Psalm 22:21

Rescue me from the mouth of the lions; save me from the horns of the wild oxen.

PEARLS

Pearls: sacred, precious, of great value

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.

Matthew 13:45

The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

Figurative of:

Spiritual truths

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.

Kingdom

Matthew 13:45, 46

The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

Worldly adornment

Revelation 17:4

The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet, and was glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls.

Wonders of heaven's glories

Revelation 21:21

The twelve gates were twelve pearls, each gate made of a single pearl.

PIGS

Figurative of:

Abominable things:

Isaiah 65:4

Who sit among the graves and spend their nights keeping secret vigil; who eat the flesh of pigs, and whose pots hold broth of unclean meat.

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."

Loose women

Proverbs 11:22

Like a gold ring in a pig's snout is a beautiful woman who shows no discretion.

Reprobate

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.

PITCHER

Pitcher: 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.

Figurative of:

Heart

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.

Weakness

Lamentations 4:2

How the precious sons of Zion, once worth their weight in gold, are now considered as pots (pitchers) of clay, the work of a potter's hands!

PLUMB LINE

Plumb line: a cord with a weight

Figurative of:

Destruction

2 Kings 21:13

I will stretch out over Jerusalem the measuring line used against Samaria and the plumb line used against the house of Ahab. I will wipe out Jerusalem as one wipes a dish, wiping it and turning it upside down.

God's righteousness

Isaiah 28:17

I will make justice the measuring line and righteousness the plumb line.

Zechariah 4:10

Who despises the day of small things? Men will rejoice when they see the plumb line in the hand of Zerubbabel.

POOLS OF WATER

Isaiah 35

POT - CALDRON

Figurative of:

Leviathan's smoke

Job 41:20

Smoke pours from his [leviathan's] nostrils as from a boiling pot over a fire of reeds.

Safety

Ezekiel 11:3, 7, 11

They say, "Will it not soon be time to build houses? The city is a cooking pot, and we are the meat." ...Therefore this is what the Sovereign Lord says: "The bodies you have thrown there are the meat and this city is the pot, but I will drive you out of it...This city will not be a pot for you, nor will you be the meat in it. I will execute judgment on you at the borders of Israel."

Oppression, Merciless punishment

Micah 3:1-3

Listen, you leaders of Jacob, you rulers of the house of Israel. Should you not know justice, you who hate good and love evil; who tear the skin from my people and the flesh from their bones; who eat my people's flesh, strip off their skin and break their bones in pieces, who chop them up like meat for the pan, like flesh for the pot?

Egyptian slavery

Psalm 81:6 KJV

I removed his shoulder from the burden; his hands were delivered from the pots.

Sudden destruction

Psalm 58:9

Before your pots can feel the heat of the thorns - whether they be green or dry - the wicked will be swept away.

Impending national calamity

Jeremiah 1:13-14

The word of the Lord came to me again, "What do you see?" "I see a boiling pot, tilting away from the north," I answered. The Lord said to me, "From the north disaster will be poured out on all who live in the land."

Complete sanctification

Zechariah 14:20, 21

On that day HOLY TO THE LORD will be inscribed on the bells of the horses, and the cooking pots in the Lord's house will be like the sacred bowls in front of the altar. Every pot in Jerusalem and Judah will be holy to the Lord Almighty, and all who come to sacrifice will take some of the pots and cook in them.

PROSTITUTE

Prostitute: great city

Revelation 17:1, 3

Come, I will show you the punishment of the great prostitute, who sits on many waters...then the angel carried me away in the Spirit into a desert. There I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast.

Revelation 17:18

The woman you saw is the great city that rules over the kings of the earth.

PURPLE

Descriptive of:

Royalty

Judges 8:26

The weight of the gold rings he asked for came to seventeen hundred shekels, not counting the ornaments, the pendants and the purple garments worn by the kings of Midian.

Wealth

Luke 16:19

There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day.

Luxury

Revelation 17:4

The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet, and was glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls.

PURSE - BAG

Figurative of

True righteousness

Proverbs 16:11

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

True riches

Luke 17:33

On that day no one who is on the roof of his house, with his goods (i.e. purse) inside, should go down to get them. Likewise, no one in the field should go back for anything. Remember Lot's wife! Whoever tries to keep his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it.

Insecure riches

Haggai 1:6

You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it.

RAIN

Rain: 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.

Rain: trials of life

Matthew 7:24-27

Therefore everyone 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.

Figurative of:

God's Word

Isaiah 55:10, 11

As the rain and snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth. It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

Spiritual blessing

Psalm 72:6

He will be like rain falling on a mown field, like showers watering the earth.

Righteousness

Hosea 10:12

Sow for yourselves righteousness, reap the fruit of unfailing love, and break up your unplowed ground; for it is time to seek the Lord, until he comes and showers righteousness on you.

Final judgment

Matthew 7:24-27

Therefore everyone 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.

Hell

Psalm 11:6

On the wicked he will rain fiery coals and burning sulfur; a scorching wind will be their lot.

Earth's ingathering

James 5:7

Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains.

RAMPART

(A city's outer fortification)

Rampart: protection around you

Psalm 91:7

His faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.

Lamentations 2:8

The Lord determined to tear down the wall around the Daughter of Zion. He stretched out a measuring line and did not withhold his hand from destroying. He made ramparts and walls lament; together they wasted away.

RED

Descriptive of:

God's wrath

Psalm 75:8 KJV

For in the hand of the Lord there is a cup, and the wine is red; it is full of mixture; and he poureth out of the same; but the dregs thereof, all the wicked of the earth shall wring them out, and drink them.

Atonement

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."

Persecution

Revelation 12:3-5

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.

Drunkenness

Proverbs 23:29-30, 33 RSV

Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has strife? Who has complaining? Who has sounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes? Those who tarry long over wine, those who go to try mixed wine...your eyes will see strange things, and your mind utter perverse things.

Sinfulness

Isaiah 1:18

"Come now, let us reason together," says the Lord. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.

REED

Figurative of:

Weakness

Isaiah 36:5-6

On whom are you depending, that you rebel against me? Look now, you are depending on Egypt, that splintered reed of a staff, which pierces a man's hand and wounds him if he leans on it!

Instability

Matthew 11:7

As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about him: "What did you go out into the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind?"

God's measure

Ezekiel 40:3 RSV

When he brought me there, behold, there was a man, whose appearance was like bronze, with a line of flax and a measuring reed in his hand.

Davidic line

Isaiah 42:3

A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out.

RICHESES

Applied, spiritually to:

Christ

Isaiah 33:6

He will be a sure foundation for your times, a rich store of salvation and wisdom and knowledge; the fear of the Lord is the key to this treasure.

Romans 11:33

Oh the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge 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.

God

Ephesians 2:4-5

But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions - it is by grace you have been saved.

Christians

James 2:5

Listen, my dear brothers: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him?

True riches

2 Corinthians 8:9

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

Good works

1 Timothy 6:18

Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

Worldly people

Jeremiah 5:27-29

Like cages full of birds, their houses are full of deceit; they have become rich and powerful and have grown fat and sleek. Their evil deeds have no limit; they do not plead the case of the fatherless to win it, they do not defend the rights of the poor.

Self-righteous

Hosea 12:8

Ephraim boasts, "I am very rich; I have become wealthy. With all my wealth they will not find in me any iniquity or sin."

Decadent churches

Revelation 2:9

I know your afflictions and your poverty - yet you are rich! I know the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan!

RING

Symbol of authority

Genesis 41:42

Then Pharaoh took his signet ring from his finger and put it on Joseph's finger. He dressed him in robes of fine linen and put a gold chain around his neck.

Sealing royal documents

Esther 3:12

These were written in the name of King Xerxes himself and sealed with his own ring.

Expression of position

Luke 15:22

But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found."

Sign of social status

James 2:2

Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in shabby clothes also comes in.

RIVER

Figurative of:

Prosperity of saints

Psalm 1:3

He 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.

Affliction

Psalm 124:1, 4

If the Lord had not been on our side - the flood would have engulfed us, the torrent would have swept over us, the raging waters would have swept us away.

Christ

Isaiah 32:1, 2

See, a king will reign in righteousness and rulers will rule with justice. Each man will be like a shelter from the wind and a refuge from the storm, like streams of water in the desert and the shadow of a great rock in a thirsty land.

God's presence

Isaiah 33:21

There the Lord will be our Mighty One. It will be like a place of broad rivers and streams.

Peace

Isaiah 66:12

This is what the Lord says: "I will extend peace to her like a river, and the wealth of nations like a flooding stream."

Holy Spirit

John 7:38, 39

"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. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

ROAD

(See highway)

Broad Road: the way that leads to destruction, to death, the way of the lost - the unbelievers

Matthew 7:13

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

Narrow road: the way that leads to life, the way of believers

Matthew 7:13

Enter through the narrow gate... But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

ROBE

Robe: 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.

Luke 15:22

But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found."

Genesis 41:42

Then Pharaoh took his signet ring from his finger and put it on Joseph's finger. He dressed him in robes of fine linen and put a gold chain around his neck.

ROCK

Rock: The Lord

Psalm 18:31

For who is God beside the Lord? And who is the Rock except our God?

Isaiah 26:4

Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord, the Lord, is the Rock eternal.

Figurative of:

Christ as refuge

Isaiah 32:1-2

See, a king will reign in righteousness and rulers will rule with justice. Each man will be like a shelter from the wind and a refuge from the storm.

Christ: foundation of the church

Matthew 16:17-18

Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

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

Christ: source of blessings

1 Corinthians 10:3-4

They all ate the same spiritual food and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ.

Christ: stone of stumbling

Isaiah 8:14

And he will be a sanctuary; but for both houses of Israel he will be a stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall.

Christ: Foundation of faith

Matthew 7:24, 25

Therefore everyone 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.

ROOT

Figurative of:

Material foundation

Jeremiah 12:2

You have planted them, and they have taken root; they grow and bear fruit.

Remnant

Judges 5:14

Some came from Ephraim, whose roots were in Amalek.

National existence

Isaiah 14:30

But your root I will destroy by famine; it will slay your [Philistine] survivors.

National source

Romans 11:16-18

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.

Cause

Job 19:28

If you say, "How we will hound him, since the root of the trouble lies in him."

Source of evil

1 Timothy 6:10

For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil.

Judgment and destruction

1 Kings 14:15

And the Lord will strike Israel, so that it will be like a reed swaying in the water. He will uproot Israel from this good land that he gave to their forefathers and scatter

them beyond the River, because they provoked the Lord to anger by making Asherah poles.

Restoration

2 Kings 19:30

Once more a remnant of the house of Judah will take root below and bear fruit above.

Spiritual life

Hosea 14:5

I will be like the dew to Israel; he will blossom like a lily. Like a cedar of Lebanon he will send down his roots; his young shoots will grow.

Spiritual foundation

Ephesians 3:17

And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge - that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Messiah

Isaiah 11:1, 10

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit... In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his place of rest will be glorious.

