

# Symbols of the Revelation

## A

- Angel — When used as a symbol, means any agent that God employs to carry out His will (Rev. 1:20). The same is true of the devil's agents (II Cor. 11:13-15). Messengers of God—and of Satan. As opposing forces, Michael vs. the Dragon and his angels—ministry.
- Altar —A sacred place where prayers are offered, and offerings are given by the people of God (Rev. 11:1) to the true and living God; or it might be an altar to an idol (Acts 17:23) or the unknown God. Christ (Heb. 13:10-12; Matt. 23:18-19).
- Anti-Christ — Spirits against Christ (I John 4:1-3).  
Ark - The chest that contained the law of God (Rev. 11:19; Heb. 9:4). The law of God is now written in the heart (II Cor. 3:3).
- Armageddon — Spiritual conflict of ecclesiastical powers—the kingdom of God vs false religion (II Kings 23:29; Rev. 16:14-16). The final conflict between wickedness and righteousness, the seventh trumpet age (Rev. 16:14-16).
- Armies — Forces resolved on subduing (Rev. 19:14). It may be literal or spiritual warfare. II Cor. 10:4, "The weapons of our warfare are not carnal." A body organized for war (even in symbols). Michael (Christ) and His people against the Dragon (Satan) and his people (Joel 2:4-7).
- Arrow- Danger. Darts of the enemy. "Thou shall not be

afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day" (Ps. 91:5). Deceitful tongue (Jer. 9:8). Weapons of war (Zech. 9:10). Word of God, in truth and in error, so definitely depicts conflicts between right and wrong (Jer. 50:14; Ps. 64:1-10).

- Ate — Received the contents of a book in the mind and heart.
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## B

- Babylon — The Papal church as the mother of Protestantism, and is symbolized by the mother and daughters (Rev. 17:5, 18). A symbol of the apostate church on earth, and divided into two parts (17:18), great city-Papal Rome and Protestantism; is also symbolized in Rev. 16:19.
- Balance Scales — Symbol of scarcity. The means of distributing by authority that which is valuable, either literally or spiritually, at some price (Rev. 6:5). "They shall eat bread by weight" (Ezek. 4:16). Notice Amos 8:11. True and false bread (Prov. 11:1-2).
- Barley — The opinions of men set forth as doctrine (Rev. 6:6). Barley was used as provender for horses, also bread for the poor; a symbol of the doctrines of men during the apostasy. A measure of wheat in Papalism; two measures of barley in Protestantism.
- Beast — A religious kingdom on earth established by men (Dan. 7:4,14). Wild beasts denote tyrannical kingdoms (Rev. 13:1). In Rev. 4 beast should be translated living creature. It is not the same Greek word as in Rev. 13. See also Ezek. 1.
- Beasts (4) and Elders — Redeemed of all ages. Rev. 5;8'10.
- Binding and loosing — Permitting or prohibiting (Matt. 16:18, 19; Rev. 20:1-7).
- Black—Affliction, distress, dismay, obscure, hidden or concealed (Rev. 6:5-12; Rev. 8:12). Apostasy.

Black (as sackcloth) - Severe judgments; mourning (Rev.

Blood - War, carnage, slaughter. To turn water into blood is to embroil nations (Rev. 8:8). It may mean races (Acts 17; 26); slaughter (Is. 34:13; Ezek. 14:19); subjugate nations (Hab. 2:12).

Bottomless Pit - Earthly position without Bible foundation (James 3:13-17).

Bow — New Covenant.

- Bow and Arrow - Warfare, either physical or spiritual. A symbol of calamity or disease (Job 6:4, 34:6; Ps. 38; 2-Deut. 32:23).
  - Borne on Eagles' wings — God's protection and deliverance of His people from Egyptian bondage (Ex. 19:4; Deut. J;C;: II).
  - Brass - A strong kingdom (Dan. 2:32). The Grecian kingdom. Represents great strength and hardness (Dan. 10:6; Rev. 1:12-15; Dan 7:9).
  - Brazen Serpent-A type of Christ (John 3:14; Num. 21:9).
  - Bread - The Word of God (Matt. 4:4). Bread of tears (Ps. 80:5). Bread of sorrow (Ps. 127:2). The Word of God (true doctrine vs false doctrine, used in both places).
  - Bride - The true church of the living God on earth (Rev 19:6,7; Rev.21:9;John3=27-29).
  - Brimstone - Perpetual torment of the enemy (Rev. 9:10 and Rev. 19:20); denotes punishment (Dt. 29:23). Judgments of God (Rev. 9:17-18; 14:10; Luke 17:29-30).
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## C

- Calf — Living creatures (Rev. 4:7). A symbol of the sacrifices of the church, the interpretation given in Ezek. 1:10.
- Candlestick-The church of God (Rev. I ;20; 11:4;Zech. 4:2).  
Cairn-Word of God (Prov. 1:9; Ps. 149:8). Symbol of sovereignty or captivity (Rev. 9:14; Ezek. 16:11); chain on

Joseph's neck; also confinement of prisoners (Judges 16:21; II Sam. 3:34; Jer. 39:7). This is its use in Rev. 20:1.

- City — A church in her aggregate, whether true or false (Rev. 17:18). False, Matt. 5:14; true. Rev. 21:2.
  - Cloud — A large number or multitude witnessing or that are testifying and destined to conquer (Heb. 12:1; Rev. 10:1; 14:14); armies that cover a country (Ezek. 38:9-16).
  - Crown - Victory, dignity, honor (Rev. 6:2119:12).
  - Cross - Painful and mortifying (Matt. 16:24). Sufferings of Christ is the power of God to them that believe (I Cor. 1:17, 10\
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## D

- Darkness — Ignorance, spiritual blindness (Is. 9:2; I John 2:8; Rev. 8:12). Affliction, sorrow, gloom (Rev. 16:10).
- Day — Joy; light; peace of mind; the way to happiness being 11:3; Ezek. 4:6). Time is one year; times is two years; half-time is six months: 1260 years (Rev. 12:6, 14; 13:5). These three texts symbolize 1260 years and all cover the same time.
- Door — The way of entrance, the way opened to discover things previously closed or hidden; access to future things (Rev. 6:1). Christ is the door to the church (John 10:9).
- Dragon — Heathen Rome. The seven heads are forms of government; the ten horns are kings (or kingdoms) into which Rome was divided (Rev. 13:3; 17:12). The tail of the dragon is Protestantism lashing out its false teachings in denying such truths as the Virgin Birth, blood atonement, and the resurrection of the dead (Rev. 12:4).
- Drunken — Intoxicated with false doctrines, worldly pleasures, and influence. The woman (Papal church) was drunken on the blood of the saints (Rev. 17:6). Those who are under the power of superstition and idolatry are unreasonable. They are drunken on the wine of Babylon's false teachings (Jer. 51:7,8).

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# E

- Eagle — A masterly and orderly kingdom as she swiftly completes her conquests (Ezek. 17:3). Judgments on Jerusalem  
Divers colors perhaps means the different nations of which the army of the Chaldean king was composed. The living creatures of Rev. 4:7 means the swiftness with which the early church went forth conquering and to conquer.

- Earthquake — Quaking of earthly things under the power of God. Spiritual awakening (Rev. 8:5; 6:12; 11:19; 16:11)  
Political and moral revolutions; convulsions of human society  
Downfall of Pagan Rome where the earthquake is felt. The dragon, the beast, the false prophet under these unclean spirits incite the world to war (Rev. 16:16). Moral shaking (Hag. 2:6,7). Shaking as an earthquake (Hag. 2:22; Rev. 6:12).

- Egypt — Bondage; sinful; wealthy; spiritually like Sodom (in religion the symbol of the world); any city rejecting Christ as the head of the church or any city denying the Virgin Birth (Rev. 11:8).

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- Euphrates — The river on whose banks the literal city of Babylon was situated. Cyrus entered through the dry bed of the river after diverting its waters and captured the city (Rev. 16:12; 7:2; Jer. 51:63-64).

- Eyes — Intelligence, knowledge, and skill (Rev. 4:6); intelligence of the church; intellectual adoration in God's service in a humble way. The Holy Spirit (Rev. 5:6).

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# F

- Face of a Man — Undying intelligence; intellectual nature (Rev. 4:7). This is the church. See also Ezek. 1:10.  
False Prophet — Protestantism.

- Fan — Christ's ministry. "Whose fan is in his hand" (Matt 3:12).

- Fire — Word or Spirit. A destroying agent. "The Word of God is like a refiner's fire" (Mal. 3:12). It burns sin out of the hearts of the people. The fire of the Holy Ghost accompanies the preaching of the Word of God.
  - Five Months — 150 years of fallen Protestantism (1730-1880 A.D.). Era of sectism.
  - Foot - "Tower to tread upon" Dragon powers. Luke 10:19. Serpents, scorpions, etc. Feet as pillars of fire (Rev. 10:1-3) Holy Spirit, Gospel. To settle down upon a course of life to determine, to use power (Rev. 10:12).
  - Flesh - Doctrines of God (John 6:53-58) or of men (Rev. 19:17-18). To eat the flesh means to eat the spoil of enemies, to use the spoil for one's own use (Deut. 20:14). In Rev. 19:18 it shows the great battle between the right and wrong. To eat the flesh means to be filled with their teachings.
  - Forehead — Public confession of religion; to have the mark or name is to have the doctrines in the mind; "in the hand" is to have fellowship with sectarian teaching of division (Rev. 7:3; Rev. 13:16).
  - Fornication — Church joining. Untrue to true standard set by God's word, and accepting the plan of mankind.
  - Fountain and Rivers — Experiences of salvation.
  - Fowls - 1. The advocates of the Word of God who are borne up by the Holy Spirit in their preaching, being kept above the political clouds. 2. Anti-Christian powers. Bad spirits (Rev. 19:17). Refers to seventh angel call to great supper of God. God will turn men over to false if they receive not a love for the truth. (Compare the expression, "What's eating you?") 3. Unclean and hateful birds are mentioned in Rev. 18:2. The favor of God's Spirit on man causes him to rejoice, «
  - Frogs-Spirits of devils (Rev. 16:13). Unclean spirits like frogs, for they are spirits of the devils.
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# G

- Garmenta — The spiritual condition. White means purity, Rev. 19:6,7; Rev. 1:13. Scarlet means sinful, Rev. 17:4.
  - Gentiles— Idolatrous worship established by law; the unsaved as opposed to the chosen people, the Jews (Rev. 11:2). Those who worship idols.
  - Grapes —'Fruitage, wild rebellious people, Isa. 5:2-4; clusters may mean nations (Rev. 14:18).
  - Great Chain — Holy Spirit's power to bind.
  - Great City - Babylon.
  - Green Grass - The flesh of Christians that was burned by pagan persecutors (Rev. 8:7). Dry grass refers to the wicked. All flesh is grass. I Peter 1:24.
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- Hail —Solid truth. Word of God falling by inspiration, sweeping away false teachings (Isa. 28:17). Also, God's judgments, such as the plagues of Egypt, accompanied with lightning and thunder (Rev. 8:7; Rev. 11:19; Rev. 16:21).

- Harlots — Are daughters of the Mother of in Rev. 17:5. If the mother is an apostate those springing from that institution and churches of God. Oaterring after the

Harlots spoken of organization, then calling themselves Mother, are har'

- Harvest — The harvesting of souls in the end (Matt. 13:39). It also represents when people salvation (John 4; 35); the judgments of God Rev. 19:15).

of the world are ready for

(Rev. 14: IB,

- Heads, Seven, on the Dragon and the Beast - Forms of government (Rev. 17:10). Also the angel gave the interpretation: "Seven mountains on which the woman sitteth" (Rev. 17:19). Since Rome is called the seven-hilled city and was the seat of the Dragon, it must mean that city. He gave his seat to Papal Rome (Rev. 13; 2).
- Heaven (symbolic) - The church with full salvation in contrast to the political powers. The woman occupied the first heaven by the birth of the spirit (Rev. 12:11). "Raised us up and made us to sit in heavenly places in Christ Jesus" (Eph. 2:6). Paul spoke of the third heaven (II Cor. 12:1-5). New heaven and new earth (II Pet. 3:13). John saw it (Rev. 21:1).
- Hidden Manna - The Word of God.
- Holy City — The church of the living God on earth (Rev. 20:9).
- Holy Jerusalem - The Church of God (Rev. 21:10).
- Horns - Power. Kings (Dan. 8:21). The first king of the Grecian Empire was Alexander. The ten horns are ten kings (Dan. 7:24). Seven horns on the lamb means perfect power (Rev. 5:6). All power of God is vested in Christ (Matt. 28:18).
- Horses — Warfare. The prevailing spirit of the people, carrying out their purposes, either good or bad, which are designated by the color of the horse. White means purity) Christianity; red means war; black means apostasy; pale means

Horsemen — Those engaged in carrying out the prevailing spirit of the people.

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# I

Incense — Prayer; worship; preparation to preach the Gospel to the world (Rev. 8:3-5).

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Islands — Creeds of men. Since mountain means kingdom, then islands could represent smaller countries. To be moved

would be to change ruling power (Rev, 6:14; 16:20). In Rev. 6:16 they seem to be places of refuge for false religion.

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## J

Jerusalem - The city in Judaea, a symbol of the true Church of God. There is where God's name was to be found; and so it is found in the Church of God (Rev. 21:2).

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## K

- Keys - The Word of God. Knowledge; power to bring light; unlock; or to shut up in darkness. Christ holds the key to death and hell (Rev. 1:18). The keys of the kingdom are the Gospel (Matt. 16:19). We are bound by the Gospel if we reject it, and we are loosed by it if we accept and obey it.

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## L

- Lamb — Christ.
- Light — Knowledge, wisdom, glory. Christ is the true light (John 1:9). The city of God (the church of the living God) does not need any other light except the light that radiates from Christ through His Word in this world, and He will be the light in eternity (Rev. 21:11, 23). Darkness is a symbol of sin (I John 2:11).
- Lightning — Light on God's Word by the power of the Spirit. Figurative of God's majesty. When accompanied by thunder and hail it is a symbol of God's judgments; plagues (Rev. 4:5; 8:5; 16:19).
- Linen — Symbol of the spiritual clothing of the people of God, especially their characters (Rev. 19:6); 3:5); a symbol of righteousness, moral purity (Rev. 15:6).
- Lion — A symbol of Babylon (Dan. 7:4). It is also later used as a symbol of Christ, the Lion of the tribe of Judah (Rev. 5:5).
- Locusts — False ministry. False doctrine. When the sun is

up (truth is preached) they flee away. Cold, dead religion can't stand the preaching of the truth (Nah. 3:17).

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# M

- Manna — The Word of God. Christ, the manna from heaven (John 6:49-51). Hidden manna, the joy of God in the soul, is full salvation through obedience to the Word of God (Rev. 2:17).
  - Merchants — The ministers of the Papal church, who make their money by trading in their religious privileges (Rev. 18:11). The fate of Babylon is foretold in the Scripture (Rev. 18:15-20). There will come a time when her religious privileges will not lie worth anything (they are false).  
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  - Michael - Christ (Rev. 12:7).
  - Moon — Old Covenant.
  - Morning Star — Morning light or morning ministers.
  - Mountains — Places of worship, that is, sectarian mountains and hills (Jer. 16:16). Kingdoms or governments; the kingdom of God is a mountain filling the whole earth (Dan. 2:34); the destroying mountain (Jer. 51:25) is Babylon.
  - Mount Zion - The Church of God.
  - Mystery - The Gospel of Salvation (Eph. 6:19); the mystery of iniquity (sin) (II Thess. 2:7), which was the false spirit that brought Papal Rome into existence. "This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church" (Eph. 5:32). Something beyond human comprehension; that which cannot be explained.
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# O

- Odors — Prayers of God's people that ascend to His throne, combined with adoration (Rev. 5:8).

- Oil - A symbol of the Holy Spirit (Acts 10:28); a symbol of abundance (Ezek. 16:13).
  - Olive Trees - The Word and Spirit (Zech. 4:6). These are the
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## P

- Pure River of Water of Life — Salvation through Jesus Christ (Rev. 22:1); eternal life. Free from moral defilement; guiltless; innocent. The Spirit of God.
  - Plague—The seven last plagues (Rev. 15:1); the seventh poured out in the air (Rev. 16:7). Severe vexation from truth poured out
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## R

- Rain — Pure doctrine from heaven that refreshes and brings peace (II John 9). "My doctrine shall drop as the rain."
- Rainbow — God's covenant with Noah. Also a symbol of the reformation, bringing peace and unity (Rev. 10:1; Rev. 4:3; Rev. 14:6-10).
- Reap — To cut down corn (Jag. 5:12); to receive our final reward, whether good or bad (Gal. 6:7,8); to execute judgment on anti-Christ and his adherents (Rev. 14:5-17); also the end
- Reed — The Bible is the golden reed (Rev. 21:15); also in Rev. 11:1 it is the Word of God.
- Resurrection — There shall be a resurrection of the just and unjust (Acts 24:15). The first resurrection is a spiritual resurrection for it makes people blessed and holy and will keep them out of the lake of fire (Rev. 20:16). Adam died a spiritual death first (Rev. 18:4), so the first resurrection must be a spiritual resurrection (Rev. 2:11).
- Rivers — Multitudes of people

people (Rev. 9:14); fountains  
8:10).(Rev. 17:15); symbolizes  
of waters — people (Rev.8:10)

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## S

- Sackcloth — Mourning over the loss of something desirable or of great value (Rev. 11:3).
- Scarlet — Tyranny, cruelty, and shedding of blood in unholy war (Rev. 17:3). This is a symbol of the Papal church and her work of persecution of the people of God.
- Sea—Waters symbolize people (Rev. 17:15); the great sea (Dan. 7:3) is a symbol of people. The lion is a symbol of Babylon.  
Sea of Glass - The Word of God (Rev. 15:2). Mingled with fire of the Holy Spirit.
- Seat — Power and authority.  
political power (Rev. 13:2).  
vial upon the seat of the  
16:10).The center of ecclesiastical or  
The fifth angel poured out his  
beast, meaning Papalism (Rev.
- Seal — To impress indelibly with the truth by the mfUhg of the Holy Ghost (Eph. 4:30); sealed by the Holy Ghost; also the same interpretation is given in Eph. 1112, 13. See also Rev. 7:2.
- Seven Candlesticks — Seven churches of the seven ages.
- Seven Seals — Seven periods of time through the Gospel Day.
- Seven Vials — Judgment against false, unscriptural doctrine. Rev. 16.
- Ships — Ministers, symbolized by an industrious housewife who brings her food from afar (Prov. 31:14). Shipwreck is symbolical of departing from the faith (I Tim. 1:19). Human organizations of religion have made slupwreck concerning the faith, having lost their spirituality. The shipmasters and merchants (ministers) are bewailing her downfall and her sad

spiritual condition (Rev. 17:18).

- Sickle — The Bible translated into a living language (Rev. 14:14); end of the world symbolized by reapers (Matt. 13:39). The clusters of the vine may mean or symbolize the nations being gathered in (Matt. 25:31), for it is God's wrath that is being executed (Rev. 14:19).

- Smoke—Glory. Symbol of the glory of God (Isa. 6:1; Rev. 15:18). Also an emblem of false glory (Rev. 9:2). An influence exerted on the mind (Rev. 9:2). It is also a symbol of the adoration of the heart in prayer (Ps. 141:2; Rev. 8:4).

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- Spirits — Immortal beings; undying intelligences; imperishable attributes (Rev. 3:1; Rev. 5:6).

- Stars—Ministers. Messengers, good or bad (Rev. 1:16). There were seven angels as the seven pastors of the congregations (Rev. 1:20). A fallen star is a fallen ministry (Rev. 9:1). The birth of sectism.

- Sun - New Covenant. Christ (Mal. 4:1). Christ is the true light (John 1:9). Sun, moon, stars rule the day and night. So do kings, princes, and lower officers rule the political world (Rev. 6:12,13).

- Supper — The preparation to feed the whole world on the bread of life (Rev. 19:9).

Sweet — Satisfying, encouraging, in contrast to bitter (Rev. 10:9). The bitter is a symbol of the persecutions of those who live by the Word of God, but the sweetness is the experience of salvation.

- Sword - The Word of God (Heb. 4:12). War, either literal or spiritual (Rev. 1:16; 19:15). Pagan Rome waged war against the people of God with literal weapons (Rev. 6:4) while Christ and His people used the Word of God and

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## T

Tabernacle - The true church (Heb. 8:12).

Tail - Protestantism is the tail of the Dragon (Rev. 12:14), for out of Protestantism comes evolution, modernism, denying the Virgin Birth and the Atonement, with all other un-Godly, pagan teachings. The latter end of a thing; the rear and last end of something.

Talents — Weight, about 93 pounds, 12 ounces, avoirdupois:

120 pounds Troy (Rev 16:21)

- Teeth — The power of government to crush opposition, to establish laws of the land; rapacious cruelty (Dan. 7:19; Rev. 9:8).
- Temple - The church of the living God (I Cor. 6:19). Rev. 3:12 shows membership in the Church of God. Measure the temple by the Word of God—all unsaved are left on the outside (Rev. 11:1).
- Thunder — Understanding of past happenings. The voice of God speaking (Rev. 10:35 16:18). Also remember how God spoke on Mt. Sinai when He gave His law (Ex. 19:16-18).
- Travailing — Deep soul burden for the lost world and anxiety to see people saved (Rev. 12:2 where the travailing woman is the church). Isa. 66:7,8 interprets this, which was fulfilled on Pentecost.
- Trees - People (Isa. 55:12). The tree of life is Christ, Rev. 2:7; 22:2.
- Trumpet — Voice of a prophet, minister, or angel sounding out a message of announcement; revelation warning of judgment. Seals. 58:1; Rev. 1:10; 4:1; 8:13; 9:14.
- Two Olive Trees - The Word and Spirit of God.
- Two Witnesses - The Word and Spirit of God.

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V

Vine — Christ is the true vine, all saved people being the branches (John 15:1). The Pope represents the vine of the earth, with all the adherents of his institution and the nations that support him being the clusters (Rev. 14:18). Note that the prophet has Babylon under consideration in Rev. 14:18.

- Voice — Any means that God may employ to make His will known to man (Rev 16:18)

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## W

- Waters — People, nations, tongues, multitudes (Rev. 17:15).
- Wheat-Children of God (Matt. 3:12); the scarcity of the
- Word of God and Christians (Rev. 6:6).
- Wheel — A wheel in a wheel symbolizes the universal church and the local congregations, all moving the same way (Ezek. 1:15-20). Christ is the hub and center of the universal church as He is the hub and center of every local congregation.
- White Cloud — A great company that are pure and innocent, combining their labors to bring peace to the souls of men (Rev. 14:14).
- Whore — A church that has forsaken Christ as her husband and has taken up with the kings of the earth, whose unlawful intercourse with idolatrous worship makes the offspring harlots (Rev. 17:1). This has reference to the Papal church as the mother of her apostate daughters
- Wife - The true Church of God under the Gospel (Acts 20:28). Paul said it was a mystery (Eph. 5:32) His wife, the church, is brought to view (Rev. 19:7;21:9) He that hath the bride is the Bridegroom (John 3:29)
- Winds — The spirits that move men to war on nations, pro-

ducing conimotions and strife, and causing empires to faJI and others to rise (Dan. 7:1; Rev. 7:1).

- Wine-False doctrine (Rev. 17:2).  
14:10).

God's judgments (Rr'v.

- Wings — Means of rising highlifr under the Gospel, for it lifts men out of sin. It will exalt a nation to oliev the Bililfi. The church moves forward (Rev. 4:8). The church was protectfd by the wings of a great eagle (Rev. 12; 14). The people of God came to America because of persecution and our nation was born. When the constitution was written and our fore-fathers chose an emblem, they chose an eagle and for a motto they chose, "In God we trust." Ninety percRUt of the missionarv work isdone from America and England and thf tn-ie Church of God is protected m America,
  - Wilderness — A place of obscurity. It svmholizes the lon~ period of papal darkness (R-ev. 12:6) which covered 1260 davs (prophetic years from 270 A.D. to 1530 A.D.),
  - Witnesses - The Word of God and the Spirit of God (Zech. ;C; ev.H:3).
  - Woman — A well-known symbol of the church, either true or false. The true church is symbolized in Rev. 12:1: the false in Rev. 17:1-5.
  - Wormwood — Bitterness.
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