

# Symbolism and Prophetic Language

Compiled by Brian E. McIndoo (9-13-18)

**Amos 3: 7 Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.**

*(In the language of the prophets, symbolism is the rule, literalism is the exception. The prophets and the Scriptures should be the source for defining prophetic language.)*

Number **1** – Signifies unity, only divisible by itself. Represents the oneness or absolute unity of God in the Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Number **2** – Conveys the meaning of a union such as a man and a woman or Christ and the Church; also, is a number of division or the verification of facts by witnesses. (*Deut. 17:6, 19:15, Matt 18:16*)

Number **3** – Signifies Deity (*Matt. 28:18; 2Ne. 13:32*)

Number **4** – Signifies all of creation. used in reference to the 4 winds, (*Dan. 7:2*); 4 corners of the earth; creatures each with 4 wings and 4 faces (*Ez. 1:5*); 4 rivers of Paradise (*Gen. 2:10*) 4 beasts, (*Dan 7:1; Rev 4:6*)

Number **5** – Signifies punishment, appearing as legal requirements (*Ex. 22:1; Lev. 5:16; 22:14; Num. 5:7, 18:16*) and the five division of empires in Dan 2)

Number **6** – Signifies man and human weakness. Man created on the 6<sup>th</sup> day and appointed to labor for 6 days because of his transgression.

Number **7** – Completeness and perfection both spiritually and physically being 3 plus 4. Seven days completed the week. (*Gen 4:24*)

Number **10** – A preferential number is exemplified in the Ten Commandments and the law of tithe. Ten is also viewed as a complete and perfect number, as is 3, 7 and 12. It is made up of 4, the number of the physical creation, and 6, the number of mankind.

Number **12** – Perfect number being a multiple of 3 and 4. Found in scripture, 12 tribes, 12 stones in the high priests' breastplate, 12 apostles, 12 foundation-stones, and 12 gates. (*Rev 21:19-21*)

Number **24** – Number associated with Priesthood; number of priests that served in the Temple (*1Chron. 24*), number of Elders around the throne of God (*Rev. 4:4 & 10; 5:8&14; 11:16; 19:4*) and is a multiple of 3, 4 and 12.

Number **70** – A compound of 7 and 10

Number **666** – Number of the beast (*Rev. 13:18*)

Number **1,000** – Immensity and fullness, how long Satan will be bound, time when Christ reign upon the earth before the resurrection (*Rev. 20:1-6*)

**Abominable Church** – Catholic Church, spiritual Babylon, whore of the earth, churches not part of the Church of Lamb (*1Ne. 3:222, 7:26, Rev. 17:5*)

**Anti-Christ** – Deceiver (*1Jn 2:18 & 22, 4:3; 2Jn 1:7*)

**Armageddon** – Hill of rendezvous (*Rev. 16:16*)

**Babylon** – Pagan, worldly, proud, arrogant, insolent, oppressive, apostate church (*Rev.14:8; 17:5, 18:2-3*)

**Balances & Scales, pair of** – Denotes equity, justice, taxation, oppression (*Rev. 6:5-6*)

**Bear** – a) powerful but inferior to the lion b) Media-Persia (*Dan. 7*)

**Beasts** – a) a living thing (*Rev 5:6, 15:7*); b) Huge, Domineering, great things (*Dan. 7:3*) c) Dangerous, venomous, wild agents of Satan's plans (*Rev. 13:2, 20:10*)

**Black (horse)** - Famine, pestilence, taxation, invasion (*Rev. 6:5-6*)

**Bottomless pit** – Where Satan and his agents are confined (*Rev. 9:2 & 11, 20:1-3*)

**Bow, holding** – Represents a warrior, one with power over others (*Gen. 48:22, 49:24*)

**Calf, face of** - (*a Young Bull*) – Strength, endurance (*Rev. 4:7*)

**Candlestick** – Churches, witness (*Rev. 1:20, Rev. 11:4*)

**Chariots** – a vehicle, any apparatus of war (*Zach. 6:1; Rev. 9:9; 3Ne 9:101*)

**Crown/s** – a) Victorious (*Rev. 3:11, 1Pt. 5:4, 2Tim 4:8, Zech. 9:16, Isa. 62:3, 1Corth. 9:25*) b) Leaders (*Rev 3:11*)

**Crowns, seven** – the seven admiring heads of the empire though history are **1**) Kings **2**) Consuls **3**) dictatorship **4**) decemvirs **5**) tribunes **6**) emperors, **7**) Exarchs (*a Bishop*)

**Day** – Year (*Numb. 14:33-34; Ez.4:6*)

**Dividing of times** – Half a year (*Dan. 12:7; Rev 12:14*)

**Dragon** – Satan (*Rev. 12:4,9*)

**Eagles** – a) Swiftness, strength (*Ex.19:4; 2Sam. 1:23; Jer. 4:13; Isa. 30:17*); b) Devourers and judgment (*Birds of prey - parallel with fowl* - *Rev.19:17-18, 21; Matt. 24:28; Lk. 17:37*)

**Earthquakes** – Political and cultural upheaval, revolution (*Rev. 6:12-17*)

**Eyes, full of** – Vision, insight, envy (*Rev. 4:6*)  
**Face of a Man** – Intelligence (*Rev. 4:7*)  
**False Prophet, A** – One that teaches untruths as God’s word (*Acts 13:6, Hel 5:36*) See also *anti-christ*.  
**False Prophet, The** – Mohammed, Islam (*Rev. 16:13, 19:20, 20:10*)  
**Forty and two months** – 1260 years (*Rev. 11:2; 13:5*)  
**Fowl** – Devourers and judgment (*Birds of prey parallel with eagles- Rev.19:17-18, 21; Matt. 24:28; Lk. 17:37*)  
**Frogs, spirits like** – Toxic, plagues of spiritual destruction (*Rev. 16:13-14; 1Jn 4:1-3*)  
**Glass** – Calm, Peace, Stability  
**Gog** – Turkey, Iran, Iraq (Medes and Persians)  
**Hail** – God’s vengeance (*Ps 18:13; Rev 8:7, 11:19*)  
**Harlots** – Apostate churches (*Rev. 17:5, 1Ne.3:183*)  
**Head wounded** – Destruction of empire anticipated  
**Heads** – Leaders (*Rev. 12:3*)  
**Heads, seven** – the seven hills on which Rome sits (*Rev. 17:9*)  
**Horn** – Kings, ruler (*Dan. 7:24; Rev. 17:12*)  
**Horns, ten** – the ten parts of Rome which broke off and had a king over each part. (*Dan. 2:34, Rev 12:3, 13:1, 17:7*)  
**Horse** – Warfare, fleetness, strength (*Prov. 21:31; Zech. 10:3*)  
**Hunger** – famine accompanied with warfare (*Rev. 6:8*)  
**Kill one another** – Internal chaos, strife, bloodshed (*Rev. 6*)  
**Kings of the East** - Enemies to Christianity, predominately countries of pagan religions i.e.: Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist etc. (*Rev. 16:12-14*)  
**Lake of fire and brimstone** – Hell, second death, eternal punishment (*Rev. 20:10, 2Ne. 6:54*)  
**Lamb** – Jesus Christ, Messiah (*1Ne. 3:119*)  
**Leopard** – a) Furious, rapid attack b) Greece (*Dan. 7*)  
**Lion** – a) Brave, furious, dominion, authority b) Babylon (*Dan.7*)  
**Little Horn** – Papacy (*Dan.7:25*)  
**Locusts** – National entities from the East – Muslim (*Rev. 9:3,7*)  
**Magog** – Turkey, and area around the Black Sea, Followers of Islam  
**Man child** – Kingdom of Heaven (*Rev. 12:5*)  
**Man of Sin** – Anti-Christ, Man of sin, Little Horn, Papacy (*2Thess. 2:3-10; Dan. 7: 8, 24-25, Rev. 13:7*)  
**Mark of the Beast** – Cult of the Cross (*Rev. 19:20, 20:4*)  
**Martyr** – Witness (*Both are the same Greek word Strong’s G3134 - Acts 21:22, 22:20; Rev. 3:14*)  
**Megiddo** – Rendezvous, assembly (*Joel 3:2,14*)  
**Moon** – Old Covenant – reflects the light of truth to come and is the foundation of all truth. (*Rev. 12:1*)  
**Mountains and Islands** – Religious strongholds, private kingdoms to be shaken at Christ’s return.  
**Nourished** – Fatten, cherish, pamper, rear, bring up, feed; (*Strong’s # 5142 and is the same word as used in Rev. 12:14; James 5:5; Acts 12:20; Matt.25:37,6:26; Lk 12:24, 4:16*)  
**Oil & wine,** – Luxury items (*Rev. 6:6, 18:12-13*)  
**Olive trees** – Tribes of the House of Israel  
**Pale, horse** - associated with death, pestilence and famine  
**Peace, take away** – Bloodshed, preplace peace with discord (*Rev. 6:4*)  
**Plea for rocks to fall** – Awful fear upon the land (*Rev. 6:16; Al. 9:25*)  
**Price of grain** – Denotes scarcity (*Rev. 6:6*)  
**Purple** – Royalty (*Jn. 19:2; Rev. 18:16*)  
**Red** – Denotes bloodshed, carnage and discord (*Rev. 6:4, 12:3*)  
**River Euphrates** – God’s protective barrier which holds back the enemies of Christianity (*Rev. 16:12*)  
**Rod** – Standard of Measurement, Gospel of Truth (*Rev:11:1*)  
**Rod of Iron** – Word of God (*Rev. 12:5; 19:15; 1Ne. 3:68*)  
**Sackcloth** – Mourn, mortify, death (*Rev. 11:30*)  
**Scarlet** – Royalty (*Rev. 18:16*)  
**Scorpion** – Inflicting great pain and suffering (*Rev. 9:3,10*)  
**Sea** – Nations of People (*Rev. 13:1*)  
**Sea of Blood** – War, great battles at sea (*Rev. 16:3*)  
**Sea of Glass** – stability, peace, majesty, dominion (*Rev. 14:6, 15:2*)  
**Sea, out of** – Multitudes of nations and tongues (*Rev. 13*)  
**Seal** – a signet, stamp or mark of privacy, fencing in or protection from misappropriation (*Dan. 9:24; Rev. 6:3- 12, 9:4, 20:3*)  
**Seat of the Beast** – Holy Roman Empire (*Rev. 13:2, 16:10*)

**Serpent** – Satan, the Devil (*Rev. 12:9, 20:2*)

**Seven candlesticks** – The seven churches of Asia (*Rev 2*)

**Seven spirits of God** – Lamps of Fire, consume, burn and light (*Rev. 3:1, 4:5, 5:6*)

**Smoke** – Power from; the presence and Glory of God (*Ex. 19:8; Isa 6:3-4; Rev 15:8*)

**Stars** – **a**) Ministerial leaders in God’s hand (*Rev. 1:20, 2:1, 12:1*) **b**) Angels (*Rev. 12:4*) **c**) Heavenly bodies that are part of God’s creation denoting an immeasurable number (*Heb. 11:12*)

**Strait Gate** – Repentance and baptism (*Matt. 7:13-14, 2Ne13:23-25*)

**Sun** – **a**) New Covenant made through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ (*Rev. 12:1*) **b**) Jesus Christ – light in a dark world (*Mal.4:12*)

**Sun, Moon & Stars, signs** – Earthly dignitaries, Political figures (*Joel 2:10 & 31, 3:15; Isa. 13:9-10, 24:23, 30:26; Rev. 6:12-17*)

**Sword** – Authority, bloodshed, slaughter, looking for war (*Deut. 33:29; Josh. 11:11; Isa. 66:16; Rev.1:16, 6:6; 3Ne. 9:56-57*)

**Ten Horns** – Roman Empire (*Dan. 7*)

**Ten Toes** – Subordinate Kingdoms of Rome (*Dan. 2*)

**Third Part** – Not to mean 33 1/3% but a portion( presumably a lesser portion) **a**) Old Test. Offering to God (*Numb 15:6-7*), **b**) The Prophets- used as Judgement (*Ez.5:1-2*), **c**) Revelation of Christ -Judgement (*Rev. 8:11-12, 9:18, 12:4*)

**Thousand two hundred and threescore days** – 1260 Years (*Rev. 11:3; 12:6*)

**Three days and a half** – 1260 years (*Rev. 11:9*)

**Thunder and lightning** – Power of God (*Job 28:26; Matt. 24:27; Lk. 17:24; Rev. 11:19; Hel. 5:81-82*)

**Time** – One Year (*Dan. 12:7; Rev 12:14*)

**Time, times and dividing of time** – 1260 Years (*Dan. 12:7; Rev 12:14*)

**Times** – Two years (*Dan. 12:7; Rev 12:14*)

**Towers** – Strongholds, fortification of city (*Isa. 30:25; Ez. 26:9; Zeph. 1:16, 3:6*)

**Vial** – shallow cup of uncertain affinity, relationship towards something (*Rev. 16:2-17*)

**Vials** – God’ wrath and judgement (*Rev. 16:1*)

**Wall** – The sea (*Gen. 49:22; Ps. 80:1-2; Ex. 19:22; Nahum 3:8*)

**White** – Purity, innocent, prosperity, triumph

**White Linen** - Righteousness (*parallel with robes and raiment* – (*Rev. 3:5 & 18, 6:11, 7:9, 13-14, 19:8; 1Ne. 2:44*)

**White raiment** – Righteousness (*parallel with robes and linen* *Rev. 3:5 & 18, 6:11, 7:9, 13-14, 19:8; 1Ne. 2:44*)

**White Robes** – Righteousness (*parallel with linen and raiment* – *Rev. 3:5 & 18, 6:11, 7:9, 13-14, 19:8; 1Ne. 2:44*)

**Wife** – Bride, Christ’s church (*Rev.19:7*)

**Wilderness** – Place of punishment, judgement, away from God (*Numb. 14:33, 32:1; Isa. 14:17; Hosea 2:3; Rev. 12:6*)

**Wind** – Wars, commotions, tumults (*Rev. 6:13, 7:1*)

**Winepress** – God’s wrath (*Rev. 19:15*)

**Wings** – Speed and ability to conquer

**Wings; two** – Catholic and Orthodox; Eastern and Western Rome (*Rev. 12:14*)

**Woman** – A Church (*Rev. 12*)

**Wormwood** – Bitterness, calamity, cursed (*Deut. 29:18; Jer. 9:15; Amos 5:7; Rev. 8:11*)

- The listed scripture reference are examples and information, but not intended to be an exhaustive list.