

A Key To Symbols Used In The Book Of Revelation

As this is merely a concise guide, there is no space to amplify the reasons behind the symbolism. Such references would make this a much longer work and is out of place here. The centre column references are sample texts, there are often many more examples.

Angels and spirits

Angel (s)	1:1	Elemental spirits in the world. Messengers of God.
Angel ascending from the east	7:2	Jesus – he is in control of the sealing of the saints.
Mighty angel	10:1	Jesus [has features of God: wrapped in a cloud, wears the covenant rainbow etc.]. [cf Rev 1:7, 15, 16, 4:3]

Artefacts

Bow	6:2	Warfare, judgment. [Ps 7:12; Isa 41:2]
Balances / scales	6:5	Careful measurement. [Lev 19:36]
Seven seals	5:1	Inclusive, perfect government, secure purpose. <i>Seal</i> = security [Dan 6:17; Mt 27:66; 2 Tim 2:19] & privacy, secrecy [1 Kg 21:8; Isa 29:11; Jer 22:24]; authority [Est 3:12; 8:8-10]. Opening the 7 seals = unveiling the mystery, unfolding of the divine governmental purpose. The seals destroy $\frac{1}{4}$ [6:8] the trumpets destroy $\frac{1}{3}$ [8:7-12, 9:18], the bowls completely destroy [16:3, 17].
Scroll (Book KJV)	5:1	The eternal plan of God. God's decrees. [Ps 40:7; Phil 4:3]
Scroll being eaten	10:9	Gospel must be experienced. Bitterness = suffering.
Seal of God	7:2	The Holy Spirit. [Eph 1:13; 2 Cor 1:22]
Trumpets	8:2	Judgments of God. They don't fall on the elect. [Isa 58:1; Mt 24:21] Parallel to the 7 bowls.
Bowls (Vials KJV) [a bowl or goblet having more breadth than depth]	5:8	Judgments of God. Wrath poured out. Same as trumpets, affect the same things [1 st earth, 2 nd sea, 3 rd rivers, 4 th sun, 5 th beast, 6 th Euphrates, 7 th second coming & judgment]. [Rev 15:1, 16:1]
Book	1:11	God's word. [Rev 22:18]
Book of life	3:5	God's memory / record of all things. [Ps 56:8; Mal 3:16]
Harps	14:2	Christian worship. Praise. [Ps 33:2; 43:4]
Sickle	14:14	Principally, separation for harvest. Either salvation or judgment. [Joel 3:13; Rev 14:14-20]
Winepress	19:15	Judgment. [Isa 63:1-6; Rev 14:19]
Chain	20:1	Restraint. [Ps 149:8; Mk 5:3; Jude 6]
Crown		Generally: victory or sovereignty depending on word used (see below).
Many crowns	19:12	<i>Diadema</i> – sovereign authority. Not numbered like beast but 'many' [<i>polus</i> : many, much, great.].
Crown	12:3	<i>Stephanos</i> = crown or wreath related to victory [as in Olympic games] not the <i>diadema</i> (diadem). Here related to Satan's arrogance [cf c2].

Buildings & Fittings

The tabernacle	13:6	The church as God dwelling with his people. [Rev 21:3.9]
The Temple	3:12	The church of God; the elect. [Same as tab. Ps 11:4; Isa 6:1]
The temple measured	11:1	The church complete on earth.
Throne	1:4	God's authority as king. Royal power. [Rev 3:21; 20:11]
Sea of glass	4:6	Purity, and clarity of God's glory. [Note: temple represented God's glory with polished gold to reflect light of lamps. Here, God's actual glory shines through and reflects off glass. No amplification needed. 1 Cor 13:12; 2 Cor 3:18]
Furnace	1:15	Judgment. [Gen 19:28; Mt 13:42]
Pillar	3:12	Strength & permanence. [1 Kg 7:21]
Foundation	21:14	Truth. [Mt 7:24-27, 16:16-19]
Court	11:2	The Gentiles. [Rev 11:2]
Wall	21:12	Safety from enemies, security of elect. [Isa 26:1, 60:18].
Key	1:18	Authority to open, unleash. Power & supremacy over what is locked. [Isa 22:22; Mt 16:19].
Door	3:8	Access. Here, entrance to the kingdom. In 3:20, into the repentant believer's heart. In 4:1, to heaven.
Gates	21:13	Trinity of access for God's people to life everlasting.

Climatic Conditions / Weather / Features of the earth or space

Earthquake	8:5	Always refers to the end of the earth and judgment. [Isa 29:6; Ezek 38:19; Heb 12:26; Rev 6:12-17]
Earth	1:5	The earth or cultivated land. Inhabitants of the world. Civilised society – kingdoms of the earth. [Ps 46:10, 67:2; Isa 34:1, 37:20] Or, earthly religion. [Jm 3:15]
Cloud	1:7	Judgment [Ps 18:7-15].
Sea	4:6	Inhabitants of the world. Uncivilised nations. [Ps 65:7, 93:3-4; Jer 47:2, 51:42, 55; Rev 17:1,15] Ungodly men. [Isa 57:20; Jude 13] Or nations & governments. [Isa 17:12; Rev 17:15]
Trees	7:1	Inhabitants of the world. [Isa 6:13; Mt 3:10; Lk 21:19; Jude 12]
Mountain	8:8	Empire, particularly Roman Empire its decline brought strife and slaughter for 500 years to all its peoples. [Isa 2:2; Rev 17:9-10]
Sun	1:16	Glory of Christ as the light. [Mal 4:2]
Stars	3:1	Angel or pastor of church. [Job 38:7; Rev 1:20]
Great star falling	8:10	Satan [Lk 10:18]
A third of the stars of heaven	12:4	The fallen angels that sinned with Satan, cast down to earth.
Morning star	2:28	Christ. [Rev 22:16] Fig. of the approaching day.
Thunder / Lightning	4:5	God's judgments. [Ps 18:7-14; Lk 10:18]
Sky / heaven	4:1	[<i>Ouranos</i> – sky, sidereal heavens.] Aerial regions, sky or space. Spiritual systems: heaven, the abode of God; place of spiritual fellowship for believers.
Midst of heaven	14:6	The area of spiritual communication for believers.
Rainbow	10:1	The covenant of God with man. [Gen 9:13]
Hail	16:17	Always the direct judgment of God. <i>Chalaza</i> – 'let loose'.
Fire	1:14	Judgment. [Gen 19:24, 28; Ps 11:6; Mt 3:12]

Lake of fire	19:20	Hell.
Sand of the sea	13:1	Between civilised and uncivilised peoples.
Sand	20:8	Countless number.
Wilderness	12:6	This present world. [Ps 63:1; Isa 14:17]
Water	1:15	Salvation, cleansing [Isa 12:3; Jn 4:10]. The cleansing of the word applied by the Spirit. [Jn 15:3; Ps 119:9; Eph 5:26]
Water	12:15	Suffering, affliction. [Ps 69:1,2,14]
Waters (expanse of)	17:15	Nations, peoples. [Isa 8:7; 57:20; Rev 17:15].
Flood of water	12:15	Flood of teaching from Satan's mouth, absorbed by earth (civilised society).
River of life	22:1	The Holy Spirit.
Rivers & fountains	8:10	Springs of man's development, invention and creation. Technology; tinged with evil which brings bitterness. 16:4 turned to blood = leads to man's own slaughter.

Colours

White	1:14	Purity. [Isa 1:18; Dan 12:10]
Red		Earthly [Adam formed out of red earth].
Red	6:4	Death [the colour of blood] War. [Nahum 2:3; Isa 63:1-6]
Fiery red	12:3	Of the dragon. Cruelty of Satan.
Blue		The colour of heaven, = spirituality [note the dark blue of eastern sky]. Not used significantly in Revelation.
Scarlet (Crimson)		The colour of Israel [Nah 2:3] Jewish royalty. [2 Sam 1:24; Rev 17:3] Not used in this significance in Revelation.
Scarlet		Deeper than red, refers to Christ's death. [Lev 14:6] Jesus' human glory in death. Not used in this significance in Revelation.
Scarlet	17:3	Sin. [Isa 1:18]
Green	8:7	Life & hope. [Ps 52:8; Lk 23:31] Not used in this sense in Revelation.
Pale (Pale green)	6:8	Death & plague. (<i>chloros</i> : i.e. pale green, yellowish green; i.e. a sorrel horse) [Lev 13:49; Lam 5:10]
Black	6:5	Famine, judgment. [Jer 4:28; 30:6]
Purple	17:4	Gentile royalty [used by Greeks & Romans; Hom. <i>Od.</i> XIX 225; Virg <i>Georg.</i> II, 495; Jud 8:26; Dan 5:7; Mk 15:17-18]. Kingly power and glory.
Purple		Jesus as king of Gentiles or nations [Ps 72:11]. Not used in this significance in Rev.
Purple		Mixture of red and blue, harmonises red/blue = Jesus as God/Man. Not used in this significance in Rev.
Note: Green is not symbolic in Revelation 8:7, 9:4.		

Commerce

Denarius	6:6	Daily wage in Roman Empire. [Mt 20:2-13] Here only enough for food for one person per day.
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Creatures / aspects of animals

Cherubim / Living creatures / four beasts	4:6	Always assoc. with God's glory and its expression [Ezek 9:3; Heb 9:5]. Descriptions points to man and creation [Ezek 1]. Represent the vessels for all the blessings of creation. They hold the place of God's chosen vessels until redemption is complete. Representatives of the redeemed creation. The hope of creation. Note they are nearer to the throne than the elders.
Lamb before the throne	5:6	Jesus. Jesus is referred to as a lamb 27 times in Revelation. Purity and sacrifice. [Jn 1:29; 1 Pt 1:19]
Seven Eyes	5:6	The Spirit of God. The omniscience of God.
Horns	5:6	Human power, strength, a kingdom. [Deut 33:17; Ps 89:17]
Wings	4:8	Swiftness in flight. [Ex 19:4]
Ten crowned horns	12:3	Fulness of sovereign authority. Satan as a prince. [Eph 2:2; Col 1:13].
Beast from the sea	13:1	Wild beast [<i>therion</i>] arising from uncivilised humanity. Authority by brute force. = civil power. Antichrist as a political power. Or could be: not an individual, but corporate rebellion to God.
Beast from the earth	13:11	False prophet = religious power and deception. Imitation of Christianity – like a lamb. Possibly later headed up by one man = Antichrist (two horns of power) as a religious power. Together 2 beasts = <u>Antichristian kingdom in history.</u>
The Dragon	12:3	Satan in wide ranging power. [Jer 51:34; Rev 12:3]
Serpent	12:14	Satan in deceit bringing death. [Gen 3:1; 2 Cor 10:9, 11:13]
White horse	19:11	Gospel power. Power of righteousness in the Gospel Age. [See 'people']
Red horse	6:4	War and its consequences. Note 'granted' [Rev 6:4], is under Jesus' control.
Black horse	6:5	Famine [note: usual price of a quart of grain was about 1/8 of a denarius. At time of Cicero 1/16, at time of Trajan 1/20]. Social inequality, disease.
Pale (Pale green)	6:8	Death & plague. (<i>chloros</i> : i.e. pale green, yellowish green; i.e. a sorrel horse) [Lev 13:49; Lam 5:10]
The four horsemen		Represent four forces throughout history serving God's purposes: the Gospel, war, famine, death.
Wool	1:14	Purity (from its whiteness). [Isa 1:18]
Sheep	18:13	Not symbolic here.
Frog	16:13	Uncleanness. [Lev 11:9-12].
Leopard	13:2	Speed of pursuit. [Habb 1:8]
Bear	13:2	Fierceness, rage & strength. [2 Sam 17:8; Prov 17:12]
Scorpion	9:3	Torment, torture. [1 Kg 12:14; Rev 9:5]. Especially by deceit (sting hidden in tail.)
Locust	9:3	Total destruction especially as a judgment from God. [Exod 10:14-15; Deut 28:42] Spiritual judgments on men by an army of demons.
Horse	6:2	Strength, especially in battle. [Job 39:19-25; Jer 4:13]
Calf	4:7	Domestic animals [only appears in Revelation].
Lion	4:7	Kingly power & strength or representative of wild animals. [Gen 49:9-10; Prov 20:2, 30:30]

Eagle	4:7	Swiftness safety above threat or representative of all birds. [Ex 19:4; Isa 40:31; 2 Sam 1:23].
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Fabrics / Clothes / Armour

White linen	15:6	Purity righteousness, especially of Jesus' life. [Ex 25:4; Lev 6:10]
Fine linen	19:8	Righteous deeds of saints. [Rev 19:8].
White robes		Saint's righteousness.
Bloody vesture (garment)	19:13	A robe dipped in blood. The life of Christ, blood shed for his people.
Band / Girdle [KJV]	1:13	Official position, duty [Ex 29:9; Mal 3:16]. Strength for work [Isa 5:27, 22:21].
Breastplate	9:9	Indestructible power. [Isa 59:17; Eph 6:14].
Silk	18:12	Luxury. [Ezek 16:10]

Furniture, vessels and religious objects

Lampstands	1:12	The grace and power of God manifested by the Spirit in the church.
Lamps	8:10	The Spirit as spiritual light. [Rev 4:5]
Golden altar / altar of incense / censer	8:3	The intercessory prayer of Christ.
Incense	8:3	Prayer. [Ps 141:2; Rev 8:3-5]
Altar	6:9	Death of Christ, atonement, sacrifice.
Pillar	10:1	Strength & permanence. [1 Kg 7:21]
Idol (image of the beast)	13:14	Ideal of world power, people worship world power. Or just false religion.

Gemstones / Precious objects

Precious stones		= Permanence and beauty. Glory of God shines through the glass and gemstones. Walls are transparent. = glory shining through the church in different aspects. All colours of the spectrum.
Jasper	21:19	May be a diamond, great value. May be a fiery red = blood
Jasper & Sardius	4:3	Were the first and last stones on the High Priest's breastplate (Sardius first, jasper last, the 12 stones were engraved with the names of the 12 tribes). Here, inclusive (1 st and last) of all the elect. Is it implying a Gospel principle: <i>The last shall be first?</i>
Emerald	21:19	Preciousness coupled with life & hope (green colour). [Ps 52:8; Lk 23:31]
Sapphire	21:19	Beauty, value, preciousness.
Chalcedony	21:19	
Sardonyx	21:20	
Sardius	21:20	
Chrysolite	21:20	
Beryl	21:20	
Topaz	21:20	

Chrysoprasus	21:20	
Jacinth	21:20	
Amethyst	21:20	
Pearl (gates)	21:21	Needs no artificial work, perfect in itself and the commonest gemstone. Produced through suffering. Access to the city was through the suffering of Christ. Wealth. [Job 28:18; Matt 13:45-46]
Ivory	18:12	Luxury. [Amos 6:4]
Marble	18:12	Luxury. [Est 1:6].
Like glass / clear glass /crystal	21:21	Transparency, clarity. [Jm 1:23]

Human Activities / Speech

A new song	5:9	The worthiness of Christ, worship.
Name	2:17	Character.

Human Body

Mouth	16:3	Teaching which kills, the teaching of demons. [1 Tim 4:1].
Seven heads of the dragon	12:3	Kingship, inclusive sovereignty.
Seven heads (of beast from the sea)	13:1ff	Sovereignty of Empire. 7 empires: like a leopard, bear's feet, lion's mouth, Dan 7:2-18 conflates these to four: Egypt (lion), Assyria-Babylon (bear), Persia-Greece (leopard), Rome (iron teeth etc), with one yet to come arising from Rome. Civil power comes to prominence in an empire (head), but this power has always been in existence (other parts of the body teeth, legs etc.). Different kingdoms in the rise of Antichristian world power: Babel, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece, Antiochan Syria, Rome.
Mortally wounded head	13:3	Rome. Concept of empire seemed over in the classical sense. But this will be revived. A world power will arise. Or Babel and the confusion of tongues arresting world gvt. Or uncivilised pagan government.
Loud voice like a trumpet	1:10	Jesus
Blood	1:5	Death but also judgment. [Ps 9:12; Isa 34:1-6]
Blood	7:14	In reference to the blood of Christ, it is not symbolic.
Head	1:14	King. [Rev 17:9,10]
Forehead	13:16	Human mind.
Right hand	13:16	Work, industry.

Metals

Precious metals		
Silver	18:12	In other parts of scripture (e.g. tabernacle) = redemption [Matt 20:28; 1 Pt 1:18]. In Revelation = wealth, but less than gold. [1 Kg 10:21; 2 Tim 2:20].
Gold	3:18	What is of God, divine glory, divine life. [Rev 4:4, 21:18].
Gold	9:20	Wealth and glory. [Job 28:5-19; Ps 19:10]

Non-precious metals / natural materials		
Brass/bronze	1:15	Judgment of the flesh
Iron	2:27	Strength. [Dan 2:40]
Stone	1:17	Strength, permanence. [Ex 24:12; Job 19:24]

Numbers

Number		Meaning
$\frac{1}{4}$	6:8	Shows an increase or intensification when used with $\frac{1}{3}$ [6:8 cf 8:7].
$\frac{1}{3}$	8:7	A remnant [Zech 13:8] Judgment on some as an example to others. Shows an increase or intensification.
1		Unity, the number of God. Not specifically used in Revelation.
2	11:3	Testimony, the number of witness, certainty.
3	16:13	Elsewhere it is the number of the Trinity, divine perfection, God manifested. In Revelation, it appears to have no symbolic significance.
4	4:6	The number of creation, the earth and its boundaries.
5	9:5	Elsewhere it is the number of grace, strength out of weakness. Here, grace for the period of suffering.
6	4:8	The number of natural man, falling short of God's perfection.
7	1:13	Perfection in spiritual things, finished perfection (infancy).
8		Resurrection, the new nature. Not specifically used in Revelation.
9		Judgment; the application of divine perfection on man's works. Not specifically used in Revelation.
10	2:10	Completeness in divine things, fulness; finished perfection (adult).
11		Imperfection, falling short, disorganisation, disorder. Not specifically used in Revelation.
12	12:1	Covenant; administrative or governmental perfection. The church.
13		Apostasy, rebellion. Not specifically used in Revelation.
20		Expectancy, waiting. Not specifically used in Revelation.
24	4:4	The complete church OT & NT.
40		Testing or probation. Not specifically used in Revelation.
100		10x10 (fulness intensified). Not specifically used in Revelation.
144	21:17	12x12: the complete church.
600	14:20	Combination of 6 and 10, completeness of human activity.
666	13:18	The number of man seeking to be God, the number of the beast.
1,000	20:2-7	10x10x10 divine completeness, yet further intensified.
1260	11:3	See 'Time'.
1,600		4x10x4x10 = the earth in fulness, all men. Not specifically used in Revelation.
144,000		12 x 12 x1,000 – the divine fulness of the covenant, the whole church.

1 million	5:11	Fulness in extremity.
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For more details on these numbers and their significance, see my paper *The Use of Numbers in the Bible*. Usually, multiplied numbers imply emphasis, fulness or plurality.

People

Balaam	2:14	False prophecy, false teaching. [Num 22-24; 2 Pt 2:15]
Balak	2:14	Hatred of the elect. [Num 22-24; Micah 6:5]
Jezebel	2:20	Idolatry and fornication. [1 Kg 16:31-33; 2 Kg 9:22+]
David	3:7	The king: power & glory under God. [1 Sam 13:14; Ps 89:19-29].
Moses	15:3	The law or the OT. [Mt 17:3; Lk 16:29-31; Heb 3:3-5]
Spirit of Moses	11:6	Prayer
Spirit of Elijah	11:6	Prayer
The 24 elders	4:4	Being clothed implied redeemed [Rev 19:8] and they were sinners. They represent the elect under the old and new covenants [2x12].
200 million riders on horses	9:16	Physical judgments on men (see locusts). Plagues.
Rider on white horse	6:2	Jesus. Warlike power and authority, conqueror. [19:16] Representing the victory of the Gospel
Armies On white horses	19:14	Church sharing the victory and power of Jesus the conqueror. The elect are one with Christ.
The two witnesses	11:3	The church. [= two olive trees, two lampstands]. Fulness of spiritual testimony. [Note: their power is in what they say.] Spiritual prophecy / preaching. Prophetic ministry.
Woman	12:1	The elect; OT remnant church [Isa 54:5, but not Israel of the flesh] & the whole NT church. [Song 6:10; Rev 12:17]. Clothed with sun, moon and stars = heavenly nature.
Woman with two eagle's wings	12:14	Spiritual life of believer's, 'mid-heaven', sphere of spirituality.
Male Child (Manchild)	12:5	The Messiah.
Seed of the woman	12:17	That portion of the church on the earth at any particular time. The visible church.
Virgins	14:4	Followers of Christ.
Gog & Magog	20:8	Heathen nations. [Ezek 38-39]

Places

Bottomless pit	9:1	The abyss, the underworld, the place where fallen angels are confined. Tartarus. [2 Pt 2:4]
The street	11:8	An open place for gathering. [Zech 8:4,5; Mt 6:5]
Hades	1:18	The place of the dead [not abyss or hell].
Euphrates	9:13	The river of Babylon; not literal. In it spirits are released to kill a third of men [2 Thess 2:3]. Killing is spiritual not physical.
Babylon	14:8	Worldliness, immorality and ungodliness. The world as the enemy of God and his people. [Ps 137; Isa 14:4-5; Rev 17:6].
Sodom	11:8	The world as a place of wickedness. [Gen 13:13; Jude 7; Rev 11:8]

Egypt	11:8	The world as a place of bondage in sin. [Ex 20:1; Matt 2:15; Rev 11:8]
Armageddon	16:16	No such place. <i>Har</i> means mtn., so not the plain of Meggido. Could mean mtn. of slaughter. Probably = simply the last battle. [2 Chron 35:22; Zech 12:11]
Kingdom	12:10	The kingdom of Christ.
Kingdom	16:10	The domain of Satan.
Jerusalem	3:12	The church. [Heb 12:22-23]
City	3:12	The church on earth.
The great City	11:8	Earthly Jerusalem. Nominal Christianity / false church.
The holy city	21:2	The glorified church, the kingdom of God.
The city measured	21:15	The church measured – full number of the elect.
The beloved city	20:9	Jerusalem – hence the church.

Plants / Foods / Medicines

Wormwood	8:10	Bitterness, to become like Satan.
Root	5:5	Source of life. [Mt 13:6, 21; Rm11:16-18]
Wheat / Barley	6:6	Sustenance for life. [Ps 81:6; Joel 1:11]
Palm	7:9	Deliverance, fulfilment, blessing, rejoicing, praise & thanksgiving. [Lev 23:39-44; Ps 92:12; Jn 12:13]
Olive trees	11:4	Fruitfulness, value, beauty. [Deut 8:8; Ps 52:8; 128:3]
Olive trees		Israel, called by God [Jer 11:16; Hos 14:6]. Not used in this sense in Revelation.
Oil	6:6	Luxury. [Deut 8:8, 32:13]
Grape	14:18	Wrath
Eye-salve	3:18	Spiritual healing, salvation, enlightenment. [Jer 8:22]
Manna	2:17	Jesus as the bread of life. [Jn 6:32-65]
Tree of life	22:2	Irrigated by the river of life (Spirit). Jesus. [Jn 7:37-38]

Spices / Perfumes

Ointment	18:13	Luxury. [Ps 133:2; Mt 26:7]
Perfume	18:13	Luxury. [Prov 27:9; Isa 57:9]
Cinnamon	18:13	Luxury. [Song 4:14]
Incense	5:8	Prayer. The fragrance of Christ before God.

Transport

Ships at sea	18:19	Commerce.
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Time periods

Half an hour	8:1	Only place in Bible and the shortest period mentioned. Compare 1 Cor 15:1 <i>moment</i> . Here the elect are being changed into Christ's likeness, man partaking of deity [1 Thess 4:14]. Heaven draws breath.
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The repeated time frame in Revelation and elsewhere		
42 months	11:2	= Israel's 42 sojournings in wilderness. [Num 33:1-50]
42 months	13:5	= Daniel's 3½ times.
1260 days	11:3, 12:6	Compare Elijah's 3½ years without rain. Compare Jesus ministry of 3½ years.
3 ½ years [of 360 days]	11:9	Compare Antiochus treading down the temple. = apparent rule of earthly over heavenly. Seeming declination of God's rule.
Symbolism = The church in witness and persecution (= woman in wilderness 12:6,14) and then restoration (res. of witnesses). The Gospel Age. 'Corpse' (11:19) = church ridiculed in the streets. [1 Jn 2:18-22]		

Weapons

Sword / Two-edged sword	1:16; 2:12, 16; 6:8 19:15 19:21	<i>Rhomphaia</i> – only in Revelation and Lk 2:3. Large sword [sabre] usually worn on right shoulder [Thracian]. The killing is spiritual. This is the sword Christ uses. Jesus' <i>thigh</i> (where a sword is usually worn, only here in NT) 19:16 is where his name as king is. Jesus' conquest and judgment is by his teaching and his authority.
Sword	6:4	<i>Machaira</i> – short sword or large knife with curved or straight blade. This is the sword Satan and his emissaries use.
Rod of iron	19:15	To defend sheep. Severity of rule. Judgment. [Ps 2:9]

Caution:

- Great care must be taken when interpreting these symbols, however, Revelation cannot be understood without taking a view on them.
- Don't interpret something symbolically when it is clearly meant to be taken literally, or makes no sense, or contradicts a known truth.
- Some items are symbolic when similar items are not.
- Don't interpret a symbol in a widely different way to the way other scriptures use it. John is building upon known historic OT symbols and types.
- Always look for the main sense of the symbol, not every part has to be significant.

After completing this study from my own research, I compared notes with *Studies in the Book of Revelation* by Ron Hanks, which proved to be most helpful. Subsequently, I have added a number of his ideas here. Though I do not follow every conclusion, I believe his study notes are worth procuring from: *Covenant Protestant Reformed Fellowship*, Bookstore, 7 Lislunna Road, Kells, Ballymena, County Antrim, BT42 3NR, United Kingdom, (028) 25 891851.

For further study I recommend only the following for straightforward study:

- *Revelation Spiritually Understood*, Charles D Alexander, K&M Books.
- *More Than Conquerors*, William Hendriksen, Baker.
- *Behold He Cometh*, Herman Hoeksema, Reformed Free Publishing Association.

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