



GULF SHORES

CHURCH OF CHRIST

SUNDAY NIGHT SERIES

THE SYMBOLISM OF THE TERMINOLOGY IN REVELATION

The prominence of the names alerts the interpreter to the symbolism of names in the Apocalypse. In Revelation, as throughout the Bible, names often contain symbolic as well as literal connotations. Thus, the symbolic associations provide added dimensions to the literal understanding. The names which most commonly contain symbolic value in Scripture are listed below, with representative references:

Adultery = Idolatry, apostasy, and false religion (**Hosea 4:13-14**)

Air = An area of jurisdiction or government (**Ephesians 2:2**)

Alpha = The first, the beginning, number one (**Revelation 1:8, 1:11, 21:6, 22:13**)

Amen = Declaration of affirmation, agreement (**Isaiah 49:7**)

Angel = Any agent or messenger of the divine will of God (**Psalms 104:4, Proverbs 25:13**)

Armageddon = "Mount Megiddo" - the struggle between good and evil (**II Kings 23:29**)

Babylon = The great city, the center of power (**I Chronicles 9:1**)

Balances = Justice, and a symbol of scarcity or famine (**Proverbs 16:11**)

Beast = (Earth & Sea) Powers of institution, religious and civil, cruelty (**Daniel 7:8**)

Blood = Warfare, carnage, or destruction (**Isaiah 34:3**)

Book = A record of the divine will of God (**Psalms 69:28, Philippians 4:3**)

Bow = War, victory, or God's judgment on nations (**Habakkuk 3:8-9**)

Bowl = Vessel for pouring and measuring, larger than a cup (**Isaiah 40:12**)

Bride = The church of Jesus Christ, the Lamb (**Romans 7:4, 16:16, Ephesians 5:23, 25, 27**)

Candlestick (Lampstand) = The church, the light of the world (**Matthew 5:14-16**)

Chain = Restraint, bondage, and affliction (**Psalms 2:1-3**)

Crown = Authority, power, and victory (**Isaiah 28:1-5**)

Darkness = Affliction, calamity, tragedy, or ignorance (**Luke 1:78-79**)

Day = A predetermined period of time, often means a year in prophesy (**Ezekiel 4:6**)

Diadem = Crown of royalty, worn by kings and those in authority (**Isaiah 62:3**)

Door = Point of access, place of entrance, or barrier if closed (**Matthew 7:7, John 10:1**)

Dragon = Cruel ruler, persecutor of God's people, the devil (**Revelation 12:9**)

Earth = Humanity, the world, God's creation (**Genesis 1:1-2, Nehemiah 9:6**)

Earthquake = Political, moral, or spiritual upheaval, a great fall (**Haggai 2:21-22**)

Egypt = A city with a spiritual meaning, place of bondage (**Exodus, Hebrews 11:24-26**)

Fire = Destructive agent, a way of purification, or divine judgment (**Genesis 3:24**)

First Resurrection = Spiritual resurrection or baptism (**Ephesians 2:5-6**)

Flesh = Worldly things, can mean riches and possessions (**Galatians 5:16-21**)

Flood = Distress, persecution, or a cleansing (**Psalms 66:12, Isaiah 8:7**)

Forehead = (The Mark) Public confession, profession, or ownership (**Exodus 13:9, 16**)

Fornication = Spiritual adultery, idolatry, and false religion (**Isaiah 23:17**)

Garden = Place of safety, paradise, and peace (**Ezekiel 28:13, Joel 2:3**)

Grave = Place of obscurity, forgotten (**Psalms 69:15, Ezekiel 31:16**)

Gog = (Magog) A city or cities with spiritual meaning, place of evil (**Ezekiel 39:1, 11, 15**)

Hail = Destruction from the heavens, calamity, and disaster (**Psalm 18:12-13**)

Harlot = Prostitute, whore, agent of fornication and adultery (**Ezekiel 16:15-17**)

Horns = Powers or kings (**Jeremiah 48:25**)

Horse = Warfare (see colors for further indication), battle, struggle (**Hosea 14:1-3**)

Hour = An undetermined period of time, usually a short amount (**Matthew 25:13**)

Hunger = Famine, suffering, without nourishment (**Jeremiah 11:22**)

Idols = Gold, silver, bronze, stone, or wood images (**I Chronicles 16:26**)

Incense = The lives and prayers of the saints (**Ephesians 5:2, Philippians 4:18**)

Islands = Distant countries, outlying areas, beyond the Mediterranean (**Isaiah 41:1-5**)

Jerusalem = The holy city, the true church, heavenly kingdom (**Isaiah 66:8**)

Jezebel = Unholy, unfaithful influence of evil, false teacher or prophet (**II Kings 9:7-37**)

Judgment = Punishment, penalty, execution of a sentence (**Ezekiel 23:24**)

Key = Authority, power, influence, or access (**Matthew 16:18-19**)

Lamb = Jesus Christ, the sacrifice for our sins (**Isaiah 53:7**)

Lamps = Light, truth and good news (**Psalm 109:105**)

Lion = Kingship, the power of a ruler (**Hosea 5:14, Joel 3:16**)

Locusts = Armies that devour and bring destruction (**Judges 6:5, 7:12**)

Manna = The bread of life, the word of God, live-saving nourishment (**Nehemiah 9:20**)

Measuring Reed = (Rod or Stick) A standard of measurement (**Ezekiel 40:3, 5**)

Mountains = Kingdoms or governmental powers (**Amos 4:1**)

Nation = Tribe, tongue, language, or people on the earth (**Psalm 59:5, Jeremiah 46:28**)

Omega = The last, the end, finality (**Revelation 1:8, 1:11, 21:6, 22:13**)

Punish = Act of vengeance, execution of a sentence, judgment (**Luke 10:14**)

Resurrection = Recovery, restoration, recapturing the lost state (**Ezekiel 37:9**)

Sea = The pagan world, the realm under the surface, things not seen (**Daniel 7:3**)

Seal = Symbol of reservation, secrecy, security, and safety (**Isaiah 29:11**)

Second Death = Hell, spiritual death, separation (**Revelation 2:11, 20:6, 20:14, 21:8**)

Serpent = The devil, Satan, the deceiver (**Genesis 3**)

Sodom = A city with a spiritual meaning, place of sinfulness (**Isaiah 1:9-10**)

Star = (Sun, Moon, Stars) Dignitaries, leaders, government (**Matthew 24:29**)

Sword = Conquest, slaughter, weapon of warfare (**Ezekiel 6:3, 7:15**)

Temple = Place of worship, the church, the throne room of God (**Psalms 84:10**)

Throne = Authority, power, and symbol of rulers (**Proverbs 20:28**)

Trumpet = The sound of battle, proclaiming war or peace (**Isaiah 18:3**)

White Robes = The righteousness of the saints, purity (**Mark 16:5, Luke 9:29**)

Winds = Strife, commotion, uncontrolled destructive forces (**Ezekiel 5:10-12**)

Witness = One who gives testimony to what he/she has seen or heard (**Hebrews 12:1**)

Year = A predetermined period of time, a cycle of time (**Psalms 90:4, II Peter 3:8**)