

The Symbols of The Apocalypse

Briefly Defined

Preface

The compiler of this little hand-book is largely indebted to the ablest of Apocalyptic expositors.

The simplicity and grandeur of the Book of Revelation have been greatly obscured, and its difficulty increased by the constant tendency to literalize its symbols.

The earliest and simplest form of written language consisted chiefly of symbolic figures or hieroglyphics, which represented *ideas*; as letters, at a later period, represented sounds. Thus a sword or a bow would denote warfare ; an olive branch, peace; a chain, captivity: and so on. Language of this kind is forcible, simple, exact, and uniform in its signification.

Any natural object used for the purpose of bringing before the mind another object; any image which embodies an *idea*, or which contains within itself a representation of something else, is termed a symbol, "a grouping together of moral qualities by means of one being or several," by which a complete idea is formed of the thing symbolized. "Thus with the beast (Rev. 13) it is hardly possible to understand the symmetrical arrangement of seven heads and ten horns; whereas, we understand easily seven forms of government for the beast, and his power represented by ten kings."

Stafford,

Chapter I

1. **Angel:** The mystical representation of one not actually seen. So used of Jehovah. (Matt. 18:10; Acts 12:15.)
4. **The Seven Spirits:** The Holy Ghost in His varied operations of governmental power. (Chap. 4:5.) [Seven is spiritual completeness, the highest indivisible number.]
12. **Seven Golden Candlesticks:** [Lamp-stands.] Responsible vessels of light on earth in their totality.
13. **Garment down to the Foot:** Garb of priestly discrimination, not now in service, but judging.
Golden Girdle: Divine righteousness and faithfulness. (Isa. 11:5.)
14. **White like Wool.** The divine glory of the ancient of days, viewed in that character. (Dan. 7:9.)
Eyes as a Flame of Fire: Attribute of searching, intelligent judgment; judicial discernment.
15. **Feet like fine Brass:** Righteousness in dealing with man in his responsibility.
Voice as the sound of many Waters: Overwhelming power and majesty. (Ezek. 1:24; 43:2.)
16. **Seven Stars:** Completeness of subordinate authority under Christ in light.
Sharp two-edged Sword: Searching judgment of the word of God. (Isa. 49:2; Heb. 4:12.)
Countenance as the Sun: Splendor of supreme authority.
18. **Keys of Death and of Hades:** Power over death and the departed state.
20. **Angels of the Seven Churches:** The moral representatives of the responsibility of the assemblies. A symbolical representation of the assembly viewed in those responsible in it.