

symbolic form in prophecy. A few examples are those of Balaam (Num. 22; Rev. 2:14), Jezebel (1 Ki. 16-19; Rev. 2:20) and Babylon (Jer. 50; Rev. 17:3-5).

- (5) Allow the Bible to be its own interpreter. (Isa. 28:10; 1 Cor. 2:13). "To understand doctrine, bring all the scriptures together on the subject you wish to know, then let every word have its proper influence; and if you can form your theory without a contradiction, you cannot be in error. Scripture must be its own expositor, since it is a rule of itself. If I depend on a teacher to expound to me, and he should guess at its meaning, or desire to have it so on account of his sectarian creed, or to be thought wise, then his guessing, desire, creed, or wisdom is my rule, and not the Bible." – Miller, Views of the Prophecies and Prophetic Chronology, p. 20.
- (6) Revelation is the last chapter of the book! You can read the last chapter and sometimes find out what happens, but with very little detail (and many times, understanding!). In Revelation, all books of the Bible meet and end.
- (7) Revelation must be studied, as all scripture, with a willingness to follow what is therein revealed (Rev. 1:3; 22:7; John 7:17; Matt. 7:21-27). We are practicing self-deception if we don't put what we learn into practice (James 1:22).

Following is a list of key terms that often have symbolic meanings in Bible prophecy. Each symbol is in bold type and is followed by its corresponding literal meaning:

Babylon=Religious apostasy/confusion
Genesis 10:8-10; 11:6-9; Revelation 18:2, 3; 17:1-5

Beast=Kingdom/government/political power
Daniel 7:17, 23

Dragon=Satan or his agency
Isaiah 27:1; 30:6, Psalm 74:13, 14; Revelation 12:7-9;
Ezekiel 29:3; Jeremiah 51:34

Harlot=Apostate church/religion
Isaiah 1:21-27; Jeremiah 3:1-3; 6-9

Heads=Major powers/rulers/governments
Revelation 17:3, 9, 10

Horn=King or kingdom
Daniel 7:24; 8:5, 21, 22; Zechariah 1:18, 19; Revelation 17:12

Mark=Sign or seal of approval or disapproval
Ezekiel 9:4; Romans 4:11; Revelation 13:17; 14:9-11;
7:2, 3

Mountains=Political or religio-political powers
Isaiah 2:2, 3; Jeremiah 17:3; 31:23; 51:24, 25; Ezekiel 17:22, 23; Daniel 2:35, 44, 45

Seal=Sign or mark of approval or disapproval
Romans 4:11; Revelation 7:2, 3

Stars=Angels/messengers
Revelation 1:16, 20; 12:4, 7-9; Job 38:7

Sun=Jesus/the gospel
Psalm 84:11; Malachi 4:2; Matthew 17:2; John 8:12; 9:5

Sword=Word of God
Ephesians 6:17; Hebrews 4:12

Thief=Suddenness of Jesus' coming
1 Thessalonians 5:2-4; 2 Peter 3:10

Time=Literal year
Daniel 4:16, 23, 25, 32; 7:25; Daniel 11:13 margin

Waters=Inhabited area/people, nations
Revelation 17:15

White Robes=Victory/righteousness
Revelation 19:8; 3:5; 7:14

Winds=Strife/commotion/"winds of war"
Jeremiah 25:31-33; 49:36, 37; 4:11-13; Zechariah 7:14

Woman, Pure=True church
Jeremiah 6:2; 2 Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 5:23-27

Woman, Corrupt=Apostate church
Ezekiel 16:15-58; 23:2-21; Hosea 2:5; 3:1; Rev. 14:4