

# WILLIAM MILLER'S EXPLANATION OF SYMBOLS

[This is has been provided strictly for a better understanding of William Miller's, as well as that of many other Millerites, mind set and not necessarily to provide an understanding of Biblical symbolism.]

**ADULTERY** – Idolatry  
Jer. 3:9; Ezek. 23:37

**AIR** – Spirit of piety - false theories  
Eph. 2:2

**ALTAR** – Christ  
Ps. 43:4; Heb. 13:10

**AMON** – A people, or son of my people

**ANCIENT OF DAYS** – God  
Dan. 7:9

**ANGEL** – Christ or messenger of God  
Ex. 23:20; Rev. 1:1; 20:1

**ARK** – Christ  
Ps. 132:8; Num. 10:33

**ASCENSION INTO HEAVEN** – Dignity and honor  
John 6:62; Isa. 14:13, 14; Rev. 11:12

**ASLEEP** – Death  
Acts 7:60; 2 Pet. 3:4; 1 Cor. 15:18

**AWAKE** – Resurrection  
Job 14:12; Ps. 17:15; John 11:11; Dan. 12:2

**BABYLON** – Confusion, mixture, worldly

**BALAAM** – Their destruction without the prophet

**BALANCE** – Justice or worldly mind  
Daniel 5:27; Rev. 6:5

**BANNER** – Gospel ensign, love  
Cant. 2:4

**BEASTS** – Kingdoms or powers  
Dan. 7:3, 17; Rev. 4:6-8; 5:8, 9

**BEHELD or BEHOLDING** – Joy, or grief, according to the circumstances  
Ps. 119:158; Rev. 11:12

**BED** – A place of confinement  
Rev. 2:22; Isa. 28:20

**BELLY** – Practical part  
Rom. 16:18; Job 15:35; Rev. 10:9, 10; Luke 15:16;  
John 7:38

**BIND** – To judge and condemn  
Matt. 12:30; 22:13

**BIRD or FOWL** – Warriors and conquerors  
Isa. 46:11; Jer. 12:9; Rev. 18:2

**BIRTH** – Deliverance from heavy judgments  
Isa. 37:3-20; 66:9

**BLACK** – Error, cruelty, death  
Jer. 4:28; Rev. 6:5-12

**BLASPHEMY** – Idolatry  
Isa. 65:7; Ezek. 20:24-27

**BLESS or BLESSED** – Saved from sin and from death  
Ps. 28:9; 37:22; Isa. 61:9; Rev. 14:13

**BLIND** – Self-righteousness  
Matt. 15:14; 23:16-26

**BLOOD** – Death, war and slaughter  
Matt. 27:24; Isa. 15:9; 34:3; Rev. 6:10; 8:8; 11:6;  
14:20

**BLOWING OF THE WIND** – The Holy Spirit doing its office in regeneration  
Cant. 4:16; John 3:8; Rev. 7:1

**BOOK** – God's designs, knowledge and counsel.  
*Reading*, is to make his designs known. To *Seal*, is to shut up, or make sure  
Ps. 139:16; Is. 34:16

**BOW AND ARROWS** – Victory over enemies  
Isa. 41:2; Rev. 6:2

**BRASS** – is used for impudence and sin, warlike  
Isa. 48:4; Jer. 6:28; Mic. 4:13

**BRANCH** – a descendant or offspring  
Isa. 11:1; Jer. 23:5; Dan. 11:7

**BREAD** – Doctrine of life  
Amos 8:11; Matt. 4:4

**BREAST-PLATE** – Defense or armor  
Isa. 59:17; Rev. 9:9

**BREASTS** – Consolation, word of God  
Isa. 66:11

**BRIDLE** – The restraining power of God  
Isa. 30:28

**BRIMSTONE** – Curse of God  
Isa. 30:33; 11:4

**BURNING WITH FIRE** – is to destroy, or change their  
state completely  
Mal. 4:1-3; 2 Pet. 3:10, 11; Rev. 20:9

**BUY, or BUYING** – is used as an act of giving or  
receiving religious instruction  
Isa. 55:1; Rev. 3:18; 13:17

**CANDLE** – is light  
Jer. 25:10; Matt. 5:15; Luke 11:36; 15:8

**CANDLESTICKS** – The means of light; as the  
kingdom of Christ, the two witnesses, and seven  
churches, are called candlesticks  
Dan. 5:5; Zech. 4:2, 11; Rev. 2:5; 11:4

**CARMEL** – The vineyard of God  
Mich. 7:14

**CHAIN** – signifies the laws of God; or man, in  
prophecy  
Ps. 149:8; Acts 28:20; Jude 6

**CHITTEM** – Those that bruise  
Dan. 11:30

**CITY OF GOD** – New Jerusalem  
Heb. 12:22; Rev. 3:12

**CITY OF NATIONS** – Antichrist, or Babylon. The  
streets of the great city are the ten kings  
Rev. 16:19; 17:18; Rev. 11:8, 13

**CLOUD, or TO RIDE ON A CLOUD** – is an emblem  
of power and great glory. Sometimes it means heavy  
judgments  
Matt. 24:30; Joel 2:2; Zeph. 1:15

**CROWN** – Dignity and honor  
Prov. 16:31; Isa. 28:1-5; 62:3

**CRY or CRIED** – To be sensible of want. Prayers and  
petitions for relief; or forerunner of war  
2 Kings 4:40; Ps. 30:2-8; Rev. 14:18

**DARKNESS** – Ignorance, unbelief, and every evil  
work, confusion, and horror  
Prov. 4:19; Isa. 60:2; Eph. 5:11

**DAY** – is one year - revolution of the earth in its orbit  
Num. 14:34; Ezek. 4:5, 6; Dan. 9:24

**DAY OF THE LORD** – Judgment day, or 1000 years  
1 Thess. 5:2; 2 Pet. 3:8-10; Rev. 20:4-7

**DEATH** – Separation from body, from holiness, from  
God; inactive, separate from former state. This is the  
proper sense

**DESERT or WILDERNESS** – paganism, or away from  
the force of the laws of the Romish Church  
Isa. 40:3; Ezek. 47:8; Rev. 12:6

**DEVIL** – Roman government; pagan and papal, when  
used as a symbol  
Rev. 2:10; 12:9; 22:2

**DEW AND RAIN** – signify the pouring out of the Spirit  
and heavenly blessing  
Ps. 133:3; Prov. 19:12; Hosea 14:5

**DOGS** – Wicked men and teachers  
Isa. 56:10; Rev. 22:15; Phil. 3:2; Ps. 59:6-14

**DRAGON** – Rome pagan, afterwards papal,  
persecuting governments  
Rev. 17:8

**DRUNKENNESS** – Intoxicated with worldly riches,  
pleasures and honors  
Isa. 29:9; Matt. 24:49; Luke 21:34

**EAGLE** – denotes a people hid, or out of sight  
Rev. 12:14; 4:7; Matt. 24:28

**EARTH** – The Roman kingdom  
Rev. 13:12; 19:2

**EARTHQUAKE** – Revolutions  
Hag. 2:21, 22; Rev. 6:12; 16:18

**EAT** – To consume or destroy  
Rev. 17:16; James 5:3; Rev. 19:18

**ELDERS, TWENTY-FOUR** – denote the whole  
priesthood, taken from twenty-four courses  
1 Chron. 24

**FIRE** – is used to denote destruction, and justice of  
God or the Word of God  
Ps. 68:2; Heb. 12:29; Jer. 5:14

**FLESH** – Riches and honors of the world  
2 Pet. 2:10-18; 1 John 2:15, 16; Rev. 19:18

**FLOOD** – Great numbers  
Isa. 59:19; Dan. 9:26; Rev. 12:15, 16

**FOREHEAD** – Public profession, or character  
Jer. 3:3; Ezek. 9:4; Rev. 7:3; 13:16

**FROGS** – The symbolic meaning of frogs (say some)  
is flatterers or impostors  
Rev. 16:13

**GARMENTS** – denote the character, as white denotes  
purity or righteousness; *rags*, filthy; *sackcloth*,  
mourning  
Dan. 7:9; Zech. 3:3, 4; Rev. 16:15

**GOD** – when used as a symbol, denotes a prince,  
ruler, or magistrate  
1 Cor. 8:5; Gal. 4:8

**GRAVE** – To hide in secret; put out of memory  
Job 14:13

**GRASS** – means people, as green the righteous, dry  
or stubble the wicked  
Isa. 40:6, 7, 8; 1 Pet. 1:24; Rev. 8:7; 9:4

**HAIL** – denotes wars, slaughter and desolation, by  
some Northern government  
Isa. 28:2, 17; 30:30, 32; Rev. 8:7

**HAND** – Symbol of action and labor  
Isa. 10:13; 48:13; Rev. 20:1; Dan. 8:25

**HARLOT** – An idolatrous community, or church  
Isa. 1:21; Jer. 3:1-8; Rev. 17:5

**HARVEST** – The gathering of men to their final  
destiny  
Matt. 13:39; Jer. 51:33; Joel 3:13

**HEAD** – The supreme power of the object  
Dan. 2:38; Eph. 1:22; Rev. 19:12

**HEAT** – Anger, calamity  
Deut. 29:24; Ezek. 3:14; Rev. 16:9

**HEAVEN** – Government of God with his people  
Deut. 11:21; Isa. 49:13; Matt. 16:19; 25:1, 14; Dan.  
7:18, 22

**HILL** – Kingdoms  
Isa. 2:2; 5:25; Mic. 6:1, 2

**HORN** – Kings  
Dan. 7:24; 8:20, 21; Rev. 17:12, 16

**HORSE** – War and conquest  
Prov. 21:31; Jer. 8:6  
*White*, victory – Rev. 6:2; 19:11  
*Black*, distress and calamity – Rev. 6:5  
*Red*, war and hostility – Rev. 6:4  
*Pale*, death and destruction – Rev. 6:8

**IRON** – Strength  
Dan. 2:33-41; Rev. 2:27

**ISRAEL** – Christian church  
Isa. 45:4-25; Gal. 6:16

**ISLANDS** – Small governments in Roman states  
Ezek. 26:15, 16; Zeph. 2:11; Rev. 10:20; 6:14

**JERUSALEM** – The church of God  
Isa. 52:9; Gal. 4:26

**JEZEBEL** – Antichrist  
1 Kings 18:19; Rev. 2:20; 8:36; Rev. 6:4; 11:7

**KILLING** – Depriving of power  
Ps. 44:22; Rom. 8:36; Rev. 6:4; 11:7

**KING** – Forms of government or power  
Dan. 8:23; Rev. 9:11; 17:10

**LAMB** – Messiah  
Isa. 16:1; John 1:29; Rev. 5:12

**LAMP** – Word of God or Mahometan Bible  
Ps. 119:105; Rev. 8:10

**LEOPARD** – A cruel, fierce, and quick conqueror  
Hosea 13:7; Hab. 1:8; Rev. 13:2

**LION** – Valiant, strong, courageous  
Prov. 28:1; 30:30; Rev. 10:3; 13:2

**LOCUSTS** – Great armies  
Isa. 33:4; Nah. 3:15, 17; Rev. 9:3-7

**MARK** – To profess allegiance. The Roman soldiers had marked foreheads and hands  
Ezek. 9:4; Rev. 13:16, 17; 14:9, 11

**MEASURE** – Completed, finished  
Ps. 29:4; Jer. 51:13; Matt. 23:32; Rev. 11:1

**MERCHANTS** – Professed ministers of Christ  
Isa. 23:8, 18; Jer. 14:18; Rev. 18:11, 12, 23

**MOON** – Gospel or church  
Isa. 30:26; Rev. 12:1; Cant. 6:10

**MOUNTAIN** – Governments  
Isa. 2:2; Dan. 2:35

**MOUNTAIN, HOLY** – The gospel kingdom or the seat of Antichrist  
Isa. 11:9; Ezek. 28:14; Dan. 11:45

**MORNING** – Resurrection of the just  
Ps. 49:14

**MOUTH** – Commands, or laws  
Dan. 7:8; Rev. 13:5; 16:13; 1 Thess. 2:8

**NAKED** – Shame and disgrace  
Mic. 1:8, 11; Rev. 3:18; 16:15; 17:16

**NIGHT** – Moral darkness or wickedness  
Isa. 21:8; Rom. 13:12; 1 Thess. 5:5; Rev. 21:25

**NUMBER or NUMBERED** – Finished - end  
Ps. 90:12; Dan. 5:26; Ezek. 4:4-6; Rev. 13:17, 18

**OIL** – Faith  
Matt. 25:8; Cant. 1:3; Heb. 4:2

**OX** – denotes a people for slaughter  
Prov. 7:22; Jer. 11:19; Num. 23:1

**RAIN** – Reformation, grace, refreshing  
Deut. 32:2; Hosea 6:3; James 5:7

**RED** – Persecuting, bloody  
Rev. 6:4; 12:3

**RIVERS** – People living on the rivers, mentioned  
Isa. 8:7; Rev. 8:10; 16:4

**ROD OF IRON** – Power of Christ  
Ps. 2:9; Isa. 11:1; Rev. 2:27

**SCARLET** – Bloody, cruel  
Rev. 17:3, 4

**SEA** – A large body of people  
Isa. 57:20; Dan. 7:3; Rev. 7:2, 3

**SHIELD AND BUCKLER**  
Ps. 91:4

**STARS** – Ministers in the church, or rulers in the world  
Rev. 12:1; Dan. 8:10; 12:3; Jude 13

**SUN** – As in the natural, so in the moral world, source of all light, Christ or his word  
Gen. 37:9; Ps. 84:11; Mal. 4:2

**SWORD** – Slaughter  
Jer. 15:3; Ezek. 21:28

**SWORD, TWO-EDGED** – Word of God  
Ps. 149:6; Heb. 4:12; Rev. 1:16; 2:12

**TAIL** – Subordinate officers or provinces  
Isa. 9:14, 15; Rev. 12:4

**TEETH, LARGE IRON** – Strong devouring enemy  
Dan. 7:7, 19; Rev. 9:8

**TEMPLE** – The church professedly of Christ or Antichrist  
Mal. 3:1; 2 Cor. 6:16; Rev. 7:15

**THUNDER** – Sudden dispersion of armies or kingdoms  
1 Sam. 2:10; Isa. 29:5, 6; Ps. 18:13

**TREE OF LIFE** – Jesus Christ  
Rev. 2:7; 22:2

**VINE** – A class of people, as wicked or righteous  
Hosea 10:1; Rev. 14:18

**VOICES** – Many people engaged in the same cry to be eased of burdens, or rejoicing  
Luke 23:23; Rev. 8:5; 11:15, 19

**WALK WITH GOD** – is to live with and be in communion with him  
2 Cor. 6:16; Rev. 3:4

**WATERS** – Flesh or people  
Num. 24:7; Isa. 48:1; 8:7; John 5:8; Rev. 17:15

**WHIRLWIND** – Heavy judgments of God  
Ps. 58:9; Prov. 1:27; Isa. 66:15

**WILDERNESS** – Outlawed from the great city  
Deut. 32:10; Jer. 12:10; Rev. 12:6

**WIND** – Doctrine, good and bad  
Cant. 4:16; Isa. 26:18; Eph. 4:14

**WINE** – is consolation, and anger, and justice  
Cant. 5:1; Isa. 55:1; Rev. 16:19; 17:2

**WINGS** – Protection, defense  
Ex. 19:4; Ps. 17:8; 36:7; Rev. 9:9; 12:14

**WITNESS** – Christ, prophets and apostles  
Isa. 43:10; Acts 1:8, 22; Rev. 1:5; 3:14; 20:4

**WITNESSES, TWO** – Two testaments, scriptures,  
figured by the two cherubim  
Rev. 11:3, 4; Zach. 4:3-6; John 5:39; 1 John 5:9; Ex.  
31:18

**WOMAN** – The true church and anti-Christian church  
Isa. 54:6; Jer. 6:2; Rev. 12:1; 17:3, 7

**WOOD** – People  
Jer. 5:14

**WORDS OF GOD** – Fire  
Jer. 5:14

**WRATH, DAY OF** – Judgment day  
Job 21:30; Ps. 110:5; Zeph. 1:15; Rom. 2:5; Rev. 6:17