

A FEW SYMBOLS FOUND IN THE BIBLE

Sword outside of Eden (Genesis 3:24)	Loss of fellowship between God and man
Burning Bush (Exodus 3)	God's holiness
Pillar of cloud (Exodus 13:21-22)	God's presence and guidance
Boiling pot (Jeremiah 1:13)	Judgment from the north
Four beasts (Daniel 7)	Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome
Two olive trees (Zechariah 4:3, 11-14)	Zerubbabel and Joshua
Oil (Zechariah 4:1-6)	Holy Spirit
Seven golden lamp stands (Revelation 1:12-20)	Seven churches
Seven stars (Revelation 1:12-20)	Angels (pastors) of the seven churches
Bread and wine (Luke 22:19-20)	Christ's body and blood
Dragon (Revelation 12:13-17)	Satan
Horn (I Samuel 2:1; Psalm 112:9)	Strength
Incense (Revelation 8:3-4)	Prayer
Lion (I Peter 5:8)	Satan as a ferocious being
Lion (Revelation 5:5)	Christ as king
Serpent (Genesis 3:1; II Corinthians 11:3)	Satan
Stone (Daniel 2:44-45)	Christ
Water (John 7:38-39)	Holy Spirit
Water (Ephesians 5:26)	Word of God
Water (Titus 3:5)	Regeneration
Beating one's breast (Luke 18:13)	Expressing remorse
Sitting in dust and ashes (Job 42:6)	Expressing repentance
Tearing one's clothes (Job 1:20)	Symbolizing grief

The ordinances of the church – baptism and the Lord's Supper – are symbolic actions. Water baptism symbolizes the believer's identification with Christ in his death, burial, and resurrection. The Lord's Supper is taken to symbolize the Lord's death with bread picturing Jesus' body and the cup symbolizing His blood which was shed for us on the cross.

Next time we will talk about symbolic numbers and guidelines for interpreting symbols.