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

DESSERT 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

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