

# SCRIPTURAL SIGNS AND SYMBOLS

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*The Bible is full of God given signs and symbols that are often used to identify prophetic truths, prophetic dates and seasons, spiritual truths and metaphors, etc. These signs and symbols are often reflected in the creation itself, thus taking on a dual role of natural functionality and spiritual metaphor at the same time. There are also supernatural signs and wonders that God uses to give credibility spiritual truths and promises. In this age of the Spirit, Jesus spoke of the signs which would identify the believers. They included speaking in tongues, the voice gifts in the meetings, healing etc. This brief study will address a few signs and symbols that relate to astronomical and heavenly symbols.*

*Signs identify how, why and where things are.*

**God establishes the principles of signs and symbols in the first chapter of the bible. GEN 1:14** And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be (designated purpose) for **signs**, and for **seasons**, and for **days**, and **years**: Natural and spiritual timing can be taken from the nature of the heavens above.

*Signs identify the unknown.*

**Each heavenly body has its particular spiritual significance in the plan of God. 1COR 15:41** There is one **glory** (significance) of the **sun**, and another glory of the **moon**, and another glory of the **stars**: for one **star** differeth from another **star** in glory. This statement contains natural and spiritual truths that are well ahead of their time.

*God has incorporated spiritual principles within natural observations.*

**These verses indicate the prophetic symbolism of the 'light in the darkness' and shows further astronomical bible themes.**

**JOH 1:1** In the beginning was the Word (Jesus), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** The same was in the beginning with God. **3** All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was **made** (to become, i.e. to come into existence). **4** In him was **life** (the anointing of the Spirit); and the life was the **light** of men (spiritual life is the only true light, natural life is darkness). **5** And the **light** shineth in darkness (darkness is the absence of spiritual light); and the **darkness** (the world) **comprehended** it not. Didn't understand nor take advantage of the value of the light. **6** There was a man sent from God, whose name [was] John. Symbolised by the star in the east that directed the wise men to Christ (Mat 2:7).

**7** The same came for a **witness** (sign of the prophets), to **bear witness of the Light**, that all [men] through him might believe. A lesser light pointed to a greater light. This is the same metaphor that is used for the Christ/God relationship. **8** He was **not that Light**, but [was sent] to bear witness of that Light. John's star pointed to Jesus... Jesus pointed to God.

*Further revelation of God's purposes and creativity.*

**Jesus is symbolised by the moon. Most of the observable natural principles of the moon and sun also apply to the spiritual.**

**JOH 12:49** For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. Jesus reflected only the will and commandments of God. **50** And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak. The moon only reflects light (it has no source of light of itself), it bears witness of the sun, even though it cannot be seen at night. (When we give our testimony, we also reflect the light/power of God). Clouds hide the moon, but it is still there. If we go back and re-read John1, it will take on another meaning outside of the natural/spiritual comparison that has already been made.

**Jesus prophesied of astronomical signs as well... he used them to reveal the last days of the human race. LUK 21:25** And there shall be **signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars**; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; The reference to sea and waves is interesting in light of the latest frequency of tsunamis.

**This O/T prophecy is also quoted, in the gospels, even Peter quotes it on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:20). JOEL 2:30** And I will shew wonders in the **heavens** and in the **earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke** (Same type as Moses in the wilderness... Egyptians armies all died in the Red sea (blood)... fire and pillars of smoke were in the wilderness as the Holy Ghost hovered over them). **31** The **sun** shall be turned into darkness (the word of God will be ignored... also occurred when Christ was on the cross), and the **moon** into blood (the son of God would be murdered), **before** the great and the terrible day of the **LORD** come (also see Mal 4). These signs also occurred while Jesus was on the cross... natural darkness came over the land, God abandoned him (spiritual darkness), blood sacrifice ended with his death... also tearing the temple curtain in half.

*Further uses of the sun as a judgment against sinful humanity is revealed.*

**MAL 4:1** For, behold, the day cometh, that shall **burn as an oven**; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the **LORD** of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch The concept of fire is also used once again... this supports the last day prophecy that the world will be judged by fire. **2** But unto you that fear my name shall the **Sun** of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall. **3** And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do [this], saith the **LORD** of hosts. Sun of righteousness shall rise... Jesus is coming back as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. He won't be reflecting the authority of God as the "moon"... He will be the very source of Light Himself.

**God uses the sun/moon symbols in two different ways... consider the next two prophecies.**

**REV 21:23** And the city had no need of the **sun**, neither of the **moon**, to shine in it: for the glory of **God** did lighten it, and the **Lamb** is the light thereof. The sun and moon were natural symbols of the real powers which are now described.

Also **ISA 30:26** Moreover the **light of the moon** shall be as the light of the **sun** (Jesus will be as powerful as God), and the light of the **sun** shall be sevenfold, as the light of seven days (the seventh day is the millennium, where the power of God will be brighter than ever, because Satan is chained for the full time... the truth and power of God will not be polluted), in the day that the **LORD** bindeth up the breach of his people, and healeth the stroke of their wound. Total peace and rest will return to the earth.

*All these signs identify a consistent scriptural theme... everything is created for a purpose... with both the creation and true salvations being identified by signs.*

This is just a small sample of how these symbols are used in the scriptures. Also revealed is the multilayered content of prophecy.