Visual	Definition	Explanation
Lampstands	**Christ’s churches and their witness**	The seven lampstands represent the whole church under the sevenfold Holy Spirit. The two lampstands in Revelation 11 shows the Church carrying out its vocation as a witness of Christ.
Book / scroll	**God’s prophetic revelation of history under Christ**	The seven-sealed scroll contains the course of events from Christ’s victory to the End. The little open scroll emphasizes the prophetic message John receives and proclaims. The Book of Life records those belonging to the Lamb.
Seal	**Security, authentication, ownership and protection**	Seals on the scroll secure and conceal its contents. God’s seal on believers identifies them as his property and assures his spiritual protection through tribulation.
Trumpet	**A divine announcement calling attention to judgment and salvation**	The trumpet judgments also function as calls to repentance. A trumpet-like voice can represent the commanding voice of Christ.
Eyes	**Complete knowledge and watchful presence**	The Lamb’s seven eyes signify that Christ sees and knows all through the sevenfold Spirit of God.
Horns	**Power and authority**	The Lamb’s seven horns signify his complete and supreme power. The beast’s horns represent earthly rulers and powers.

Visual	Definition	Explanation
Heads	**Kings, rulers or governing authorities**	The precise rulers depend upon the beast and passage being interpreted.
Incense	**The prayers of God's people rising before him**	The incense is offered with the saints' prayers; fire cast down from the altar represents God's answering judgment.
Bowls / censers	**Heavenly vessels carrying prayers or judgment**	Golden vessels before God contain incense and prayers; the seven last bowls contain and dispense God's wrath. The vessel's contents determine its meaning.
Sea	**Chaos, evil and the separation produced by sin**	The sea itself should not simply be defined as "evil human government." Its disappearance in the new creation signifies the removal of chaos, rebellion and separation.
Sea and land together	**The whole created earth**	In passages such as Revelation 10, the pair expresses the totality of the earthly creation—not two opposing institutions.
Beast from the sea	**Secular human power employed by Satan**	This includes political, governmental, social, economic, educational and philosophical authorities—not merely one government. Rome is the chief historical model.
Beast from the earth / false prophet	**False religion and apostate pseudo-Christianity**	This is the proper place for the definition previously assigned to "land." It uses religious deception to support the first beast.
Harlot / fornication	**Idolatry and the apostate counterfeit church**	The harlot looks religious and glorious outwardly but corrupts God's truth and joins herself to worldly power.

Visual	Definition	Explanation
Jewels / precious stones	**Glory, splendor or seductive luxury—depending on context**	Around God and the New Jerusalem, jewels reflect divine glory. On the harlot, they represent Rome's luxury, attraction and corrupting splendor.
Water of life / river	**Eternal life given and sustained by God**	It depicts the restored creation, God's continuing provision and the life flowing from God and the Lamb.
Sound of many waters	**A majestic, overwhelming voice or heavenly praise**	Used as a comparison for the voice of Christ or the thunderous praise of heaven.
Many waters beneath the harlot	**Peoples, nations, crowds and languages**	Revelation 17 explicitly gives this meaning; it should not be confused with the "sound of many waters."

The Symbols listed here are some of the more common ones used in Revelation. The list is not exhaustive.

Prologue, Greetings & Initial vision (Chapter 1)

Prologue and Greetings (1:1-8) Only two books begin with a prologue: John and Revelation

1. This book is a __revelation_____ of ____Jesus Christ_____. It points to Him; it focuses on Him; it talks about Him. (1:1)

2. _God_____ does the revealing to __John_____. (1:1) by sending an angle.

3. God gave this revelation to be a ___blessing_____ : (1:3)

   a. by _reading_____

   b. by __hearing_____

   c. by ___taking to heart_____(believing it)

4. This letter by John is written to __seven_____ ___churches___ in Asia Minor (1:4) [it was a "circular letter." That is: passed and shared among them; then shared with other congregations; now shard with us.

5. The source of grace and peace is __the Triune God_____; (1:4-5)

   a) _Father_____ – "Who is and who was and who is to come" The eternal 'I AM'

   b) __Jesus_____ ___Christ_____ – "the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, the ruler of the kings of the earth"

   c) __Holy_____ __Spirit_____ – "sevenfold Spirit before His throne"

6. Note what Jesus has done for us:

   a) ___loves_____ us

   b) Has __freed_____ us from our ___sins_____ by His __blood_____

   c) Has made us a _kingdom_____ and __priests_____ to _serve_____ God and we respond with __praise_____ and __honor_____ always! (1:5-6)

7. 1:7 Explains the theme of Revelation, that _Jesus is coming again as Judge. Every living creature will see Him (believers and unbelievers)_____

8. What is the significance of "every eye will see Him" (1:7) _All people will witness His second coming_____

One Like a Son of Man (1:9-20)



1. What's your favorite picture of Jesus?

2. John identifies himself as a __brother_____ and ____partner_____ of his readers through faith in Christ (1:9).

3. This faith brings __suffering_____, ___a kingdom_____, and __patient____endurance_____ (1:9)

4. John is on the prison island of Patmos because of his proclamation of the _Word of God_____ and the testimony of __Jesus_____ __Christ_____(1:9; see also 1:2)

5. John receives this vision on "___The Lord's Day_____" while he is in "__in the spirit_____" (1:10-11).

[see Acts 10:10-11]