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# The Symbols for and Supreme Authority of the Bible

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## ARTICLE SIX

### THE SYMBOLS FOR AND SUPREME AUTHORITY OF THE BIBLE

#### PART ONE: SYMBOLS FOR THE BIBLE

- I. It is called a mirror because it reflects the mind of God and the true condition of man.
- II. A Seed (1 Pet. 1:23; 1:18; Matt. 13:23). It is called a seed because, once properly planted, it brings forth life, growth, and fruit.
- III. Water (Eph. 5:25-27). It is called water because of its cleansing, quenching, and refreshing qualities. (See Psa. 42:1; 119:9; Prov. 25:25; Isa. 55:10; Heb. 10:22; Rev. 22:17.)
- IV. A Lamp (Psa. 119:105; Prov. 6:23; 2 Pet. 1:19). It is called a lamp because it shows us where we are now, it guides us in the next step, and it keeps us from falling.
- V. A Sword (Heb. 4:12; Eph. 6:17). It is called a sword because of its piercing ability, operating with equal effectiveness upon sinners, saints and Satan! Of the various armour pieces mentioned in Ephesians 6:11-17, all to be worn by the believer, the only offensive piece is the “sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.”
- VI. Precious Metals
  - A. Gold (Psa. 19:10; 119:12, 127)
  - B. Silver (Psa. 12:6). It is referred to as precious metals because of its desirability, its preciousness, its beauty, and its value.
- VII. Nourishing Food
  - A. Milk (1 Pet. 2:2)
  - B. Meat (Heb. 5:12-14)
  - C. Bread (John 6:51)
  - D. Honey (Psa. 19:10). It is referred to as nourishing food because of the strength it imparts. The Bible is the original “soul food.”
- VIII. A Hammer (Jer. 23:29). It is referred to as a hammer because of its ability to both tear down and to build up. (See Acts 9:4; Jude 20.)
- IX. A Fire (Jer. 20:9; Luke 24:32). It is called a fire because of its judging, purifying, and consuming abilities.

#### PART TWO: THE SUPREME AUTHORITY OF THE BIBLE

- I. Over Human Reason (Isa. 1:18; Rom. 12:1-2; Prov. 3:5-7; Isa. 55:8-9).
- II. Over the Church – The New Testament abounds with passages which declare Christ is the Head of the church. (See Eph. 1:22; 2:19-20; 4:15-16; 5:23-30; Col. 1:18; 2:9.) The Savior, it

must be remembered, gave birth to the church, and not the other way around. (See Matt. 16:18.)

III. Over Tradition – In this atomic and space age in which we live today where change occurs at rocket speed, it will doubtless cause many to appreciate even more some of our beautiful traditions of the past. And rightly so. But traditions, like changes, can be wrong. If a thing was in error when it began, it is still in error regardless of the centuries that separate it from us today (Matt. 15:6; Col. 2:8).

IV. Over Religious Leaders – “Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.... Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you” (Heb. 13:7, 17). As important as these verses are, they do not teach spiritual leaders are to become our source of authority. While godly pastors are indeed called to serve as role models (1 Cor. 11:1; 1 Tim. 4:12; 1 Pet. 5:3), the Bible alone must be our ultimate guide and standard.

V. Over Feelings and Experiences – At times Christians fall unto error because they “felt led” to do or say certain things. However we must learn that at times our feelings can be treacherous and totally untrustworthy (Psa. 27:13; Psa. 42:5; Psa. 77:1-10; Psa. 116:11).

This is not only the case with our feelings, but also our experiences. One of Job’s three “friends,” Eliphaz, based all his advice to the suffering Job on experience (Job 4:12-16). He is later severely rebuked by God himself for doing this. (See Job 42:7.)

Thus as valuable as personal experiences may be, it is no substitute for the revealed Word of God.