

I. Definition:

- a. A sign is a symbolic or linguistic representation used to designate a person, an object, or a relationship.
- b. It is a mark having a conventional meaning and used in place of a word or words or to represent some complex notion.
- c. It is a symbol indicating the presence or existence of something else.
- d. Biblically, a sign is the use of a Hebrew, Aramaic or Greek word given to denote some divine, miraculous, or extraordinary person, object, or event that is indicated from the past, the present, or anticipated in the future.

2. Vocabulary:

- a. **אֵימָה** - 'oth - (Hebrew noun) meaning: sign or mark (Gen. 4:15; 9:12, 13, 17)
- b. **אַתָּה** - 'ath - (Aramaic. n.) meaning: sign (Dan. 4:2, 3; 6:27)
- c. **תָּבִי** - tav - (Heb. n.) meaning: mark or sign (Ezek. 9:4)
- d. **ποτήριον** - poterion - (Greek noun) meaning: cup, vessel; *metonymic use*: the contents, what is contained or represented (Luke 22:20; 1 Cor. 11:25); *figurative use*: a violent death (Matt. 20:22, 23; John 18:11; Rev. 14:10; 16:19; 18:6)
- e. **σημείον** - semeion - (Gk. n.) meaning: sign or distinguishing mark, a token or indication; a miraculous sign or miracle. (Matt. 12:38, 39; 16:1, 4; 1 Cor. 14:22; Rom. 4:11)
- f. **στίγμα** - stigma - (Gk. n.) meaning: mark, brand, scar, wound, blemish (Gal. 6:17)
- g. **σφραγίς** - sphragis - (Gk. n.) meaning: seal, signet, mark, that which confirms, attests, or authenticates or certifies (Rom. 4:11; 1 Cor. 9:2; 2 Tim. 2:19; Rev. 9:4)
- h. **σφραγίζω** - sphragidzo - (Gk. verb.) meaning: seal, mark, mark with a seal (Matt. 27:66; Eph. 1:13; 4:30; Rev. 7:3, 4-8)
- i. **χάραγμα** - charagma - (Gr. n.) meaning: a mark or a stamp (Rev. 13:16-17; 14:9, 11; 16:2; 19:20; 20:4)

3. Several Biblical Examples:

- a. The sign (or mark) of **Cain**. (Gen. 4:15)
- b. The sign of the **rainbow**. (Gen. 9:12, 13, 17)
- c. The sign of **circumcision**. for the Abrahamic Covenant (Gen. 17:10-14; Rom. 4:11)
- d. The sign of the **Passover**, blood on the doorposts and the lintels. (Ex. 12:6, 7, 11-13)

- e. The sign of **protection** for believers in the Jerusalem destruction in 586 BC by Nebuchadnezzar. (Ezek. 9:1-5ff)
- f. The **sign of the virgin birth**. (Isa. 7:11, 14; Luke 2:12)
- g. The **sign of Jonah**. (Matt. 12:39, 40; 16:4; Lk. 11:29, 30)
- h. The **unique** [miraculous] **sign-badge** of the Lord Jesus Christ authenticated that He was the promised Messiah. (Isa. 35:5f; 61:1; Mat. 11:2-5; John 3:1-35; 6; 6:14; John 9:32-33; Acts 2:22)
- i. The **sign of the New Covenant**. Jesus said, “*This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood.*” (Luke 2:34; 22:20; Matt. 26:27, 28; Mk. 14:23, 24; 1 Cor. 11:25; cf. Jer.31:31; Matt. 20:22, 23; John 18:11)
- j. The **unique** [miraculous] **sign-badge** which authenticated the apostles and their close associates as they were given the task of constructing the foundation of the church. (Acts 5:12a; 14:3; Heb. 2:3, 4a)
- k. The **sign of tongues**, miraculous language understanding. (Acts 2:4-11; 1 Cor. 14:21-22; cf. Isa. 28:11)
- l. The seal (sign) of **the Holy Spirit**. (2 Cor. 1:22; Eph. 1:13; 4:30; 2 Tim. 2:19)
- m. The **brandmarks of Paul**. (Gal. 6:17; 2 Cor. 4:7-11; 11:23-30)
- n. The **sealing (marking) of the 144,000** Hebrew believers during the future tribulation. (Rev.7:3, 4-8; 9:4; 14:1-5)
- o. The **mark of the unbelievers**, the so-called *mark of the beast*, during the future tribulation. (Rev. 13:16-18; 14:9, 11; 16:2; 19:20; 20:4; similar to Ezek. 9:1-5ff in 586 BC)
- p. **The cup of His anger**, the judgment of God’s wrath (Rev. 14:10; 16:19; 18:6), part of the 7th bowl (φιάλη - phiale) judgment. (Rev. 16:1)