



## Characteristics of a Gospel Symbol

1. Leads us to more understanding
2. Spans time, culture and language
3. Resembles the Thing it Stands For
4. Encourages Thinking
5. Helps us Remember and Retain
6. Reveals and Conceals Meaning
7. Compatible with the Scriptures
8. Designed to Raise Questions
9. Specific and Suggested Meanings
10. Improves Memory
11. Has more than One Meaning
12. Means different Things to Different People



## Steps of Interpreting

1. **Identify the symbol.** Describe the physical aspects of the symbol.
2. **Look Beyond the Symbol.** The symbol itself does not have meaning. Look for meaning, don't forget the words and context.
3. **Explore the Nature or Characteristic of the Symbol.** It is always logical from the symbol to its meaning and can be personal.
4. **Look for the Lord's Definition.** Compare it to the Plan of Salvation, the Scriptures and the Prophets words.
5. **All symbol interpretations should lead us to Christ.** All things bear record of Him.
6. **Always look for more and ask more questions.**

What do we know?

What do we know from what we know?

Is it Logical?

Is There More?

*"No Person Can Completely  
Define A Symbol"*

~ Elder Boyd K. Packer



## Characteristics of a Gospel Symbol

1. Leads us to more understanding
2. Spans time, culture and language
3. Resembles the Thing it Stands For
4. Encourages Thinking
5. Helps us Remember and Retain
6. Reveals and Conceals Meaning
7. Compatible with the Scriptures
8. Designed to Raise Questions
9. Specific and Suggested Meanings
10. Improves Memory
11. Has more than One Meaning
12. Means different Things to Different People



## Steps of Interpreting

1. **Identify the symbol.** Describe the physical aspects of the symbol.
2. **Look Beyond the Symbol.** The symbol itself does not have meaning. Look for meaning, don't forget the words and context.
3. **Explore the Nature or Characteristic of the Symbol.** It is always logical from the symbol to its meaning and can be personal.
4. **Look for the Lord's Definition.** Compare it to the Plan of Salvation, the Scriptures and the Prophets words.
5. **All symbol interpretations should lead us to Christ.** All things bear record of Him.
6. **Always look for more and ask more questions.**

What do we know?

What do we know from what we know?

Is it Logical?

Is There More?

*"No Person Can Completely  
Define A Symbol"*

~ Elder Boyd K. Packer