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Chapter 7. Then the high priest asked Stephen, "Are these accusations true?" Verse 2. This was Stephen's reply: "Brothers and fathers, listen to me. Our glorious God appeared to our ancestor Abraham in Mesopotamia before he settled in Haran. NLT






























































<p>ASL sign sequence for Verse 3: God's command to leave. The sequence includes signs for 'God' (a hand pointing up with fingers spread), 'said' (a hand pointing down), a thick horizontal line, 'leave' (a hand pointing down), 'your' (a hand pointing down), 'native land' (a hand pointing down), 'and' (a hand pointing down), 'your' (a hand pointing down), 'relatives' (a hand pointing down), 'and' (a hand pointing down), 'come' (a hand pointing down), 'into' (a hand pointing down), 'the' (a hand pointing down), 'land' (a hand pointing down), 'that' (a hand pointing down), 'I' (a hand pointing down), 'will' (a hand pointing down), 'show' (a hand pointing down), 'you' (a hand pointing down), 'So' (a hand pointing down), 'Abraham' (a hand pointing down), 'left' (a hand pointing down), 'the' (a hand pointing down), 'land' (a hand pointing down), 'of' (a hand pointing down), 'the' (a hand pointing down), 'Chaldeans' (a hand pointing down), 'and' (a hand pointing down), 'lived' (a hand pointing down), 'in' (a hand pointing down), 'Haran' (a hand pointing down), 'until' (a hand pointing down), 'his' (a hand pointing down), 'father' (a hand pointing down), 'died' (a hand pointing down), 'Then' (a hand pointing down), 'God' (a hand pointing down), 'brought' (a hand pointing down), 'him' (a hand pointing down), 'here' (a hand pointing down), 'to' (a hand pointing down), 'the' (a hand pointing down), 'land' (a hand pointing down), 'where' (a hand pointing down), 'you' (a hand pointing down), 'now' (a hand pointing down), 'live' (a hand pointing down).</p>	<p>ASL sign sequence for Verse 4: Abraham's journey. The sequence includes signs for 'Abraham' (a hand pointing down), 'left' (a hand pointing down), 'the' (a hand pointing down), 'land' (a hand pointing down), 'of' (a hand pointing down), 'the' (a hand pointing down), 'Chaldeans' (a hand pointing down), 'and' (a hand pointing down), 'lived' (a hand pointing down), 'in' (a hand pointing down), 'Haran' (a hand pointing down), 'until' (a hand pointing down), 'his' (a hand pointing down), 'father' (a hand pointing down), 'died' (a hand pointing down), 'Then' (a hand pointing down), 'God' (a hand pointing down), 'brought' (a hand pointing down), 'him' (a hand pointing down), 'here' (a hand pointing down), 'to' (a hand pointing down), 'the' (a hand pointing down), 'land' (a hand pointing down), 'where' (a hand pointing down), 'you' (a hand pointing down), 'now' (a hand pointing down), 'live' (a hand pointing down).</p>	<p>ASL sign sequence for Verse 5: God's promise to Abraham. The sequence includes signs for 'God' (a hand pointing down), 'said' (a hand pointing down), 'to' (a hand pointing down), 'Abraham' (a hand pointing down), 'I' (a hand pointing down), 'will' (a hand pointing down), 'bring' (a hand pointing down), 'you' (a hand pointing down), 'into' (a hand pointing down), 'the' (a hand pointing down), 'land' (a hand pointing down), 'that' (a hand pointing down), 'I' (a hand pointing down), 'will' (a hand pointing down), 'show' (a hand pointing down), 'you' (a hand pointing down), 'So' (a hand pointing down), 'Abraham' (a hand pointing down), 'left' (a hand pointing down), 'the' (a hand pointing down), 'land' (a hand pointing down), 'of' (a hand pointing down), 'the' (a hand pointing down), 'Chaldeans' (a hand pointing down), 'and' (a hand pointing down), 'lived' (a hand pointing down), 'in' (a hand pointing down), 'Haran' (a hand pointing down), 'until' (a hand pointing down), 'his' (a hand pointing down), 'father' (a hand pointing down), 'died' (a hand pointing down), 'Then' (a hand pointing down), 'God' (a hand pointing down), 'brought' (a hand pointing down), 'him' (a hand pointing down), 'here' (a hand pointing down), 'to' (a hand pointing down), 'the' (a hand pointing down), 'land' (a hand pointing down), 'where' (a hand pointing down), 'you' (a hand pointing down), 'now' (a hand pointing down), 'live' (a hand pointing down).</p>	<p>ASL sign sequence for Verse 6: God's promise to Abraham. The sequence includes signs for 'God' (a hand pointing down), 'said' (a hand pointing down), 'to' (a hand pointing down), 'Abraham' (a hand pointing down), 'I' (a hand pointing down), 'will' (a hand pointing down), 'bring' (a hand pointing down), 'you' (a hand pointing down), 'into' (a hand pointing down), 'the' (a hand pointing down), 'land' (a hand pointing down), 'that' (a hand pointing down), 'I' (a hand pointing down), 'will' (a hand pointing down), 'show' (a hand pointing down), 'you' (a hand pointing down), 'So' (a hand pointing down), 'Abraham' (a hand pointing down), 'left' (a hand pointing down), 'the' (a hand pointing down), 'land' (a hand pointing down), 'of' (a hand pointing down), 'the' (a hand pointing down), 'Chaldeans' (a hand pointing down), 'and' (a hand pointing down), 'lived' (a hand pointing down), 'in' (a hand pointing down), 'Haran' (a hand pointing down), 'until' (a hand pointing down), 'his' (a hand pointing down), 'father' (a hand pointing down), 'died' (a hand pointing down), 'Then' (a hand pointing down), 'God' (a hand pointing down), 'brought' (a hand pointing down), 'him' (a hand pointing down), 'here' (a hand pointing down), 'to' (a hand pointing down), 'the' (a hand pointing down), 'land' (a hand pointing down), 'where' (a hand pointing down), 'you' (a hand pointing down), 'now' (a hand pointing down), 'live' (a hand pointing down).</p>
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Verse 3. God told him, 'Leave your native land and your relatives, and come into the land that I will show you.' Verse 4. So Abraham left the land of the Chaldeans and lived in Haran until his father died. Then God brought him here to the land where you now live. NLT

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Verse 5. "But God gave him no inheritance here, not even one square foot of land. God did promise, however, that eventually the whole land would belong to Abraham and his descendants -- even though he had no children yet. Verse 6. God also told him that his descendants would live in a foreign land

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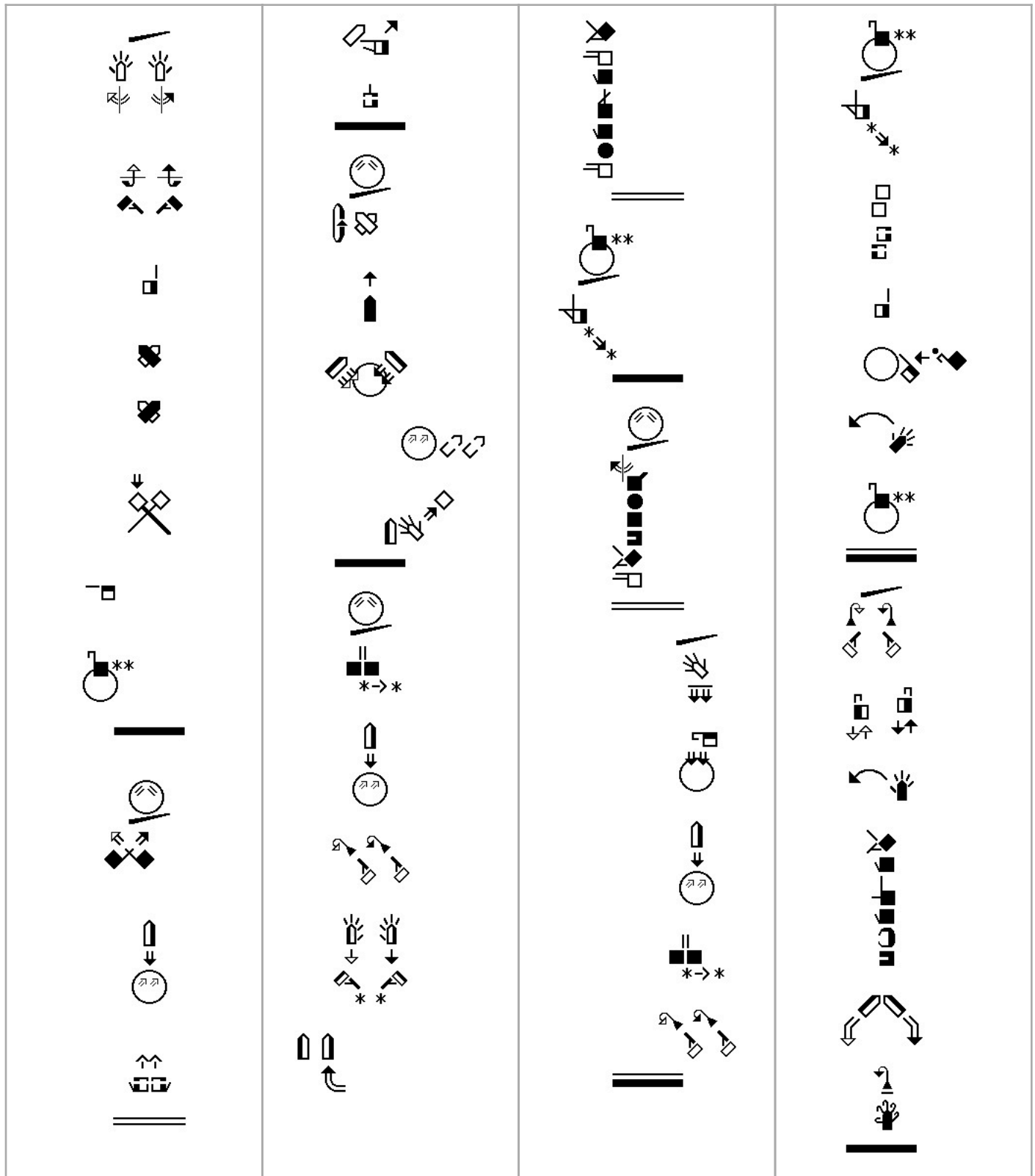
where they would be oppressed as slaves for 400 years. Verse 7. 'But I will punish the nation that enslaves them,' God said, 'and in the end they will come out and worship me here in this place.' Verse 8. "God also gave Abraham the covenant of circumcision at that time.

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










































































































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So when Abraham became the father of Isaac, he circumcised him on the eighth day. And the practice was continued when Isaac became the father of Jacob, and when Jacob became the father of the twelve patriarchs of the Israelite nation. Verse 9. "These patriarchs were jealous of their brother Joseph,

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and they sold him to be a slave in Egypt. But God was with him Verse 10. and rescued him from all his troubles. And God gave him favor before Pharaoh, king of Egypt. God also gave Joseph unusual wisdom, so that Pharaoh appointed him governor over all of Egypt and put him in charge of the palace. NLT

Verse 11. "But a famine came upon Egypt and Canaan. There was great misery, and our ancestors ran out of food. Verse 12. Jacob heard that there was still grain in Egypt, so he sent his sons -- our ancestors -- to buy some. NLT

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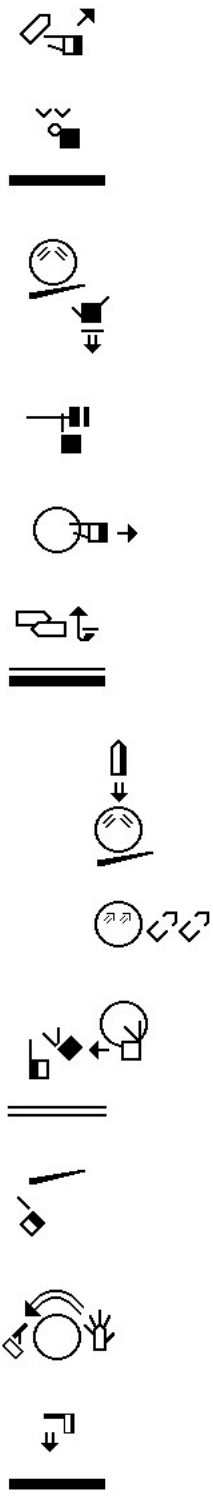
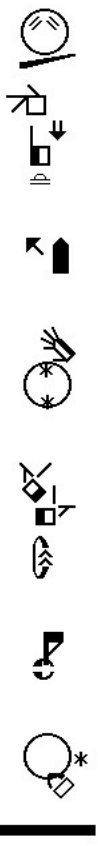

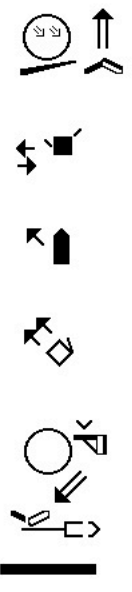
Verse 15. So Jacob went to Egypt. He died there, as did our ancestors. Verse 16. Their bodies were taken to Shechem and buried in the tomb Abraham had bought for a certain price from Hamor's sons in Shechem. Verse 17. "As the time drew near when God would fulfill his promise to Abraham,

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






















































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the number of our people in Egypt greatly increased. Verse 18. But then a new king came to the throne of Egypt who knew nothing about Joseph. Verse 19. This king exploited our people and oppressed them, forcing parents to abandon their newborn babies so they would die.

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 <p>ASL signs for Verse 20: Birth of Moses. The sequence includes signs for 'Moses' (a diamond with a circle), 'born' (a hand with a circle), 'beautiful' (a hand with a circle and a star), 'child' (a hand with a circle), 'in' (a hand with a circle), 'God's eyes' (a hand with a circle and a star), 'His parents' (a hand with a circle), 'cared for him' (a hand with a circle), 'at home' (a hand with a circle), 'for three months' (a hand with a circle), 'When they had to abandon him' (a hand with a circle), 'Pharaoh's daughter' (a hand with a circle), 'adopted him' (a hand with a circle), and 'raised him as her own son' (a hand with a circle).</p>	 <p>ASL signs for Verse 21: Moses' adoption. The sequence includes signs for 'Moses' (a diamond with a circle), 'born' (a hand with a circle), 'beautiful' (a hand with a circle and a star), 'child' (a hand with a circle), 'in' (a hand with a circle), 'God's eyes' (a hand with a circle and a star), 'His parents' (a hand with a circle), 'cared for him' (a hand with a circle), 'at home' (a hand with a circle), 'for three months' (a hand with a circle), 'When they had to abandon him' (a hand with a circle), 'Pharaoh's daughter' (a hand with a circle), 'adopted him' (a hand with a circle), and 'raised him as her own son' (a hand with a circle).</p>	 <p>ASL signs for Verse 22: Moses' adoption. The sequence includes signs for 'Moses' (a diamond with a circle), 'born' (a hand with a circle), 'beautiful' (a hand with a circle and a star), 'child' (a hand with a circle), 'in' (a hand with a circle), 'God's eyes' (a hand with a circle and a star), 'His parents' (a hand with a circle), 'cared for him' (a hand with a circle), 'at home' (a hand with a circle), 'for three months' (a hand with a circle), 'When they had to abandon him' (a hand with a circle), 'Pharaoh's daughter' (a hand with a circle), 'adopted him' (a hand with a circle), and 'raised him as her own son' (a hand with a circle).</p>	 <p>ASL signs for Verse 23: Moses' adoption. The sequence includes signs for 'Moses' (a diamond with a circle), 'born' (a hand with a circle), 'beautiful' (a hand with a circle and a star), 'child' (a hand with a circle), 'in' (a hand with a circle), 'God's eyes' (a hand with a circle and a star), 'His parents' (a hand with a circle), 'cared for him' (a hand with a circle), 'at home' (a hand with a circle), 'for three months' (a hand with a circle), 'When they had to abandon him' (a hand with a circle), 'Pharaoh's daughter' (a hand with a circle), 'adopted him' (a hand with a circle), and 'raised him as her own son' (a hand with a circle).</p>
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


























































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Verse 25. Moses assumed his fellow Israelites would realize that God had sent him to rescue them, but they didn't. Verse 26. "The next day he visited them again and saw two men of Israel fighting. He tried to be a peace-maker. 'Men,' he said, 'you

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Verse 29. When Moses heard that, he fled the country and lived as a foreigner in the land of Midian. There his two sons were born. Verse 30. "Forty years later, in the desert near Mount Sinai, an angel appeared to Moses in the flame of a burning bush. NLT

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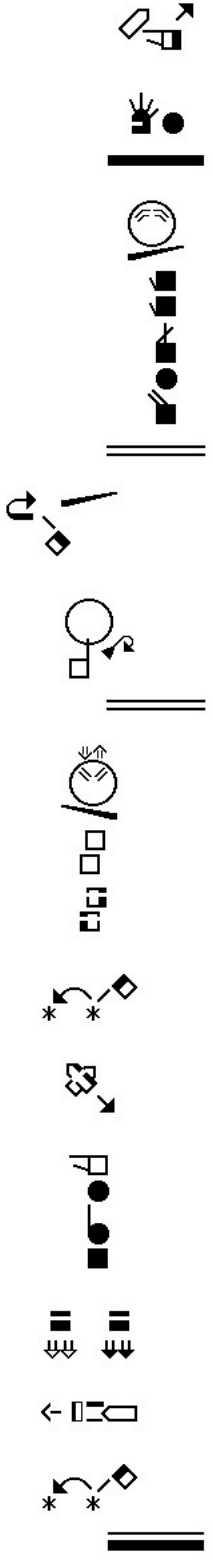
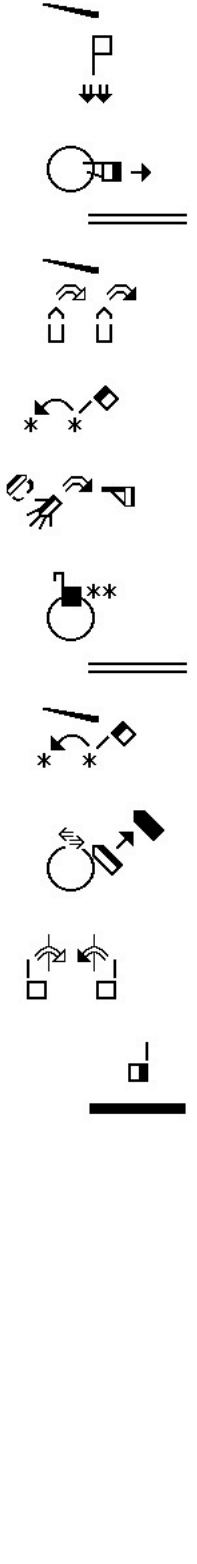
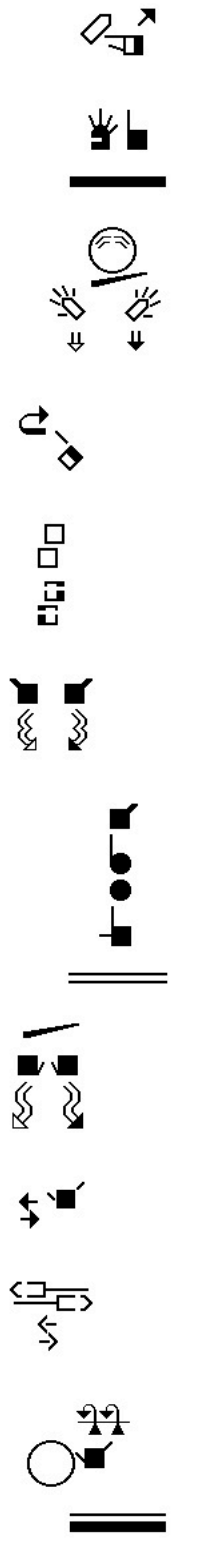
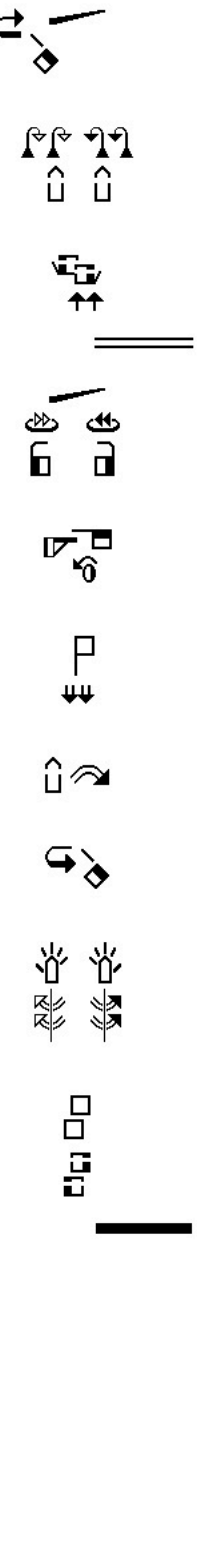
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Verse 36. And by means of many wonders and miraculous signs, he led them out of Egypt, through the Red Sea, and through the wilderness for forty years. Verse 37. "Moses himself told the people of Israel, 'God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from among your own people.'

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Verse 40. They told Aaron, 'Make us some gods who can lead us, for we don't know what has become of this Moses, who brought us out of Egypt.' Verse 41. So they made an idol shaped like a calf, and they sacrificed to it and celebrated over this thing they had made.

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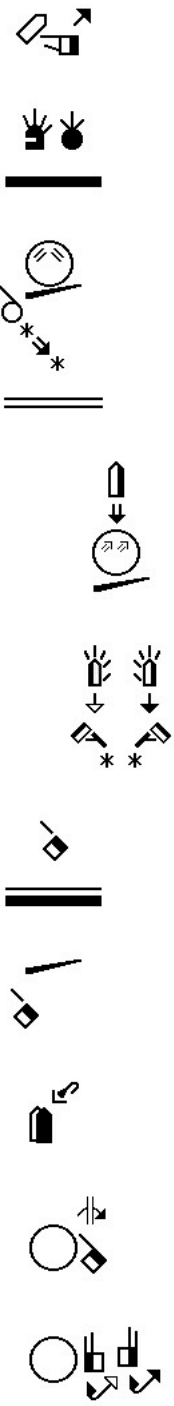



Verse 42. Then God turned away from them and abandoned them to serve the stars of heaven as their gods! In the book of the prophets it is written, 'Was it to me you were bringing sacrifices and offerings during those forty years in the wilderness, Israel? Verse 43. No, you carried your pagan gods -- the shrine

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through the wilderness. It was constructed according to the plan God had shown to Moses. Verse 45. Years later, when Joshua led our ancestors in battle against the nations that God drove out of this land, the Tabernacle was taken with them into their new territory. And it stayed there until the time of King David.

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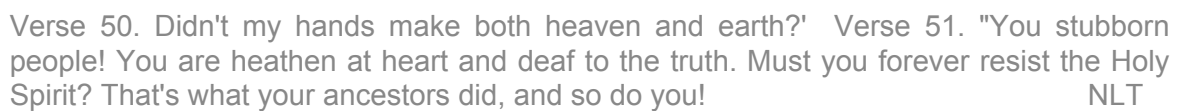
			
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Verse 46. "David found favor with God and asked for the privilege of building a permanent Temple for the God of Jacob. Verse 47. But it was Solomon who actually built it. Verse 48. However, the Most High doesn't live in temples

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made by human hands. As the prophet says, Verse 49. 'Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. Could you build me a temple as good as that?' asks the LORD. 'Could you build me such a resting place?'




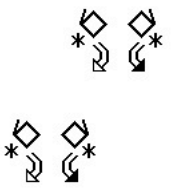




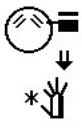

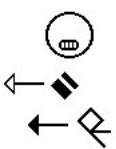









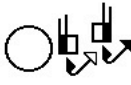

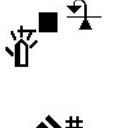
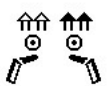
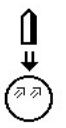

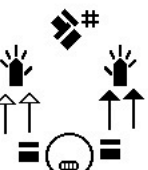



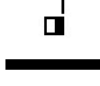


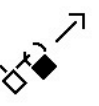










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




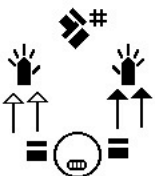







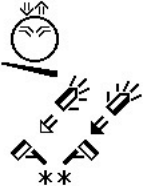
















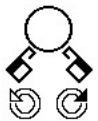




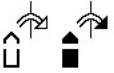

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Verse 54. The Jewish leaders were infuriated by Stephen's accusation, and they shook their fists at him in rage. Verse 55. But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed steadily into heaven and saw the glory of God, and he saw Jesus standing in the place of honor at God's right hand. Verse 56. And he told them, "Look, I see the heavens opened NLT

and the Son of Man standing in the place of honor at God's right hand!" Verse 57. Then they put their hands over their ears and began shouting. They rushed at him Verse 58. and dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. His accusers took off their coats and laid them at the feet of a young man named Saul.

         	      	           	       
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Verse 59. As they stoned him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Verse 60. He fell to his knees, shouting, "Lord, don't charge them with this sin!" And with that, he died.

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