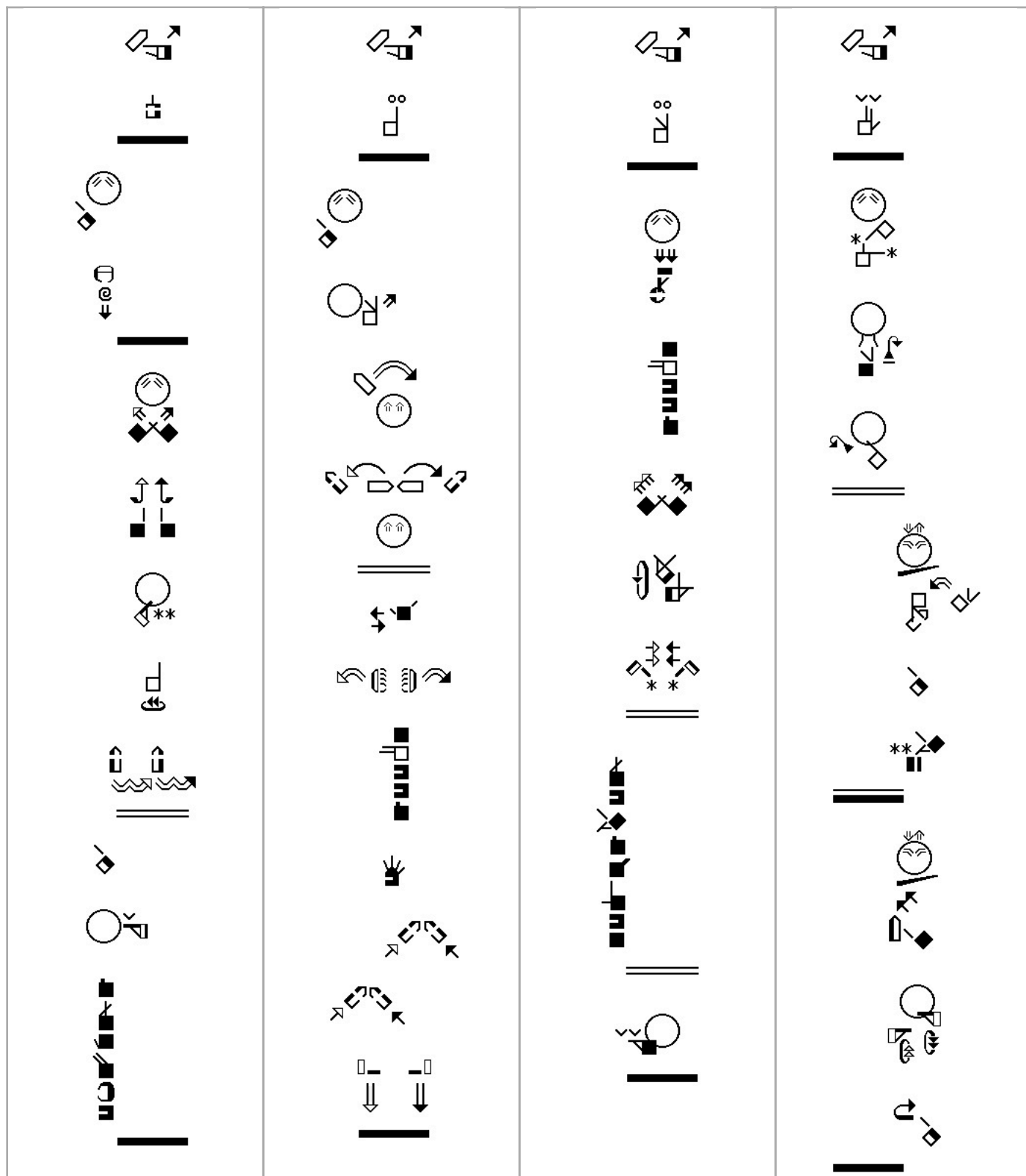

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Verse 3. One afternoon about three o'clock, he had a vision in which he saw an angel of God coming toward him. "Cornelius!" the angel said. Verse 4. Cornelius stared at him in terror. "What is it, sir?" he asked the angel. And the angel replied, "Your prayers and gifts to the poor have been received by God as an offering!"



































































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and a devout soldier, one of his personal attendants. Verse 8. He told them what had happened and sent them off to Joppa. Verse 9. The next day as Cornelius's messengers were nearing the town, Peter went up on the flat roof to pray. It was about noon, NLT



















































































Verse 10. and he was hungry. But while a meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance. Verse 11. He saw the sky open, and something like a large sheet was let down by its four corners. Verse 12. In the sheet were all sorts of animals, reptiles, and birds. Verse 13. Then a voice said to him, "Get up, Peter; kill and eat them."

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Verse 14. "No, Lord," Peter declared. "I have never eaten anything that our Jewish laws have declared impure and unclean." Verse 15. But the voice spoke again: "Do not call something unclean if God has made it clean."

                   	                   	                   	                   
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Verse 16. The same vision was repeated three times. Then the sheet was suddenly pulled up to heaven. Verse 17. Peter was very perplexed. What could the vision mean? Just then the men sent by Cornelius found Simon's house. Standing outside the gate, Verse 18. they asked if a man named Simon Peter was staying there. NLT

























































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Verse 19. Meanwhile, as Peter was puzzling over the vision, the Holy Spirit said to him, "Three men have come looking for you. Verse 20. Get up, go downstairs, and go with them without hesitation. Don't worry, for I have sent them."

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















































Verse 21. So Peter went down and said, "I'm the man you are looking for. Why have you come?" Verse 22. They said, "We were sent by Cornelius, a Roman officer. He is a devout and God-fearing man, well respected by all the Jews. A holy angel instructed him to summon you to his house so that he can hear your message."

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Verse 23. So Peter invited the men to stay for the night. The next day he went with them, accompanied by some of the brothers from Joppa. Verse 24. They arrived in Caesarea the following day. Cornelius was waiting for them and had called together his relatives and close friends.

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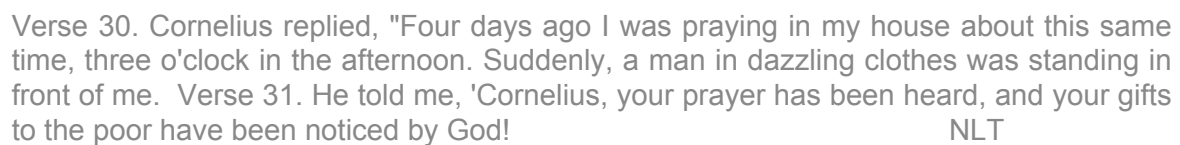
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Verse 25. As Peter entered his home, Cornelius fell at his feet and worshiped him. Verse 26. But Peter pulled him up and said, "Stand up! I'm a human being just like you!" Verse 27. So they talked together and went inside, where many others were assembled. Verse 28. Peter told them, "You know it is against our laws for a Jewish man to enter NLT

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a Gentile home like this or to associate with you. But God has shown me that I should no longer think of anyone as impure or unclean. Verse 29. So I came without objection as soon as I was sent for. Now tell me why you sent for me."

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Verse 34. Then Peter replied, "I see very clearly that God shows no favoritism. Verse 35. In every nation he accepts those who fear him and do what is right. Verse 36. This is the message of Good News for the people of Israel -- that there is peace with God through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.

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Verse 37. You know what happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee, after John began preaching his message of baptism. Verse 38. And you know that God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. Then Jesus went around doing good

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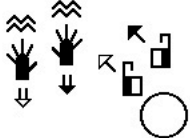



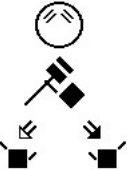












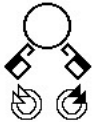









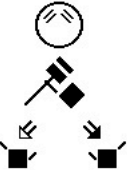







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and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. Verse 39. "And we apostles are witnesses of all he did throughout Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a cross, Verse 40. but God raised him to life on the third day. Then God allowed him to appear,

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Verse 41. not to the general public, but to us whom God had chosen in advance to be his witnesses. We were those who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. Verse 42. And he ordered us to preach everywhere and to testify that Jesus is the one appointed by God to be the judge of all -- the living and the dead. NLT

Verse 43. He is the one all the prophets testified about, saying that everyone who believes in him will have their sins forgiven through his name." Verse 44. Even as Peter was saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who were listening to the message. NLT

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Verse 45. The Jewish believers who came with Peter were amazed that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles, too. Verse 46. For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God. Then Peter asked, Verse 47. "Can anyone object to their being baptized, now

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185 that they have received the Holy Spirit just as we did?" Verse 48. So he gave orders for them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Afterward Cornelius asked him to stay with them for several days. NLT