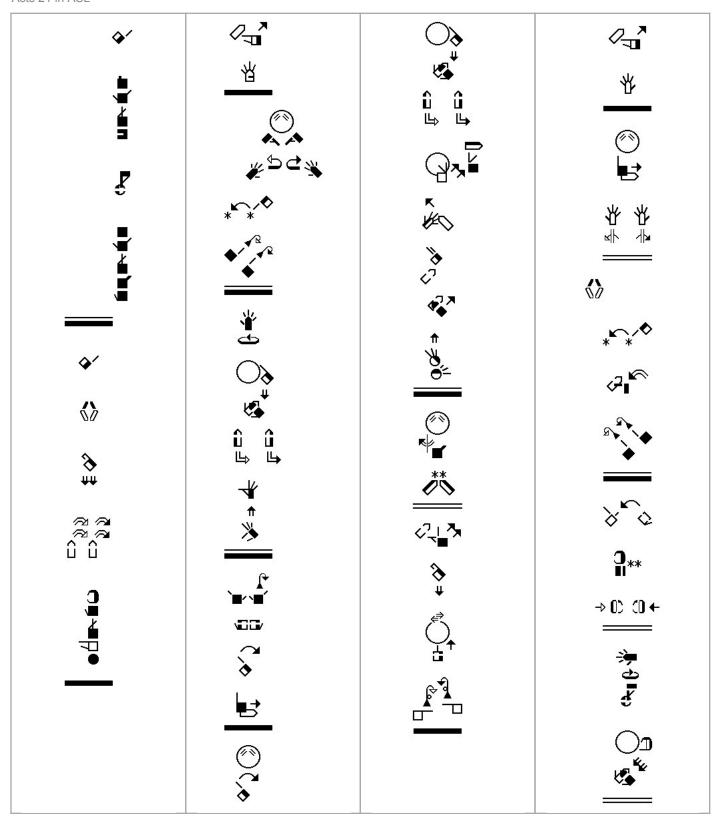
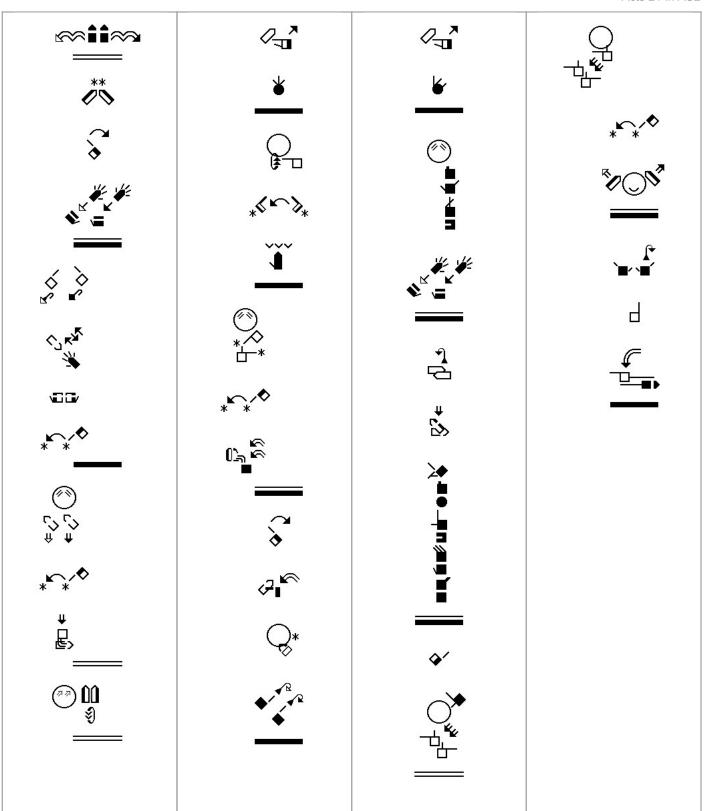


Chapter 21. After saying farewell to the Ephesian elders, we sailed straight to the island of Cos. The next day we reached Rhodes and then went to Patara. Verse 2. There we boarded a ship sailing for Phoenicia. Verse 3. We sighted the island of Cyprus, passed it on our left, and landed at the harbor

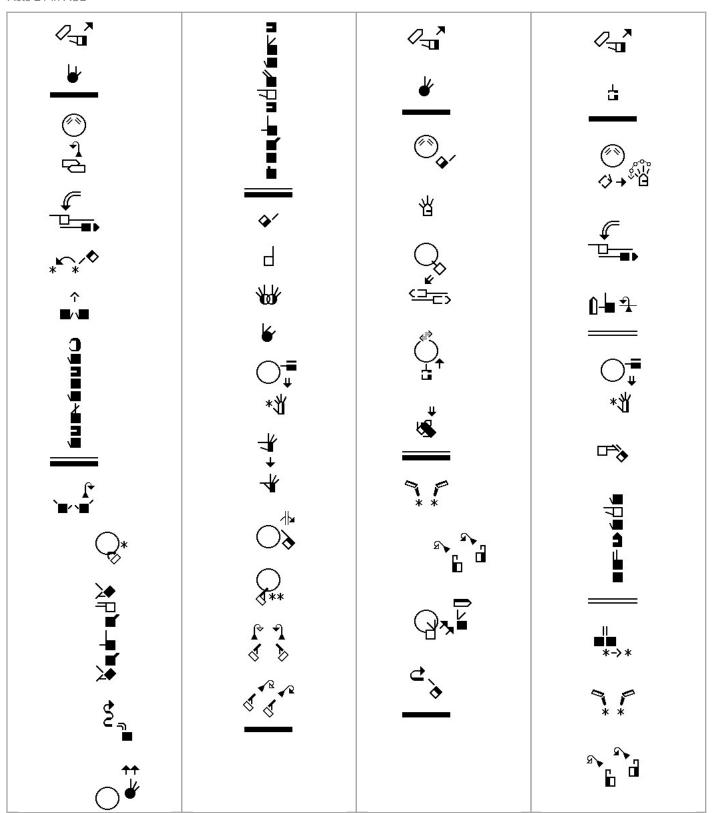


of Tyre, in Syria, where the ship was to unload its cargo. Verse 4. We went ashore, found the local believers, and stayed with them a week. These believers prophesied through the Holy Spirit that Paul should not go on to Jerusalem. Verse 5. When we returned to the ship at the end of the week, the entire congregation, including wives NLT



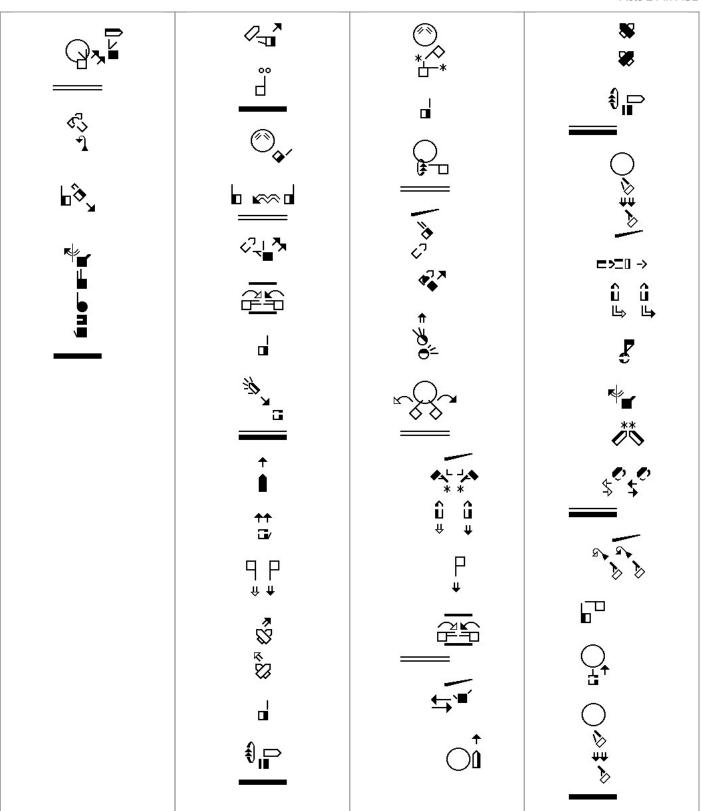
and children, left the city and came down to the shore with us. There we knelt, prayed, Verse 6. and said our farewells. Then we went aboard, and they returned home. Verse 7. The next stop after leaving Tyre was Ptolemais, where we greeted the brothers and sisters and stayed for one day.

NLT

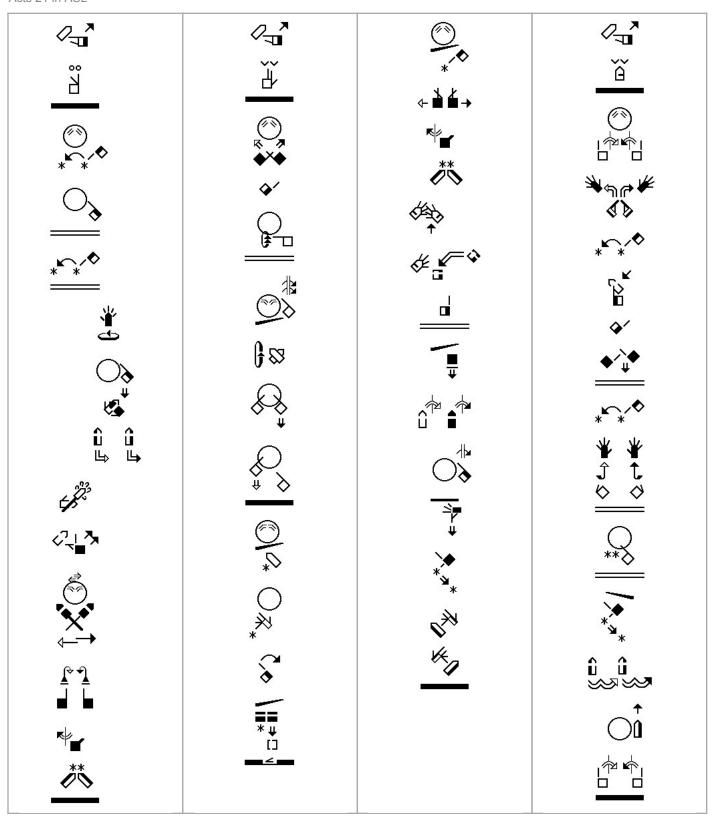


Verse 8. The next day we went on to Caesarea and stayed at the home of Philip the Evangelist, one of the seven men who had been chosen to distribute food. Verse 9. He had four unmarried daughters who had the gift of prophecy. Verse 10. Several days later a man named Agabus, who also had the gift

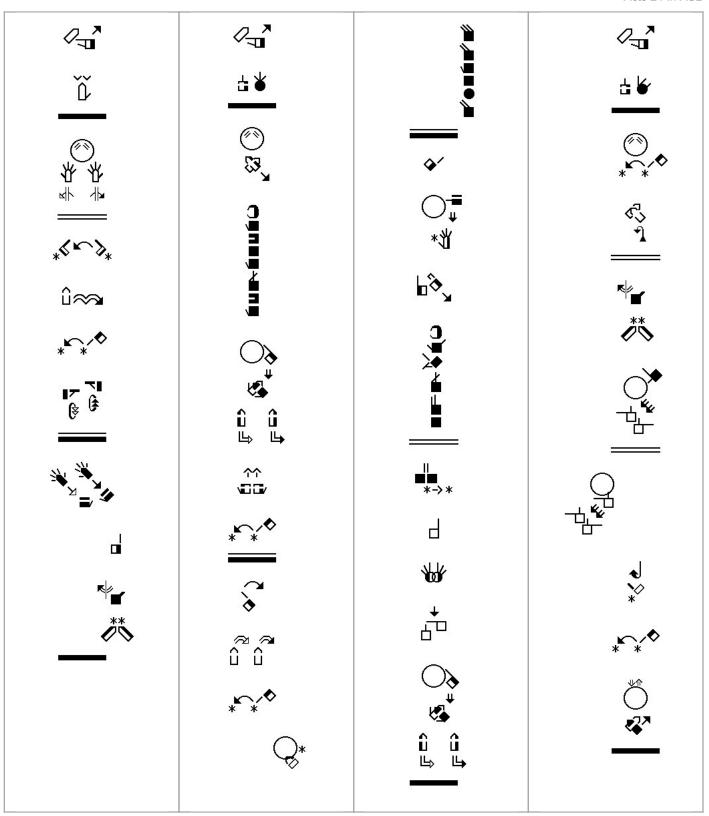
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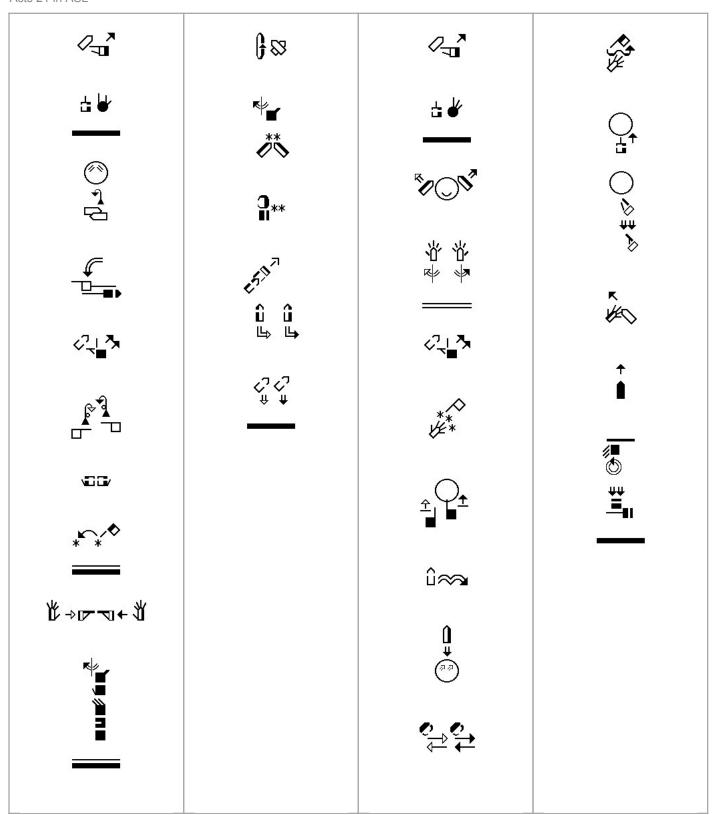
of Prophecy, arrived from Judea. Verse 11. He came over, took Paul's belt, and bound his own feet and hands with it. Then he said, "The Holy Spirit declares, 'So shall the owner of this belt be bound by the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem and turned over to the Gentiles."



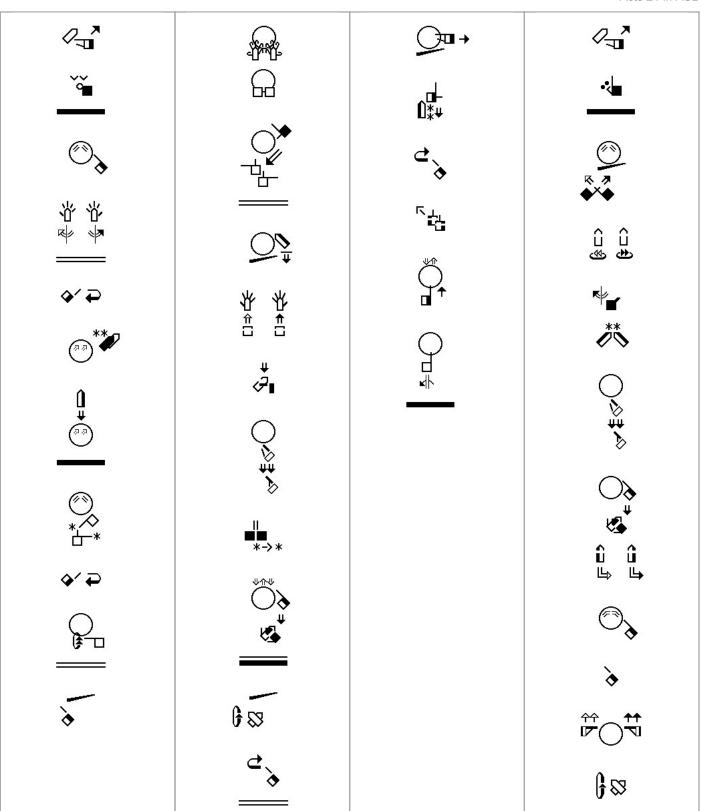
Verse 12. When we heard this, we and the local believers all begged Paul not to go on to Jerusalem. Verse 13. But he said, "Why all this weeping? You are breaking my heart! I am ready not only to be jailed at Jerusalem but even to die for the sake of the Lord Jesus." Verse 14. When it was clear that we couldn't persuade him, we gave up and said, "The Lord's will be done." NLT



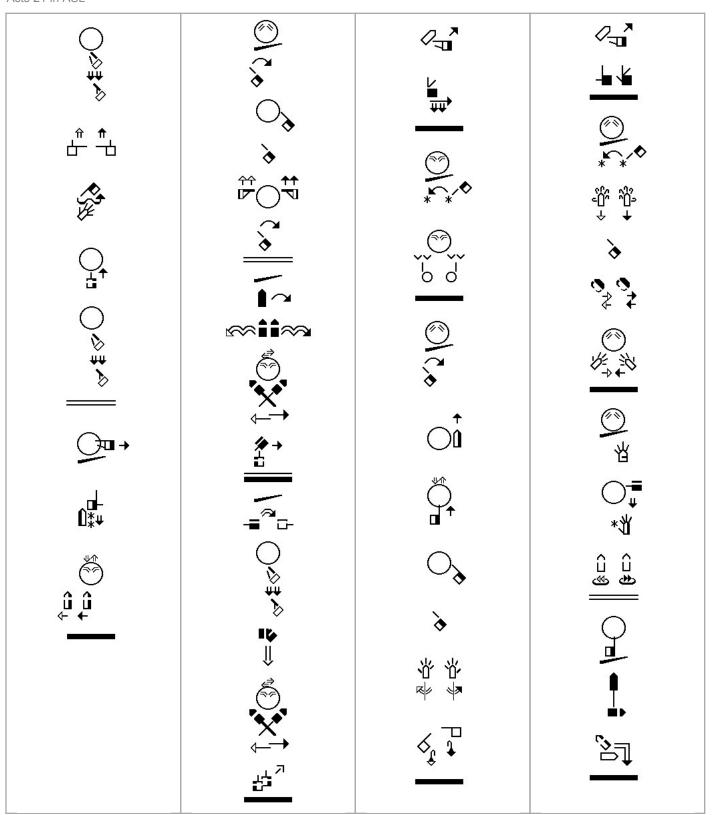
Verse 15. After this we packed our things and left for Jerusalem. Verse 16. Some believers from Caesarea accompanied us, and they took us to the home of Mnason, a man originally from Cyprus and one of the early believers. Verse 17. When we arrived, the brothers and sisters in Jerusalem welcomed us warmly.



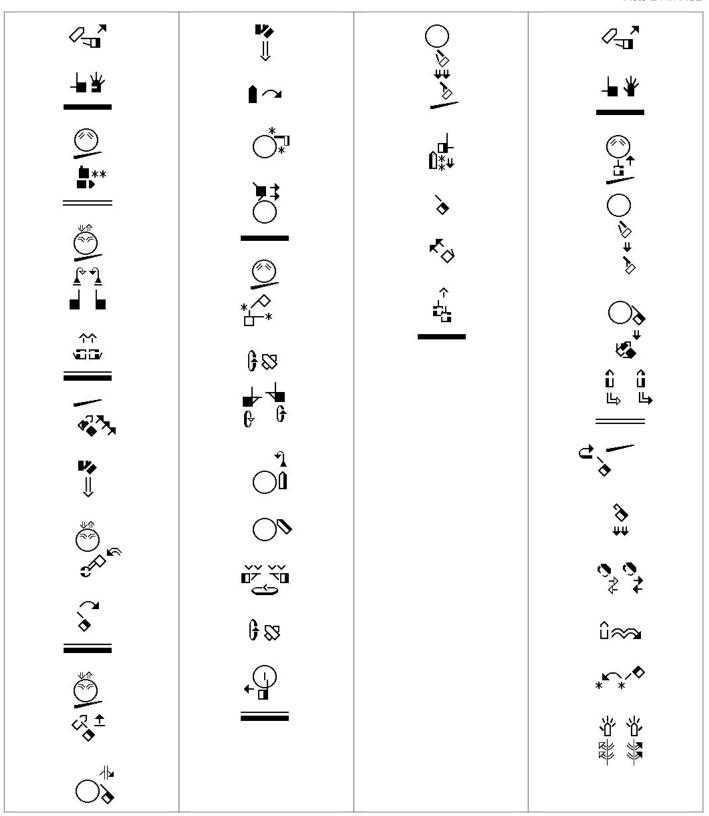
Verse 18. The next day Paul went with us to meet with James, and all the elders of the Jerusalem church were present. Verse 19. After greeting them, Paul gave a detailed account of the things God had accomplished among the Gentiles through his ministry. NLT



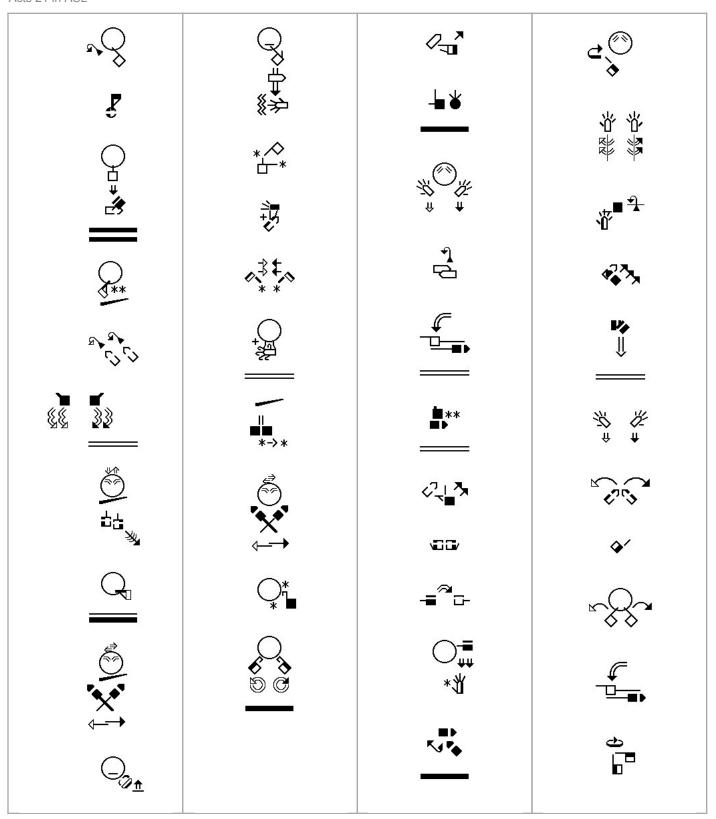
Verse 20. After hearing this, they praised God. And then they said, "You know, dear brother, how many thousands of Jews have also believed, and they all follow the law of Moses very seriously. Verse 21. But the Jewish believers here in Jerusalem have been told that you are teaching all



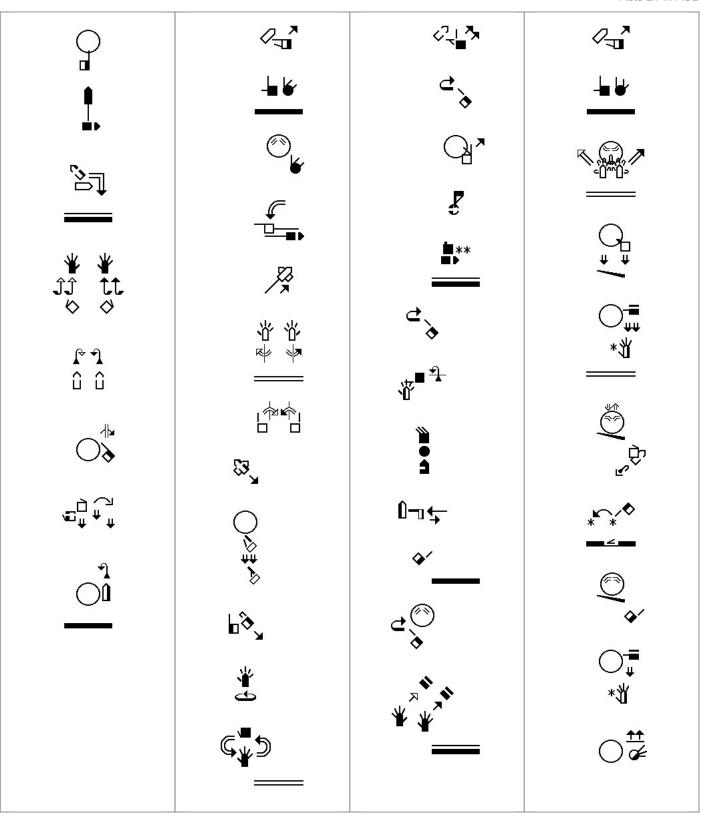
the Jews who live among the Gentiles to turn their backs on the laws of Moses. They've heard that you teach them not to circumcise their children or follow other Jewish customs. Verse 22. What should we do? They will certainly hear that you have come. Verse 23. "Here's what we want you to do. We have four men here who have completed their vow.



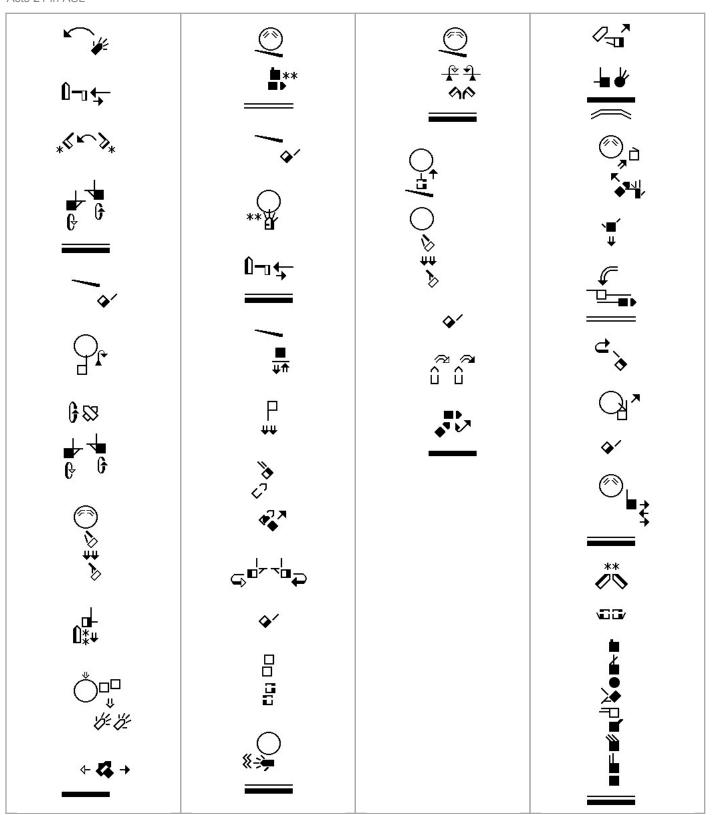
Verse 24. Go with them to the Temple and join them in the purification ceremony, paying for them to have their heads ritually shaved. Then everyone will know that the rumors are all false and that you yourself observe the Jewish laws. Verse 25. "As for the Gentile believers, they should do what we already NLT



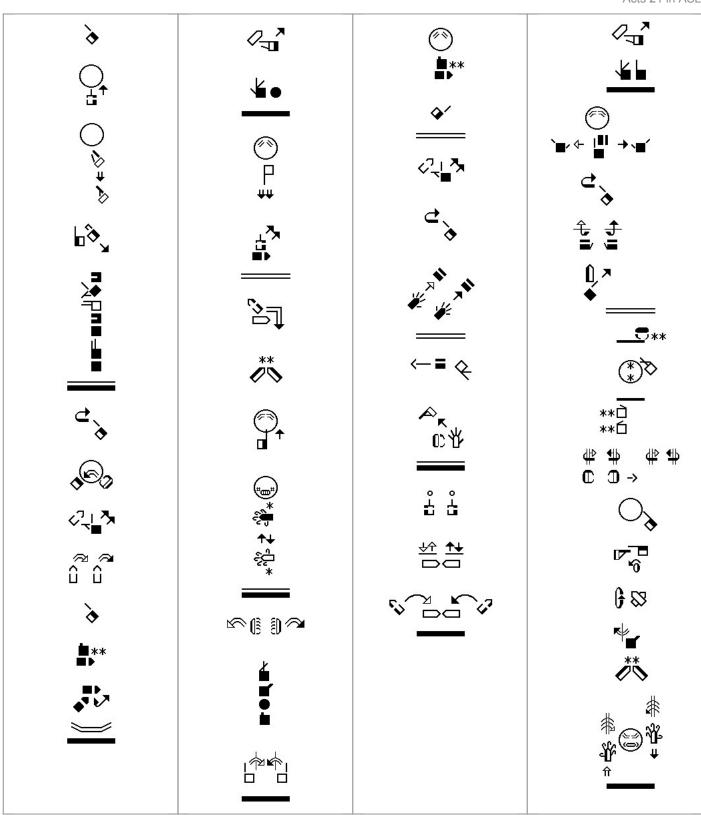
told them in a letter: They should abstain from eating food offered to idols, from consuming blood or the meat of strangled animals, and from sexual immorality." Verse 26. So Paul went to the Temple the next day with the other men. They had already started the purification ritual, so he publicly announced the date when NLT



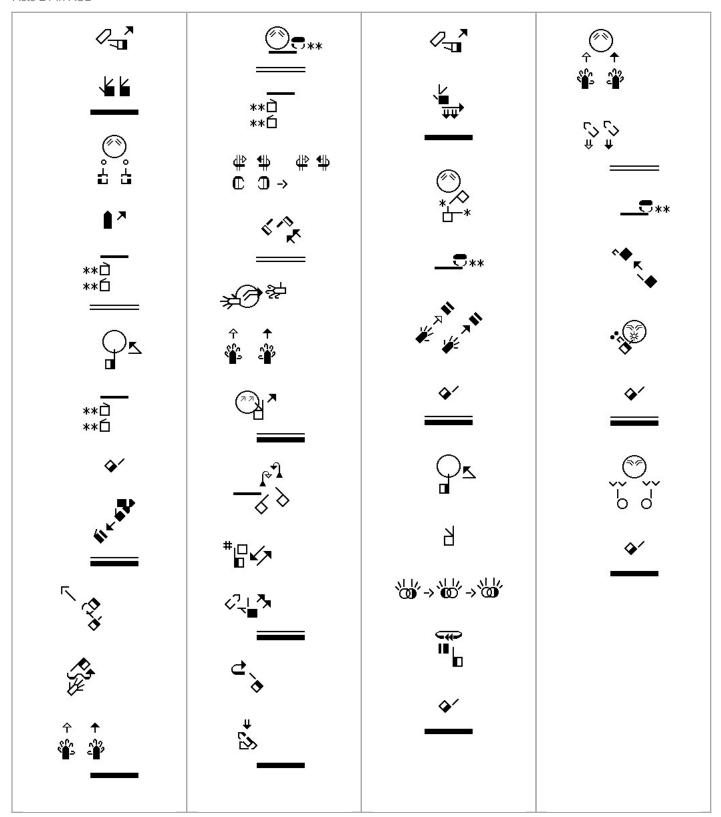
their vows would end and sacrifices would be offered for each of them. Verse 27. The seven days were almost ended when some Jews from the province of Asia saw Paul in the Temple and roused a mob against him. They grabbed him, Verse 28. yelling, "Men of Israel, help us! This is the man who preaches



against our people everywhere and tells everybody to disobey the Jewish laws. He speaks against the Temple -- and even defiles this holy place by bringing in Gentiles. Verse 29. (For earlier that day they had seen him in the city with Trophimus, NLT

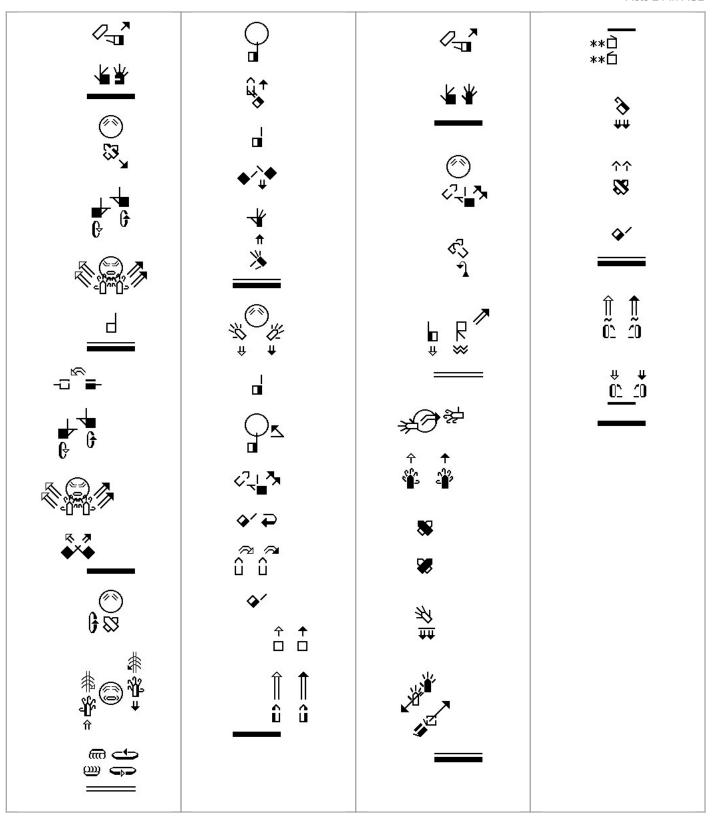


a Gentile from Ephesus, and they assumed Paul had taken him into the Temple.) Verse 30. The whole city was rocked by these accusations, and a great riot followed. Paul was grabbed and dragged out of the Temple, and immediately the gates were closed behind him. Verse 31. As they were trying to kill him, word reached the commander of the Roman regiment that all Jerusalem was in an uproar.

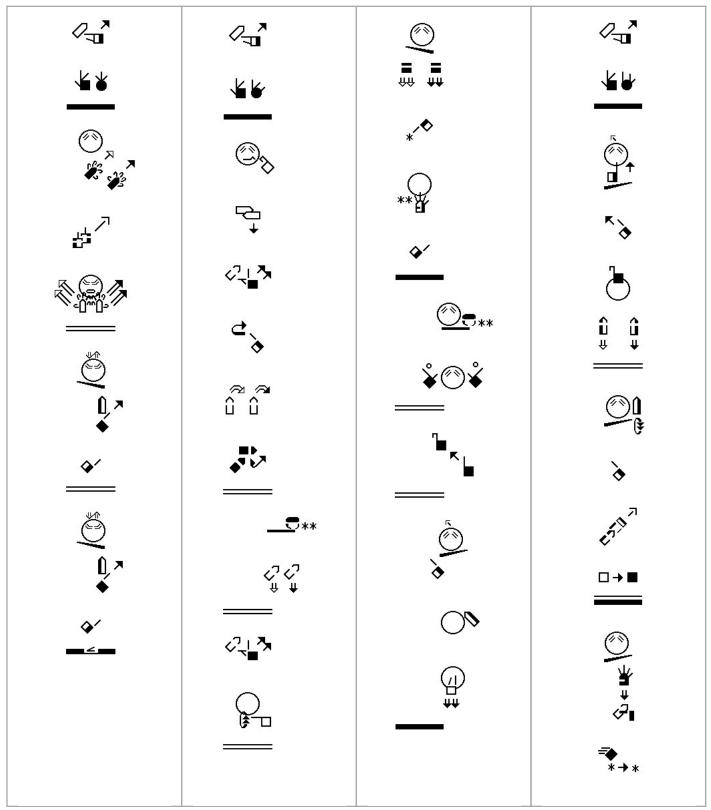


Verse 32. He immediately called out his soldiers and officers and ran down among the crowd. When the mob saw the commander and the troops coming, they stopped beating Paul. Verse 33. Then the commander arrested him and ordered him bound with two chains. He asked the crowd who he was and what he had done.

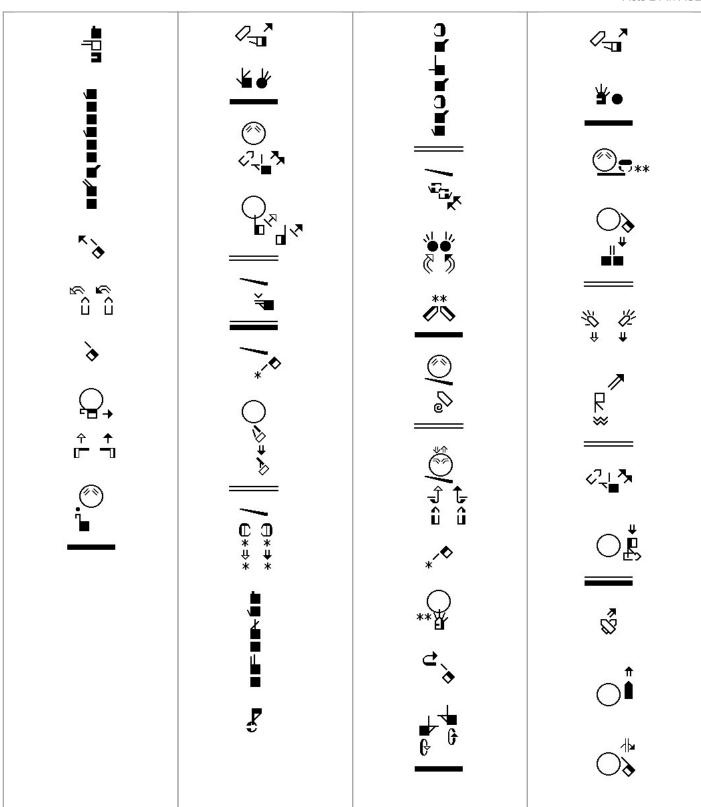
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Verse 34. Some shouted one thing and some another. Since he couldn't find out the truth in all the uproar and confusion, he ordered that Paul be taken to the fortress. Verse 35. As Paul reached the stairs, the mob grew so violent the soldiers had to lift him to their shoulders to protect him.



Verse 36. And the crowd followed behind, shouting, "Kill him, kill him!" Verse 37. As Paul was about to be taken inside, he said to the commander, "May I have a word with you?" "Do you know Greek?" the commander asked, surprised. Verse 38. "Aren't you the Egyptian who led a rebellion some time ago and took 4,000 members NLT



of the Assassins out into the desert?" Verse 39. "No," Paul replied, "I am a Jew and a citizen of Tarsus in Cilicia, which is an important city. Please, let me talk to these people." Verse 40. The commander agreed, so Paul stood on the stairs and motioned NLT

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