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Acts Chapter 1. In my first book I told you, Theophilus, about everything Jesus began to do and teach Verse 2. until the day he was taken up to heaven after giving his chosen apostles further instructions through the Holy Spirit.

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







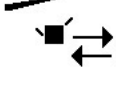
































			
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3 Verse 5. John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." Verse 6. So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him, "Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?" NLT

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Verse 9. After saying this, he was taken up into a cloud while they were watching, and they could no longer see him. Verse 10. As they strained to see him rising into heaven, two white-robed men suddenly stood among them. Verse 11. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why are you standing here

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staring into heaven? Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go!" Verse 12. Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, a distance of half a mile. NLT

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Verse 13. When they arrived, they went to the upstairs room of the house where they were staying. Here are the names of those who were present: Peter, John, James, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James (son of Alphaeus), Simon (the Zealot), and Judas (son of James).

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Verse 14. They all met together and were constantly united in prayer, along with Mary the mother of Jesus, several other women, and the brothers of Jesus. Verse 15. During this time, when about 120 believers were together in one place, Peter stood up and addressed them.

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Verse 16. "Brothers," he said, "the Scriptures had to be fulfilled concerning Judas, who guided those who arrested Jesus. This was predicted long ago by the Holy Spirit, speaking through King David. Verse 17. Judas was one of us and shared in the ministry with us."

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Verse 18. (Judas had bought a field with the money he received for his treachery. Falling headfirst there, his body split open, spilling out all his intestines. Verse 19. The news of his death spread to all the people of Jerusalem, and they gave the place the Aramaic name Akeldama, which means "Field of Blood.")


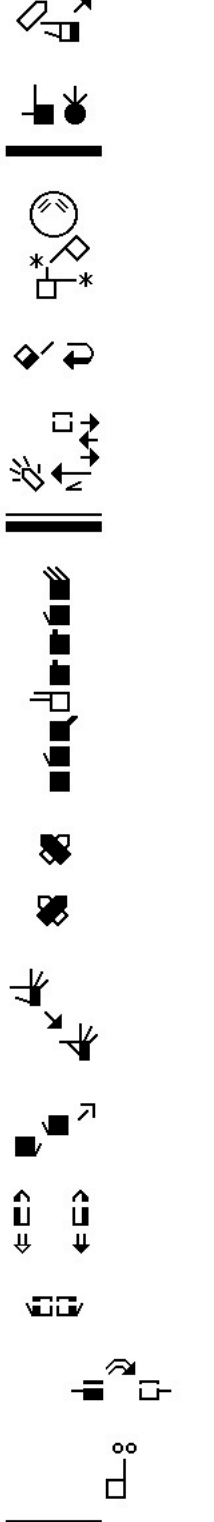



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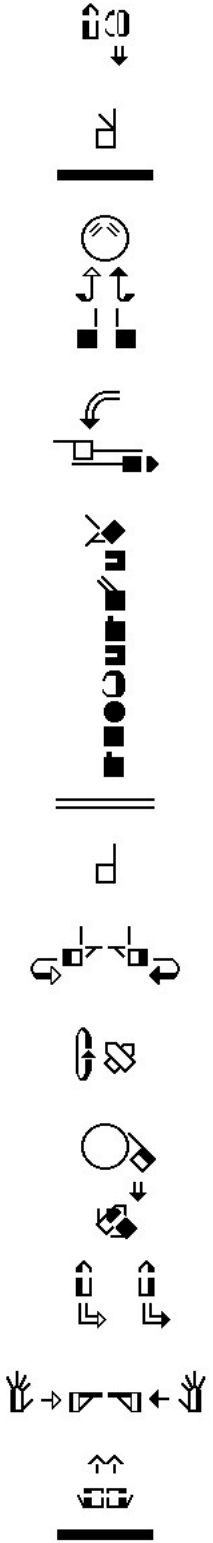
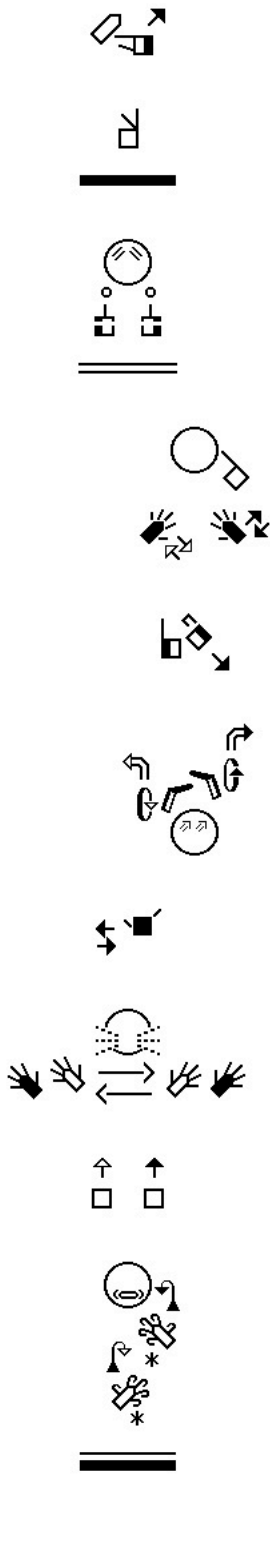

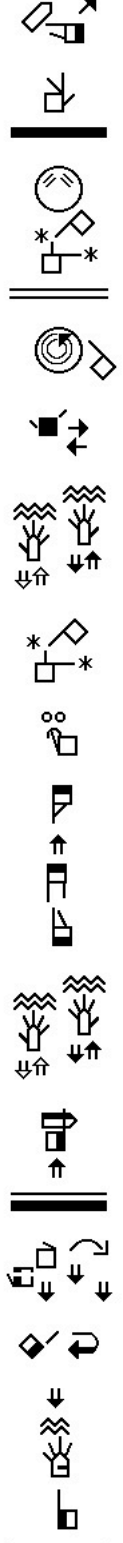
from among the men who were with us the entire time we were traveling with the Lord Jesus -- Verse 22. from the time he was baptized by John until the day he was taken from us. Whoever is chosen will join us as a witness of Jesus' resurrection." Verse 23. So they nominated two men: Joseph called

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 <p>ASL signs for Acts 1:1-11. The sequence includes: a sign for 'I' (hand flat, palm up, fingers together), a sign for 'you' (hand flat, palm up, fingers spread), a sign for 'us' (hand flat, palm up, fingers spread), a sign for 'and' (hand flat, palm up, fingers spread), a sign for 'he' (hand flat, palm up, fingers spread), a sign for 'has' (hand flat, palm up, fingers spread), a sign for 'deserted' (hand flat, palm up, fingers spread), a sign for 'us' (hand flat, palm up, fingers spread), a sign for 'and' (hand flat, palm up, fingers spread), a sign for 'gone' (hand flat, palm up, fingers spread), a sign for 'where' (hand flat, palm up, fingers spread), a sign for 'he' (hand flat, palm up, fingers spread), a sign for 'belongs' (hand flat, palm up, fingers spread), a sign for 'Verse 26' (hand flat, palm up, fingers spread), a sign for 'Then' (hand flat, palm up, fingers spread), a sign for 'they' (hand flat, palm up, fingers spread), a sign for 'cast' (hand flat, palm up, fingers spread), a sign for 'lots' (hand flat, palm up, fingers spread), a sign for 'and' (hand flat, palm up, fingers spread), a sign for 'Matthias' (hand flat, palm up, fingers spread), a sign for 'was' (hand flat, palm up, fingers spread), a sign for 'selected' (hand flat, palm up, fingers spread), a sign for 'to' (hand flat, palm up, fingers spread), a sign for 'become' (hand flat, palm up, fingers spread), a sign for 'an' (hand flat, palm up, fingers spread), a sign for 'apostle' (hand flat, palm up, fingers spread), a sign for 'with' (hand flat, palm up, fingers spread), a sign for 'the' (hand flat, palm up, fingers spread), a sign for 'other' (hand flat, palm up, fingers spread), a sign for 'eleven' (hand flat, palm up, fingers spread).</p>	 <p>ASL signs for Acts 1:12-14. The sequence includes: a sign for 'I' (hand flat, palm up, fingers together), a sign for 'you' (hand flat, palm up, fingers spread), a sign for 'us' (hand flat, palm up, fingers spread), a sign for 'and' (hand flat, palm up, fingers spread), a sign for 'he' (hand flat, palm up, fingers spread), a sign for 'has' (hand flat, palm up, fingers spread), a sign for 'deserted' (hand flat, palm up, fingers spread), a sign for 'us' (hand flat, palm up, fingers spread), a sign for 'and' (hand flat, palm up, fingers spread), a sign for 'gone' (hand flat, palm up, fingers spread), a sign for 'where' (hand flat, palm up, fingers spread), a sign for 'he' (hand flat, palm up, fingers spread), a sign for 'belongs' (hand flat, palm up, fingers spread), a sign for 'Verse 26' (hand flat, palm up, fingers spread), a sign for 'Then' (hand flat, palm up, fingers spread), a sign for 'they' (hand flat, palm up, fingers spread), a sign for 'cast' (hand flat, palm up, fingers spread), a sign for 'lots' (hand flat, palm up, fingers spread), a sign for 'and' (hand flat, palm up, fingers spread), a sign for 'Matthias' (hand flat, palm up, fingers spread), a sign for 'was' (hand flat, palm up, fingers spread), a sign for 'selected' (hand flat, palm up, fingers spread), a sign for 'to' (hand flat, palm up, fingers spread), a sign for 'become' (hand flat, palm up, fingers spread), a sign for 'an' (hand flat, palm up, fingers spread), a sign for 'apostle' (hand flat, palm up, fingers spread), a sign for 'with' (hand flat, palm up, fingers spread), a sign for 'the' (hand flat, palm up, fingers spread), a sign for 'other' (hand flat, palm up, fingers spread), a sign for 'eleven' (hand flat, palm up, fingers spread).</p>		
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












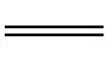
























for he has deserted us and gone where he belongs." Verse 26. Then they cast lots, and Matthias was selected to become an apostle with the other eleven. NLT

			
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Chapter 2. On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place. Verse 2. Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting. Verse 3. Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. NLT

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Verse 4. And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability. Verse 5. At that time there were devout Jews from every nation living in Jerusalem. Verse 6. When they heard the loud noise, everyone came running,  
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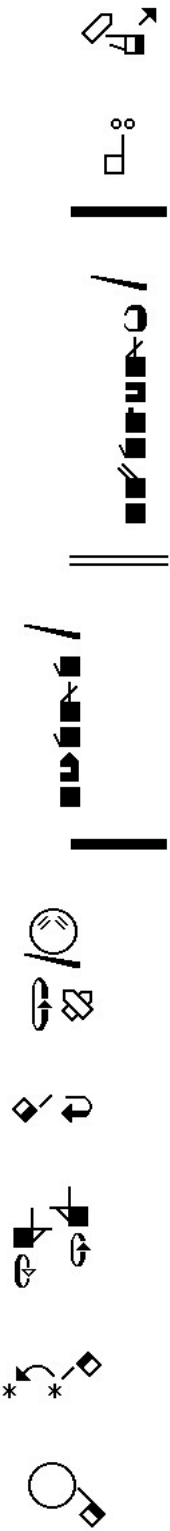
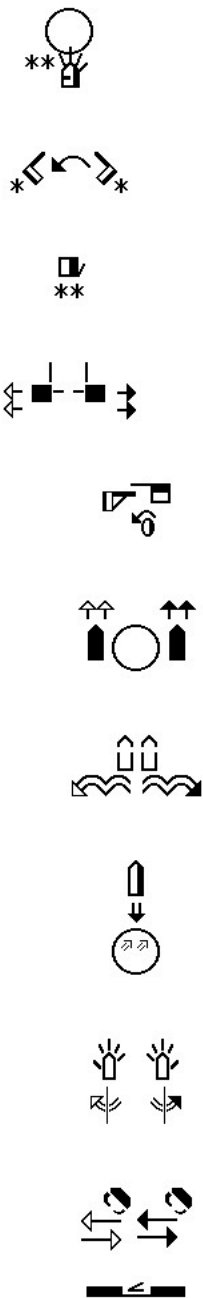
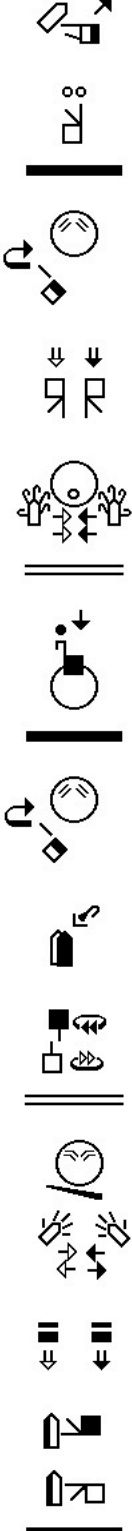

        	         	          	          
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and they were bewildered to hear their own languages being spoken by the believers. Verse 7. They were completely amazed. "How can this be?" they exclaimed. "These people are all from Galilee, Verse 8. and yet we hear them speaking in our own native languages!"

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



















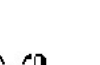




















			
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Verse 11. Cretans, and Arabs. And we all hear these people speaking in our own languages about the wonderful things God has done!" Verse 12. They stood there amazed and perplexed. "What can this mean?" they asked each other. Verse 13. But others in the crowd ridiculed them, saying, "They're just drunk, that's all!" NLT

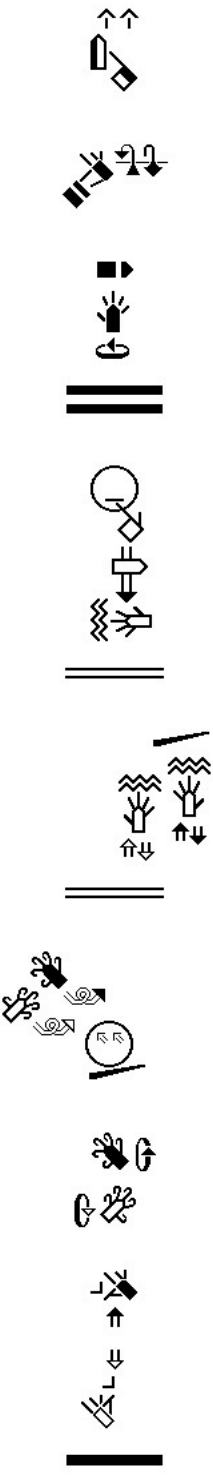
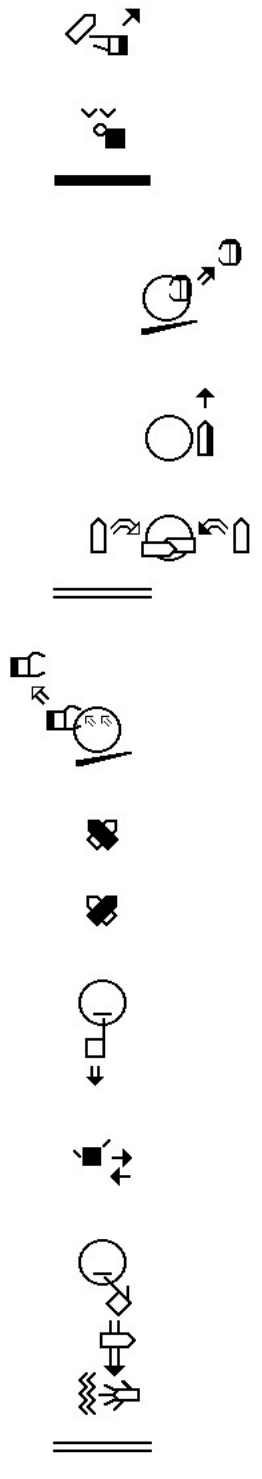
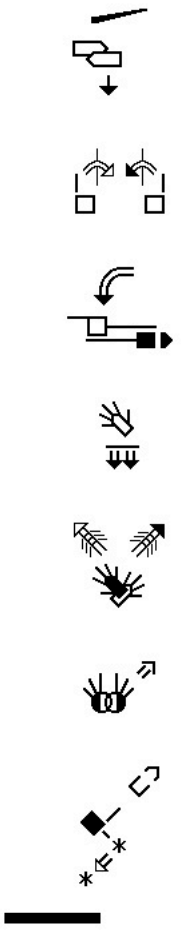
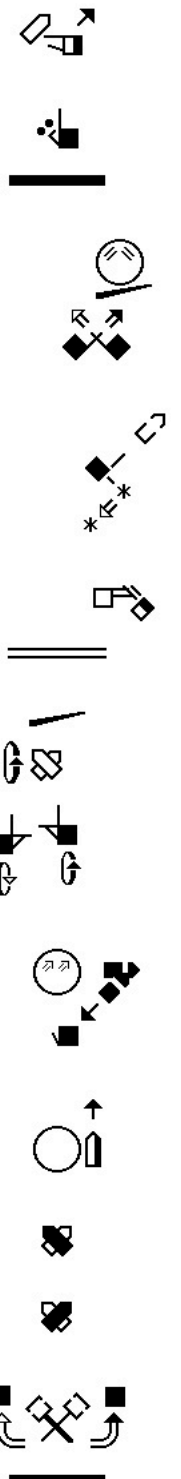
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Verse 14. Then Peter stepped forward with the eleven other apostles and shouted to the crowd, "Listen carefully, all of you, fellow Jews and residents of Jerusalem! Make no mistake about this. Verse 15. These people are not drunk, as some of you are assuming. Nine o'clock in the morning is much too early for that.

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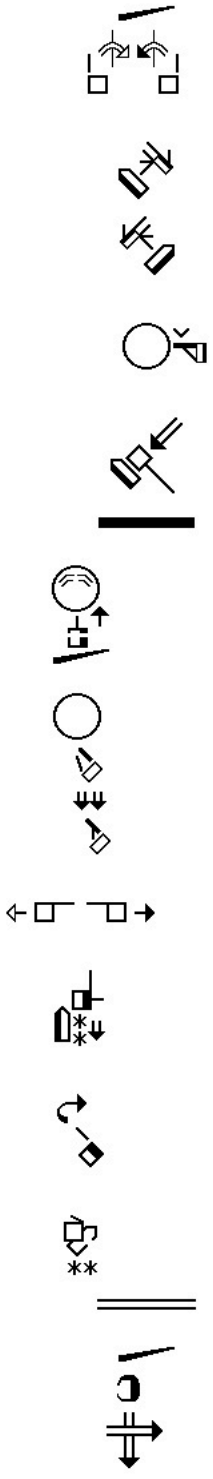
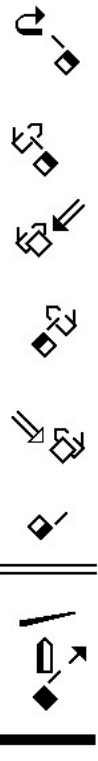
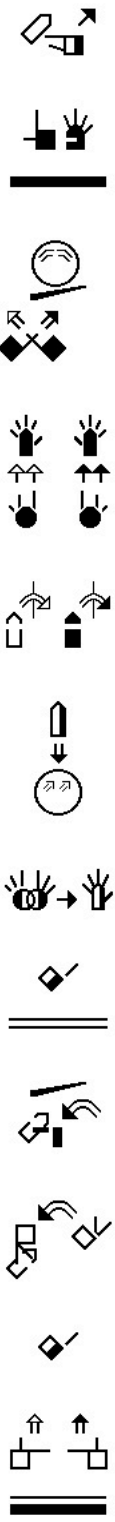
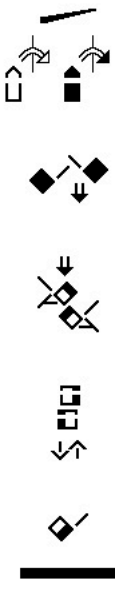
signs on the earth below -- blood and fire and clouds of smoke. Verse 20. The sun will become dark, and the moon will turn blood red before that great and glorious day of the LORD arrives. Verse 21. But everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.'
















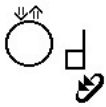




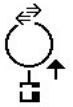


















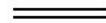


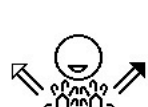




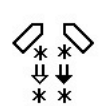


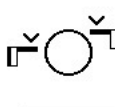

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Verse 22. "People of Israel, listen! God publicly endorsed Jesus the Nazarene by doing powerful miracles, wonders, and signs through him, as you well know. Verse 23. But God knew what would happen, and his prearranged plan was carried out

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Verse 25. King David said this about him: 'I see that the LORD is always with me. I will not be shaken, for he is right beside me. Verse 26. No wonder my heart is glad, and my tongue shouts his praises! My body rests in hope.



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Verse 27. For you will not leave my soul among the dead or allow your Holy One to rot in the grave. Verse 28. You have shown me the way of life, and you will fill me with the joy of your presence.' Verse 29. "Dear brothers, think about this! You can be sure that the patriarch David wasn't

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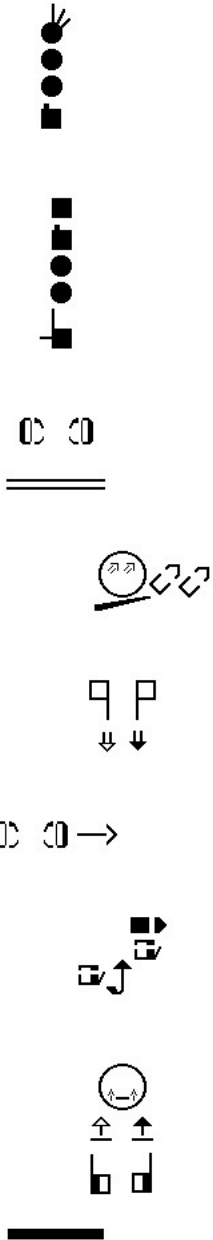
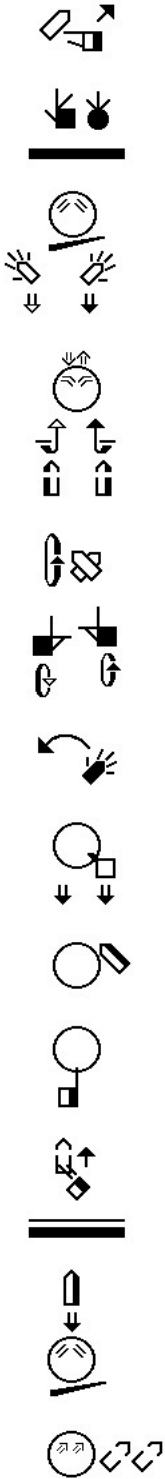
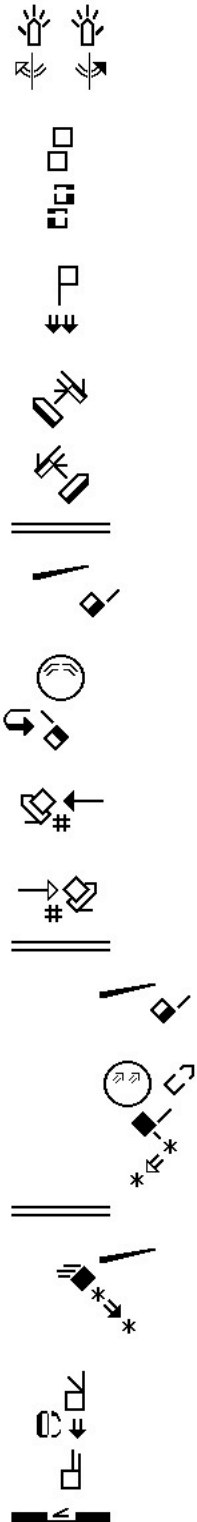
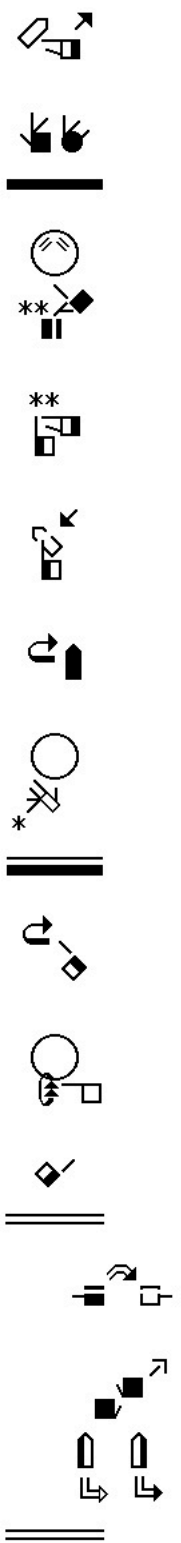
referring to himself, for he died and was buried, and his tomb is still here among us. Verse 30. But he was a prophet, and he knew God had promised with an oath that one of David's own descendants would sit on his throne. Verse 31. David was looking into the future and speaking of the Messiah's resurrection. He was saying that God

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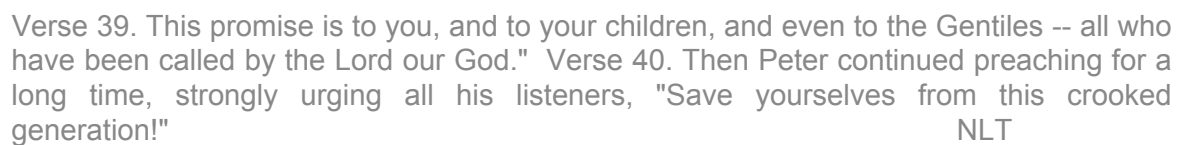
would not leave him among the dead or allow his body to rot in the grave. Verse 32. "God raised Jesus from the dead, and we are all witnesses of this. Verse 33. Now he is exalted to the place of highest honor in heaven, at God's right hand. And the Father, as he had promised, gave him

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the Holy Spirit to pour out upon us, just as you see and hear today. Verse 34. For David himself never ascended into heaven, yet he said, 'The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit in the place of honor at my right hand Verse 35. until I humble your enemies, making them

			
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


























































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Verse 41. Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day -- about 3,000 in all. Verse 42. All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer.

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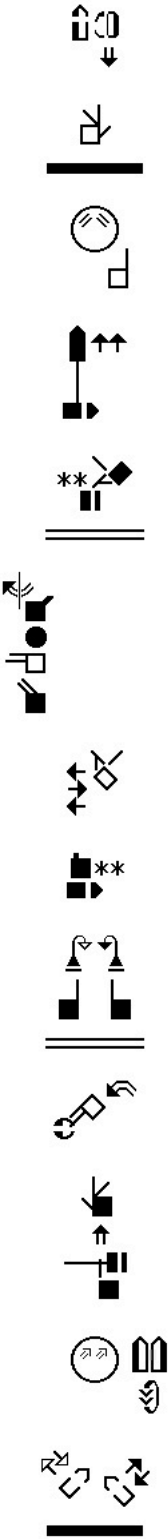
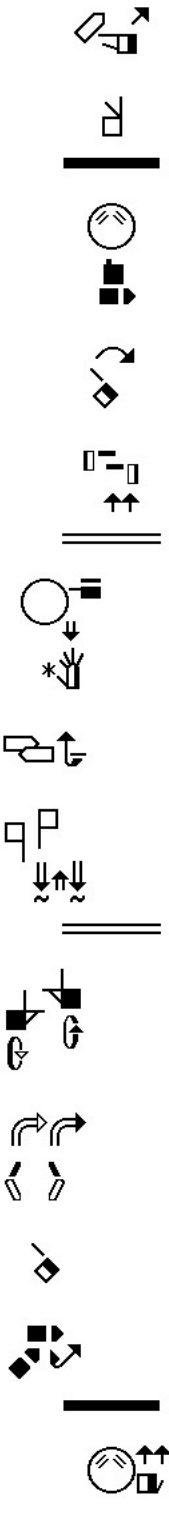

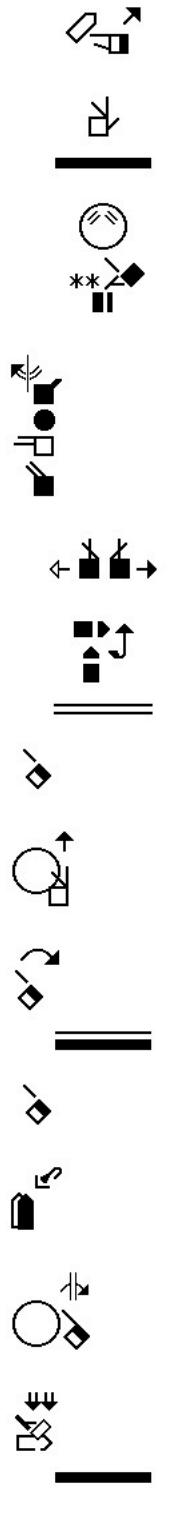


              	              	              	              
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Verse 43. A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. Verse 44. And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. Verse 45. They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need.

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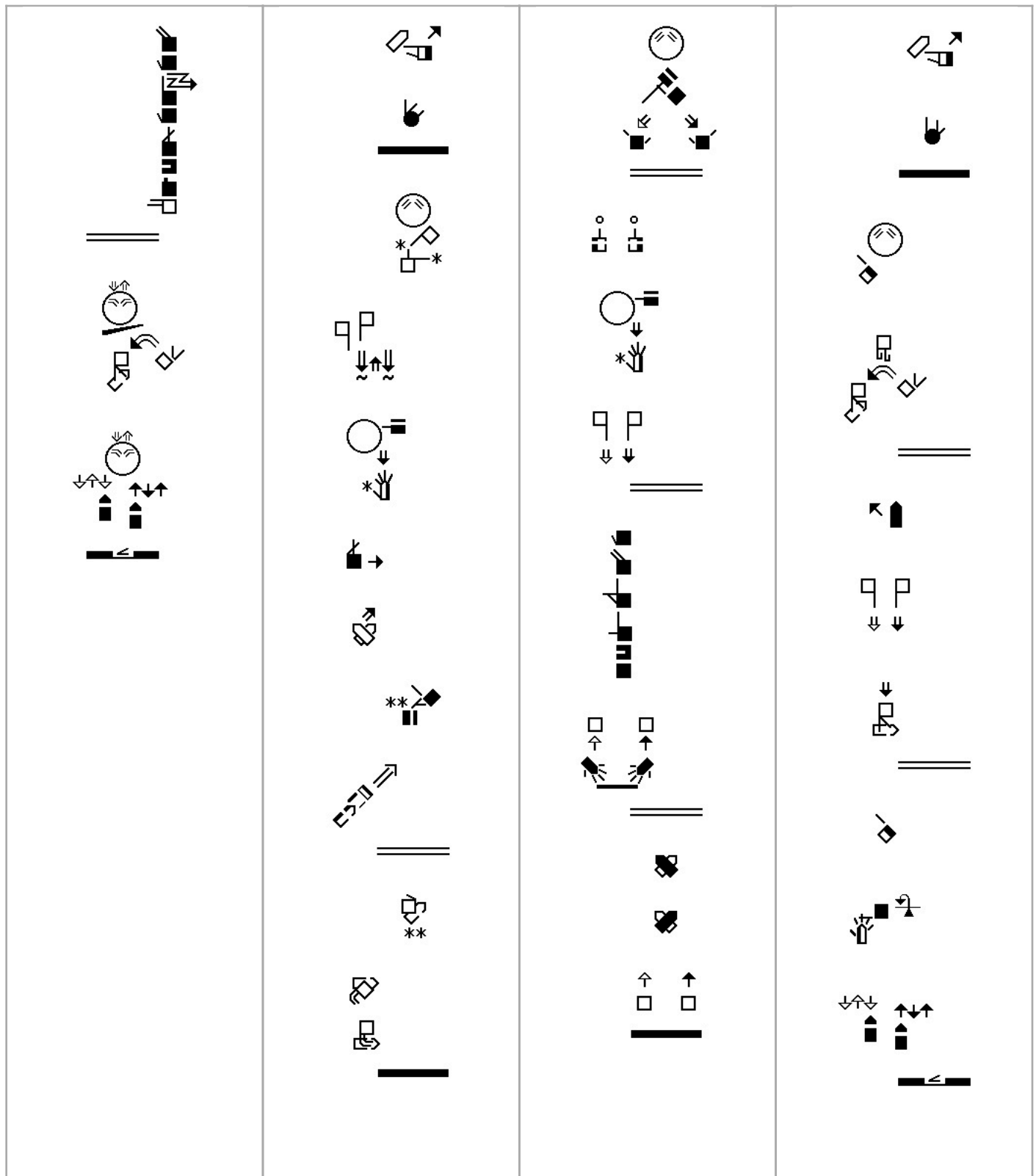
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Chapter 3. Peter and John went to the Temple one afternoon to take part in the three o'clock prayer service. Verse 2. As they approached the Temple, a man lame from birth was being carried in. Each day he was put beside the Temple gate, the one called the Beautiful Gate, so he could beg from the people going into the Temple. Verse 3. When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for some money.

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the Nazarene, get up and walk!" Verse 7. Then Peter took the lame man by the right hand and helped him up. And as he did, the man's feet and ankles were instantly healed and strengthened. Verse 8. He jumped up, stood on his feet, and began to walk! NLT

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Verse 11. They all rushed out in amazement to Solomon's Colonnade, where the man was holding tightly to Peter and John. Verse 12. Peter saw his opportunity and addressed the crowd. "People of Israel," he said, "what is so surprising about this? And why stare at us as though

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we had made this man walk by our own power or godliness? Verse 13. For it is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob -- the God of all our ancestors -- who has brought glory to his servant Jesus by doing this. This is the same Jesus whom you handed over and rejected before Pilate, despite Pilate's decision to release him. NLT



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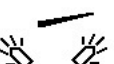






















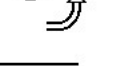












Verse 14. You rejected this holy, righteous one and instead demanded the release of a murderer. Verse 15. You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. And we are witnesses of this fact! Verse 16. "Through faith in the name of Jesus, this man was healed -- and you know

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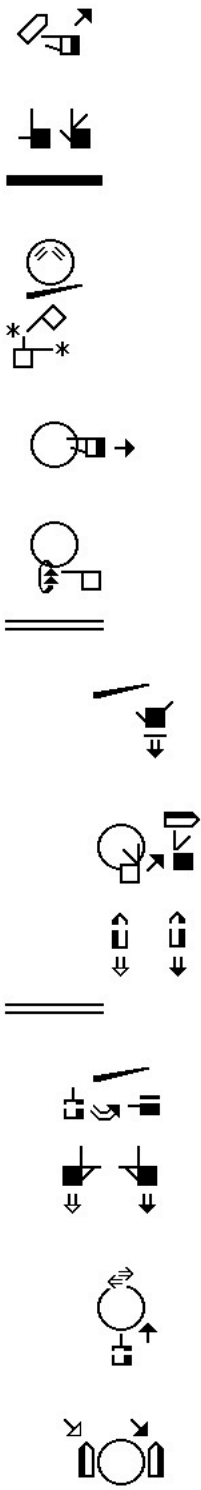
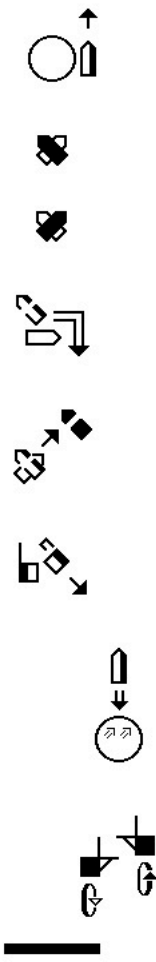
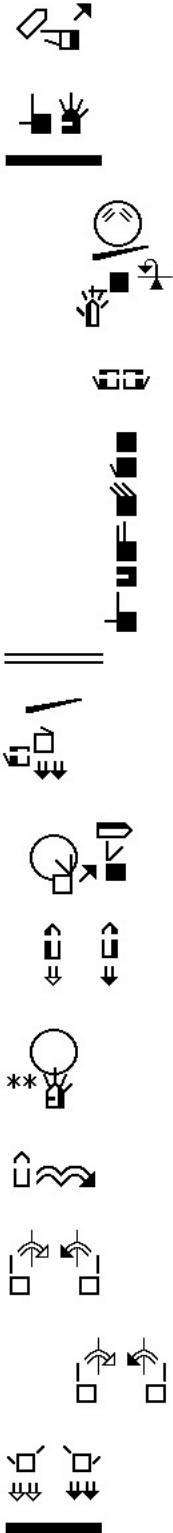
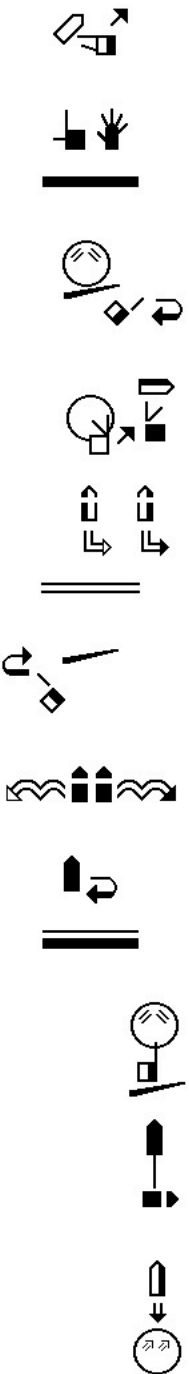
how crippled he was before. Faith in Jesus' name has healed him before your very eyes. Verse 17. "Friends, I realize that what you and your leaders did to Jesus was done in ignorance. Verse 18. But God was fulfilling what all the prophets had foretold about the Messiah -- that he must suffer these things.

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Verse 19. Now repent of your sins and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped away.  
Verse 20. Then times of refreshment will come from the presence of the Lord, and he will again send you Jesus your appointed Messiah. NLT

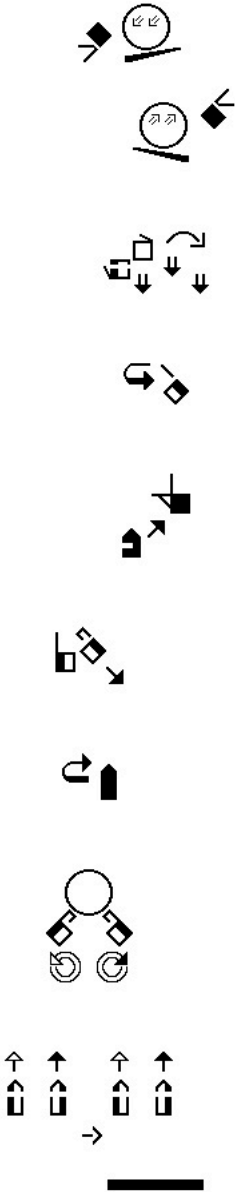
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and you are included in the covenant God promised to your ancestors. For God said to Abraham, 'Through your descendants all the families on earth will be blessed.' Verse 26. When God raised up his servant, Jesus, he sent him first to you people of Israel, to bless you

















































































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Chapter 4. While Peter and John were speaking to the people, they were confronted by the priests, the captain of the Temple guard, and some of the Sadducees. Verse 2. These leaders were very disturbed that Peter and John were teaching the people that through Jesus there is a resurrection of the dead.



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Verse 3. They arrested them and, since it was already evening, put them in jail until morning. Verse 4. But many of the people who heard their message believed it, so the number of believers now totaled about 5,000 men, not counting women and children. Verse 5. The next day the council of all the rulers

















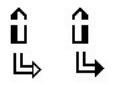

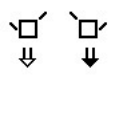







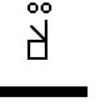
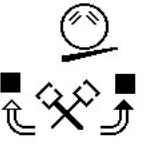








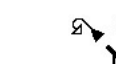

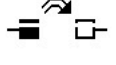
















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and elders and teachers of religious law met in Jerusalem. Verse 6. Annas the high priest was there, along with Caiaphas, John, Alexander, and other relatives of the high priest. Verse 7. They brought in the two disciples and demanded,

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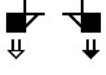













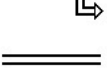
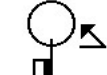


























Verse 11. For Jesus is the one referred to in the Scriptures, where it says, 'The stone that you builders rejected has now become the cornerstone.' Verse 12. There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved."  
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Verse 15. So they ordered Peter and John out of the council chamber and conferred among themselves. Verse 16. "What should we do with these men?" they asked each other. "We can't deny that they have performed a miraculous sign, and everybody in Jerusalem knows about it. Verse 17. But to keep them from spreading their propaganda any further, we must

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warn them not to speak to anyone in Jesus' name again." Verse 18. So they called the apostles back in and commanded them never again to speak or teach in the name of Jesus. Verse 19. But Peter and John replied, "Do you think God wants

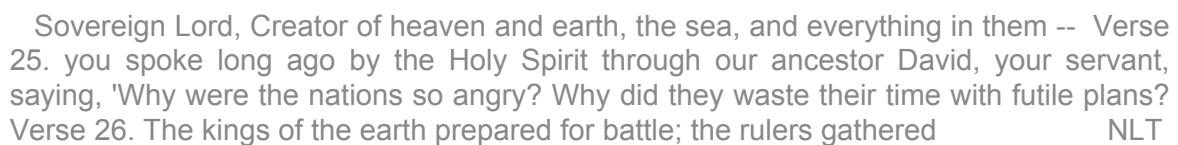


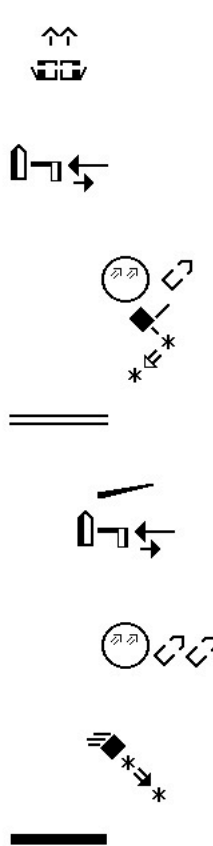
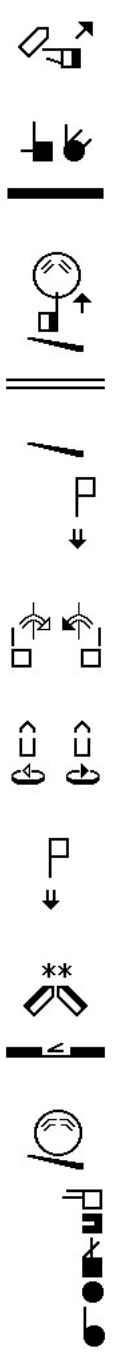
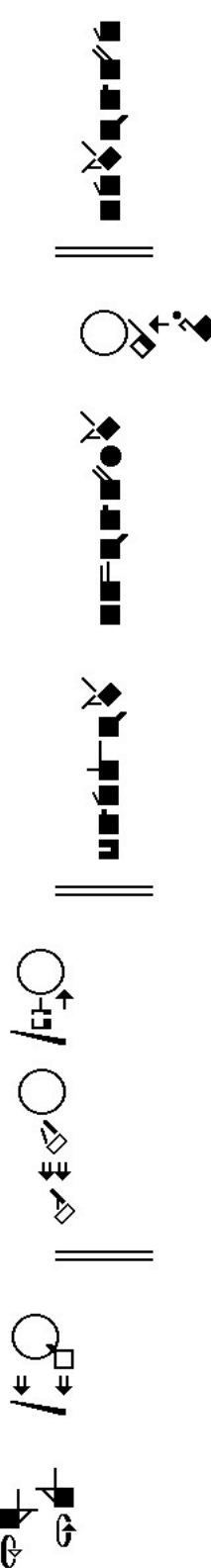
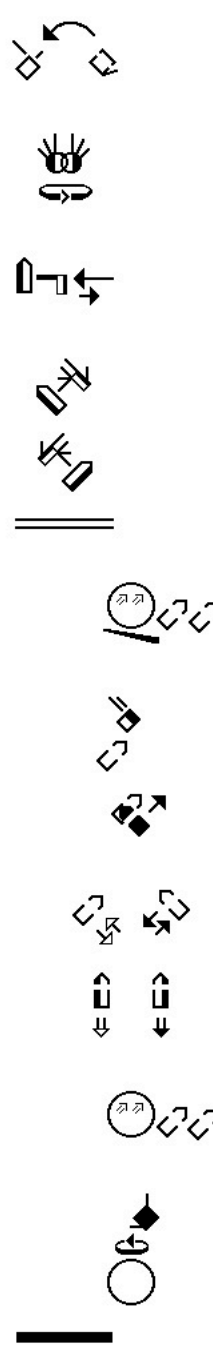
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us to obey you rather than him? Verse 20. We cannot stop telling about everything we have seen and heard." Verse 21. The council then threatened them further, but they finally let them go because they didn't know how to punish them without starting a riot. For everyone was praising God

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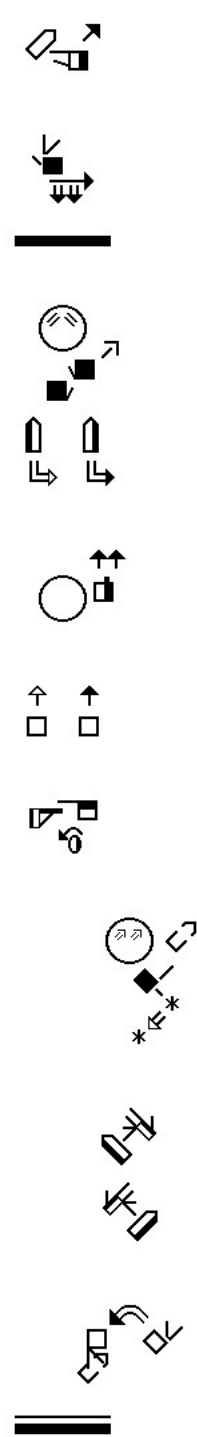
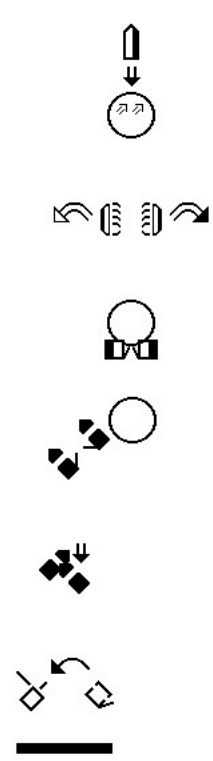
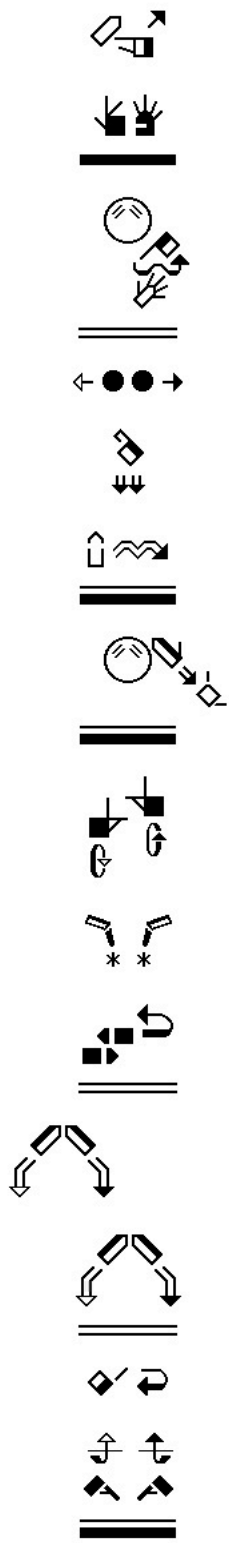
 <p>ASL signs for Acts 4:1-10. The sequence includes signs for 'they', 'went', 'to the temple', 'every day', 'praising God', 'and saying', 'blessings', 'in the Lord', 'always', 'to all the people', 'of Jerusalem', 'and all the people', 'of the temple', 'praising God', 'and saying', 'blessings', 'in the Lord', 'always', 'to all the people', 'of Jerusalem', 'and all the people', 'of the temple'.</p>	 <p>ASL signs for Acts 4:11-15. The sequence includes signs for 'we', 'are', 'not', 'able', 'to', 'keep', 'this', 'man', 'from', 'dying', 'because', 'of', 'his', 'witness', 'to', 'us', 'and', 'to', 'all', 'the', 'people', 'of', 'Jerusalem', 'and', 'to', 'all', 'the', 'people', 'of', 'the', 'temple'.</p>	 <p>ASL signs for Acts 4:16-20. The sequence includes signs for 'the', 'high', 'priest', 'said', 'to', 'them', 'and', 'to', 'all', 'the', 'people', 'of', 'the', 'temple', 'saying', 'I', 'am', 'not', 'aware', 'of', 'this', 'man', 'and', 'I', 'do', 'not', 'know', 'where', 'he', 'is', 'and', 'I', 'am', 'not', 'able', 'to', 'keep', 'this', 'man', 'from', 'dying', 'because', 'of', 'his', 'witness', 'to', 'us', 'and', 'to', 'all', 'the', 'people', 'of', 'Jerusalem', 'and', 'to', 'all', 'the', 'people', 'of', 'the', 'temple'.</p>	 <p>ASL signs for Acts 4:21-30. The sequence includes signs for 'they', 'were', 'released', 'and', 'went', 'to', 'their', 'own', 'homes', 'and', 'they', 'continued', 'to', 'praise', 'God', 'and', 'say', 'blessings', 'in', 'the', 'Lord', 'always', 'to', 'all', 'the', 'people', 'of', 'Jerusalem', 'and', 'to', 'all', 'the', 'people', 'of', 'the', 'temple'.</p>
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together against the LORD and against his Messiah.' Verse 27. "In fact, this has happened here in this very city! For Herod Antipas, Pontius Pilate the governor, the Gentiles, and the people of Israel were all united against Jesus, your holy servant, whom you anointed.

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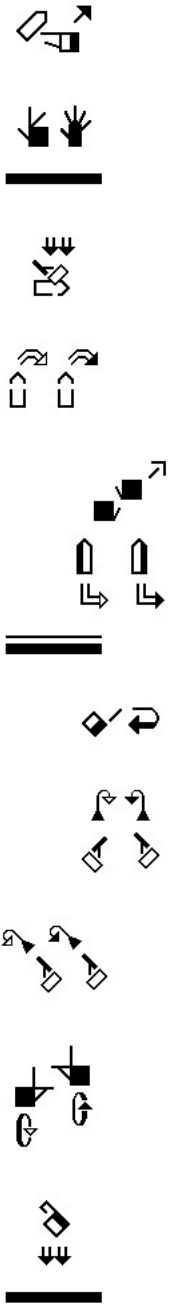
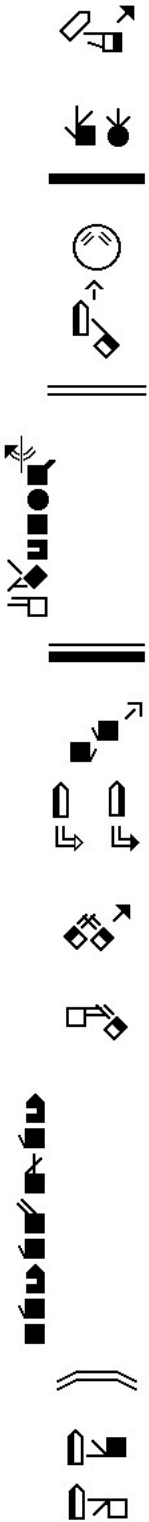
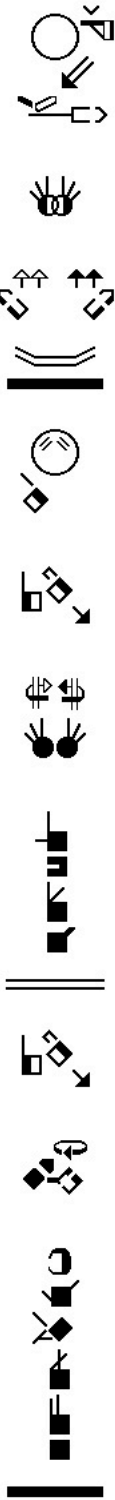
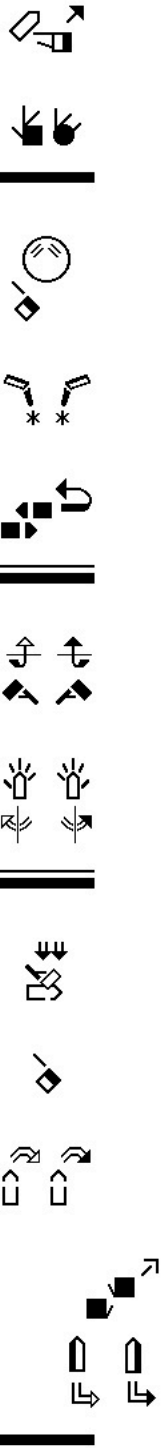

Verse 28. But everything they did was determined beforehand according to your will.  
 Verse 29. And now, O Lord, hear their threats, and give us, your servants, great boldness  
 in preaching your word. Verse 30. Stretch out your hand with healing power; may  
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signs and wonders be done through the name of your holy servant Jesus." Verse 31. After this prayer, the meeting place shook, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. Then they preached the word of God with boldness. Verse 32. All the believers were united in heart and mind. And they felt that what they owned

 <p>ASL signs for Acts 4:32-34: Verse 32 (circle, square, up, down, double line), Verse 33 (hands, double line, hands, double line, hands, double line, hands, double line, hands, double line), Verse 34 (diamond, up, down, double line, hands, double line).</p>	 <p>ASL signs for Acts 4:35-36: Verse 35 (hands, double line, hands, double line, hands, double line, hands, double line, hands, double line), Verse 36 (circle, hands, double line, hands, double line, hands, double line, hands, double line, hands, double line).</p>	 <p>ASL signs for Acts 4:37-38: Verse 37 (hands, double line, hands, double line, hands, double line, hands, double line, hands, double line), Verse 38 (circle, hands, double line, hands, double line, hands, double line, hands, double line, hands, double line).</p>	 <p>ASL signs for Acts 4:39-40: Verse 39 (hands, double line, hands, double line, hands, double line, hands, double line, hands, double line), Verse 40 (hands, double line, hands, double line, hands, double line, hands, double line, hands, double line).</p>
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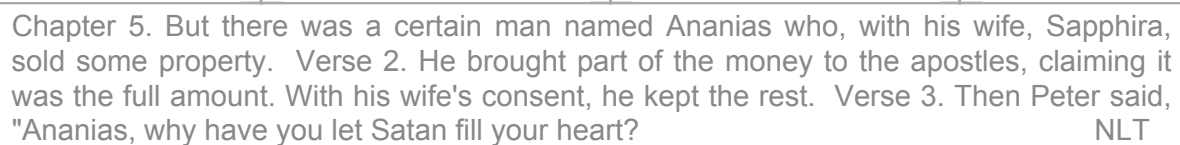
was not their own, so they shared everything they had. Verse 33. The apostles testified powerfully to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and God's great blessing was upon them all. Verse 34. There were no needy people among them, because those who owned land or houses would sell them

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Verse 35. and bring the money to the apostles to give to those in need. Verse 36. For instance, there was Joseph, the one the apostles nicknamed Barnabas (which means "Son of Encouragement"). He was from the tribe of Levi and came from the island of Cyprus. Verse 37. He sold a field he owned and brought the money to the apostles. NLT





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Verse 5. As soon as Ananias heard these words, he fell to the floor and died. Everyone who heard about it was terrified. Verse 6. Then some young men got up, wrapped him in a sheet, and took him out and buried him.

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Verse 7. About three hours later his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. Verse 8. Peter asked her, "Was this the price you and your husband received for your land?" "Yes," she replied, "that was the price." Verse 9. And Peter said, "How could the two of you even think of conspiring to test

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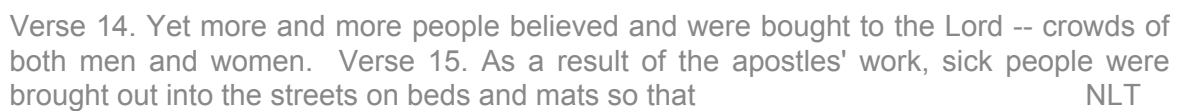
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

the Spirit of the Lord like this? The young men who buried your husband are just outside the door, and they will carry you out, too." Verse 10. Instantly, she fell to the floor and died. When the young men came in and saw that she was dead, they carried her out and buried her beside her husband.

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Verse 11. Great fear gripped the entire church and everyone else who heard what had happened.  
 Verse 12. The apostles were performing many miraculous signs and wonders among the people.  
 And all the believers were meeting regularly at the Temple in the area known as Solomon's  
 Colonnade. Verse 13. But no one else dared to join them, even though all the people had high  
 regard for them.  
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Verse 18. They arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail. Verse 19. But an angel of the Lord came at night, opened the gates of the jail, and brought them out. Then he told them, Verse 20. "Go to the Temple and give the people this message of life!"  
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Verse 21. So at daybreak the apostles entered the Temple, as they were told, and immediately began teaching. When the high priest and his officials arrived, they convened the high council -- the full assembly of the elders of Israel. Then they sent for the apostles to be brought from the jail for trial. Verse 22. But when the Temple guards went to the jail, the men were gone. So they returned to the council and reported,



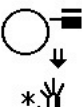






































































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Verse 23. "The jail was securely locked, with the guards standing outside, but when we opened the gates, no one was there!" Verse 24. When the captain of the Temple guard and the leading priests heard this, they were perplexed, wondering where it would all end. Verse 25. Then someone arrived with startling news: "The men you put in jail are standing in the Temple, teaching the people!" NLT


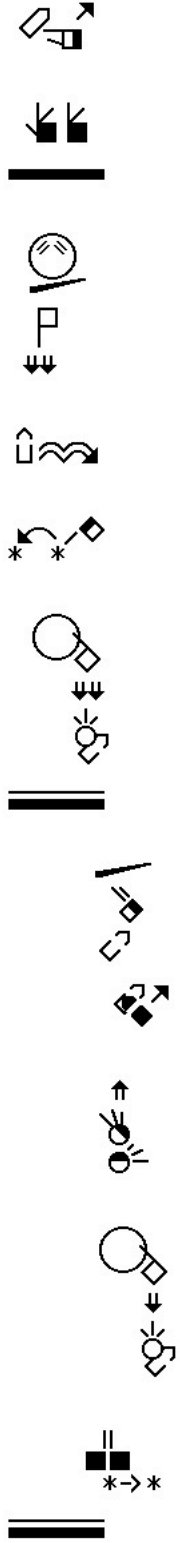
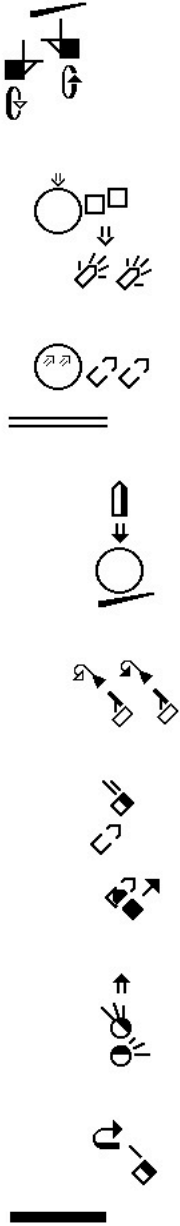
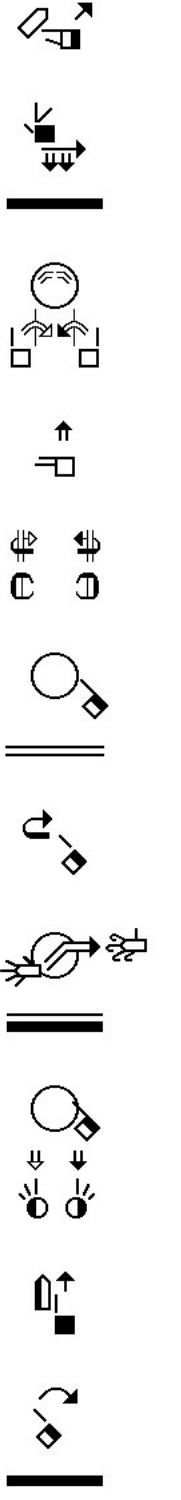
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Verse 26. The captain went with his Temple guards and arrested the apostles, but without violence, for they were afraid the people would stone them. Verse 27. Then they brought the apostles before the high council, where the high priest confronted them. Verse 28. "Didn't we tell you never again to teach

                  	               	                  	                  
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in this man's name?" he demanded. "Instead, you have filled all Jerusalem with your teaching about him, and you want to make us responsible for his death!" Verse 29. But Peter and the apostles replied, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. NLT

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81 repent of their sins and be forgiven. Verse 32. We are witnesses of these things and so is the Holy Spirit, who is given by God to those who obey him." Verse 33. When they heard this, the high council was furious and decided to kill them. NLT

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Verse 34. But one member, a Pharisee named Gamaliel, who was an expert in religious law and respected by all the people, stood up and ordered that the men be sent outside the council chamber for a while. Verse 35. Then he said to his colleagues, "Men of Israel,

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take care what you are planning to do to these men! Verse 36. Some time ago there was that fellow Theudas, who pretended to be someone great. About 400 others joined him, but he was killed, and all his followers went their various ways. The whole movement came to nothing.

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Verse 37. After him, at the time of the census, there was Judas of Galilee. He got people to follow him, but he was killed, too, and all his followers were scattered. Verse 38. "So my advice is, leave these men alone. Let them go. If they are planning and doing these things merely on their own, it will soon be overthrown.

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Verse 39. But if it is from God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You may even find yourselves fighting against God!" Verse 40. The others accepted his advice. They called in the apostles and had them flogged. Then they ordered them never again to speak in the name of Jesus, and they let them go. NLT

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Verse 41. The apostles left the high council rejoicing that God had counted them worthy to suffer disgrace for the name of Jesus. Verse 42. And every day, in the Temple and from house to house, they continued to teach and preach this message: "Jesus is the Messiah."  
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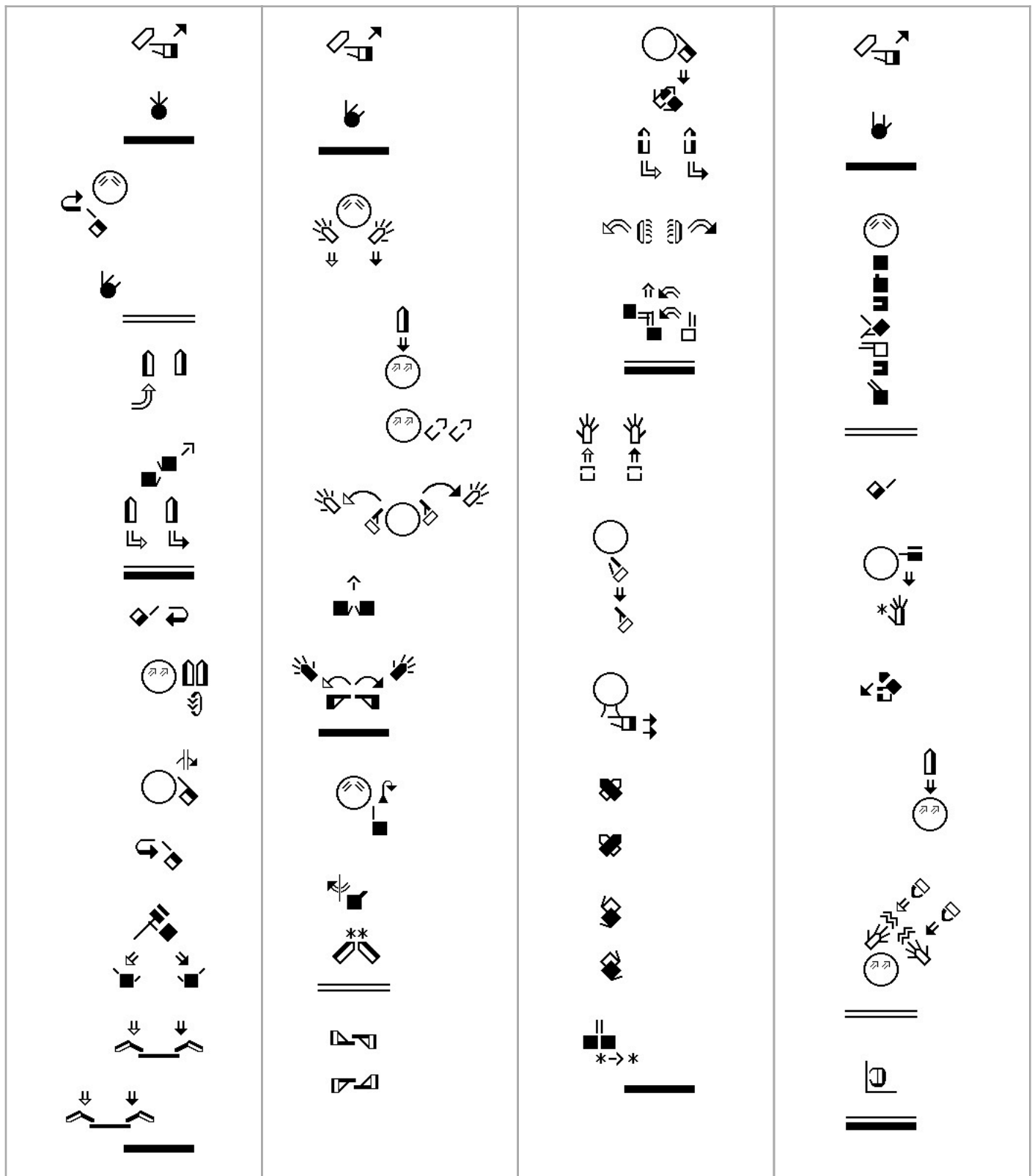
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Chapter 6. But as the believers rapidly multiplied, there were rumblings of discontent. The Greek-speaking believers complained about the Hebrew-speaking believers, saying that their widows were being discriminated against in the daily distribution of food. Verse 2. So the Twelve called a meeting of all the believers. They said, "We

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Verse 6. These seven were presented to the apostles, who prayed for them as they laid their hands on them. Verse 7. So God's message continued to spread. The number of believers greatly increased in Jerusalem, and many of the Jewish priests were converted, too. Verse 8. Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power,

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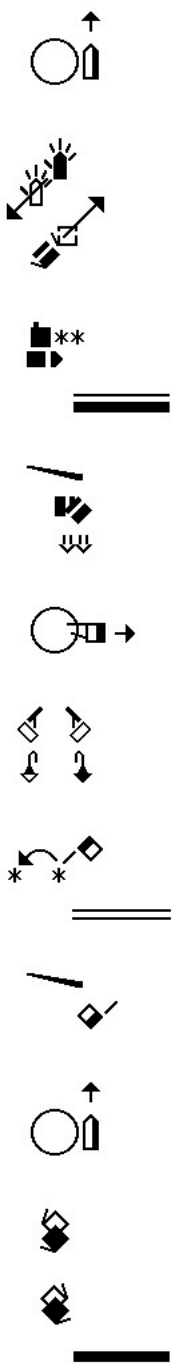
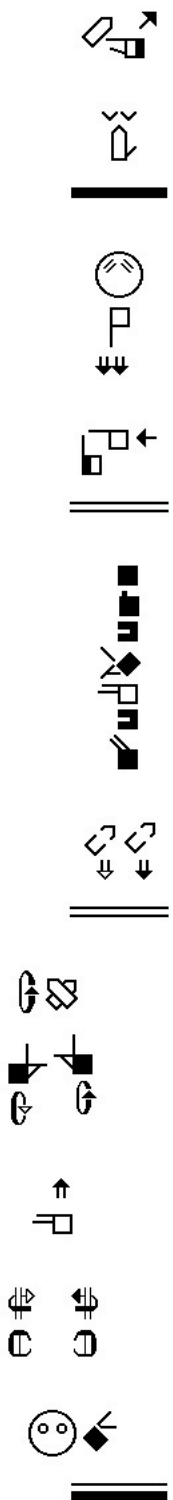
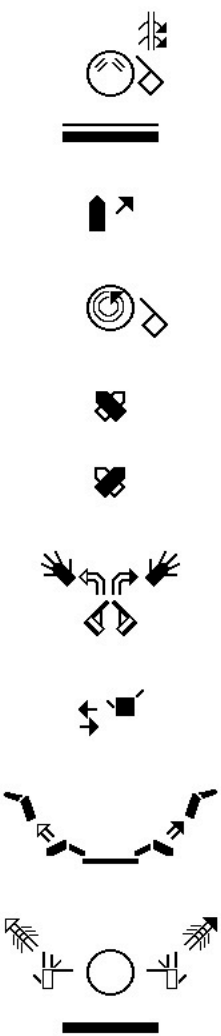
performed amazing miracles and signs among the people. Verse 9. But one day some men from the Synagogue of Freed Slaves, as it was called, started to debate with him. They were Jews from Cyrene, Alexandria, Cilicia, and the province of Asia. NLT

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Verse 10. None of them could stand against the wisdom and the Spirit with which Stephen spoke. Verse 11. So they persuaded some men to lie about Stephen, saying, "We heard him blaspheme Moses, and even God." Verse 12. This roused the people, the elders, and the teachers of religious law.

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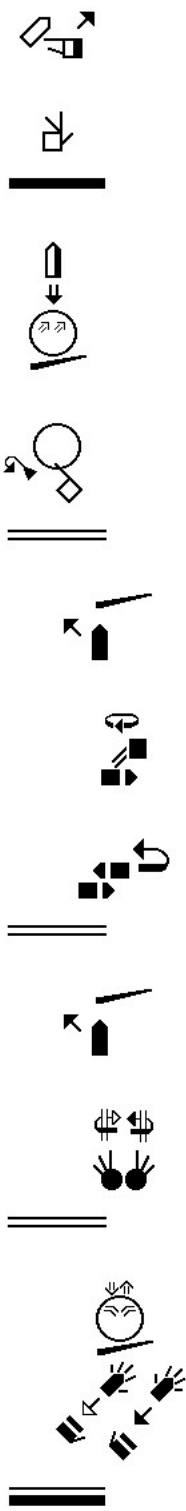
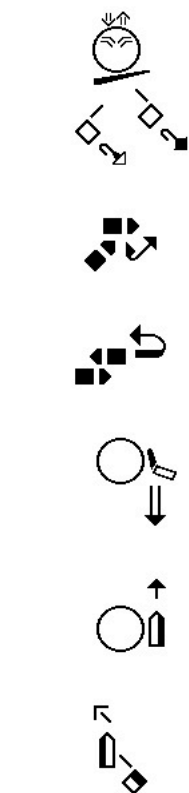
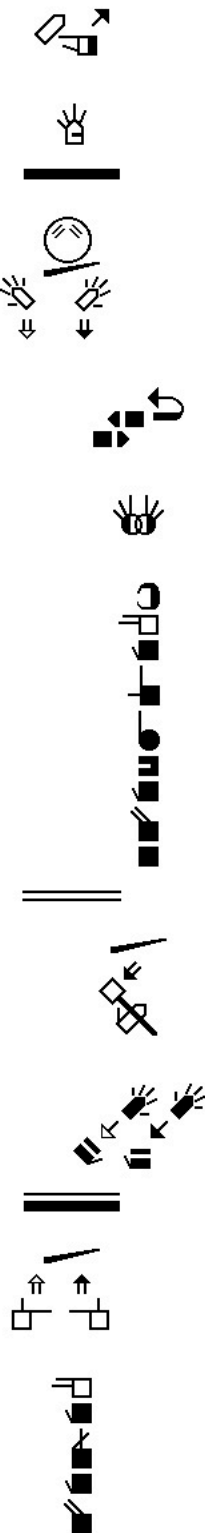
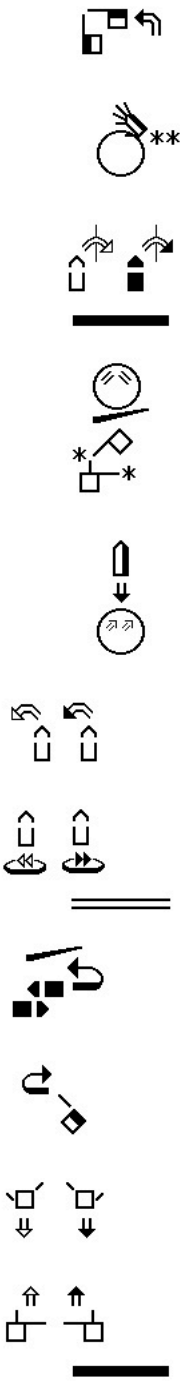
			
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will destroy the Temple and change the customs Moses handed down to us." Verse 15. At this point everyone in the high council stared at Stephen, because his face became as bright as an angel's.

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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























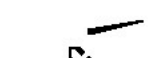





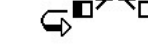




















			
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Verse 3. God told him, 'Leave your native land and your relatives, and come into the land that I will show you.' Verse 4. So Abraham left the land of the Chaldeans and lived in Haran until his father died. Then God brought him here to the land where 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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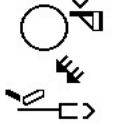
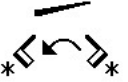
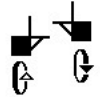
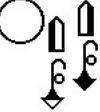





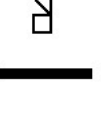



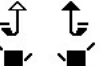

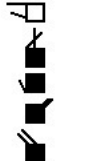
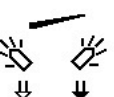


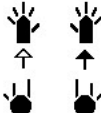


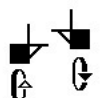
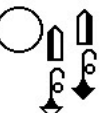




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So when Abraham became the father of Isaac, he circumcised him on the eighth day. And the practice was continued when Isaac became the father of Jacob, and when Jacob became the father of the twelve patriarchs of the Israelite nation. Verse 9. "These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

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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 13. The second time they went, Joseph revealed his identity to his brothers, and they were introduced to Pharaoh. Verse 14. Then Joseph sent for his father, Jacob, and all his relatives to come to Egypt, seventy-five persons in all.

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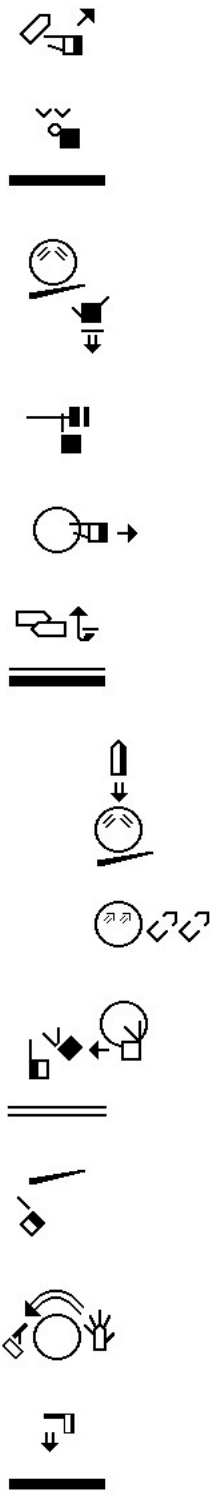
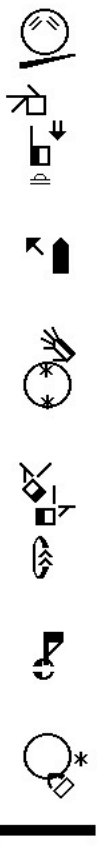

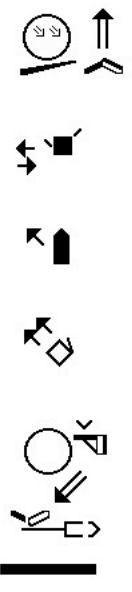
Verse 15. So Jacob went to Egypt. He died there, as did our ancestors. Verse 16. Their bodies were taken to Shechem and buried in the tomb Abraham had bought for a certain price from Hamor's sons in Shechem. Verse 17. "As the time drew near when God would fulfill his promise to Abraham,

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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 and a star), 'cared for him' (a hand with a circle and a star), 'at home' (a hand with a circle and a star), 'for three months' (a hand with a circle and a star), 'When they had to abandon him' (a hand with a circle and a star), 'Pharaoh's daughter' (a hand with a circle and a star), 'adopted him' (a hand with a circle and a star), and 'raised him as her own son' (a hand with a circle and a star).</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 and a star), 'cared for him' (a hand with a circle and a star), 'at home' (a hand with a circle and a star), 'for three months' (a hand with a circle and a star), 'When they had to abandon him' (a hand with a circle and a star), 'Pharaoh's daughter' (a hand with a circle and a star), 'adopted him' (a hand with a circle and a star), and 'raised him as her own son' (a hand with a circle and a star).</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 and a star), 'cared for him' (a hand with a circle and a star), 'at home' (a hand with a circle and a star), 'for three months' (a hand with a circle and a star), 'When they had to abandon him' (a hand with a circle and a star), 'Pharaoh's daughter' (a hand with a circle and a star), 'adopted him' (a hand with a circle and a star), and 'raised him as her own son' (a hand with a circle and a star).</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 and a star), 'cared for him' (a hand with a circle and a star), 'at home' (a hand with a circle and a star), 'for three months' (a hand with a circle and a star), 'When they had to abandon him' (a hand with a circle and a star), 'Pharaoh's daughter' (a hand with a circle and a star), 'adopted him' (a hand with a circle and a star), and 'raised him as her own son' (a hand with a circle and a star).</p>
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Verse 22. Moses was taught all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and he was powerful in both speech and action. Verse 23. "One day when Moses was forty years old, he decided to visit his relatives, the people of Israel. Verse 24. He saw an Egyptian mistreating an Israelite. So Moses came to the man's defense and avenged him, killing the Egyptian.































































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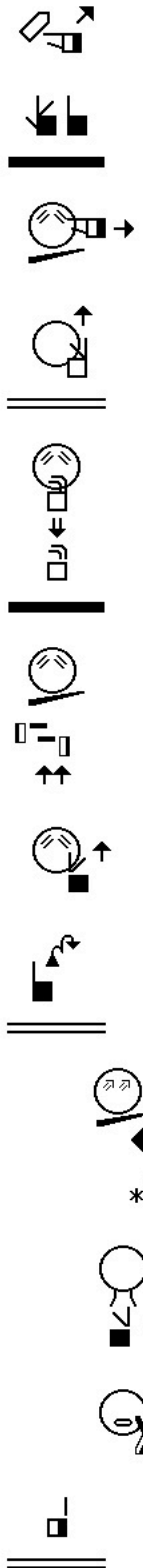
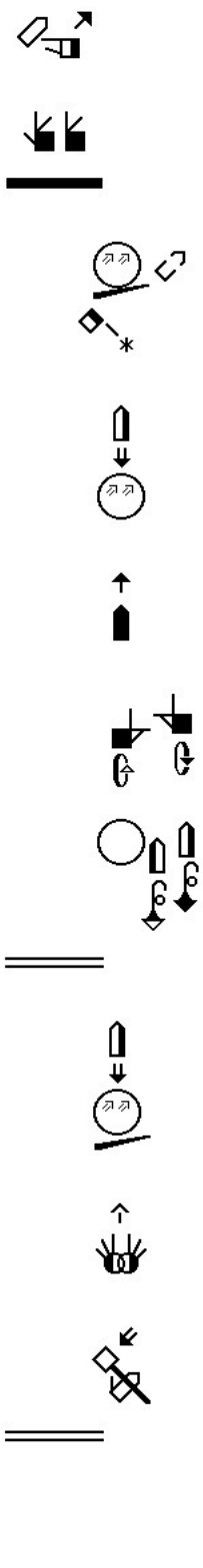
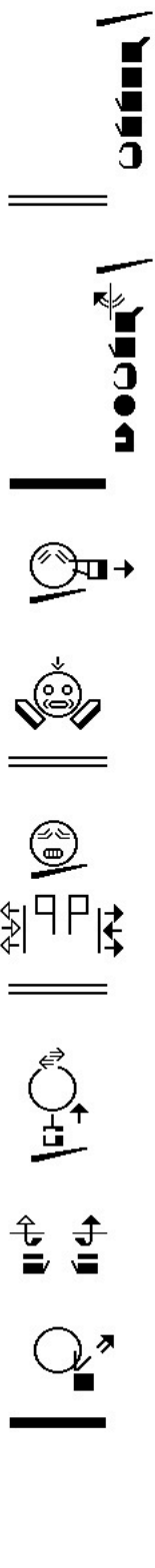
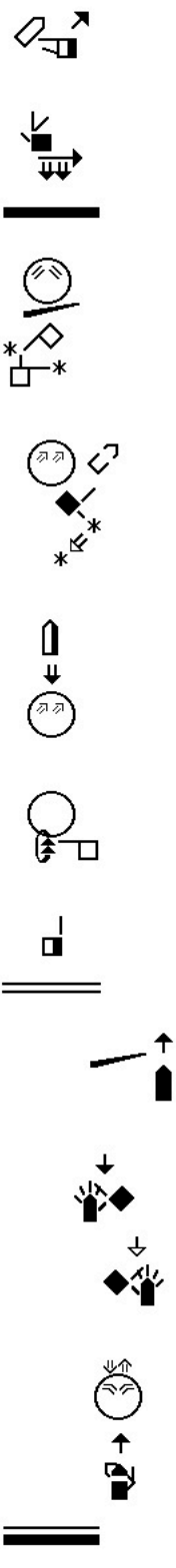
Verse 25. Moses assumed his fellow Israelites would realize that God had sent him to rescue them, but they didn't. Verse 26. "The next day he visited them again and saw two men of Israel fighting. He tried to be a peace-maker. 'Men,' he said, 'you

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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

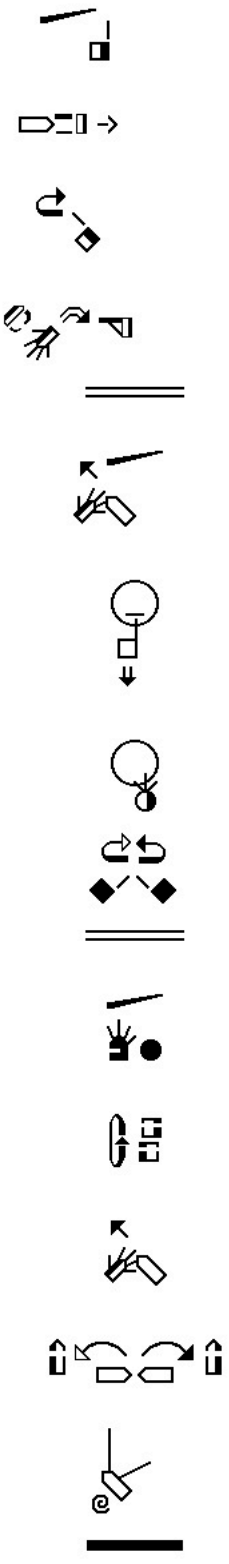
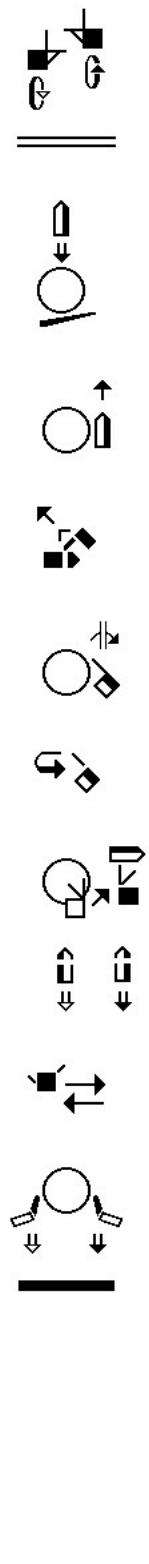
			
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Verse 31. When Moses saw it, he was amazed at the sight. As he went to take a closer look, the voice of the LORD called out to him, Verse 32. 'I am the God of your ancestors -- the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.' Moses shook with terror and did not dare to look. Verse 33. "Then the LORD said to him, 'Take off your sandals,

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111 for you are standing on holy ground. Verse 34. I have certainly seen the oppression of my people in Egypt. I have heard their groans and have come down to rescue them. Now go, for I am sending you back to Egypt.' NLT

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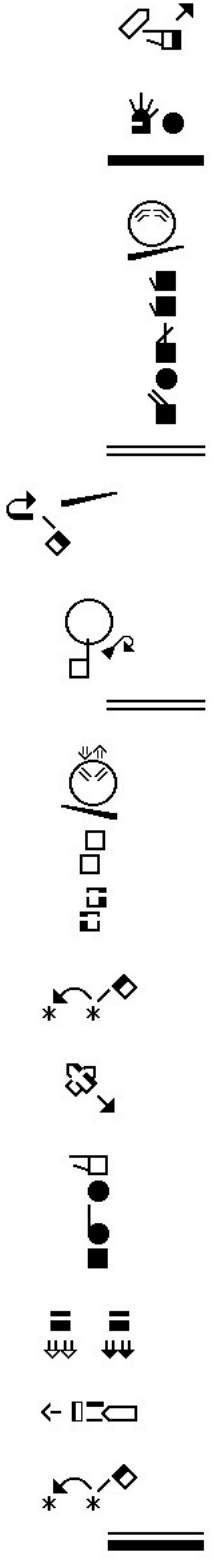

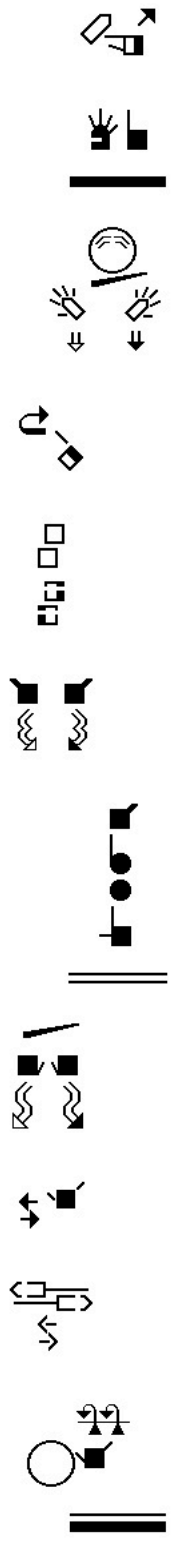
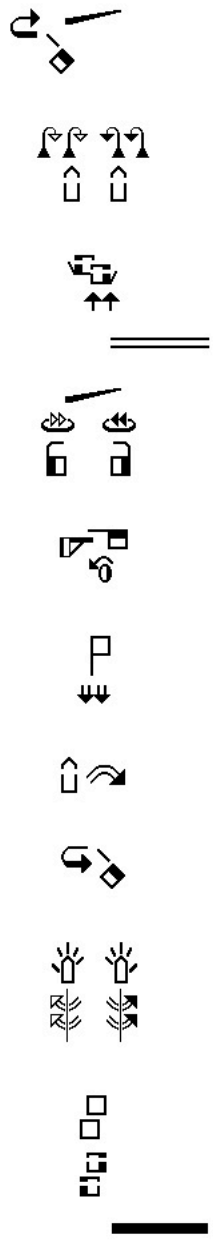
			
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Verse 36. And by means of many wonders and miraculous signs, he led them out of Egypt, through the Red Sea, and through the wilderness for forty years. Verse 37. "Moses himself told the people of Israel, 'God will raise up for you a Prophet like me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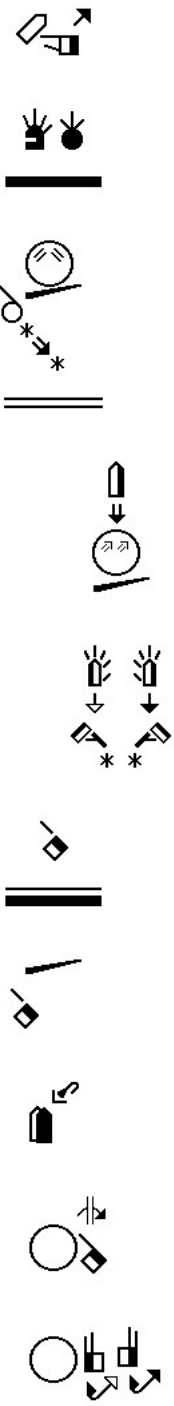



Verse 42. Then God turned away from them and abandoned them to serve the stars of heaven as their gods! In the book of the prophets it is written, 'Was it to me you were bringing sacrifices and offerings during those forty years in the wilderness, Israel? Verse 43. No, you carried your pagan gods --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

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Verse 50. Didn't my hands make both heaven and earth?' Verse 51. "You stubborn people! You are heathen at heart and deaf to the truth. Must you forever resist the Holy Spirit? That's what your ancestors did, and so do you! NLT

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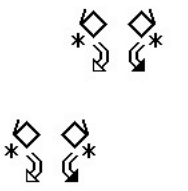




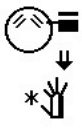

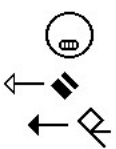



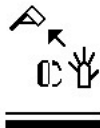





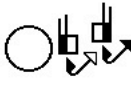

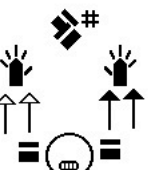

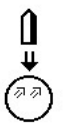
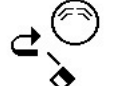
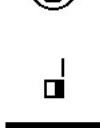






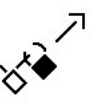
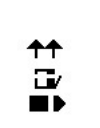



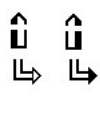



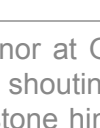

Verse 52. Name one prophet your ancestors didn't persecute! They even killed the ones who predicted the coming of the Righteous One -- the Messiah whom you betrayed and murdered. Verse 53. You deliberately disobeyed God's law, even though you received it from the hands of angels."

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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.

<p>ASL signs for Verse 59: Stephen praying. The sequence includes: a hand sign for 'prayer' (open palm, fingers together), a hand sign for 'Lord' (index finger pointing up), a hand sign for 'Jesus' (index finger pointing up, palm facing forward), a hand sign for 'receive' (open palm, fingers together), a hand sign for 'my' (index finger pointing up), a hand sign for 'spirit' (index finger pointing up, palm facing forward), a hand sign for 'Lord' (index finger pointing up), a hand sign for 'Jesus' (index finger pointing up, palm facing forward), a hand sign for 'receive' (open palm, fingers together), a hand sign for 'my' (index finger pointing up), a hand sign for 'spirit' (index finger pointing up, palm facing forward), a hand sign for 'Lord' (index finger pointing up), a hand sign for 'Jesus' (index finger pointing up, palm facing forward), a hand sign for 'receive' (open palm, fingers together), a hand sign for 'my' (index finger pointing up), a hand sign for 'spirit' (index finger pointing up, palm facing forward).</p>	<p>ASL signs for Verse 60: Stephen falling to his knees. The sequence includes: a hand sign for 'fall' (index finger pointing down), a hand sign for 'knees' (index finger pointing down), a hand sign for 'shouting' (index finger pointing up, palm facing forward), a hand sign for 'Lord' (index finger pointing up), a hand sign for 'don't' (index finger pointing up, palm facing forward), a hand sign for 'charge' (index finger pointing up, palm facing forward), a hand sign for 'them' (index finger pointing up), a hand sign for 'with' (index finger pointing up), a hand sign for 'this' (index finger pointing up), a hand sign for 'sin' (index finger pointing up, palm facing forward), a hand sign for 'And' (index finger pointing up), a hand sign for 'with' (index finger pointing up), a hand sign for 'that' (index finger pointing up, palm facing forward), a hand sign for 'he' (index finger pointing up), a hand sign for 'died' (index finger pointing up, palm facing forward).</p>	<p>ASL signs for Verse 61: Stephen's death. The sequence includes: a hand sign for 'prayer' (open palm, fingers together), a hand sign for 'Lord' (index finger pointing up), a hand sign for 'Jesus' (index finger pointing up, palm facing forward), a hand sign for 'receive' (open palm, fingers together), a hand sign for 'my' (index finger pointing up), a hand sign for 'spirit' (index finger pointing up, palm facing forward), a hand sign for 'Lord' (index finger pointing up), a hand sign for 'Jesus' (index finger pointing up, palm facing forward), a hand sign for 'receive' (open palm, fingers together), a hand sign for 'my' (index finger pointing up), a hand sign for 'spirit' (index finger pointing up, palm facing forward), a hand sign for 'Lord' (index finger pointing up), a hand sign for 'Jesus' (index finger pointing up, palm facing forward), a hand sign for 'receive' (open palm, fingers together), a hand sign for 'my' (index finger pointing up), a hand sign for 'spirit' (index finger pointing up, palm facing forward).</p>	<p>ASL signs for Verse 62: Stephen's death. The sequence includes: a hand sign for 'prayer' (open palm, fingers together), a hand sign for 'Lord' (index finger pointing up), a hand sign for 'Jesus' (index finger pointing up, palm facing forward), a hand sign for 'receive' (open palm, fingers together), a hand sign for 'my' (index finger pointing up), a hand sign for 'spirit' (index finger pointing up, palm facing forward), a hand sign for 'Lord' (index finger pointing up), a hand sign for 'Jesus' (index finger pointing up, palm facing forward), a hand sign for 'receive' (open palm, fingers together), a hand sign for 'my' (index finger pointing up), a hand sign for 'spirit' (index finger pointing up, palm facing forward), a hand sign for 'Lord' (index finger pointing up), a hand sign for 'Jesus' (index finger pointing up, palm facing forward), a hand sign for 'receive' (open palm, fingers together), a hand sign for 'my' (index finger pointing up), a hand sign for 'spirit' (index finger pointing up, palm facing forward).</p>
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























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Chapter 8. Saul was one of the witnesses, and he agreed completely with the killing of Stephen. A great wave of persecution began that day, sweeping over the church in Jerusalem; and all the believers except the apostles were scattered through the regions of Judea and Samaria. Verse 2. (Some devout men came and buried Stephen NLT

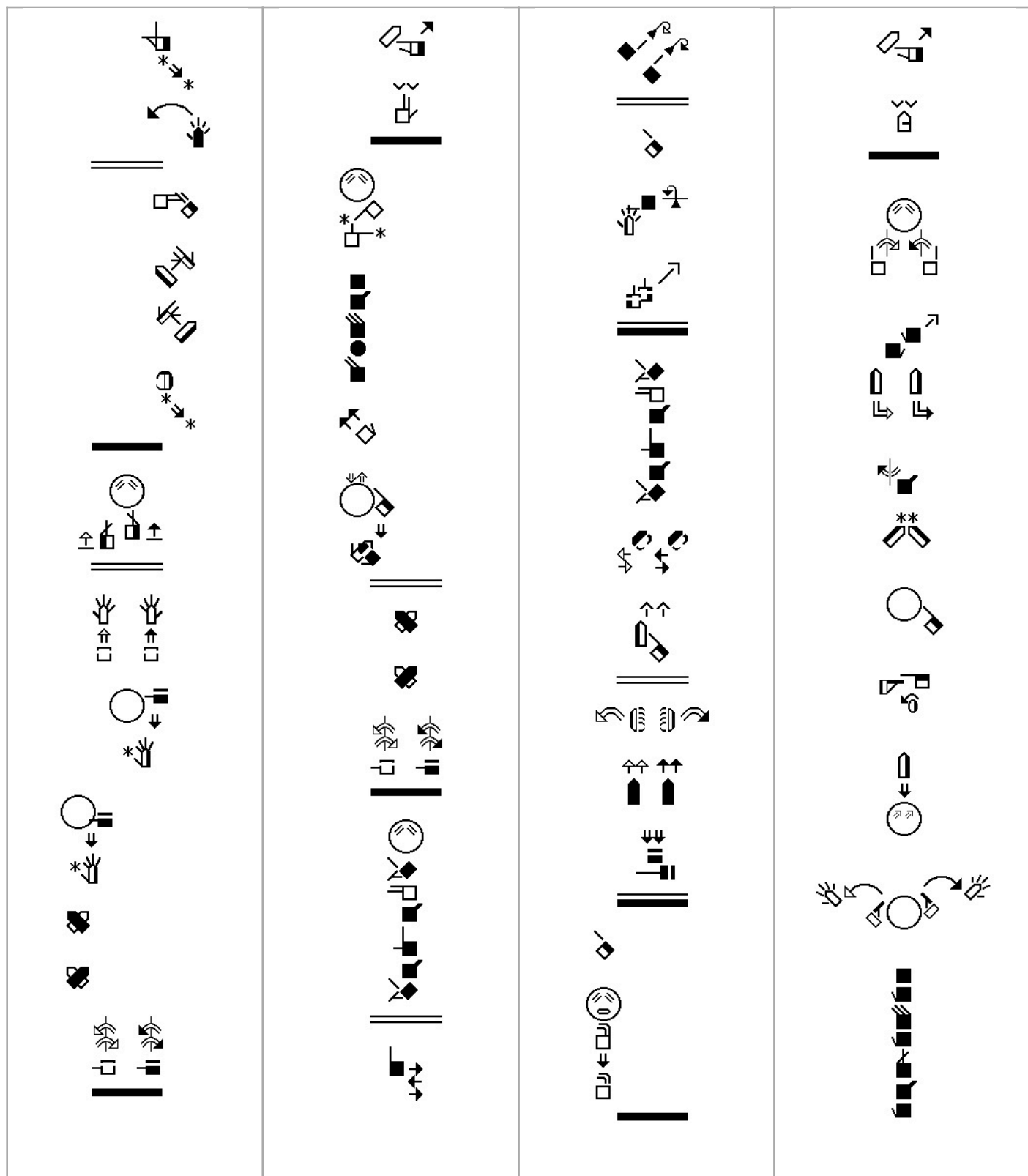
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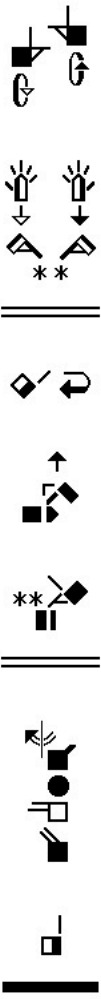

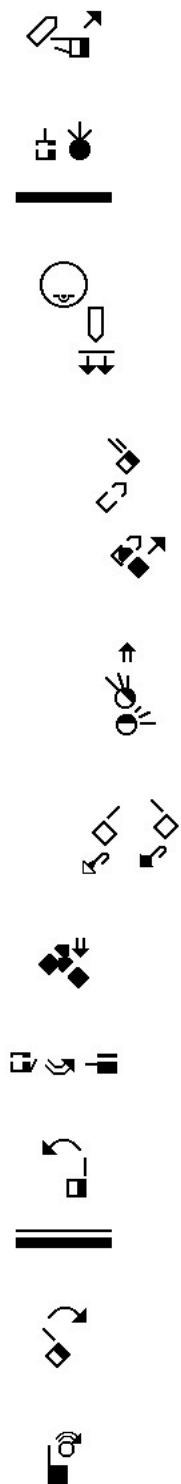
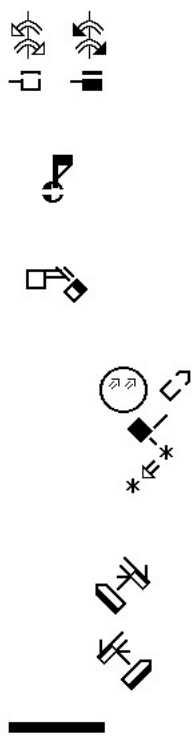
                             
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the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ. As a result, many men and women were baptized. Verse 13. Then Simon himself believed and was baptized. He began following Philip wherever he went, and he was amazed by the signs and great miracles Philip performed. Verse 14. When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that the people of Samaria

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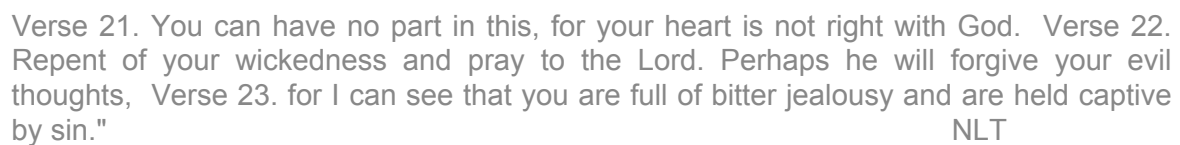
			
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had accepted God's message, they sent Peter and John there. Verse 15. As soon as they arrived, they prayed for these new believers to receive the Holy Spirit. Verse 16. The Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them, for they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

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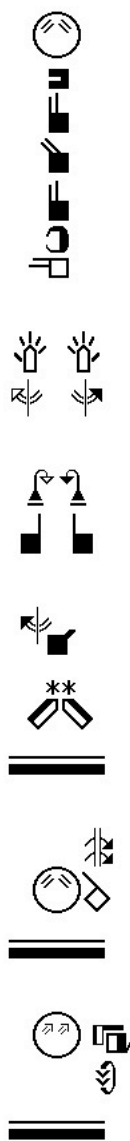
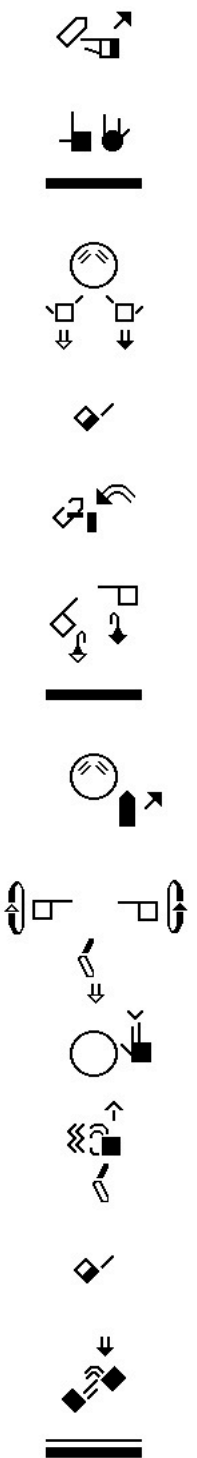
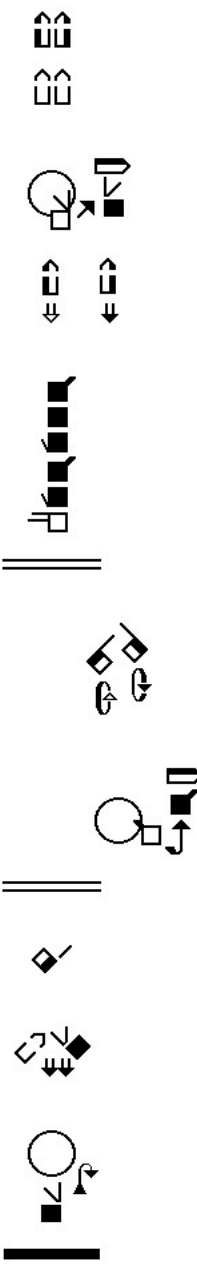
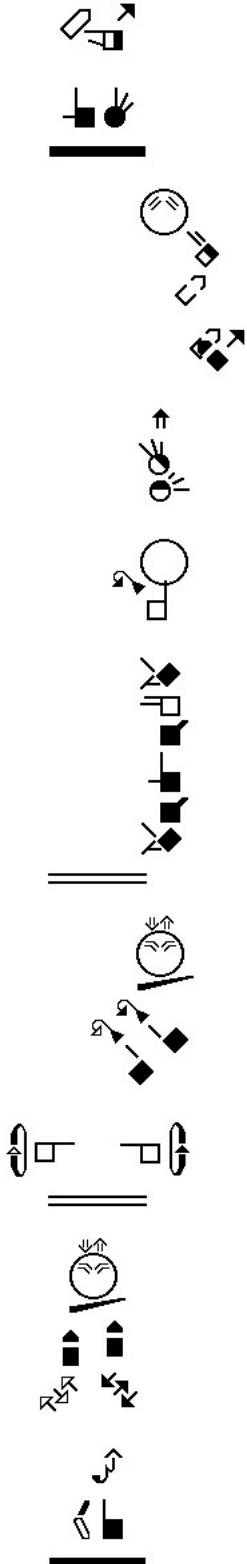



Verse 24. "Pray to the Lord for me," Simon exclaimed, "that these terrible things you've said won't happen to me!" Verse 25. After testifying and preaching the word of the Lord in Samaria, Peter and John returned to Jerusalem. And they stopped in many Samaritan villages along the way to preach the Good News.

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Verse 26. As for Philip, an angel of the Lord said to him, "Go south down the desert road that runs from Jerusalem to Gaza." Verse 27. So he started out, and he met the treasurer of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under the Kandake, the queen of Ethiopia.

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










































































			
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The eunuch had gone to Jerusalem to worship, Verse 28. and he was now returning. Seated in his carriage, he was reading aloud from the book of the prophet Isaiah. Verse 29. The Holy Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and walk along beside the carriage." NLT



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Verse 30. Philip ran over and heard the man reading from the prophet Isaiah. Philip asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" Verse 31. The man replied, "How can I, unless someone instructs me?" And he urged Philip to come up into the carriage and sit with him. NLT

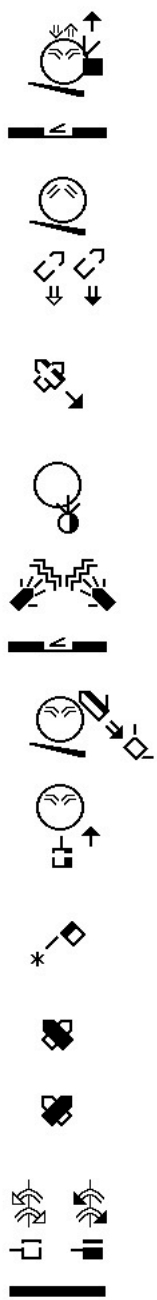
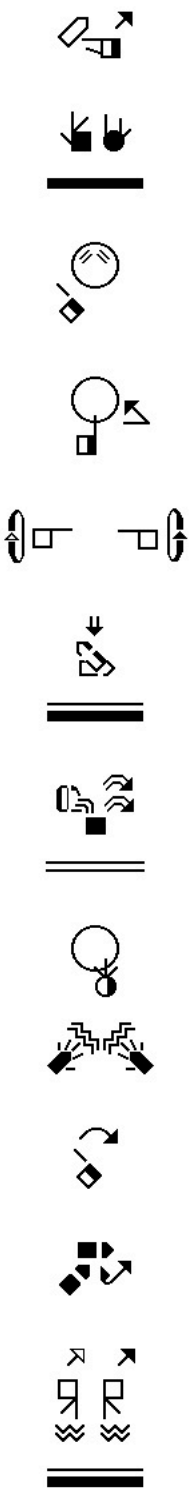
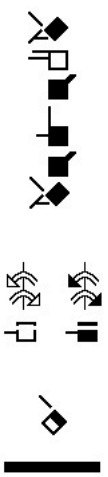
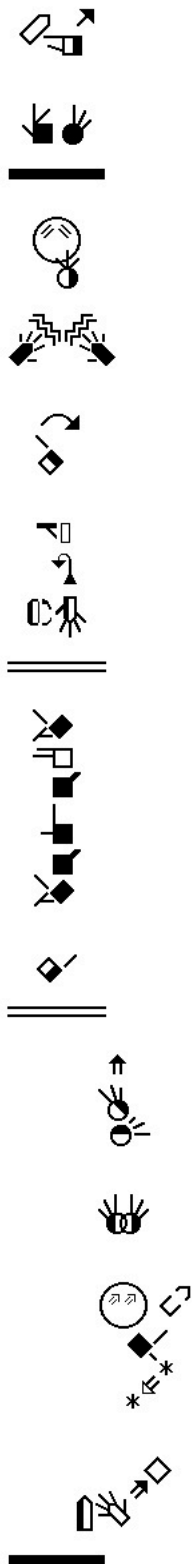
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Verse 32. The passage of Scripture he had been reading was this: "He was led like a sheep to the slaughter. And as a lamb is silent before the shearers, he did not open his mouth. Verse 33. He was humiliated and received no justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth."

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Verse 34. The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, was the prophet talking about himself or someone else?" Verse 35. So beginning with this same Scripture, Philip told him the Good News about Jesus. Verse 36. As they rode along, they came to some water, and the eunuch said,

			
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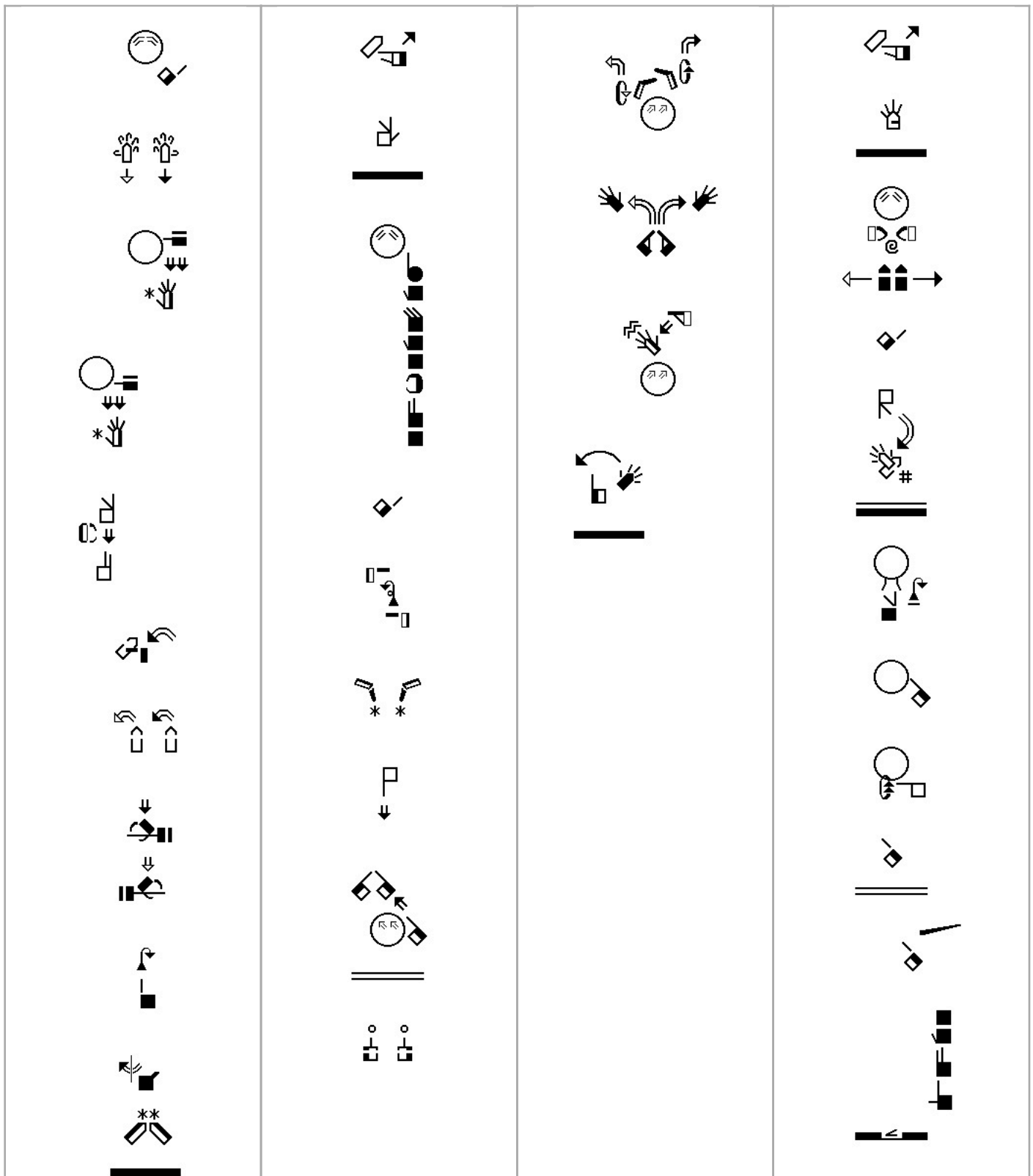
"Look! There's some water! Why can't I be baptized?" (\*Note: no verse 37 in NLT)  
 Verse 38. He ordered the carriage to stop, and they went down into the water, and Philip  
 baptized him. Verse 39. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord  
 snatched Philip away. NLT

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Chapter 9. Meanwhile, Saul was uttering threats with every breath and was eager to kill the Lord's followers. So he went to the high priest. Verse 2. He requested letters addressed to the synagogues in Damascus, asking for their cooperation in the arrest of any followers of the Way he found there.

NLT



He wanted to bring them -- both men and women -- back to Jerusalem in chains. Verse 3. As he was approaching Damascus on this mission, a light from heaven suddenly shone down around him. Verse 4. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul!"

NLT

<p>ASL signs for Verse 5: Saul asks, "Who are you, lord?" The sequence includes a hand sign for 'who', a hand sign for 'you', a hand sign for 'lord', and a hand sign for 'ask'.</p>	<p>ASL signs for Verse 6: The voice replies, "I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting!" The sequence includes a hand sign for 'I', a hand sign for 'am', a hand sign for 'Jesus', a hand sign for 'one', a hand sign for 'you', and a hand sign for 'persecuting'.</p>	<p>ASL signs for Verse 7: Saul asks, "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." The sequence includes a hand sign for 'now', a hand sign for 'get up', a hand sign for 'go', a hand sign for 'into the city', and a hand sign for 'you will be told what you must do'.</p>	<p>ASL signs for Verse 8: The voice replies, "Saul! Why are you persecuting me?" The sequence includes a hand sign for 'Saul', a hand sign for 'why', a hand sign for 'are you', and a hand sign for 'persecuting me'.</p>
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Saul! Why are you persecuting me?" Verse 5. "Who are you, lord?" Saul asked. And the voice replied, "I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting!" Verse 6. Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

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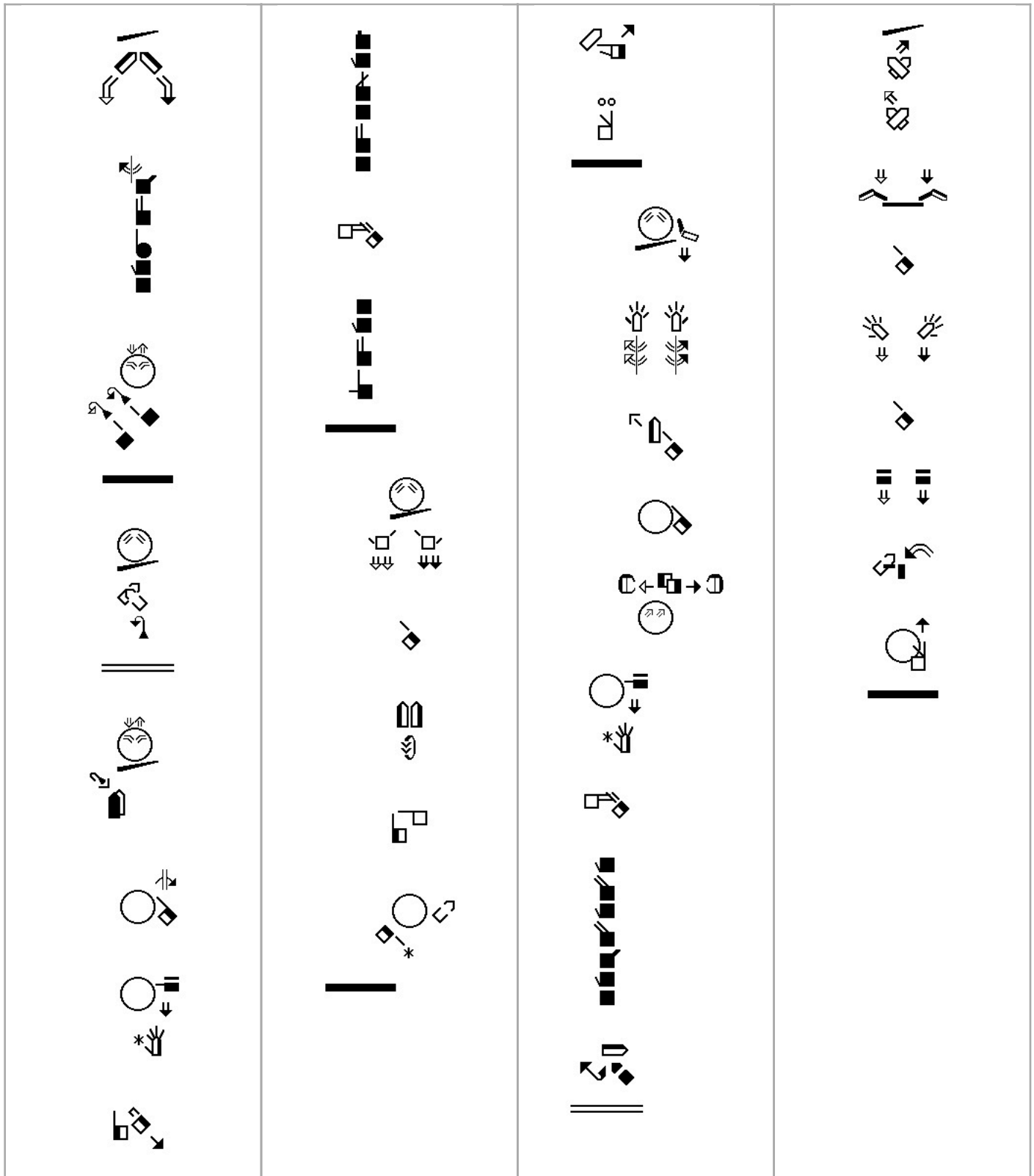


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Verse 7. The men with Saul stood speechless, for they heard the sound of someone's voice but saw no one! Verse 8. Saul picked himself up off the ground, but when he opened his eyes he was blind. So his companions led him by the hand to Damascus. NLT

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Verse 9. He remained there blind for three days and did not eat or drink. Verse 10. Now there was a believer in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord spoke to him in a vision, calling, "Ananias!" "Yes, Lord!" he replied. Verse 11. The Lord said, "Go over to Straight Street,

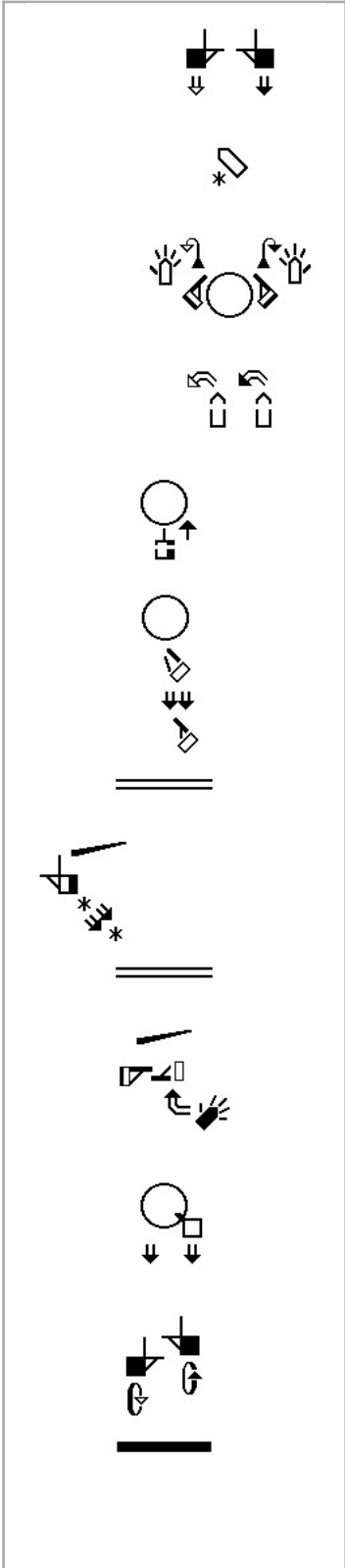
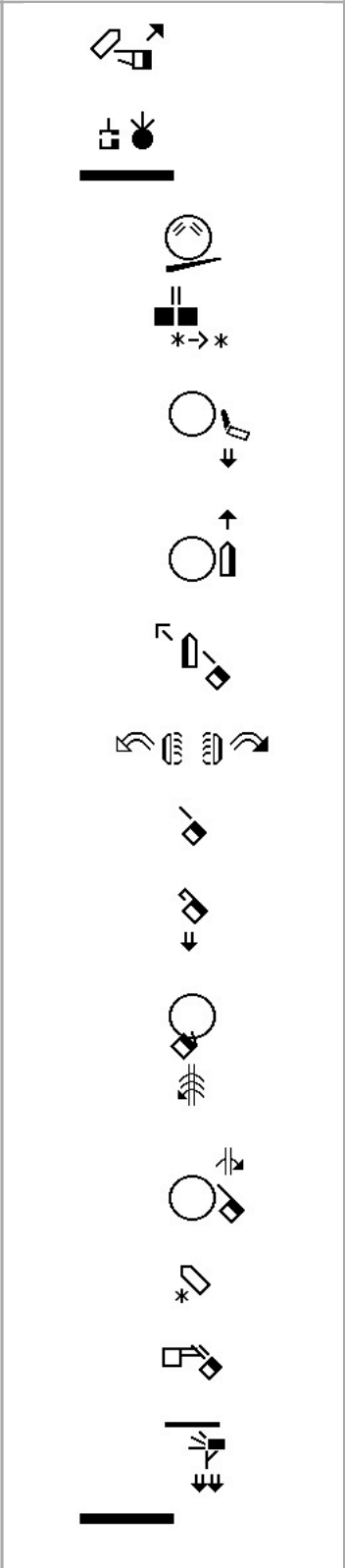
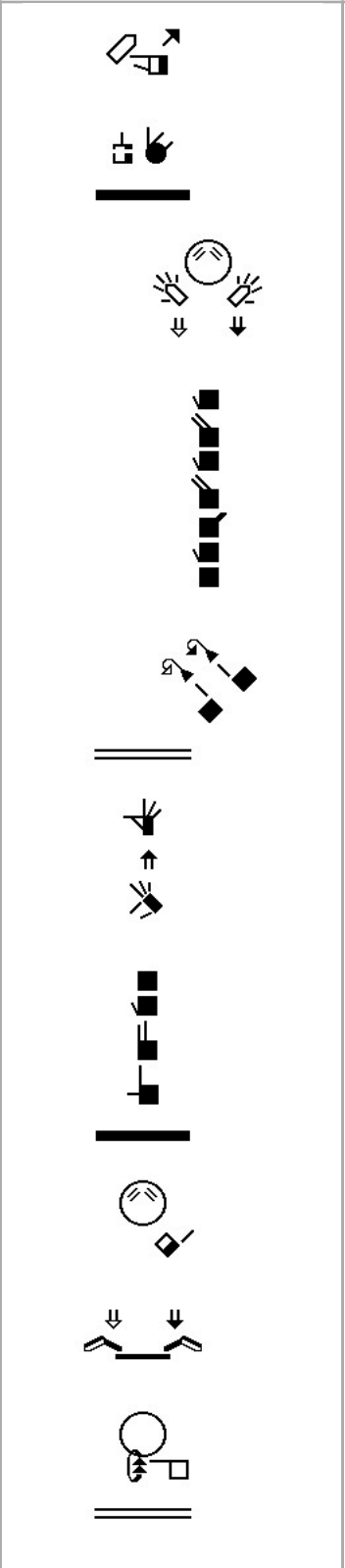
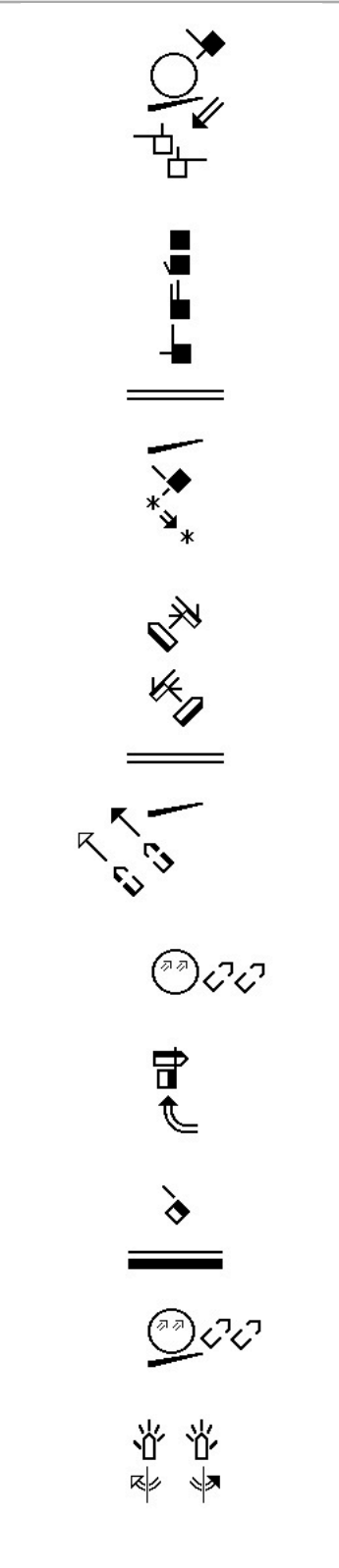


149 to the house of Judas. When you get there, ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul. He is praying to me right now. Verse 12. I have shown him a vision of a man named Ananias coming in and laying hands on him so he can see again." NLT

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Verse 13. "But Lord," exclaimed Ananias, "I've heard many people talk about the terrible things this man has done to the believers in Jerusalem! Verse 14. And he is authorized by the leading priests to arrest everyone who calls upon your name." Verse 15. But the Lord said, "Go, for Saul is my chosen

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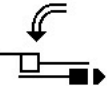




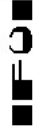






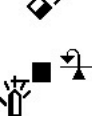












































instrument to take my message to the Gentiles and to kings, as well as to the people of Israel. Verse 16. And I will show him how much he must suffer for my name's sake." Verse 17. So Ananias went and found Saul. He laid his hands on him and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road, has

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sent me so that you might regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." Verse 18. Instantly something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he got up and was baptized. Verse 19. Afterward he ate some food and regained his strength.

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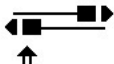




























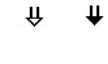


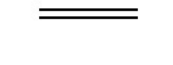






















Saul stayed with the believers in Damascus for a few days. Verse 20. And immediately he began preaching about Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is indeed the Son of God!" Verse 21. All who heard him were amazed. "Isn't this the same man who caused such devastation among Jesus' followers in Jerusalem?" they asked.

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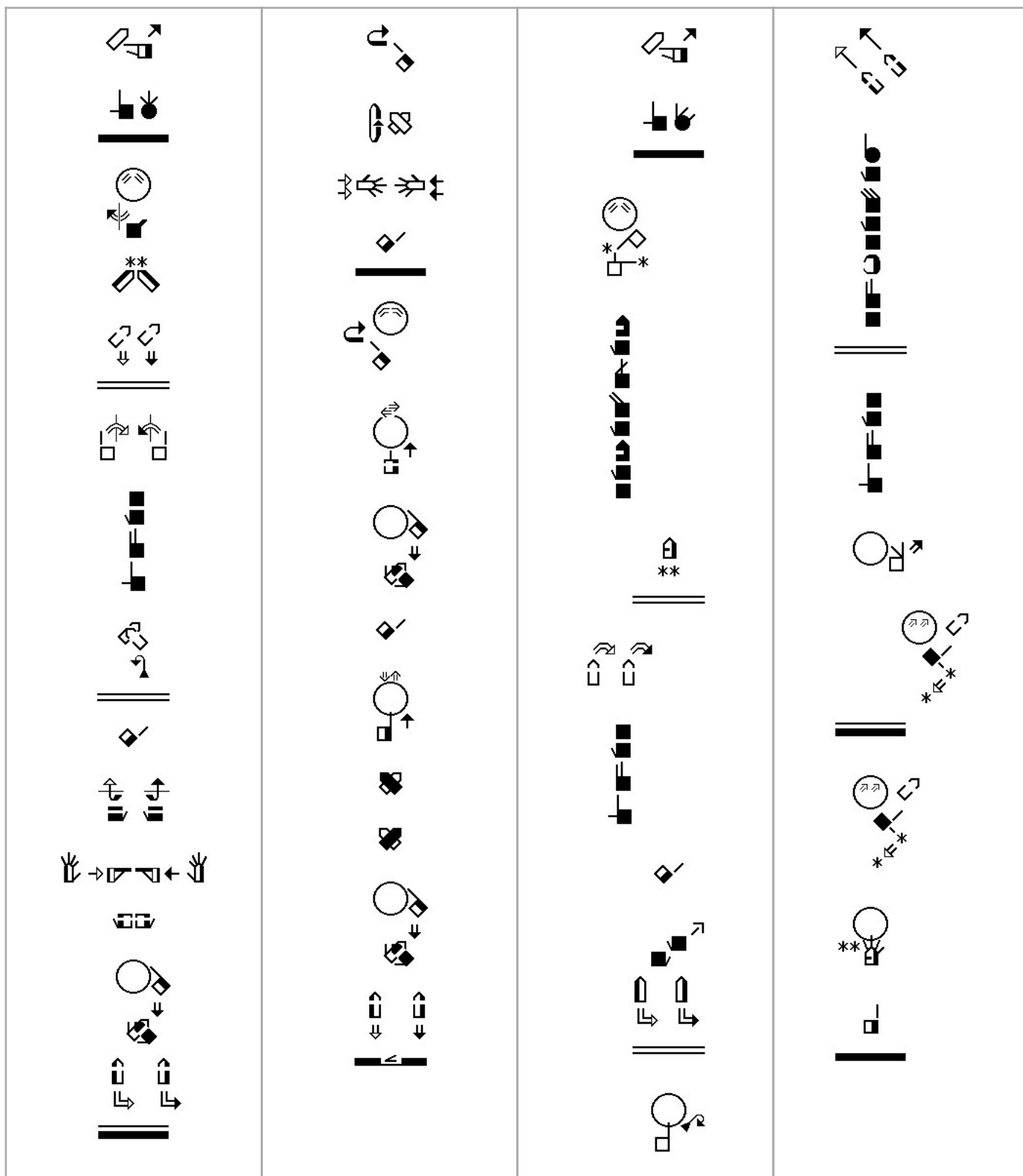
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"And didn't he come here to arrest them and take them in chains to the leading priests?"  
 Verse 22. Saul's preaching became more and more powerful, and the Jews in Damascus  
 couldn't refute his proofs that Jesus was indeed the Messiah. Verse 23. After a while  
 some of the Jews plotted together to kill him.  
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Verse 24. They were watching for him day and night at the city gate so they could murder him, but Saul was told about their plot. Verse 25. So during the night, some of the other believers lowered him in a large basket through an opening in the city wall. NLT



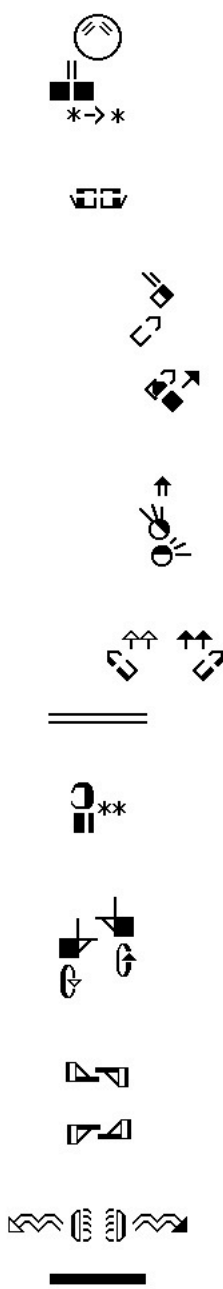
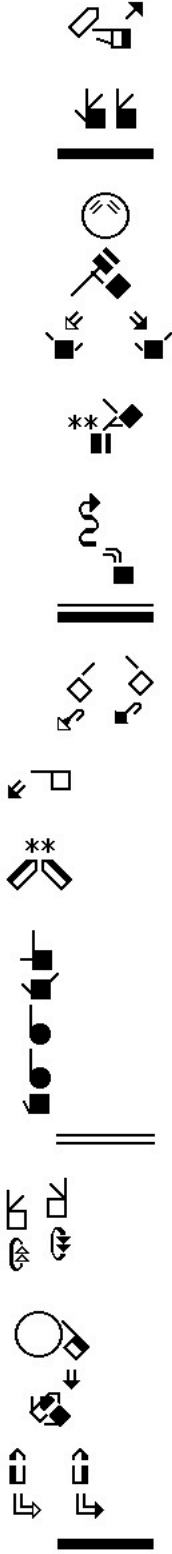
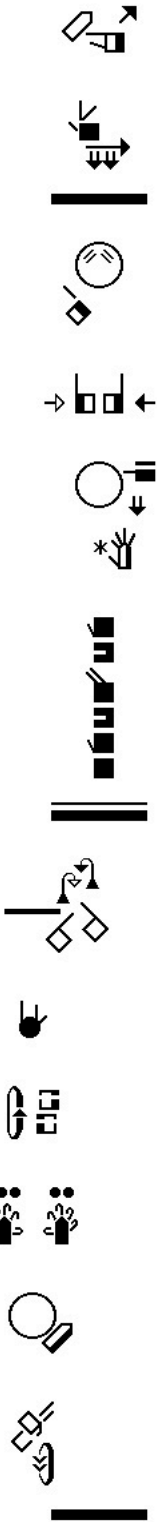
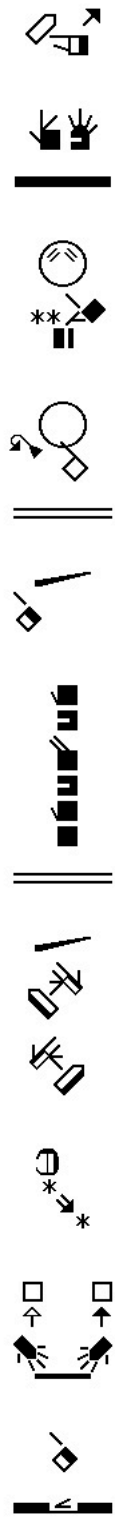
Verse 26. When Saul arrived in Jerusalem, he tried to meet with the believers, but they were all afraid of him. They did not believe he had truly become a believer! Verse 27. Then Barnabas brought him to the apostles and told them how Saul had seen the Lord on the way to Damascus and how the Lord had spoken to Saul. NLT

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He also told them that Saul had preached boldly in the name of Jesus in Damascus. Verse 28. So Saul stayed with the apostles and went all around Jerusalem with them, preaching boldly in the name of the Lord. Verse 29. He debated with some Greek-speaking Jews, but they tried to murder him.

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And with the encouragement of the Holy Spirit, it also grew in numbers. Verse 32. Meanwhile, Peter traveled from place to place, and he came down to visit the believers in the town of Lydda. Verse 33. There he met a man named Aeneas, who had been paralyzed and bedridden for eight years. Verse 34. Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you!" NLT

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Get up, and roll up your sleeping mat!" And he was healed instantly. Verse 35. Then the whole population of Lydda and Sharon saw Aeneas walking around, and they turned to the Lord. Verse 36. There was a believer in Joppa named Tabitha (which in Greek is Dorcas). NLT

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She was always doing kind things for others and helping the poor. Verse 37. About this time she became ill and died. Her body was washed for burial and laid in an upstairs room. Verse 38. But the believers had heard that Peter was nearby at Lydda, so NLT

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they sent two men to beg him, "Please come as soon as possible!" Verse 39. So Peter returned with them; and as soon as he arrived, they took him to the upstairs room. The room was filled with widows who were weeping and showing him the coats and other clothes Dorcas had made for them.

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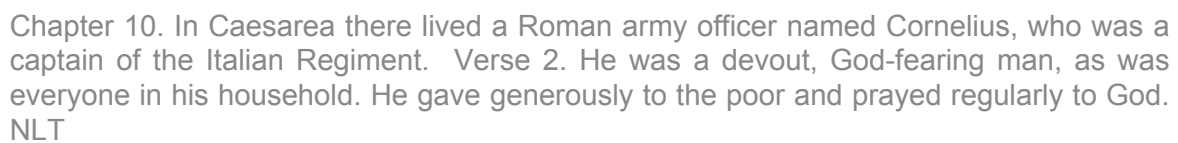
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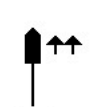

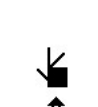



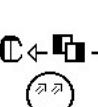




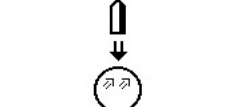
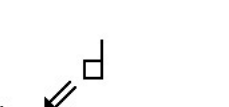






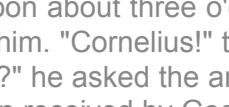



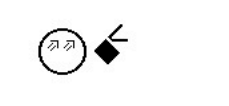

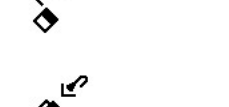
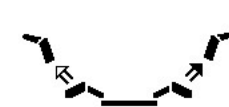

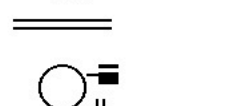


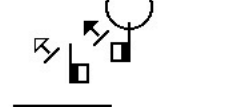
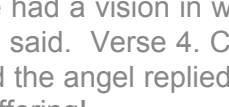






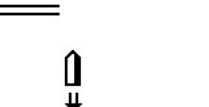





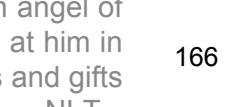

Verse 40. But Peter asked them all to leave the room; then he knelt and prayed. Turning to the body he said, "Get up, Tabitha." And she opened her eyes! When she saw Peter, she sat up! Verse 41. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then he called in the widows

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and all the believers, and he presented her to them alive. Verse 42. The news spread through the whole town, and many believed in the Lord. Verse 43. And Peter stayed a long time in Joppa, living with Simon, a tanner of hides.



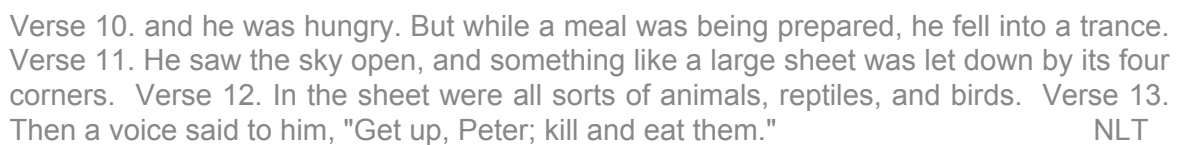
          	            	                  	                            
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




















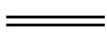



































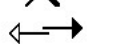











Verse 3. One afternoon about three o'clock, he had a vision in which he saw an angel of God coming toward him. "Cornelius!" the angel said. Verse 4. Cornelius stared at him in terror. "What is it, sir?" he asked the angel. And the angel replied, "Your prayers and gifts to the poor have been received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





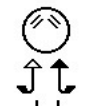











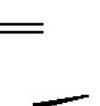

































                	               	                   	               
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Verse 14. "No, Lord," Peter declared. "I have never eaten anything that our Jewish laws have declared impure and unclean." Verse 15. But the voice spoke again: "Do not call something unclean if God has made it clean."



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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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






























































             	             	             	             
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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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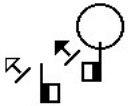

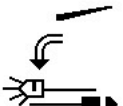
















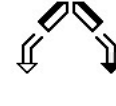





















































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Verse 25. As Peter entered his home, Cornelius fell at his feet and worshiped him. Verse 26. But Peter pulled him up and said, "Stand up! I'm a human being just like you!" Verse 27. So they talked together and went inside, where many others were assembled.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

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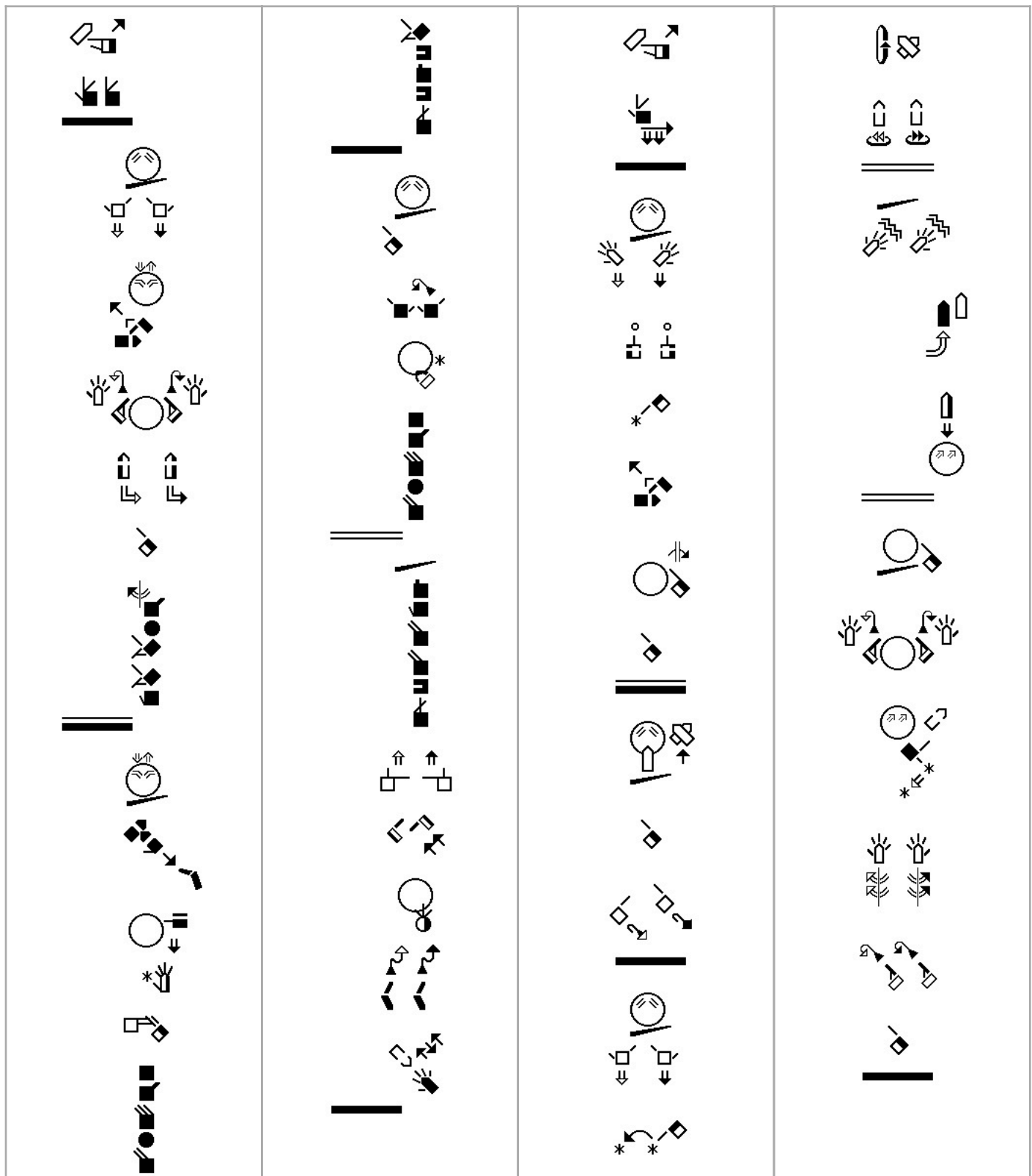
a Gentile home like this or to associate with you. But God has shown me that I should no longer think of anyone as impure or unclean. Verse 29. So I came without objection as soon as I was sent for. Now tell me why you sent for me."

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Verse 30. Cornelius replied, "Four days ago I was praying in my house about this same time, three o'clock in the afternoon. Suddenly, a man in dazzling clothes was standing in front of me. Verse 31. He told me, 'Cornelius, your prayer has been heard, and your gifts to the poor have been noticed by God!'

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Verse 32. Now send messengers to Joppa, and summon a man named Simon Peter. He is staying in the home of Simon, a tanner who lives near the seashore.' Verse 33. So I sent for you at once, and it was good of you to come. Now we are all here, waiting before God to hear the message the Lord has given you."

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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




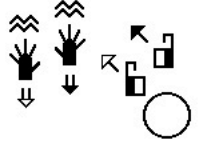




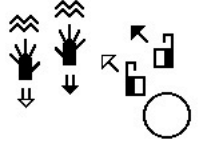




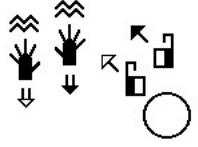




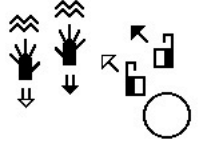

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and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. Verse 39. "And we apostles are witnesses of all he did throughout Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a cross, Verse 40. but God raised him to life on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

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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





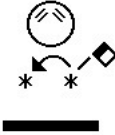


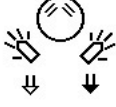




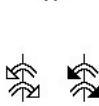





















    	    
    	    

Verse 43. He is the one all the prophets testified about, saying that everyone who believes in him will have their sins forgiven through his name." Verse 44. Even as Peter was saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who were listening to the message. NLT

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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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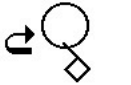























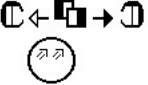












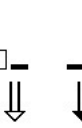












185 that they have received the Holy Spirit just as we did?" Verse 48. So he gave orders for them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Afterward Cornelius asked him to stay with them for several days. NLT

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Chapter 11. Soon the news reached the apostles and other believers in Judea that the Gentiles had received the word of God. Verse 2. But when Peter arrived back in Jerusalem, the Jewish believers criticized him. Verse 3. "You entered the home of Gentiles and even ate with them!" they said.





















































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Verse 4. Then Peter told them exactly what had happened. Verse 5. "I was in the town of Joppa," he said, "and while I was praying, I went into a trance and saw a vision. Something like a large sheet was let down by its four corners from the sky. And it came right down to me.

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Verse 6. When I looked inside the sheet, I saw all sorts of small animals, wild animals, reptiles, and birds. Verse 7. And I heard a voice say, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat them.' Verse 8. "No, Lord,' I replied. 'I have never eaten anything that our Jewish laws

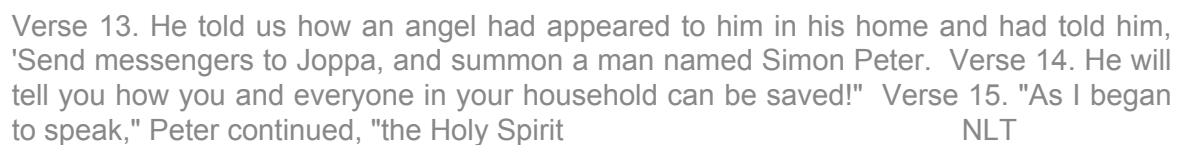
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<p>ASL signs for Verse 11: Three men from Caesarea arrive at the house. The sequence includes signs for 'three', 'men', 'from', 'Caesarea', 'arrive', 'at', 'the', 'house'.</p>	<p>ASL signs for Verse 12: The Holy Spirit tells the speaker to go with them. The sequence includes signs for 'the', 'Holy', 'Spirit', 'told', 'me', 'to', 'go', 'with', 'them'.</p>	<p>ASL signs for Verse 13: The speaker does not worry about the Gentiles. The sequence includes signs for 'I', 'do', 'not', 'worry', 'that', 'they', 'are', 'Gentiles'.</p>	<p>ASL signs for Verse 14: Six brothers accompany the speaker. The sequence includes signs for 'these', 'six', 'brothers', 'here', 'accompany', 'me'.</p>
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Verse 11. "Just then three men who had been sent from Caesarea arrived at the house where we were staying. Verse 12. The Holy Spirit told me to go with them and not to worry that they were Gentiles. These six brothers here accompanied me, and we soon entered the home of the man who had sent for us.

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fell on them, just as he fell on us at the beginning. Verse 16. Then I thought of the Lord's words when he said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' Verse 17. And since God gave these Gentiles the same gift he

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gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to stand in God's way?"  
 Verse 18. When the others heard this, they stopped objecting and began praising God.  
 They said, "We can see that God has also given the Gentiles the privilege of repenting of  
 their sins and receiving eternal life."  
 NLT

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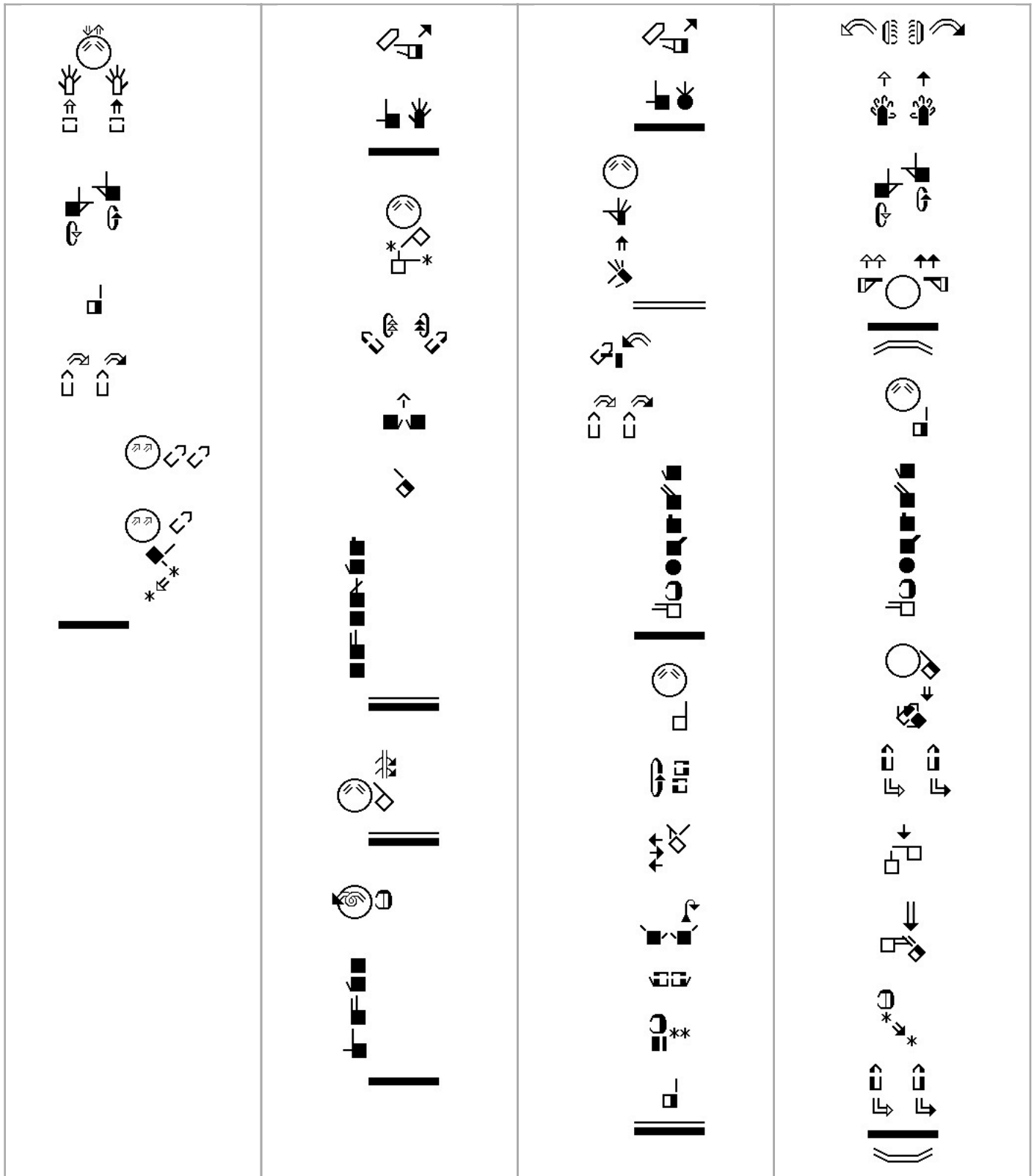
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who went to Antioch from Cyprus and Cyrene began preaching to the Gentiles about the Lord Jesus. Verse 21. The power of the Lord was with them, and a large number of these Gentiles believed and turned to the Lord. Verse 22. When the church at Jerusalem heard what had happened,

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they sent Barnabas to Antioch. Verse 23. When he arrived and saw this evidence of God's blessing, he was filled with joy, and he encouraged the believers to stay true to the Lord. Verse 24. Barnabas was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and strong in faith. NLT








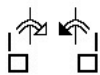


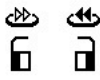





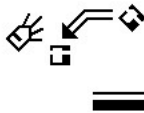

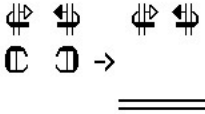

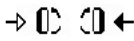






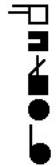








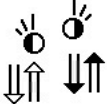












And many people were brought to the Lord. Verse 25. Then Barnabas went on to Tarsus to look for Saul. Verse 26. When he found him, he brought him back to Antioch. Both of them stayed there with the church for a full year, teaching large crowds of people. (It was at Antioch that the believers were first called Christians.) NLT


Verse 27. During this time some prophets traveled from Jerusalem to Antioch. Verse 28. One of them named Agabus stood up in one of the meetings and predicted by the Spirit that a great famine was coming upon the entire Roman world. (This was fulfilled during the reign of Claudius.)

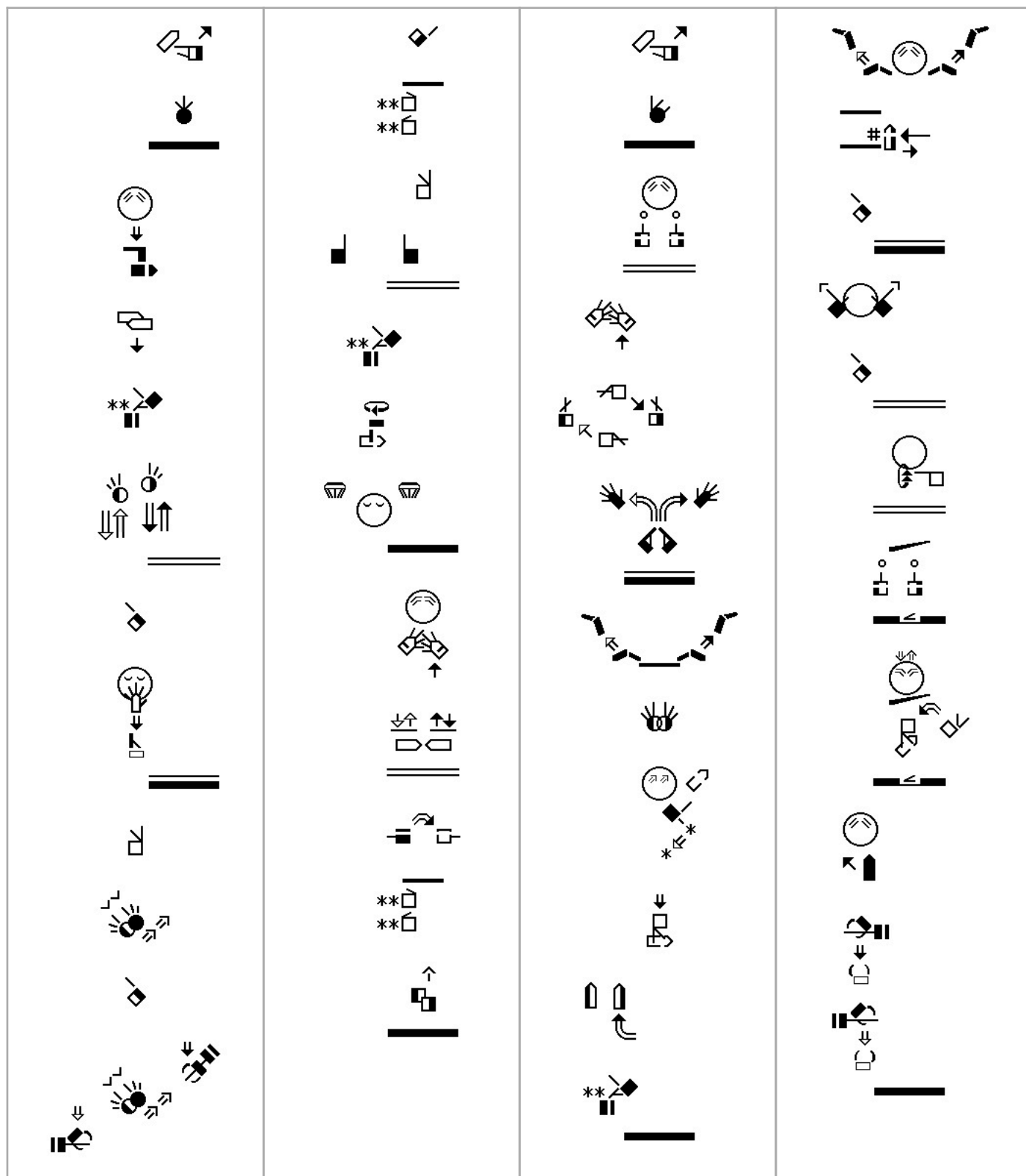
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Chapter 12. About that time King Herod Agrippa began to persecute some believers in the church. Verse 2. He had the apostle James (John's brother) killed with a sword. Verse 3. When Herod saw how much this pleased the Jewish people,

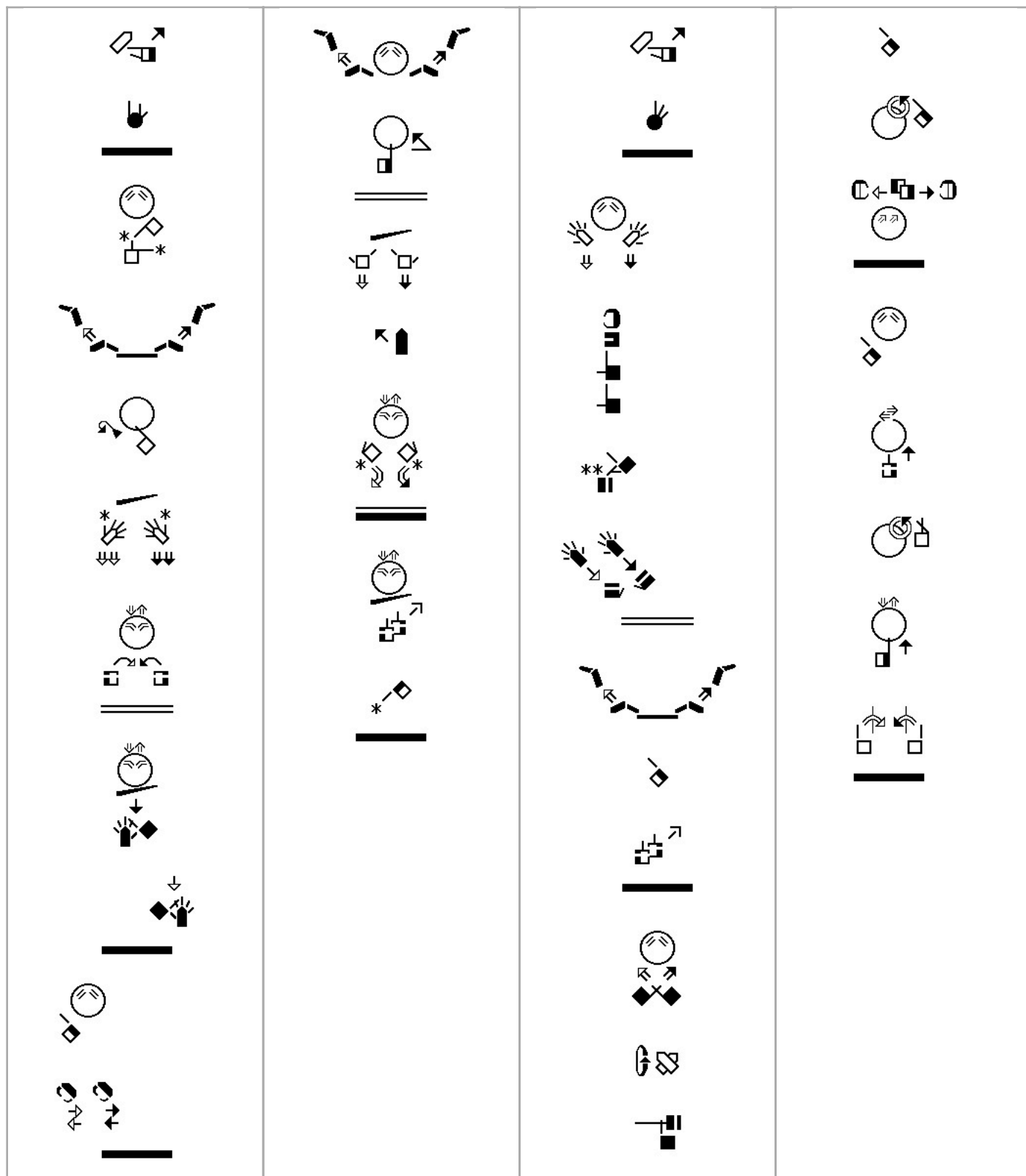
         	            	           	           
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he also arrested Peter. (This took place during the Passover celebration.) Verse 4. Then he imprisoned him, placing him under the guard of four squads of four soldiers each. Herod intended to bring Peter out for public trial after the Passover. Verse 5. But while Peter was in prison, the church prayed very earnestly for him. NLT









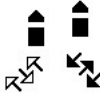



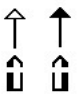
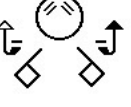




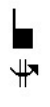

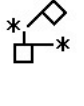
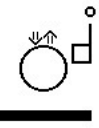
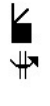

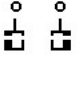






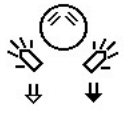





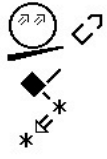
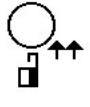
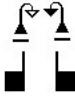


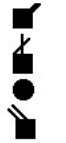



Verse 6. The night before Peter was to be placed on trial, he was asleep, fastened with two chains between two soldiers. Others stood guard at the prison gate. Verse 7. Suddenly, there was a bright light in the cell, and an angel of the Lord stood before Peter. The angel struck him on the side to awaken him and said, "Quick! Get up!" And the chains fell off his wrists. NLT





Verse 8. Then the angel told him, "Get dressed and put on your sandals." And he did. "Now put on your coat and follow me," the angel ordered. Verse 9. So Peter left the cell, following the angel. But all the time he thought it was a vision. He didn't realize it was actually happening.

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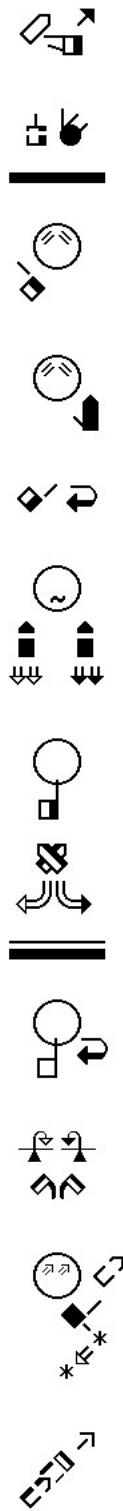
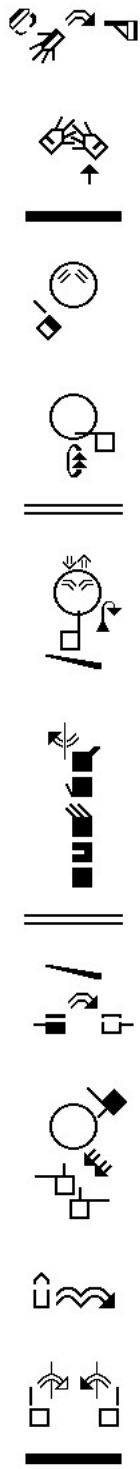
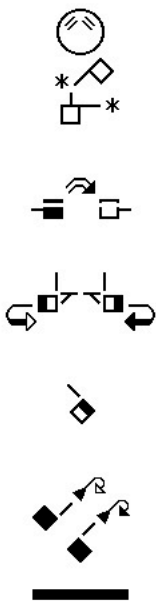
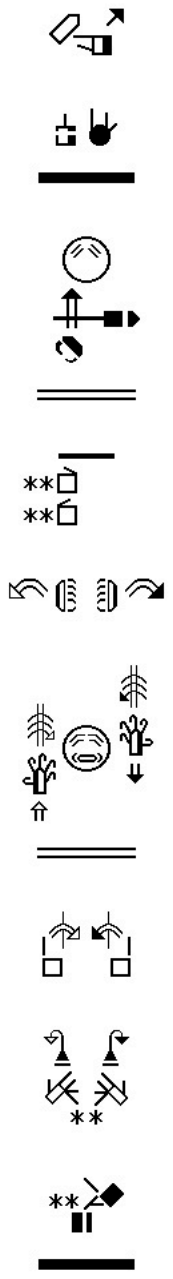
			
			
			
			
			
			
			
			
			
			
			

Verse 10. They passed the first and second guard posts and came to the iron gate leading to the city, and this opened for them all by itself. So they passed through and started walking down the street, and then the angel suddenly left him. Verse 11. Peter finally came to his senses. "It's really true!" he said. "The Lord has sent his angel NLT

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and saved me from Herod and from what the Jewish leaders had planned to do to me!"  
 Verse 12. When he realized this, he went to the home of Mary, the mother of John Mark,  
 where many were gathered for prayer. Verse 13. He knocked at the door in the gate,  
 and a servant girl named Rhoda came to open it. NLT

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Verse 17. He motioned for them to quiet down and told them how the Lord had led him out of prison. "Tell James and the other brothers what happened," he said. And then he went to another place. Verse 18. At dawn there was a great commotion among the soldiers about what had happened to Peter.

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Verse 19. Herod Agrippa ordered a thorough search for him. When he couldn't be found, Herod interrogated the guards and sentenced them to death. Afterward Herod left Judea to stay in Caesarea for a while. Verse 20. Now Herod was very angry with the people of Tyre and Sidon.

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


































So they sent a delegation to make peace with him because their cities were dependent upon Herod's country for food. The delegates won the support of Blastus, Herod's personal assistant, Verse 21. and an appointment with Herod was granted. When the day arrived,

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Herod put on his royal robes, sat on his throne, and made a speech to them. Verse 22. The people gave him a great ovation, shouting, "It's the voice of a god, not of a man!" Verse 23. Instantly, an angel of the Lord struck Herod with a sickness, because he accepted the people's worship instead of giving the glory to God. So he was consumed with worms and died. NLT



              	              	              
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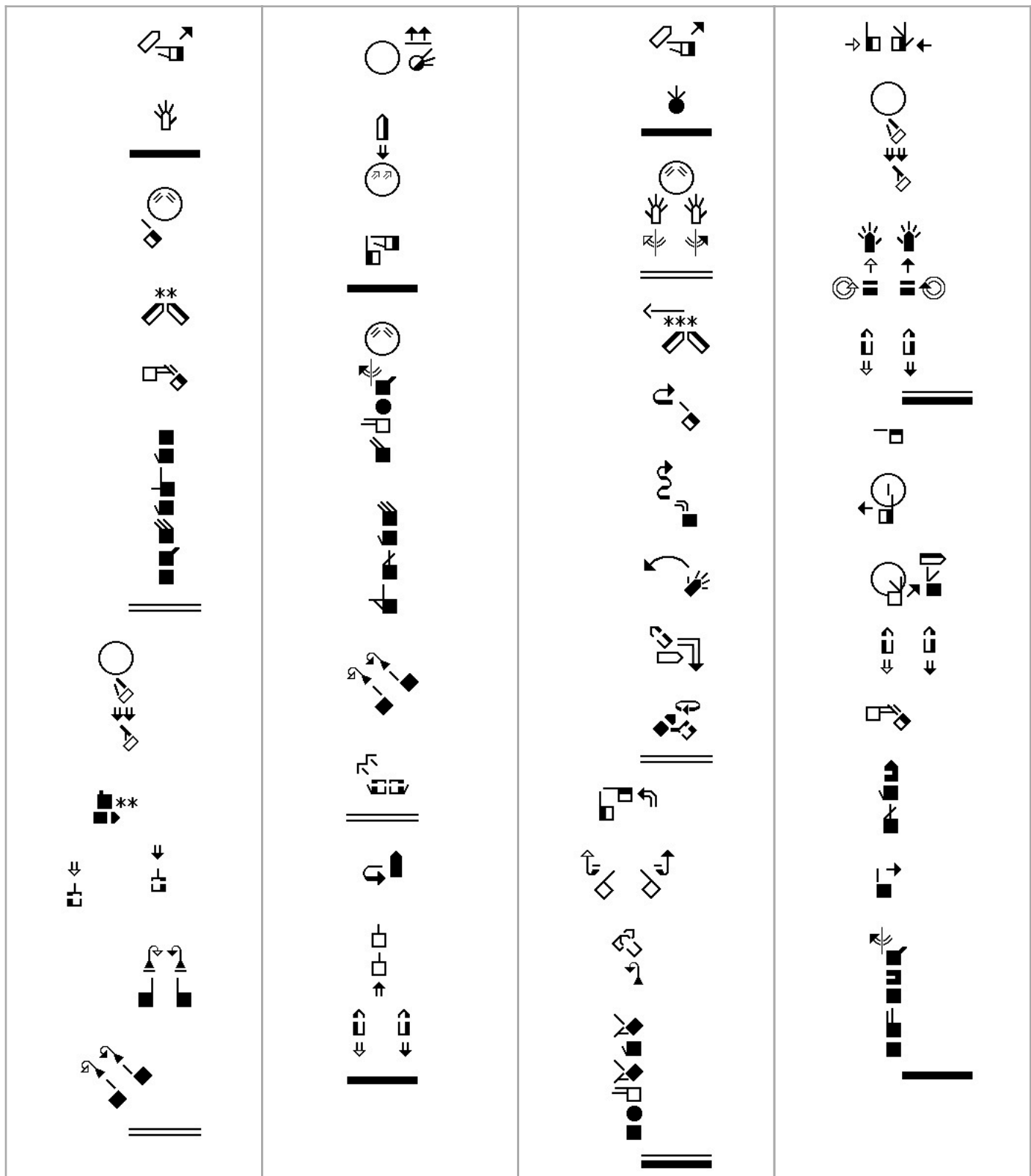
Verse 24. Meanwhile, the word of God continued to spread, and there were many new believers. Verse 25. When Barnabas and Saul had finished their mission to Jerusalem, they returned, taking John Mark with them. NLT

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Chapter 13. Among the prophets and teachers of the church at Antioch of Syria were Barnabas, Simeon (called "the black man"), Lucius (from Cyrene), Manaen (the childhood companion of King Herod Antipas), and Saul. Verse 2. One day as these men were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit

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said, "Dedicate Barnabas and Saul for the special work to which I have called them." Verse 3. So after more fasting and prayer, the men laid their hands on them and sent them on their way. Verse 4. So Barnabas and Saul were sent out by the Holy Spirit. They went down to the seaport of Seleucia and then sailed for the island of Cyprus. NLT



Verse 5. There, in the town of Salamis, they went to the Jewish synagogues and preached the word of God. John Mark went with them as their assistant. Verse 6. Afterward they traveled from town to town across the entire island until finally they reached Paphos, where they met a Jewish sorcerer, a false prophet named Bar-Jesus.

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Verse 7. He had attached himself to the governor, Sergius Paulus, who was an intelligent man. The governor invited Barnabas and Saul to visit him, for he wanted to hear the word of God. Verse 8. But Elymas, the sorcerer (as his name means in Greek), interfered and urged the governor to pay no attention to what Barnabas and Saul said. He was trying to keep the governor from believing.

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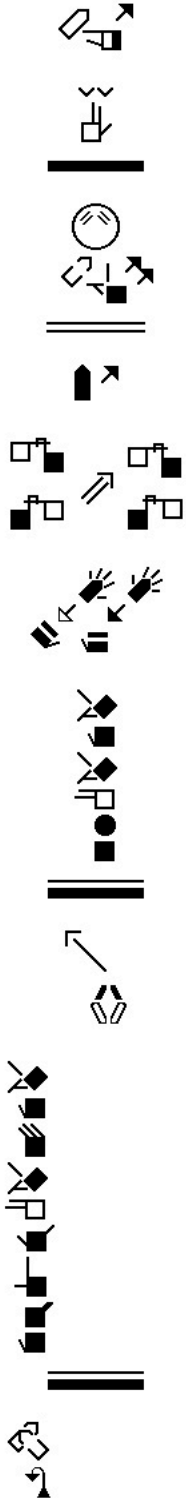
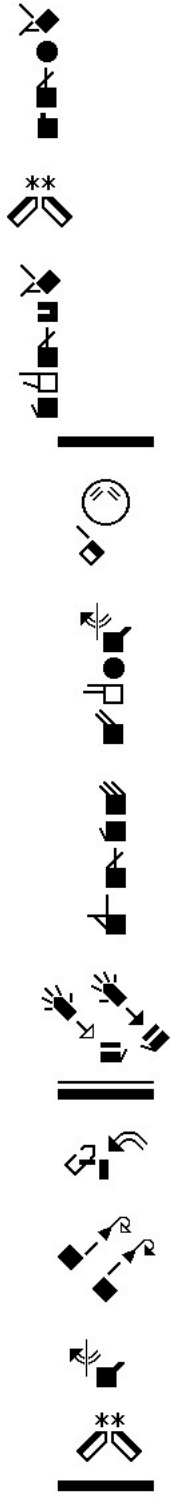
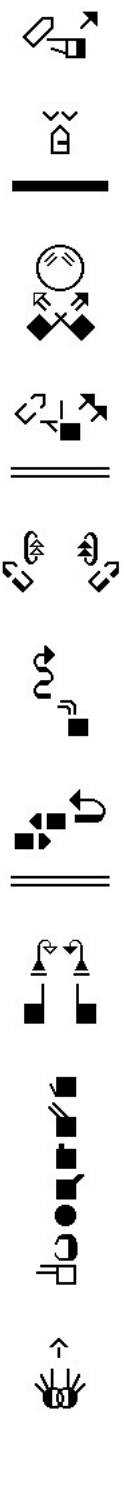
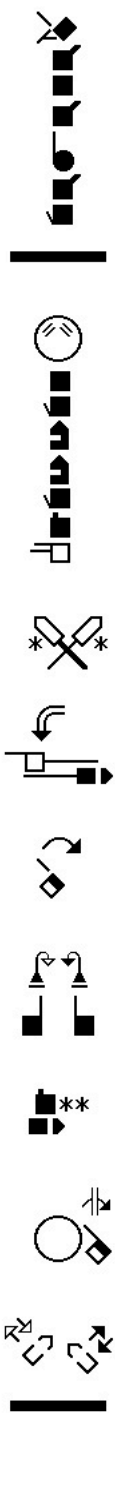
Verse 9. Saul, also known as Paul, was filled with the Holy Spirit, and he looked the sorcerer in the eye. Verse 10. Then he said, "You son of the devil, full of every sort of deceit and fraud, and enemy of all that is good! Will you never stop perverting the true ways of the Lord?"

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Verse 11. Watch now, for the Lord has laid his hand of punishment upon you, and you will be struck blind. You will not see the sunlight for some time." Instantly mist and darkness came over the man's eyes, and he began groping around begging for someone to take his hand and lead him. Verse 12. When the governor saw what had happened, he became a believer, for he was astonished at the teaching about the Lord.

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Verse 13. Paul and his companions then left Paphos by ship for Pamphylia, landing at the port town of Perga. There John Mark left them and returned to Jerusalem. Verse 14. But Paul and Barnabas traveled inland to Antioch of Pisidia. On the Sabbath they went to the synagogue for the services.










































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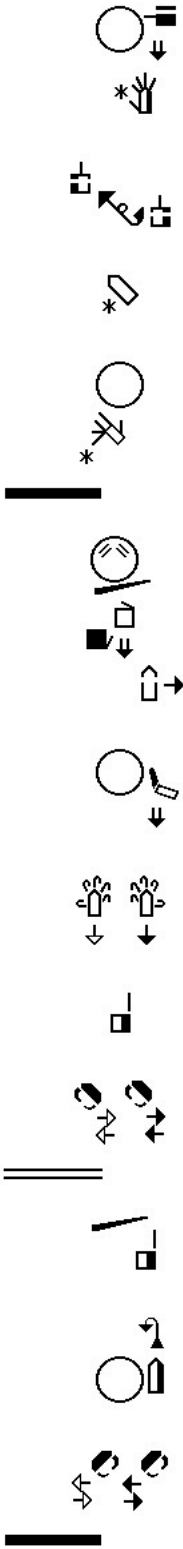
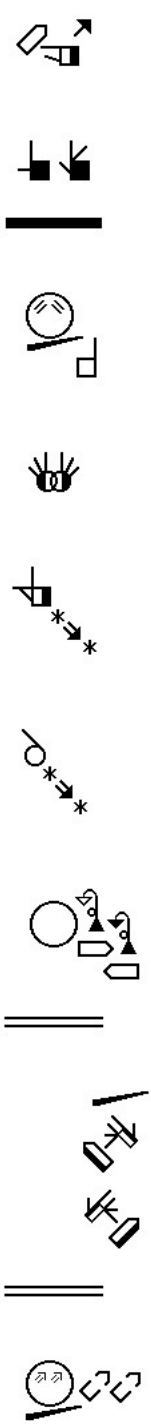
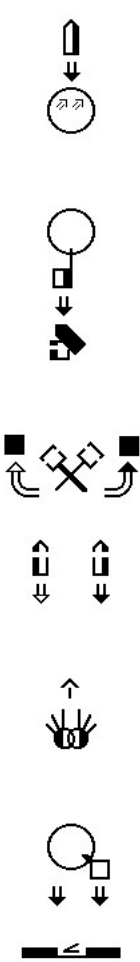
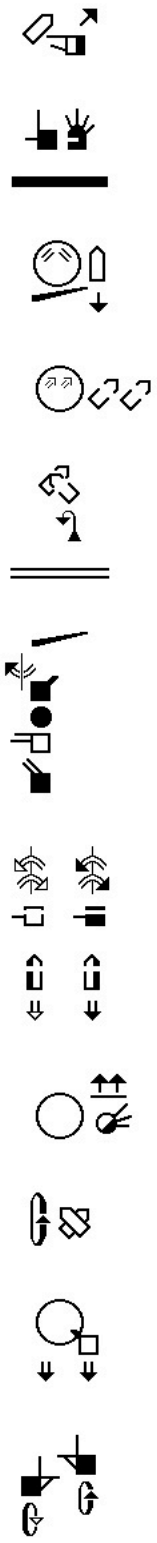

Verse 17. "The God of this nation of Israel chose our ancestors and made them multiply and grow strong during their stay in Egypt. Then with a powerful arm he led them out of their slavery. Verse 18. He put up with them through forty years of wandering in the wilderness.

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Verse 19. Then he destroyed seven nations in Canaan and gave their land to Israel as an inheritance. Verse 20. All this took about 450 years. After that, God gave them judges to rule until the time of Samuel the prophet. NLT

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223 a man after my own heart. He will do everything I want him to do.' Verse 23. "And it is one of King David's descendants, Jesus, who is God's promised Savior of Israel! Verse 24. Before he came, John the Baptist preached that all the people of Israel NLT

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Verse 26. "Brothers -- you sons of Abraham, and also you God-fearing Gentiles -- this message of salvation has been sent to us! Verse 27. The people in Jerusalem and their leaders did not recognize Jesus as the one the prophets had spoken about. NLT

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Instead, they condemned him, and in doing this they fulfilled the prophets' words that are read every Sabbath. Verse 28. They found no legal reason to execute him, but they asked Pilate to have him killed anyway. Verse 29. "When they had done all that the prophecies said about him, they took him down from the cross and placed him in a tomb. NLT

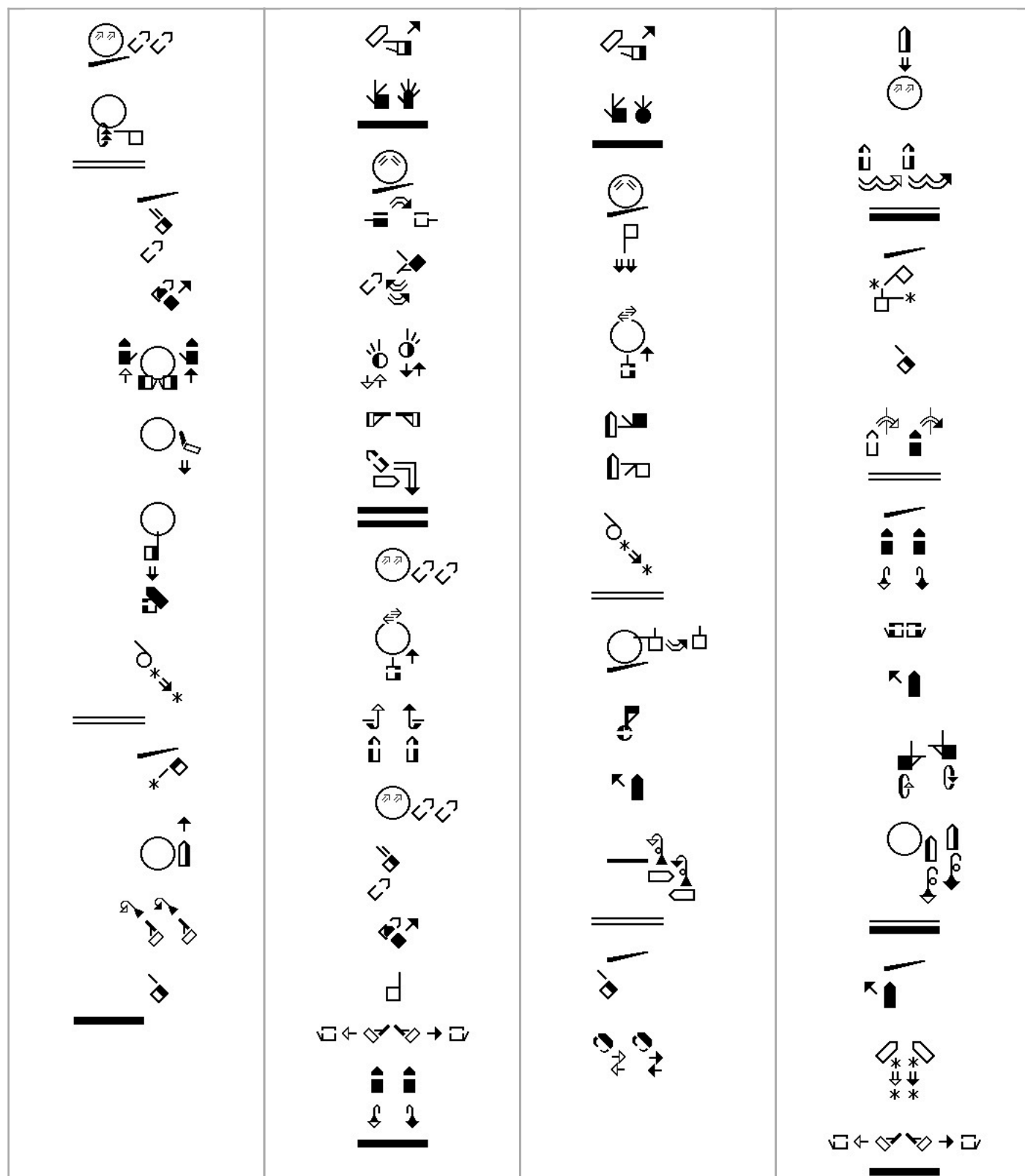


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Verse 30. But God raised him from the dead! Verse 31. And over a period of many days he appeared to those who had gone with him from Galilee to Jerusalem. They are now his witnesses to the people of Israel. Verse 32. "And now we are here to bring you this Good News. The promise was made to our ancestors,

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He said, 'I will give you the sacred blessings I promised to David.' Verse 35. Another psalm explains it more fully: 'You will not allow your Holy One to rot in the grave.' Verse 36. This is not a reference to David, for after David had done the will of God in his own generation, he died and was buried with his ancestors, and his body decayed. NLT

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something the law of Moses could never do. Verse 40. Be careful! Don't let the prophets' words apply to you. For they said, Verse 41. 'Look, you mockers, be amazed and die! For I am doing something in your own day, something you wouldn't believe even if someone told you about it.'"

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Verse 42. As Paul and Barnabas left the synagogue that day, the people begged them to speak about these things again next week. Verse 43. Many Jews and devout converts to Judaism followed Paul and Barnabas, and the two men urged them to continue to rely on the grace of God.

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the word of God to you Jews. But since you have rejected it and judged yourselves unworthy of eternal life, we will offer it to the Gentiles. Verse 47. For the Lord gave us this command when he said, 'I have made you a light to the Gentiles, to bring salvation to the farthest corners of the earth.'

NLT



Verse 48. When the Gentiles heard this, they were very glad and thanked the Lord for his message; and all who were chosen for eternal life became believers. Verse 49. So the Lord's message spread throughout that region. Verse 50. Then the Jews stirred up the influential religious women

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and the leaders of the city, and they incited a mob against Paul and Barnabas and ran them out of town. Verse 51. So they shook the dust from their feet as a sign of rejection and went to the town of Iconium. Verse 52. And the believers were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

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Chapter 14. The same thing happened in Iconium. Paul and Barnabas went to the Jewish synagogue and preached with such power that a great number of both Jews and Greeks became believers. Verse 2. Some of the Jews, however, spurned God's message and poisoned the minds of the Gentiles against Paul and Barnabas.

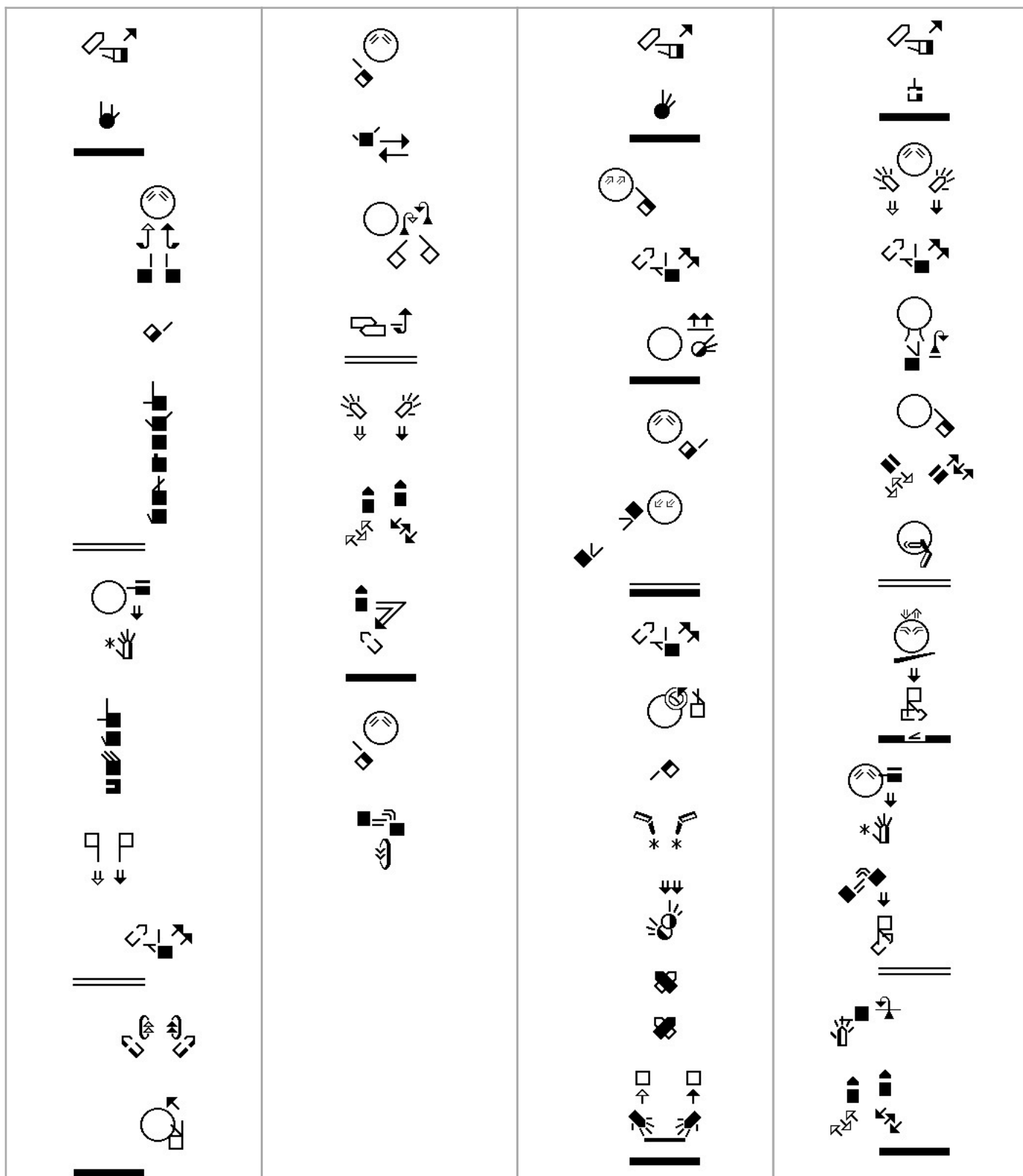
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<p>ASL signs for Verse 3: Preaching and miracles. The sequence includes signs for 'preach', 'boldly', 'grace', 'Lord', 'prove', 'message', 'true', 'power', 'miraculous', 'signs', and 'wonders'.</p>	<p>ASL signs for Verse 4: Divided opinions. The sequence includes signs for 'people', 'town', 'divided', 'opinion', 'some', 'sided', 'Jews', and 'apostles'.</p>	<p>ASL signs for Verse 5: Mob of Gentiles and Jews. The sequence includes signs for 'Then', 'mob', 'Gentiles', 'Jews', 'along', 'with', 'their', 'leaders'.</p>	<p>ASL signs for Verse 6: Mob of Gentiles and Jews. The sequence includes signs for 'Then', 'mob', 'Gentiles', 'Jews', 'along', 'with', 'their', 'leaders'.</p>
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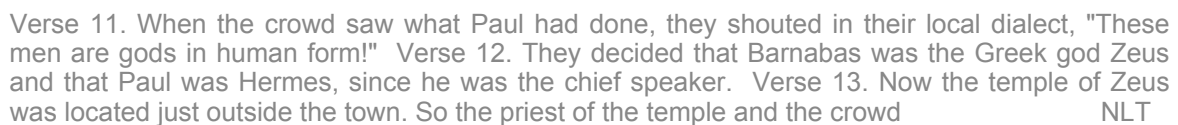
Verse 3. But the apostles stayed there a long time, preaching boldly about the grace of the Lord. And the Lord proved their message was true by giving them power to do miraculous signs and wonders. Verse 4. But the people of the town were divided in their opinion about them. Some sided with the Jews, and some with the apostles. Verse 5. Then a mob of Gentiles and Jews, along with their leaders,

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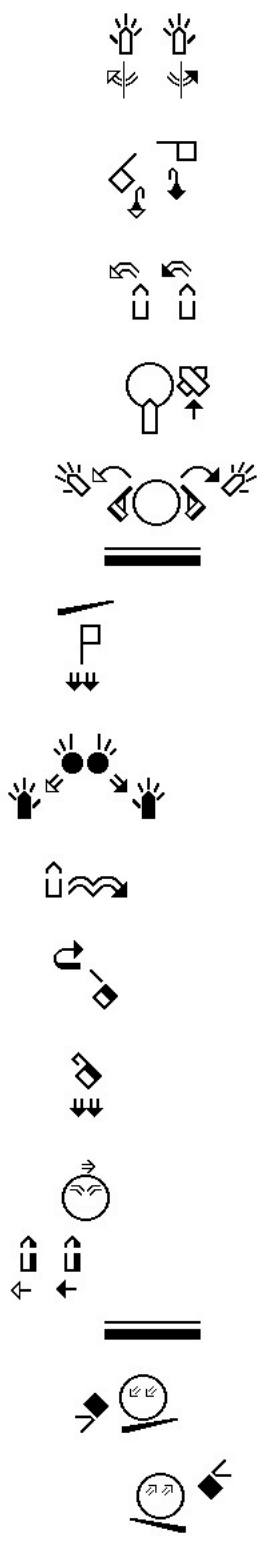
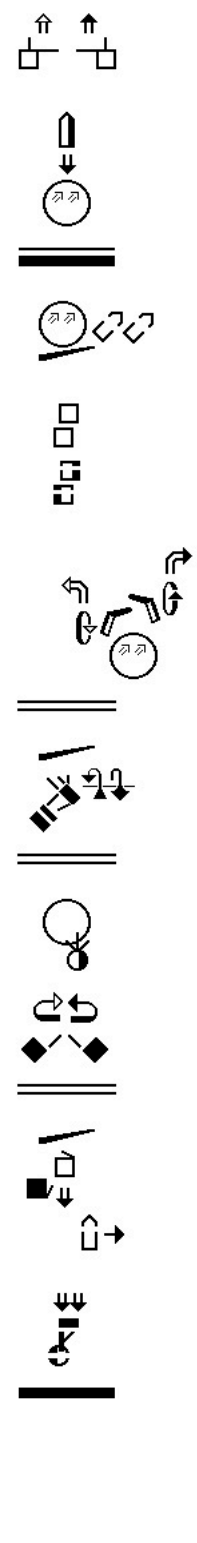

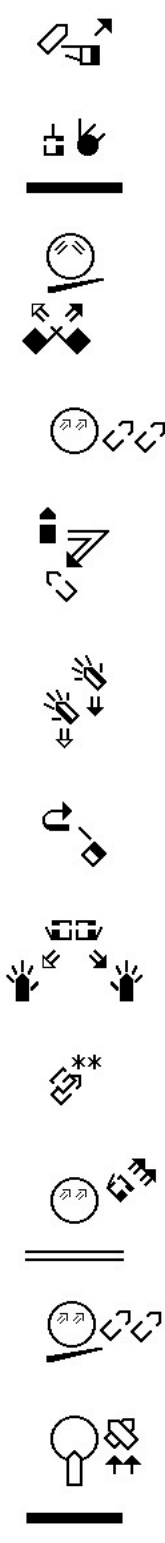
Verse 8. While they were at Lystra, Paul and Barnabas came upon a man with crippled feet. He had been that way from birth, so he had never walked. He was sitting Verse 9. and listening as Paul preached. Looking straight at him, Paul realized he had faith to be healed. Verse 10. So Paul called to him in a loud voice, "Stand up!" And the man jumped to his feet and started walking. NLT



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brought bulls and wreaths of flowers to the town gates, and they prepared to offer sacrifices to the apostles. Verse 14. But when Barnabas and Paul heard what was happening, they tore their clothing in dismay and ran out among the people, shouting, Verse 15. "Friends, why are you doing this? We are merely human beings -- just like you! We



			
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have come to bring you the Good News that you should turn from these worthless things and turn to the living God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them. Verse 16. In the past he permitted all the nations to go their own ways, Verse 17. but he never left them without evidence of himself and his goodness. NLT

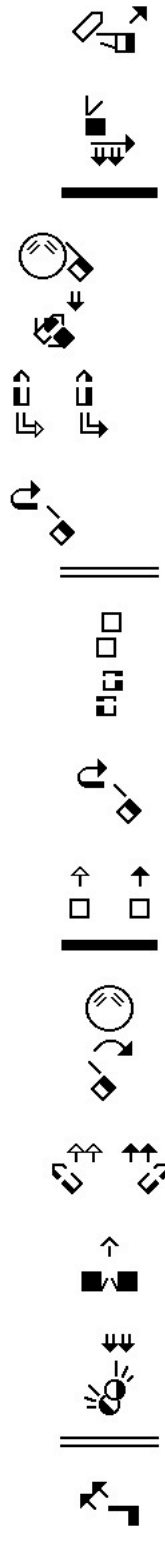

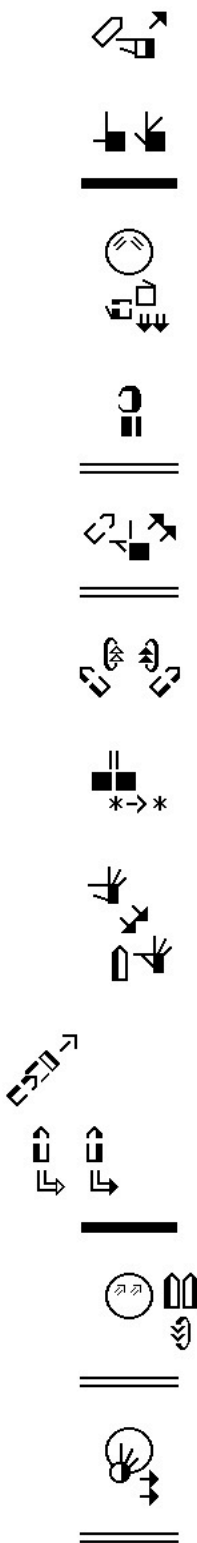
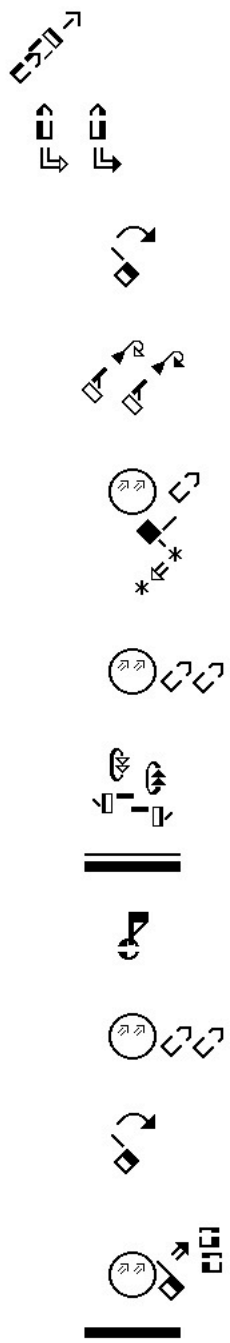
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For instance, he sends you rain and good crops and gives you food and joyful hearts." Verse 18. But even with these words, Paul and Barnabas could scarcely restrain the people from sacrificing to them. Verse 19. Then some Jews arrived from Antioch and Iconium and won the crowds to their side. They stoned Paul and dragged him out of town, thinking he was dead. NLT

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Verse 20. But as the believers gathered around him, he got up and went back into the town. The next day he left with Barnabas for Derbe. Verse 21. After preaching the Good News in Derbe and making many disciples, Paul and Barnabas returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch of Pisidia,

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Verse 22. where they strengthened the believers. They encouraged them to continue in the faith, reminding them that we must suffer many hardships to enter the Kingdom of God. Verse 23. Paul and Barnabas also appointed elders in every church. With prayer and fasting, they turned the elders over to the care of the Lord, in whom they had put their trust.

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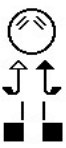















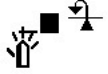


























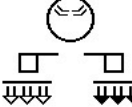


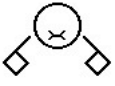



Verse 24. Then they traveled back through Pisidia to Pamphylia. Verse 25. They preached the word in Perga, then went down to Attalia. Verse 26. Finally, they returned by ship to Antioch of Syria, where their journey had begun. The believers there had entrusted them to the grace of God

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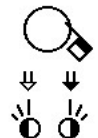



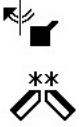











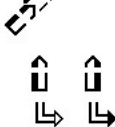



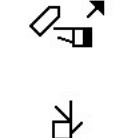










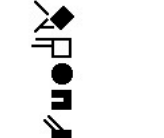



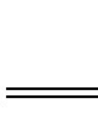






to do the work they had now completed. Verse 27. Upon arriving in Antioch, they called the church together and reported everything God had done through them and how he had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles, too. Verse 28. And they stayed there with the believers for a long time.

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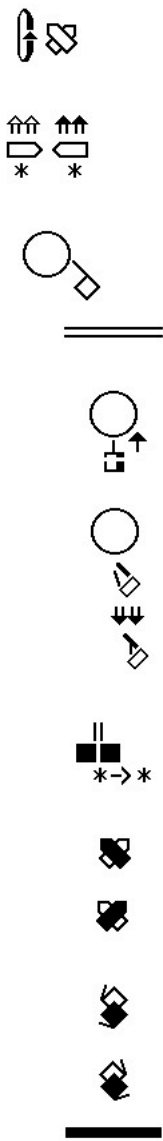

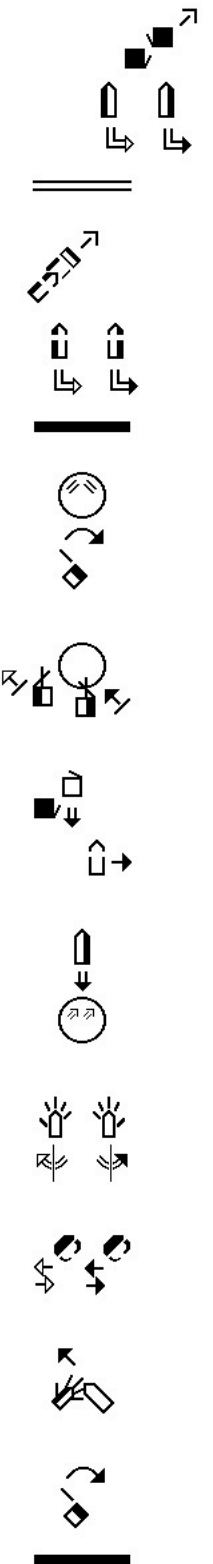
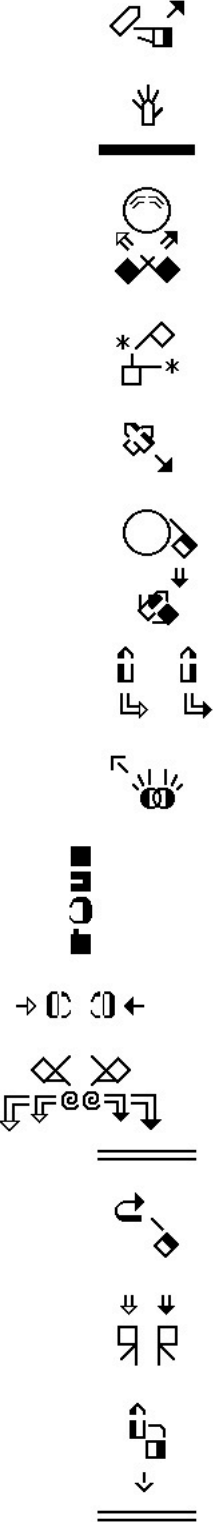
Chapter 15. While Paul and Barnabas were at Antioch of Syria, some men from Judea arrived and began to teach the believers: "Unless you are circumcised as required by the law of Moses, you cannot be saved." Verse 2. Paul and Barnabas disagreed with them, arguing vehemently. Finally, the church

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decided to send Paul and Barnabas to Jerusalem, Accompanied by some local believers, to talk to the apostles and elders about this question. Verse 3. The church sent the delegates to Jerusalem, and they stopped along the way in Phoenicia and Samaria to visit the believers. They told them --



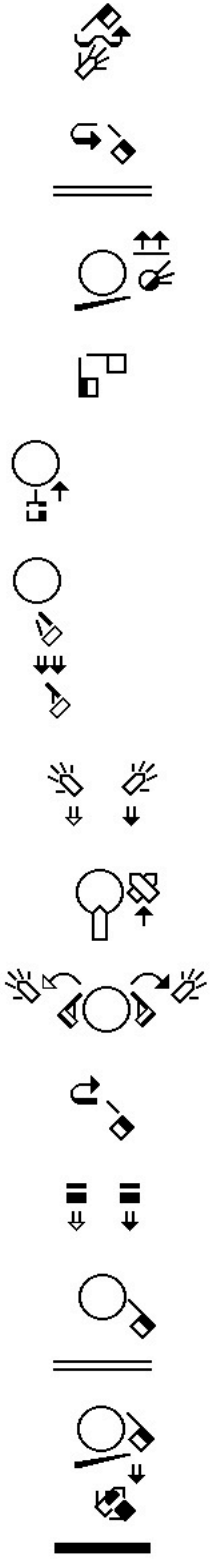
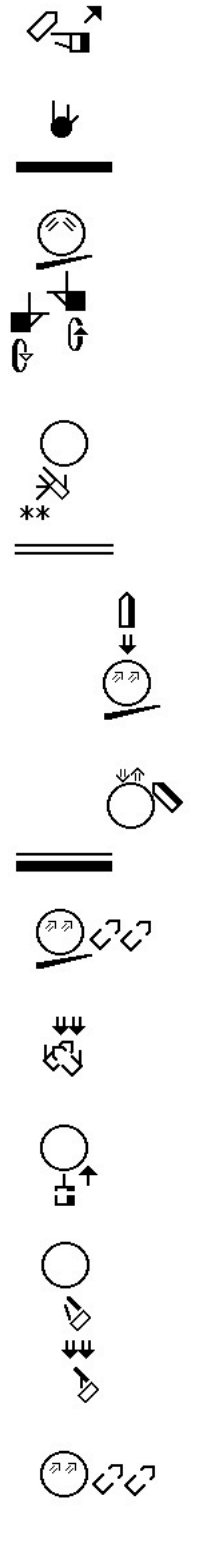
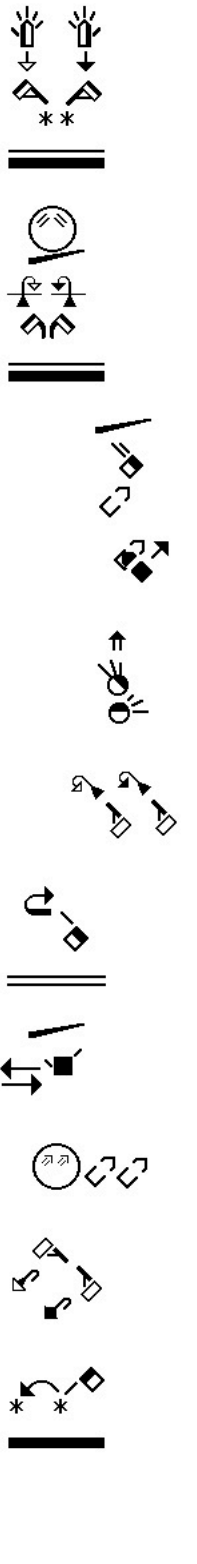

			
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much to everyone's joy -- that the Gentiles, too, were being converted. Verse 4. When they arrived in Jerusalem, Barnabas and Paul were welcomed by the whole church, including the apostles and elders. They reported everything God had done through them. Verse 5. But then some of the believers who belonged to the sect of the Pharisees stood up and insisted, NLT

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"The Gentile converts must be circumcised and required to follow the law of Moses." Verse 6. So the apostles and elders met together to resolve this issue. Verse 7. At the meeting, after a long discussion, Peter stood and addressed them as follows: "Brothers, you all know that God chose me

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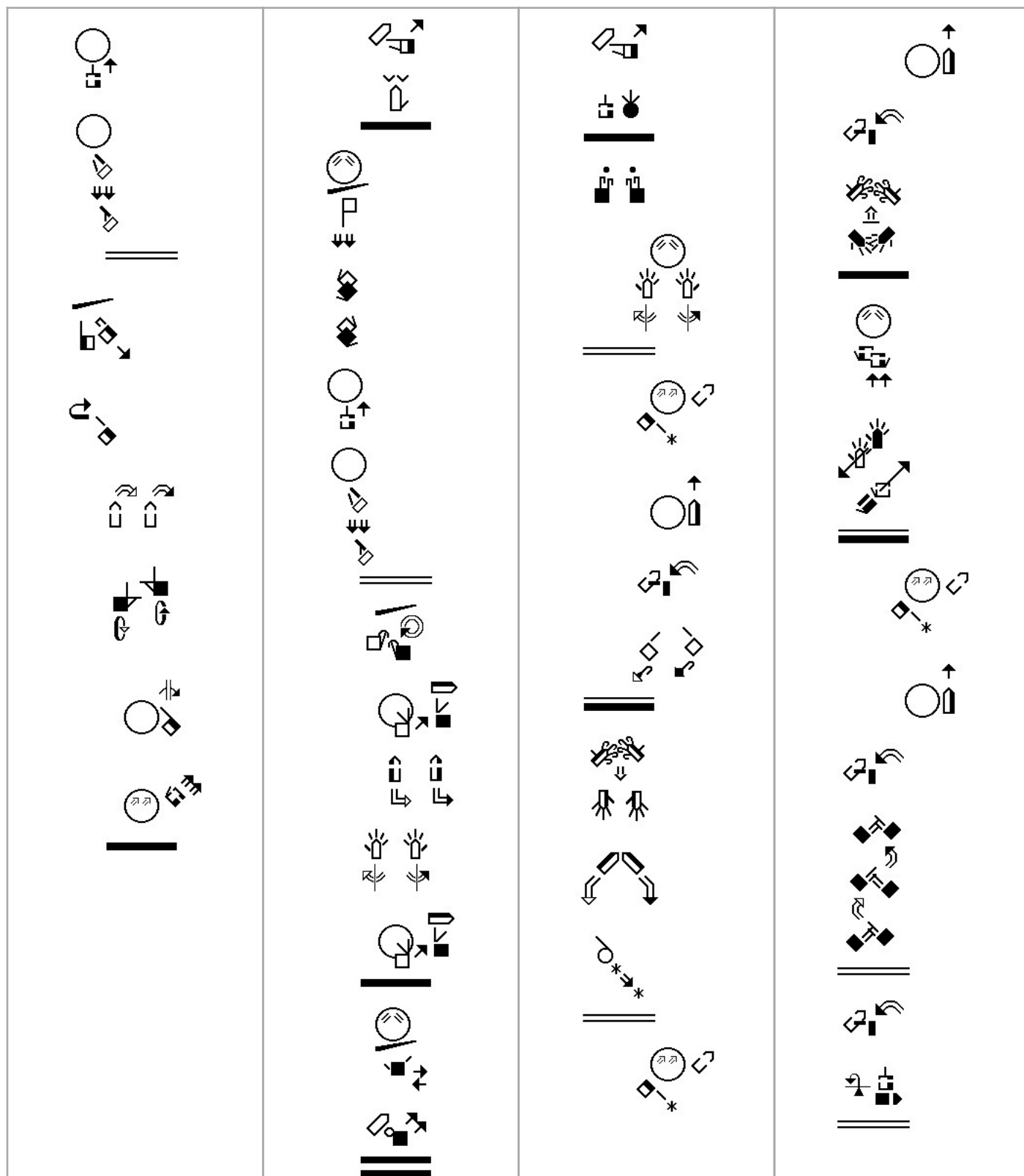
from among you some time ago to preach to the Gentiles so that they could hear the Good News and believe. Verse 8. God knows people's hearts, and he confirmed that he accepts Gentiles by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us. Verse 9. He made no distinction between us and them, for he cleansed their hearts through faith. NLT

254

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Verse 12. Everyone listened quietly as Barnabas and Paul told about the miraculous signs and wonders God had done through them among the Gentiles. Verse 13. When they had finished, James stood and said, "Brothers, listen to me. Verse 14. Peter has told you about the time God first visited

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the Gentiles to take from them a people for himself. Verse 15. And this conversion of Gentiles is exactly what the prophets predicted. As it is written: Verse 16. 'Afterward I will return and restore the fallen house of David. I will rebuild its ruins and restore it, NLT

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Verse 17. so that the rest of humanity might seek the LORD, including the Gentiles -- all those I have called to be mine. The LORD has spoken -- Verse 18. he who made these things known so long ago.' Verse 19. "And so my judgment is that we should not make it difficult for

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the Gentiles who are turning to God. Verse 20. Instead, we should write and tell them to abstain from eating food offered to idols, from sexual immorality, from eating the meat of strangled animals, and from consuming blood.

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Verse 21. For these laws of Moses have been preached in Jewish synagogues in every city on every Sabbath for many generations." Verse 22. Then the apostles and elders together with the whole church in Jerusalem chose delegates, and they sent them to Antioch of Syria

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with Paul and Barnabas to report on this decision. The men chosen were two of the church leaders -- Judas (also called Barsabbas) and Silas. Verse 23. This is the letter they took with them: "This letter is from the apostles and elders, your brothers in Jerusalem. It is written to the Gentile

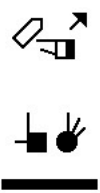


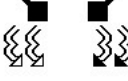






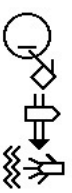












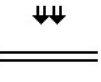

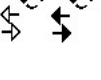



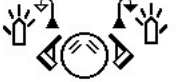
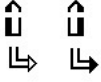

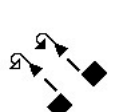
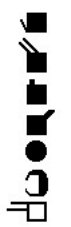



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believers in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia. Greetings! Verse 24. "We understand that some men from here have troubled you and upset you with their teaching, but we did not send them! Verse 25. So we decided, having come to complete agreement, to send you official representatives,

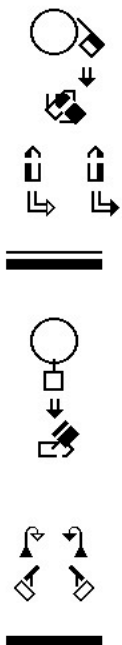
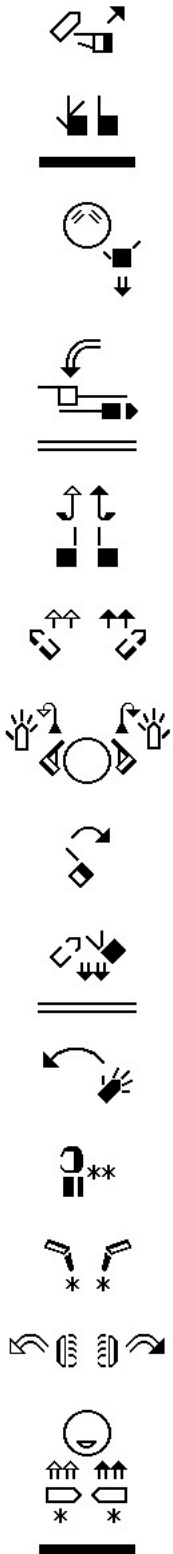
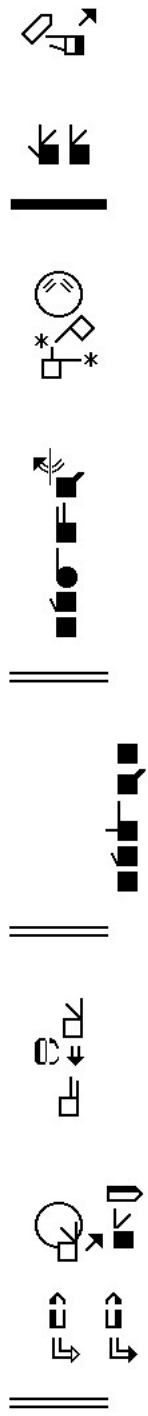
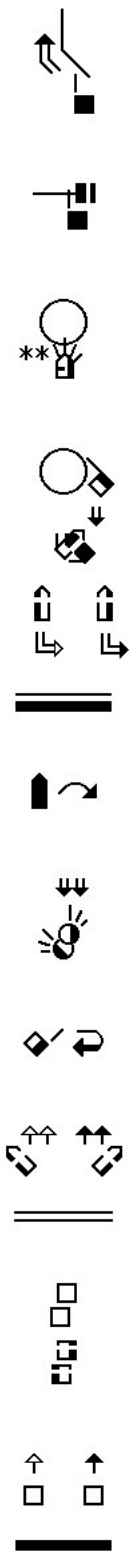
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along with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, Verse 26. who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Verse 27. We are sending Judas and Silas to confirm what we have decided concerning your question. Verse 28. "For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay no greater burden on you than these few requirements: NLT

         	        	        	        
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





























































Verse 29. You must abstain from eating food offered to idols, from consuming blood or the meat of strangled animals, and from sexual immorality. If you do this, you will do well. Farewell." Verse 30. The messengers went at once to Antioch, where they called a general meeting

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of the believers and delivered the letter. Verse 31. And there was great joy throughout the church that day as they read this encouraging message. Verse 32. Then Judas and Silas, both being prophets, spoke at length to the believers, encouraging and strengthening their faith.

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Verse 33. They stayed for a while, and then the believers sent them back to the church in Jerusalem with a blessing of peace. (\*note - no Acts15v34 in NLT) Verse 35. Paul and Barnabas stayed in Antioch. They and many others taught and preached the word of the Lord there.

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Verse 36. After some time Paul said to Barnabas, "Let's go back and visit each city where we previously preached the word of the Lord, to see how the new believers are doing."  
 Verse 37. Barnabas agreed and wanted to take along John Mark. Verse 38. But Paul disagreed strongly, since

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John Mark had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in their work. Verse 39. Their disagreement was so sharp that they separated. Barnabas took John Mark with him and sailed for Cyprus. Verse 40. Paul chose Silas, and as he left, the believers entrusted him

268

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Verse 3. so Paul wanted him to join them on their journey. In deference to the Jews of the area, he arranged for Timothy to be circumcised before they left, for everyone knew that his father was a Greek. Verse 4. Then they went from town to town, instructing the believers to follow the decisions made by the apostles and elders in Jerusalem. NLT

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of Bithynia, but again the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them to go there. Verse 8. So instead, they went on through Mysia to the seaport of Troas. Verse 9. That night Paul had a vision: A man from Macedonia in northern Greece was standing there, pleading with him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us!"




















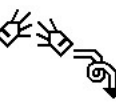














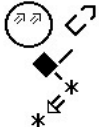


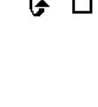




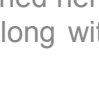


















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Verse 10. So we decided to leave for Macedonia at once, having concluded that God was calling us to preach the Good News there. Verse 11. We boarded a boat at Troas and sailed straight across to the island of Samothrace, and the next day we landed at Neapolis.

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











































Verse 12. From there we reached Philippi, a major city of that district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. And we stayed there several days. Verse 13. On the Sabbath we went a little way outside the city to a riverbank, where we thought people would be meeting for prayer, and we sat down to speak with some women who had gathered there. NLT



                	              	           	                
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Verse 14. One of them was Lydia from Thyatira, a merchant of expensive purple cloth, who worshiped God. As she listened to us, the Lord opened her heart, and she accepted what Paul was saying. Verse 15. She was baptized along with other members of her household,

NLT





















































        	              	             	            
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and she asked us to be her guests. "If you agree that I am a true believer in the Lord," she said, "come and stay at my home." And she urged us until we agreed. Verse 16. One day as we were going down to the place of prayer, we met

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a demon-possessed slave girl. She was a fortune-teller who earned a lot of money for her masters. Verse 17. She followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God, and they have come to tell you how to be saved." Verse 18. This went on day after day until Paul got so exasperated that he turned and said to the demon

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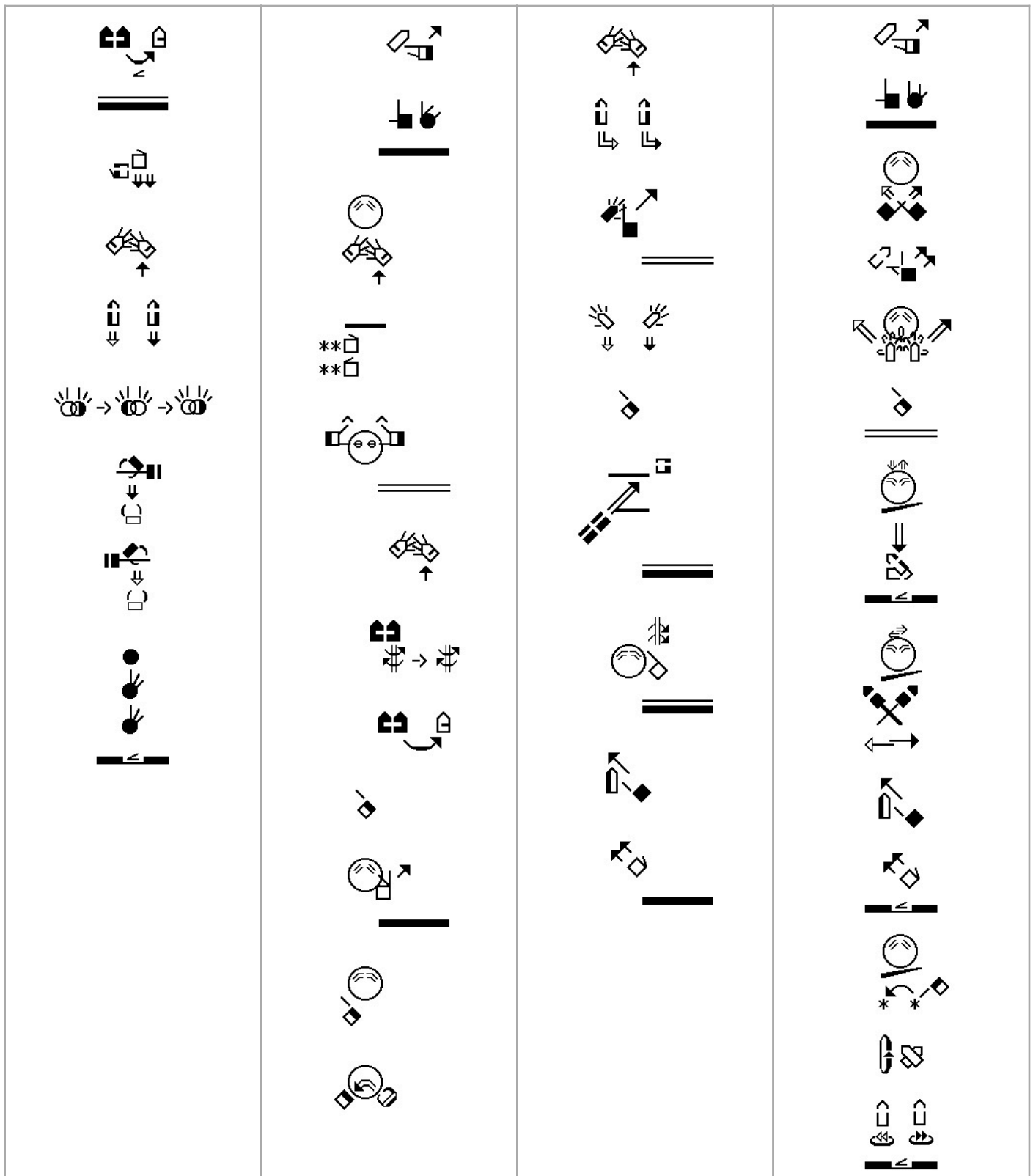
            	            	            	            
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Verse 21. "They are teaching customs that are illegal for us Romans to practice." Verse 22. A mob quickly formed against Paul and Silas, and the city officials ordered them stripped and beaten with wooden rods. Verse 23. They were severely beaten, and then they were thrown into prison. The jailer

NLT

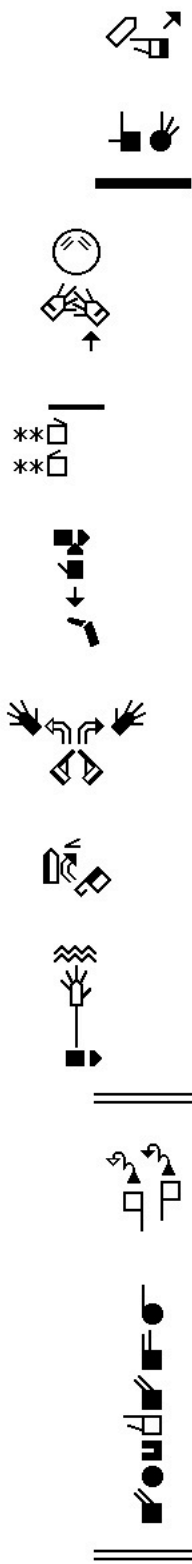
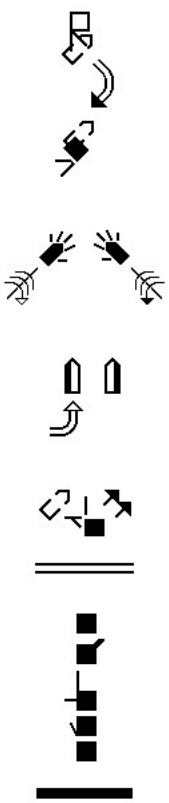

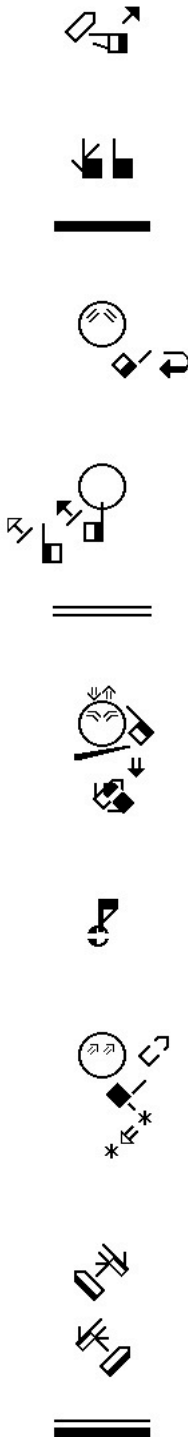
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was ordered to make sure they didn't escape. Verse 24. So the jailer put them into the inner dungeon and clamped their feet in the stocks. Verse 25. Around midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening. Verse 26. Suddenly, there was a massive earthquake, and the prison was shaken to its foundations. All the doors immediately








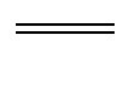


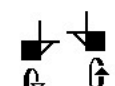

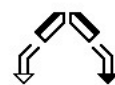














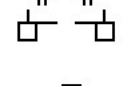

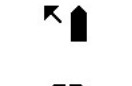
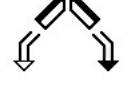

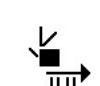





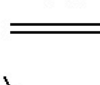








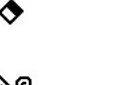






















flew open, and the chains of every prisoner fell off! Verse 27. The jailer woke up to see the prison doors wide open. He assumed the prisoners had escaped, so he drew his sword to kill himself. Verse 28. But Paul shouted to him, "Stop! Don't kill yourself! We are all here!"

NLT

























































			
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Verse 29. The jailer called for lights and ran to the dungeon and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. Verse 30. Then he brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" Verse 31. They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus



           	                	                	                      
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and you will be saved, along with everyone in your household." Verse 32. And they shared the word of the Lord with him and with all who lived in his household. Verse 33. Even at that hour of the night, the jailer cared for them and washed their wounds. Then he and everyone in his household were immediately baptized. NLT

             	             	             	             
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Verse 34. He brought them into his house and set a meal before them, and he and his entire household rejoiced because they all believed in God. Verse 35. The next morning the city officials sent the police to tell the jailer, "Let those men go!" Verse 36. So the jailer told Paul, "The city officials have said

NLT

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you and Silas are free to leave. Go in peace." Verse 37. But Paul replied, "They have publicly beaten us without a trial and put us in prison -- and we are Roman citizens. So now they want us to leave secretly? Certainly not! Let them come themselves to release us!"

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Verse 38. When the police reported this, the city officials were alarmed to learn that Paul and Silas were Roman citizens. Verse 39. So they came to the jail and apologized to them. Then they brought them out and begged them to leave the city. Verse 40. When Paul and Silas left the prison, they returned to the home of Lydia. There they met with the believers and encouraged them once more. Then they left town.

NLT

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Chapter 17. Paul and Silas then traveled through the towns of Amphipolis and Apollonia and came to Thessalonica, where there was a Jewish synagogue. Verse 2. As was Paul's custom, he went to the synagogue service, and for three Sabbaths in a row he used the Scriptures to reason with the people.

NLT


Verse 3. He explained the prophecies and proved that the Messiah must suffer and rise from the dead. He said, "This Jesus I'm telling you about is the Messiah." Verse 4. Some of the Jews who listened were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, along with many God-fearing Greek men and quite a few prominent women.

Verse 5. But some of the Jews were jealous, so they gathered some troublemakers from the marketplace to form a mob and start a riot. They attacked the home of Jason, searching for Paul and Silas so they could drag them out to the crowd. Verse 6. Not finding them there, they dragged out Jason and some of the other believers

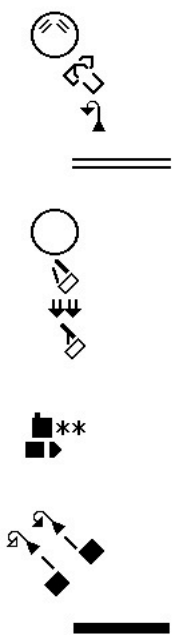
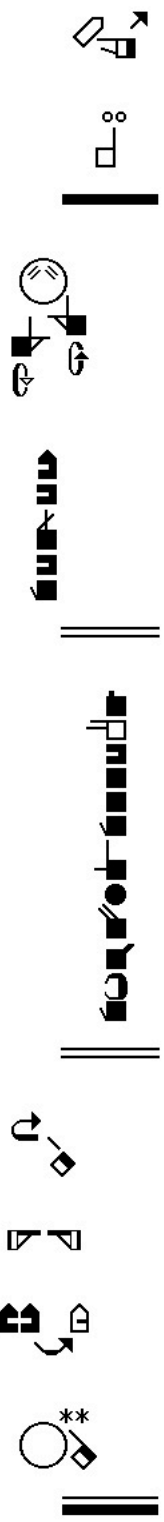

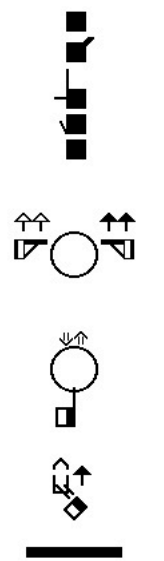
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instead and took them before the city council. "Paul and Silas have caused trouble all over the world," they shouted, "and now they are here disturbing our city, too. Verse 7. And Jason has welcomed them into his home. They are all guilty of treason NLT



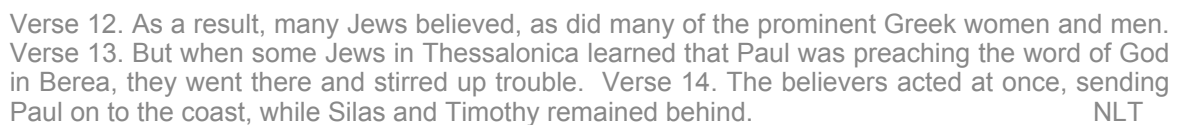
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against Caesar, for they profess allegiance to another king, named Jesus." Verse 8. The people of the city, as well as the city council, were thrown into turmoil by these reports. Verse 9. So the officials forced Jason and the other believers to post bond, and then they released them. Verse 10. That very night the believers sent Paul and Silas to Berea. NLT

			
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When they arrived there, they went to the Jewish synagogue. Verse 11. And the people of Berea were more open-minded than those in Thessalonica, and they listened eagerly to Paul's message. They searched the Scriptures say after day to see if Paul and Silas were teaching the truth.

NLT

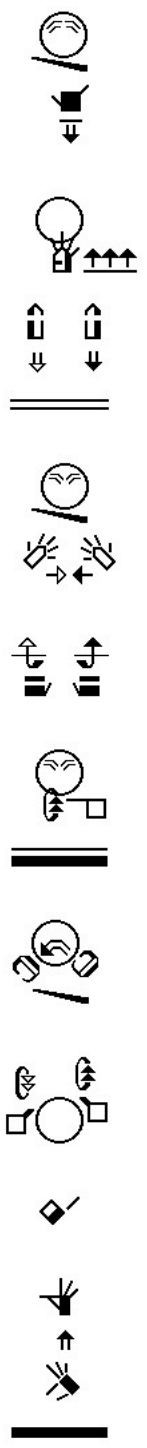
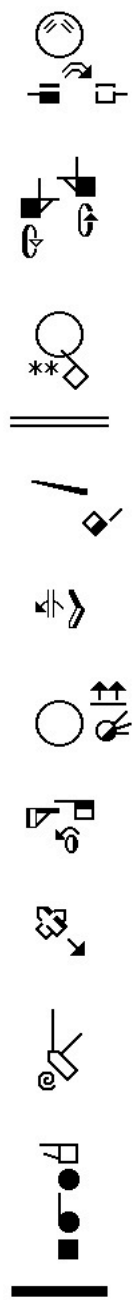
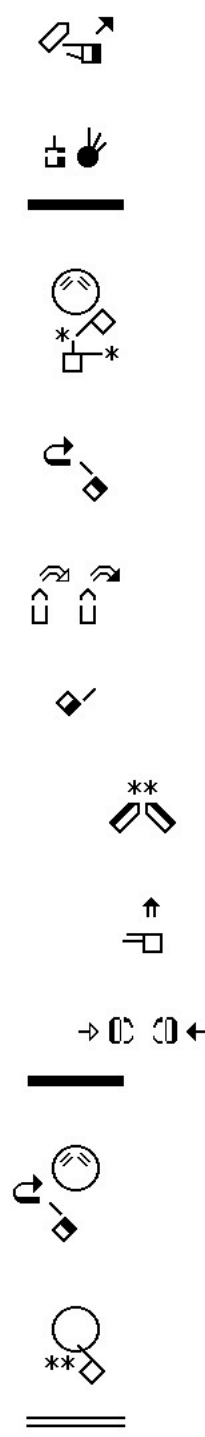
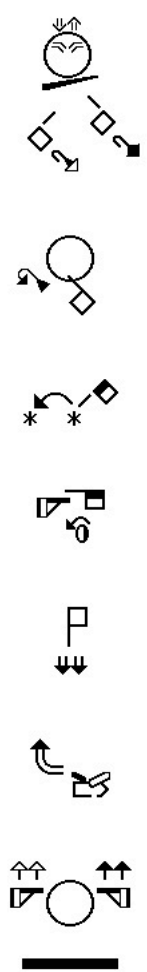


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Verse 15. Those escorting Paul went with him all the way to Athens; then they returned to Berea with instructions for Silas and Timothy to hurry and join him. Verse 16. While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was deeply troubled by all the idols he saw everywhere in the city.

NLT

Verse 17. He went to the synagogue to reason with the Jews and the God-fearing Gentiles, and he spoke daily in the public square to all who happened to be there. Verse 18. He also had a debate with some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers. When he told them about Jesus and his resurrection, they said, NLT

			
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"What's this babbler trying to say with these strange ideas he's picked up?" Others said, "He seems to be preaching about some foreign gods." Verse 19. Then they took him to the high council of the city. "Come and tell us about this new teaching," they said. NLT

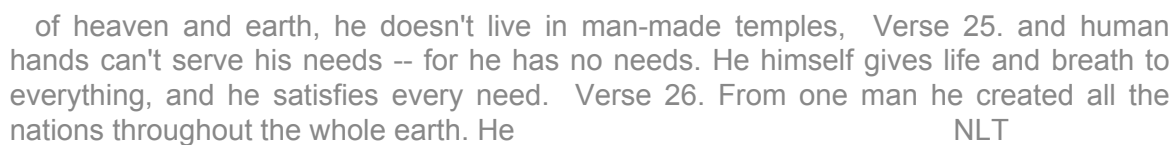

Verse 20. "You are saying some rather strange things, and we want to know what it's all about." Verse 21. (It should be explained that all the Athenians as well as the foreigners in Athens seemed to spend all their time discussing the latest ideas.) Verse 22. So Paul, standing before the council, addressed them as follows: "Men of Athens,

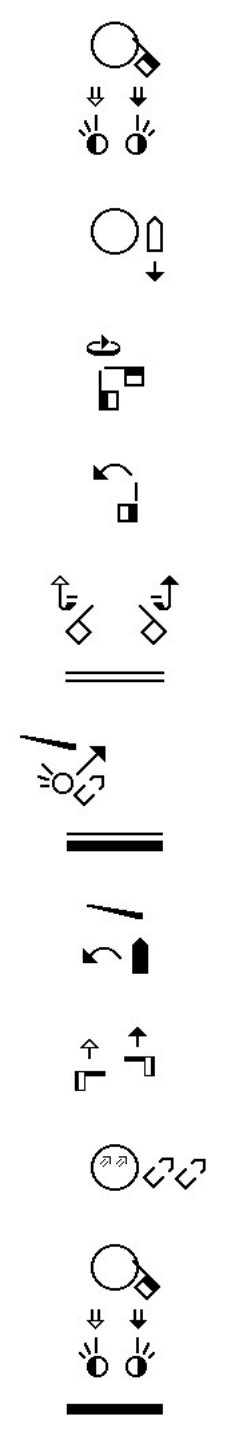
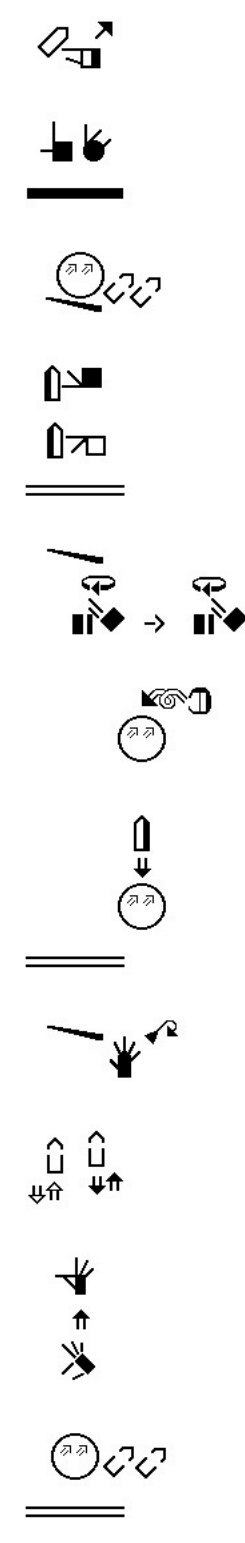
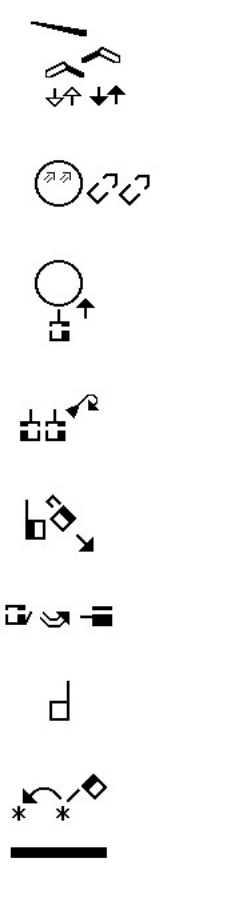
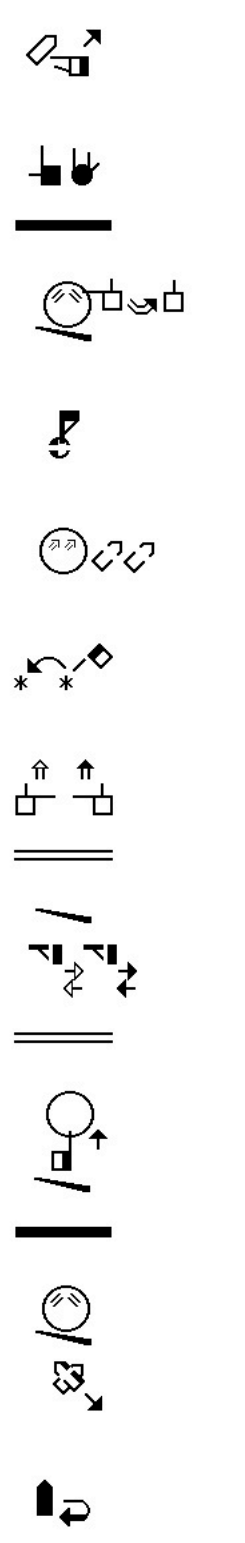
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Verse 23. for as I was walking along I saw your many shrines. And one of your altars had this inscription on it: 'To and Unknown God.' This God whom you worship without knowing, is the one I'm telling you about. Verse 24. "He is the God who made the world and everything in it. Since he is Lord





























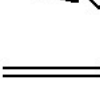















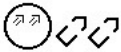
























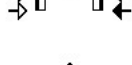















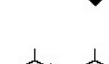


















			
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decided beforehand when they should rise and fall, and he determined their boundaries. Verse 27. "His purpose was for the nations to seek after God and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him -- though he is not far from any one of us. Verse 28. For in him we live and move and exist. As some of your

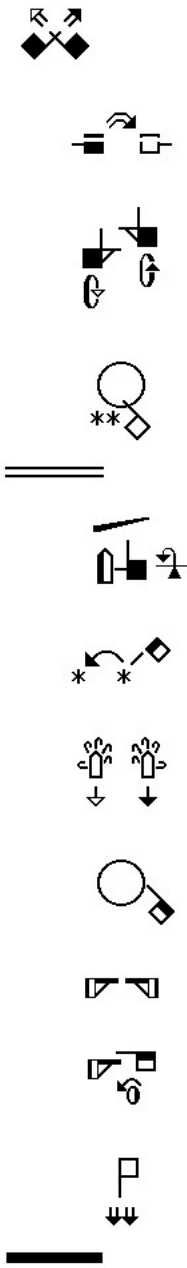

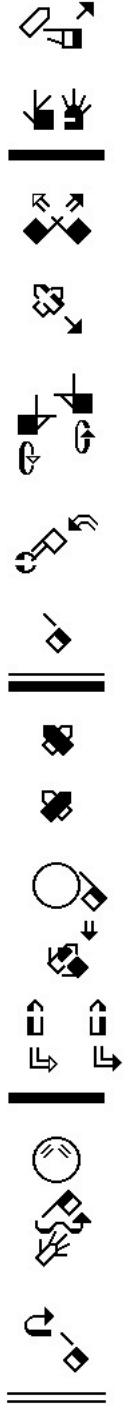
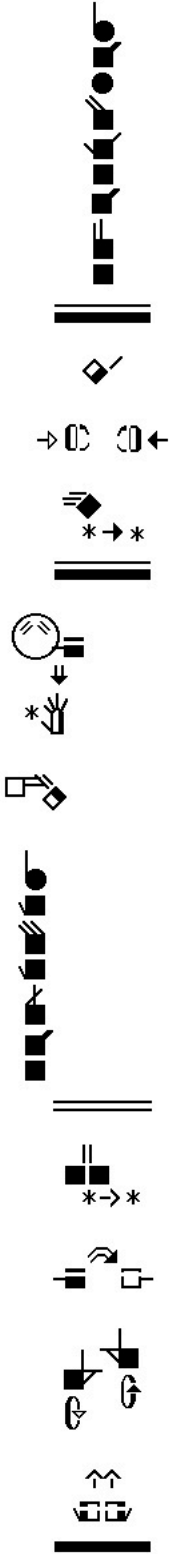
NLT

        	            	        	        
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own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.' Verse 29. And since this is true, we shouldn't think of God as an idol designed by craftsmen from gold or silver or stone. Verse 30. "God overlooked people's ignorance about these things in earlier times, but now

              	              	              	              
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he commands everyone everywhere to repent of their sins and turn to him. Verse 31. For he has set a day for judging the world with justice by the man he has appointed, and he proved to everyone who this is by raising him from the dead." Verse 32. When they heard Paul speak about the resurrection of the dead, some laughed in contempt, NLT

			
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but others said, "We want to hear more about this later." Verse 33. That ended Paul's discussion with them, Verse 34. but some joined him and became believers. Among them were Dionysius, a member of the council, a woman named Damaris, and others with them.

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Chapter 18. Then Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. Verse 2. There he became acquainted with a Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, who had recently arrived from Italy with his wife, Pricilla. They had left Italy when Claudius Caesar deported all Jews from Rome.

NLT

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Verse 3. Paul lived and work with them, for they were tentmakers just as he was. Verse 4. Each Sabbath found Paul at the synagogue, trying to convince the Jews and Greeks alike. Verse 5. And after Silas and Timothy came down from Macedonia, Paul spent all his time preaching the word. He testified to the Jews that Jesus was the Messiah. NLT




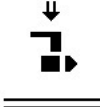

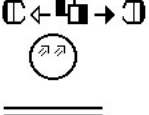
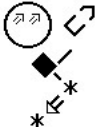





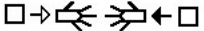















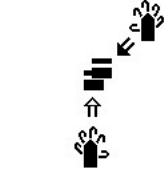
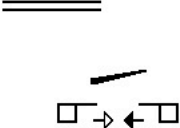






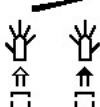
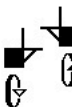


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Verse 6. But when they opposed and insulted him, Paul shook the dust from his clothes and said, "Your blood is upon your own heads -- I am innocent. From now on I will go preach to the Gentiles." Verse 7. Then he left and went to the home of Titius Justus, NLT



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307 a Gentile who worshiped God and lived next door to the synagogue. Verse 8. Crispus, the leader of the synagogue, and everyone in his household believed in the Lord. Many others in Corinth also heard Paul, became believers, and were baptized. NLT

         	         	           	         
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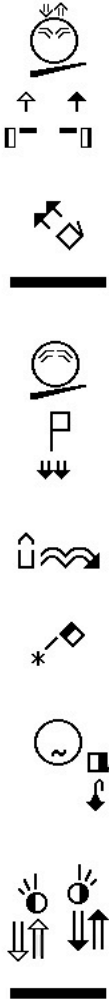
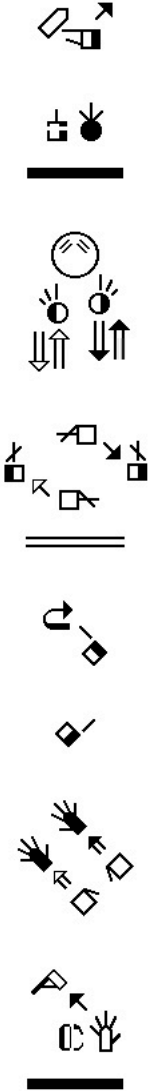
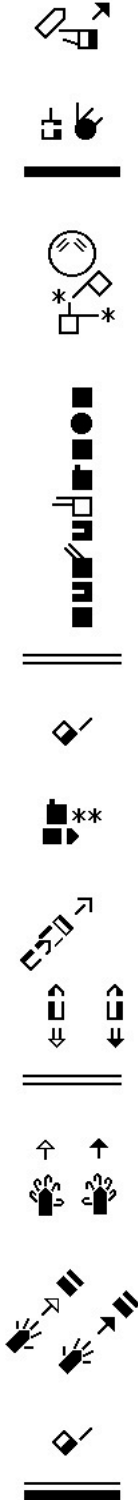
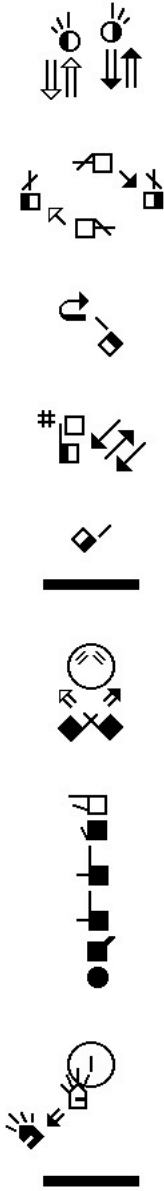
Verse 9. One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision and told him, "Don't be afraid! Speak out! Don't be silent! Verse 10. For I am with you, and no one will attack and harm you, for many people in this city belong to me."

NLT

Verse 11. So Paul stayed there for the next year and a half, teaching the word of God.  
Verse 12. But when Gallio became governor of Achaia, some Jews rose up together  
against Paul and brought him before the governor for judgment. Verse 13. They accused  
Paul of "persuading people to worship God in ways that are contrary to our law." NLT

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Verse 14. But just as Paul started to make his defense, Gallio turned to Paul's accusers and said, "Listen, you Jews, if this were a case involving some wrongdoing or a serious crime, I would have a reason to accept your case. Verse 15. But since it is merely a question of words and names and your Jewish law,

			
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take care of it yourselves. I refuse to judge such matters." Verse 16. And he threw them out of the courtroom. Verse 17. The crowd then grabbed Sosthenes, the leader of the synagogue, and beat him right there in the courtroom. But Gallio paid no attention. NLT

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Verse 18. Paul stayed in Corinth for some time after that, then said good-bye to the brothers and sisters and went to nearby Cenchrea. There he shaved his head according to Jewish custom, marking the end of a vow. Then he set sail for Syria, taking Priscilla and Aquila with him.

NLT


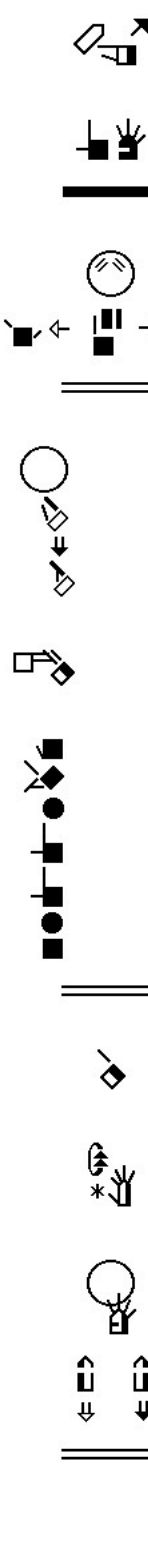
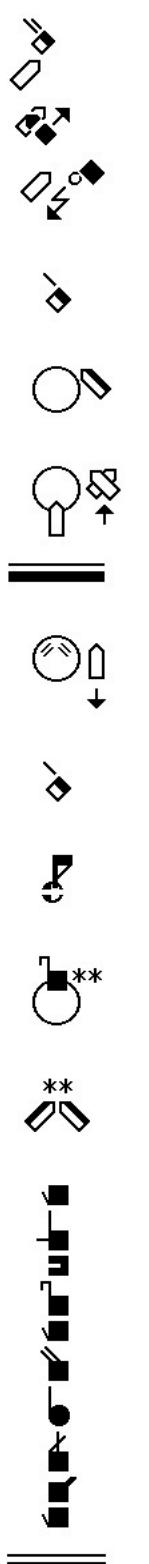

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Verse 19. They stopped first at the port of Ephesus, where Paul left the others behind. While he was there, he went to the synagogue to reason with the Jews. Verse 20. They asked him to stay longer, but he declined. Verse 21. As he left, however, he said, "I will come back later,

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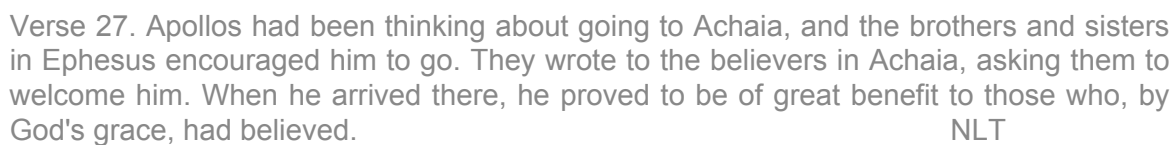

God willing." Then he set sail from Ephesus. Verse 22. The next stop was at the port of Caesarea. From there he went up and visited the church at Jerusalem and then went back to Antioch. Verse 23. After spending some time in Antioch, Paul went back through NLT

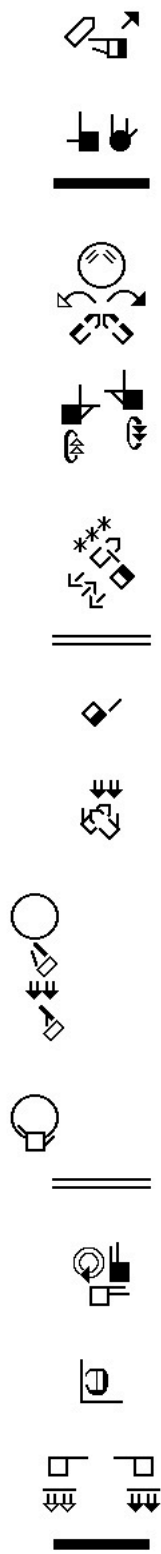
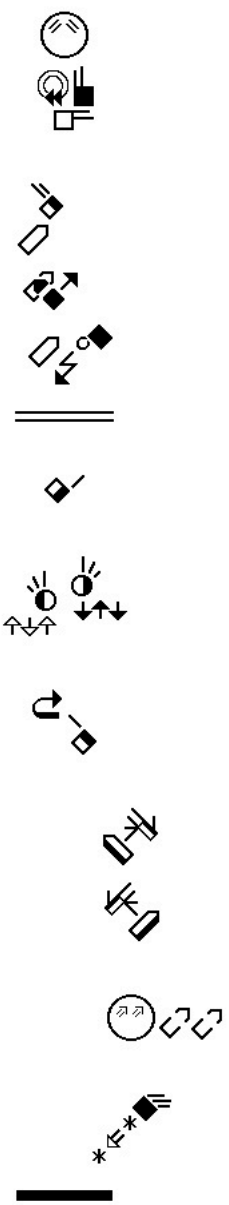


			
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Verse 25. He had been taught the way of the Lord, and he taught others about Jesus with an enthusiastic spirit and with accuracy. However, he knew only about John's baptism. Verse 26. When Priscilla and Aquila heard him preaching boldly in the synagogue, they took him aside and explained the way of God even more accurately. NLT



 <p>ASL signs for Verse 28: He refuted the Jews with powerful arguments in public debate. Using the Scriptures, he explained to them that Jesus was the Messiah.</p>	 <p>ASL signs for Verse 28: He refuted the Jews with powerful arguments in public debate. Using the Scriptures, he explained to them that Jesus was the Messiah.</p>		
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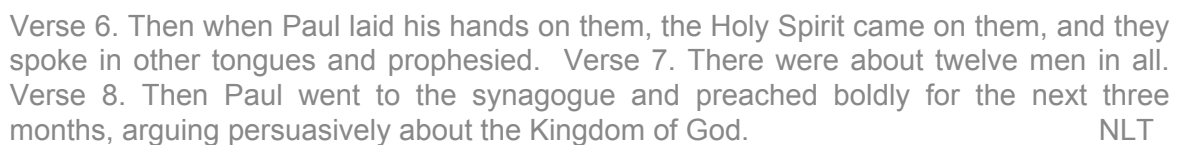
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












































































Chapter 19. While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul traveled through the interior regions until he reached Ephesus, on the coast, where he found several believers. Verse 2. "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" he asked them. "No," they replied, "we haven't even heard that there is a Holy Spirit."

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Verse 3. "Then what baptism did you experience?" he asked. And they replied, "The baptism of John." Verse 4. Paul said, "John's baptism called for repentance from sin. But John himself told the people to believe in the one who would come later, meaning Jesus." Verse 5. As soon as they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.



                    	                    	                    	                    
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Verse 9. But some became stubborn, rejecting his message and publicly speaking against the Way. So Paul left the synagogue and took the believers with him. Then he held daily discussions at the lecture hall of Tyrannus.



Verse 10. This went on for the next two years, so that people throughout the province of Asia -- both Jews and Greeks -- heard the word of the Lord. Verse 11. God gave Paul the power to perform unusual miracles. Verse 12. When handkerchiefs or aprons that had merely touched his skin were placed

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on sick people, they were healed of their diseases, and evil spirits were expelled. Verse 13. A group of Jews was traveling from town to town casting out evil spirits. They tried to use the name of the Lord Jesus in their incantation, saying, "I command you in the name of Jesus, whom Paul preaches, to come out!"

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Verse 14. Seven sons of Sceva, a leading priest, were doing this. Verse 15. But one time when they tried it, the evil spirit replied, "I know Jesus, and I know Paul, but who are you?" Verse 16. Then the man with the evil spirit leaped on them, overpowered them, NLT

326

Verse 19. A number of them who had been practicing sorcery brought their incantation books and burned them at a public bonfire. The value of the books was several million dollars. Verse 20. So the message about the Lord spread widely and had a powerful effect. Verse 21. Afterward Paul felt compelled by the Spirit to go over to Macedonia and Achaia

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before going to Jerusalem. "And after that," he said, "I must go on to Rome!" Verse 22. He sent his two assistants, Timothy and Erastus, ahead to Macedonia while he stayed awhile longer in the province of Asia. Verse 23. About that time, serious trouble developed in Ephesus concerning the Way.

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Verse 24. It began with Demetrius, a silversmith who had a large business manufacturing silver shrines of the Greek goddess Artemis. He kept many craftsmen busy. Verse 25. He called them together, along with others employed in similar trades, and addressed them as follows: "Gentlemen, you know that our wealth comes from this business. NLT

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Verse 26. But as you have seen and heard, this man Paul has persuaded many people that handmade gods aren't really gods at all. And he's done this not only here in Ephesus but throughout the entire province! Verse 27. Of course, I'm not just stalking about the loss of public respect for our business.

NLT



























































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I'm also concerned that the temple of the great goddess Artemis will lose its influence and that Artemis -- this magnificent goddess worshiped throughout the province of Asia and all around the world -- will be robbed of her great prestige!" Verse 28. At this their anger boiled, and they began shouting,

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"Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!" Verse 29. Soon the whole city was filled with confusion. Everyone rushed to the amphitheater, dragging along Gaius and Aristarchus, who were Paul's traveling companions from Macedonia. Verse 30. Paul wanted to go in too, but the believers wouldn't let him.

NLT





































































































             	             	             	             
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Verse 31. Some of the officials of the province, friends of Paul, also sent a message to him, begging him not to risk his life by entering the amphitheater. Verse 32. Inside, the people were all shouting, some one thing and some another. Everything was in confusion. In fact, most of them didn't even know why they were there. NLT

NLT

335


Verse 37. You have brought these men here, but they have stolen nothing from the temple and have not spoken against our goddess. Verse 38. "If Demetrius and the craftsmen have a case against them, the courts are in session and the officials can hear the case at once. Let them make formal charges.

                        	                        	                        	                        
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Verse 39. And if there are complaints about other matters, they can be settled in a legal assembly. Verse 40. I am afraid we are in danger of being charged with rioting by the Roman government, since there is no cause for all this commotion. And if Rome demands an explanation, we won't know what to say." NLT



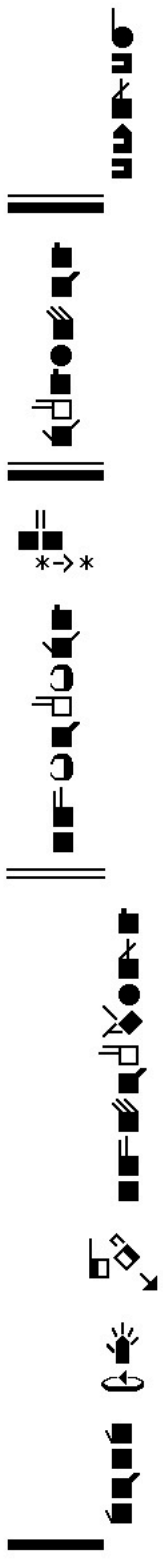
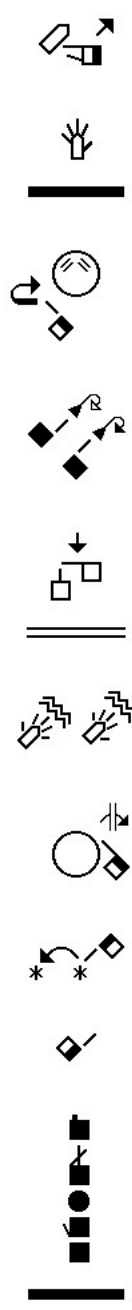
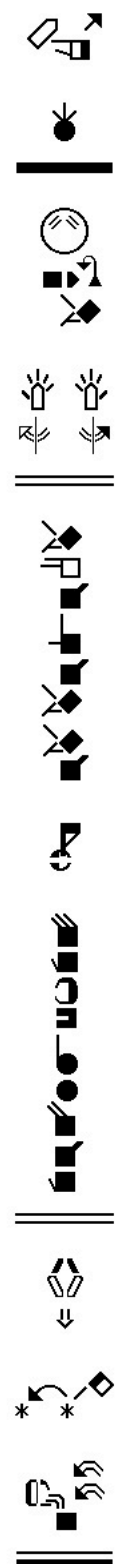
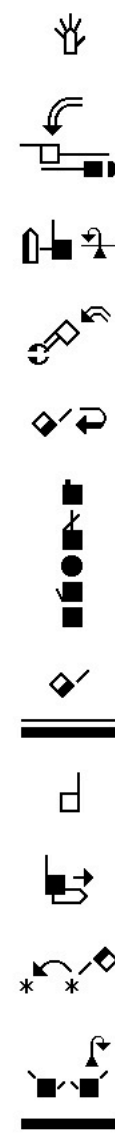


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Chapter 20. When the uproar was over, Paul sent for the believers and encouraged them. Then he said good-bye and left for Macedonia. Verse 2. While there, he encouraged the believers in all the towns he passed through. Then he traveled down to Greece, Verse 3. where he stayed for three months. He was preparing to sail back to Syria when he discovered a plot by some Jews

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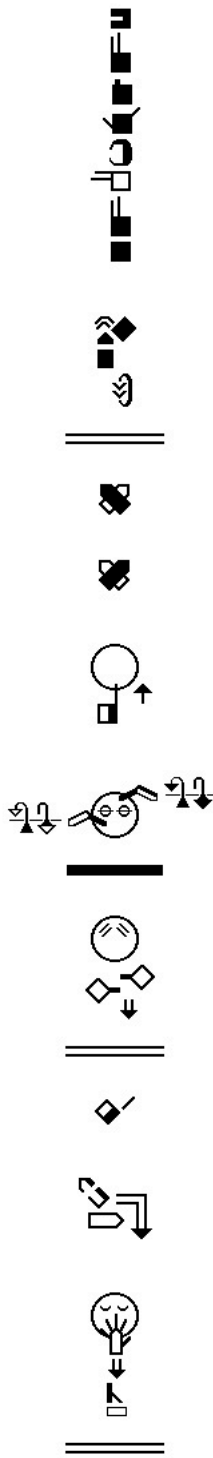
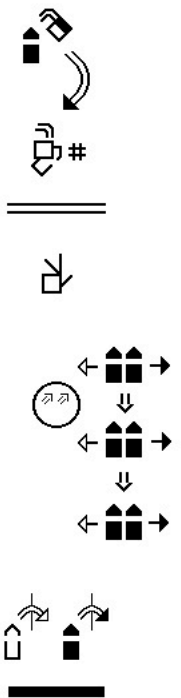
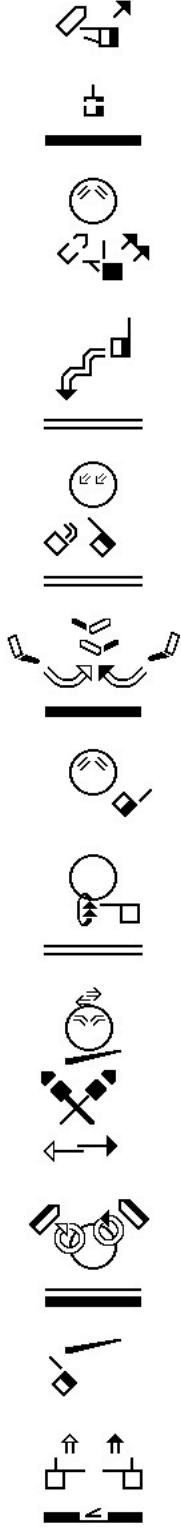
against his life, so he decided to return through Macedonia. Verse 4. Several men were traveling with him. They were Sopater son of Pyrrhus from Berea; Aristarchus and Secundus from Thessalonica; Gaius from NLT

			
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


























































Derbe; Timothy; and Tychicus and Trophimus from the province of Asia. Verse 5. They went on ahead and waited for us at Troas. Verse 6. After the Passover ended, we boarded a ship at Philippi in Macedonia and five days later joined them in Troas, where we stayed a week.

NLT






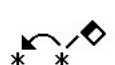



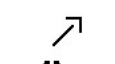






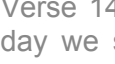


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Verse 9. As Paul spoke on and on, a young man named Eutychus, sitting on the windowsill, became very drowsy. Finally, he fell sound asleep and dropped three stories to his death below. Verse 10. Paul went down, bent over him, and took him into his arms. "Don't worry," he said, "he's alive!"

              	              	              	              
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Verse 11. Then they all went back upstairs, shared in the Lord's Supper, and ate together. Paul continued talking to them until dawn, and then he left. Verse 12. Meanwhile, the young man was taken home unhurt, and everyone was greatly relieved. Verse 13. Paul went by land to Assos, where he had arranged for us to join him, while we traveled by ship.

















































                     
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for he didn't want to spend any more time in the province of Asia. He was hurrying to get to Jerusalem, if possible, in time for the Festival of Pentecost. Verse 17. But when we landed at Miletus, he sent a message to the elders of the church at Ephesus, asking them to come and meet him.

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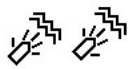



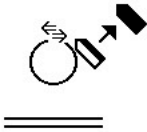
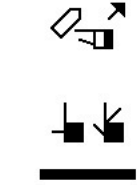
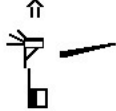



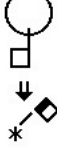




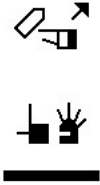
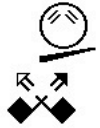











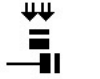














           	           	           	           
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Verse 18. When they arrived he declared, "You know that from the day I set foot in the province of Asia until now Verse 19. I have done the Lord's work humbly and with many tears. I have endured the trials that came to me from the plots of the Jews. Verse 20. I never shrank back from telling you what you needed to hear, NLT

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either publicly or in your homes. Verse 21. I have had one message for Jews and Greeks alike -- the necessity of repenting from sin and turning to God, and of having faith in our Lord Jesus. Verse 22. "And now I am bound by the Spirit to go to Jerusalem. NLT

     	         	            	            
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I don't know what awaits me, Verse 23. except that the Holy Spirit tells me in city after city that jail and suffering lie ahead. Verse 24. But my life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus -- the work of telling others

NLT

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the Good News about the wonderful grace of God. Verse 25. "And now I know that none of you to whom I have preached the Kingdom will ever see me again. Verse 26. I declare today that I have been faithful. If anyone

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over which the Holy Spirit has appointed you as elders. Verse 29. I know that false teachers, like vicious wolves, will come in among you after I leave, not sparing the flock. Verse 30. Even some men from your own group will rise up

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and distort the truth in order to draw a following. Verse 31. Watch out! Remember the three years I was with you -- my constant watch and care over you night and day, and my many tears for you. Verse 32. "And now I entrust you to God and the message of his grace that is able





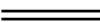

















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to build you up and give you an inheritance with all those he has set apart for himself.  
 Verse 33. "I have never coveted anyone's silver or gold or fine clothes. Verse 34. You  
 know that these hands of mine have worked to supply my own needs and even the  
 needs of those who were with me. NLT



Verse 35. And I have been a constant example of how you can help those in need by working hard. You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" Verse 36. When he had finished speaking, he knelt and prayed with them. Verse 37. They all cried as they embraced and kissed him good-bye. NLT

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Verse 38. They were sad most of all because he had said that they would never see him again. Then they escorted him down to the ship.

NLT


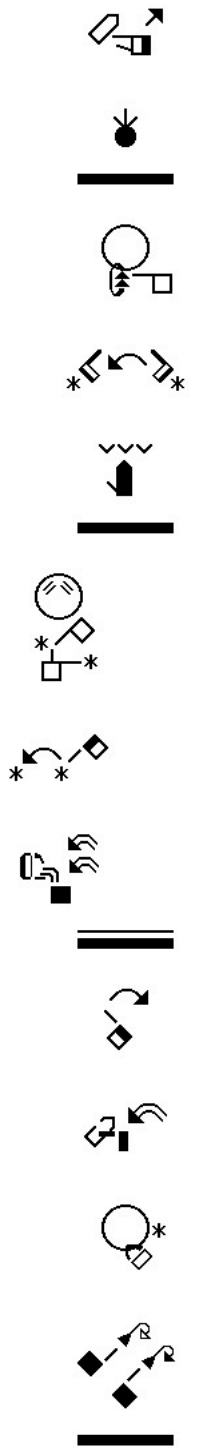
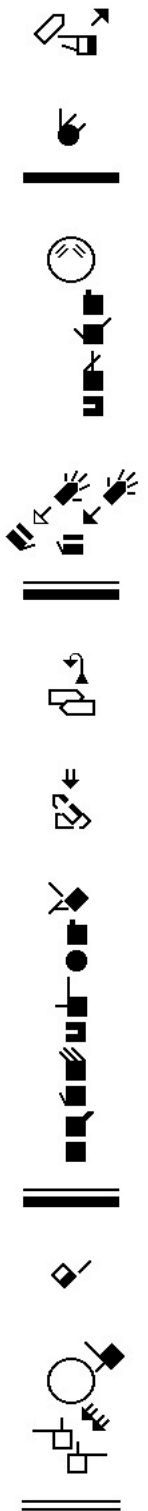
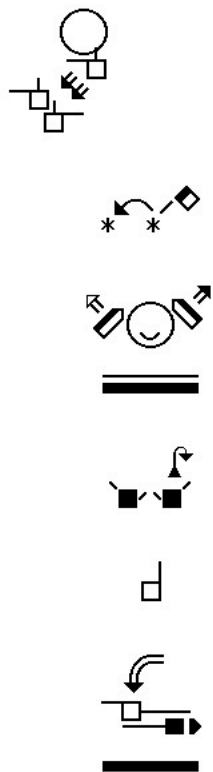
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Chapter 21. After saying farewell to the Ephesian elders, we sailed straight to the island of Cos. The next day we reached Rhodes and then went to Patara. Verse 2. There we boarded a ship sailing for Phoenicia. Verse 3. We sighted the island of Cyprus,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

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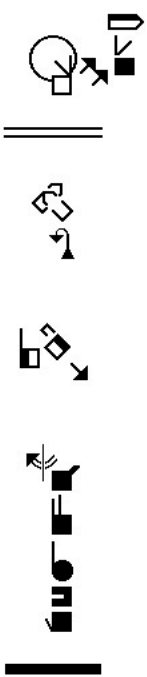

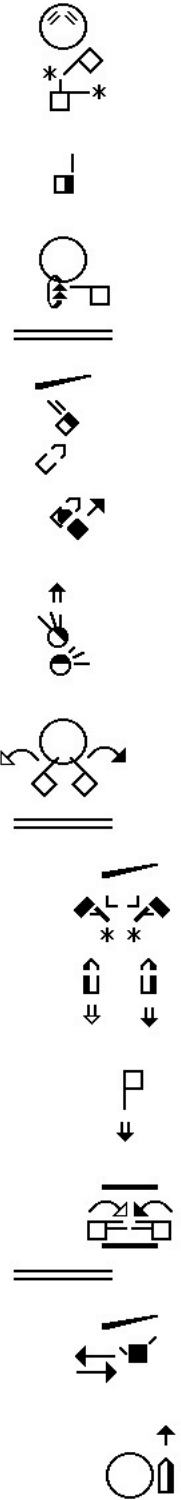
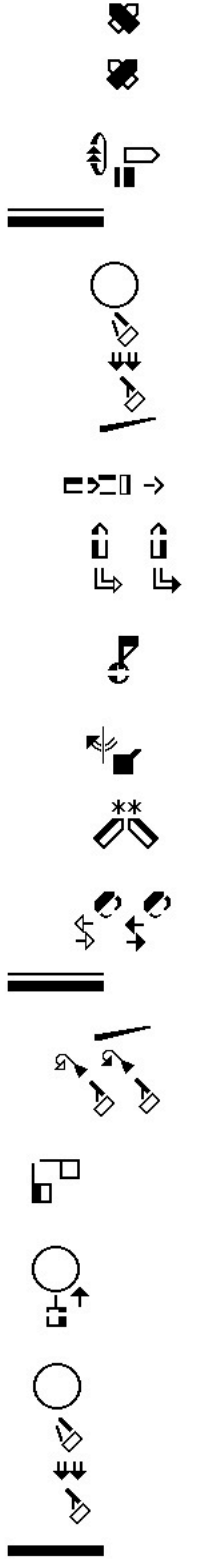
of Tyre, in Syria, where the ship was to unload its cargo. Verse 4. We went ashore, found the local believers, and stayed with them a week. These believers prophesied through the Holy Spirit that Paul should not go on to Jerusalem. Verse 5. When we returned to the ship at the end of the week, the entire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

 <p>ASL signs for Acts 21:1-10. The sequence includes signs for 'we', 'left', 'city', 'came', 'down', 'to', 'the', 'shore', 'with', 'us', 'there', 'we', 'knelt', 'prayed', 'said', 'our', 'farewells', 'then', 'we', 'went', 'aboard', 'and', 'they', 'returned', 'home'.</p>	 <p>ASL signs for Acts 21:11-15. The sequence includes signs for 'they', 'went', 'on', 'board', 'the', 'ship', 'and', 'left', 'the', 'city', 'and', 'came', 'down', 'to', 'the', 'shore', 'with', 'us'.</p>	 <p>ASL signs for Acts 21:16-20. The sequence includes signs for 'then', 'we', 'went', 'aboard', 'the', 'ship', 'and', 'they', 'returned', 'home'.</p>	 <p>ASL signs for Acts 21:21-25. The sequence includes signs for 'then', 'we', 'went', 'aboard', 'the', 'ship', 'and', 'they', 'returned', 'home'.</p>
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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

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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.'"

NLT

































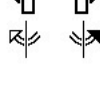
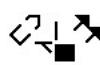

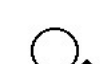



















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Verse 12. When we heard this, we and the local believers all begged Paul not to go on to Jerusalem. Verse 13. But he said, "Why all this weeping? You are breaking my heart! I am ready not only to be jailed at Jerusalem but even to die for the sake 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



<p>ASL signs for Verse 15: Packing and departure. The sequence includes signs for packing (hands moving items into a container), departure (hands moving away from a central point), and a final sign for leaving (hands moving away from a central point).</p>	<p>ASL signs for Verse 16: Believers from Caesarea. The sequence includes signs for believers (hands moving in a circular motion), Caesarea (hands moving in a circular motion), and a final sign for believers (hands moving in a circular motion).</p>	<p>ASL signs for Verse 17: Arrival in Jerusalem. The sequence includes signs for arrival (hands moving in a circular motion), Jerusalem (hands moving in a circular motion), and a final sign for arrival (hands moving in a circular motion).</p>	<p>ASL signs for Verse 18: Warm welcome. The sequence includes signs for welcome (hands moving in a circular motion), warm (hands moving in a circular motion), and a final sign for welcome (hands moving in a circular motion).</p>
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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. NLT

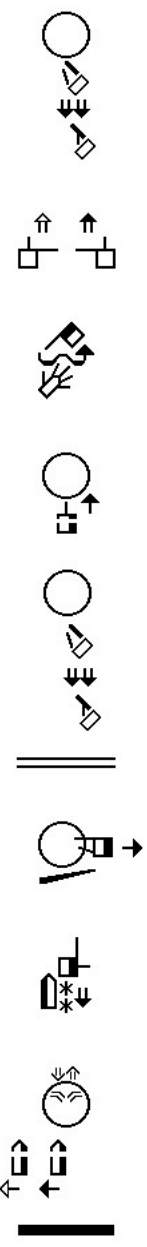
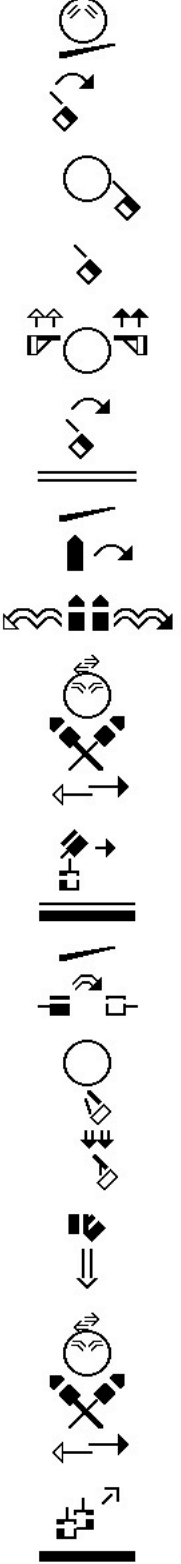
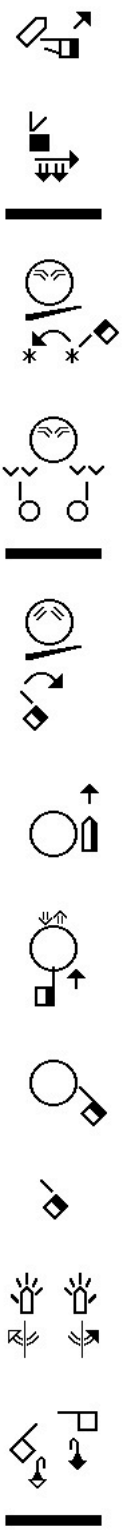
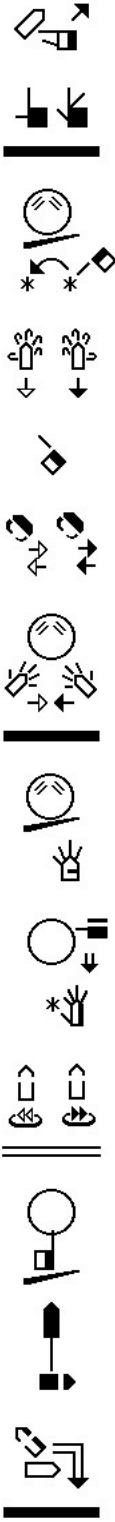
             	            	             	             
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Verse 18. The next day Paul went with us to meet with James, and all the elders of the Jerusalem church were present. Verse 19. After greeting them, Paul gave a detailed account of the things God had accomplished among the Gentiles through his ministry.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

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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

NLT

			
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































































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.

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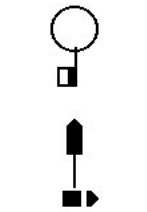

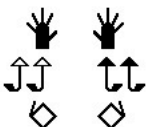
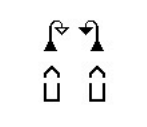
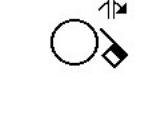
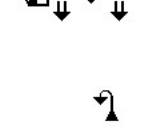





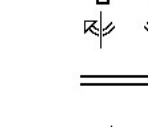
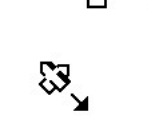
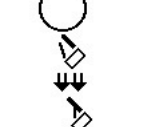
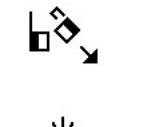
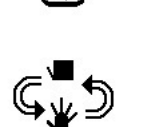

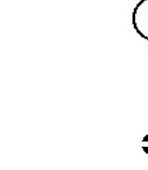
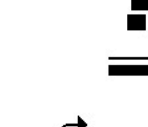
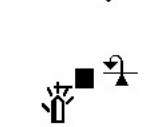
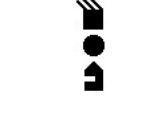




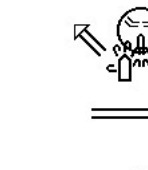
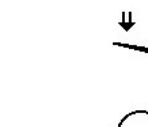
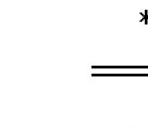




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Verse 24. Go with them to the Temple and join them in the purification ceremony, paying for them to have their heads ritually shaved. Then everyone will know that the rumors are all false and that you yourself observe the Jewish laws. Verse 25. "As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

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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

       	       	       	       
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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


















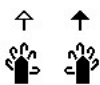


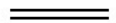




































































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against our people everywhere and tells everybody to disobey the Jewish laws. He speaks against the Temple -- and even defiles this holy place by bringing in Gentiles. Verse 29. (For earlier that day they had seen him in the city with Trophimus,


















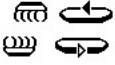


























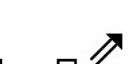
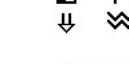
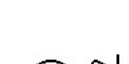




















a Gentile from Ephesus, and they assumed Paul had taken him into the Temple.) Verse 30. The whole city was rocked by these accusations, and a great riot followed. Paul was grabbed and dragged out of the Temple, and immediately the gates were closed behind him. Verse 31. As they were trying to kill him,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

                  	                               	                    	                
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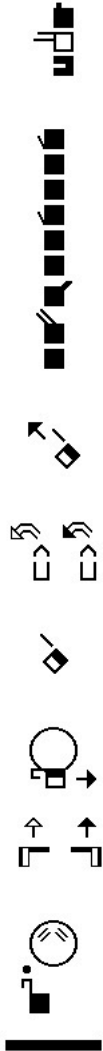
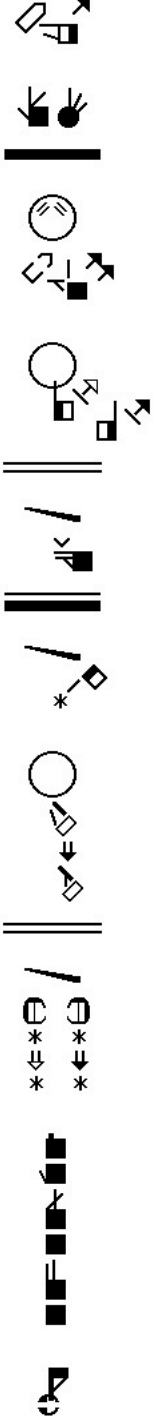
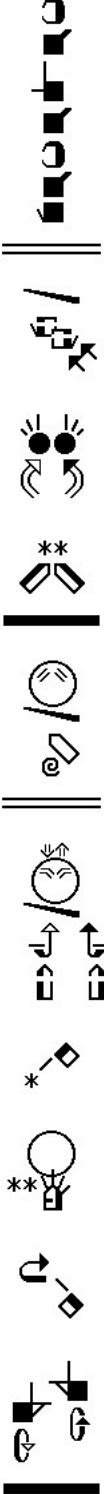

Verse 32. He immediately called out his soldiers and officers and ran down among the crowd. When the mob saw the commander and the troops coming, they stopped beating Paul. Verse 33. Then the commander arrested him and ordered him bound with two chains. He asked the crowd who he was and what he had done.

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













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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. NLT

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under Gamaliel. As his student, I was carefully trained in our Jewish laws and customs. I became very zealous to honor God in everything I did, just like all of you today. Verse 4. And I persecuted the followers of the Way,

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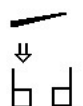

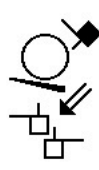
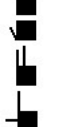




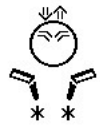










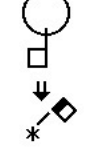

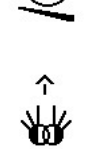

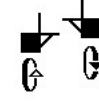
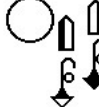
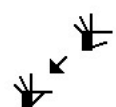



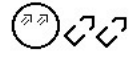








hounding some to death, arresting both men and women and throwing them in prison.  
 Verse 5. The high priest and the whole council of elders can testify that this is so. For I  
 received letters from them to our Jewish brothers in Damascus, authorizing me to bring  
 the Christians from there to Jerusalem, in chains, to be punished. NLT

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Verse 6. "As I was on the road, approaching Damascus about noon, a very bright light from heaven suddenly shone down around me. Verse 7. I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?'

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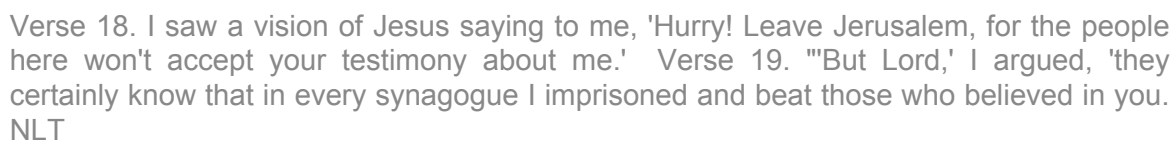
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Verse 13. He came and stood beside me and said, 'Brother Saul, regain your sight.' And that very moment I could see him! Verse 14. "Then he told me, 'The God of our ancestors has chosen you to know his will and to see the Righteous One and hear him speak.

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
















































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Verse 20. And I was in complete agreement when your witness Stephen was killed. I stood by and kept the coats they took off when they stoned him.' Verse 21. "But the Lord said to me, 'Go, for I will send you far away to the Gentiles!'" Verse 22. The crowd listened until Paul said that word. Then they all



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began to shout, "Away with such a fellow! He isn't fit to live!" Verse 23. They yelled, threw off their coats, and tossed handfuls of dust into the air. Verse 24. The commander brought Paul inside and ordered him lashed with whips to make him confess his crime. He wanted to find out why the crowd had become so furious. NLT

































































































            	            	            	            
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Verse 25. When they tied Paul down to lash him, Paul said to the officer standing there, "Is it legal for you to whip a Roman citizen who hasn't even been tried?" Verse 26. When the officer heard this, he went to the commander and asked, "What are you doing? This man is a Roman citizen!"





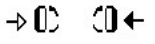




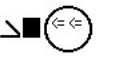






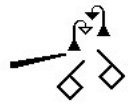










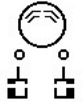




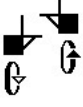









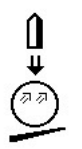







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Verse 27. So the commander went over and asked Paul, "Tell me, are you a Roman citizen?" "Yes, I certainly am," Paul replied. Verse 28. "I am, too," the commander muttered, "and it cost me plenty!" Paul answered, "But I am a citizen by birth!" NLT

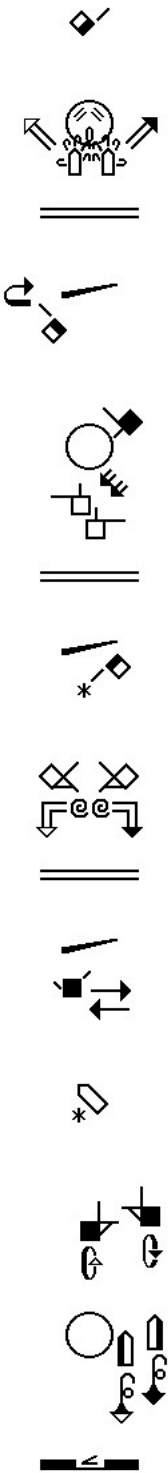

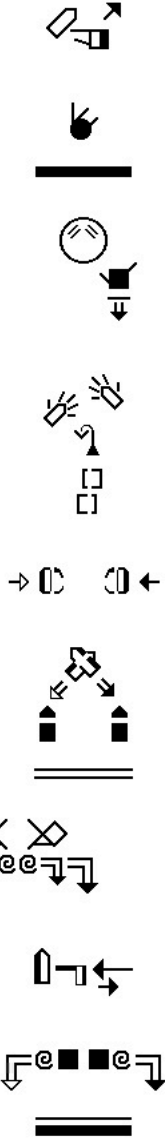
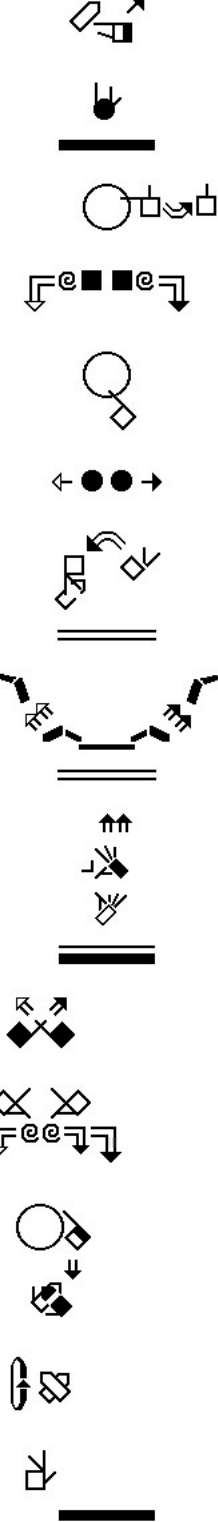
                       	                       	                       	                       
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Verse 29. The soldiers who were about to interrogate Paul quickly withdrew when they heard he was a Roman citizen, and the commander was frightened because he had ordered him bound and whipped. Verse 30. The next day the commander ordered the leading priests into session with the Jewish high council. He wanted to find out what the trouble was all about, so he released Paul to have him stand before them.


















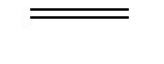

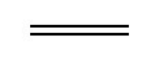









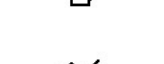

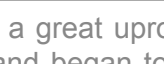
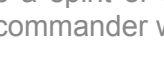






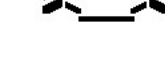









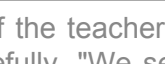
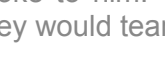










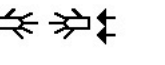





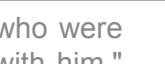


             	          	           	            
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Chapter 23. Gazing intently at the high council, Paul began: "Brothers, I have always lived before God with a clear conscience!" Verse 2. Instantly Ananias the high priest commanded those close to Paul to slap him on the mouth. Verse 3. But Paul said to him, "God will slap you, you corrupt hypocrite!" NLT


Verse 4. Those standing near Paul said to him, "Do you dare to insult God's high priest?" Verse 5. "I'm sorry, brothers. I didn't realize he was the high priest," Paul replied, "for the Scriptures say, 'You must not speak evil of any of your rulers.'" Verse 6. Paul realized that some members of the high council were Sadducees and some were Pharisees, so

			
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he shouted, "Brothers, I am a Pharisee, as were my ancestors! And I am on trial because my hope is in the resurrection of the dead!" Verse 7. This divided the council -- the Pharisees against the Sadducees -- Verse 8. for the Sadducees say there is no resurrection or angels or spirits, but the Pharisees believe in all of these. NLT

               	                 	                 	                 
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



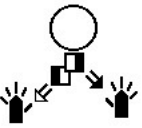



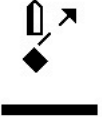



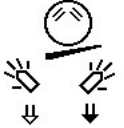

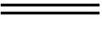






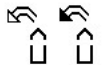











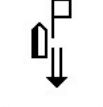





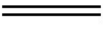









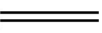

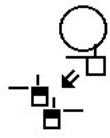

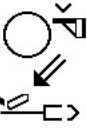
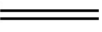




Verse 9. So there was a great uproar. Some of the teachers of religious law who were Pharisees jumped up and began to argue forcefully. "We see nothing wrong with him," they shouted. "Perhaps a spirit or an angel spoke to him." Verses 10. As the conflict grew more violent, the commander was afraid they would tear Paul apart. NLT



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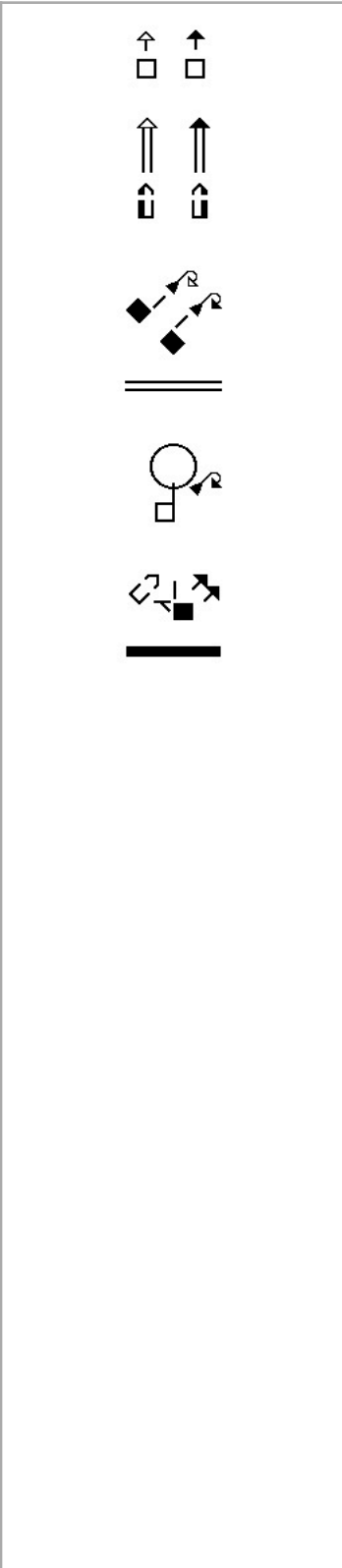
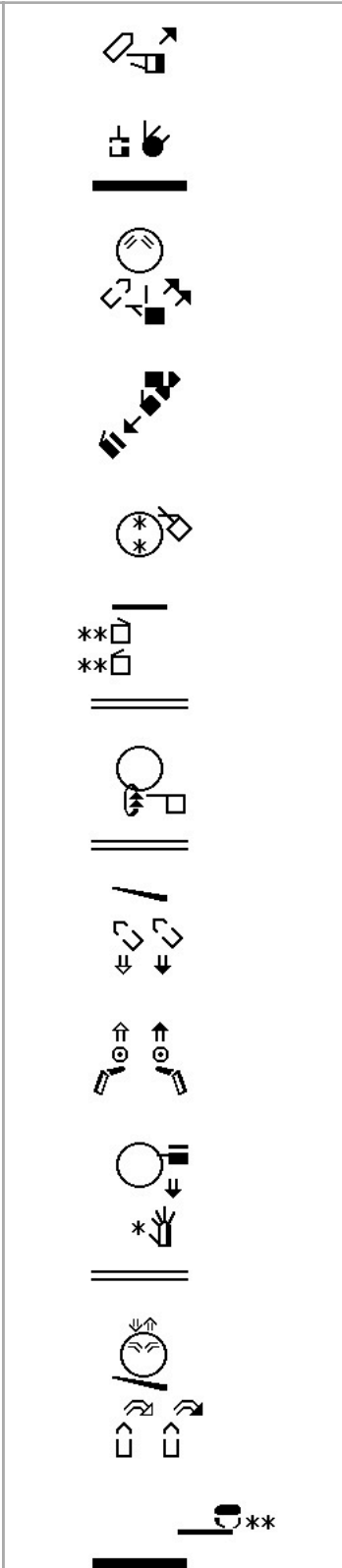

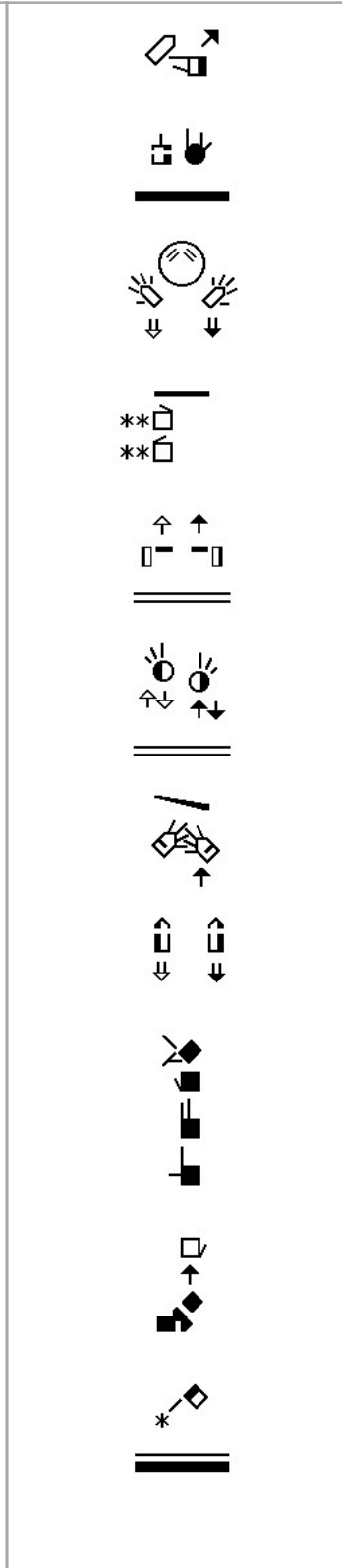
So he ordered his soldiers to go and rescue him by force and take him back to the fortress. Verse 11. That night the Lord appeared to Paul and said, "Be encouraged, Paul. Just as you have been a witness to me here in Jerusalem, you must preach the Good News in Rome as well."

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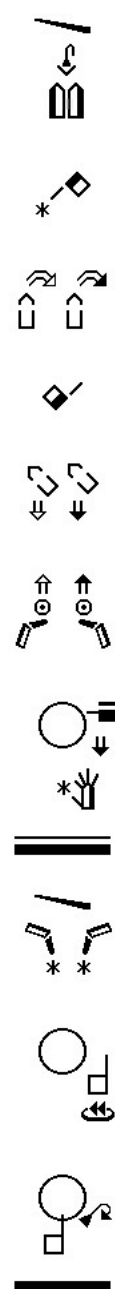
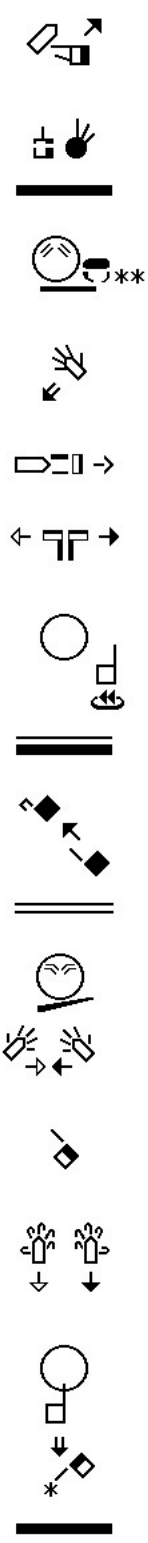
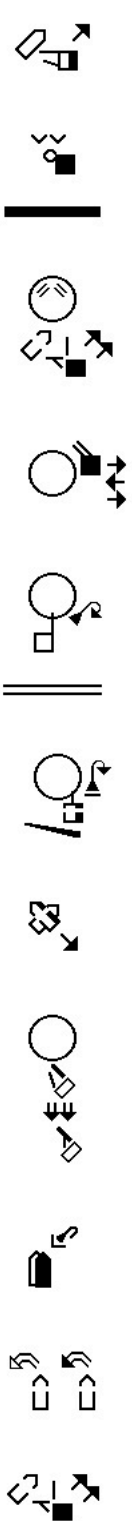
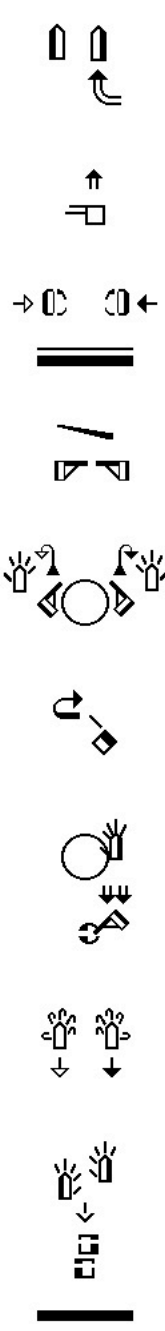
          	               	                	               
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ourselves with an oath to eat nothing until we have killed Paul. Verse 15. So you and the high council should ask the commander to bring Paul back to the council again. Pretend you want to examine his case more fully. We will kill him on the way." Verse 16. But Paul's nephew -- his sister's son -- heard of their plan

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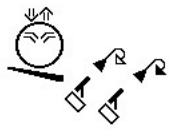
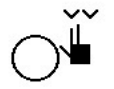


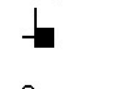









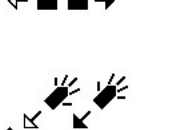

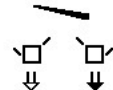
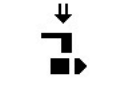
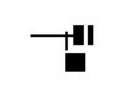












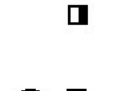

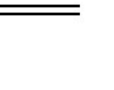

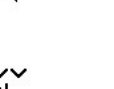





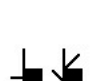












and went to the fortress and told Paul. Verse 17. Paul called for one of the Roman officers and said, "Take this young man to the commander. He has something important to tell him." Verse 18. So the officer did, explaining, "Paul, the prisoner, called me over NLT

			
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and asked me to bring this young man to you because he has something to tell you." Verse 19. The commander took his hand, led him aside, and asked, "What is it you want to tell me?" Verse 20. Paul's nephew told him, "Some Jews are going to ask you to bring Paul before the high council tomorrow, pretending they want to get some more information.

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Verse 23. Then the commander called two of his officers and ordered, "Get 200 soldiers ready to leave for Caesarea at nine o'clock tonight. Also take 200 spearmen and 70 mounted troops. Verse 24. Provide horses for Paul to ride, and get him safely to Governor Felix."

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Verse 25. Then he wrote this letter to the governor: Verse 26. "From Claudius Lysias, to his Excellency, Governor Felix: Greetings! Verse 27. "This man was seized by some Jews, and they were about to kill him when I

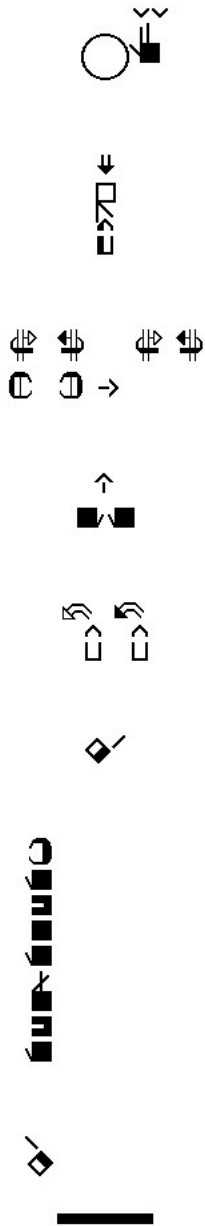

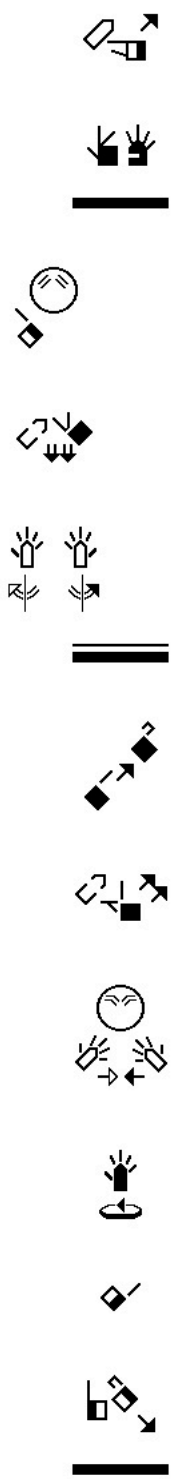
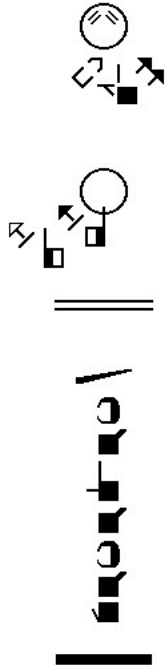






































arrived with the troops. When I learned that he was a Roman citizen, I removed him to safely. Verse 28. Then I took him to their high council to try to learn the basis of the accusations against him. Verse 29. I soon discovered the charge was something regarding their religious law -- certainly nothing worthy of imprisonment or death. NLT

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Verse 30. But when I was informed of a plot to kill him, I immediately sent him on to you. I have told his accusers to bring their charges before you." Verse 31. So that night, as ordered, the soldiers took Paul as far as Antipatris. Verse 32. They returned to the fortress the next morning, while

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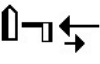





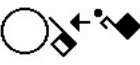

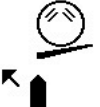






































































































































			
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Verse 35. "I will hear your case myself when your accusers arrive," the governor told him.  
 Then the governor ordered him kept in the prison at Herod's headquarters. NLT

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Chapter 24. Five days later Ananias, the high priest, arrived with some of the Jewish elders and the lawyer Tertullus, to present their case against Paul to the governor. Verse 2. When Paul was called in, Tertullus presented

        	                                         	                                           	                                                
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the charges against Paul in the following address to the governor: "Your Excellency, you have provided a long period of peace for us Jews and with foresight have enacted reforms for us. Verse 3. For all of this we are very grateful to you. NLT

















































































Verse 4. But I don't want to bore you, so please give me your attention for only a moment. Verse 5. We have found this man to be a troublemaker who is constantly stirring up riots among the Jews all over the world. He is a ringleader of the cult known as the Nazarenes. Verse 6. Furthermore, he was trying to desecrate the Temple when we arrested him. NLT

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(\*Note: no Acts24v07 in NLT) Verse 8. You can find out the truth of our accusations by examining him yourself." Verse 9. Then the other Jews chimed in, declaring that everything Tertullus said was true. Verse 10. The governor then motioned for Paul to speak. Paul said, "I know, sir, that you have been a judge of Jewish affairs for many years, so I gladly present my defense before you.

NLT



                    	                    	                    	                    
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Verse 11. You can quickly discover that I arrived in Jerusalem no more than twelve days ago to worship at the Temple. Verse 12. My accusers never found me arguing with anyone in the Temple, nor stirring up a riot in any synagogue or on the streets of the city. NLT

























































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Verse 13. These men cannot prove the things they accuse me of doing. Verse 14. "But I admit that I follow the Way, which they call a cult. I worship the God of our ancestors, and I firmly believe the Jewish law and everything written in the prophets.













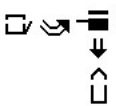
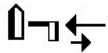

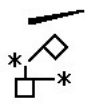










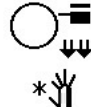




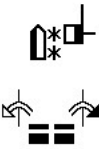


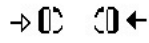


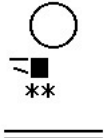

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Verse 15. I have the same hope in God that these men have, that he will raise both the righteous and the unrighteous. Verse 16. Because of this, I always try to maintain a clear conscience before God and all people. NLT

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Verse 17. "After several years away, I returned to Jerusalem with money to aid my people and to offer sacrifices to God. Verse 18. My accusers saw me in the Temple as I was completing a purification ceremony. There was no crowd around me and no rioting. NLT

          	          	          	     
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415 Verse 19. But some Jews from the province of Asia were there -- and they ought to be here to bring charges if they have anything against me! Verse 20. Ask these men here what crime the Jewish high council found me guilty of, NLT

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Verse 23. He ordered an officer to keep Paul in custody but to give him some freedom and allow his friends to visit him and take care of his needs. Verse 24. A few days later Felix came back with his wife, Drusilla, who was Jewish. Sending for Paul, they listened as he

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told them about faith in Christ Jesus. Verse 25. As he reasoned with them about righteousness and self-control and the coming day of judgment, Felix became frightened. "Go away for now," he replied. "When it is more convenient, I'll call for you again." NLT

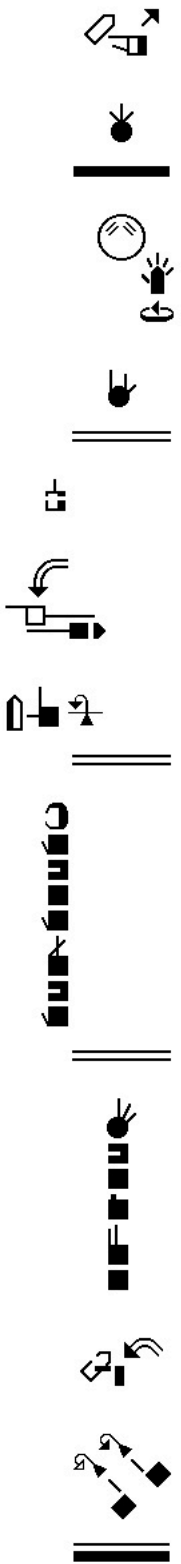





Verse 26. He also hoped that Paul would bribe him, so he sent for him quite often and talked with him. Verse 27. After two years went by in this way, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus. And because Felix wanted to gain favor with the Jewish people, he left Paul in prison.

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Verse 6. About eight or ten days later Festus returned to Caesarea, and on the following day he took his seat in court and ordered that Paul be brought in. Verse 7. When Paul arrived, the Jewish leaders from Jerusalem gathered around and made many serious accusations they couldn't prove.

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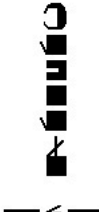








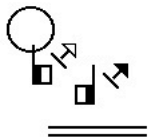



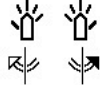


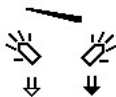







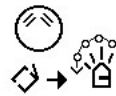
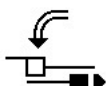
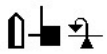






Verse 8. Paul denied the charges. "I am not guilty of any crime against the Jewish laws or the Temple or the Roman government," he said. Verse 9. Then Festus, wanting to please the Jews, asked him, "Are you willing to go to Jerusalem and stand trial before me there?"

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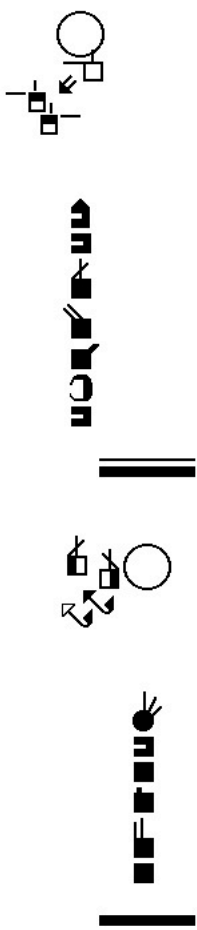
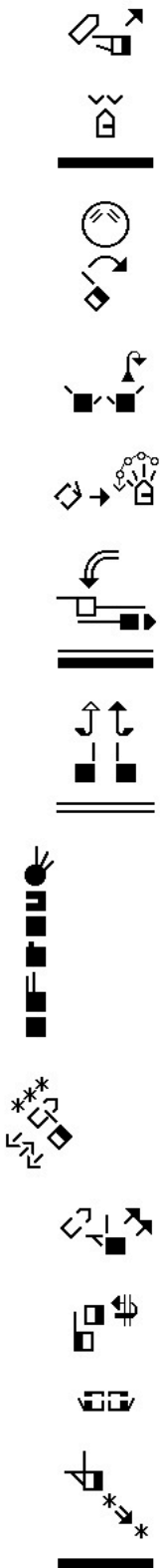
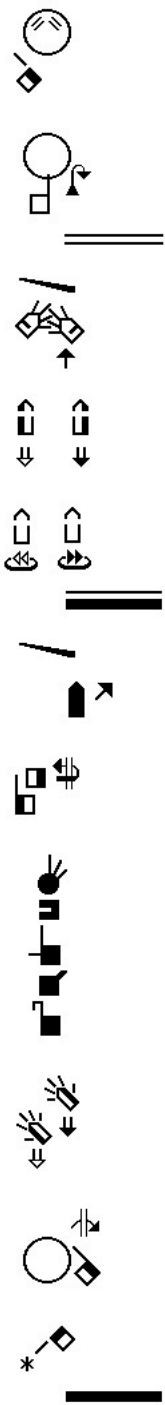
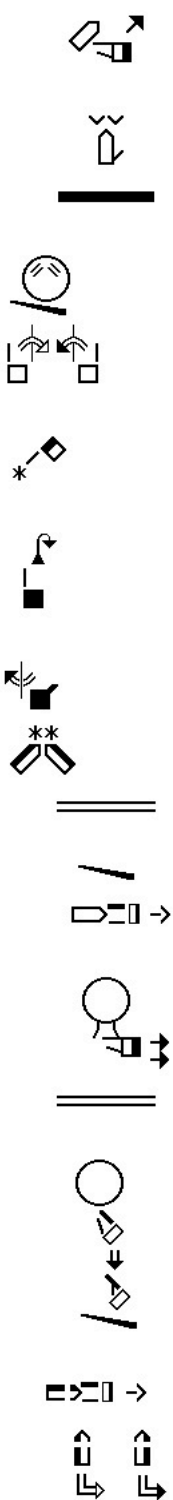
Verse 10. But Paul replied, "No! This is the official Roman court, so I ought to be tried right here. You know very well I am not guilty of harming the Jews. Verse 11. If I have done something worthy of death, I don't refuse to die. But if I am innocent, no one has a right to turn me over

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425 to these men to kill me. I appeal to Caesar!" Verse 12. Festus conferred with his advisers and then replied, "Very well! You have appealed to Caesar, and to Caesar you will go!" Verse 13. A few days later King Agrippa arrived with his

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sister, Bernice, to pay their respects to Festus. Verse 14. During their stay of several days, Festus discussed Paul's case with the king. "There is a prisoner here," he told him, "whose case was left for me by Felix. Verse 15. When I was in Jerusalem, the leading priests and Jewish elders



pressed charges against him and asked me to condemn him. Verse 16. I pointed out to them that Roman law does not convict people without a trial. They must be given an opportunity to confront their accusers and defend themselves. Verse 17. "When his accusers came here for the trial, I didn't delay. NLT

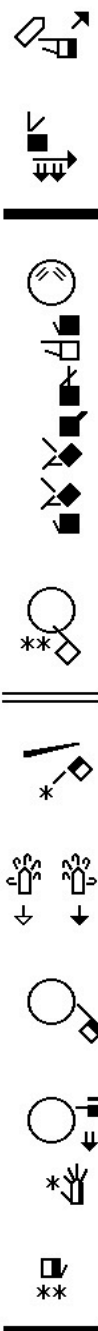

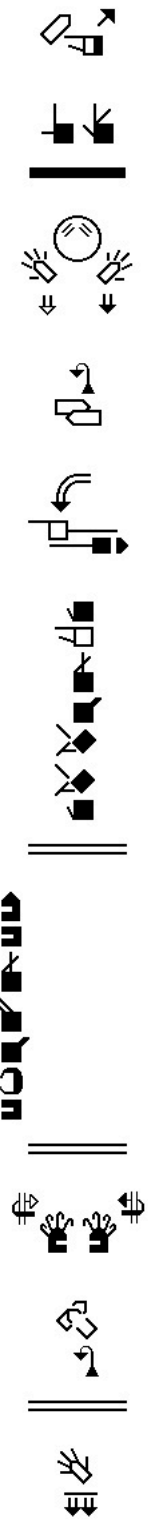
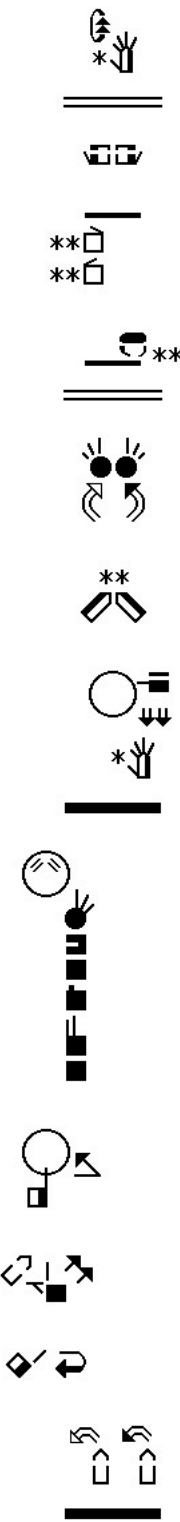
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I called the case the very next day and ordered Paul brought in. Verse 18. But the accusations made against him weren't any of the crimes I expected. Verse 19. Instead, it was something about their religion and a dead man named Jesus, who Paul insists is alive.

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Verse 20. I was at a loss to know how to investigate these things, so I asked him whether he would be willing to stand trial on these charges in Jerusalem. Verse 21. But Paul appealed to have his case decided by the emperor. So I ordered that he be held in custody until I could arrange to send him to Caesar."

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Verse 22. "I'd like to hear the man myself," Agrippa said. And Festus replied, "You will -- tomorrow!" Verse 23. So the next day Agrippa and Bernice arrived at the auditorium with great pomp, accompanied by military officers and prominent men of the city. Festus ordered that Paul be brought in.

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Verse 24. Then Festus said, "King Agrippa and all who are here, this is the man whose death is demanded by all the Jews, both here and in Jerusalem. Verse 25. But in my opinion he has done nothing deserving death. However, since he appealed his case to the emperor, I have decided to send him to Rome.

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Verse 26. "But what shall I write the emperor? For there is no clear charge against him. So I have brought him before all of you, and especially you, King Agrippa, so that after we examine him, I might have something to write. Verse 27. For it makes no sense to send a prisoner to the emperor without specifying the charges against him!" NLT


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Verse 3. for I know you are an expert on all Jewish customs and controversies. Now please listen to me patiently! Verse 4. "As the Jewish leaders are well aware, I was given a thorough Jewish training from my earliest childhood among my own people and in Jerusalem. Verse 5. If they would admit it, they know that I have been a member of the Pharisees,



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and they share the same hope I have. Yet, Your Majesty, they accuse me for having this hope! Verse 8. Why does it seem incredible to any of you that God can raise the dead? Verse 9. "I used to believe that I ought to do everything I could to oppose the very name of Jesus the Nazarene.

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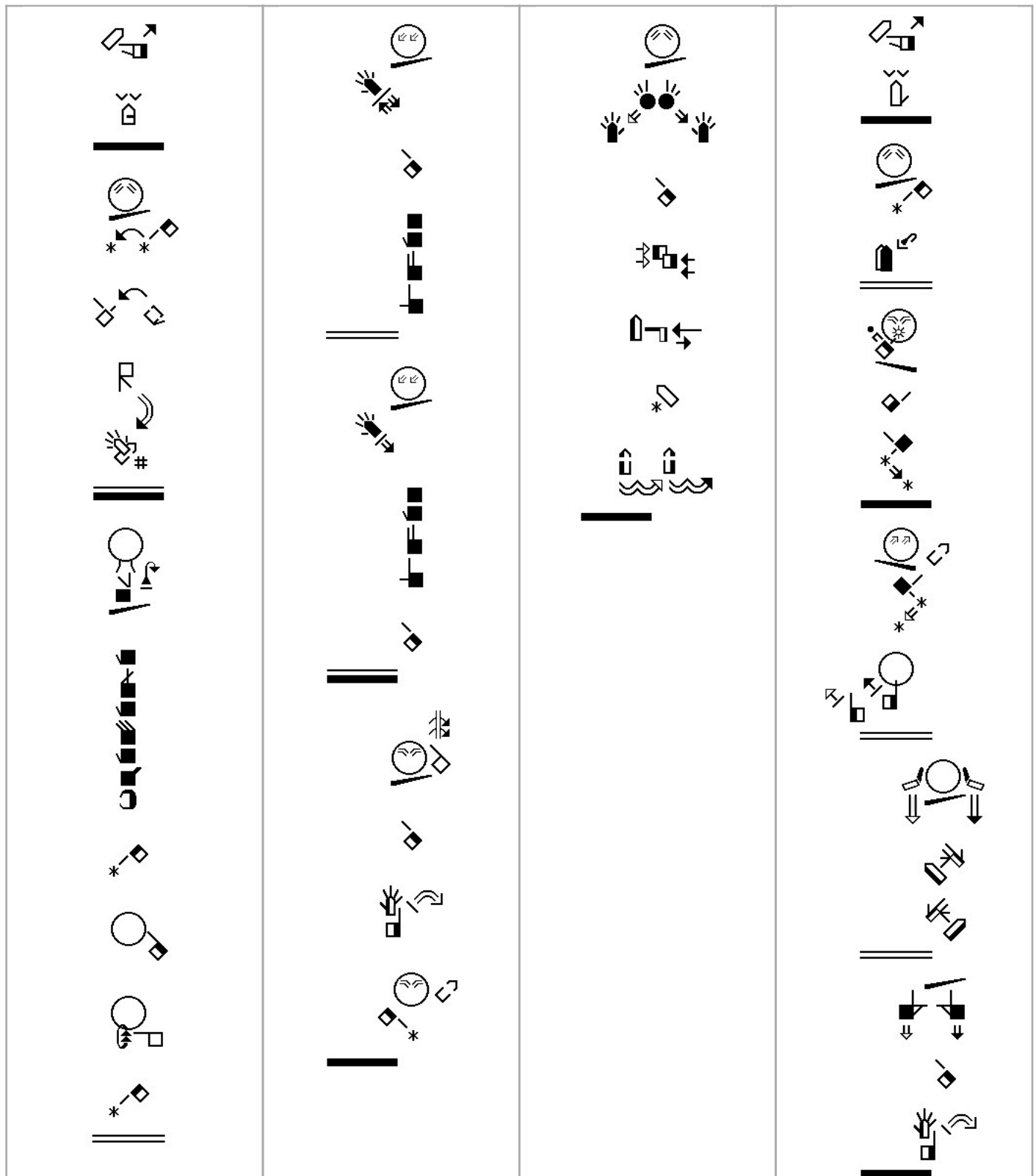
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Verse 10. Indeed, I did just that in Jerusalem. Authorized by the leading priests, I caused many believers there to be sent to prison. And I cast my vote against them when they were condemned to death. Verse 11. Many times I had them punished in the synagogues to get them to curse Jesus.

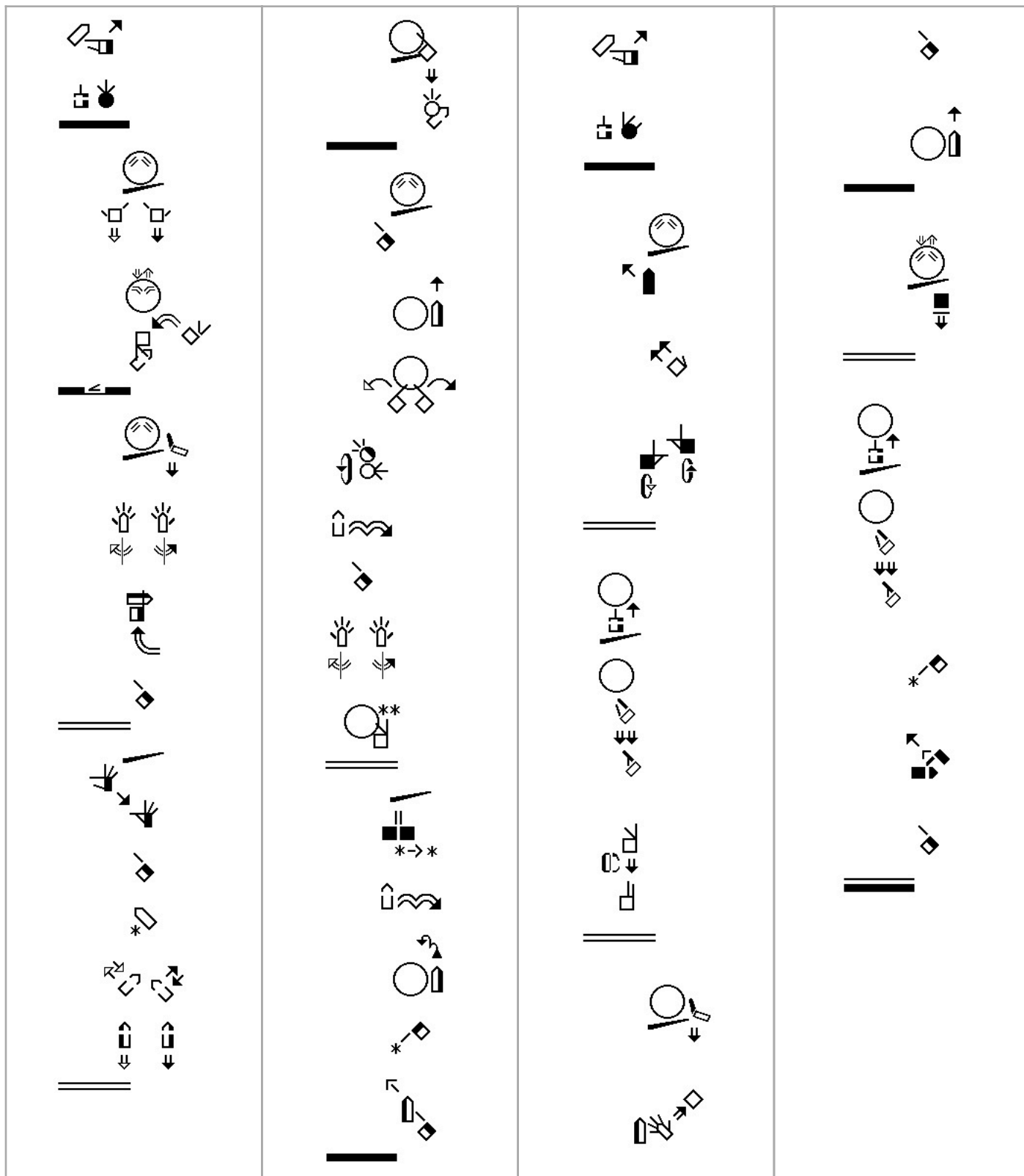
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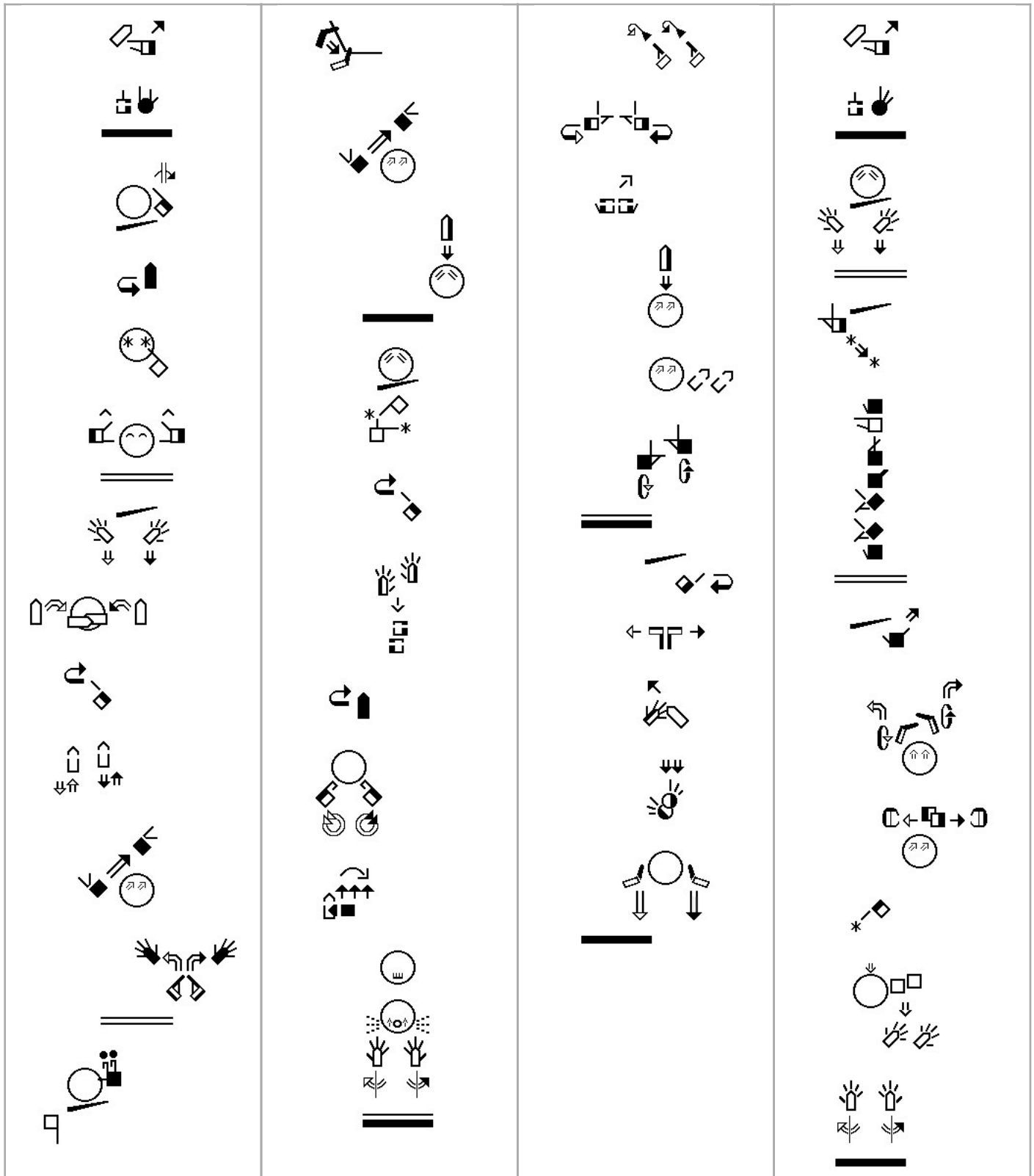
I was so violently opposed to them that I even chased them down in foreign cities. Verse 12. "One day I was on such a mission to Damascus, armed with the authority and commission of the leading priests. Verse 13. About noon, Your Majesty, as I was on the road, a light from heaven brighter than the sun shone down on me and my companions. NLT



Verse 14. We all fell down, and I heard a voice saying to me in Aramaic, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It is useless for you to fight against my will.' Verse 15. "'Who are you, lord?' I asked. 'And the Lord replied, 'I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting. NLT



Verse 16. Now get to your feet! For I have appeared to you to appoint you as my servant and witness. You are to tell the world what you have seen and what I will show you in the future. Verse 17. And I will rescue you from both your own people and the Gentiles. Yes, I am sending you to the Gentiles



Verse 18. to open their eyes, so they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God. Then they will receive forgiveness for their sins and be given a place among God's people, who are set apart by faith in me.' Verse 19. "And so, King Agrippa, I obeyed that vision from heaven.

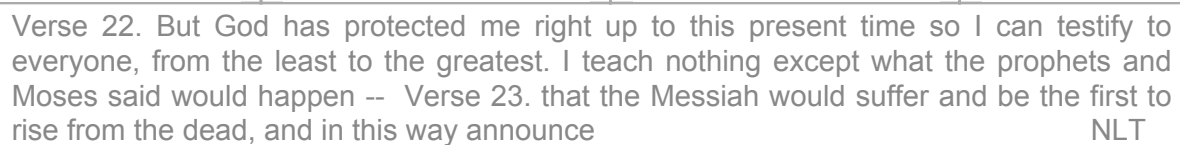
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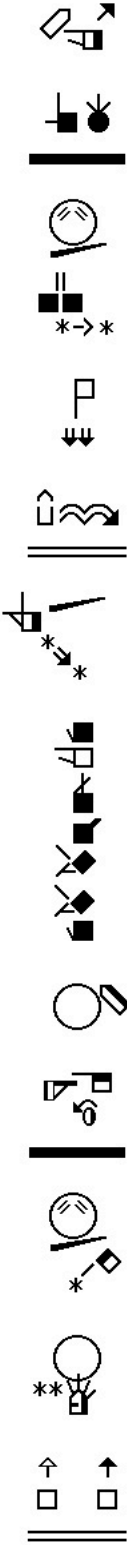
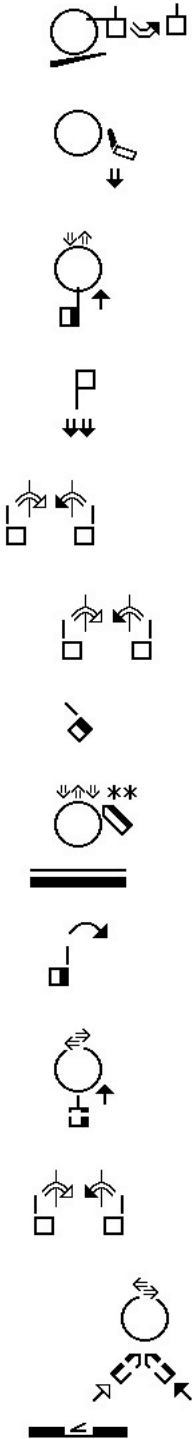
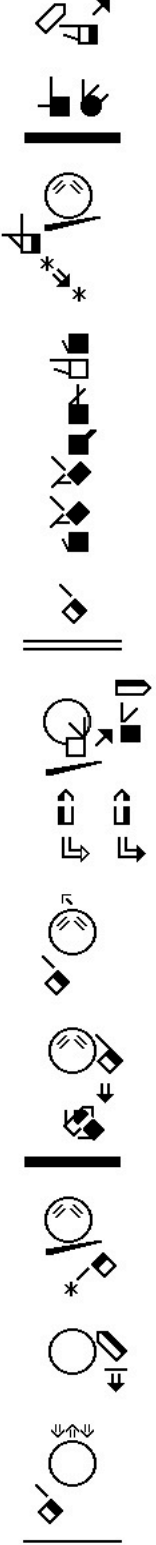
Verse 20. I preached first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout all Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that all must repent of their sins and turn to God -- and prove they have changed by the good things they do. Verse 21. Some Jews arrested me in the Temple for preaching this, and they tried to kill me.

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What I am saying is the sober truth. Verse 26. And King Agrippa knows about these things. I speak boldly, for I am sure these events are all familiar to him, for they were not done in a corner! Verse 27. King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know you do --" NLT

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Chapter 27. When the time came, we set sail for Italy. Paul and several other prisoners were placed in the custody of a Roman officer named Julius, a captain of the Imperial Regiment. Verse 2. Aristarchus, a Macedonian from Thessalonica, was also with us. NLT

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We left on a ship whose home port was Adramyttium on the northwest coast of the province of Asia; it was scheduled to make several stops at ports along the coast of the province. Verse 3. The next day when we docked at Sidon, Julius was very kind to Paul and let him go ashore to visit with friends so they could provide for his needs. NLT

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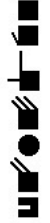














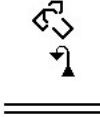


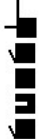









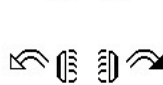







Verse 4. Putting out to sea from there, we encountered strong headwinds that made it difficult to keep the ship on course, so we sailed north of Cyprus between the island and the mainland. Verse 5. Keeping to the open sea, we passed along the coast of Cilicia and Pamphylia, landing at Myra, in the province of Lycia.



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Verse 6. There the commanding officer found an Egyptian ship from Alexandria that was bound for Italy, and he put us on board. Verse 7. We had several days of slow sailing, and after great difficulty we finally neared Cnidus. But the wind was against us, so we sailed across to Crete

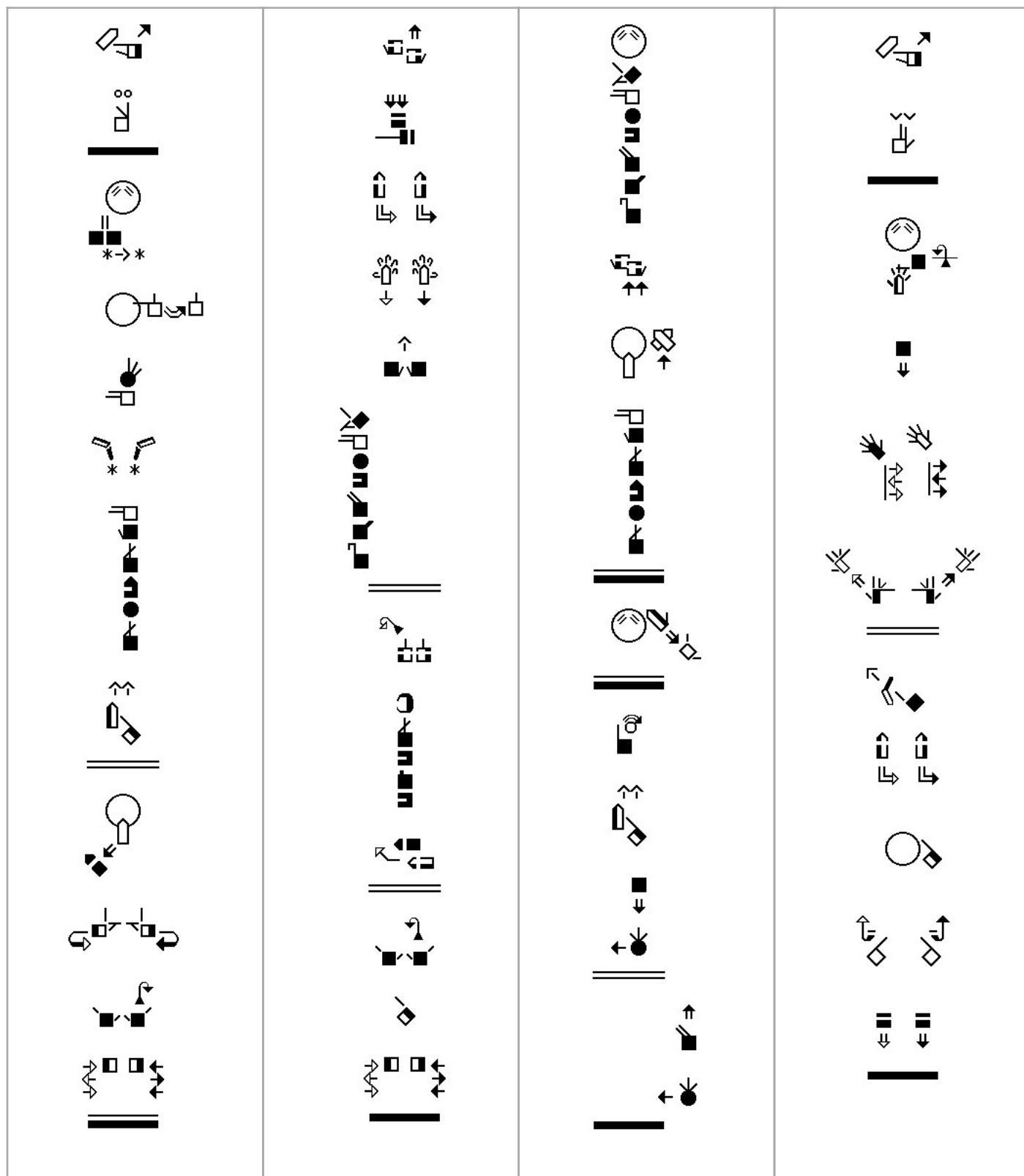
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and along the sheltered coast of the island, past the cape of Salmone. Verse 8. We struggled along the coast with great difficulty and finally arrived at Fair Havens, near the town of Lasea. Verse 9. We had lost a lot of time. The weather was becoming dangerous for sea

NLT


travel because it was so late in the fall, and Paul spoke to the ship's officers about it. Verse 10. "Men," he said, "I believe there is trouble ahead if we go on -- shipwreck, loss of cargo, and danger to our lives as well." Verse 11. But the officer in charge of the prisoners listened more to the ship's captain and the owner than to Paul. NLT

















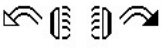

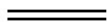






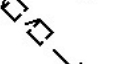
















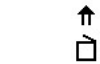


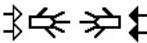















Verse 12. And since Fair Havens was an exposed harbor -- a poor place to spend the winter -- most of the crew wanted to go on to Phoenix, farther up the coast of Crete, and spend the winter there. Phoenix was a good harbor with only a southwest and northwest exposure. Verse 13. When a light wind began blowing from the south, the sailors thought they could make it. NLT

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So they pulled up anchor and sailed close to the shore of Crete. Verse 14. But the weather changed abruptly and a wind of typhoon strength (called a "northeaster") caught the ship and blew it out to sea. Verse 15. They couldn't turn the ship into the wind, so they gave up and let it run before the gale.

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Verse 16. We sailed along the sheltered side of a small island named Cauda, where with great difficulty we hoisted aboard the lifeboat being towed behind us. Verse 17. Then the sailors bound ropes around the hull of the ship to strengthen it. They were afraid of being driven across to the sandbars of Syrtis off the African coast,


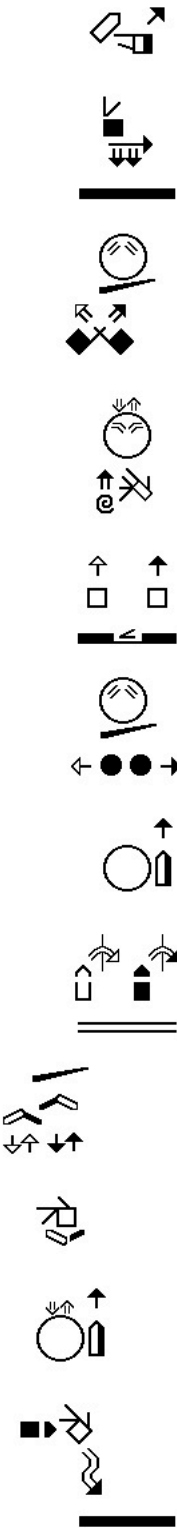
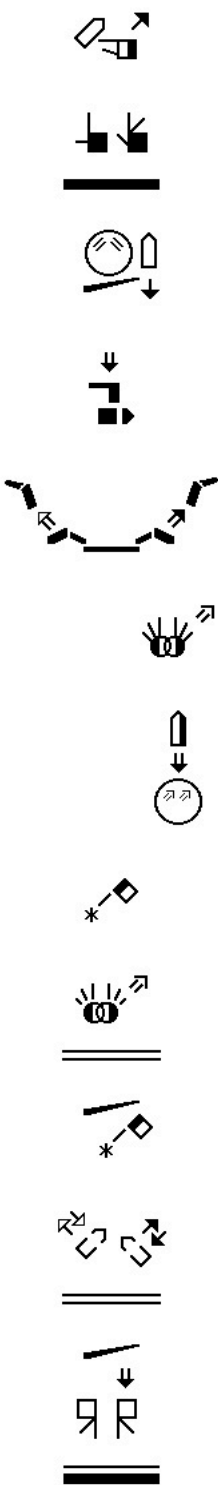
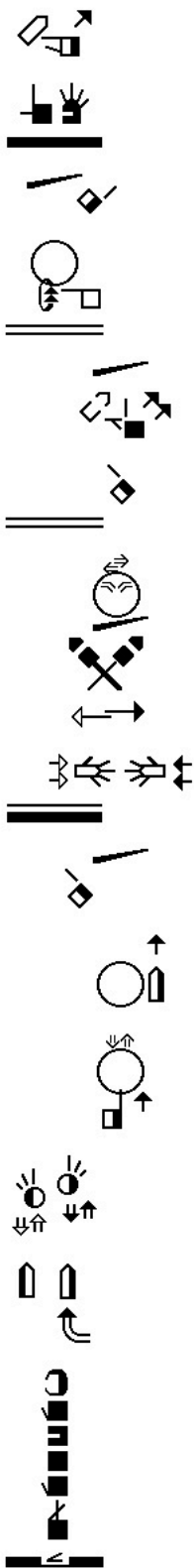
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so they lowered the sea anchor to slow the ship and were driven before the wind. Verse 18. The next day, as gale-force winds continued to batter the ship, the crew began throwing the cargo overboard. Verse 19. The following day they even took some of the ship's gear and threw it overboard.

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Verse 20. The terrible storm raged for many days, blotting out the sun and the stars, until at last all hope was gone. Verse 21. No one had eaten for a long time. Finally, Paul called the crew together and said, "Men, you should have listened to me in the first place  
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we were being driven across the Sea of Adria, the sailors sensed land was near. Verse 28. They dropped a weighted line and found that the water was 120 feet deep. But a little later they measured again and found it was only 90 feet deep. Verse 29. At this rate they were afraid we would soon be driven against the rocks along the shore, NLT

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
















































so they threw out four anchors from the back of the ship and prayed for daylight. Verse 30. Then the sailors tried to abandon the ship; they lowered the lifeboat as though they were going to put out anchors from the front of the ship. Verse 31. But Paul said to the commanding officer and the soldiers, "You will all die unless the sailors stay aboard."

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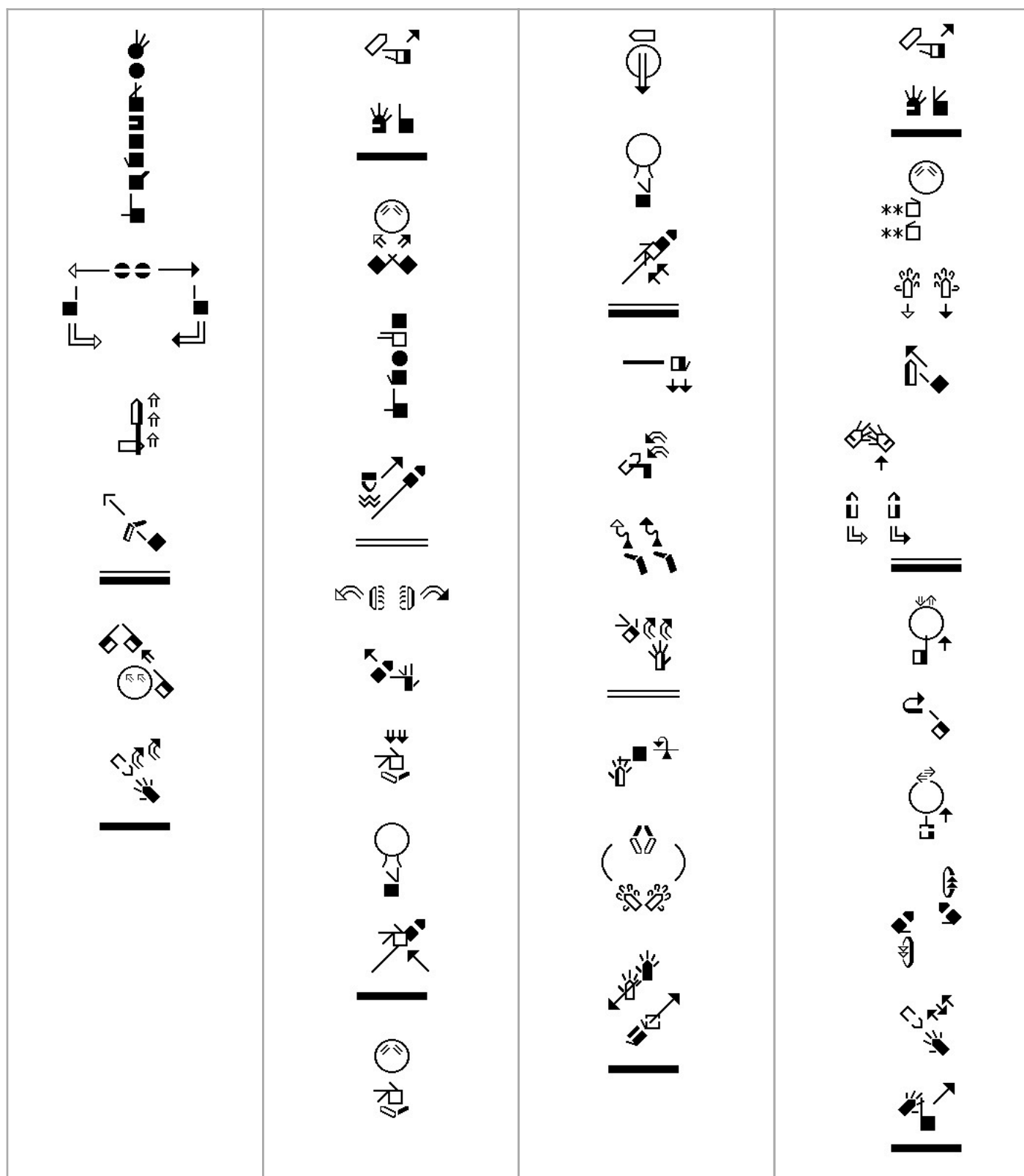
Verse 32. So the soldiers cut the ropes to the lifeboat and let it drift away. Verse 33. Just as day was dawning, Paul urged everyone to eat. "You have been so worried that you haven't touched food for two weeks," he said. Verse 34. "Please eat something now for your own good. For not a hair of your heads will perish."

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






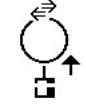































            	            	            	            
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Verse 39. When morning dawned, they didn't recognize the coastline, but they saw a bay with a beach and wondered if they could get to shore by running the ship around. Verse 40. So they cut off the anchors and left them in the sea. Then they lowered the rudders, NLT



raised the foresail, and headed toward shore. Verse 41. But they hit a shoal and ran the ship aground too soon. The bow of the ship stuck fast, while the stern was repeatedly smashed by the force of the waves and began to break apart. Verse 42. The soldiers wanted to kill the prisoners to make sure they didn't swim ashore and escape. NLT




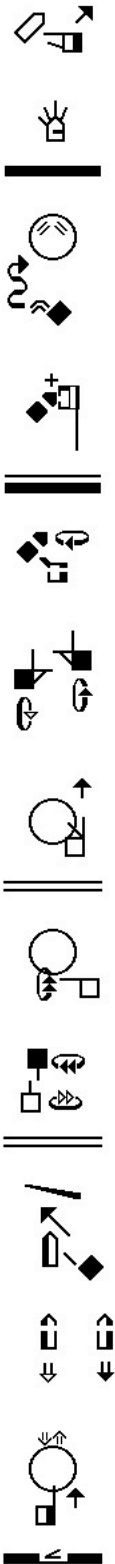

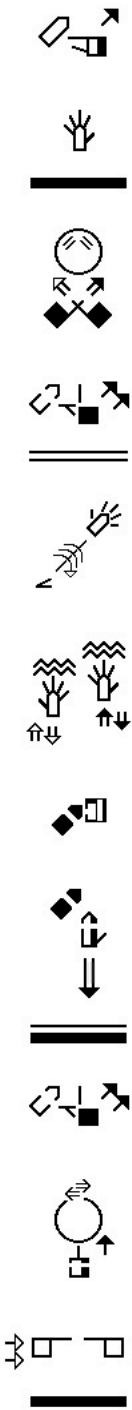
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Verse 43. But the commanding officer wanted to spare Paul, so he didn't let them carry out their plan. Then he ordered all who could swim to jump overboard first and make for land. Verse 44. The others held onto planks or debris from the broken ship. So everyone escaped safely to shore.



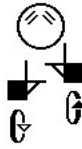

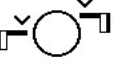



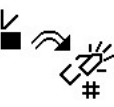
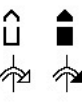

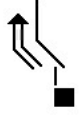

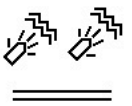


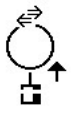
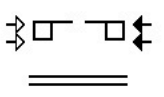





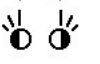





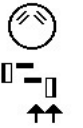


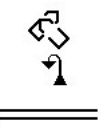

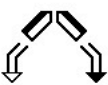


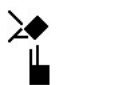
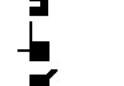






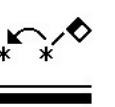
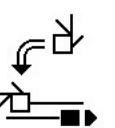
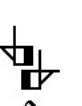


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


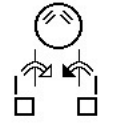


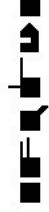



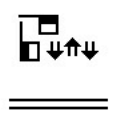









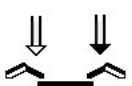
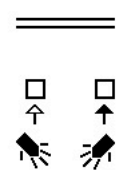







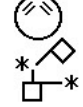





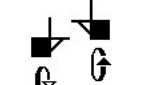
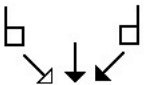




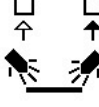

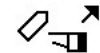


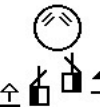


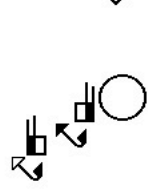

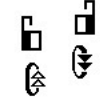






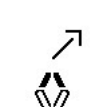

Chapter 28. Once we were safe on shore, we learned that we were on the island of Malta. Verse 2. The people of the island were very kind to us. It was cold and rainy, so they built a fire on the shore to welcome us. Verse 3. As Paul gathered an armful of sticks and was laying them on the fire, a poisonous snake,

			
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driven out by the heat, bit him on the hand. Verse 4. The people of the island saw it hanging from his hand and said to each other, "A murderer, no doubt! Though he escaped the sea, justice will not permit him to live." Verse 5. But Paul shook off the snake into the fire and was unharmed.

           	              	            	         
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Verse 6. The people waited for him to swell up or suddenly drop dead. But when they had waited a long time and saw that he wasn't harmed, they changed their minds and decided he was a god.  
 Verse 7. Near the shore where we landed was an estate belonging to Publius, the chief official of the island. He welcomed us and treated us kindly for three days.

            	            	                	                
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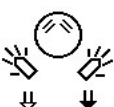






















































Verse 8. As it happened, Publius's father was ill with fever and dysentery. Paul went in and prayed for him, and laying his hands on him, he healed him. Verse 9. Then all the other sick people on the island came and were healed. Verse 10. As a result we were showered with honors, and when the time came to sail,

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people supplied us with everything we would need for the trip. Verse 11. It was three months after the shipwreck that we set sail on another ship that had wintered at the island -- an Alexandrian ship with the twin gods as its figurehead.

Verse 12. Our first stop was Syracuse, where we stayed three days. Verse 13. From there we sailed across to Rhegium. A day later a south wind began blowing, so the following day we sailed up the coast to Puteoli. Verse 14. There we found some believers, who invited us to spend a week with them. NLT

      	               	               	               
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And so we came to Rome. Verse 15. The brothers and sisters in Rome had heard we were coming, and they came to meet us at the Forum on the Appian Way. Others joined us at The Three Taverns. When Paul saw them,



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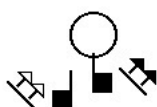
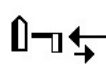



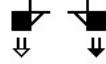


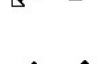































he was encouraged and thanked God. Verse 16. When we arrived in Rome, Paul was permitted to have his own private lodging, though he was guarded by a soldier. Verse 17. Three days after Paul's arrival, he called together the local Jewish leaders. He said to them, "Brothers, I was arrested in Jerusalem and handed over to the Roman government,

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even though I had done nothing against our people or the customs of our ancestors. Verse 18. The Romans tried me and wanted to release me, because they found no cause for the death sentence. Verse 19. But when the Jewish leaders protested the decision, I felt

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it necessary to appeal to Caesar, even though I had no desire to press charges against my own people. Verse 20. I asked you to come here today so we could get acquainted and so I could explain to you that I bound with this chain because I believe that the hope of Israel -- the Messiah -- has already come." Verse 21. They replied, "We have had no letters from Judea or NLT

         	         	         	         
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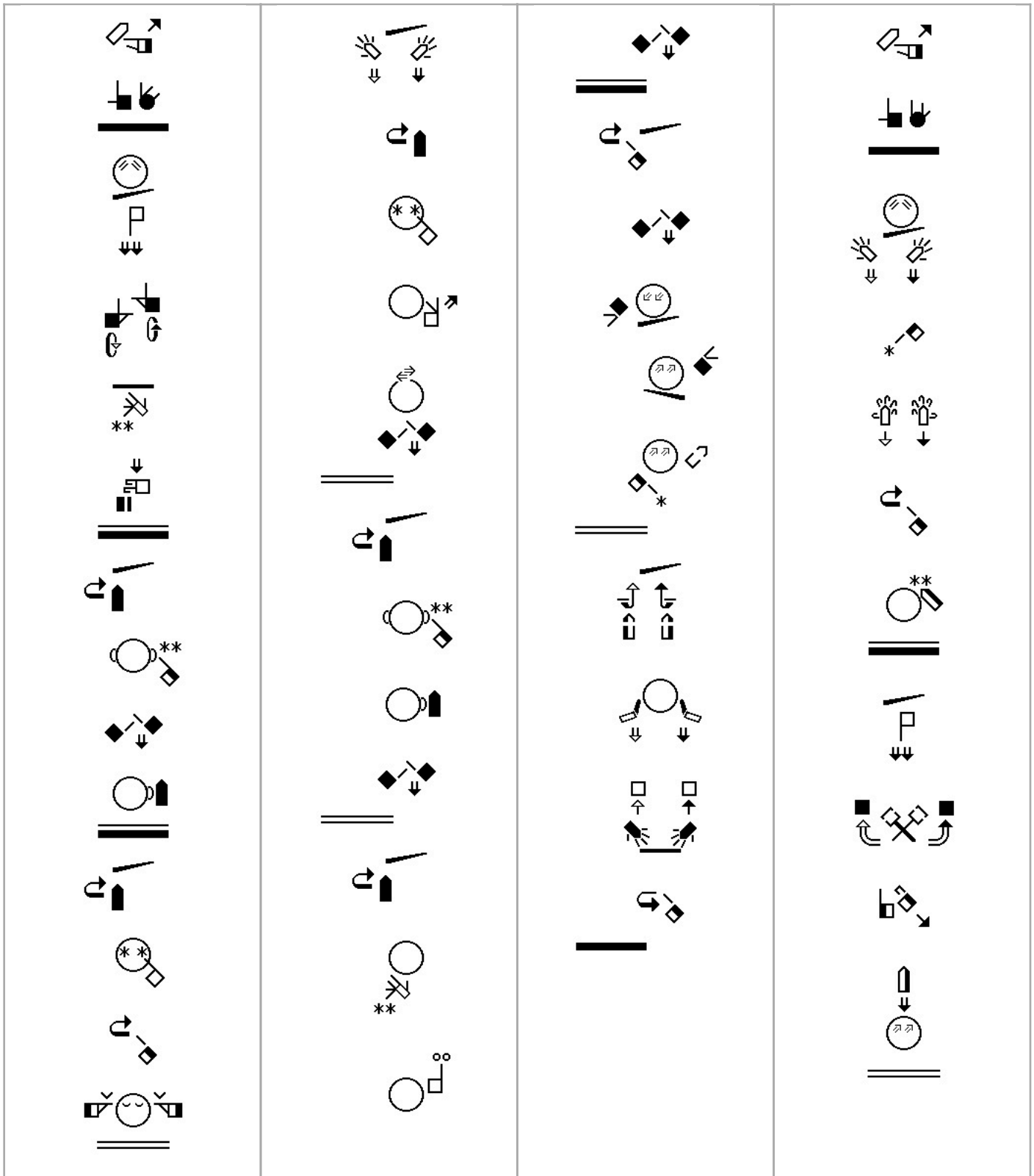
reports against you from anyone who has come here. Verse 22. But we want to hear what you believe, for the only thing we know about this movement is that it is denounced everywhere." Verse 23. So a time was set, and on that day a large number of people came to Paul's lodging.

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He explained and testified about the Kingdom of God and tried to persuade them about Jesus from the Scriptures. Using the law of Moses and the books of the prophets, he spoke to them from morning until evening. Verse 24. Some were persuaded by the things he said, but others did not believe. Verse 25. And after they had argued back and forth among themselves, they left with this final word from Paul:

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has also been offered to the Gentiles, and they will accept it." (\*Note: no Acts28v29 in NLT) Verse 30. For the next two years, Paul lived in Rome at his own expense. He welcomed all who visited him, Verse 31. boldly proclaiming the Kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ. And no one tried to stop him. NLT