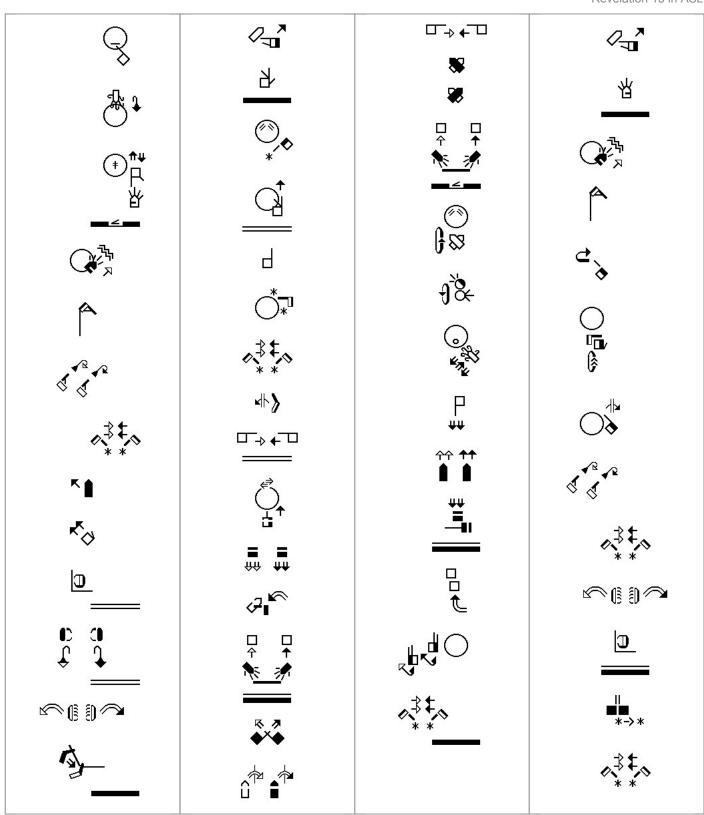
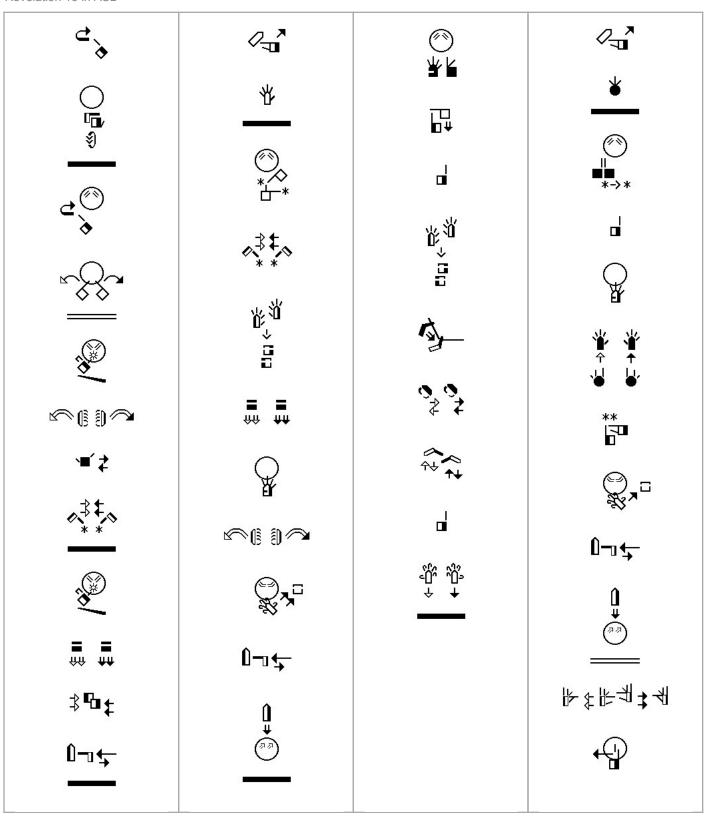


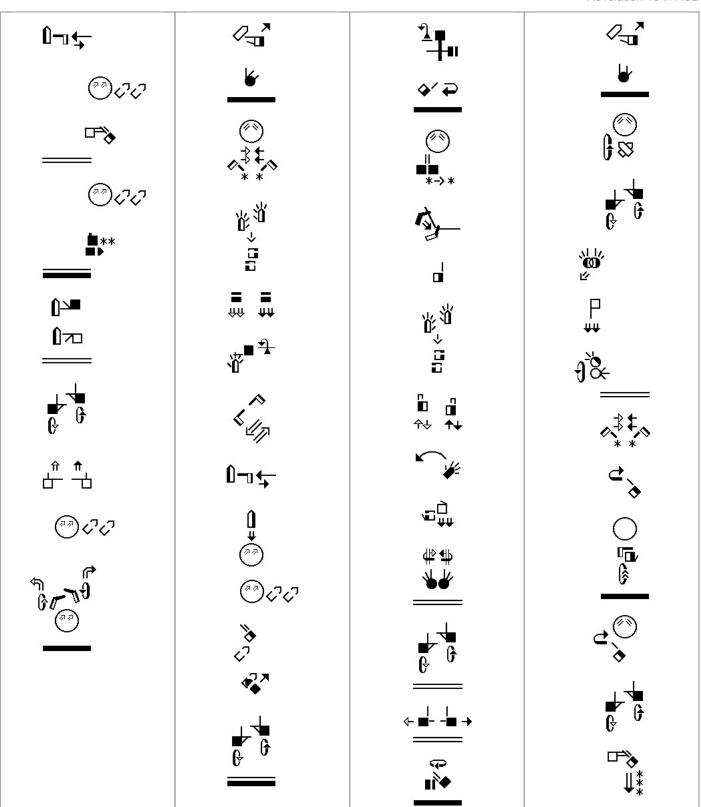
Chapter 13. Then I saw a beast rising up out of the sea. It had seven heads and ten horns, with ten crowns on its horns. And written on each head were names that blasphemed God. Verse 2. This beast looked like a leopard, but it had the feet of a bear NLT



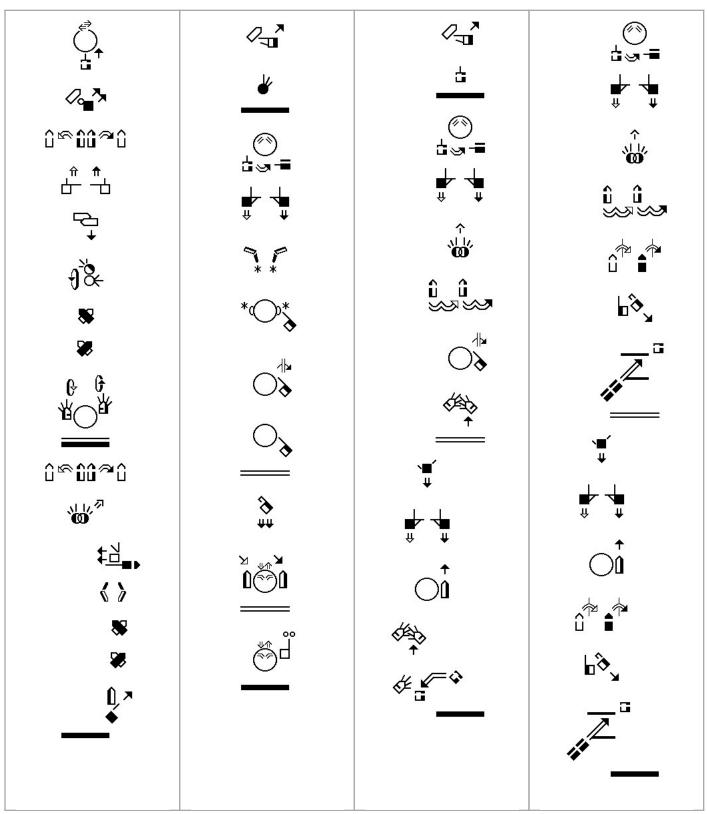
and the mouth of a lion! And the dragon gave the beast his own power and throne and great authority. Verse 3. I saw that one of the heads of the beast seemed wounded beyond recovery --but the fatal wound was healed! The whole world marveled at this miracle and gave allegiance to the beast. Verse 4. They worshiped the dragon for giving the beast such power, and NLT



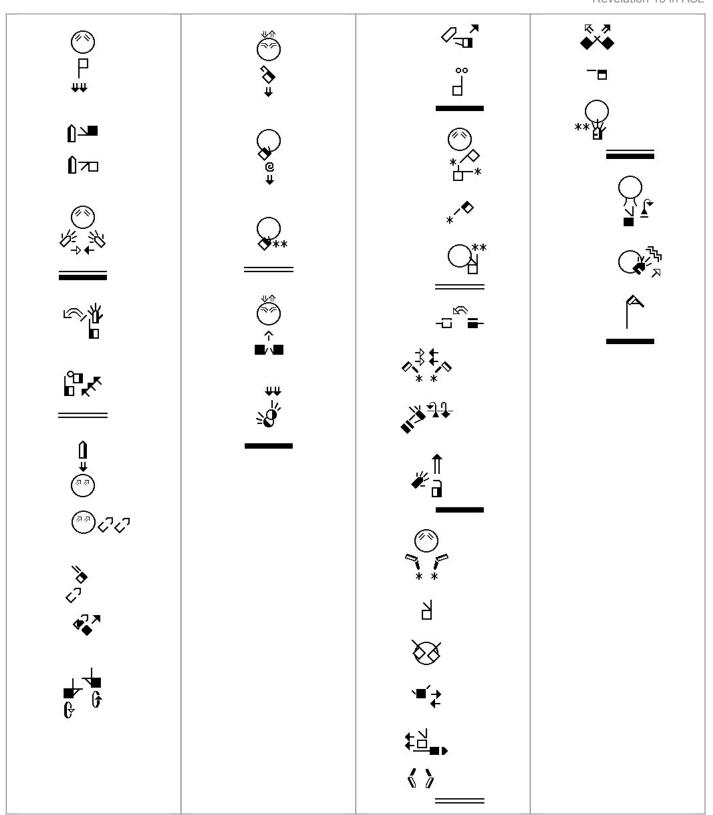
they also worshiped the beast. "Who is as great as the beast?" they exclaimed. "Who is able to fight against him?" Verse 5. Then the beast was allowed to speak great blasphemies against God. And he was given authority to do whatever he wanted for forty-two months. Verse 6. And he spoke terrible words of blasphemy against God, slandering



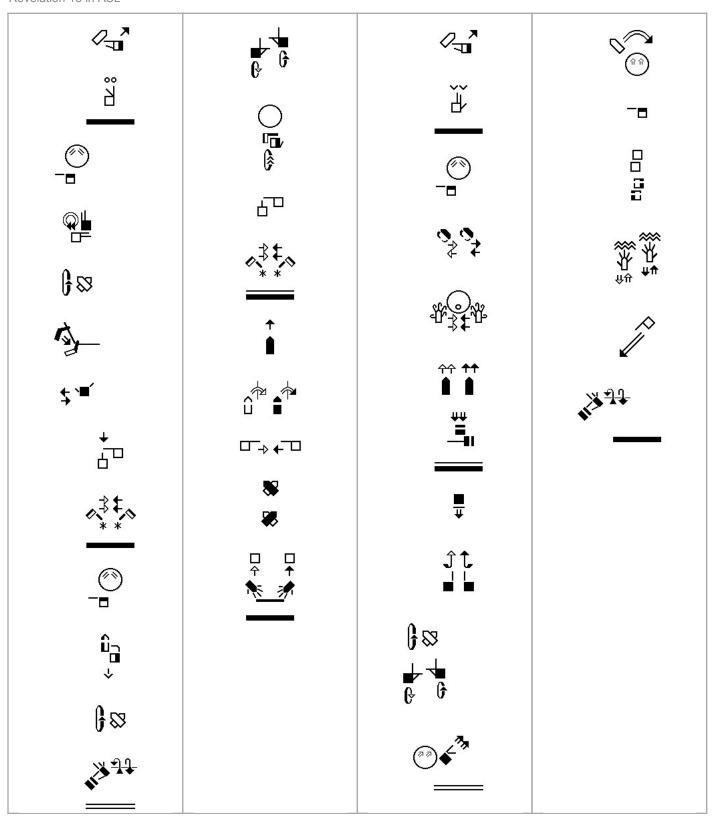
his name and his temple -- that is, those who live in heaven. Verse 7. And the beast was allowed to wage war against God's holy people and to conquer them. And he was given authority to rule over every tribe and people and language and nation. Verse 8. And all the people who belong to this world worshiped the beast. They are the ones whose names



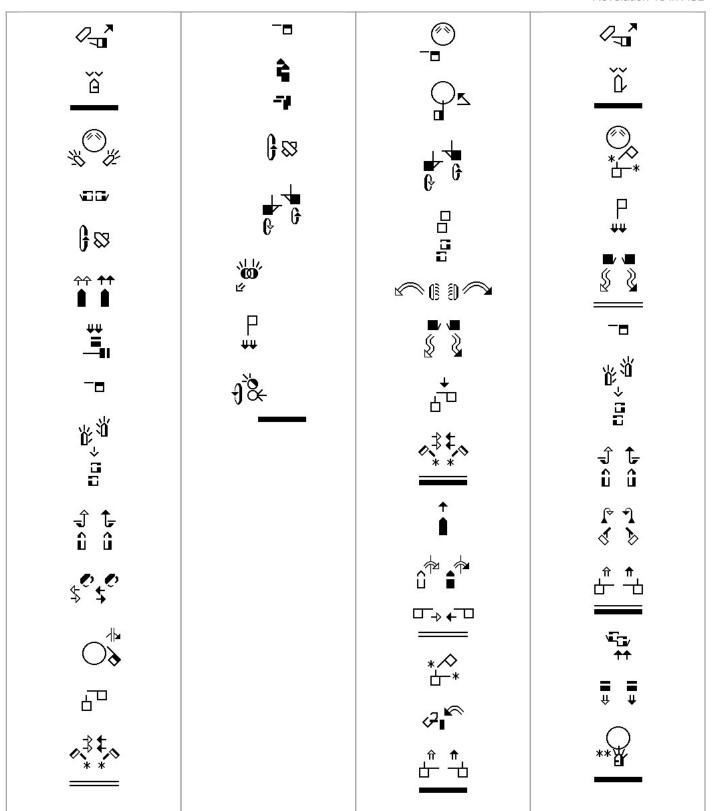
were not written in the Book of Life before the world was made -- the Book that belongs to the Lamb who was slaughtered. Verse 9. Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand. Verse 10. Anyone who is destined for prison will be taken to prison. Anyone destined to die by the sword will die by the sword.



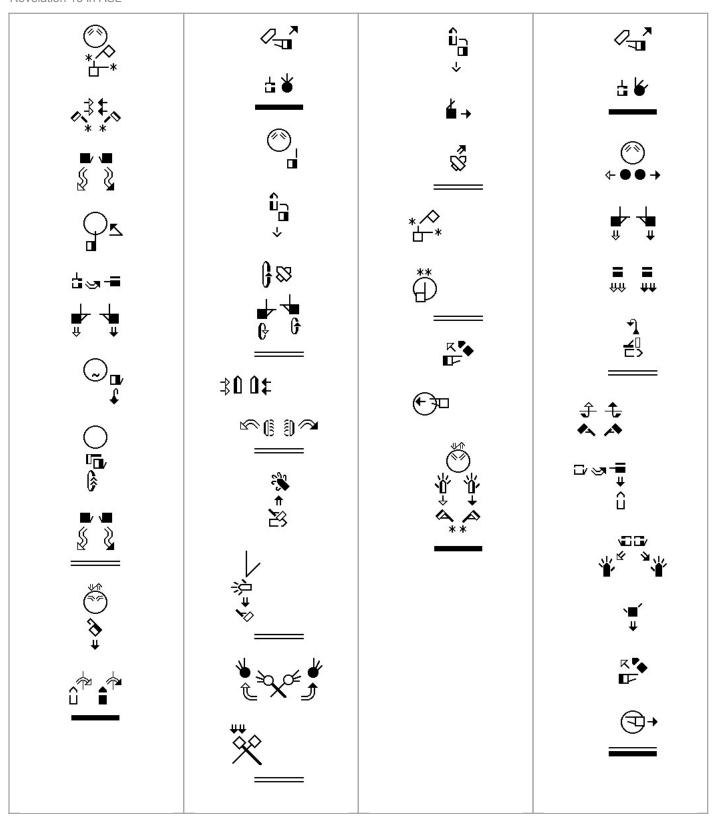
This means that God's holy people must endure persecution patiently and remain faithful. Verse 11. Then I saw another beast come up out of the earth. He had two horns like those of a lamb, but he spoke with the voice of a dragon.



Verse 12. He exercised all the authority of the first beast. And he required all the earth and its people to worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been healed. Verse 13. He did astounding miracles, even making fire flash down to earth from the sky while everyone was watching.



Verse 14. And with all the miracles he was allowed to perform on behalf of the first beast, he deceived all the people who belong to this world. He ordered the people to make a great statue of the first beast, who was fatally wounded and then came back to life. Verse 15. He was then permitted to give life to this statue so that it could speak.



Then the statue of the beast commanded that anyone refusing to worship it must die. Verse 16. He required everyone -- small and great, rich and poor, free and slave -- to be given a mark on the right hand or on the forehead. Verse 17. And no one could buy or sell anything without that mark,

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