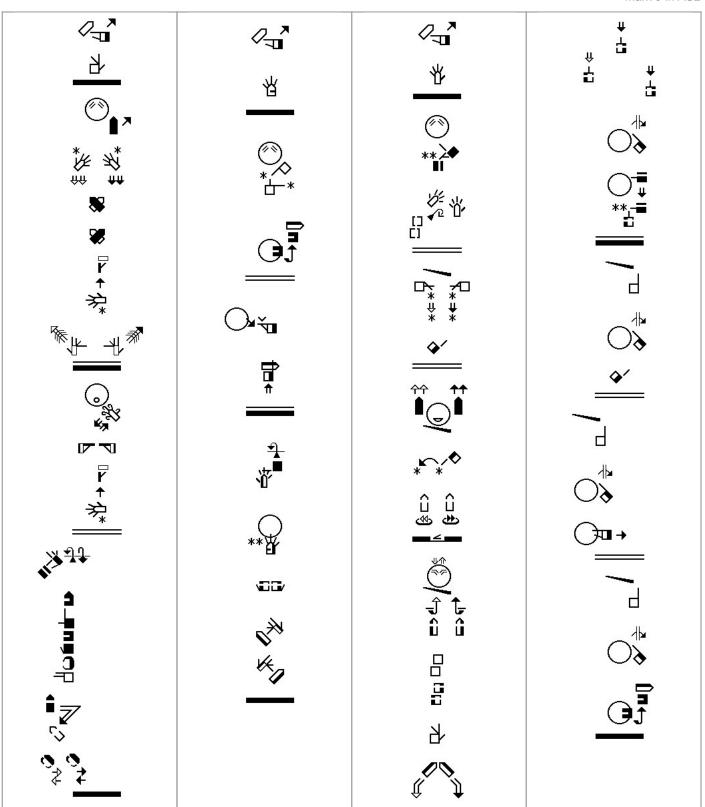
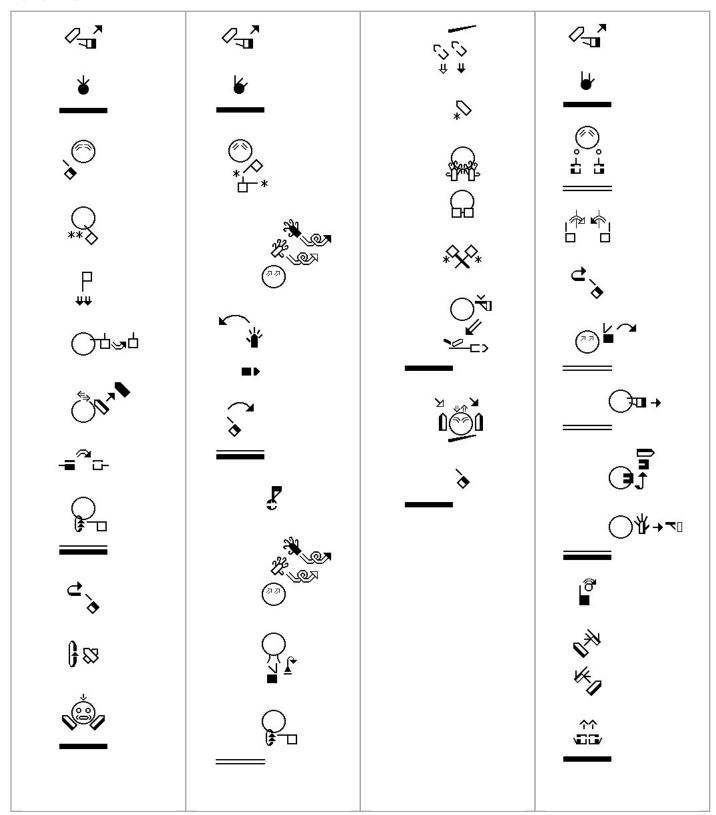


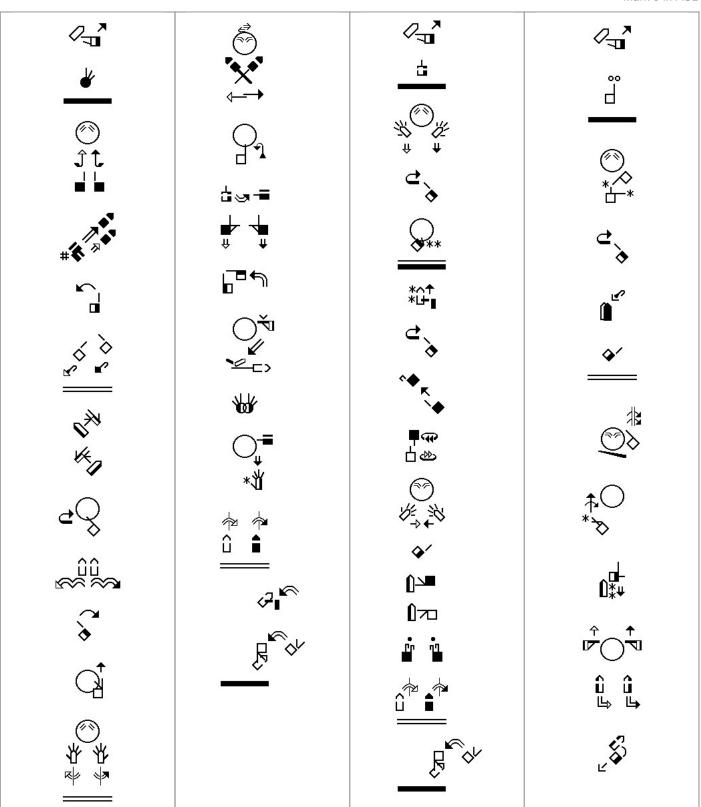
Chapter 9. Jesus went on to say, "I tell you the truth, some standing here right now will not die before they see the Kingdom of God arrive in great power!" Verse 2. Six days later Jesus took Peter, James, and John, and led them up a high mountain to be alone. As the men watched, Jesus' appearance was transformed,



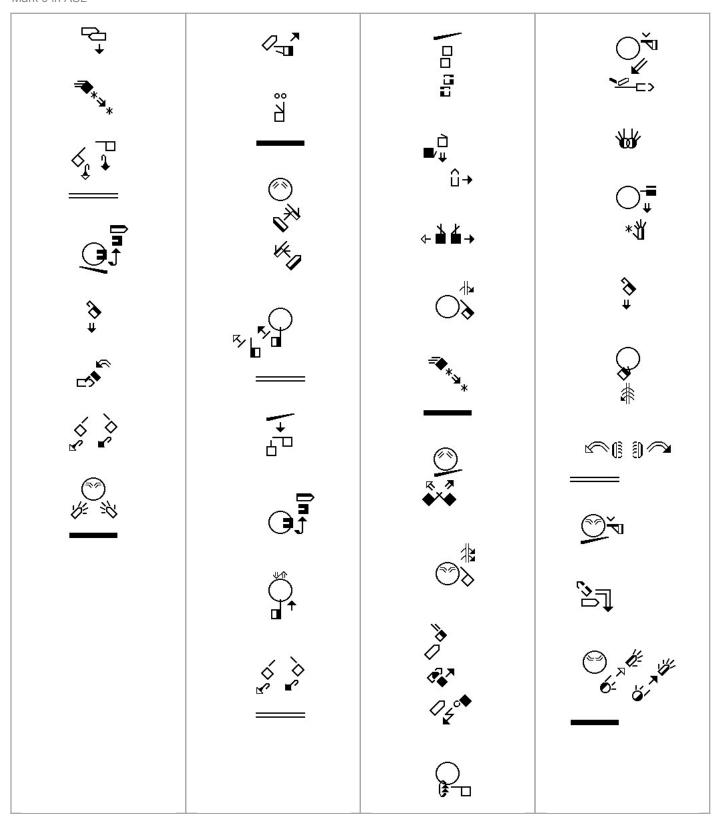
Verse 3. and his clothes became dazzling white, far whiter than any earthly bleach could ever make them. Verse 4. Then Elijah and Moses appeared and began talking with Jesus. Verse 5. Peter exclaimed, "Rabbi, it's wonderful for us to be here! Let's make three shelters as memorials -- one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."



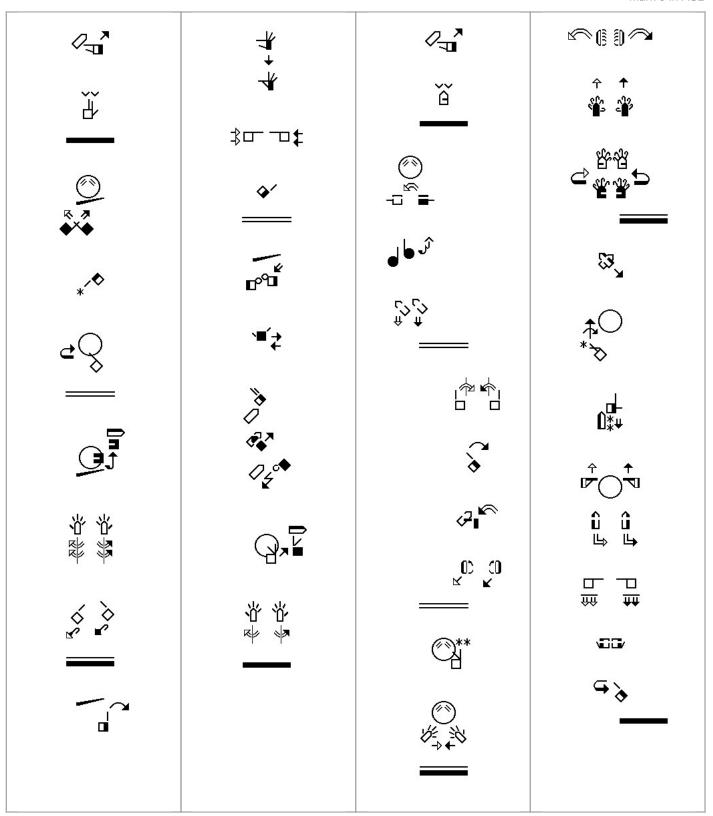
Verse 6. He said this because he didn't really know what else to say, for they were all terrified. Verse 7. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my dearly loved Son. Listen to him." Verse 8. Suddenly, when they looked around, Moses and Elijah were gone, and only Jesus was with them.



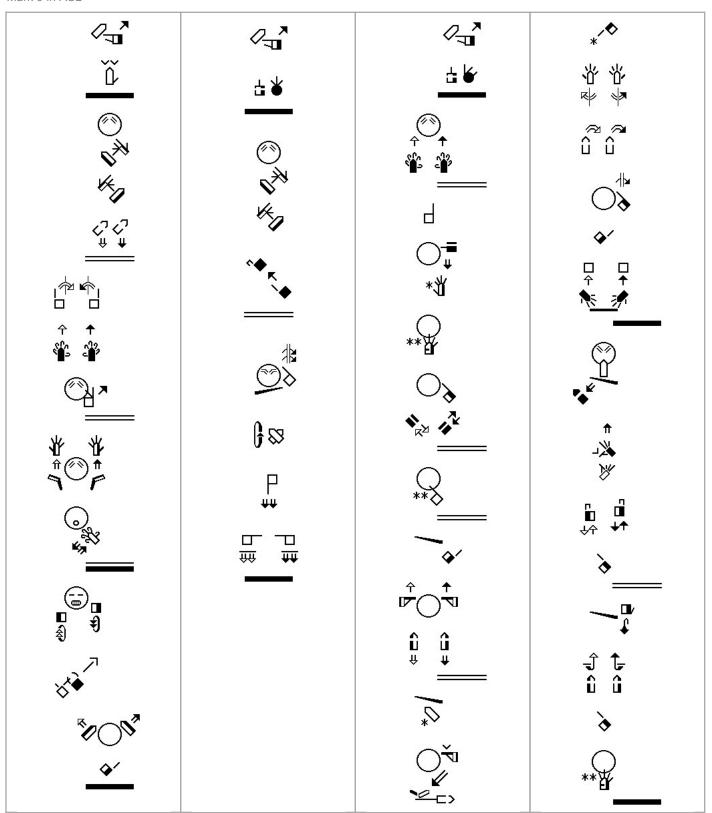
Verse 9. As they went back down the mountain, he told them not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead. Verse 10. So they kept it to themselves, but they often asked each other what he meant by "rising from the dead." Verse 11. Then they asked him, "Why do the teachers of religious law insist NLT



that Elijah must return before the Messiah comes?" Verse 12. Jesus responded, "Elijah is indeed coming first to get everything ready for the Messiah. Yet why do the Scriptures say that the Son of Man must suffer greatly and be treated with utter contempt? NLT

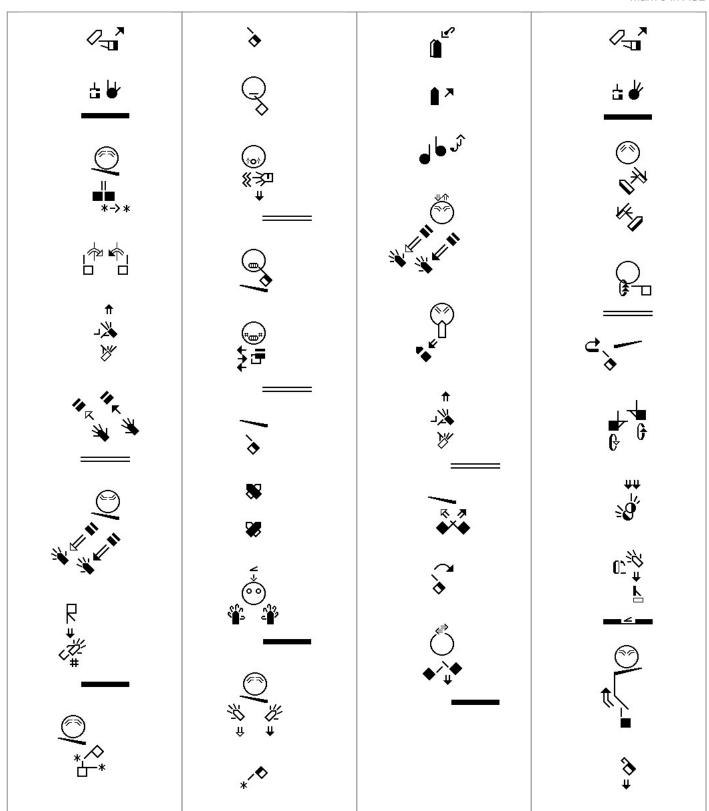


Verse 13. But I tell you, Elijah has already come, and they chose to abuse him, just as the Scriptures predicted." Verse 14. When they returned to the other disciples, they saw a large crowd surrounding them, and some teachers of religious law were arguing with them.



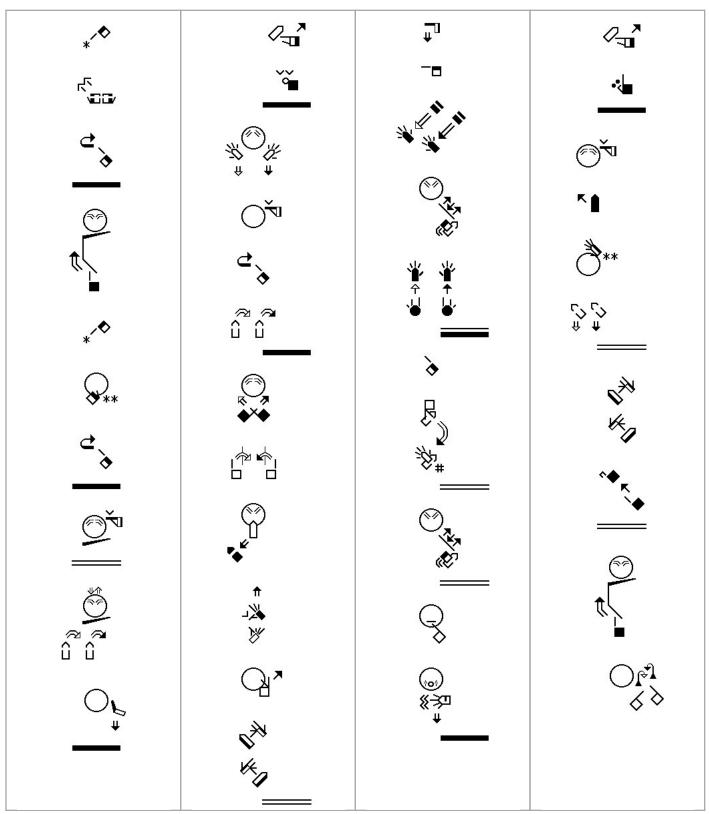
Verse 15. When the crowd saw Jesus, they were overwhelmed with awe, and they ran to greet him. Verse 16. "What is all this arguing about?" Jesus asked. Verse 17. One of the men in the crowd spoke up and said, "Teacher, I brought my son so you could heal him. He is possessed by an evil spirit that won't let him talk.

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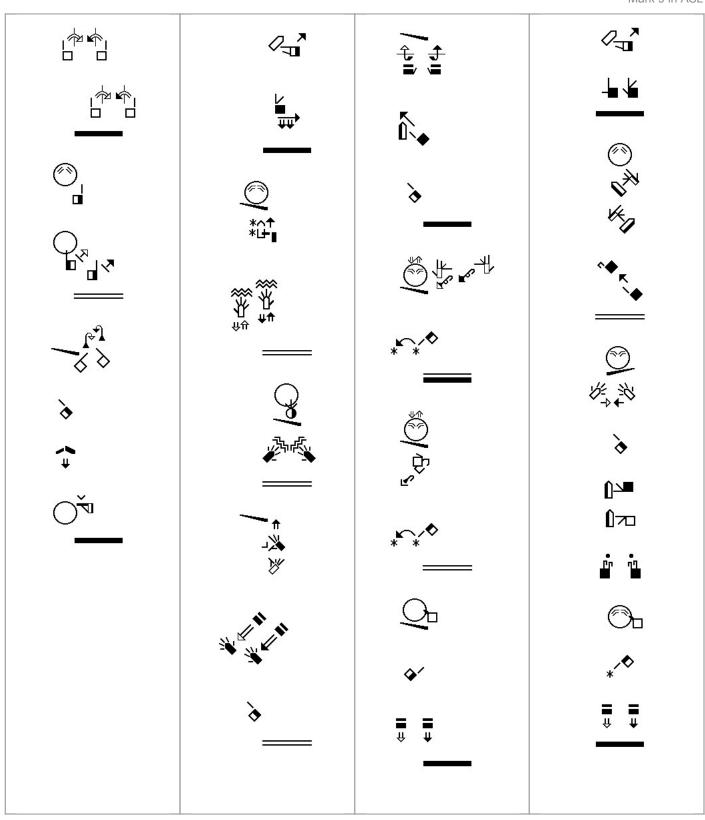


Verse 18. And whenever this spirit seizes him, it throws him violently to the ground. Then he foams at the mouth and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid. So I asked your disciples to cast out the evil spirit, but they couldn't do it." Verse 19. Jesus said to them, "You faithless people! How long must

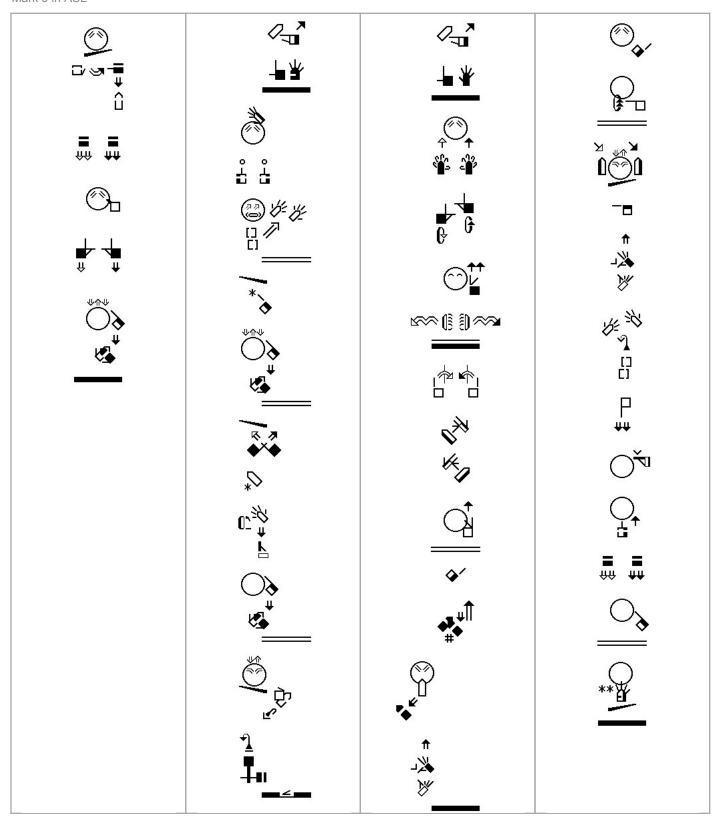
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I be with you? How long must I put up with you? Bring the boy to me." Verse 20. So they brought the boy. But when the evil spirit saw Jesus, it threw the child into a violent convulsion, and he fell to the ground, writhing and foaming at the mouth. Verse 21. "How long NLT

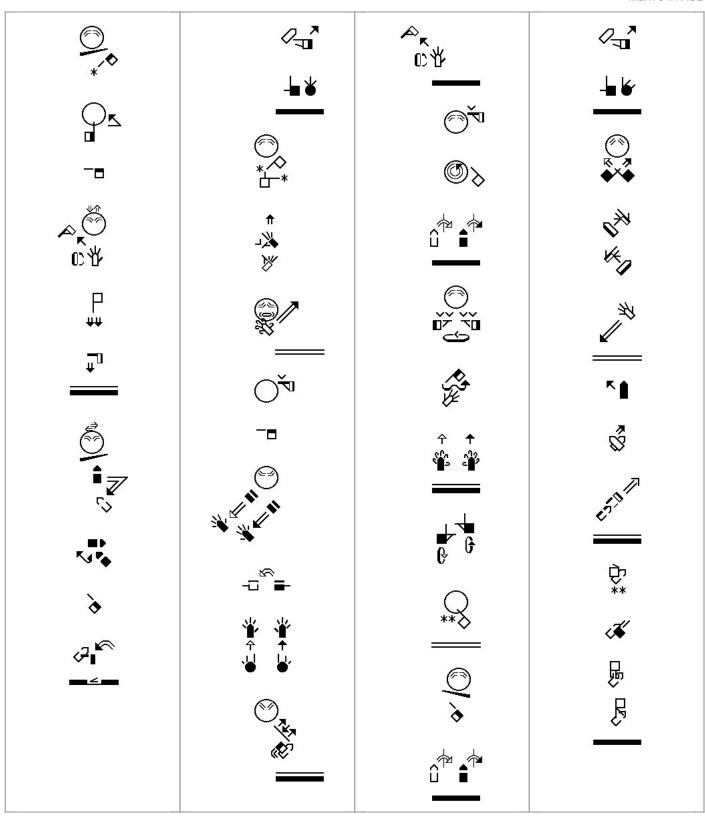


has this been happening?" Jesus asked the boy's father. He replied, "Since he was a little boy. Verse 22. The spirit often throws him into the fire or into water, trying to kill him. Have mercy on us and help us, if you can." Verse 23. "What do you mean, 'If I can'?" Jesus asked.

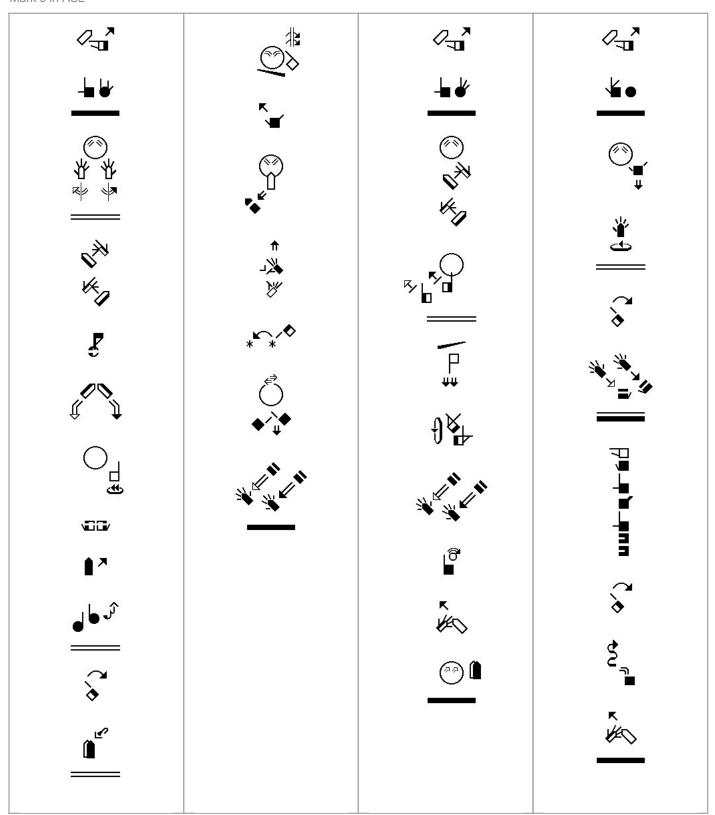


"Anything is possible if a person believes." Verse 24. The father instantly cried out, "I do believe, but help me overcome my unbelief!" Verse 25. When Jesus saw that the crowd of onlookers was growing, he rebuked the evil spirit. "Listen, you spirit that makes this boy unable to hear and speak," he said.

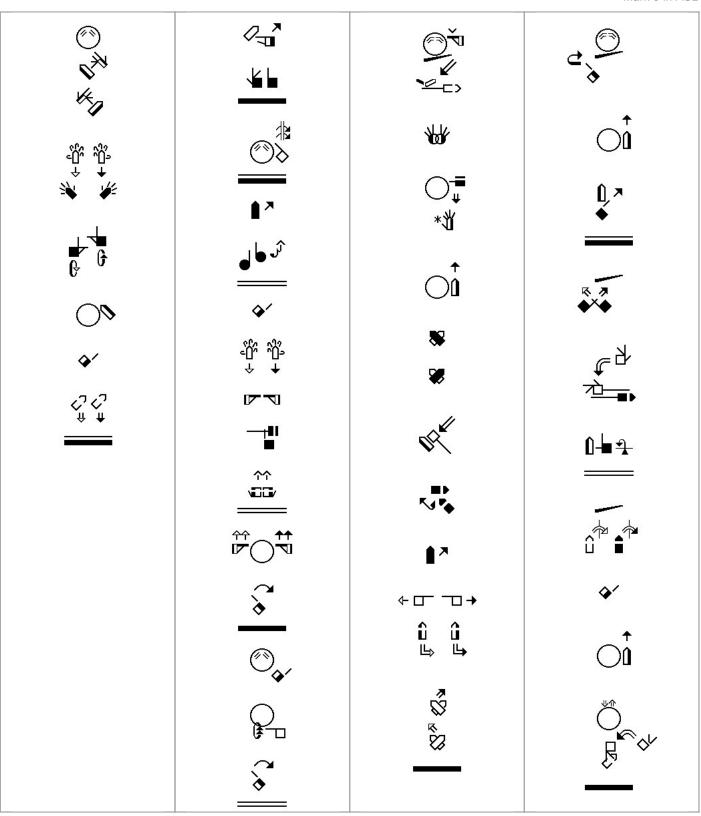
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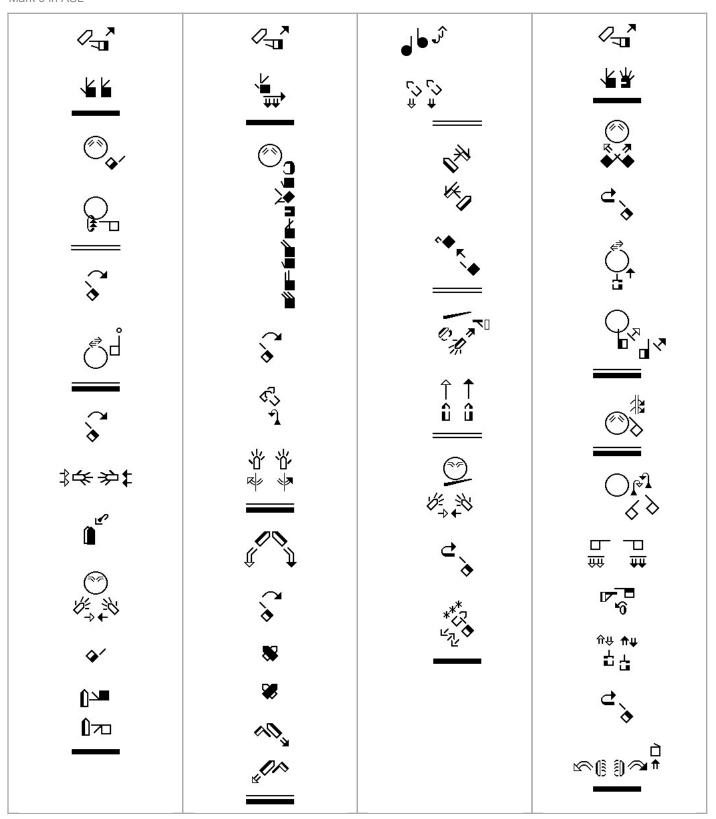
"I command you to come out of this child and never enter him again!" Verse 26. Then the spirit screamed and threw the boy into another violent convulsion and left him. The boy appeared to be dead. A murmur ran through the crowd as people said, "He's dead." Verse 27. But Jesus took him by the hand and helped him to his feet, and he stood up.



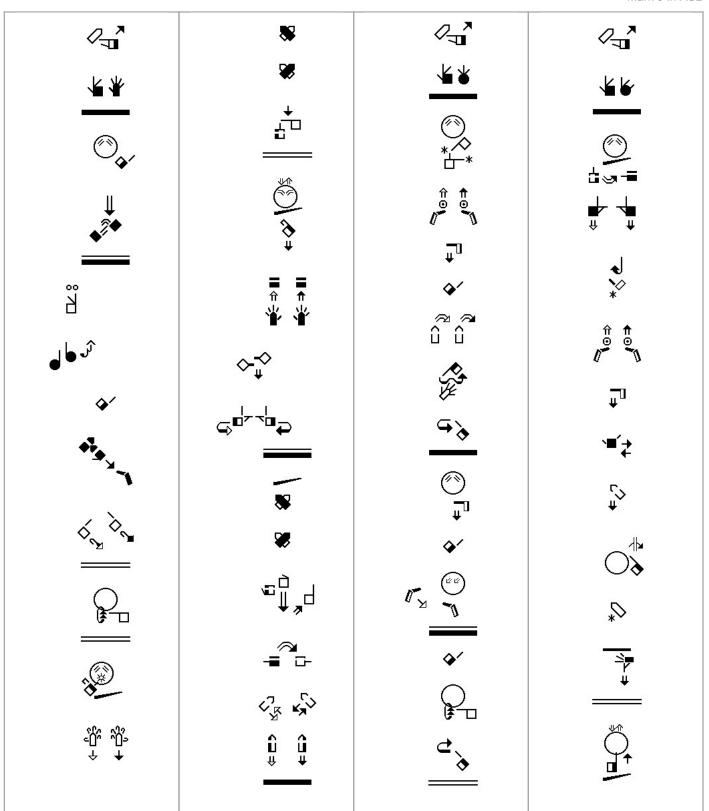
Verse 28. Afterward, when Jesus was alone in the house with his disciples, they asked him, "Why couldn't we cast out that evil spirit?" Verse 29. Jesus replied, "This kind can be cast out only by prayer." Verse 30. Leaving that region, they traveled through Galilee. NLT



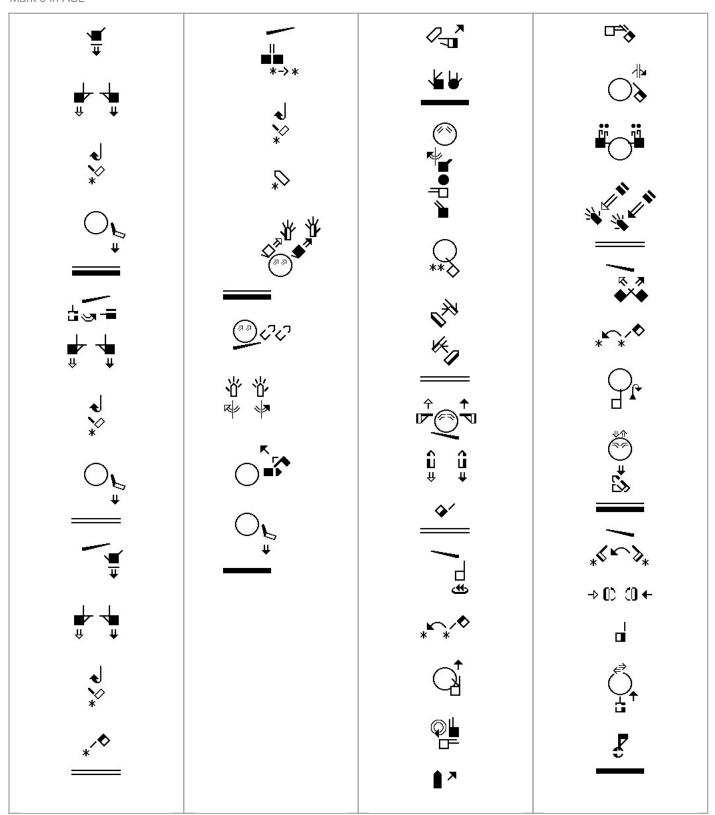
Jesus didn't want anyone to know he was there, Verse 31. for he wanted to spend more time with his disciples and teach them. He said to them, "The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of his enemies. He will be killed, but three days later he will rise from the dead."



Verse 32. They didn't understand what he was saying, however, and they were afraid to ask him what he meant. Verse 33. After they arrived at Capernaum and settled in a house, Jesus asked his disciples, "What were you discussing out on the road?" Verse 34. But they didn't answer, because they had been arguing about which of them was the greatest.



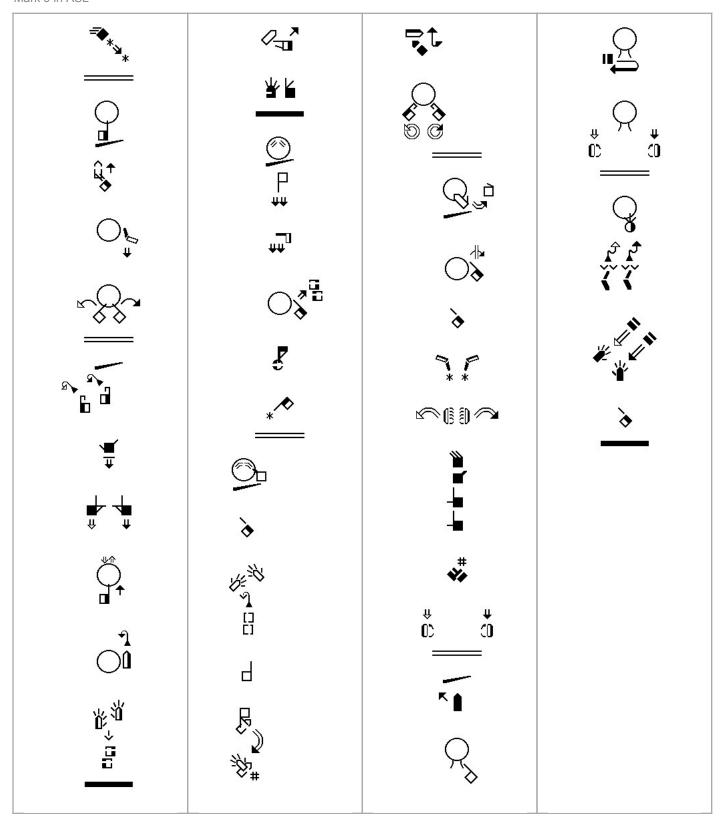
Verse 35. He sat down, called the twelve disciples over to him, and said, "Whoever wants to be first must take last place and be the servant of everyone else." Verse 36. Then he put a little child among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, Verse 37. "Anyone who welcomes a little child like this on my behalf NLT



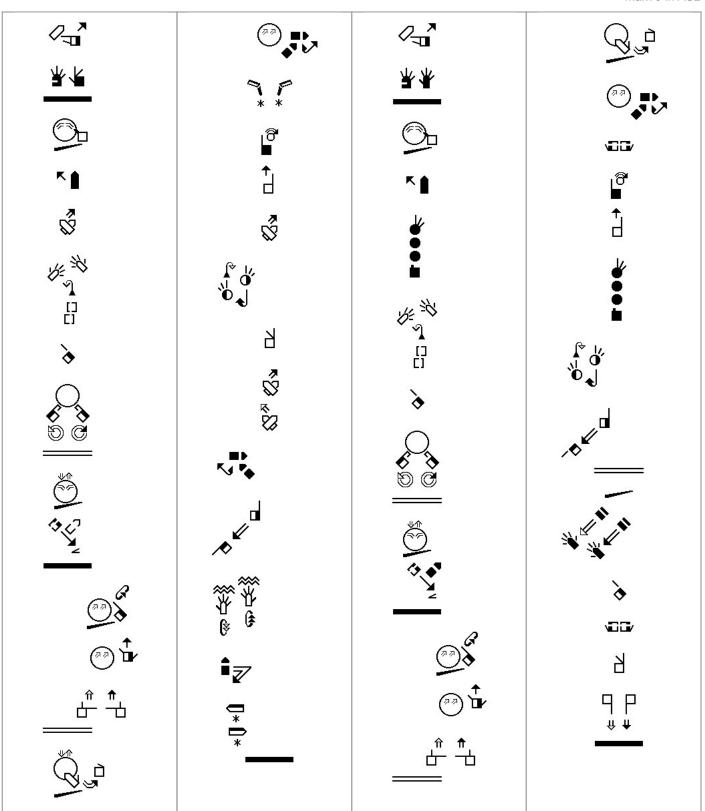
welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes not only me but also my Father who sent me." Verse 38. John said to Jesus, "Teacher, we saw someone using your name to cast out demons, but we told him to stop because he wasn't in our group." NLT

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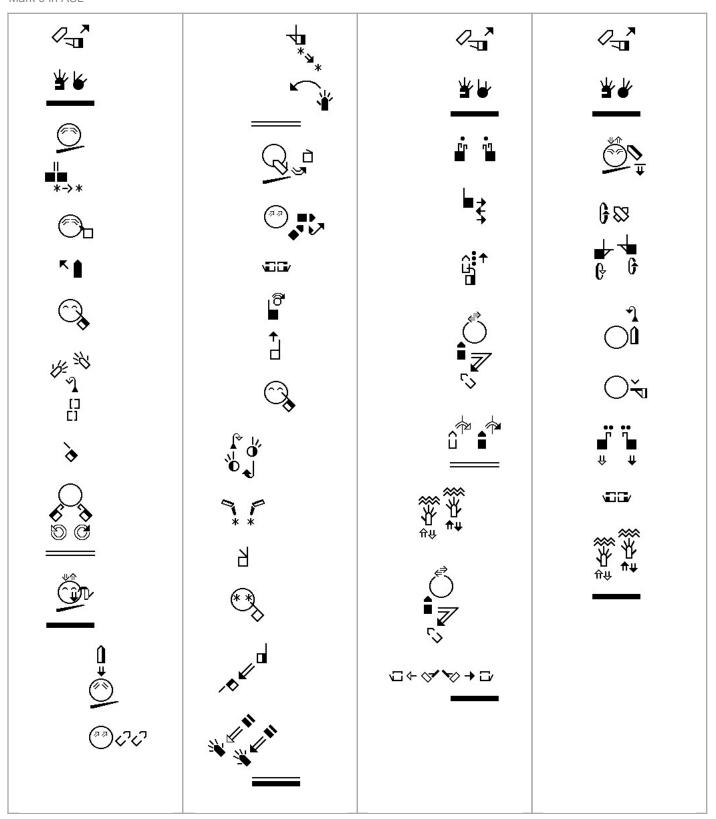
Verse 39. "Don't stop him!" Jesus said. "No one who performs a miracle in my name will soon be able to speak evil of me. Verse 40. Anyone who is not against us is for us. Verse 41. If anyone gives you even a cup of water because you belong



to the Messiah, I tell you the truth, that person will surely be rewarded. Verse 42. "But if you cause one of these little ones who trusts in me to fall into sin, it would be better for you to be thrown into the sea with a large millstone hung around your neck. NLT

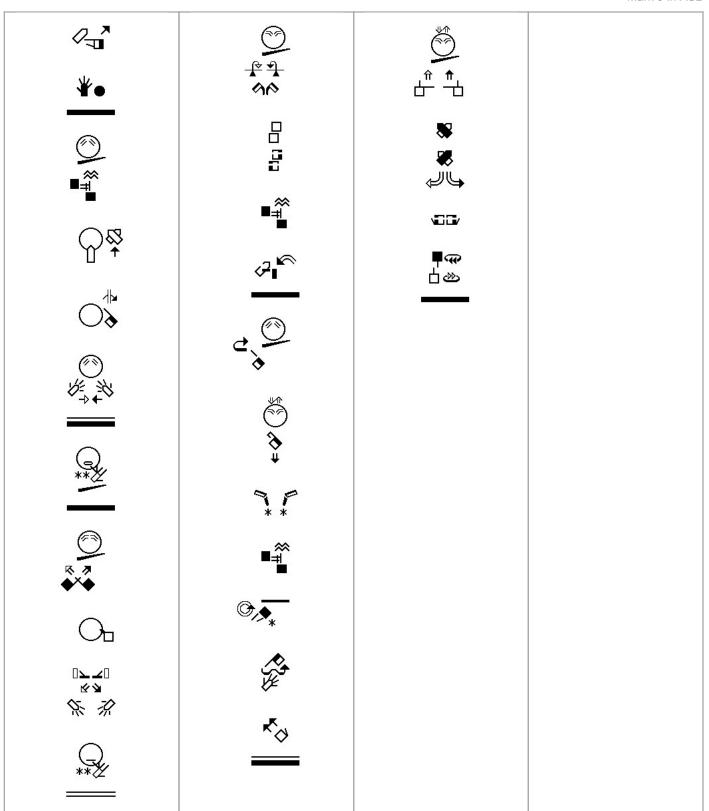


Verse 43. If your hand causes you to sin, cut if off. It's better to enter eternal life with only one hand than to go into the unquenchable fires of hell with two hands. (*Note: No verse 44 in NLT) Verse 45. If your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It's better to enter eternal life with only one foot than to be thrown into hell with two feet.



(*Note: No verse 46 in NLT) Verse 47. And if your eye causes you to sin, gouge it out. It's better to enter the Kingdom of God with only one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell, Verse 48. 'where the maggots never die and the fire never goes out.' Verse 49. "For everyone will be tested with fire.

NLT



Verse 50. Salt is good for seasoning. But if it loses its flavor, how do you make it salty again? You must have the qualities of salt among yourselves and live in peace with each other."