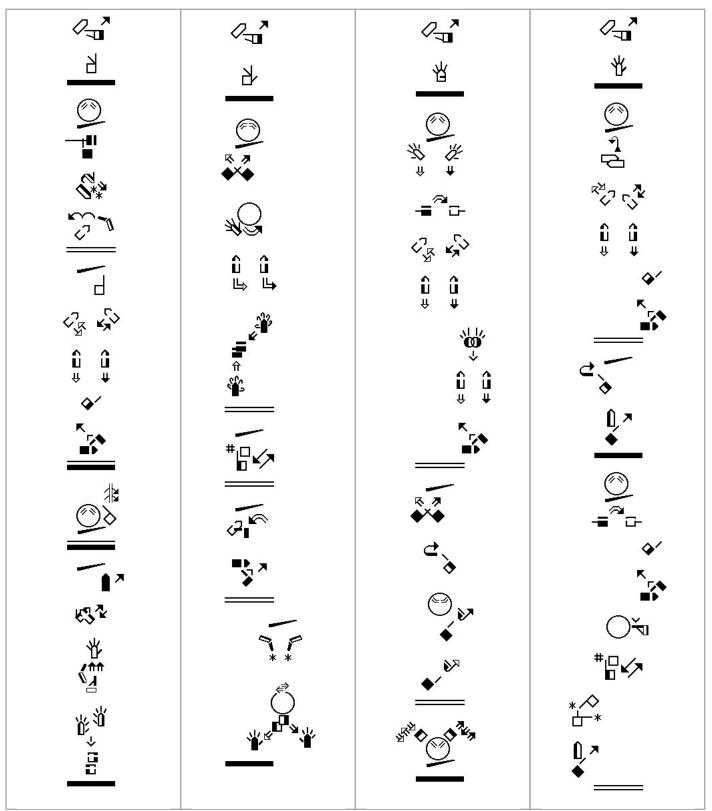
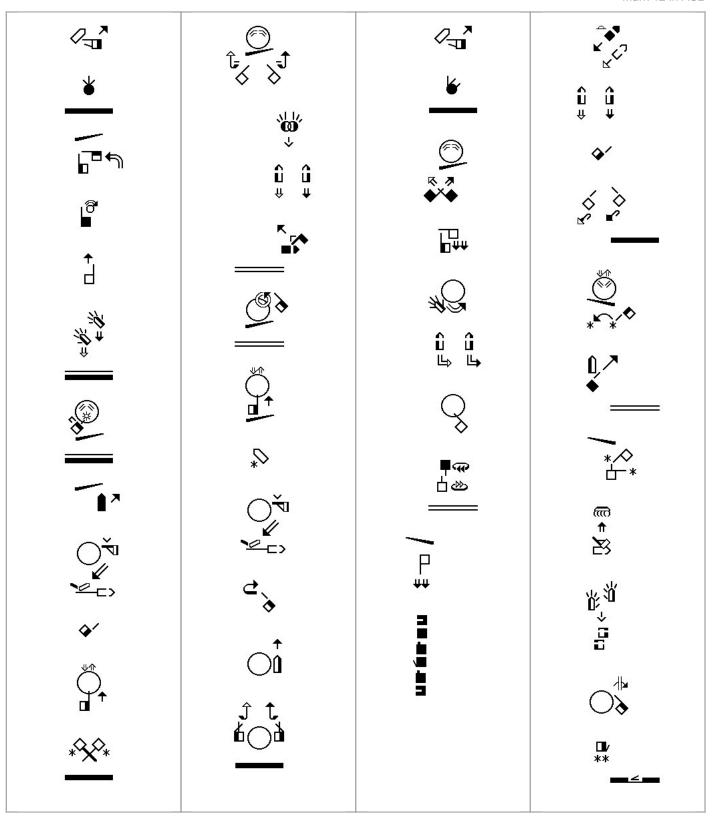


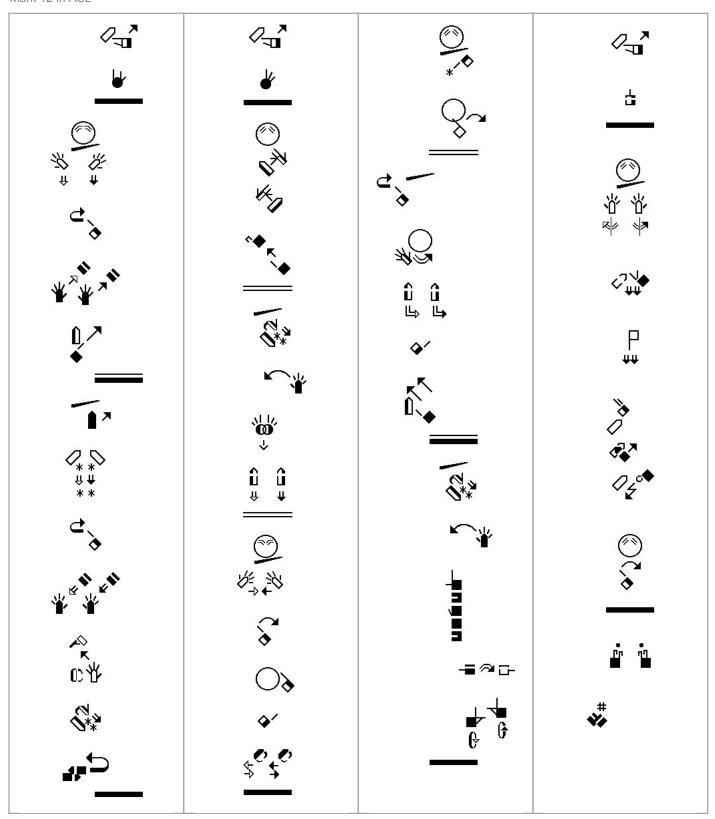
Chapter 12. Then Jesus began teaching them with stories: "A man planted a vineyard. He built a wall around it, dug a pit for pressing out the grape juice, and build a lookout tower. Then he leased the vineyard to tenant farmers and moved to another country. NLT



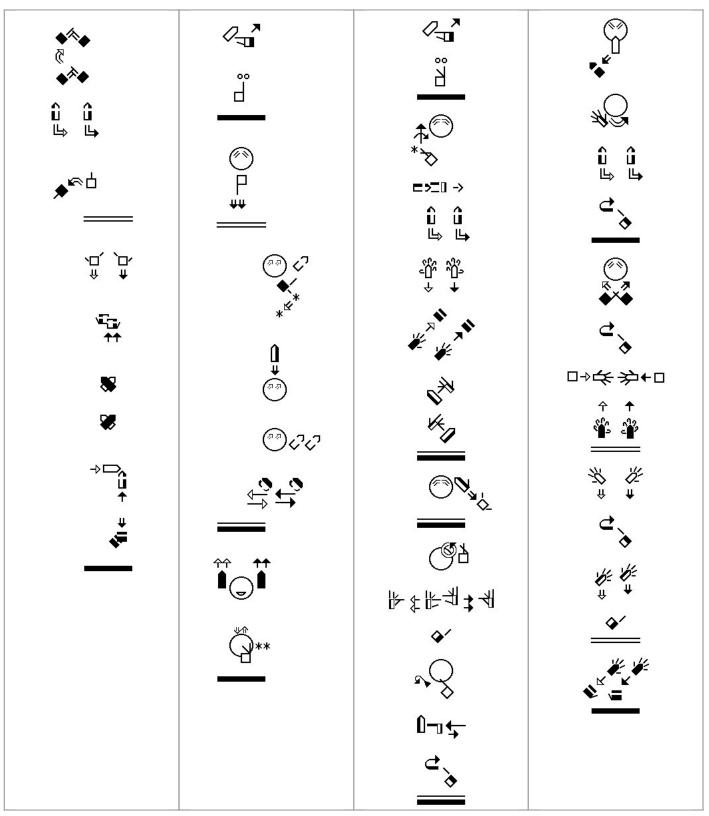
Verse 2. At the time of the grape harvest, he sent one of his servants to collect his share of the crop. Verse 3. But the farmers grabbed the servant, beat him up, and sent him back empty-handed. Verse 4. The owner then sent another servant, but they insulted him and beat him over the head. Verse 5. The next servant he sent was killed. Others he sent were either beaten or killed,



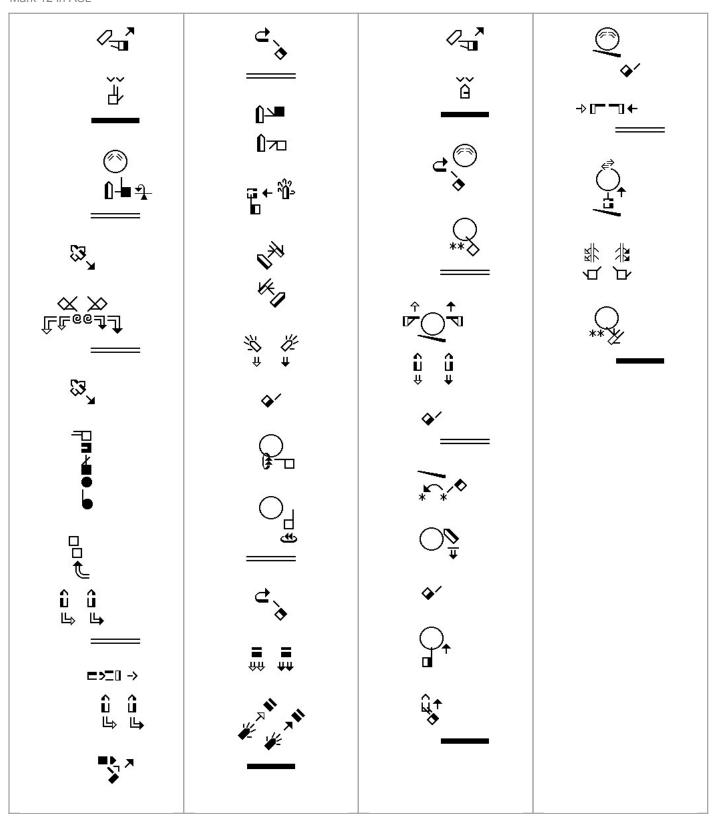
Verse 6. until there was only one left -- his son whom he loved dearly. The owner finally sent him, thinking, 'Surely they will respect my son." Verse 7. "But the tenant farmers said to one another, 'Here comes the heir to this estate. Let's kill him and get the estate for ourselves!'



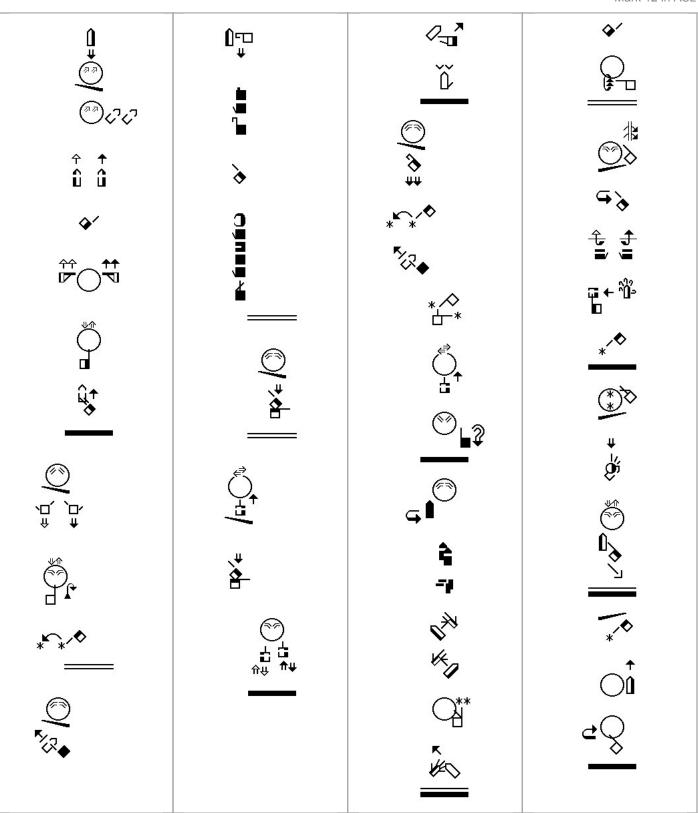
Verse 8. So they grabbed him and murdered him and threw his body out of the vineyard. Verse 9. "What do you suppose the owner of the vineyard will do?" Jesus asked. "I'll tell you -- he will come and kill those farmers and lease the vineyard to others. Verse 10. Didn't you ever read this in the Scriptures? 'The stone NLT



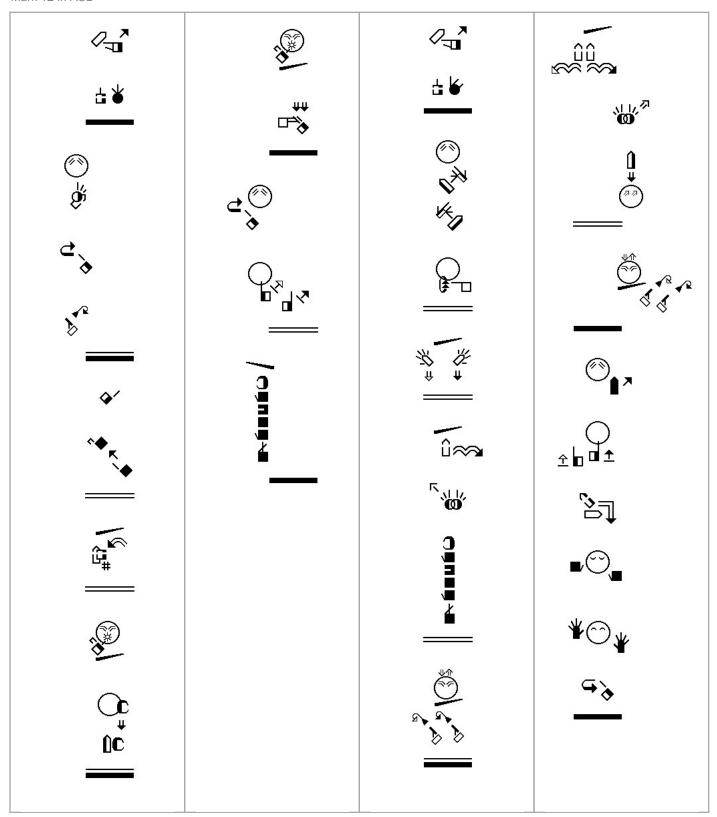
that the builders rejected has now become the cornerstone. Verse 11. This is the LORD'S doing, and it is wonderful to see." Verse 12. The religious leaders wanted to arrest Jesus because they realized he was telling the story against them -- they were the wicked farmers. But they were afraid of the crowd, so they left him and went away. NLT



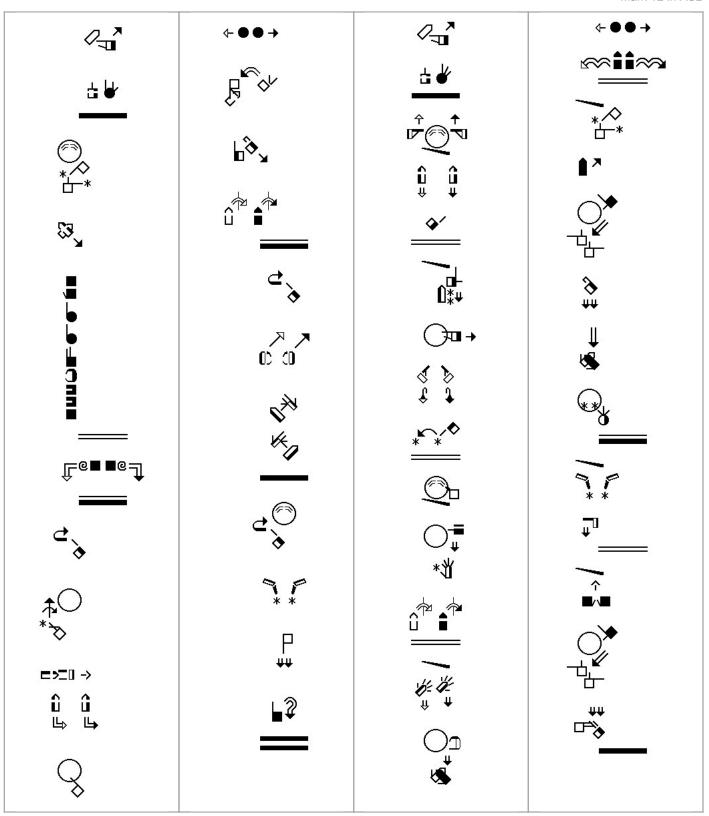
Verse 13. Later the leaders sent some Pharisees and supporters of Herod to trap Jesus into saying something for which he could be arrested. Verse 14. "Teacher," they said, "we know how honest you are. You are impartial and don't play favorites.



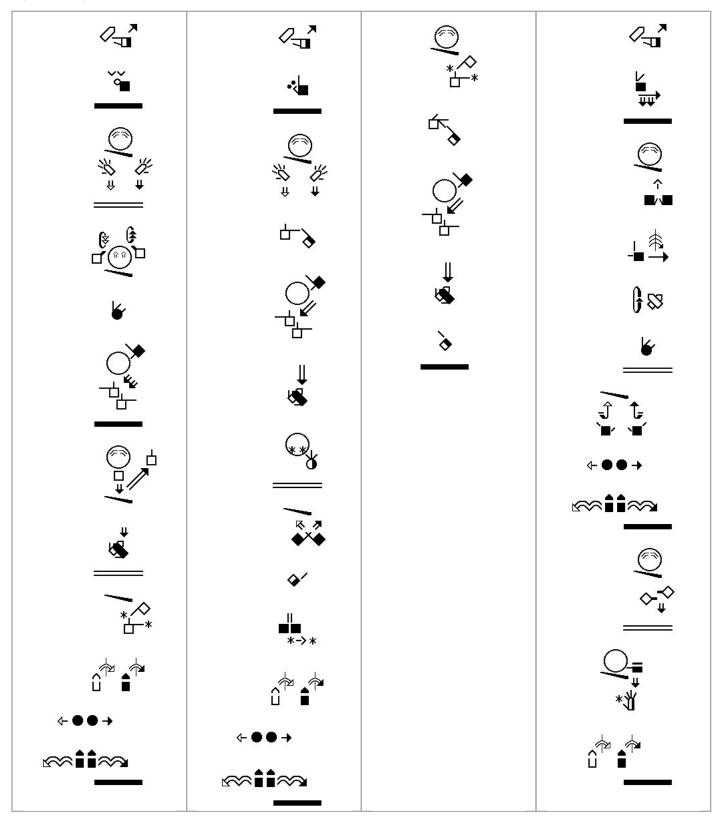
You teach the way of God truthfully. Now tell us -- is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not? Verse 15. Should we pay them, or shouldn't we?" Jesus saw through their hypocrisy and said, "Why are you trying to trap me? Show me a Roman coin, and I'll tell you."



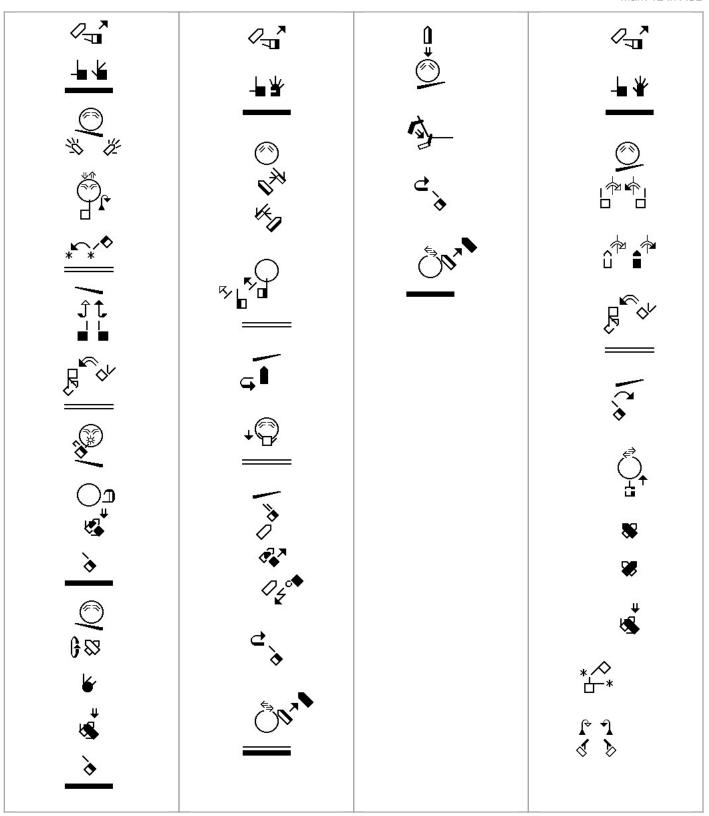
Verse 16. When they handed it to him, he asked, "Whose picture and title are stamped on it?" "Caesar's," they replied. Verse 17. "Well, then," Jesus said, "give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and give to God what belongs to God." His reply completely amazed them.



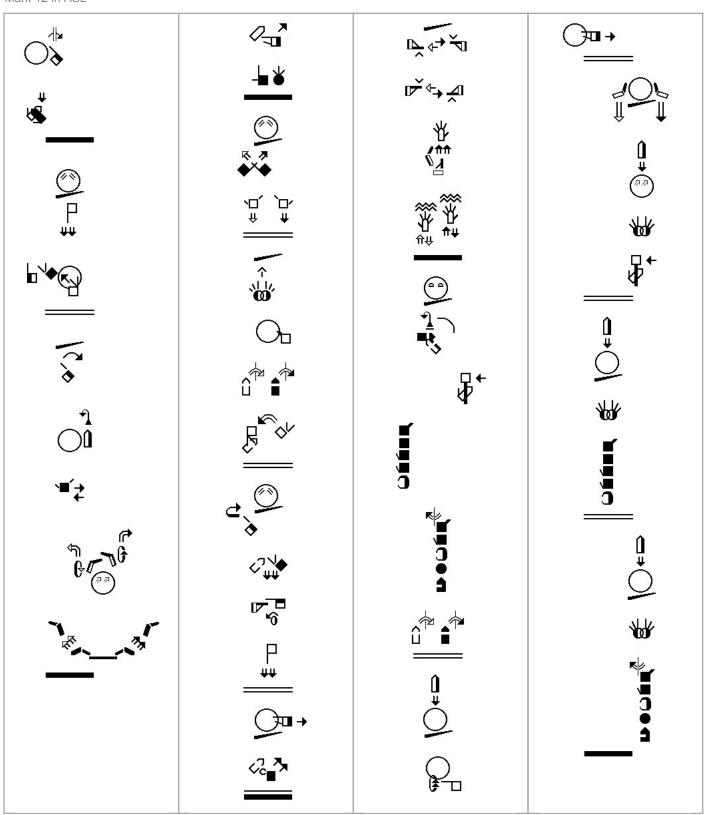
Verse 18. Then Jesus was approached by some Sadducees -- religious leaders who say there is no resurrection from the dead. They posed this question: Verse 19. "Teacher, Moses gave us a law that if a man dies, leaving a wife without children, his brother should marry the widow and have a child who wall carry on the brother's name. NLT



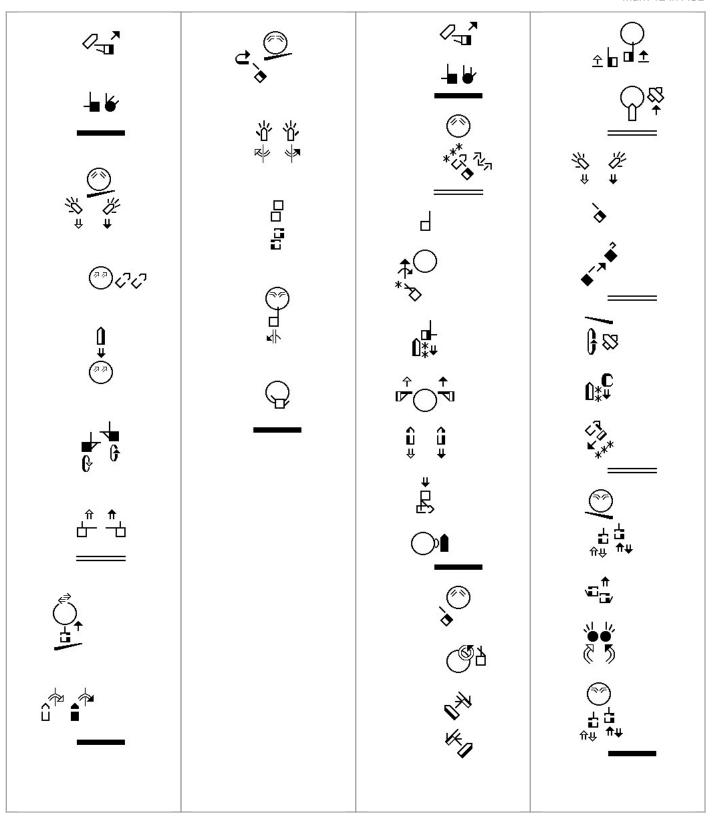
Verse 20. Well, suppose there were seven brothers. The oldest one married and then died without children. Verse 21. So the second brother married the widow, but he also died without children. Then the third brother married her. Verse 22. This continued with all seven of them, and still there were no children. Last of all, the woman also died. NLT



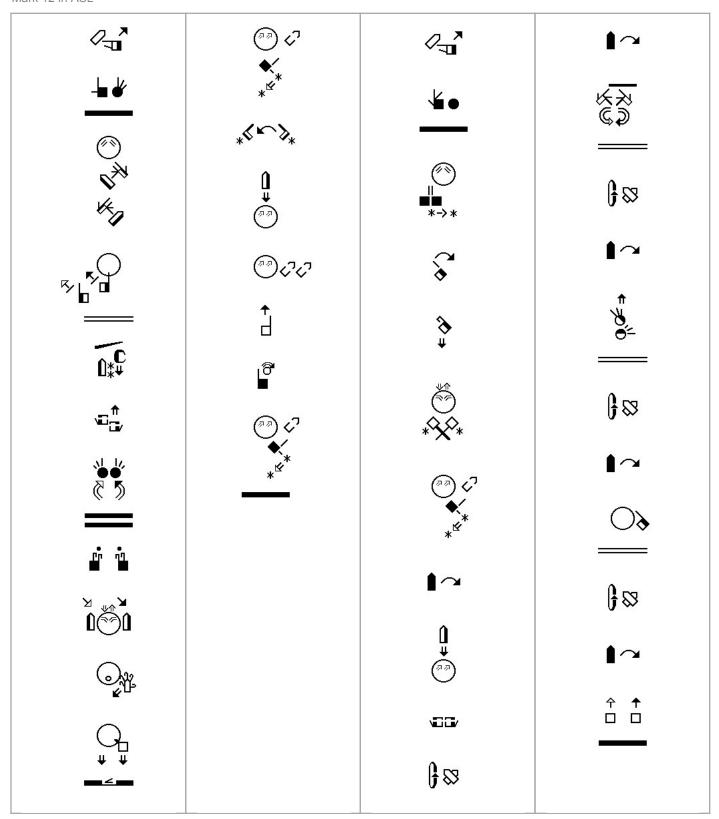
Verse 23. So tell us, whose wife will she be in the resurrection? For all seven were married to her." Verse 24. Jesus replied, "Your mistake is that you don't know the Scriptures, and you don't know the power of God. Verse 25. For when the dead rise, they will neither marry nor be given



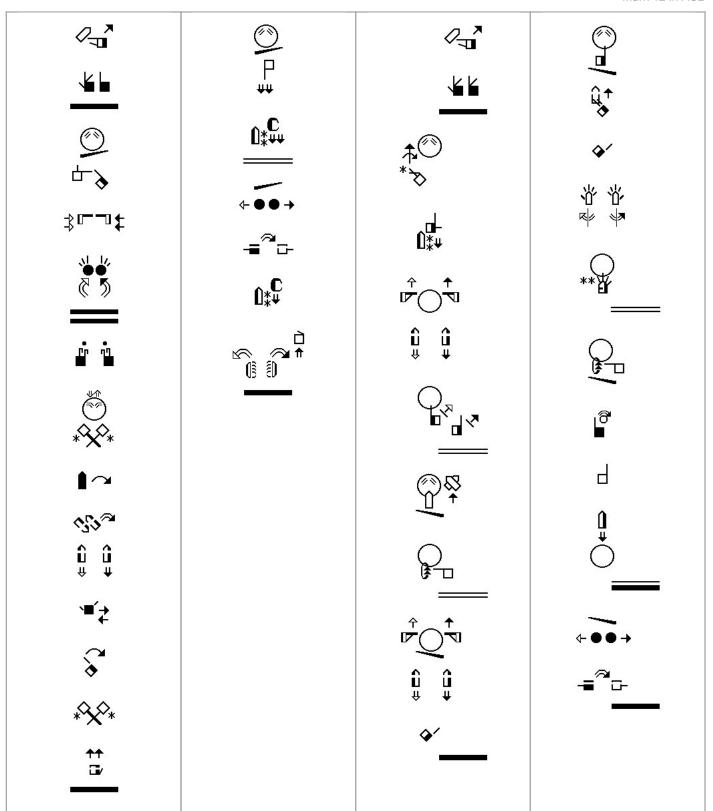
in marriage. In this respect they will be like the angels in heaven. Verse 26. "But now, as to whether the dead will be raised -- haven't you ever read about this in the writings of Moses, in the story of the burning bush? Long after Abraham Isaac, and Jacob had died, God said to Moses, 'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.'



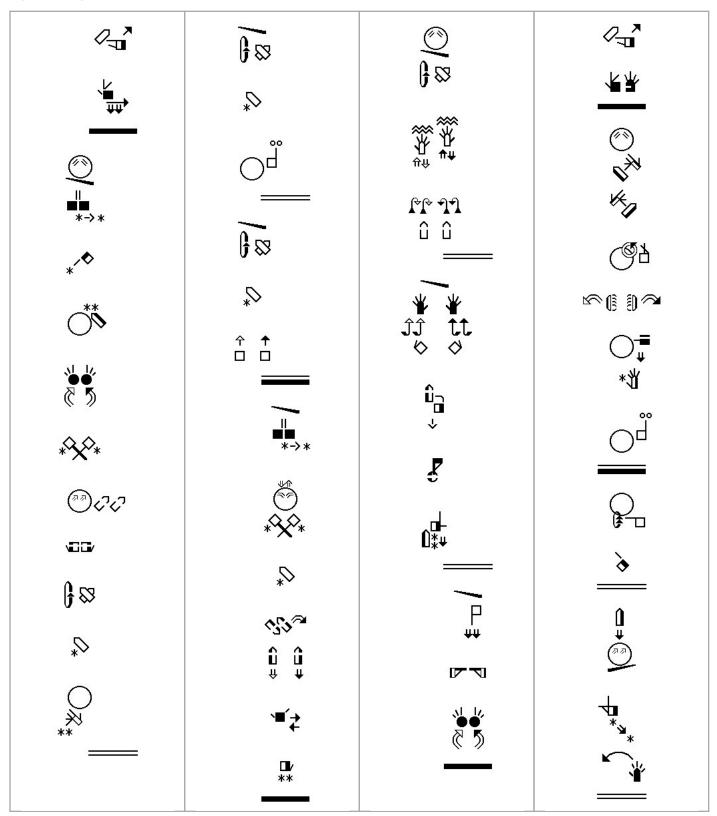
Verse 27. So he is the God of the living, not the dead. You have made a serious error." Verse 28. One of the teachers of religious law was standing there listening to the debate. He realized that Jesus had answered well, so he asked, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?"



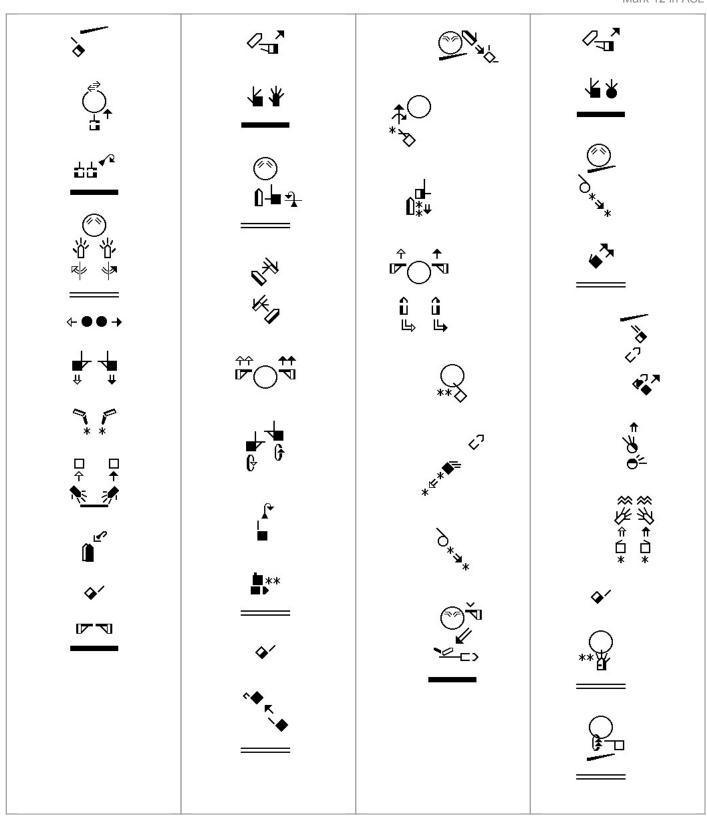
Verse 29. Jesus replied, "The most important commandment is this: 'Listen, O Israel! The LORD our God is the one and only LORD. Verse 30. And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.'



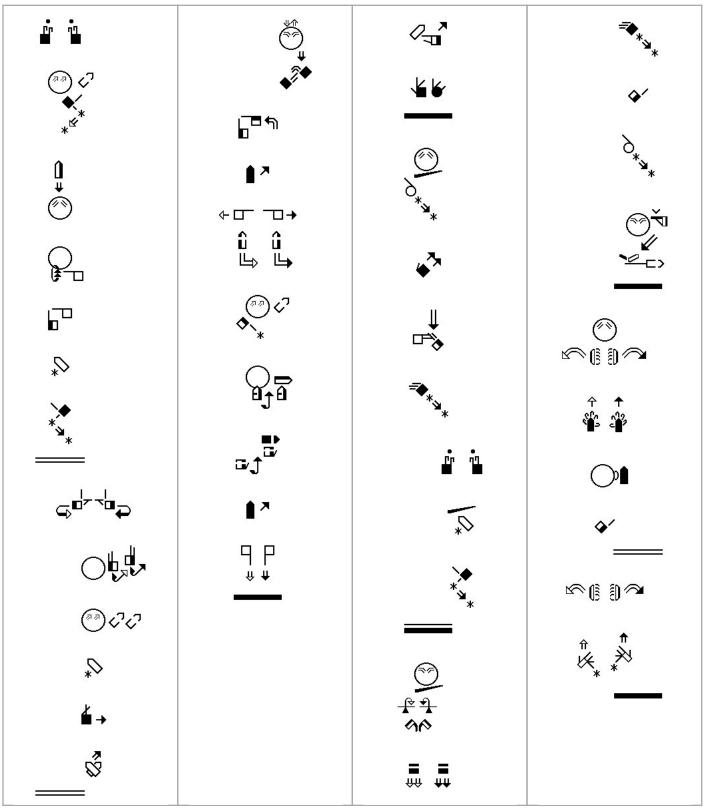
Verse 31. The second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' No other commandment is greater than these." Verse 32. The teacher of religious law replied, "Well said, Teacher. You have spoken the truth by saying that there is only one God and no other.



Verse 33. And I know it is important to love him with all my heart and all my understanding and all my strength, and to love my neighbor as myself. This is more important than to offer all of the burnt offerings and sacrifices required in the law." Verse 34. Realizing how much the man understood, Jesus said to him,

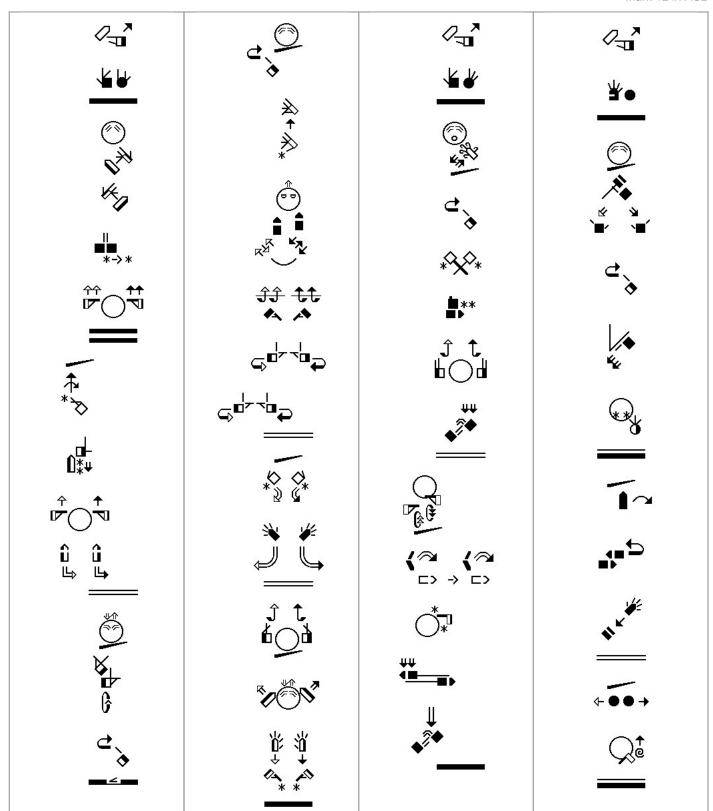


"You are not far from the Kingdom of God." And after that, no one dared to ask him any more questions. Verse 35. Later, as Jesus was teaching the people in the Temple, he asked, "Why do the teachers of religious law claim that the Messiah is the son of David? Verse 36. For David himself, speaking under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, said, NLT



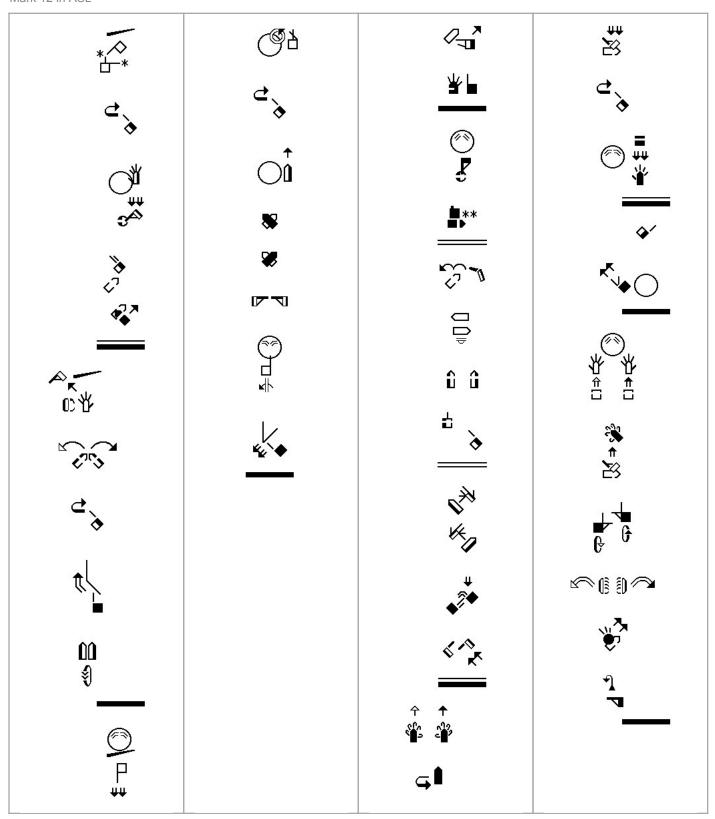
'The LORD said to my Lord, Sit in the place of honor at my right hand until I humble your enemies beneath your feet.' Verse 37. Since David himself called the Messiah 'my Lord,' how can the Messiah be his son?" The large crowd listened to him with great delight.

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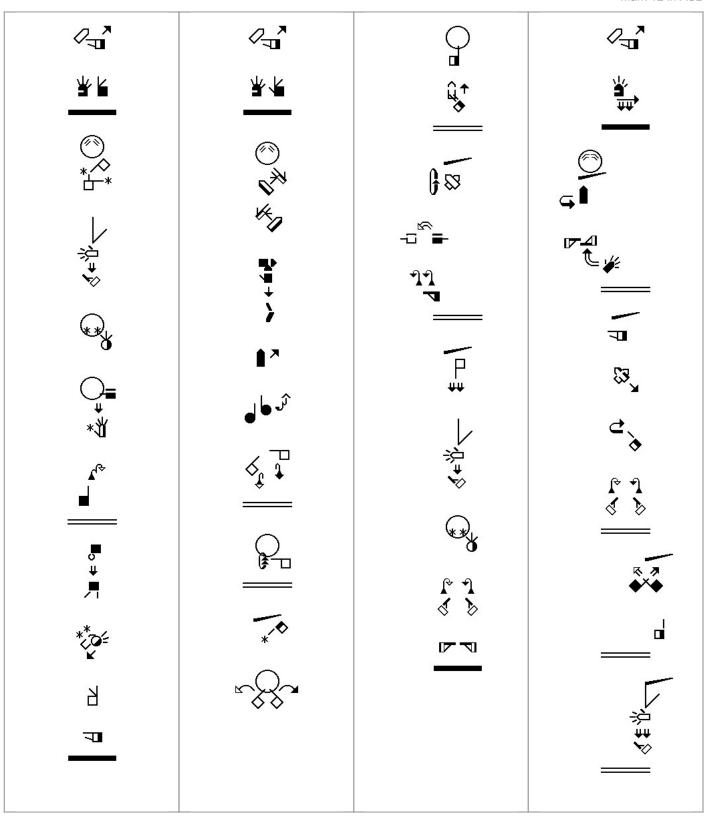


Verse 38. Jesus also taught: "Beware of these teachers of religious law! For they like to parade around in flowing robes and receive respectful greetings as they walk in the marketplaces. Verse 39. And how they love the seats of honor in the synagogues and the head table at banquets. Verse 40. Yet they shamelessly cheat widows out of their property

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and then pretend to be pious by making long prayers in public. Because of this, they will be more severely punished." Verse 41. Jesus sat down near the collection box in the Temple and watched as the crowds dropped in their money. Many rich people put in large amounts.



Verse 42. Then a poor widow came and dropped in two small coins. Verse 43. Jesus called his disciples to him and said, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has given more than all the others who are making contributions. Verse 44. For they gave a tiny part of their surplus, but she, poor as she is,

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