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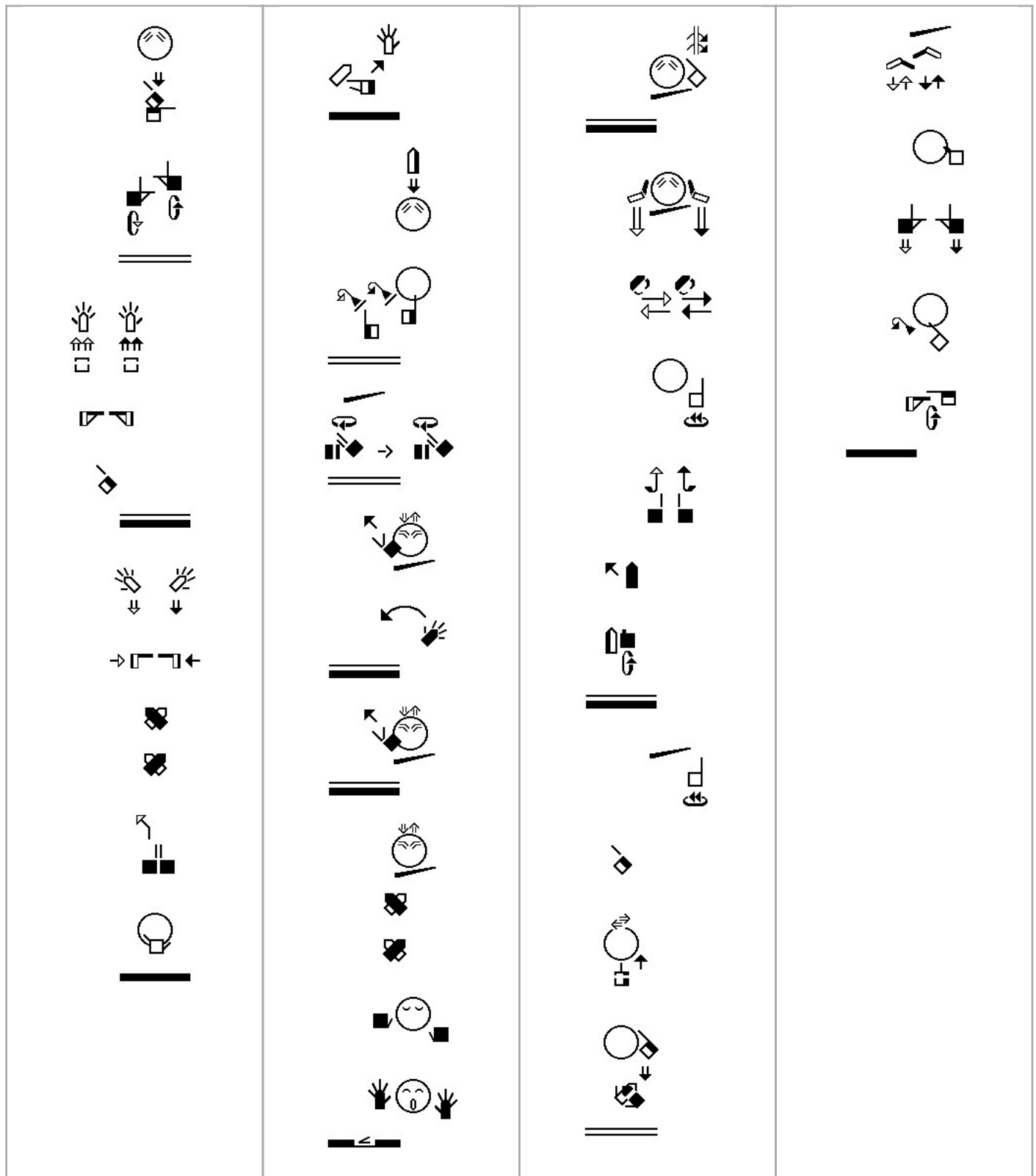
Habakkuk Chapter 1. This is the message that the prophet Habakkuk received in a vision. Verse 2. How long, O LORD, must I call for help? But you do not listen! "Violence is everywhere!" I cry, but you do not come to save.

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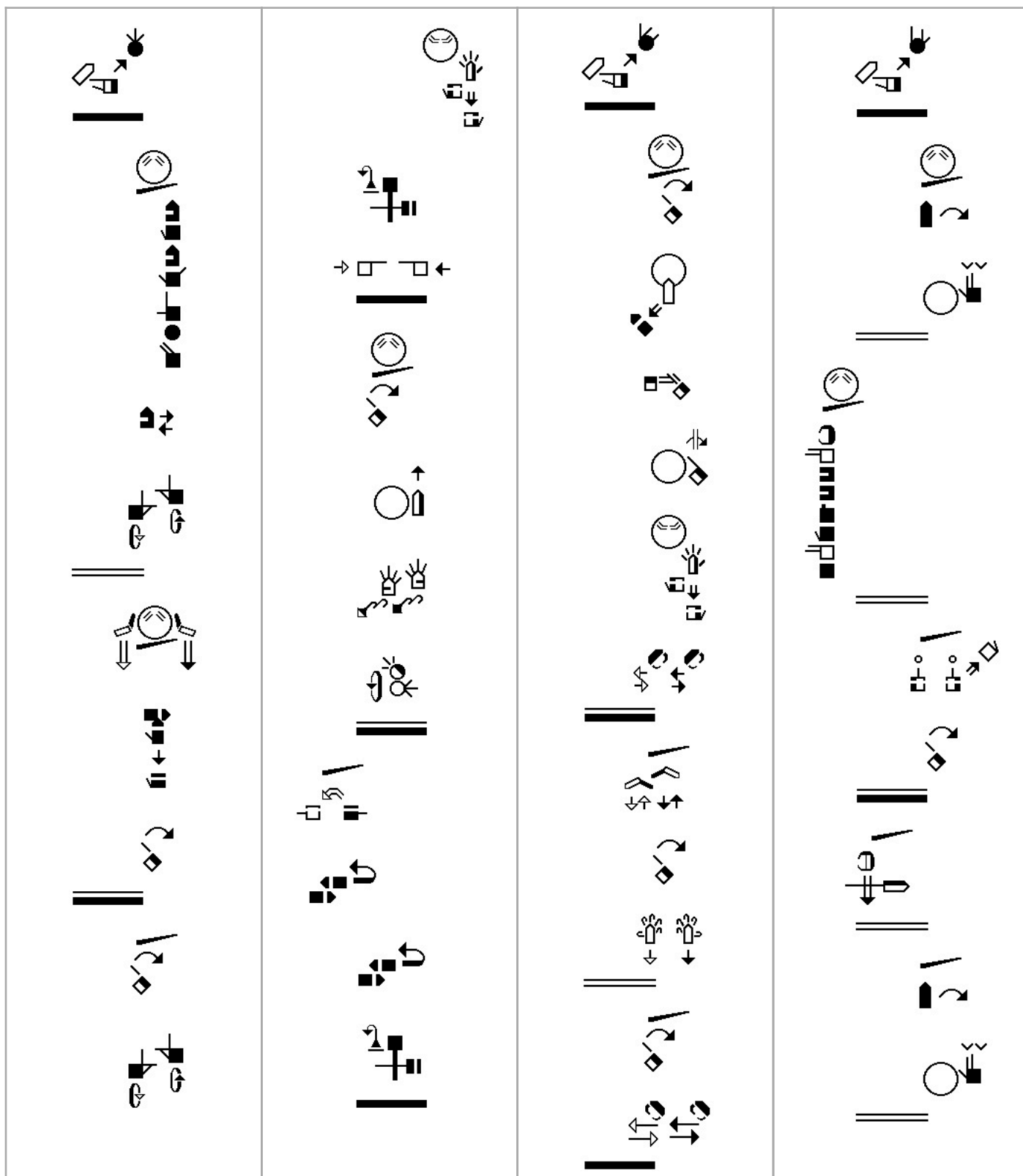
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Verse 3. Must I forever see these evil deeds? Why must I watch all this misery? Wherever I look, I see destruction and violence. I am surrounded by people who love to argue and fight. Verse 4. The law has become paralyzed, and there is no justice in the courts. The wicked

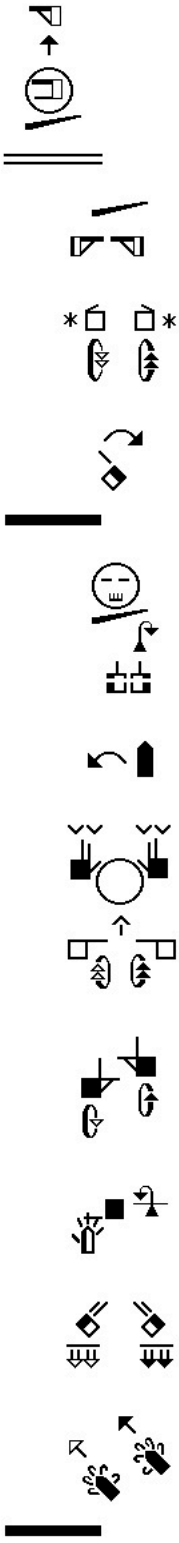
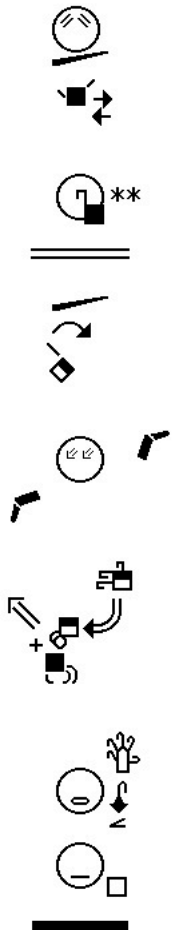
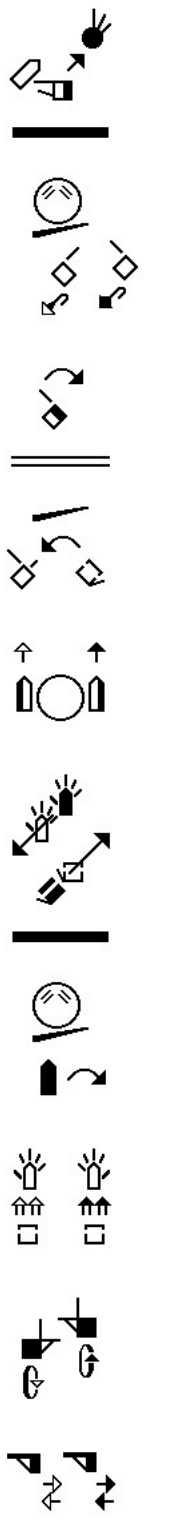
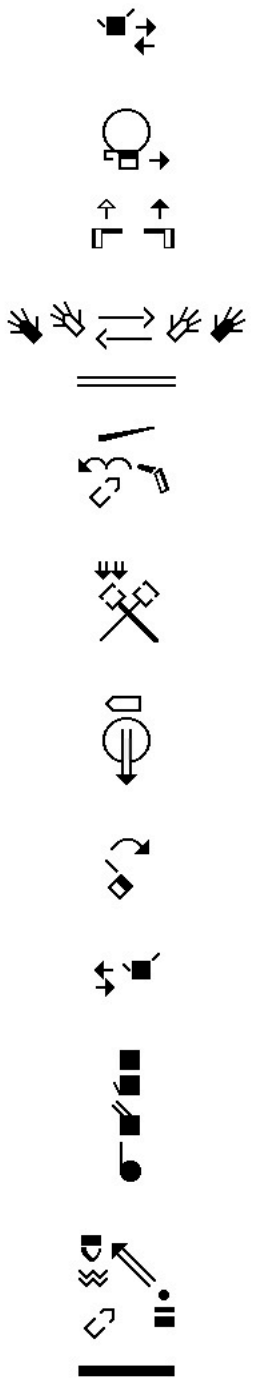
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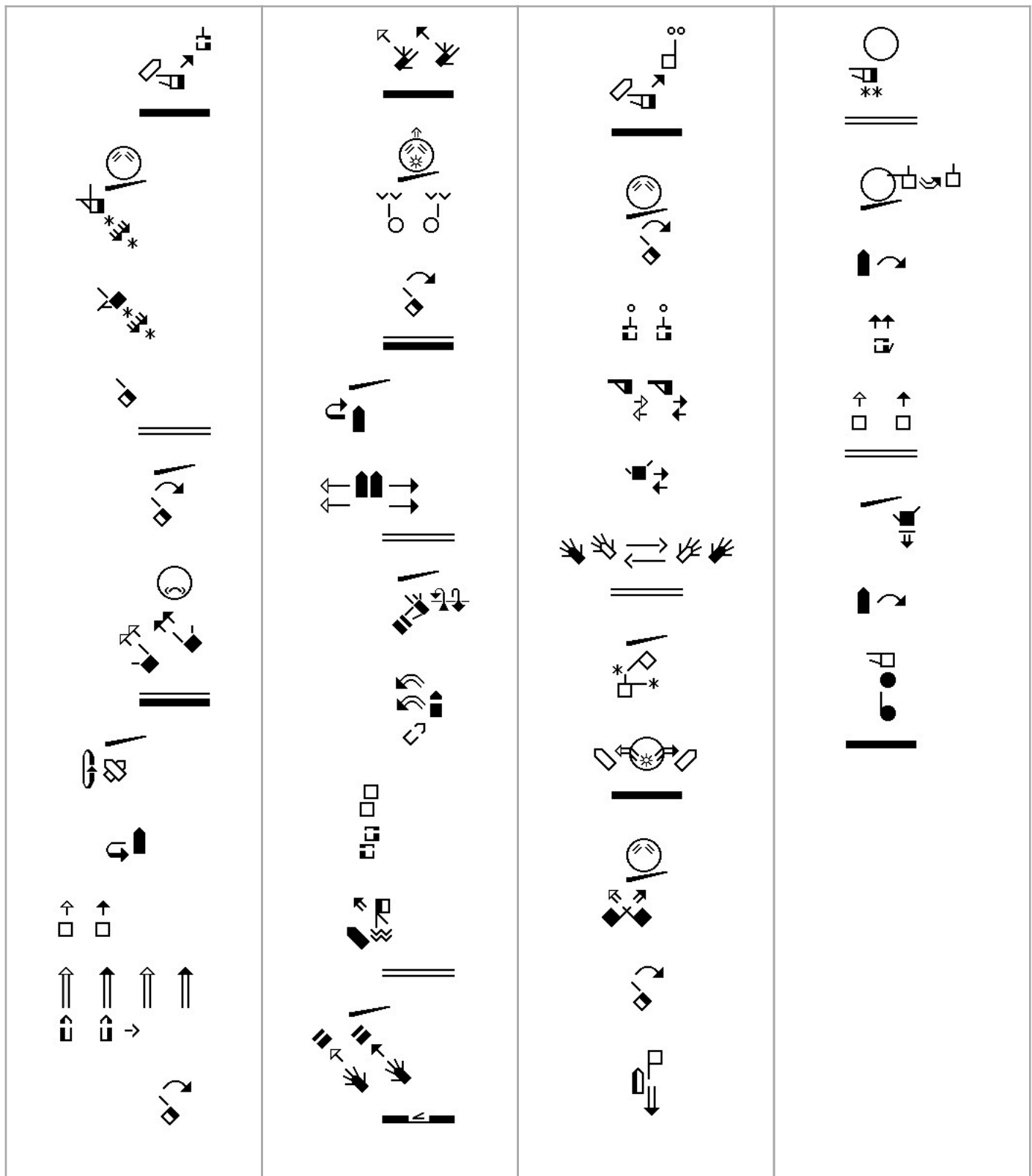
3 far outnumber the righteous, so that justice has become perverted. Verse 5. The LORD replied, "Look around at the nations; look and be amazed! For I am doing something in your own day, something you wouldn't believe even if someone told you about it. NLT



Verse 6. I am raising up the Babylonians, a cruel and violent people. They will march across the world and conquer other lands. Verse 7. They are notorious for their cruelty and do whatever they like. Verse 8. Their horses are swifter than cheetahs and NLT

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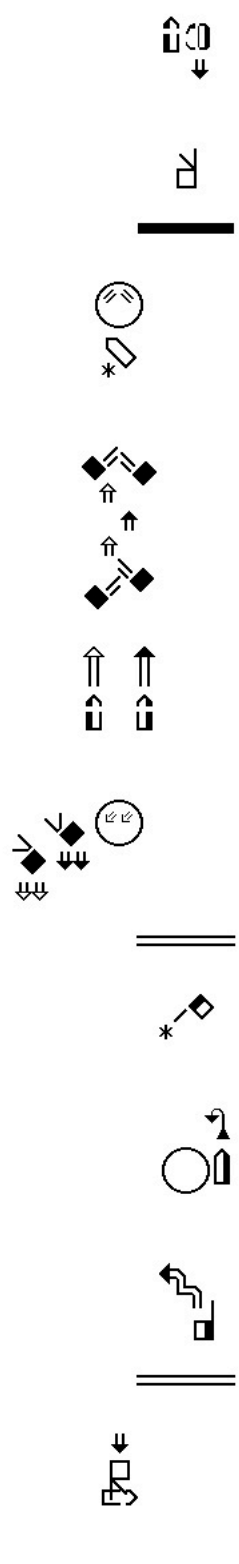
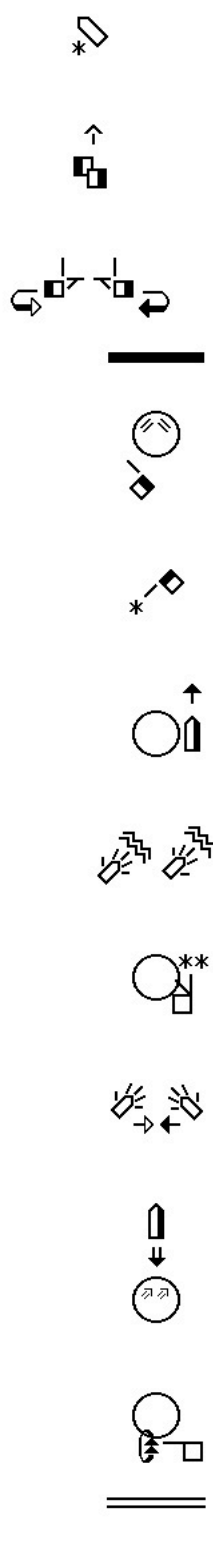
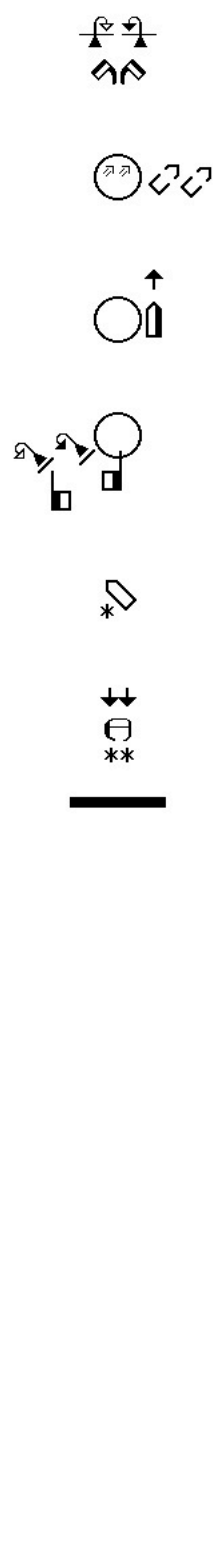
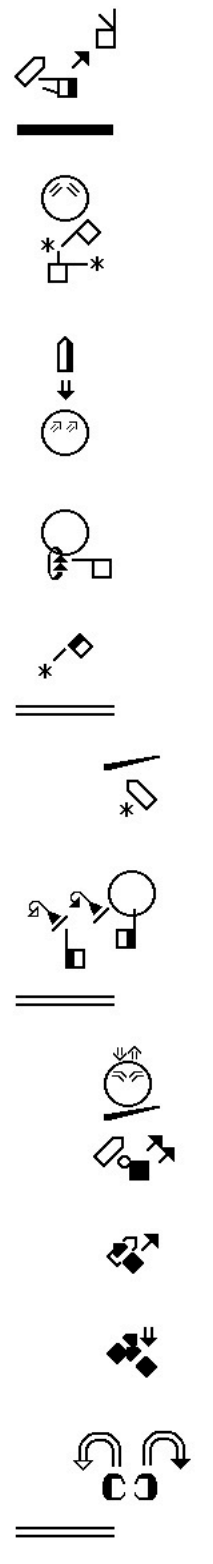
5 fiercer than wolves at dusk. Their charioteers charge from far away. Like eagles, they swoop down to devour their prey. Verse 9. "On they come, all bent on violence. Their hordes advance like a desert wind, sweeping captives ahead of them like sand. NLT



Verse 10. They scoff at kings and princes and scorn all their fortresses. They simply pile ramps of earth against their walls and capture them! Verse 11. They sweep past like the wind and are gone. But they are deeply guilty, for their own strength is their god." NLT

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Verse 13. But you are pure and cannot stand the sight of evil. Will you wink at their treachery? Should you be silent while the wicked swallow up people more righteous than they? Verse 14. Are we only fish to be caught and killed? Are we only

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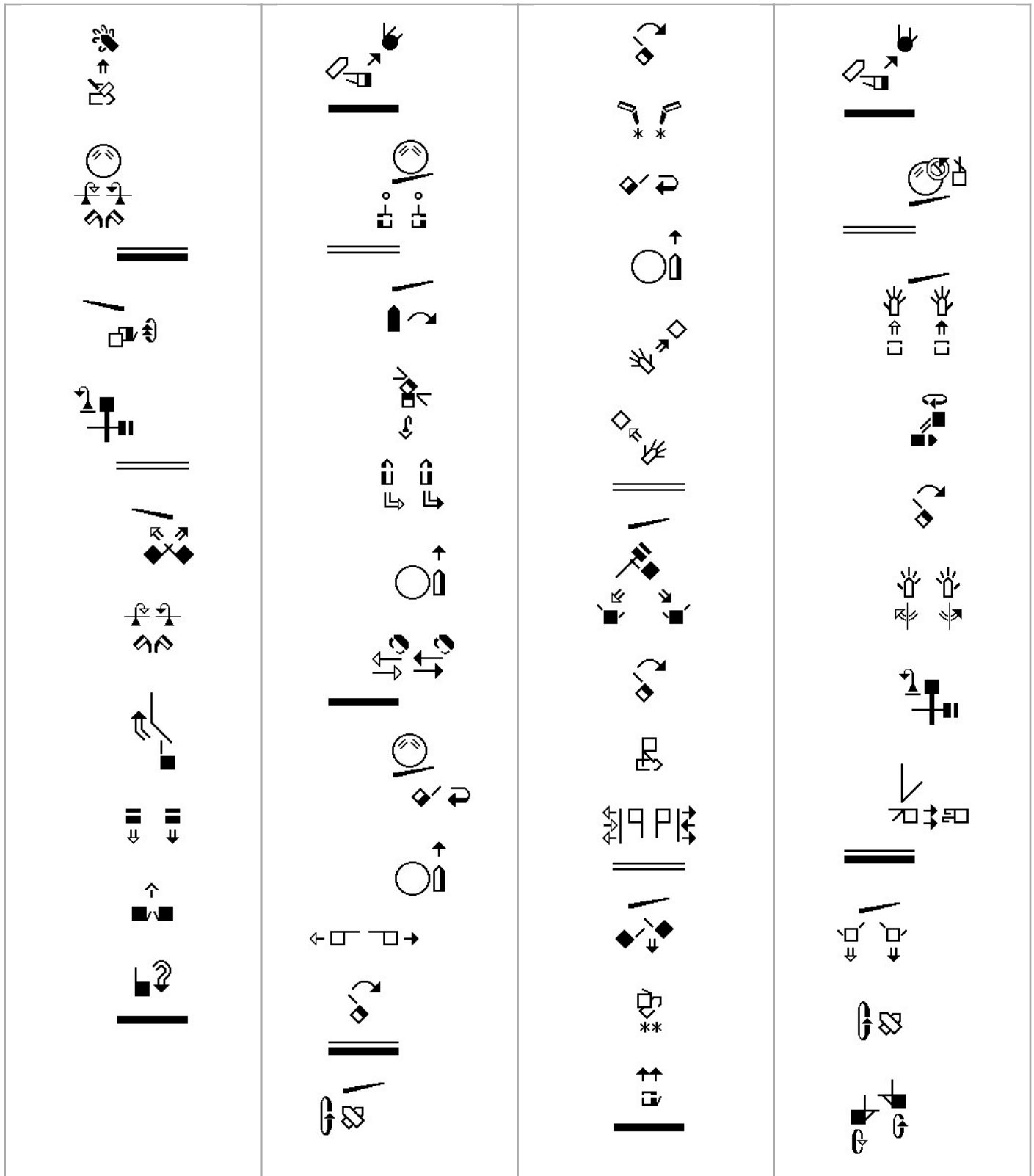
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Verse 4. "Look at the proud! They trust in themselves, and their lives are crooked. But the righteous will live by their faithfulness to God. Verse 5. Wealth is treacherous, and the arrogant are never at rest. They open their mouths as wide as the grave, and like death, they are never satisfied.

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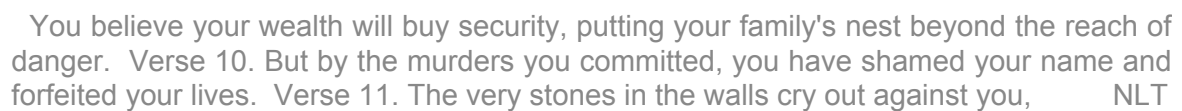
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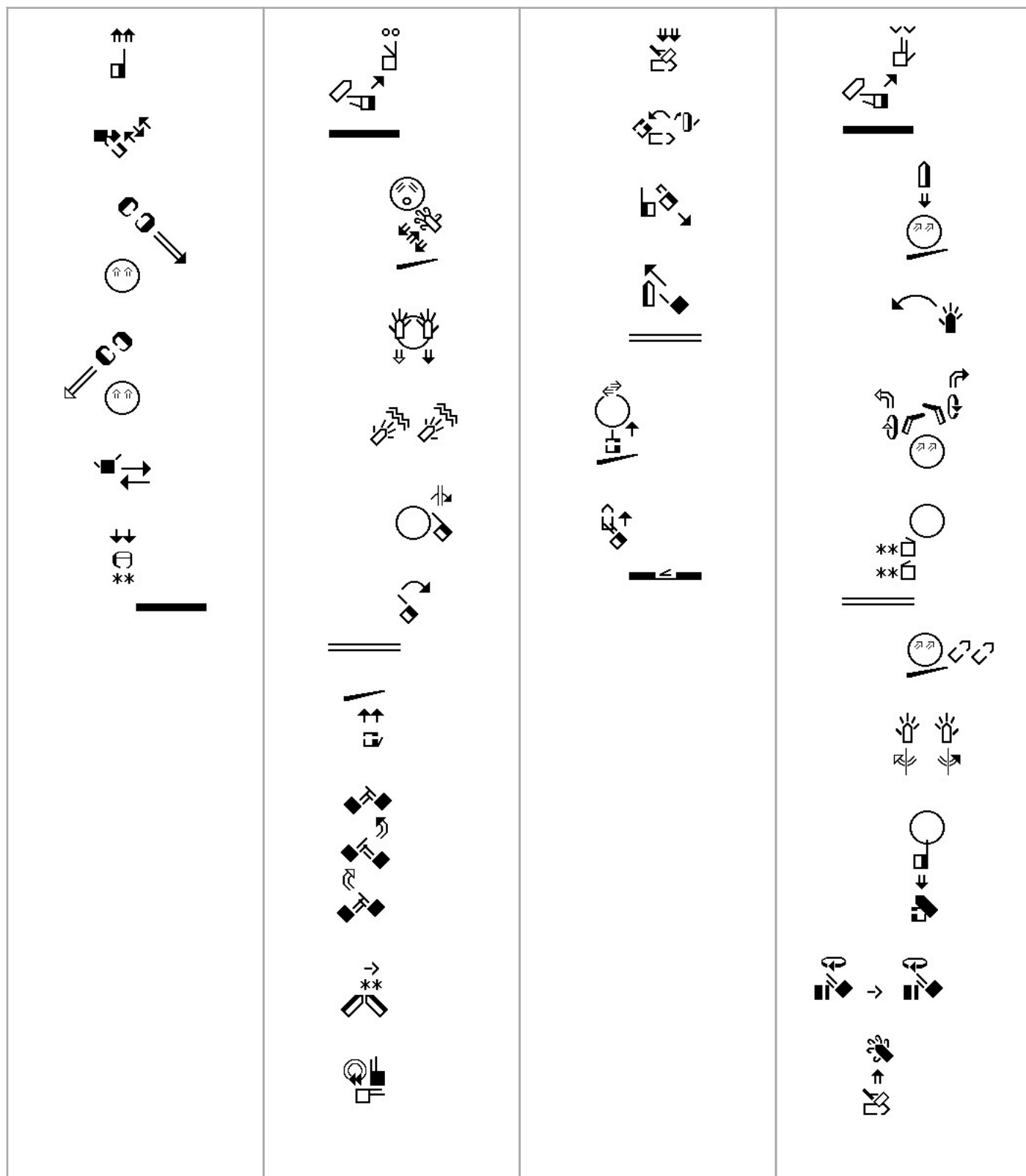
In their greed they have gathered up many nations and swallowed many peoples. Verse 6. "But soon their captives will taunt them. They will mock them, saying, 'What sorrow awaits you thieves! Now you will get what you deserve! You've become



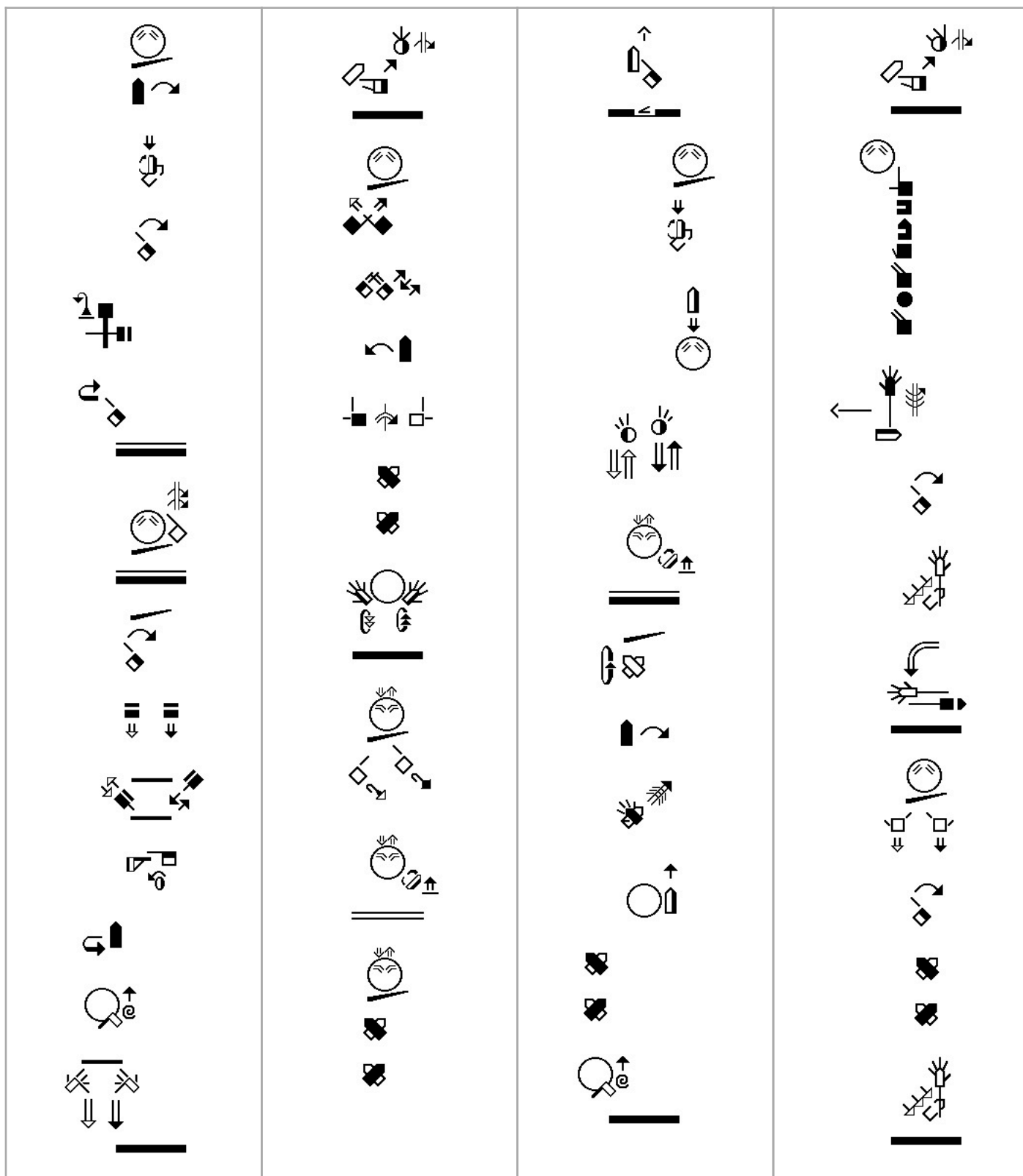
15 rich by extortion, but how much longer can this go on?' Verse 7. Suddenly, your debtors will take action. They will turn on you and take all you have, while you stand trembling and helpless. Verse 8. Because you have plundered many nations; now all the NLT

NLT





and the beams in the ceilings echo the complaint. Verse 12. "What sorrow awaits you who build cities with money gained through murder and corruption! Verse 13. Has not the LORD of Heaven's Armies promised that the wealth of nations will NLT



You force your cup on them so you can gloat over their shameful nakedness. Verse 16. But soon it will be your turn to be disgraced. Come, drink and be exposed! Drink from the cup of the LORD'S judgment, and all your glory will be turned to shame. Verse 17. You cut down the forests of Lebanon. Now you will be cut down. NLT

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Verse 19. What sorrow awaits you who say to wooden idols, 'Wake up and save us!' To speechless stone images you say, 'Rise up and teach us!' Can an idol tell you what to do? They may be overlaid with gold and silver, but they are lifeless inside. NLT















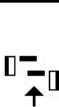










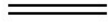




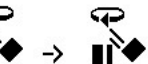








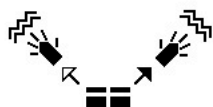









Verse 20. But the LORD is in his holy Temple. Let all the earth be silent before him."
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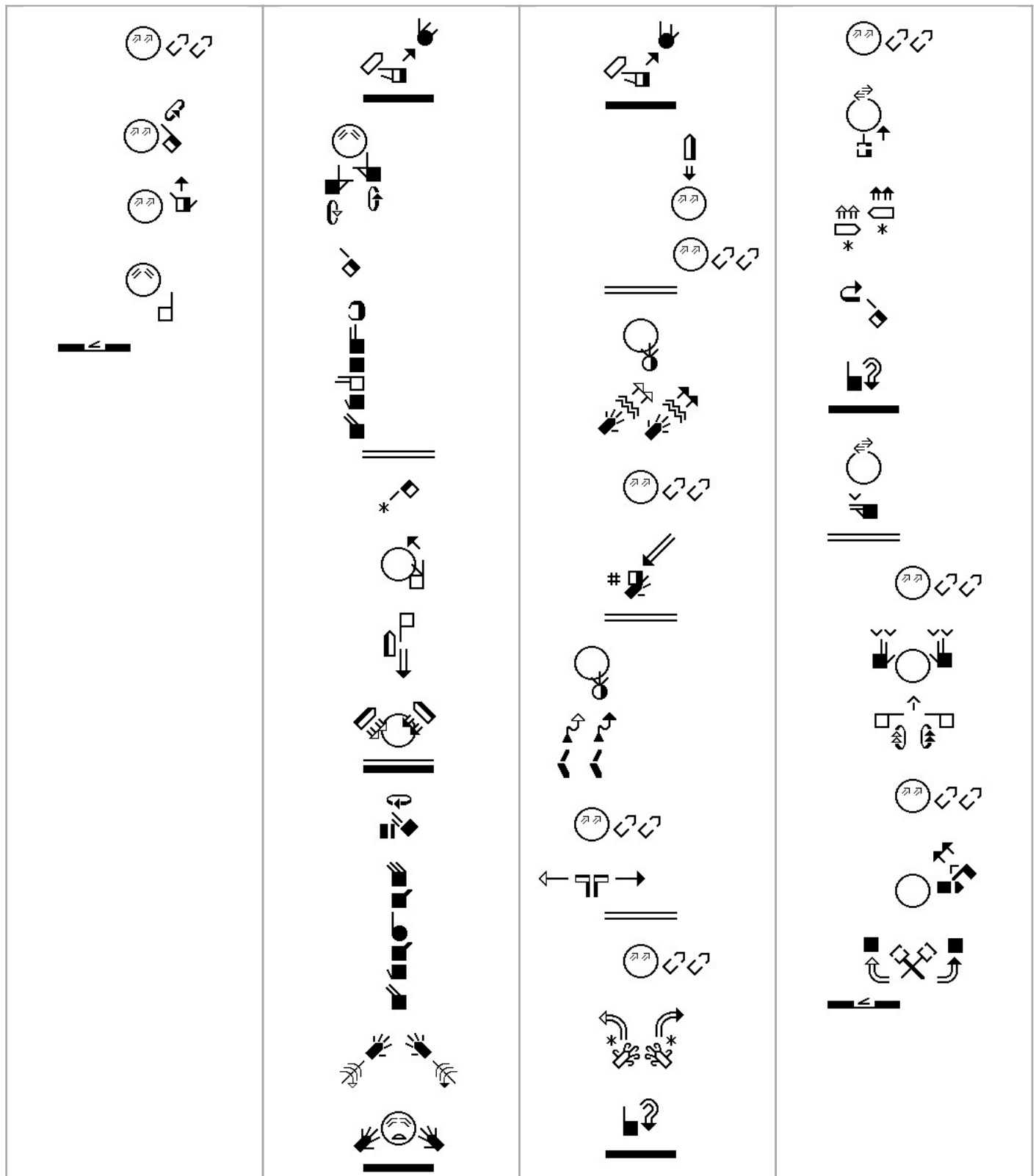
Chapter 3. This prayer was sung by the prophet Habakkuk: Verse 2. I have heard all about you, LORD. I am filled with awe by your amazing works. In this time of our deep need, help us again as you did in years gone by. And in your anger, remember your mercy.

NLT

Verse 3. I see God moving across the deserts from Edom, the Holy One coming from Mount Paran. His brilliant splendor fills the heavens, and the earth is filled with his praise.
Verse 4. His coming is as brilliant as the sunrise. Rays of light flash from his hands,
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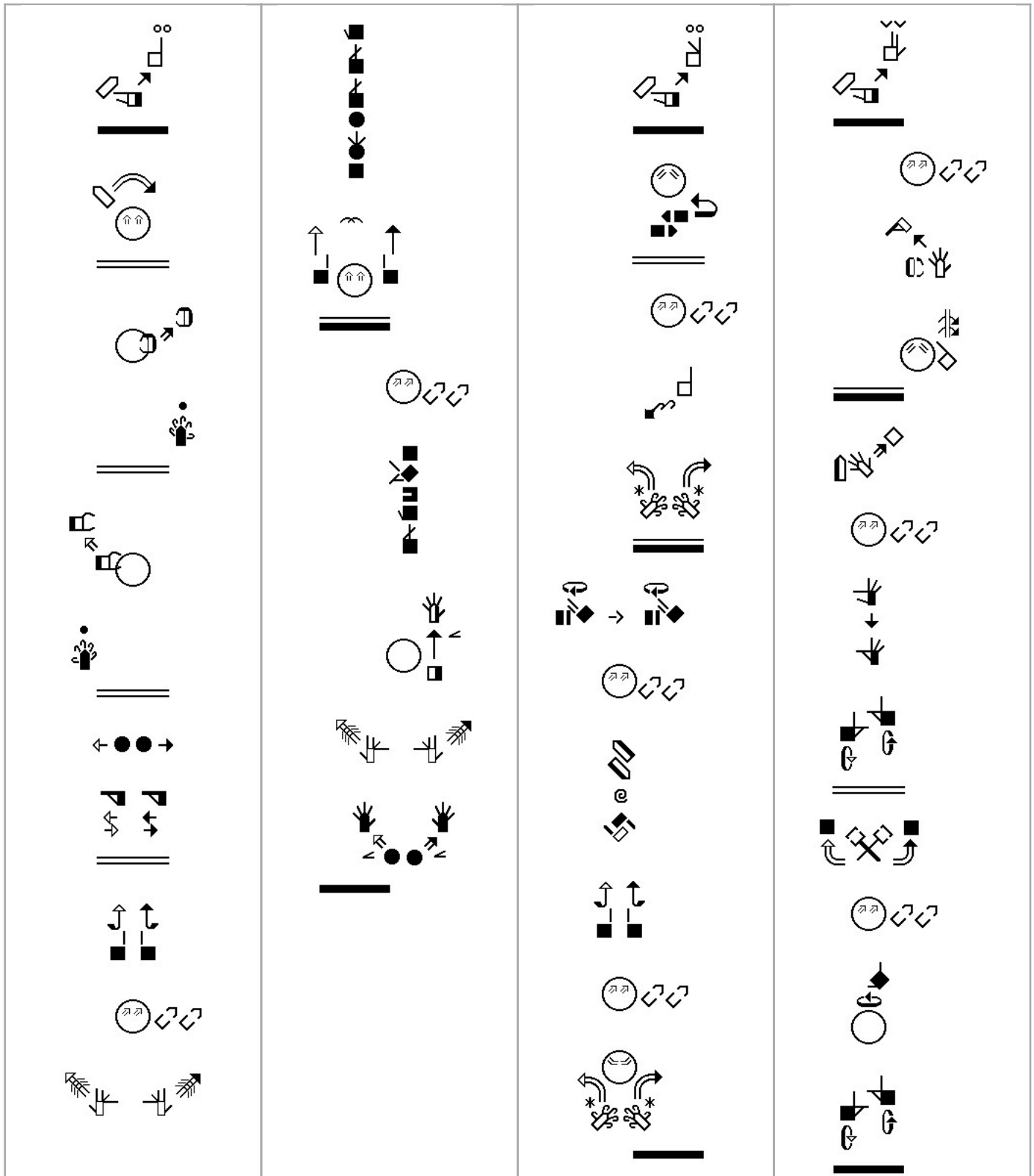
where his awesome power is hidden. Verse 5. Pestilence marches before him; plague follows close behind. Verse 6. When he stops, the earth shakes. When he looks, the nations tremble. He shatters the everlasting mountains and levels the eternal hills. NLT



He is the Eternal One! Verse 7. I see the people of Cushan in distress, and the nation of Midian trembling in terror. Verse 8. Was it in anger, LORD, that you struck the rivers and parted the sea? Were you displeased with them? No, you were sending your chariots of salvation!

NLT

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Verse 11. The sun and moon stood still in the sky as your brilliant arrows flew and your glittering spear flashed. Verse 12. You marched across the land in anger and trampled the nations in your fury. Verse 13. You went out to rescue your chosen people, to save your anointed ones.

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You crushed the heads of the wicked and stripped their bones from head to toe. Verse 14. With his own weapons, you destroyed the chief of those who rushed out like a whirlwind, thinking Israel would be easy prey. Verse 15. You trampled the sea with your horses, and the mighty waters piled high. NLT

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