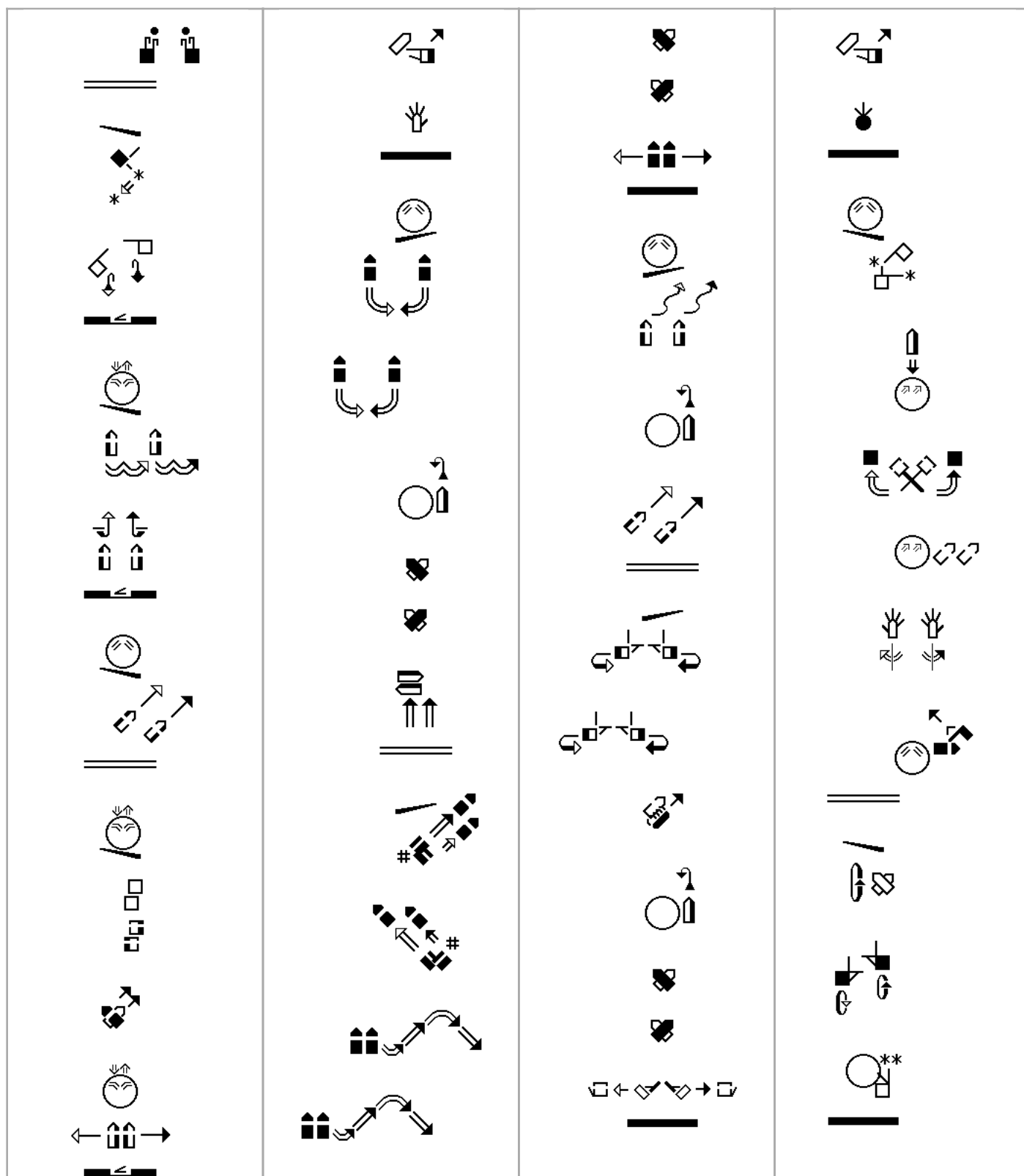


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preaching that people should be baptized to show that they had turned to God to receive forgiveness for their sins. Verse 4. Isaiah had spoken of John when he said, "He is a voice shouting in the wilderness," NLT



'Prepare the way for the LORD'S coming! Clear the road for him! Verse 5. The valleys will be filled, and the mountains and hills made level. The curves will be straightened, and the rough places made smooth. Verse 6. And then all people will see the salvation sent from God.'" NLT

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











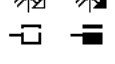
















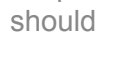














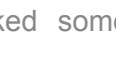












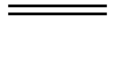

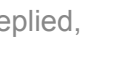
Verse 7. When the crowds came to John for baptism, he said, "You brood of snakes! Who warned you to flee God's coming wrath? Verse 8. Prove by the way you live that you have repented of your sins and turned to God. Don't just say to each other, NLT

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'We're safe, for we are descendants of Abraham.' That means nothing, for I tell you, God can create children of Abraham from these very stones. Verse 9. Even now the ax of God's judgment is poised, ready to sever the roots of the trees. Yes, every tree that does not produce good fruit NLT



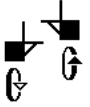





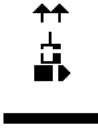
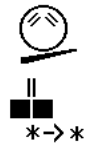











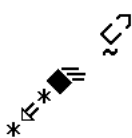
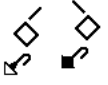










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will be chopped down and thrown into the fire." Verse 10. The crowds asked, "What should we do?" Verse 11. John replied, "If you have two shirts, give one to the poor. If you have food, share it with those who are hungry." NLT

              	              	              	              
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Verse 12. Even corrupt tax collectors came to be baptized and asked, "Teacher, what should we do?" Verse 13. He replied, "Collect no more taxes than the government requires." Verse 14. "What should we do?" asked some soldiers. John replied, NLT

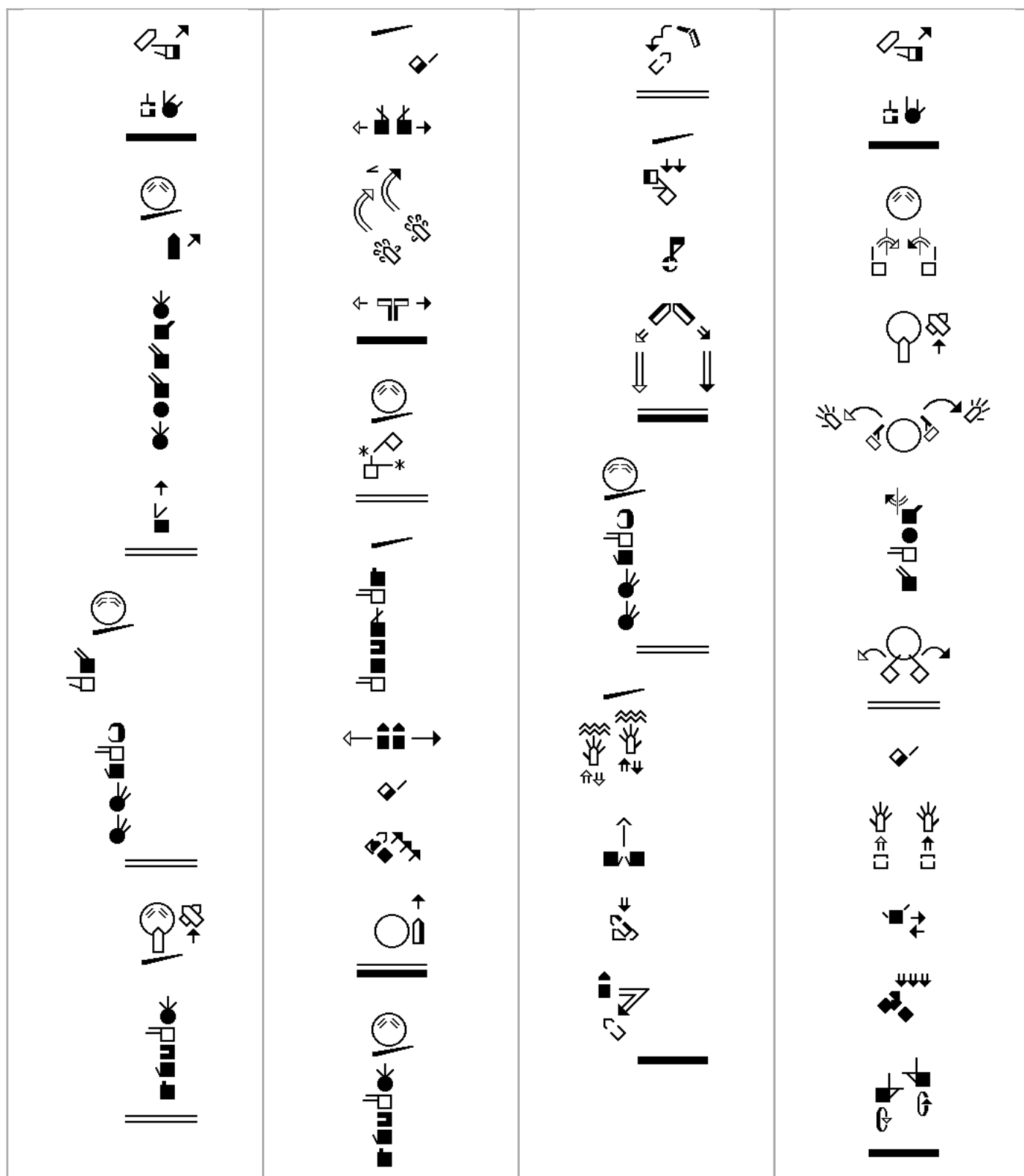


        	     	          	      
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"Don't extort money or make false accusations. And be content with your pay." Verse 15. Everyone was expecting the Messiah to come soon, and they were eager to know whether John might be the Messiah. NLT

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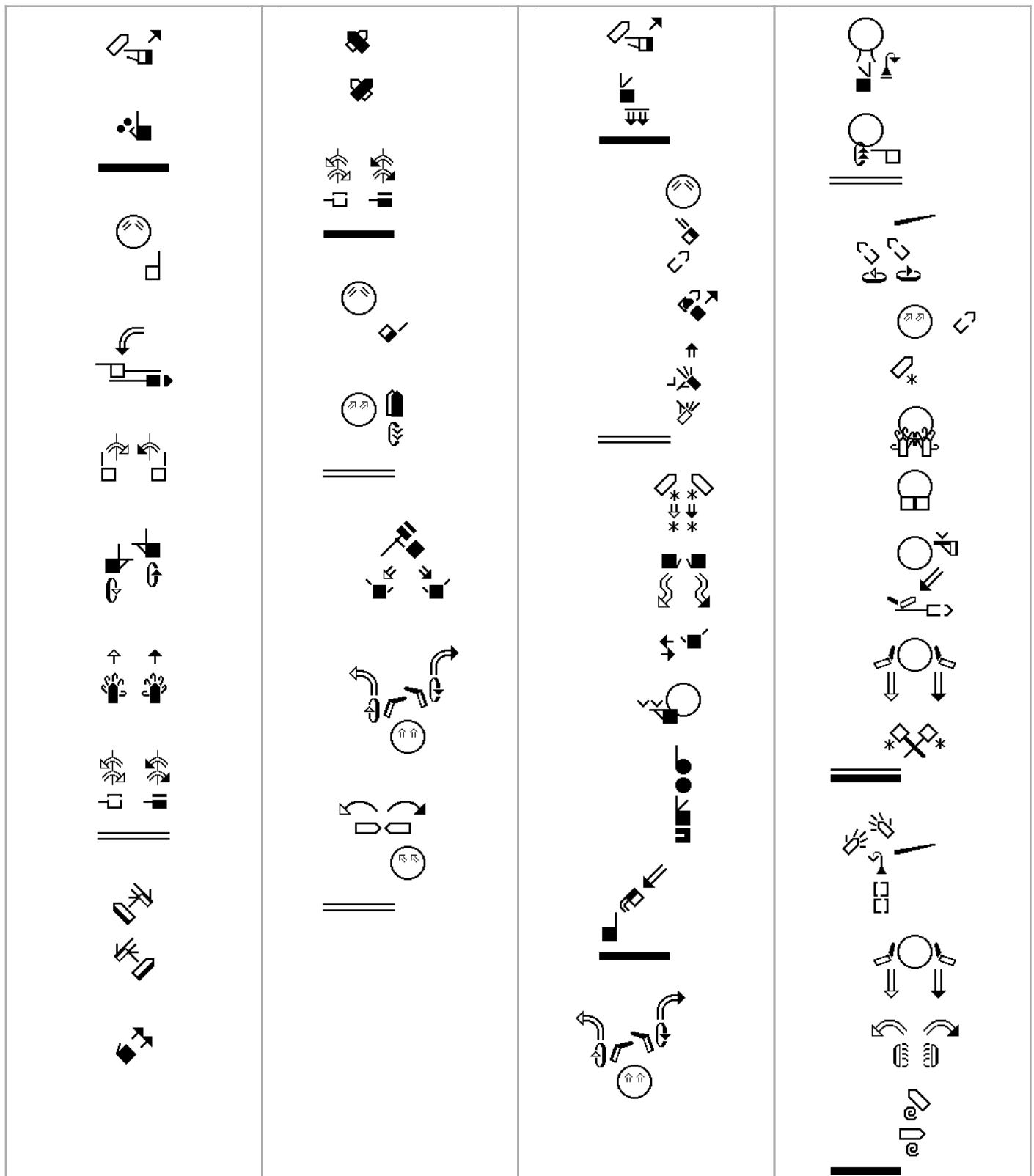
Verse 16. John answered their questions by saying, "I baptize you with water; but someone is coming soon who is greater than I am -- so much greater that I'm not even worthy to be his slave and untie the straps of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. NLT



Verse 17. He is ready to separate the chaff from the wheat with his winnowing fork. Then he will clean up the threshing area, gathering the wheat into his barn but burning the chaff with never-ending fire." Verse 18. John used many such warnings as he announced the Good News to the people. NLT

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Verse 19. John also publicly criticized Herod Antipas, the ruler of Galilee, for marrying Herodias, his brother's wife, and for many other wrongs he had done. Verse 20. So Herod put John in prison, adding this sin to his many others. NLT



Verse 21. One day when the crowds were being baptized, Jesus himself was baptized. As he was praying, the heavens opened, Verse 22. and the Holy Spirit, in bodily form, descended on him like a dove. And a voice from heaven said, "You are my dearly loved Son, and you bring me great joy." NLT

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Verse 23. Jesus was about thirty years old when he began his public ministry. Jesus was known as the son of Joseph. Joseph was the son of Heli. Verse 24. Heli was the son of Matthat. Matthat was the son of Levi. Levi was the son of Melki. Melki was the son of Jannai. NLT


Jannai was the son of Joseph. Verse 25. Joseph was the son of Mattathias. Mattathias was the son of Amos. Amos was the son of Nahum. Nahum was the son of Esli. Esli was the son of Naggai. NLT

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Verse 26. Naggai was the son of Maath. Maath was the son of Mattathias. Mattathias was the son of Semein. Semein was the son of Josech. Josech was the son of Joda.  
 Verse 27. Joda was the son of Joanan. Joanan NLT



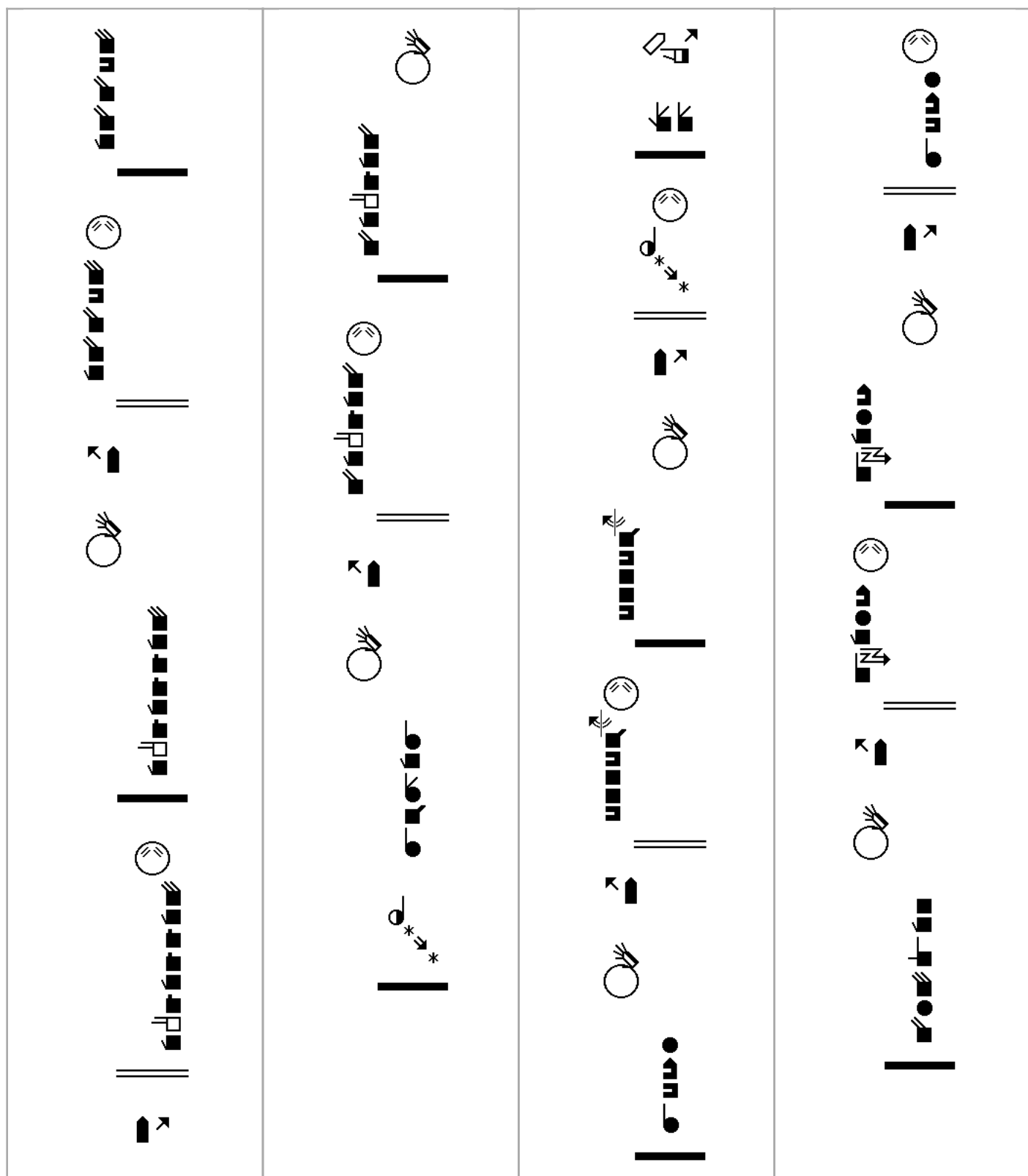
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71 was the son of Elmadam. Elmadam was the son of Er. Verse 29. Er was the son of Joshua. Joshua was the son of Eliezer Eliezer was the son of Jorim. Jorim was the son Matthat. Matthat was the son of Levi. NLT


Verse 30. Levi was the son of Simeon. Simeon was the son of Judah. Judah was the son of Joseph. Joseph was the son of Jonam. Jonam was the son of Eliakim. Verse 31. Eliakim was the son of Melea. Melea

NLT



was the son of Menna. Menna was the son of Mattatha. Mattatha was the son of Nathan. Nathan was the son of David. Verse 32. David was the son of Jesse. Jesse was the son of Obed. Obed was the son of Boaz. Boaz was the son of Salmon. NLT


Salmon was the son of Nahshon. Verse 33. Nahshon was the son of Amminadab. Amminadab was the son of Admin. Admin was the son of Arni. Arni was the son of Hezron. Hezron was the son of Perez. Perez was the son of Judah. NLT

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Reu was the son of Peleg. Peleg was the son of Eber. Eber was the son of Shelah. Verse 36. Shelah was the son of Cainan. Cainan was the son of Arphaxad. Arphaxad was the son of Shem. Shem was the son of

NLT

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Noah. Noah was the son of Lamech. Verse 37. Lamech was the son of Methuselah. Methuselah was the son of Enoch. Enoch was the son of Jared. Jared was the son of Mahalalel. Mahalalel was the son of Kenan. NLT



