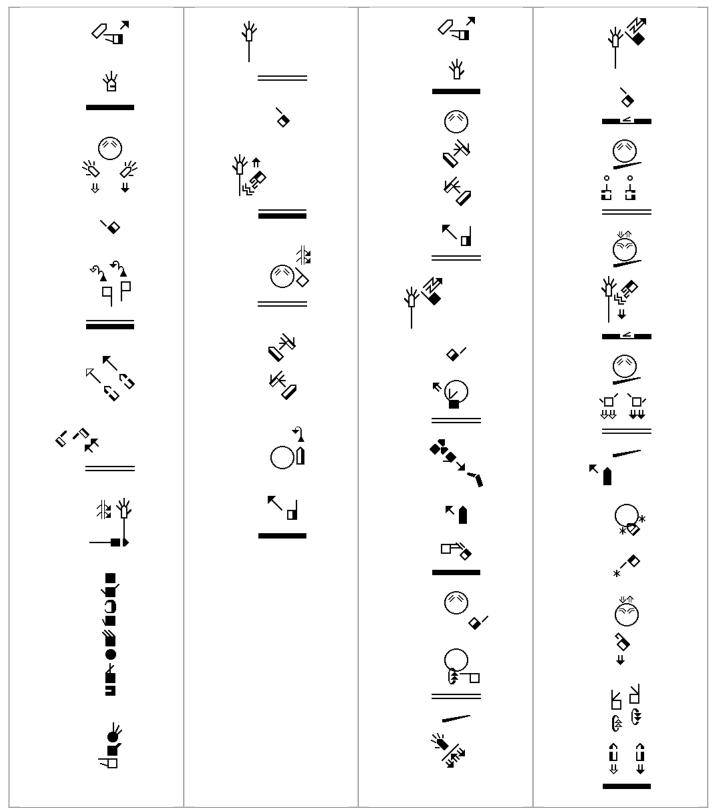
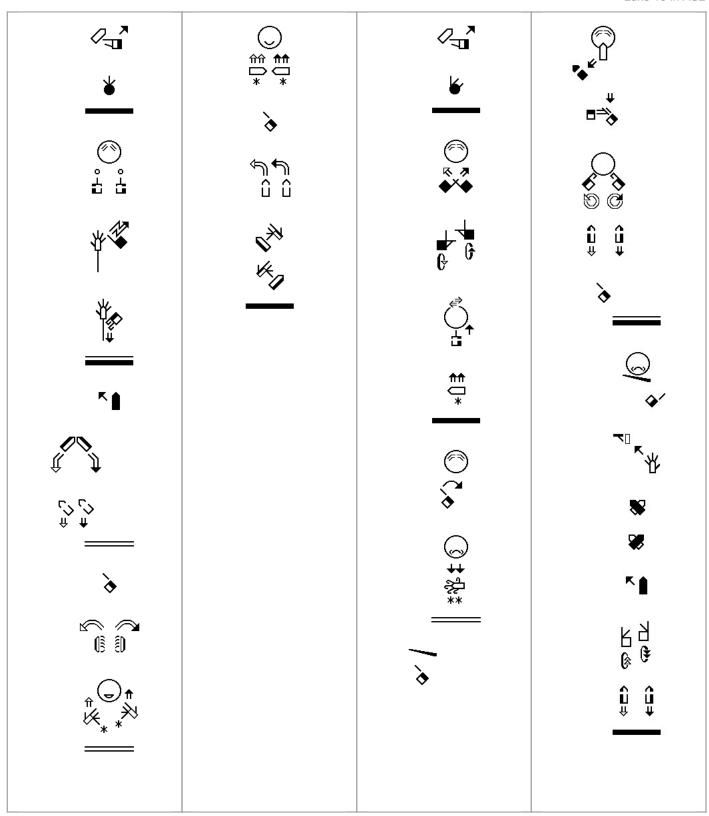


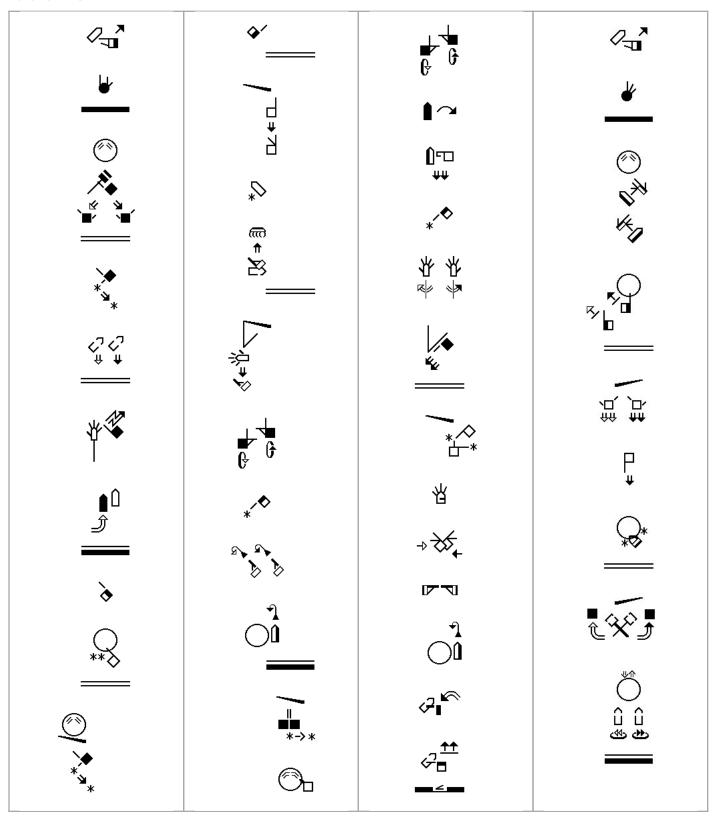
Luke 19. Jesus entered Jericho and made his way through the town. Verse 2. There was a man there named Zacchaeus. He was the chief tax collector in the region, and he had become very rich. Verse 3. He tried to get a look at Jesus, but he was too short to see over the crowd.



Verse 4. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree beside the road, for Jesus was going to pass that way. Verse 5. When Jesus came by, he looked up at Zacchaeus and called him by name. "Zacchaeus!" he said. "Quick, come down! I must be a guest in your home today."



Verse 6. Zacchaeus quickly climbed down and took Jesus to his house in great excitement and joy. Verse 7. But the people were displeased. "He has gone to be the guest of a notorious sinner," they grumbled.



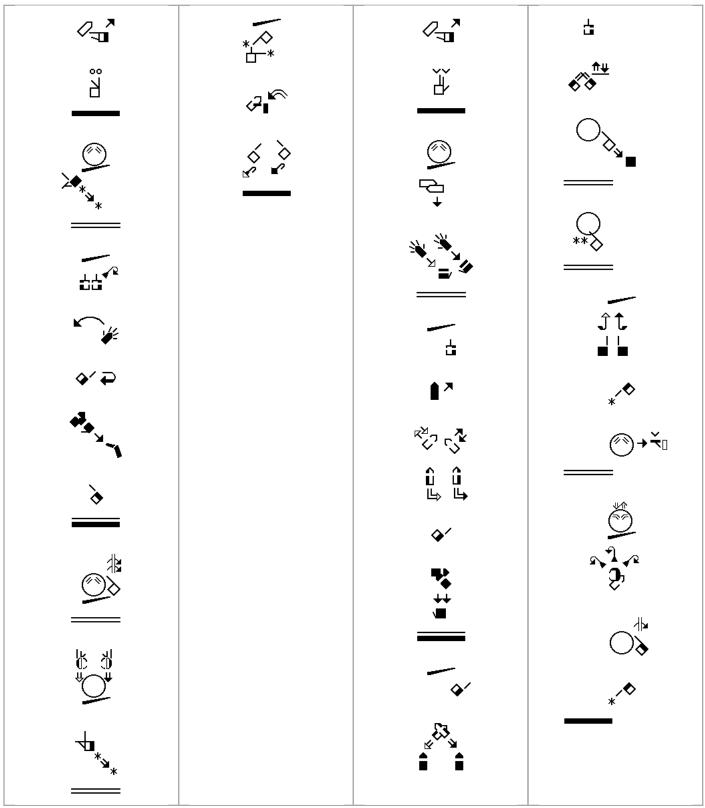
Verse 8. Meanwhile, Zacchaeus stood before the Lord and said, "I will give half my wealth to the poor, Lord, and if I have cheated people on their taxes, I will give them back four times as much!" Verse 9. Jesus responded, "Salvation has come to this home today,

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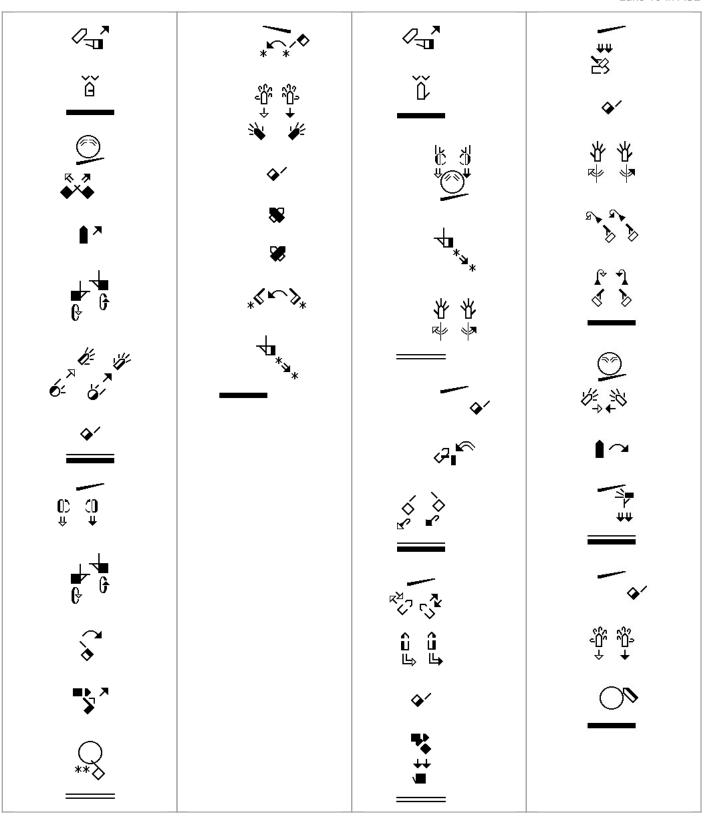
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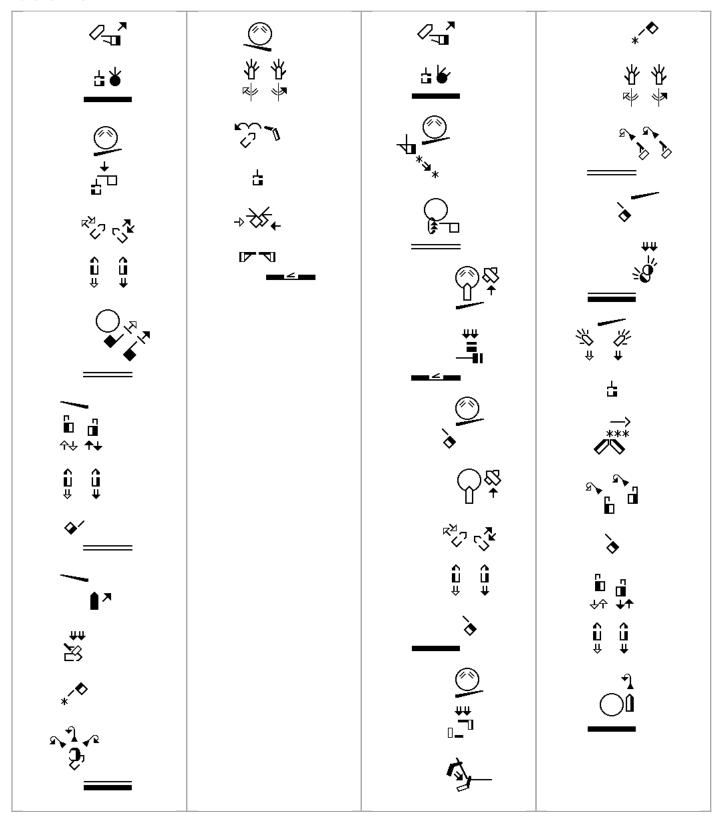
for this man has shown himself to be a true son of Abraham. Verse 10. For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost." Verse 11. The crowd was listening to everything Jesus said. And because he was nearing Jerusalem, he told them a story to correct the impression that the Kingdom of God would begin right away.



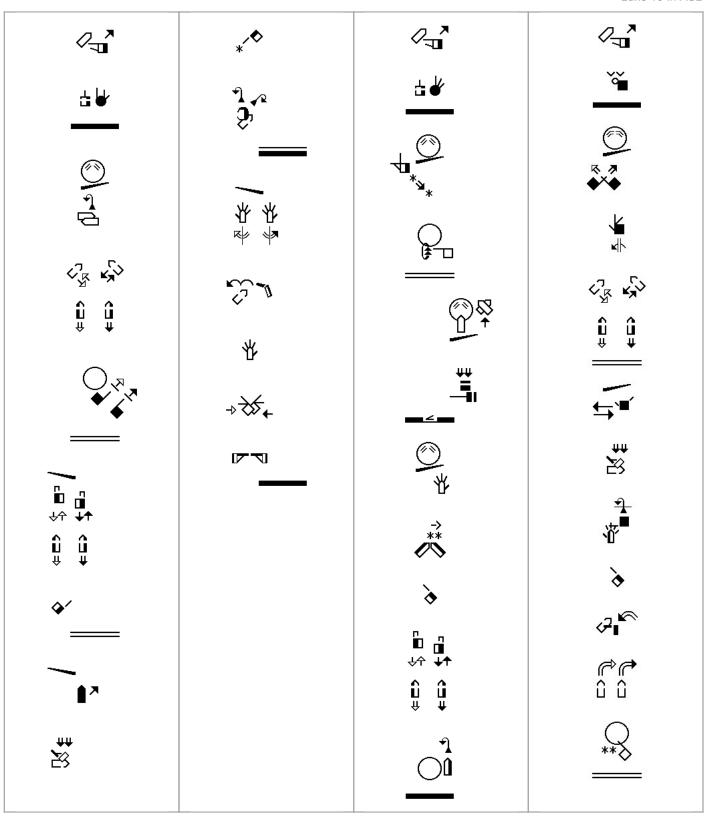
Verse 12. He said, "A nobleman was called away to a distant empire to be crowned king and then return. Verse 13. Before he left, he called together ten of his servants and divided among them ten pounds of silver, saying, 'Invest this for me while I am gone.' NLT



Verse 14. But his people hated him and sent a delegation after him to say, 'We do not want him to be our king.' Verse 15. "After he was crowned king, he returned and called in the servants to whom he had given the money. He wanted to find out what their profits were.

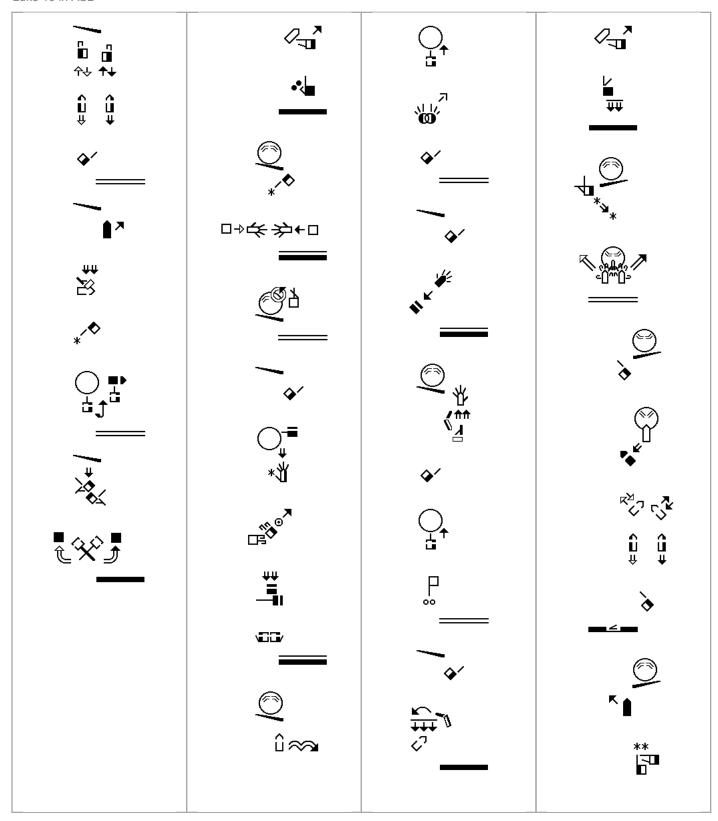


Verse 16. The first servant reported, 'Master, I invested your money and made ten times the original amount!' Verse 17. "'Well done!' the king exclaimed. 'You are a good servant. You have been faithful with the little I entrusted to you, so you will be governor of ten cities as your reward.'

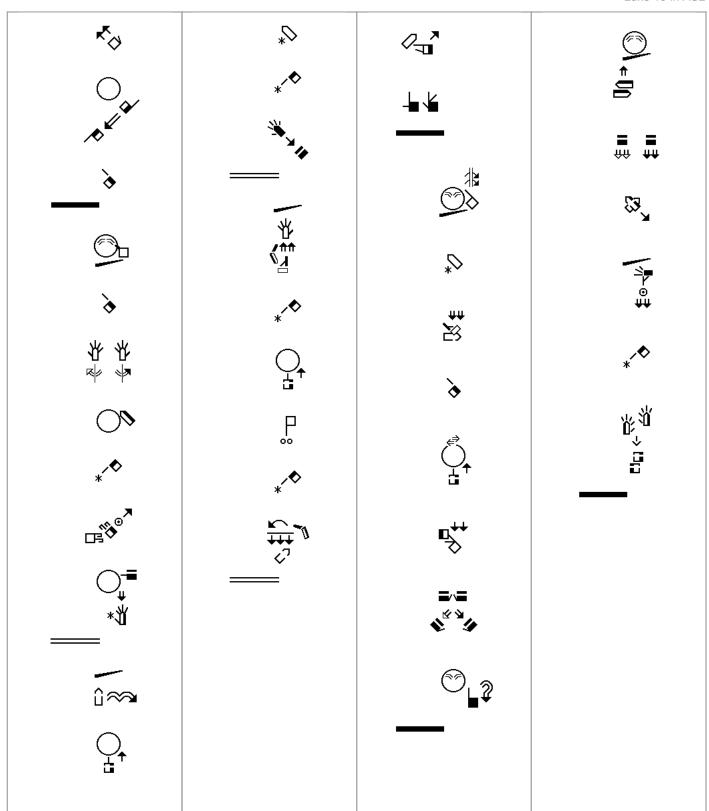


Verse 18. "The next servant reported, 'Master, I invested your money and made five times the original amount.' Verse 19. "'Well done'! the king said. 'You will be governor over five cities.' Verse 20. "But the third servant brought back only the original amount of money and said,

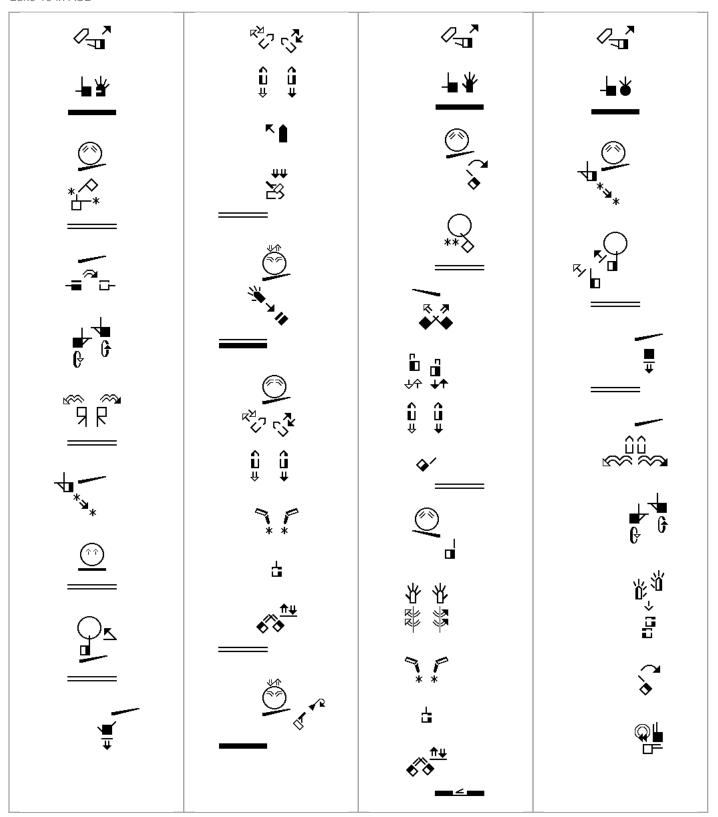
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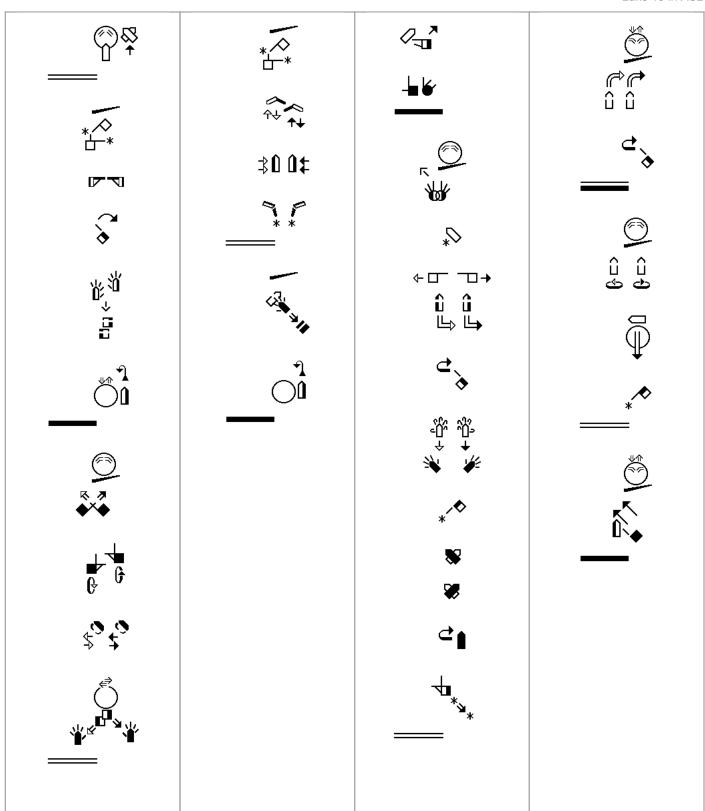
'Master, I hid your money and kept it safe. Verse 21. I was afraid because you are a hard man to deal with, taking what isn't yours and harvesting crops you didn't plant.' Verse 22. "'You wicked servant!' the king roared. 'Your own words NLT



condemn you. If you knew that I'm a hard man who takes what isn't mine and harvests crops I didn't plant, Verse 23. why didn't you deposit my money in the bank? At least I could have gotten some interest on it.'

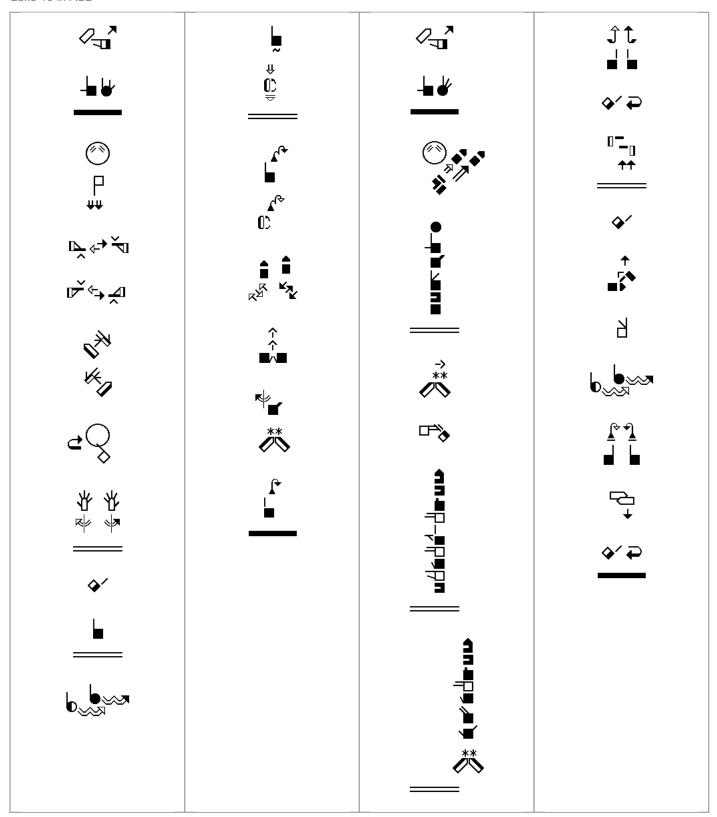


Verse 24. "Then, turning to the others standing nearby, the king ordered, 'Take the money from this servant, and give it to the one who has ten pounds.' Verse 25. "'But, master,' they said, 'he already has ten pounds!' Verse 26. "'Yes,' the king replied, 'and to those who use well what they are given,

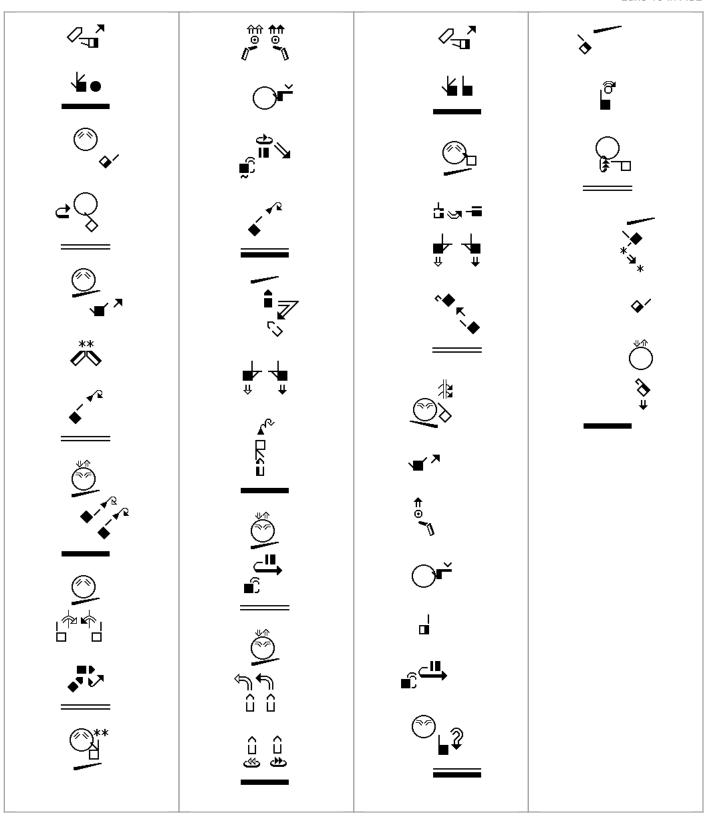


even more will be given. But from those who do nothing, even what little they have will be taken away. Verse 27. And as for these enemies of mine who didn't want me to be their king -- bring them in and execute them right here in front of me."

NLT

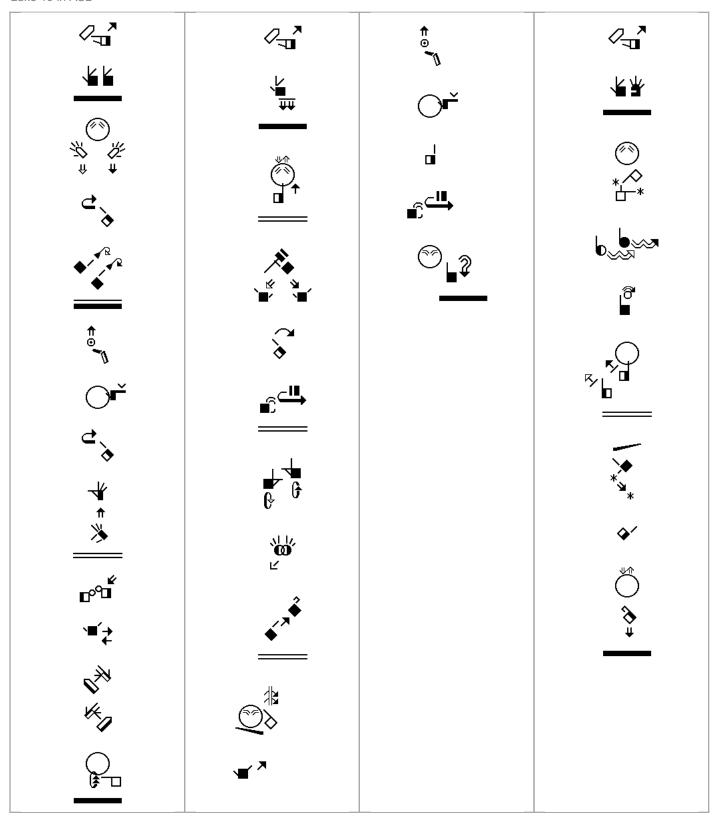


Verse 28. After telling this story, Jesus went on toward Jerusalem, walking ahead of his disciples. Verse 29. As they came to the towns of Bethphage and Bethany on the Mount of Olives, he sent two disciples ahead.

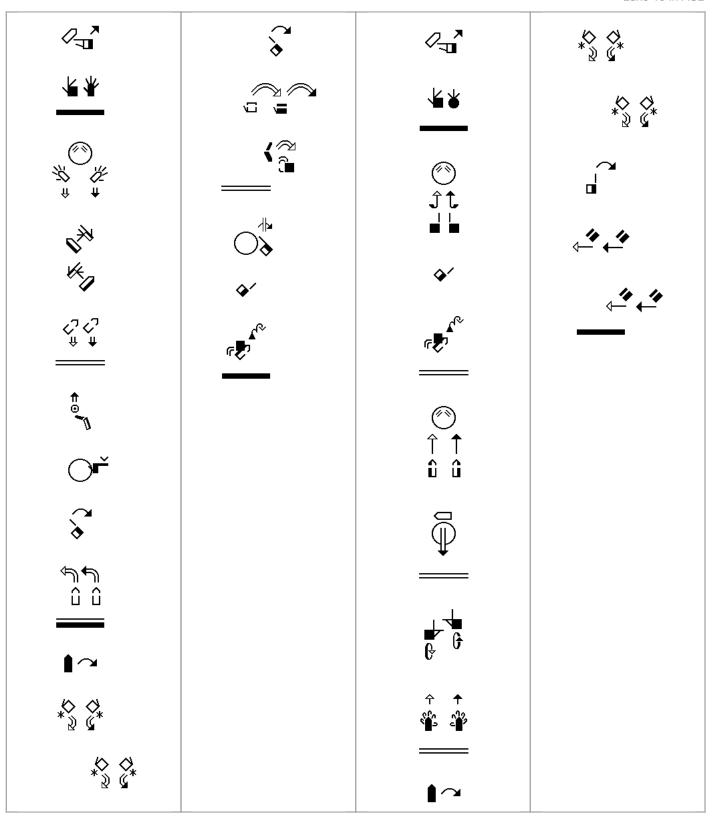


Verse 30. "Go into that village over there," he told them. "As you enter it, you will see a young donkey tied there that no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. Verse 31. If anyone asks, 'Why are you untying that colt?' just say, 'The Lord needs it."

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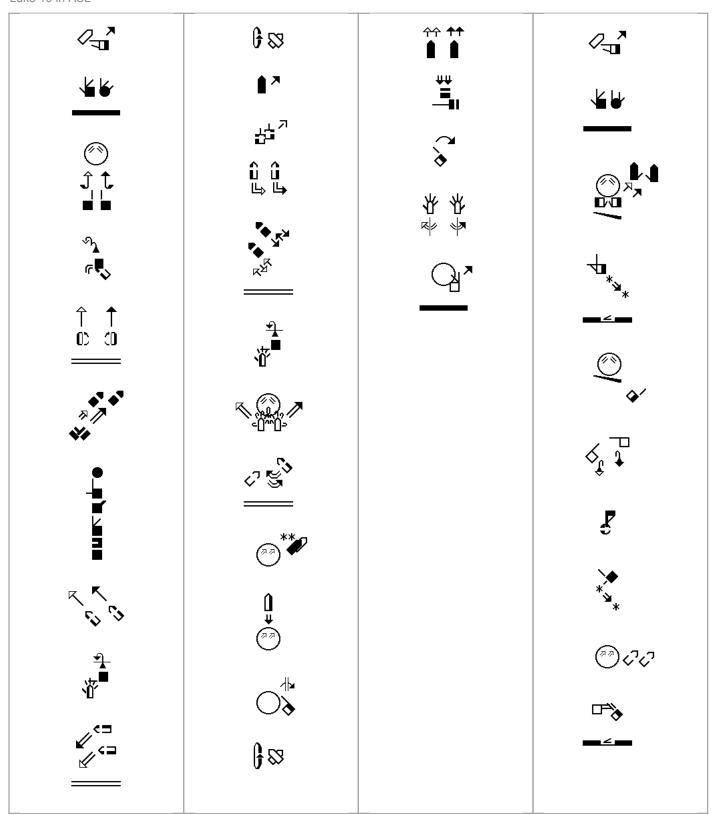


Verse 32. So they went and found the colt, just as Jesus had said. Verse 33. And sure enough, as they were untying it, the owners asked them, "Why are you untying that colt?" Verse 34. And the disciples simply replied, "The Lord needs it."

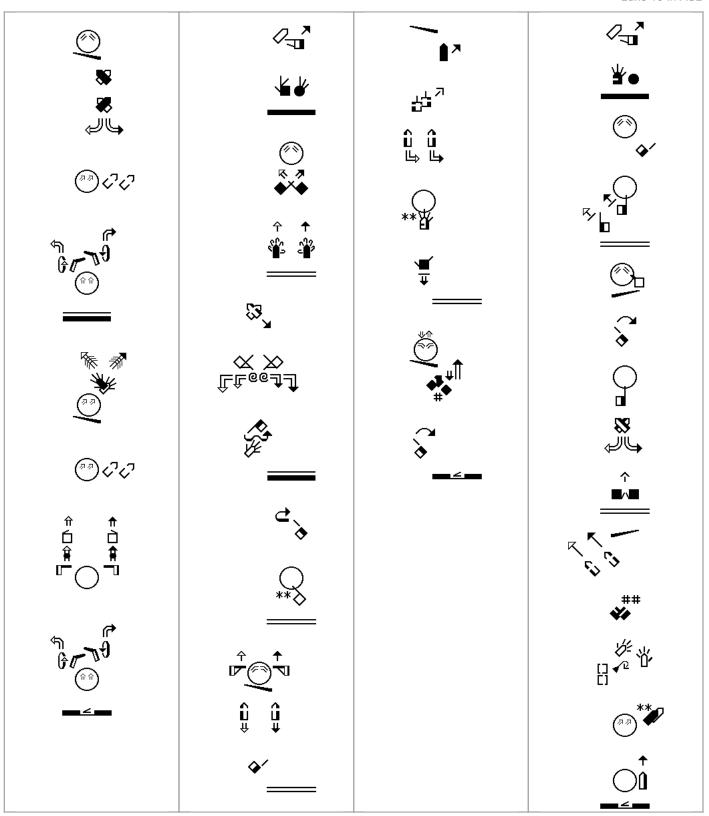


Verse 35. So they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their garments over it for him to ride on. Verse 36. As he rode along, the crowds spread out their garments on the road ahead of him.

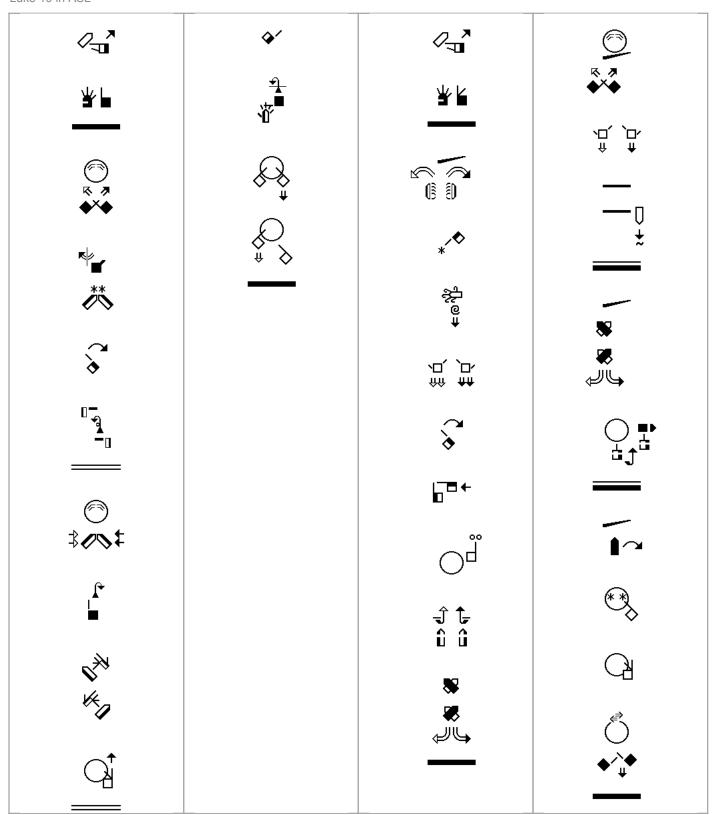
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Verse 37. When they reached the place where the road started down the Mount of Olives, all of his followers began to shout and sing as they walked along, praising God for all the wonderful miracles they had seen. Verse 38. "Blessings on the King who comes in the name of the LORD!

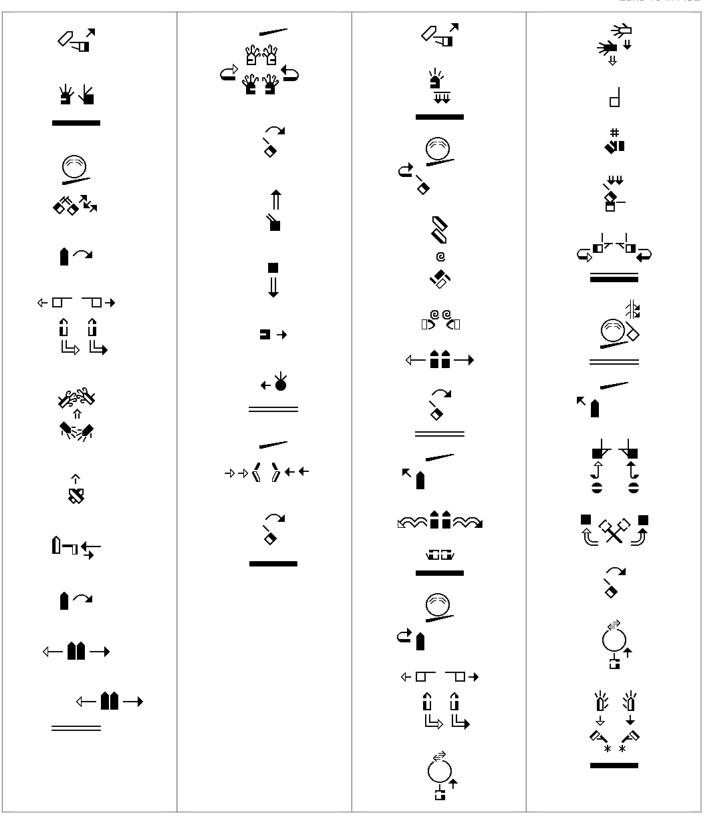


Peace in heaven, and glory in highest heaven!" Verse 39. But some of the Pharisees among the crowd said, "Teacher, rebuke your followers for saying things like that!" Verse 40. He replied, "If they kept quiet, the stones along the road would burst into cheers!" NLT

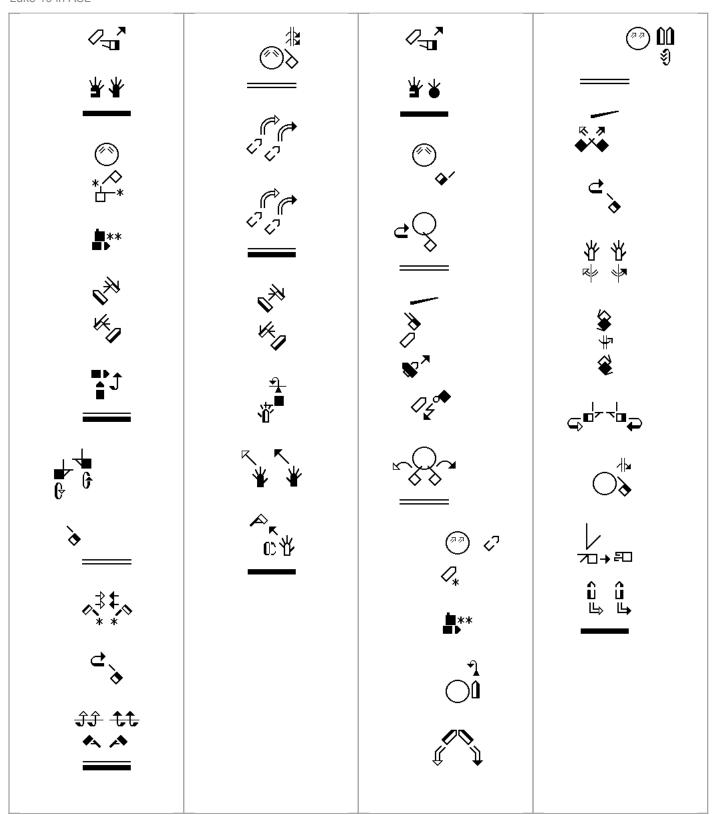


Verse 41. But as they came closer to Jerusalem and Jesus saw the city ahead, he began to weep. Verse 42. "How I wish today that you of all people would understand the way to peace. But now it is too late, and peace is hidden from your eyes.

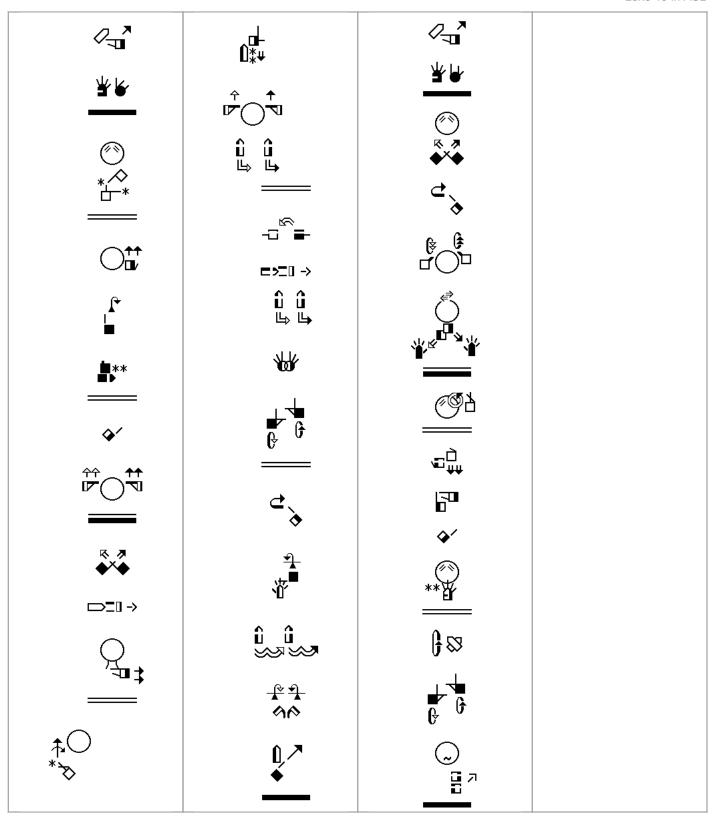
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Verse 43. Before long your enemies will build ramparts against your walls and encircle you and close in on you from every side. Verse 44. They will crush you into the ground, and your children with you. Your enemies will not leave a single stone in place, because you did not accept your opportunity for salvation."



Verse 45. Then Jesus entered the Temple and began to drive out the people selling animals for sacrifices. Verse 46. He said to them, "The Scriptures declare, 'My Temple will be a house of prayer,' but you have turned it into a den of thieves."



Verse 47. After that, he taught daily in the Temple, but the leading priests, the teachers of religious law, and the other leaders of the people began planning how to kill him. Verse 48. But they could think of nothing, because all the people hung on every word he said. NLT