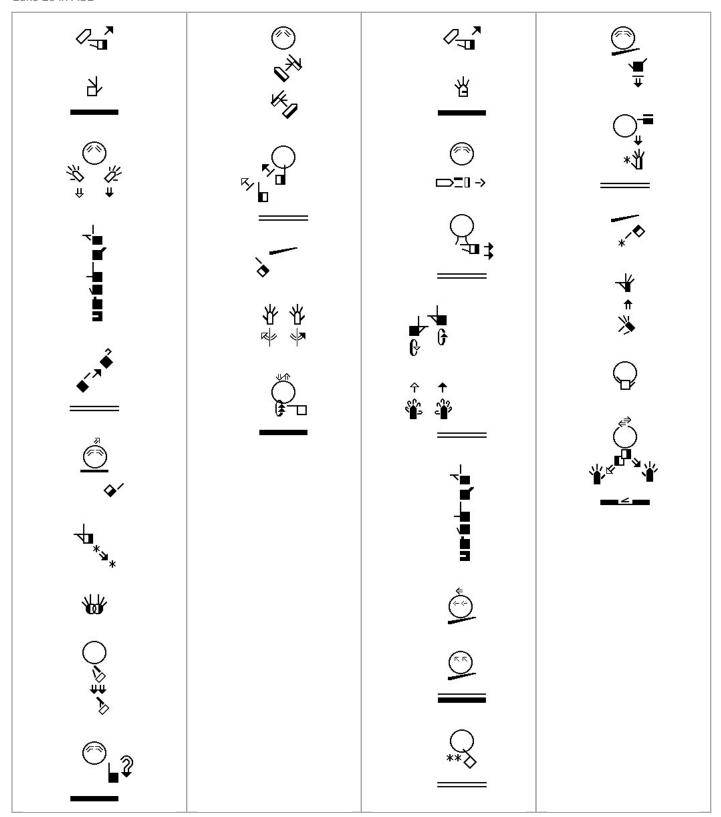
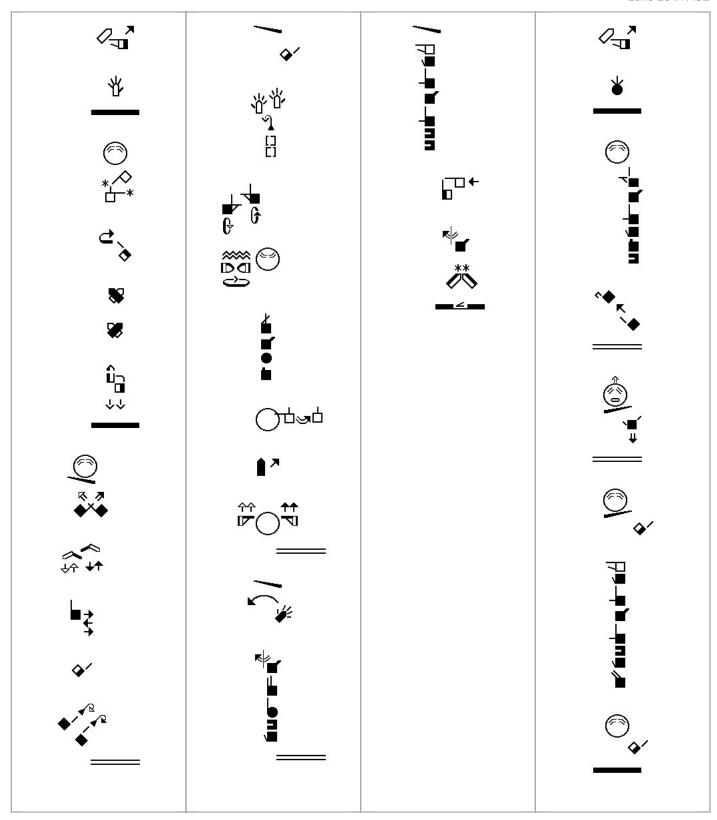


Luke 23. Then the entire council took Jesus to Pilate, the Roman governor. Verse 2. They began to state their case: "This man has been leading our people astray by telling them not to pay their taxes to the Roman government and by claiming he is the Messiah, a king."

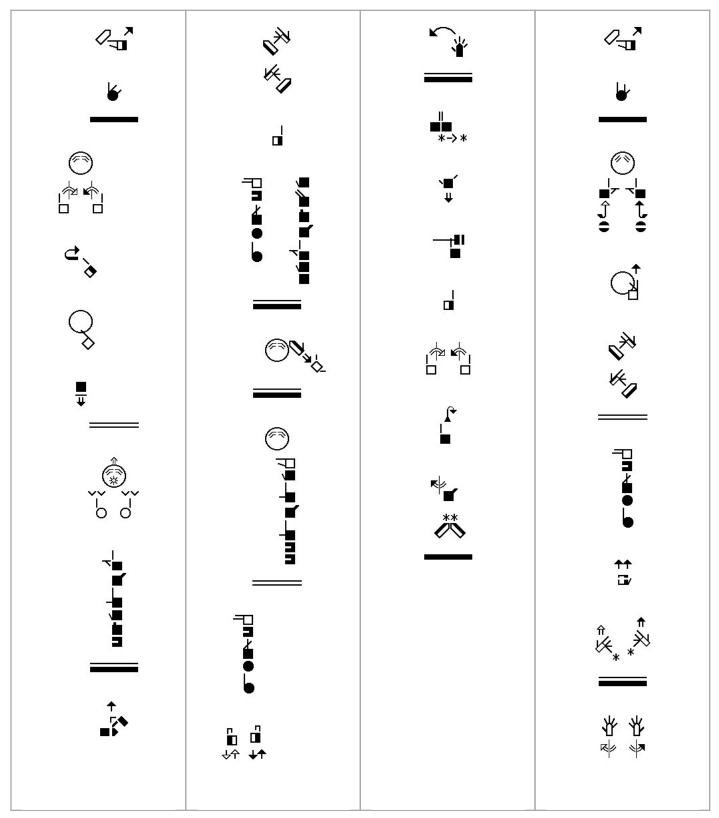


Verse 3. So Pilate asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" Jesus replied, "You have said it." Verse 4. Pilate turned to the leading priests and to the crowd and said, "I find nothing wrong with this man!"

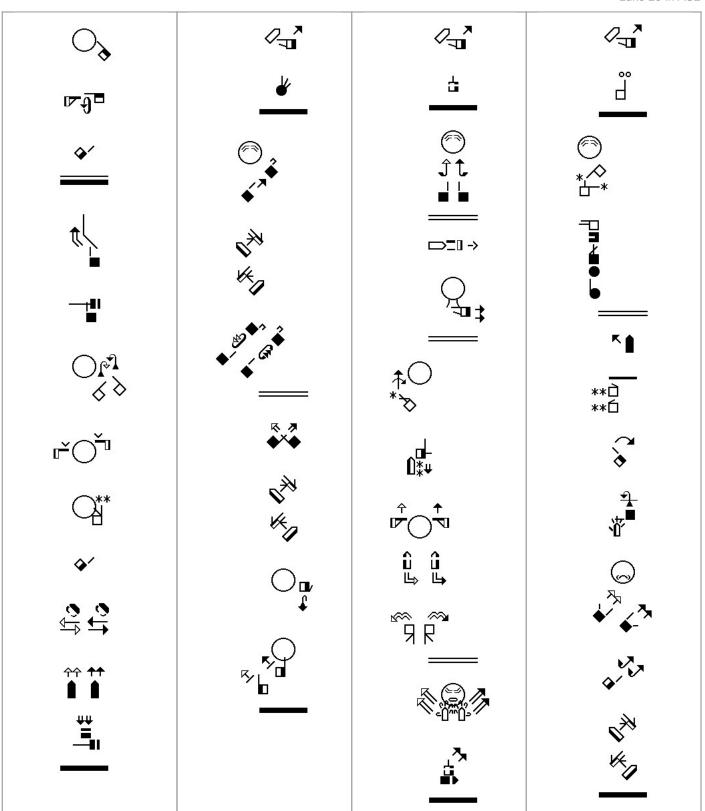
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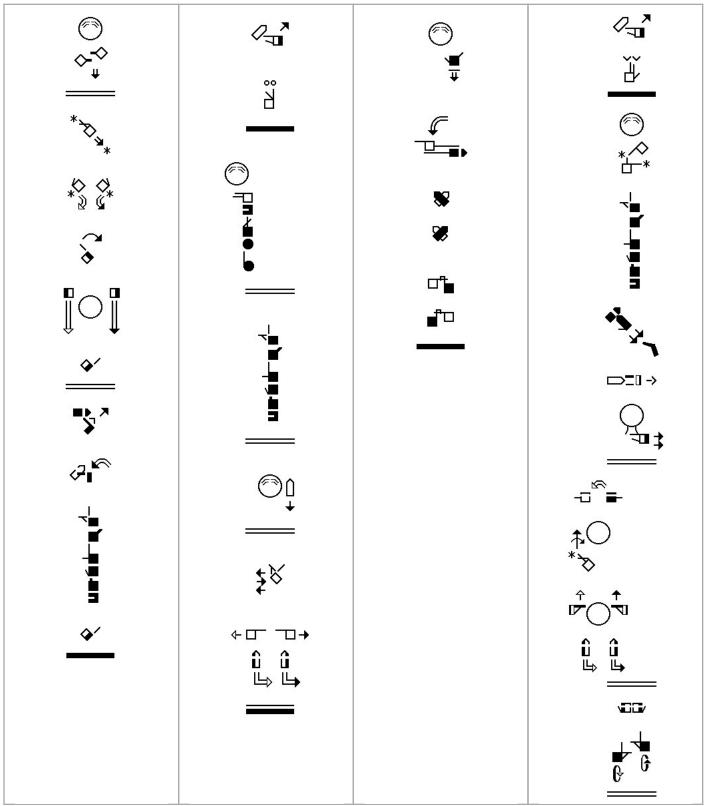
Verse 5. Then they became insistent. "But he is causing riots by his teaching wherever he goes -- all over Judea, from Galilee to Jerusalem!" Verse 6. "Oh, is he a Galilean?" Pilate asked.



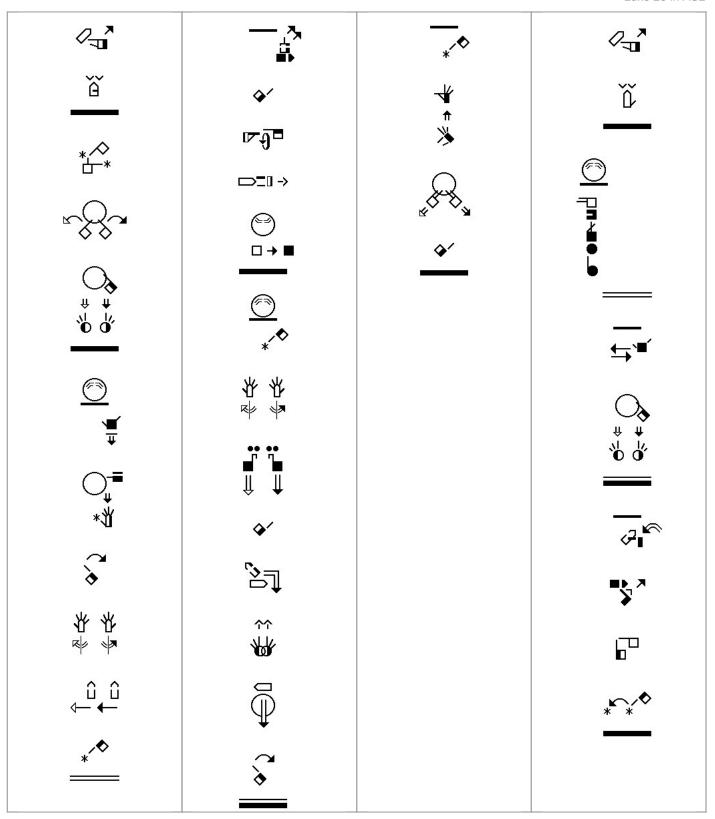
Verse 7. When they said that he was, Pilate sent him to Herod Antipas, because Galilee was under Herod's jurisdiction, and Herod happened to be in Jerusalem at the time. Verse 8. Herod was delighted at the opportunity to see Jesus,



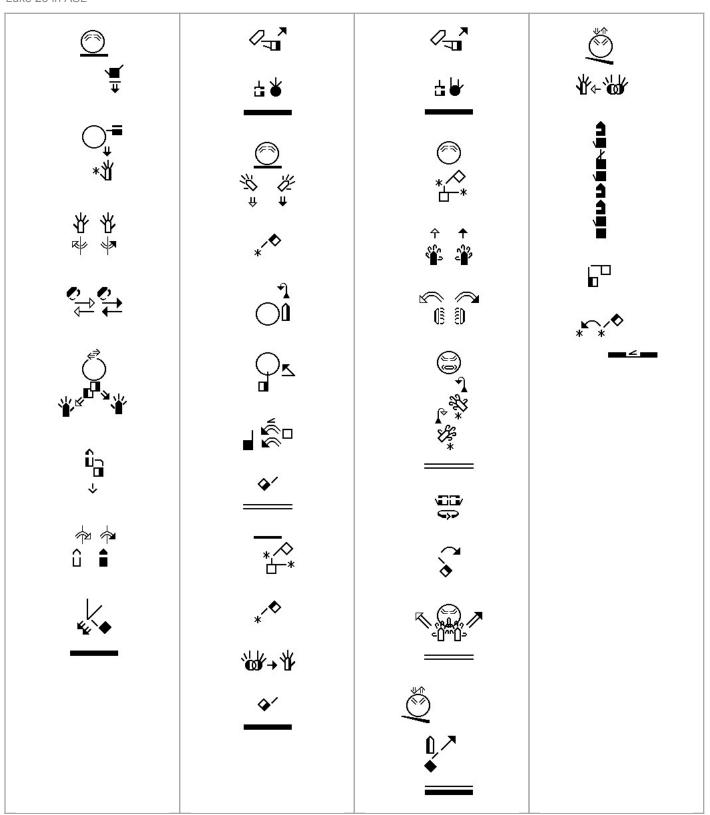
because he had heard about him and had been hoping for a long time to see him perform a miracle. Verse 9. He asked Jesus question after question, but Jesus refused to answer. Verse 10. Meanwhile, the leading priests and the teachers of religious law stood there shouting their accusations. Verse 11. Then Herod and his soldiers began mocking and ridiculing Jesus. NLT



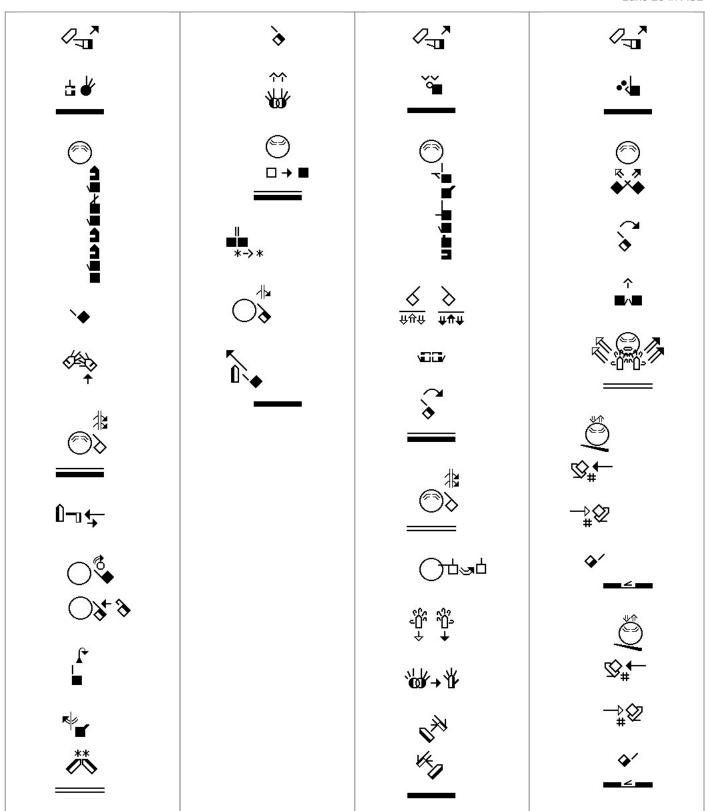
Finally, they put a royal robe on him and sent him back to Pilate. Verse 12. (Herod and Pilate, who had been enemies before, became friends that day.) Verse 13. Then Pilate called together the leading priests and other religious leaders, along with the people, NLT



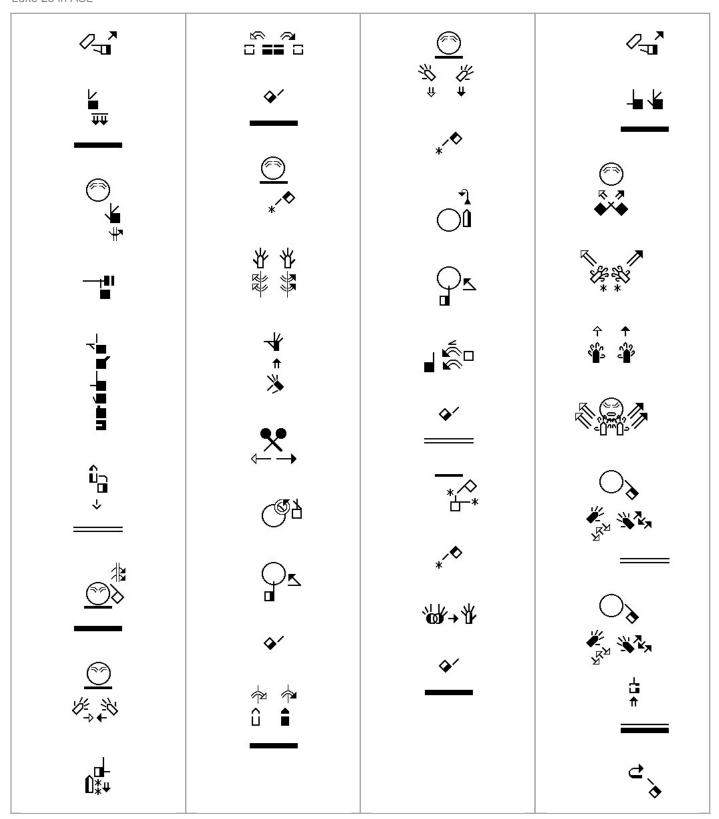
Verse 14. and he announced his verdict. "You brought this man to me, accusing him of leading a revolt. I have examined him thoroughly on this point in your presence and find him innocent. Verse 15. Herod came to the same conclusion and sent him back to us. NLT



Nothing this man has done calls for the death penalty. Verse 16. So I will have him flogged, and then I will release him." (*NOTE: no verse 17 in NLT) Verse 18. Then a mighty roar rose from the crowd, and with one voice they shouted, "Kill him, and release Barabbas to us!"

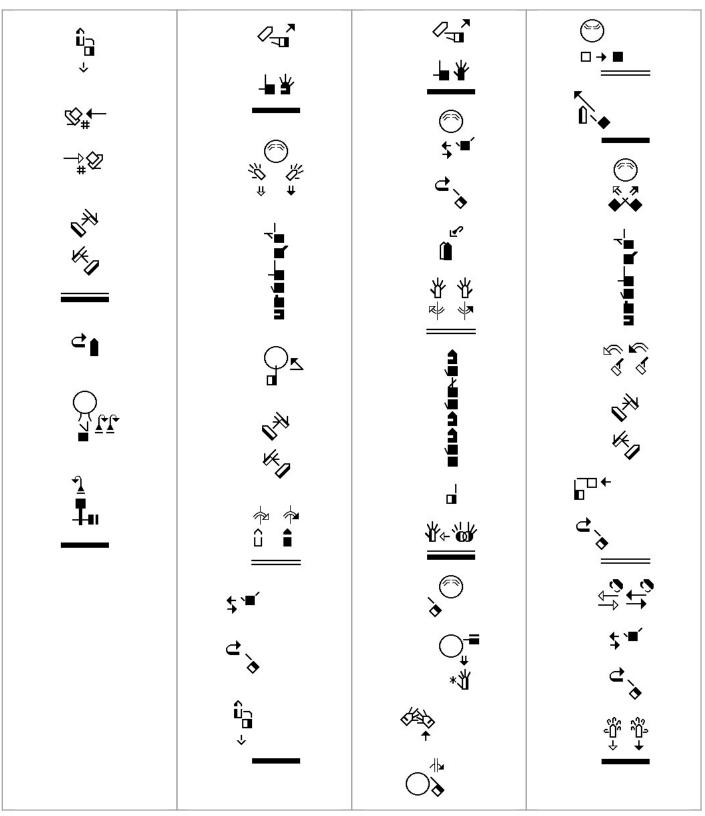


Verse 19. (Barabbas was in prison for taking part in an insurrection in Jerusalem against the government, and for murder.) Verse 20. Pilate argued with them, because he wanted to release Jesus. Verse 21. But they kept shouting, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" NLT

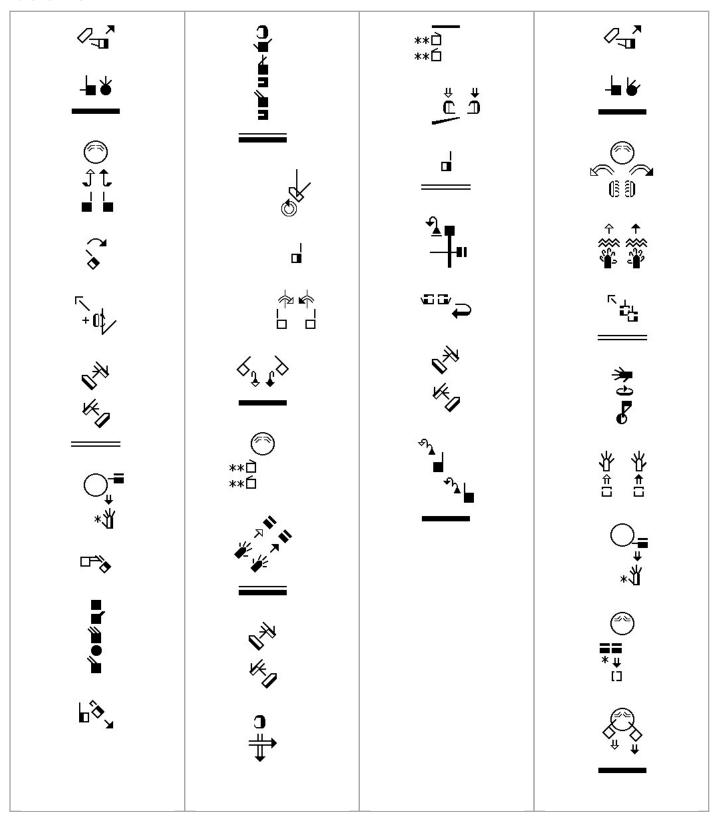


Verse 22. For the third time he demanded, "Why? What crime has he committed? I have found no reason to sentence him to death. So I will have him flogged, and then I will release him." Verse 23. But the mob shouted louder and louder,

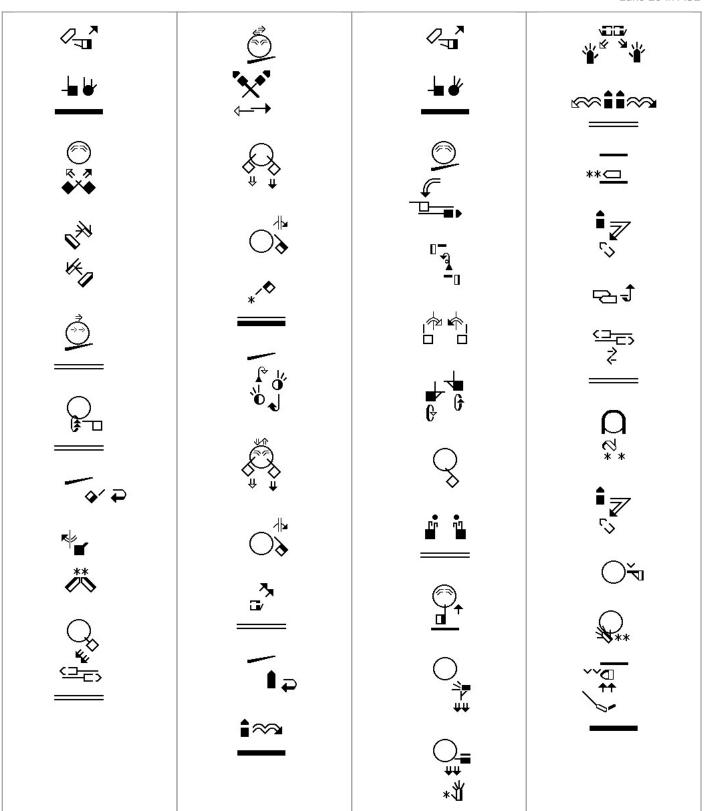
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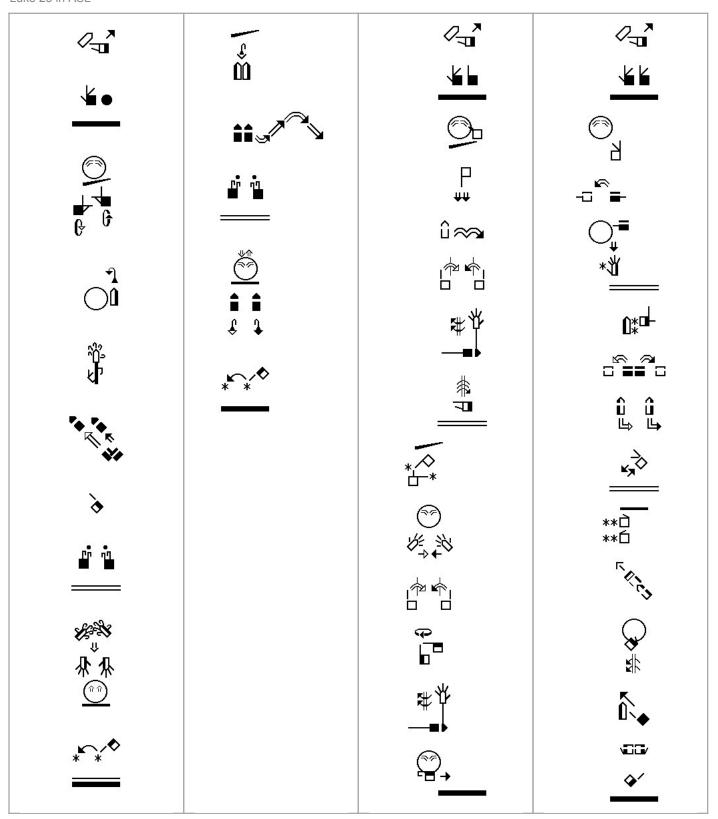
demanding that Jesus be crucified, and their voices prevailed. Verse 24. So Pilate sentenced Jesus to die as they demanded. Verse 25. As they had requested, he released Barabbas, the man in prison for insurrection and murder. But he turned Jesus over to them to do as they wished.



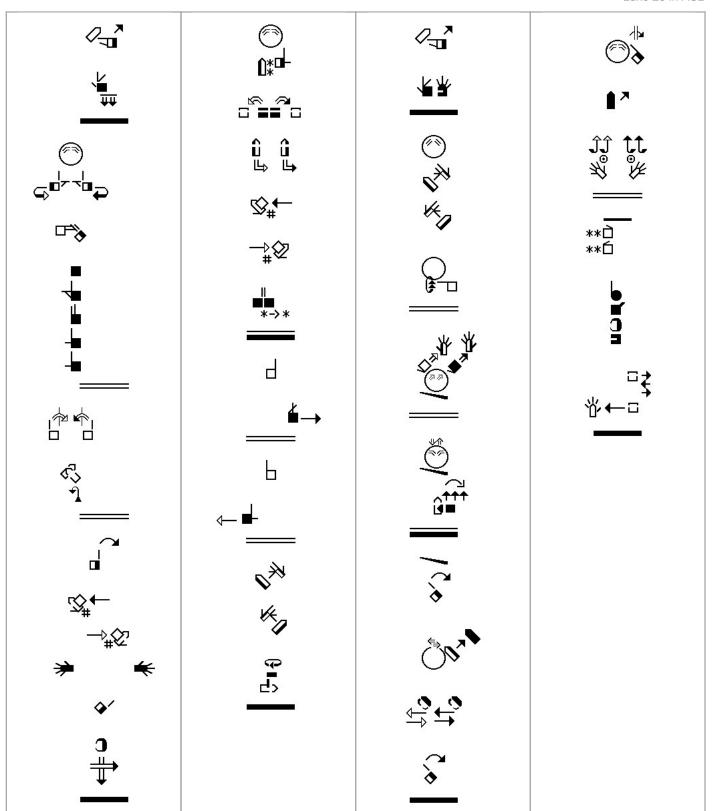
Verse 26. As they led Jesus away, a man named Simon, who was from Cyrene, happened to be coming in from the countryside. The soldiers seized him and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus. Verse 27. A large crowd trailed behind, including many grief-stricken women.



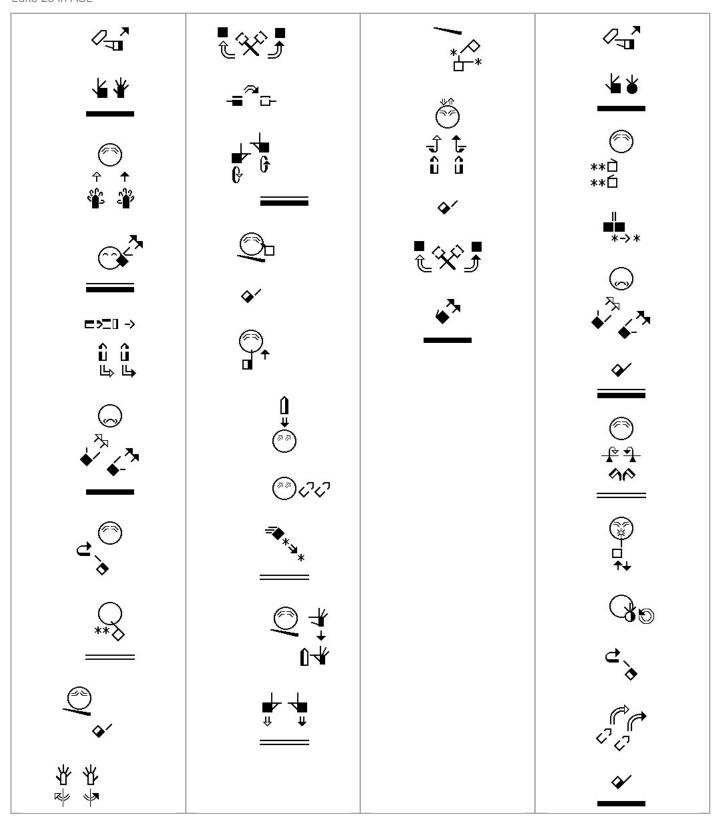
Verse 28. But Jesus turned and said to them, "Daughters of Jerusalem, don't weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. Verse 29. For the days are coming when they will say, 'Fortunate indeed are the women who are childless, the wombs that have not borne a child and the breasts that have never nursed.'



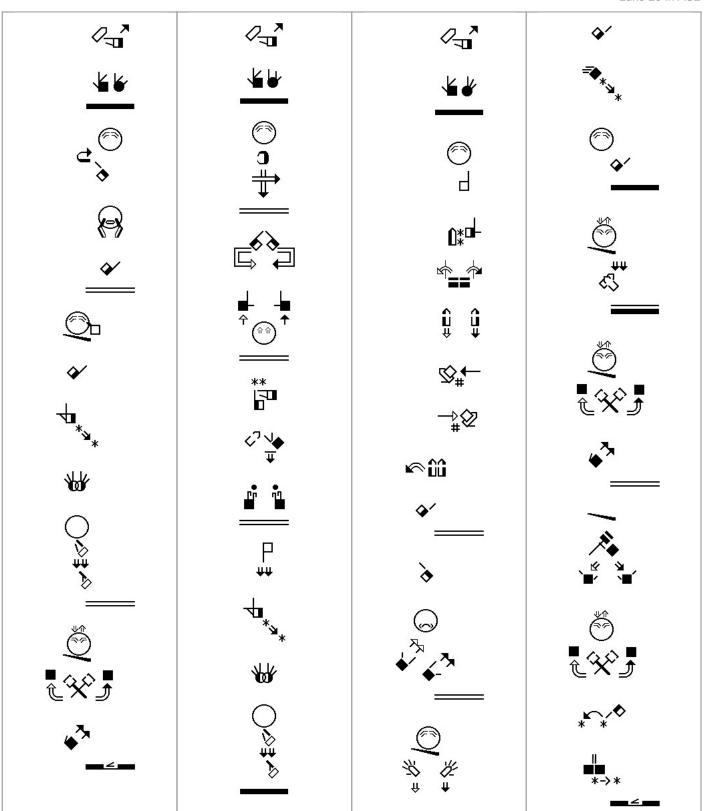
Verse 30. People will beg the mountains, 'Fall on us,' and plead with the hills, 'Bury us.' Verse 31. For if these things are done when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?" Verse 32. Two others, both criminals, were led out to be executed with him. NLT



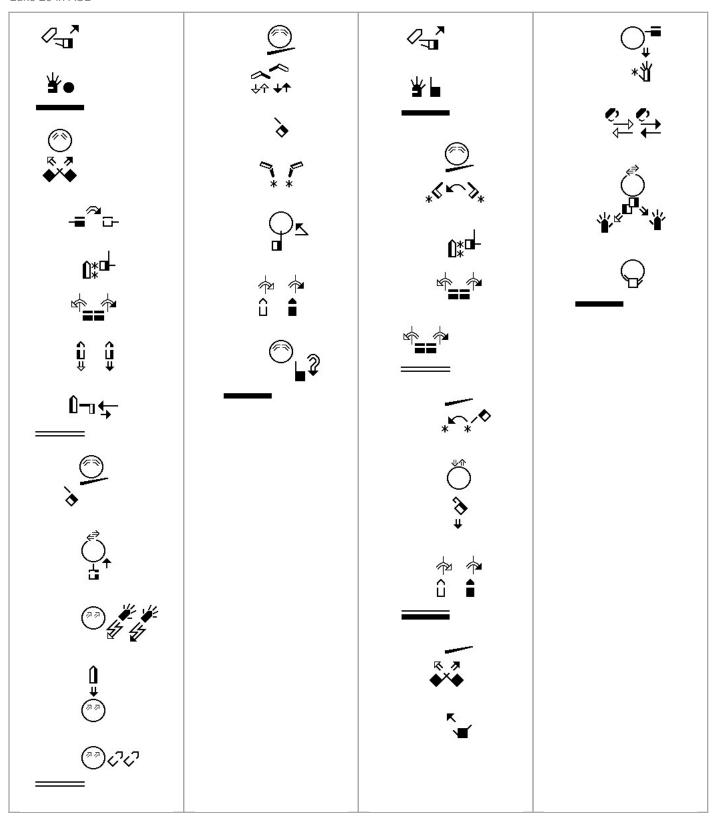
Verse 33. When they came to a place called The Skull, they nailed him to the cross. And the criminals were also crucified -- one on his right and one on his left. Verse 34. Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing." And the soldiers gambled for his clothes by throwing dice.



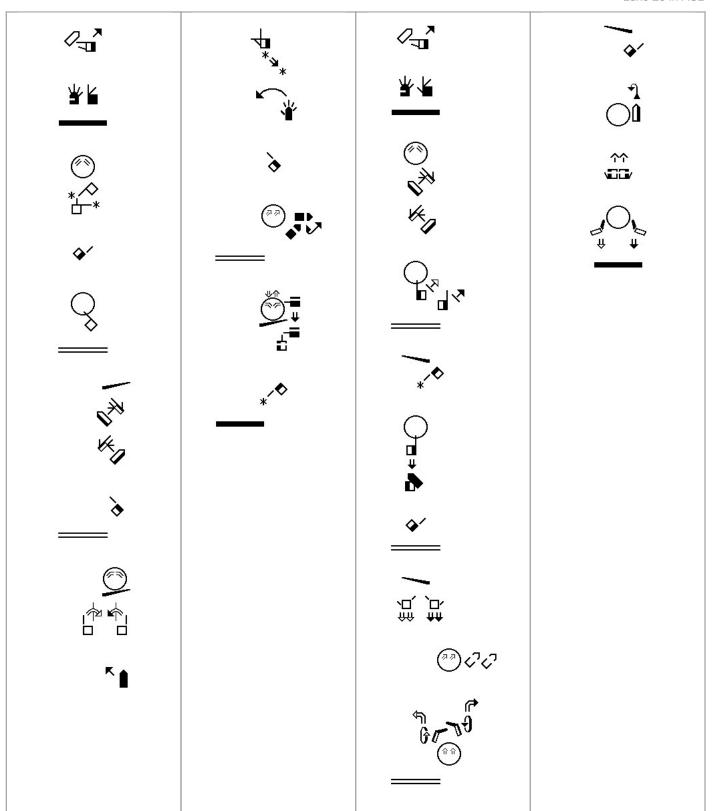
Verse 35. The crowd watched and the leaders scoffed. "He saved others," they said, "let him save himself if he is really God's Messiah, the Chosen One." Verse 36. The soldiers mocked him, too, by offering him a drink of sour wine.



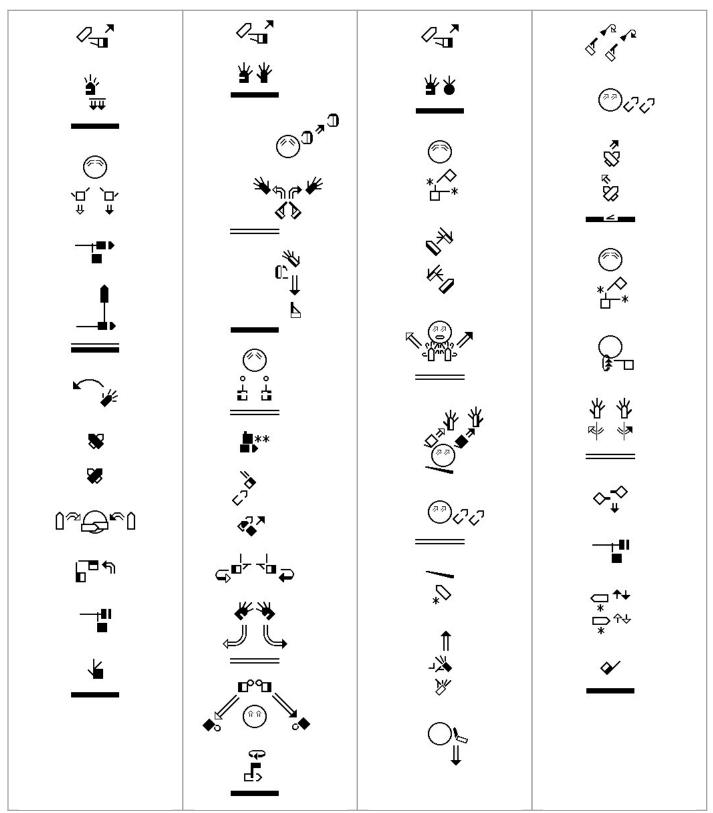
Verse 37. They called out to him, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" Verse 38. A sign was fastened to the cross above him with these words: "This is the King of the Jews." Verse 39. One of the criminals hanging beside him scoffed, "So you're the Messiah, are you? Prove it by saving yourself -- and us, too, while you're at it!" NLT



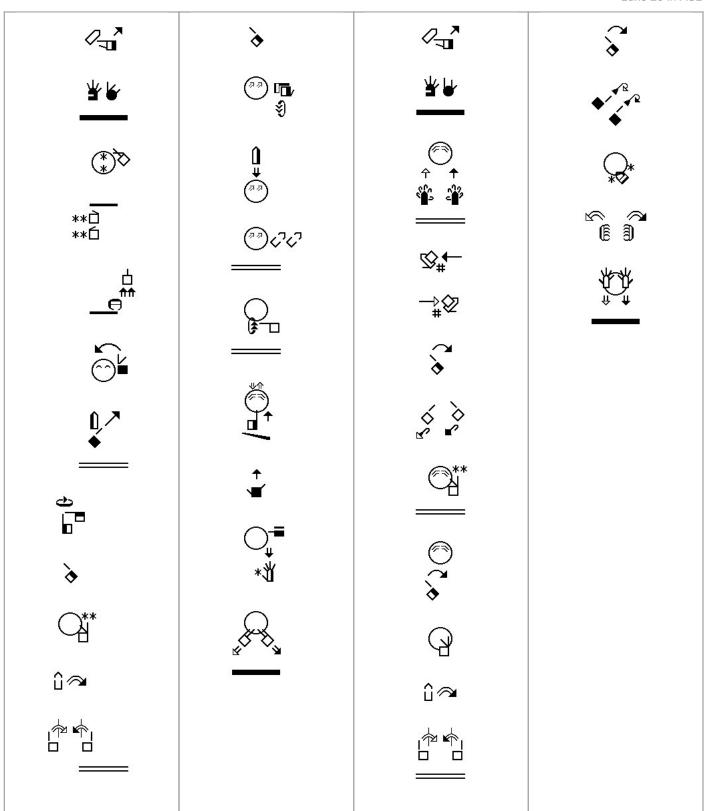
Verse 40. But the other criminal protested, "Don't you fear God even when you have been sentenced to die? Verse 41. We deserve to die for our crimes, but this man hasn't done anything wrong."



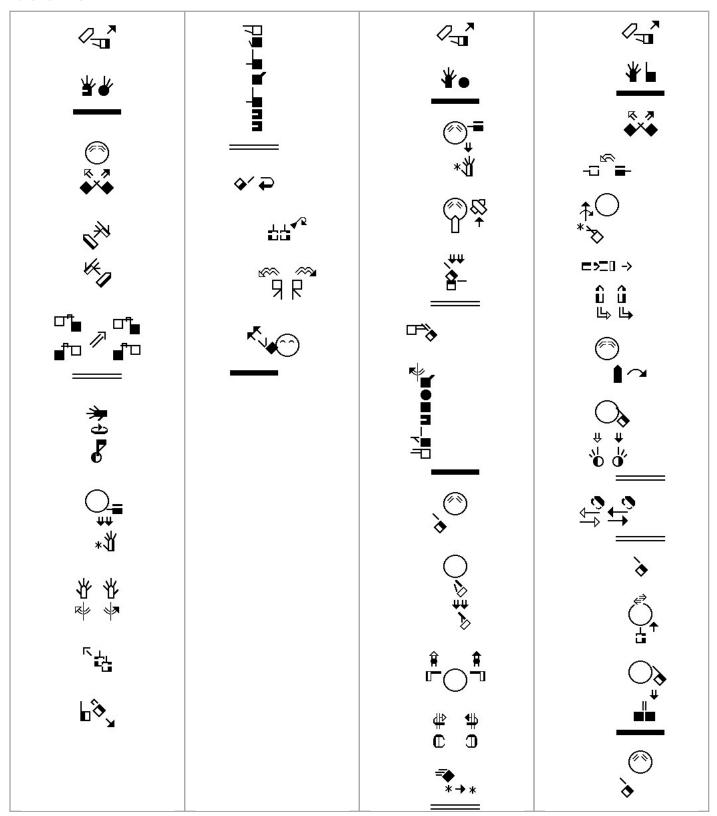
Verse 42. Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom." Verse 43. And Jesus replied, "I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise." NLT



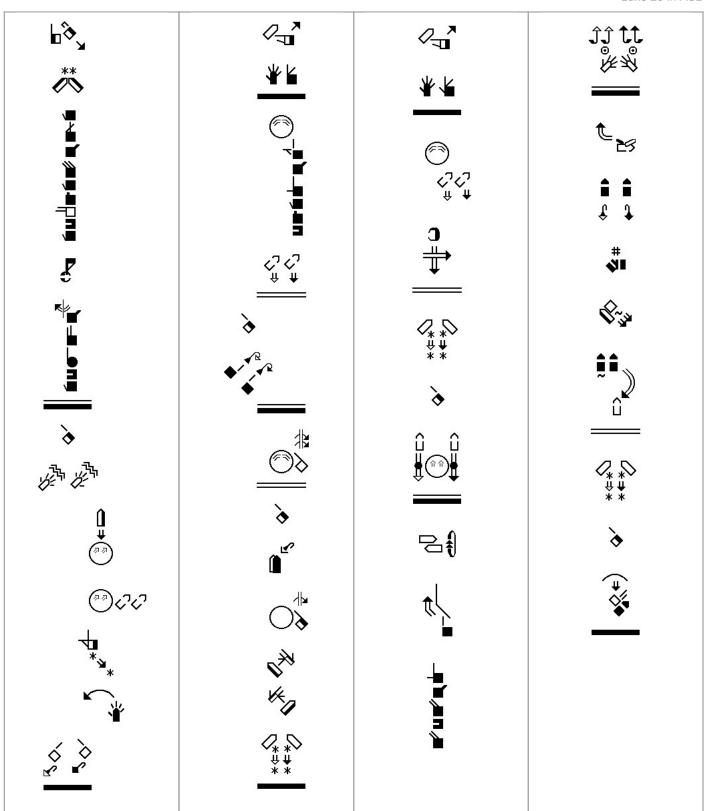
Verse 44. By this time it was noon, and darkness fell across the whole land until three o'clock. Verse 45. The light from the sun was gone. And suddenly, the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn down the middle. Verse 46. Then Jesus shouted, "Father, I entrust my spirit into your hands!" And with those words he breathed his last.



Verse 47. When the Roman officer overseeing the execution saw what had happened, he worshiped God and said, "Surely this man was innocent." Verse 48. And when all the crowd that came to see the crucifixion saw what had happened, they went home in deep sorrow.

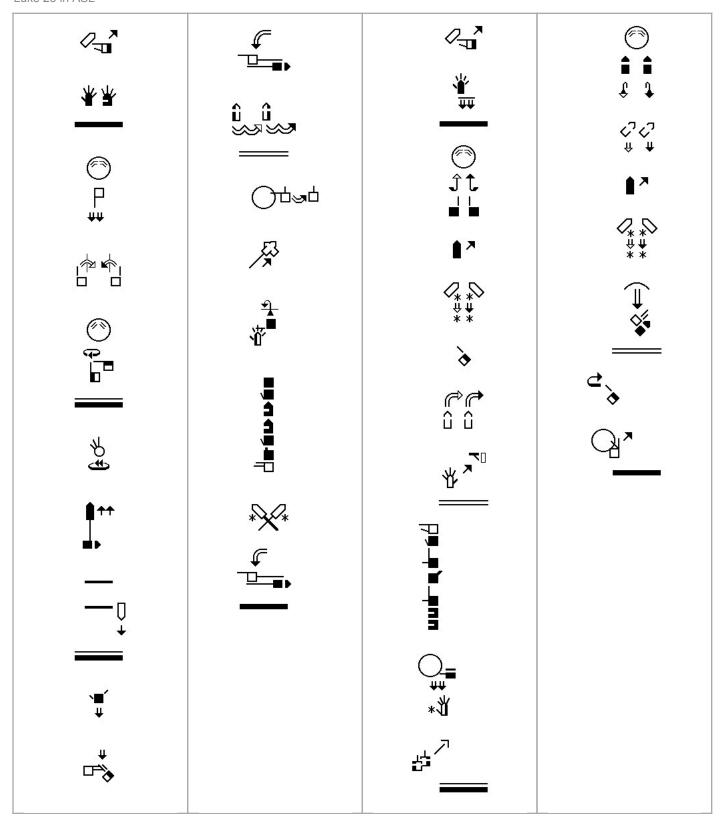


Verse 49. But Jesus' friends, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance watching. Verse 50. Now there was a good and righteous man named Joseph. He was a member of the Jewish high council, Verse 51. but he had not agreed with the decision and actions of the other religious leaders. He



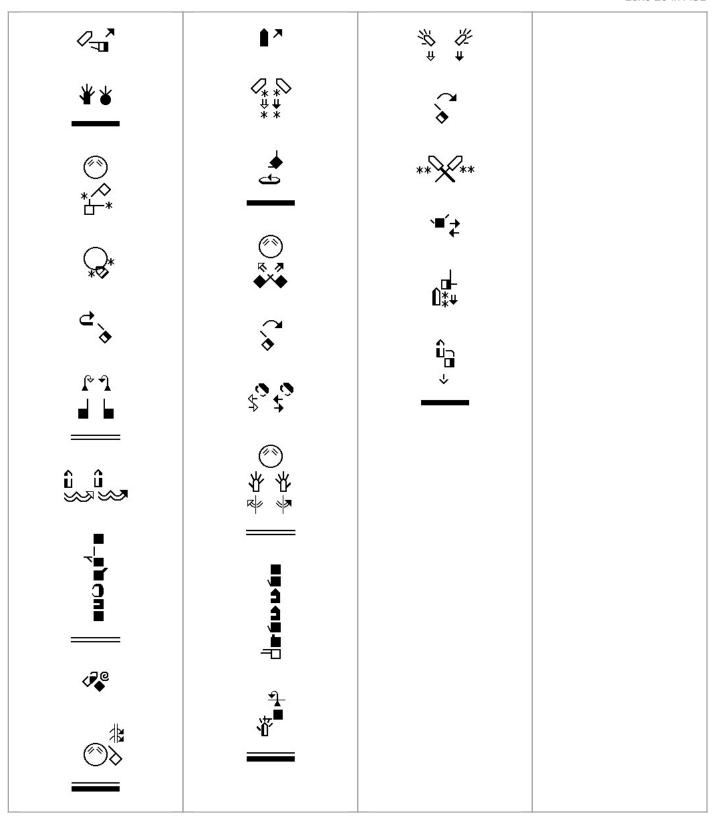
was from the town of Arimathea in Judea, and he was waiting for the Kingdom of God to come. Verse 52. He went to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. Verse 53. Then he took the body down from the cross and wrapped it in a long sheet of linen cloth and laid it in a new tomb that had been carved out of rock.

NLT



Verse 54. This was done late on Friday afternoon, the day of preparation, as the Sabbath was about to begin. Verse 55. As his body was taken away, the women from Galilee followed and saw the tomb where his body was placed.

NLT



Verse 56. Then they went home and prepared spices and ointments to anoint his body. But by the time they were finished the Sabbath had begun, so they rested as required by the law.