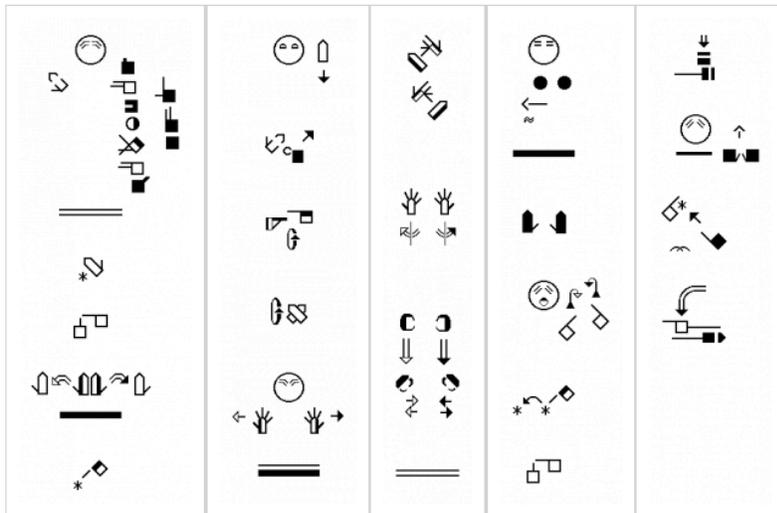


THE BOOK OF ACTS

The record of the beginning of the Church. Founded by Jesus Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, and began with the Apostles and around 108 other disciples, including Mary and the Lord's brothers.

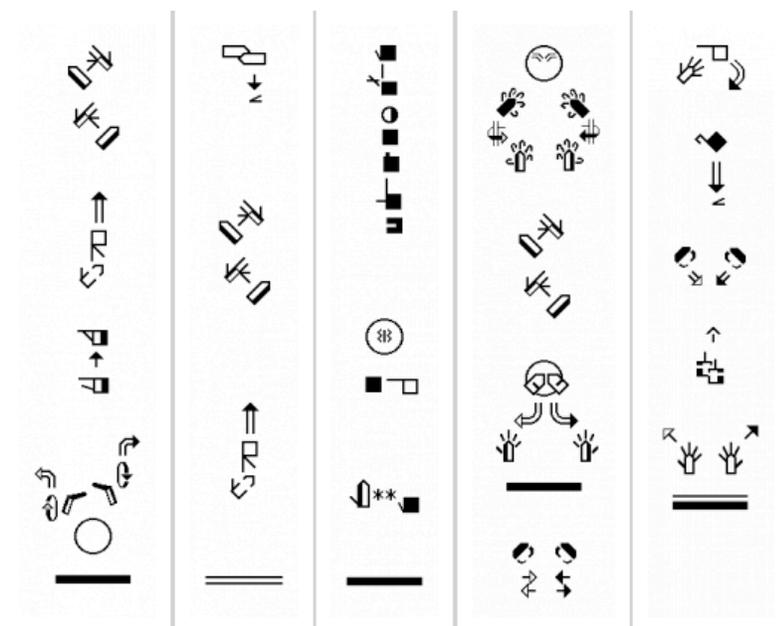
Acts 1:1 The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach,



The Church is fact of history. It exists by and for Jesus Christ. Its purpose is to spread His gospel to the whole world. God has equipped the Church with the power to do this. Luke wrote this book that readers would understand how it began, expanded, how it grew, and the message the Church preached.

It records the activities of real historical people.

2 Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen:

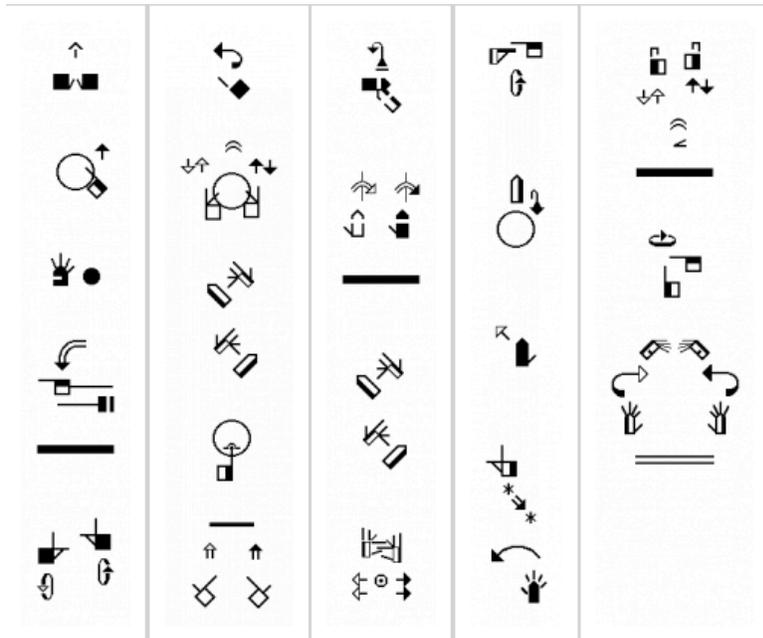


Luke's first book is the gospel named after him. It is a record of Jesus' earthly ministry until the time Jesus ascended into heaven.

Jesus commissioned His apostles to spread His teaching throughout the world.

The Holy Ghost was to lead and empower the disciples in spreading the gospel and calling people into God's kingdom.

3 To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:

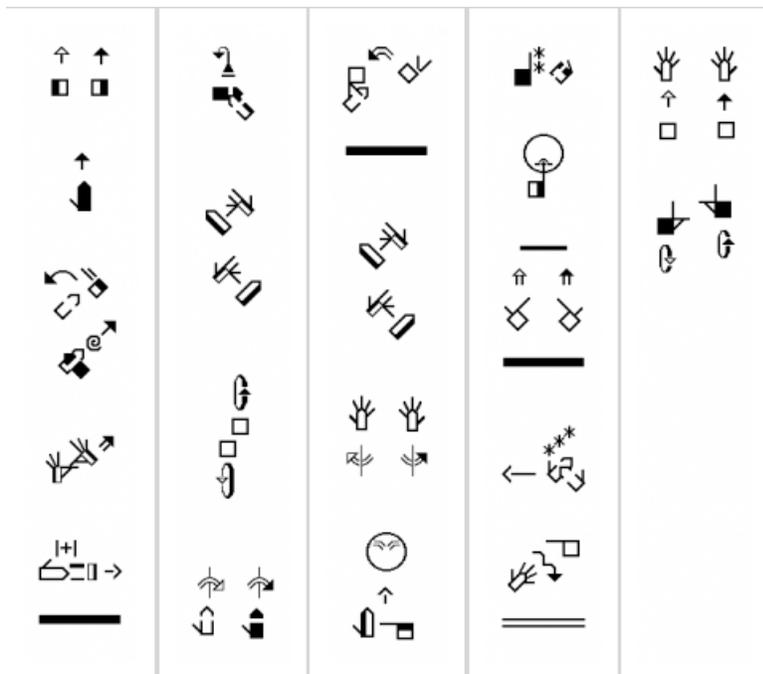


The Lord strengthened the faith of His Apostles and disciples through miracles, His resurrection, and appearances after His resurrection.

For forty days Jesus taught the disciples before He ascended into heaven until His final return.

The kingdom of God, the kingdom of heaven, and the church are basically the same things.

4 And, being assembled together with them,



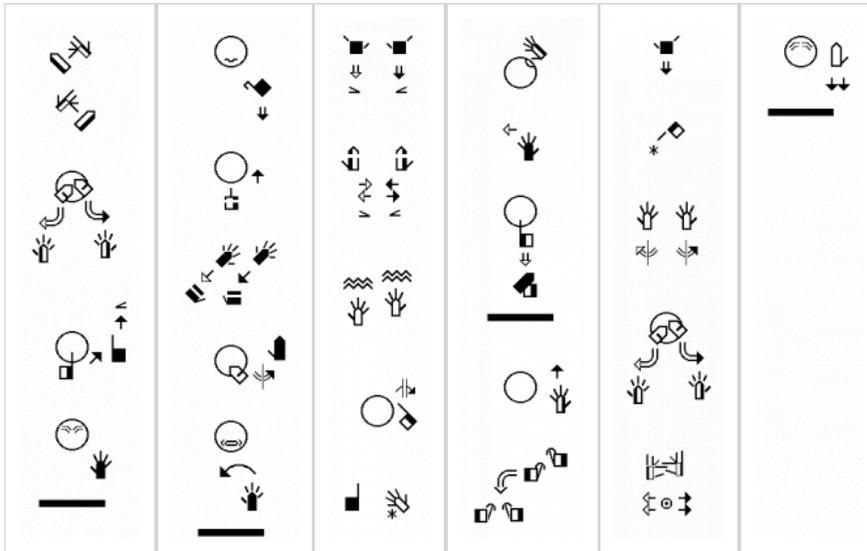
This assembly of God, of Jesus Christ and His disciples was the occasion for His last earthly command.

If the beginning church needed to wait surely we need to be empowered just as much.

Notice also how they all assembled with the Lord. There is something glorious about waiting (serving) the Lord together.

Worldly people say they do not need to assemble. The Bible describes corporate worship led by the Holy Spirit as God ordained.

...commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me.

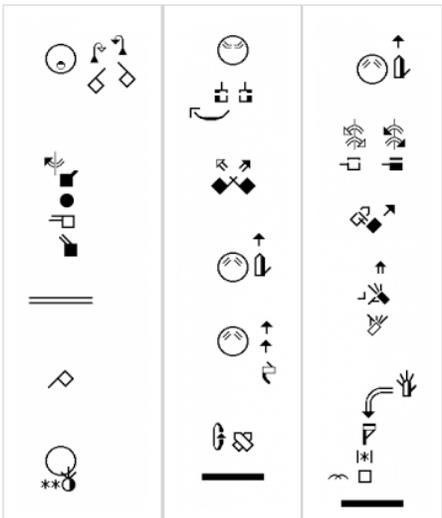


The Lord commanded the Apostles and first disciples not to leave Jerusalem until they received power.

This power is for the whole church but not completely possessed by any one individual. God's plan is for each person to have the Holy Spirit and also a special gift of the Holy Spirit that they might minister to the Body of Christ and help build the kingdom of God.

(Note: the subtle hint of the Trinity in verse 4.)

5 For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.



It is the Lord Jesus that made the above statement. Water baptism is the initial rite of a disciple of Christ; baptism in the Holy Spirit is the disciples empowerment. Compare the Apostles of the Gospels with the Apostles of the book of Acts and their new power is exponentially greater. Peter changed from a boastful coward to a fearless leader. The Holy Ghost is the true reason for the power of the Early Church.

Oh God, fill us again with Your power and enthusiasm. Help us reach our generation, in every part of the world, with your message.

I am hoping that this study of the book of Acts will cause us to be hungry for the full power of God, love Jesus, and love evangelizing. **(Revelation 2:4)**