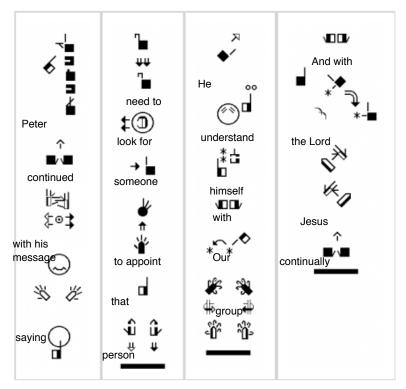
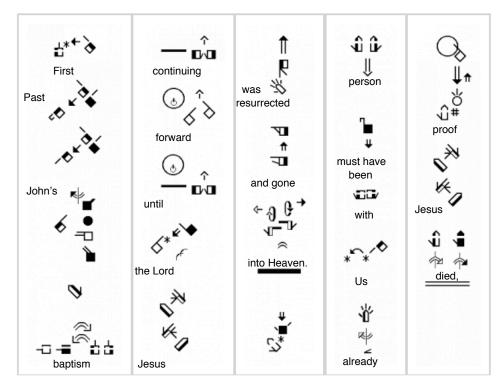
THE WAY THEY CHOOSE LEADERS BEFORE THE HOLY SPIRIT CAME TO THE CHURCH.



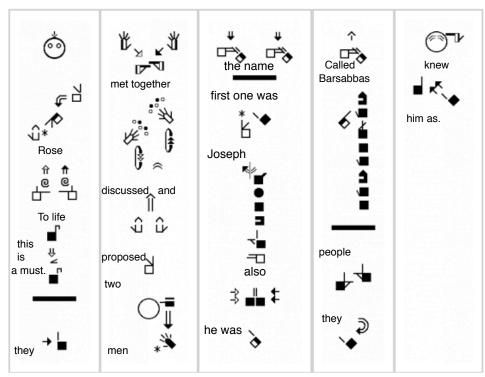
Acts 1:21 Of the men therefore that have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and went out among us,

After Judas' death the first church through Peter's leadership and the Bible's commands appointed a replacement. Disciples of Christ are organized according the precedents outlined in Scripture. Twelve Apostles, personal disciples of Jesus Christ and eye witnesses of the Lord's bodily resurrection.



22 beginning from the baptism of John, unto the day that he was received up from us, of these must one become a witness with us of his resurrection.

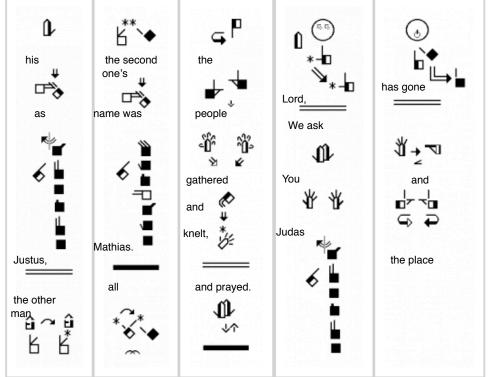
The gospel message needed to be kept pure. It was also important that the each Apostle had witnessed the full ministry of Christ.



23 And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias.

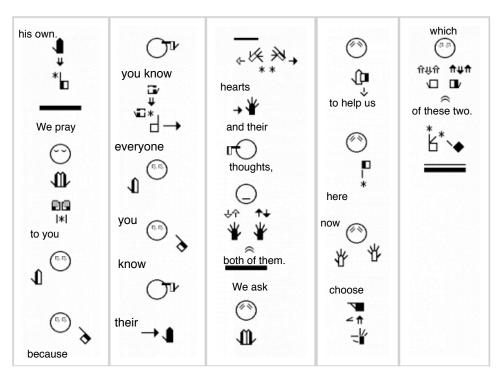
Apparently, there were others who had followed Jesus since the beginning of His ministry but the Lord had appointed only 12 men for the apostolic work.

(Mt. 10:1)



24 And they prayed, and said, Thou, Lord, who knowest the hearts of all men, show of these two the one whom thou hast chosen,

Ultimately though, Only God knows who is the best of each position. If we could only know for sure. So, we pray, and do our best to allow God to choose.



25 to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas fell away, that he might go to his own place.

The work of God, the kingdom of God, the Church will continue in spite of failures. Satan's desire is to destroy God's Church. He attacks leadership. When people fail we must be gracious, but we must not quit the battle. Let us not willingly give up any a "shipmate."

26 And they gave lots for them; and the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

The first church first business was leadership. They used the "lot" to determine God's will; God will give the Holy Spirit filled Church a better way to choose leaders.

