

HAVOC OF THE CHURCH

The of murder of Stephen was only the beginning of the persecution of The Assembly. Stephen's defense was the government's justification for mistreating The Assembly. The very institutions that God had inspired were now persecuting the new Assembly that God was raising up. Instead welcoming God's Messiah they murdered Him and now set themselves against Jesus' followers.

Saul

Acts 8:1 And Saul was consenting unto his death. And at that time there was a great persecution against the church (*the assembly*) which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles.

Provoking good people to be against good people is a strategy that Satan has used successfully. Then it was Jew against Christian; it should not have been. Recently, it has been Christian against Pentecostal Christians. Now it is Liberal Christians against Bible believers. Already children are being indoctrinated against fundamental Biblical teachings. We're being scattered, but God will use it for His purposes.

Lamentation

2 And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him.

To be associated with what appeared to be a "loser" takes great devotion and love. Stephen has been elected unto the first deacon board (**Acts 6:5**) and now executed by not only the government, but the people's religious leaders. Thousands of Christians were frightened. These brave men boldly buried their brother.

I am sure that there were those that said Stephen should have kept his opinions out of the public eye. "Let God speak to the hearts of those who do not know Jesus," they might have said. Stephen stood for the truth; it cost him all.

Havok

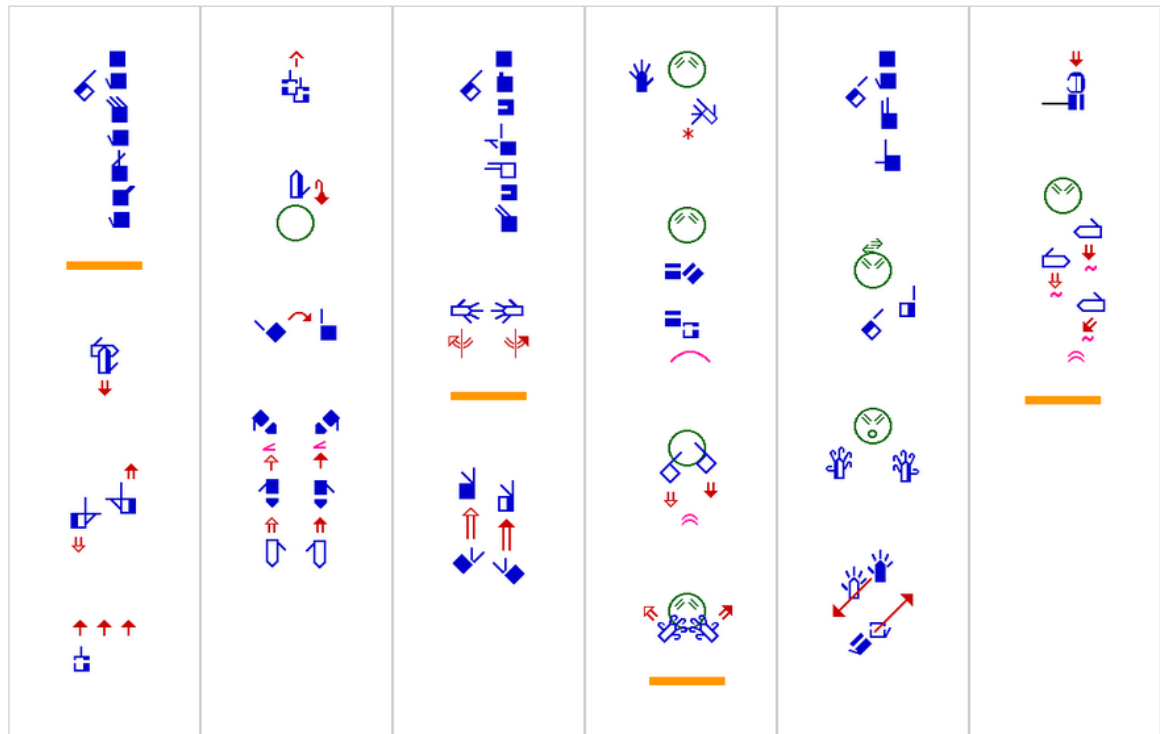
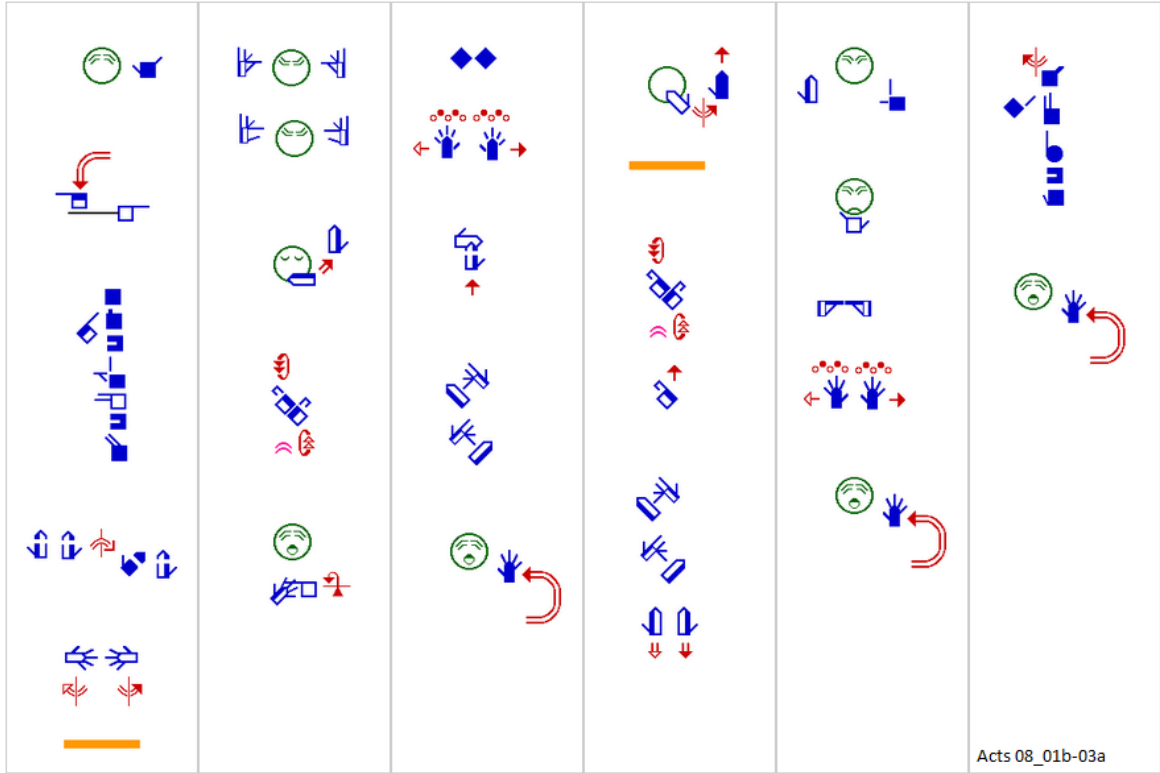
3 As for Saul, he made havock of the church (*the assembly*), entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison.

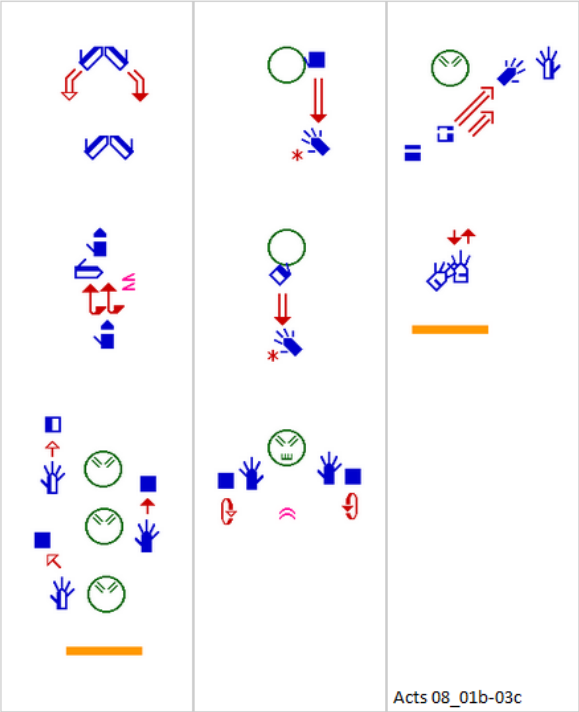
Saul possessed government sanction to enter into people's private homes to drag them to prison for the crime of believing in Jesus, believing that another system was going to replace theirs.

How much like today when we see proposals to legitimize immorality by our Supreme Court which will license the Executive Branch to punish those who do not accept the new morality? Will the social media like Facebook be one of the tools the government use to investigate suspects?

What I fear most is that fellow Christians will not be as devout as those members of the first Assembly. Lord help us guard the truth. (**2 John 1:2**)

Isa 5:20 Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light





Acts 08_01b-03c