

SORCERER TO SAVIOR

Every culture that is not Christian will have its own system of belief: Doctrine of God, morals, rites, description of the final and perfect state, means of salvation, and leadership.

Sorcery

Acts 8:9 But there was a certain man, called Simon, which beforetime in the same city used sorcery, and bewitched the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one:

Spiritual resistance comes in many forms but every culture and city will have it.

The power of God

10 To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, This man is the great power of God.

Before the gospel is preached another religious system will exist.

Bewitched

11 And to him they had regard, because that of long time he had bewitched them with sorceries.

Bewitched people are controlled by a totally different thought system.

The kingdom of God

12 But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

God's kingdom/system is meant to replace all other belief systems, i.e. witchcraft, occultism, cultism, idolatry, and secularism. Baptism is the initiation rite of the kingdom of God (Christianity).

Believed

13 Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done.

Membership, participation into the physical church is through profession of faith and water baptism and whatever specific requirements of a local church.

Christianity is founded on these truths: the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Bible as God's Word, confirmation by the Holy Spirit and miracles.

When: After martyrdom of Stephen and persecution of church

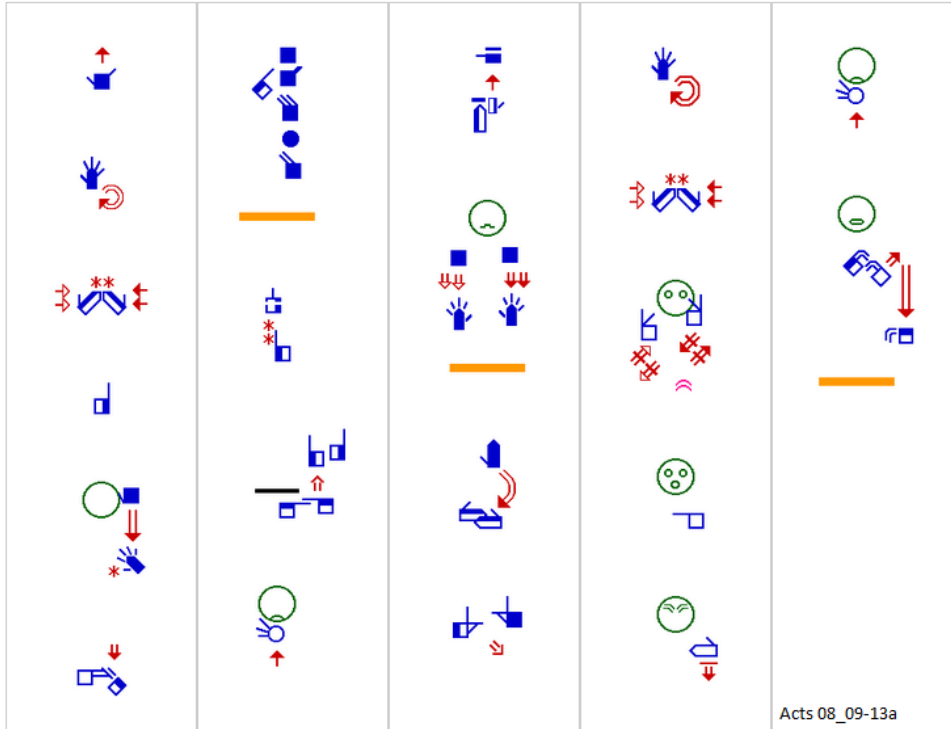
Where: Samaria

Who: Philip, Simon, Samaritans

What: Preaching to Samaritans

Why: Salvation and joining the kingdom of God

How: Preaching the gospel, believing the gospel, baptism

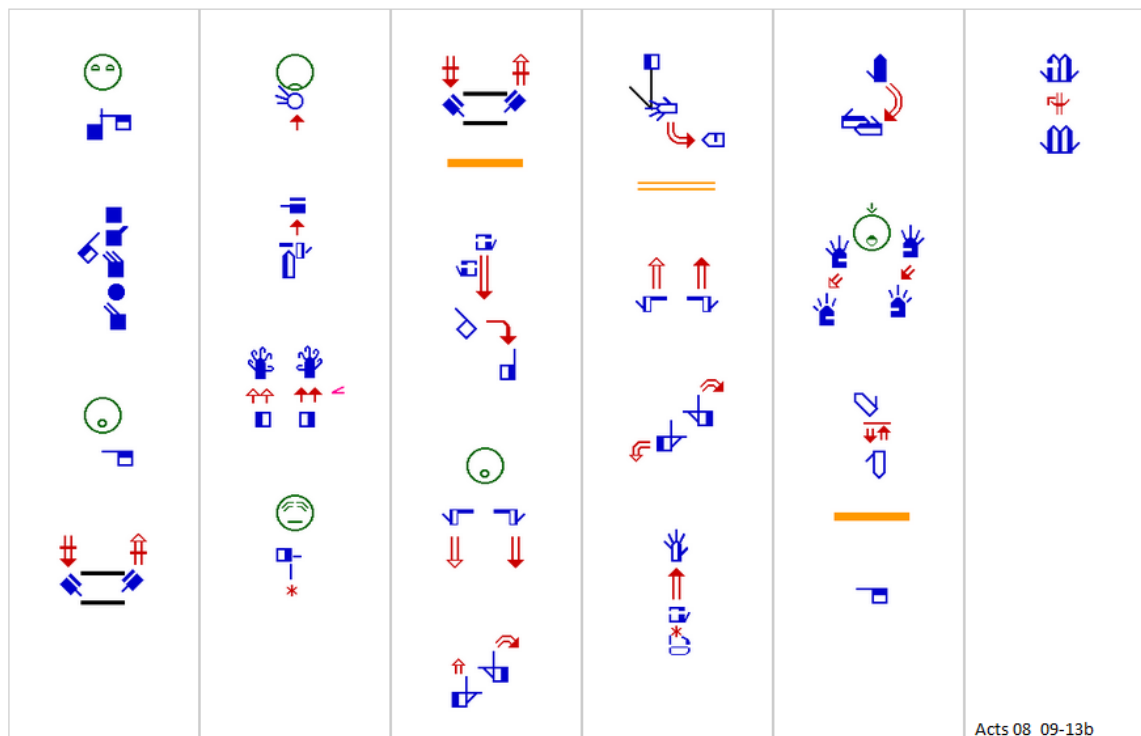


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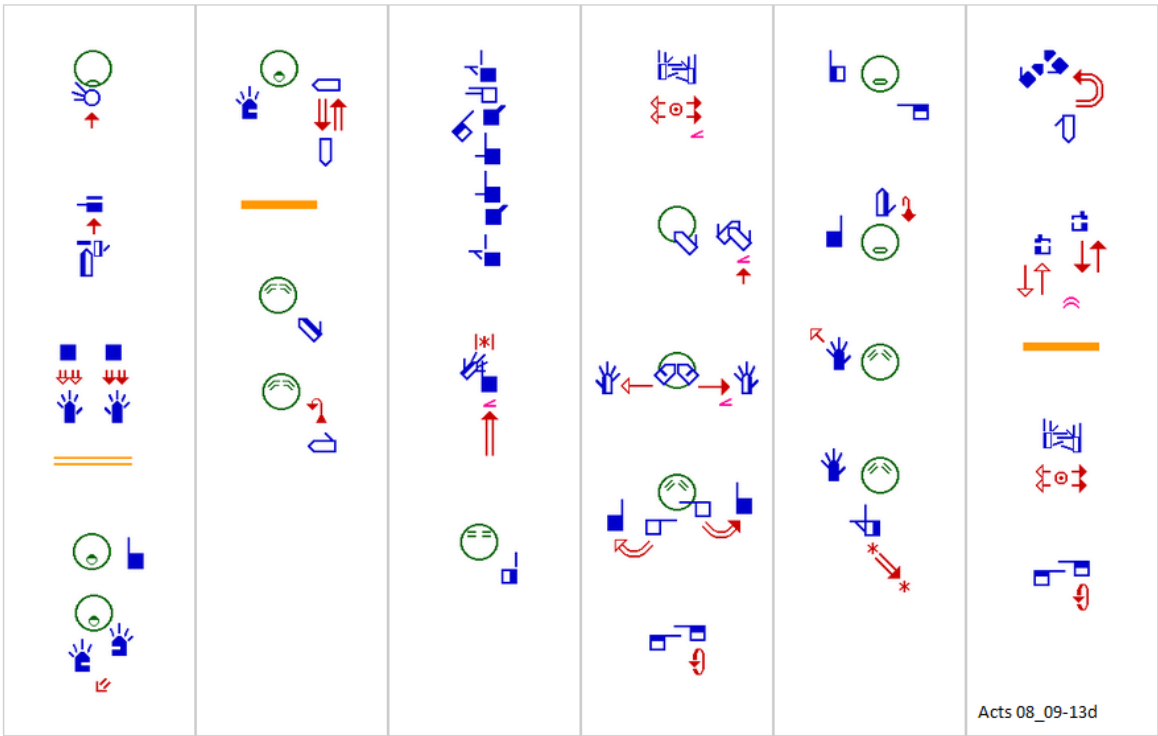
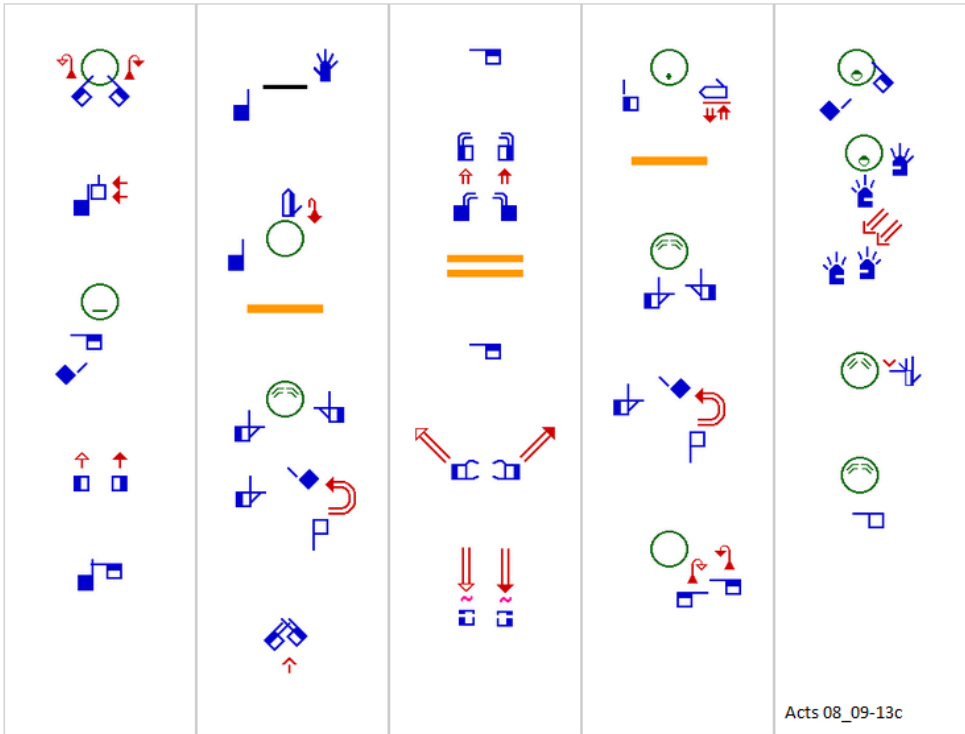
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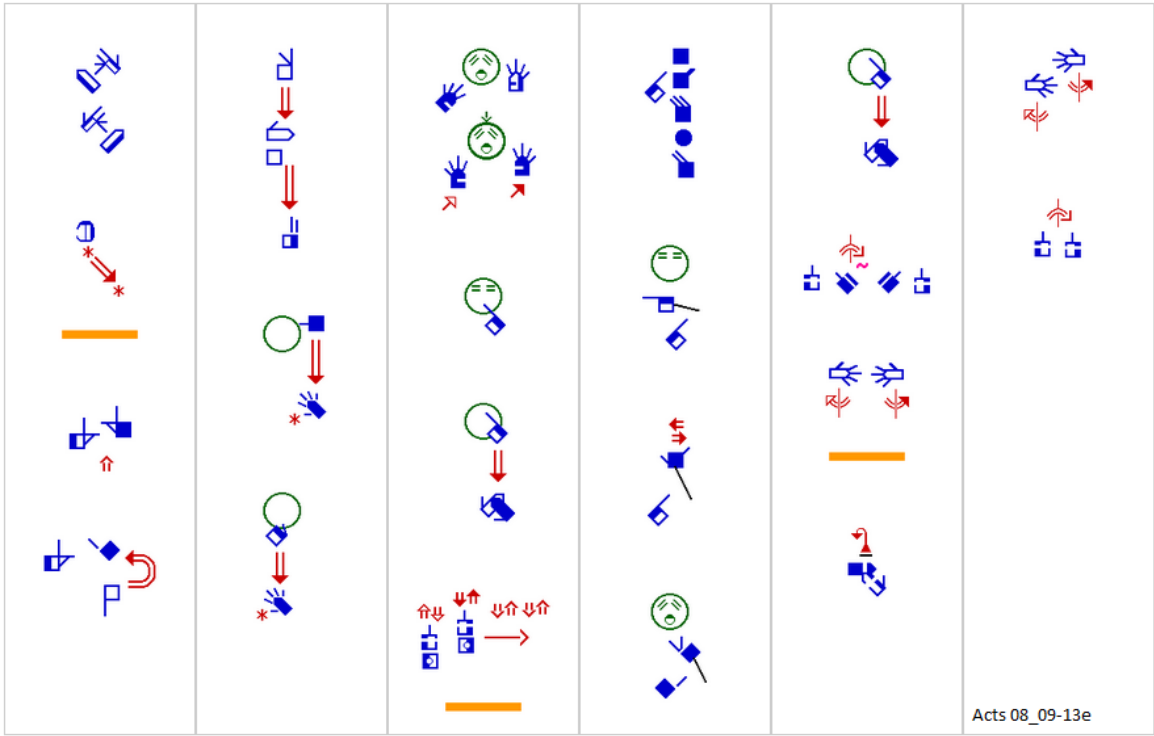
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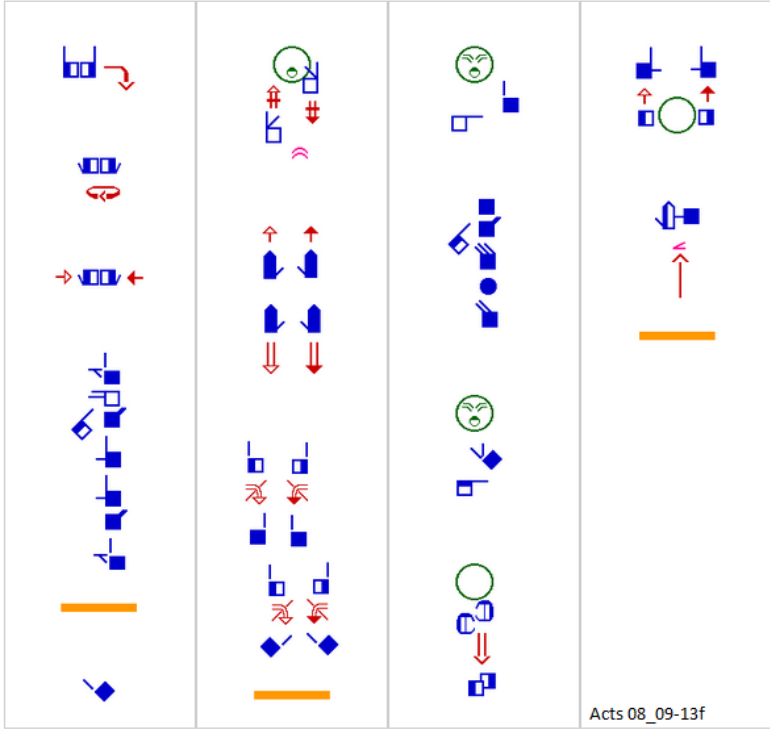


Acts 08_09-13b





Acts 08_09-13e



Acts 08_09-13f