

## **DID GOD MAKE A CLEVER MOVE OR WAS IT ALL PLANNED?**

How much of our lives are God's plan and how much of our lives are determined by our response to God's call?

**Mt 22:14 For many are called, but few are chosen.**

### **THREATENINGS AND SLAUGHTER**

**9:1 And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest,**

God does not persecute his own children. Therefore, we can conclude He did not plan for the slaughtering of His disciples, but knew it would happen.

### **ARRESTED**

**2 And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem.**

We could deduce that it was Satan who was causing the persecution. **(1 Th. 2:18)**

### **THE FUTURE IS NOT SETTLED?**

**3 And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven:**

**(Gal. 1:15) When did God call Paul? (Acts 22:14)**

### **GOD BROKE INTO TIME AGAIN.**

**4 And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?**

Jesus takes persecution personally. Did Saul know he was sinning?

### **THE PRICKS**

**5 And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.**

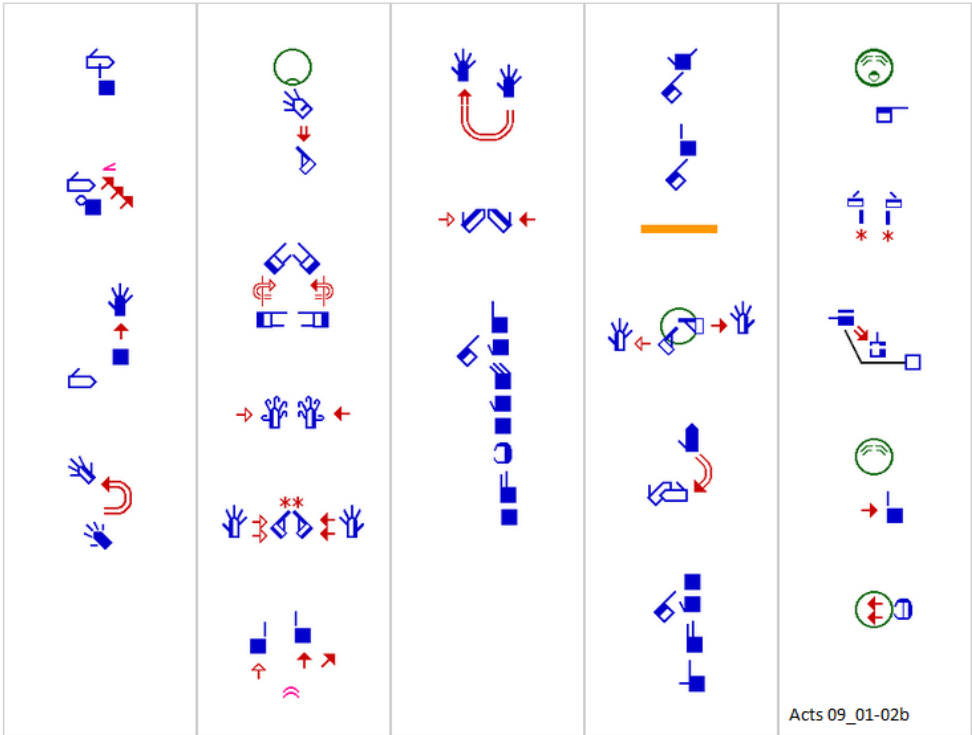
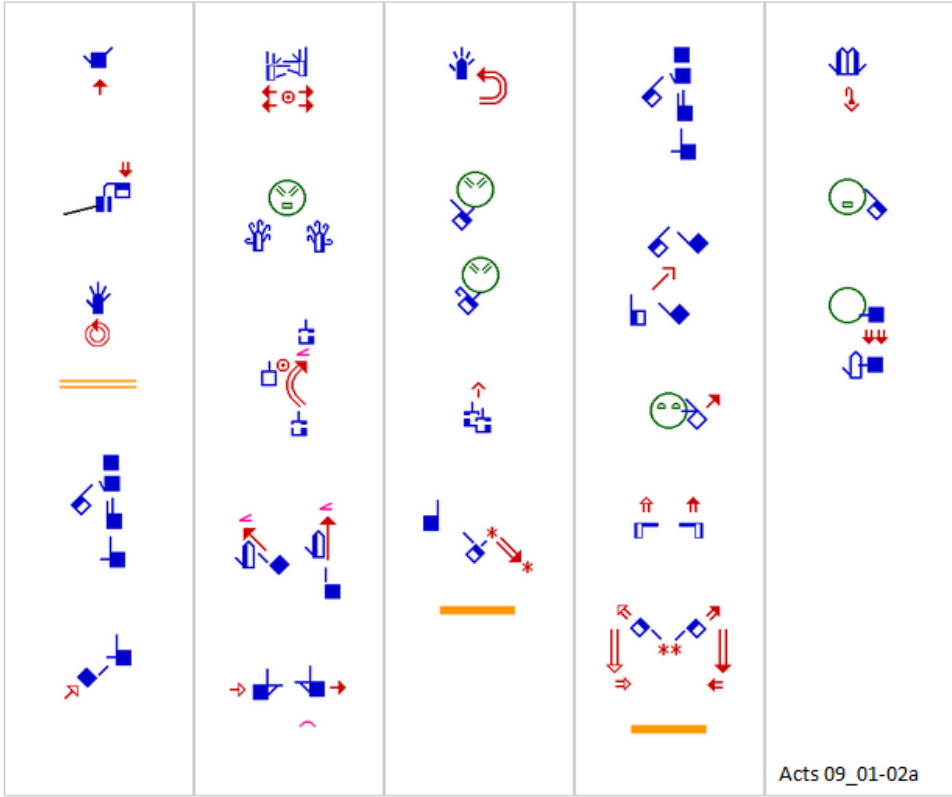
The evidence in his heart, the evidence of scripture, and the evidence of the converted Jews were the pricks.

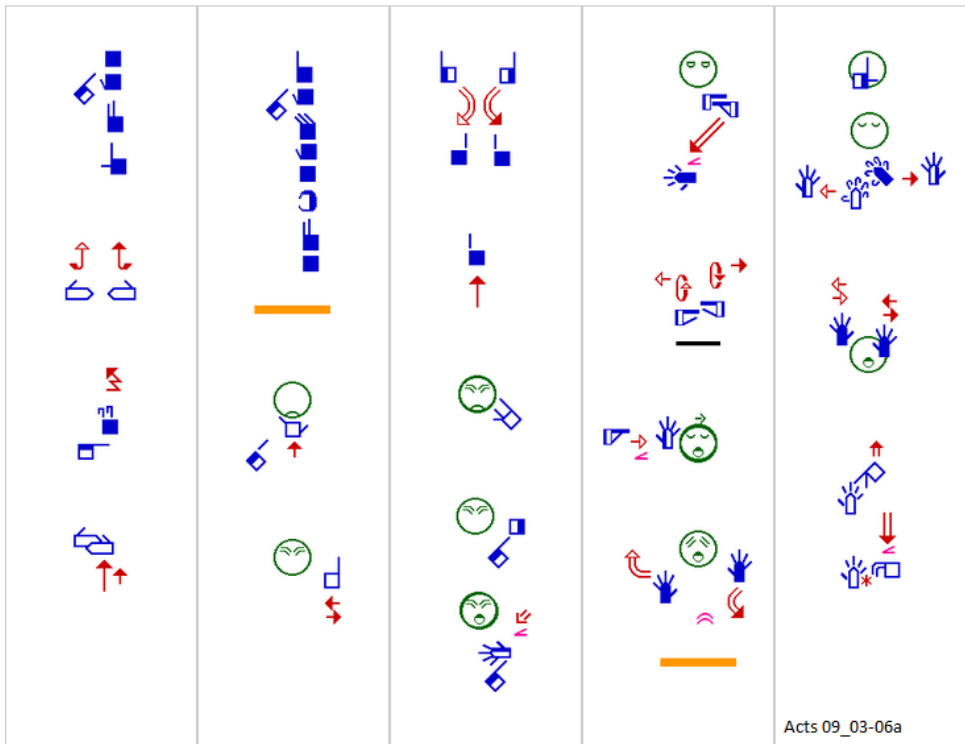
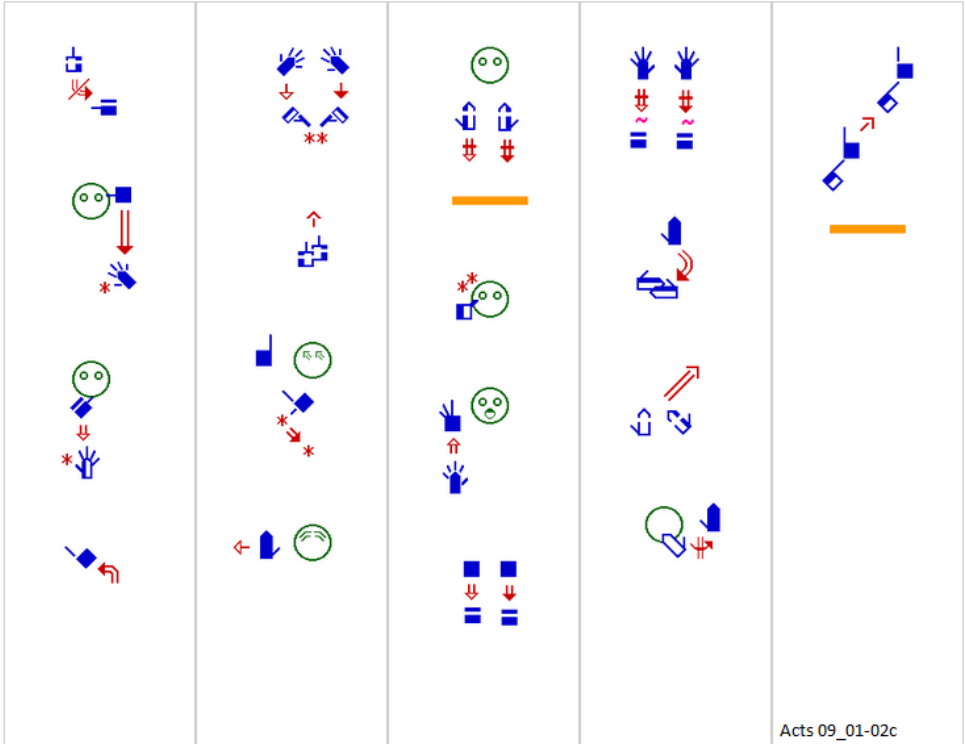
### **SURRENDER**

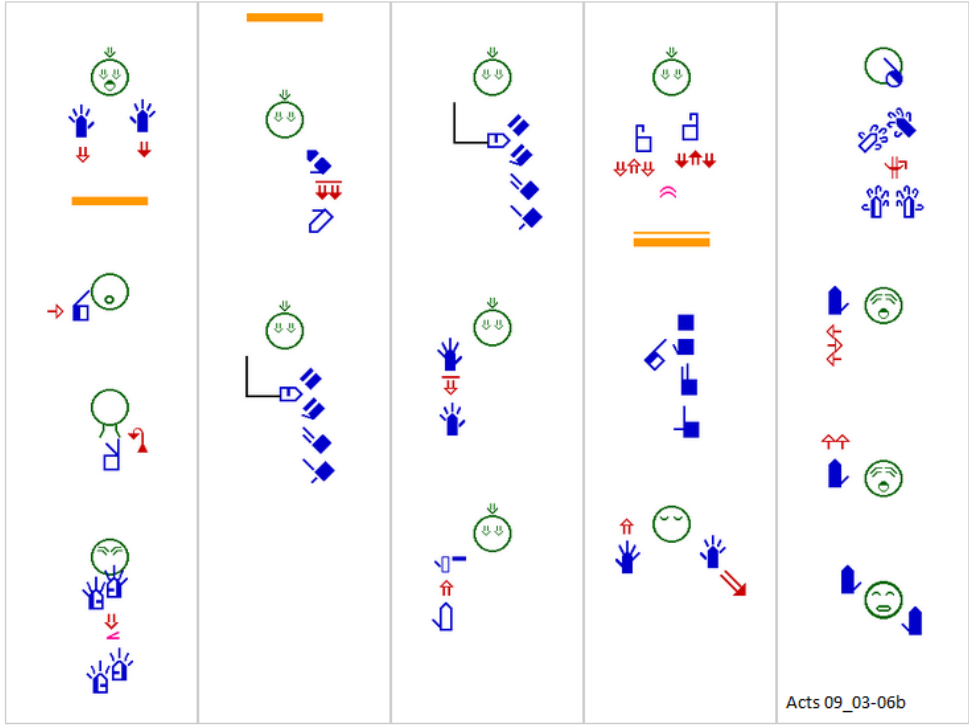
**6 And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.**

No more evidence was needed by Saul. His struggle against Jesus was finished. He had heard Stephen's preaching. **(Acts 7:58)** It is possible that Saul was being convinced by the testimonies of those he persecuted and this special revelation was necessary because of the special call God put on Saul's life.

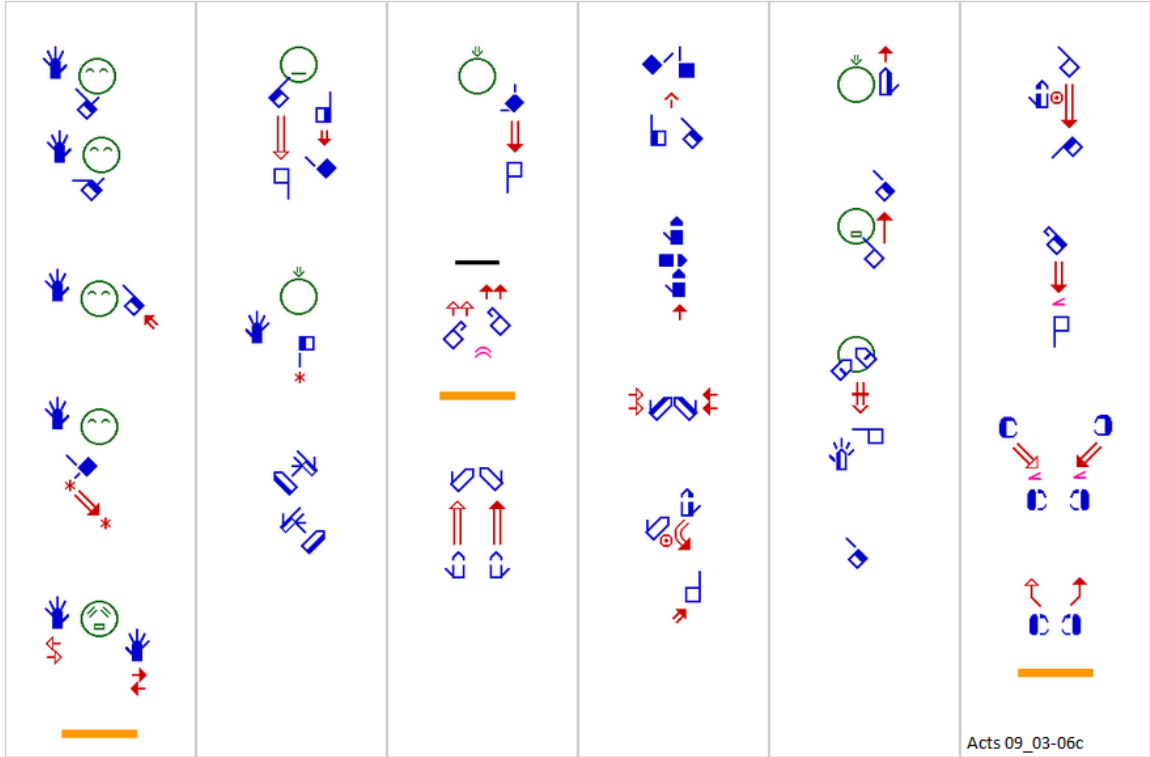
The gospel message is enough of a message to call anyone back to God and enable them to understand and receive salvation. However, God does give personal direction for each of His disciples and He calls some of them to very specific ministries.







Acts 09\_03-06b



Acts 09\_03-06c