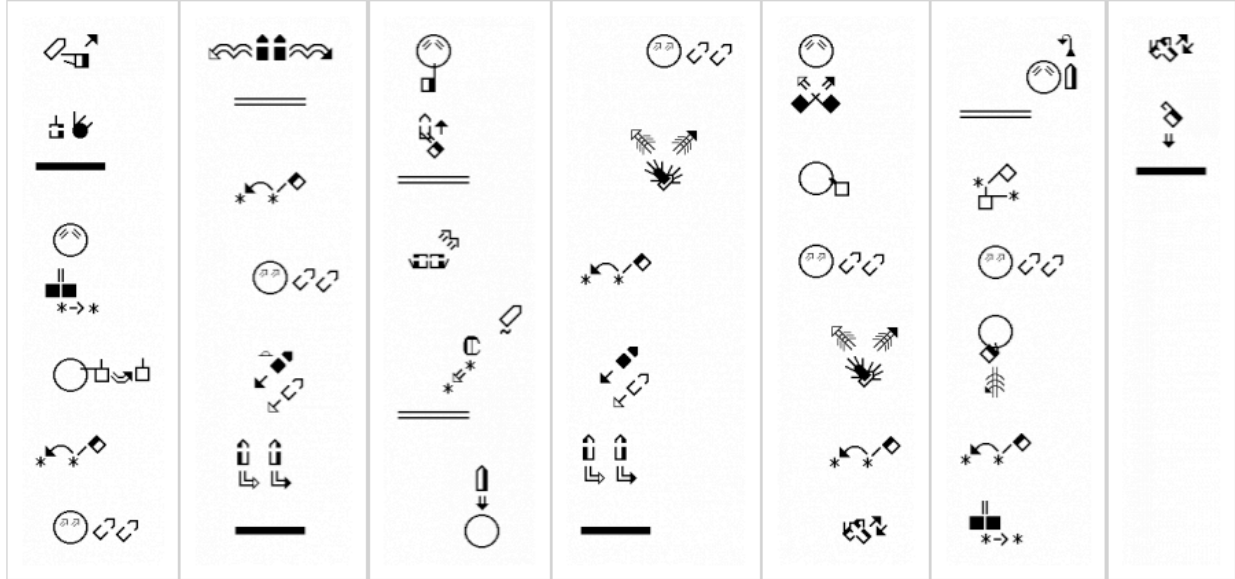
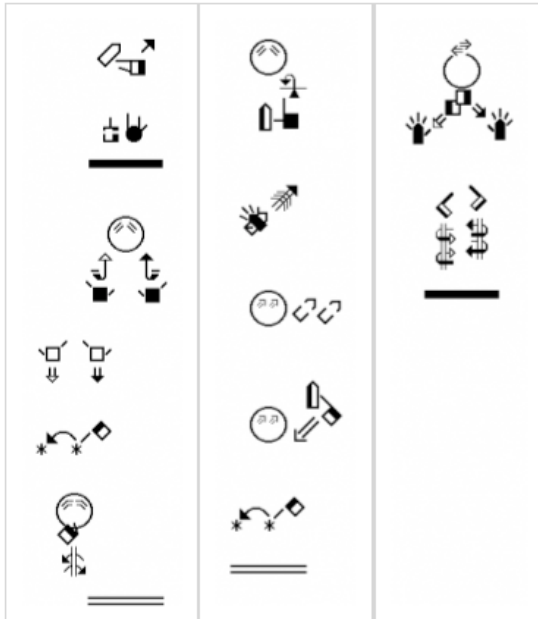


HEIRS

Romans 8:17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.



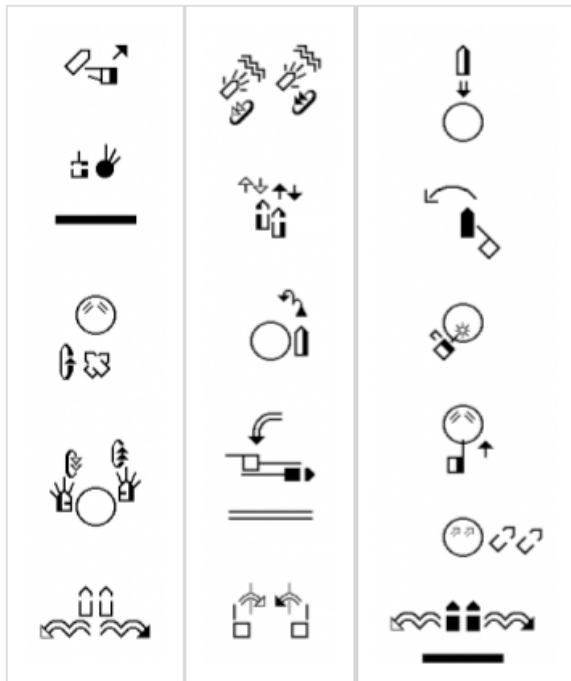
18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.



In this world what is right does not always prevail. My father adopted me as his child. I was an heir with his natural children. However, his step-children stole our inheritance. This is not so with God. His children will share fully with Jesus. We are joint-heirs. **(John 17:23)**

However, there is one stipulation: suffering. Very few people are unfamiliar with suffering but the difference is who our partner is. Soldiers suffer jointly; the spoils of victory is their reward. Deaf people that have suffered together, and fought together now enjoy an improvement in their lot. Believers who suffer the abuse of this world, like Christ did, will be joint-heirs in the kingdom of God.

19 For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.

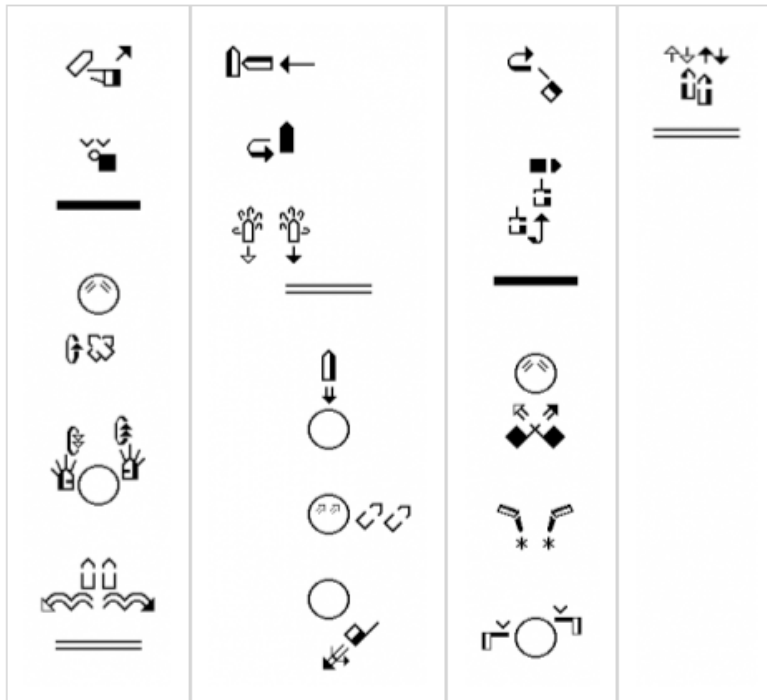


The Christian expects, knows, that his faithfulness will be rewarded. Presently, most of God's saints live in obscurity. They are ridiculed, disdained, and abused. But they trust their Father. He is not one to break a promise.

The manifestation of the children of God is the human side of the second coming of Christ. He is revealed; We are revealed. **(Col 3:4)** He establishes His throne; He establishes us.

Like the book "The Prince and the Pauper" we are royalty not yet manifested. **(1 Pet 2:9)**

20 For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope,

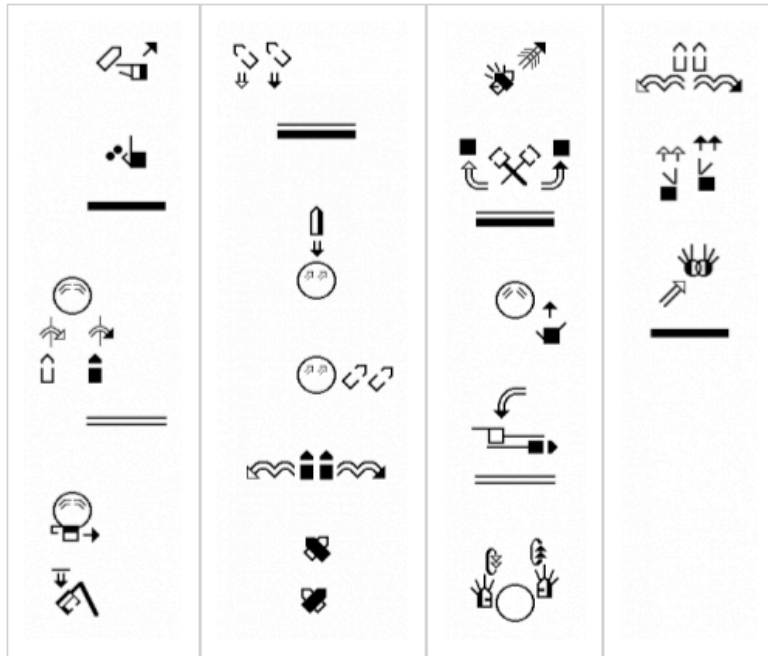


Vanity, believers are put under it. It seems as if our life in this world has no meaning.

The meaninglessness of this world, its treasures, powers, and privileges are put in the true perspective by those who know there is another world, another sovereign, and another kingdom that overrules this world. **(2 Ki 6:17)**

We are aliens in this world, pilgrims. **(He 11:13)**

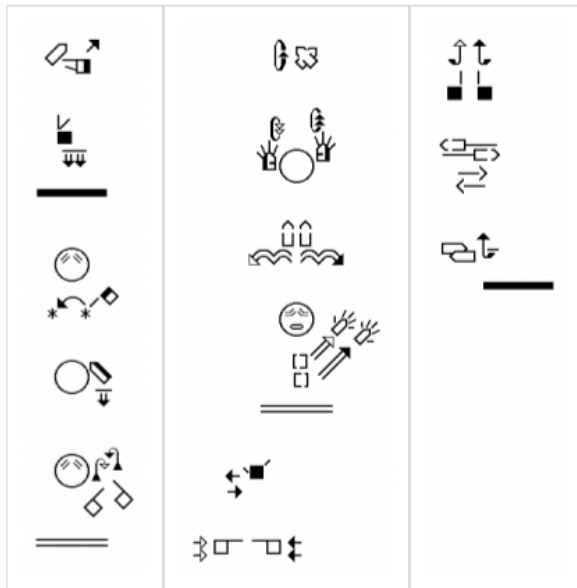
21 Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.



Even the animals and plants will be changed when Jesus returns. **(Isa 11:7,9; 35:1)**

Not only will we be clothed with new immortal incorruptible bodies, but the earth will also be changed. Plants will be fruitful; animals will live in peace; and there will be no more oceans.

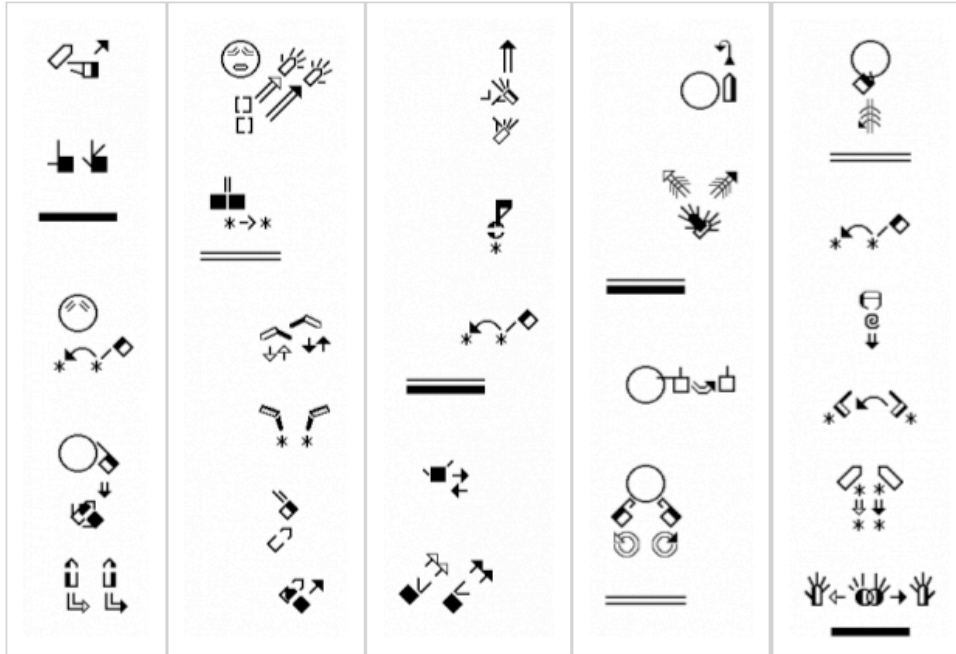
22 For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.



Nature is not in its natural state and we all know it. People and animals killing each other. We cannot live outside unprotected because creation is in rebellion.

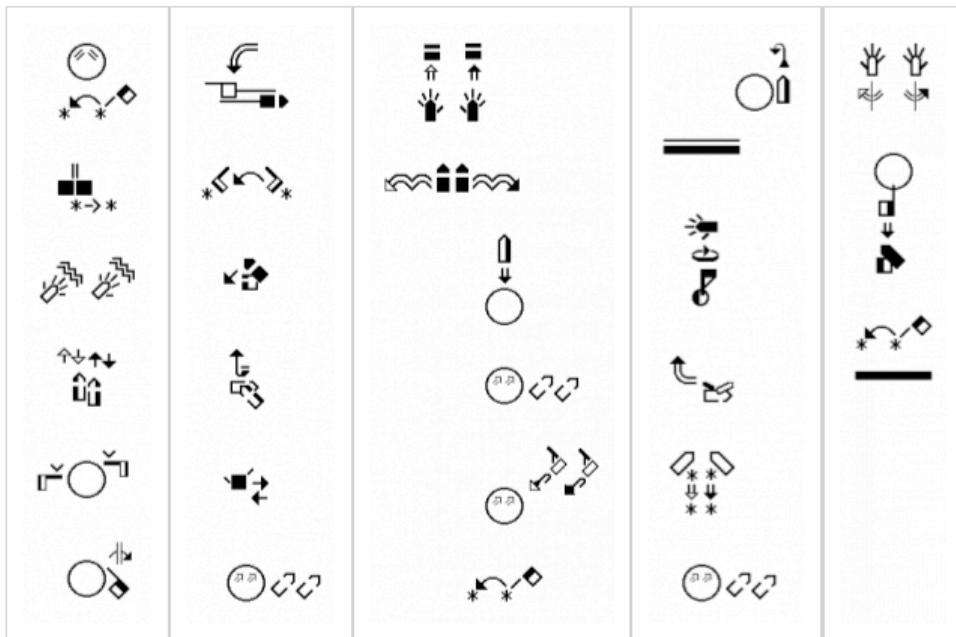
There is a groaning and tiredness that hangs like a cloud over everything. People work tirelessly and rightfully against the forces of death and decay and there is no rest. Humanity and the world is like a groaning tired animal nearing collapse.

23 And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit,



Even us Christians groan we are not exempt from the suffering that other people experience. Christians get sick, lose their jobs, get old, etc, just like everyone else, except we have hope; we groan.

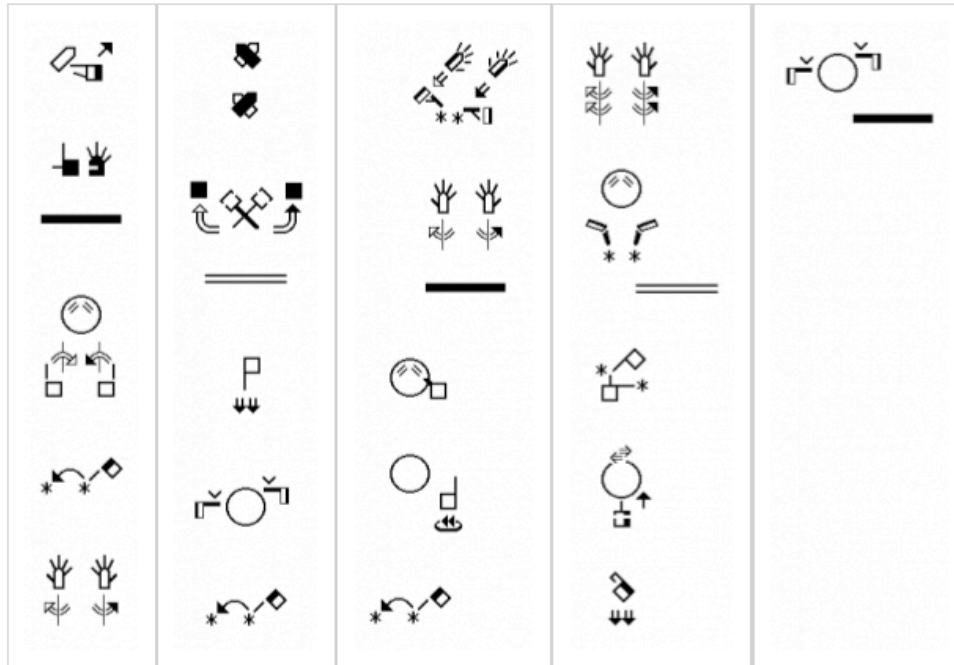
even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.



We wait for the completion of our adoption. That our bodies too will be saved and changed.

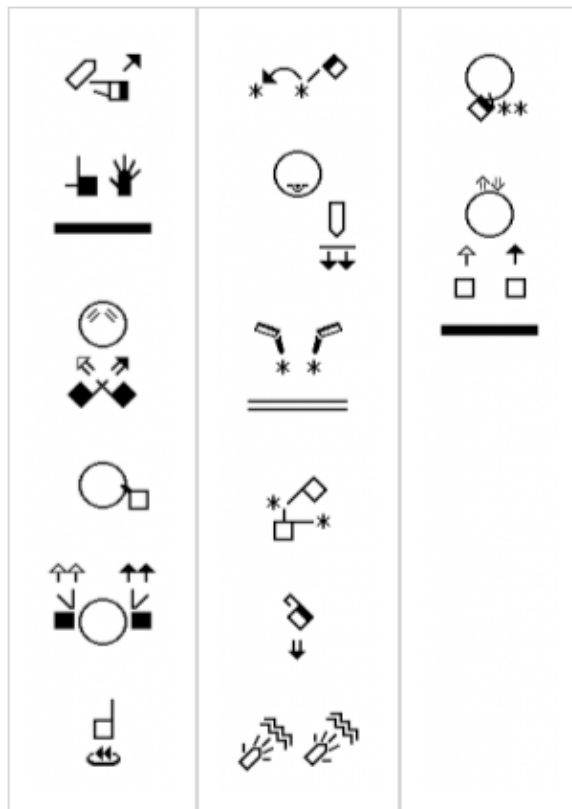
**(Php 3:21,
1 John 3:2)**

24 For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?



Hope is energy when a person is tired and seems like he is losing. Hope energizes him to continue. Hope comes from faith. Faith not just in God's Word but also in God, in His character.

25 But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.



We don't see "it" yet, we believe it will come. **(Hab 2:3)** Joseph told his children to carry his bones from Egypt to the Promised Land because he had hope. **(Ge 50:25)**

Our hope is not in this world or this life. We believe there is a coming world and coming city that we shall live in. **(Heb 11:10, 16)**

Hab 3:17 Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: 18 Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.