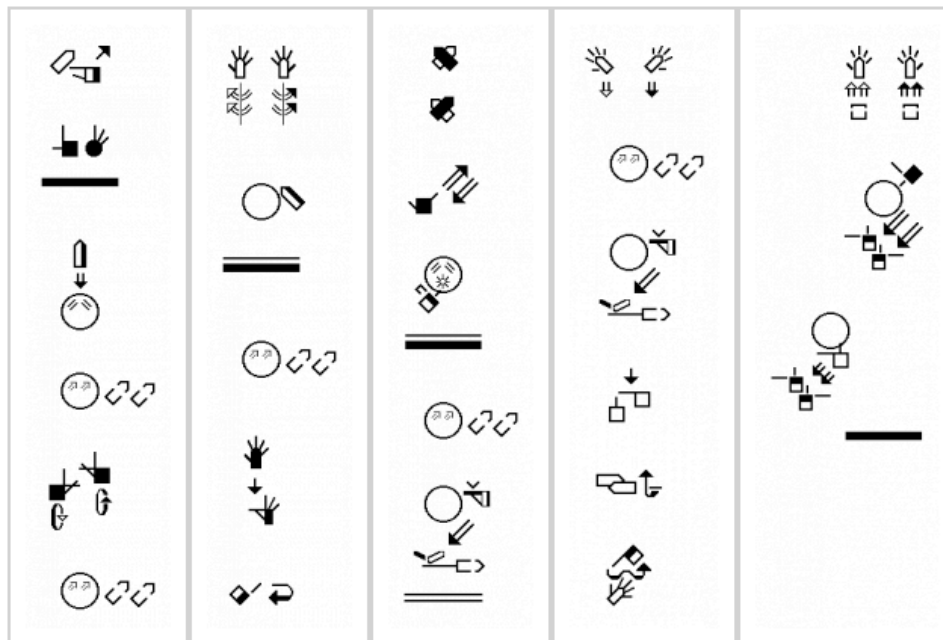


MANY BRETHREN

God has not changed his plan. (Ge. 1:26) He is just closer to completing it.

Romans 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.



27 God his people He already know. He chose them to become like who? His Son, so His Son (could be) first born among many brothers. (Heb. 7:2)

Calvinism

Total depravity
Unconditional election
Limited atonement
Irresistible grace
Perseverance

For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. NLT

God had plan. (Just like we might have a plan for our children on Christmas.) God's plan is for those that believe the gospel, to join His holy people, and to become like His Son.

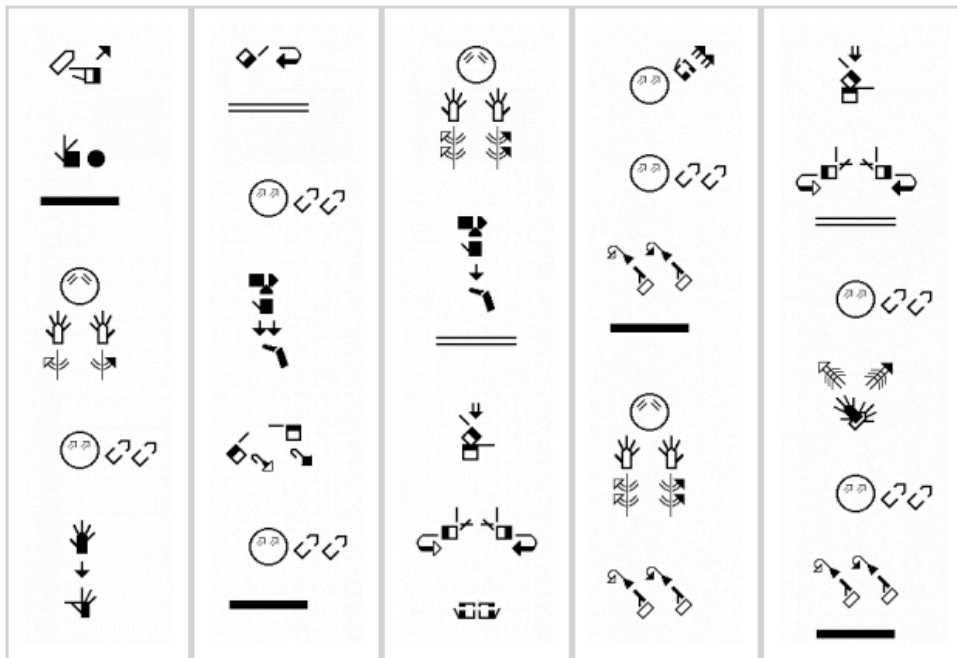
Some Christians believe each individual's salvation was chosen before creation, but the problem with that idea is that it implies others were not chosen. Therefore, God knowingly chose other people to go to hell. This would contradict the teaching that God wants all people to be saved. (1 John 2:2, 4:14, John 4:42)

The crux of this chapter seems to be about Christians understanding the situation they are going through. Just like the parable of the sower explains why so many people do not accept the gospel. It explains why believers suffer and how the believer is to get through their present circumstances. Like when God chose Noah's ark to be the vehicle of salvation in the past; He chose that all those who entered that ark would be saved. God did not want anyone to perish but to get into the ark. So, God foreknew that the cross of Jesus would have the power to save anyone that believed.

It might be more edifying if we believers focused more of our attention on our destiny and less thought on **when** we were chosen. If you believe, you are chosen.

* Can a person genuinely regret something that they knew would happen.

30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.



28 Already He chose you, God called (you to) come (to) Him. Having called, right place with Himself He gave (you). Having given right place, His glory He gave (you).

Heb 7:2 To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness.....

And having chosen them, he called them to come to him. And having called them, he gave them right standing with himself. And having given them right standing, he gave them his glory. NLT

Again the ark of Noah helps us understand the cross of Christ. As God knew the ark could save all those that entered. He foreordained that all who got on the ark would be saved. He chose those that entered. He chose them that had faith; He called them that had faith; He gave them righteousness because they had faith; and they were able to enter the new world after the flood because they had faith.

If we go back to **Genesis 6:6*** we can learn a little more about how God does things. If we can suspend any theology that is not Biblical what do we see?

Note: other times Satan tried to thwart God's ultimate plan. (**2 Ki. 11:1, Es. 3:13**)

Ge. 6 6And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.

We see a God that loves man, a God that grieves because man has made wrong choices, and a God who finds a way to save man, and thus bring about God's ultimate plan of salvation?

I read this chapter as Paul encouraging Christians to stay in the faith, understand God's plan, and believe that God will ultimately accomplish His goal.

Remember the map. The goal is to get the bus over the bridge. There are many obstacles, but those who believe in the bus and have confidence in the driver know what the destiny of the bus is. Paul gave them a map so they could see the plan. (III. Which candidate do you trust to lead the nation?)

* Can a person genuinely regret something that they knew would happen.