

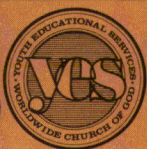
YOUTH



LEVEL 4

BIBLE

LESSONS



LESSON 1



Creation

CREATION

How would you like to live in a world where there were *no* trees or flowers, *no* birds or other animals, and *no* light? It would be a dark and empty world—yet, that is the way our planet earth looked at one time.

We do not know how long the earth was dark and empty, but about 6,000 years ago, God began to take the first steps in His great plan—to create human beings who would look, and could become, just like Him.

Before human beings could be created, however, God had to remake earth into a place where man could survive. For five days God worked at making earth ready for man's home.

On the first day God created light, making periods of night and day.

On the second day God put a layer of fresh air over the whole earth. This caused water vapor to rise and big, billowing, white clouds to appear. This air is known as our atmosphere.

On the third day God molded the earth's crust so that some of it was high and some of it was low. The layer of water that covered the earth drained to the low areas to form oceans. The higher areas formed large pieces of land we call continents. If you have a globe or world map, find the oceans and the continents. If necessary, ask one of your parents to help you.

On these continents God created all kinds of plants, trees, bushes, flowers and grass. The earth was becoming a beautiful place.

On the fourth day God made the sun to shine during the day and the moon and stars to shine at night.

On the fifth day God created the water creatures—whales, fish and many others. He also made the many kinds and colors of birds.

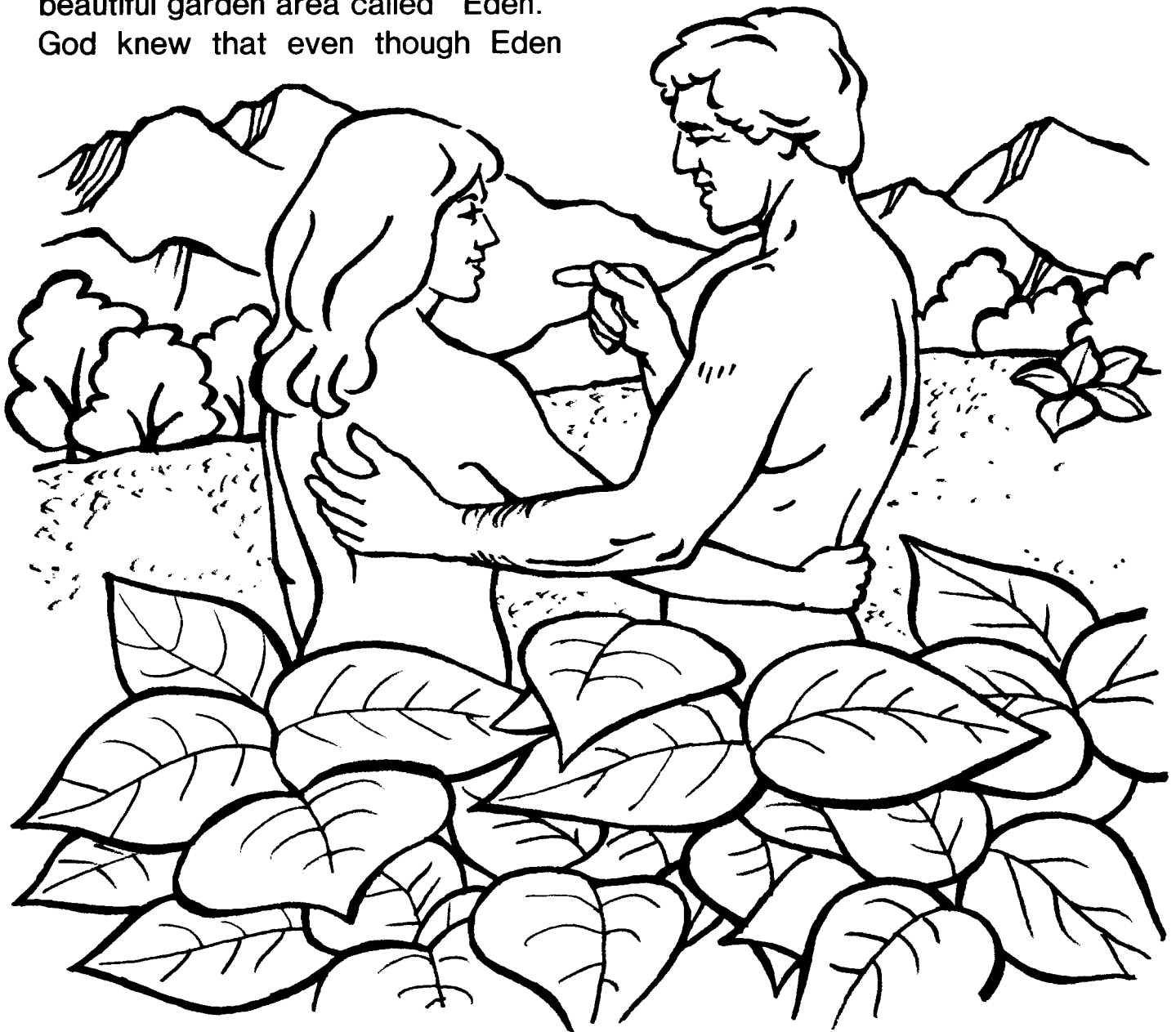
It was now the sixth day, and God created the creatures that would live on land. There were elephants, lions, giraffes, lizards, worms and insects—every kind of thing that

walks or creeps. The surface of the earth was again a beautiful place. It was now ready for God's most important part of creation—a human being. God made the first man from the dust of the ground and formed him, possibly using a method much like an artist would use to mold and shape clay.

The creator God called this man "Adam" and placed him in a beautiful garden area called "Eden." God knew that even though Eden

had all the beauty anyone could ever want, Adam would become lonely if he were the only human being. So, while Adam slept, God took one of Adam's ribs, and, by His great power, formed it into a woman. God gave her to Adam to be a companion, and Adam called her "Eve."

God made all of this in just six days. But God was not through, for



He still had not finished creating.

On the seventh day God created the Sabbath. However, the Sabbath day was created by resting, rather than by working. The Sabbath was created to be a special day. God tells us that we are always to keep the Sabbath day holy by resting and by worshipping Him.

This ended the first week of remaking our planet Earth. Adam and Eve lived in Eden, enjoying all the colorful flowers, the fruit and shade trees, and the streams of clear, blue water. They were happy as they took care of the Garden and the animals that lived in the Garden with them.

Long before man was created, God had created spirit beings, called "angels." Some of them served God at His throne in heaven. One of those was a chief angel, named "Lucifer." After some time, Lucifer began to think he was greater than God and tried to get many of the other angels to join with him to fight God and take over the rule of the whole universe. But God is much more powerful. He has always been the most powerful being in existence. God cast Lucifer and his evil angels, called "demons," out of heaven and took away much of Lucifer's power. God changed Lucifer's name to Satan, which means "enemy."

Satan wanted to find a way to turn

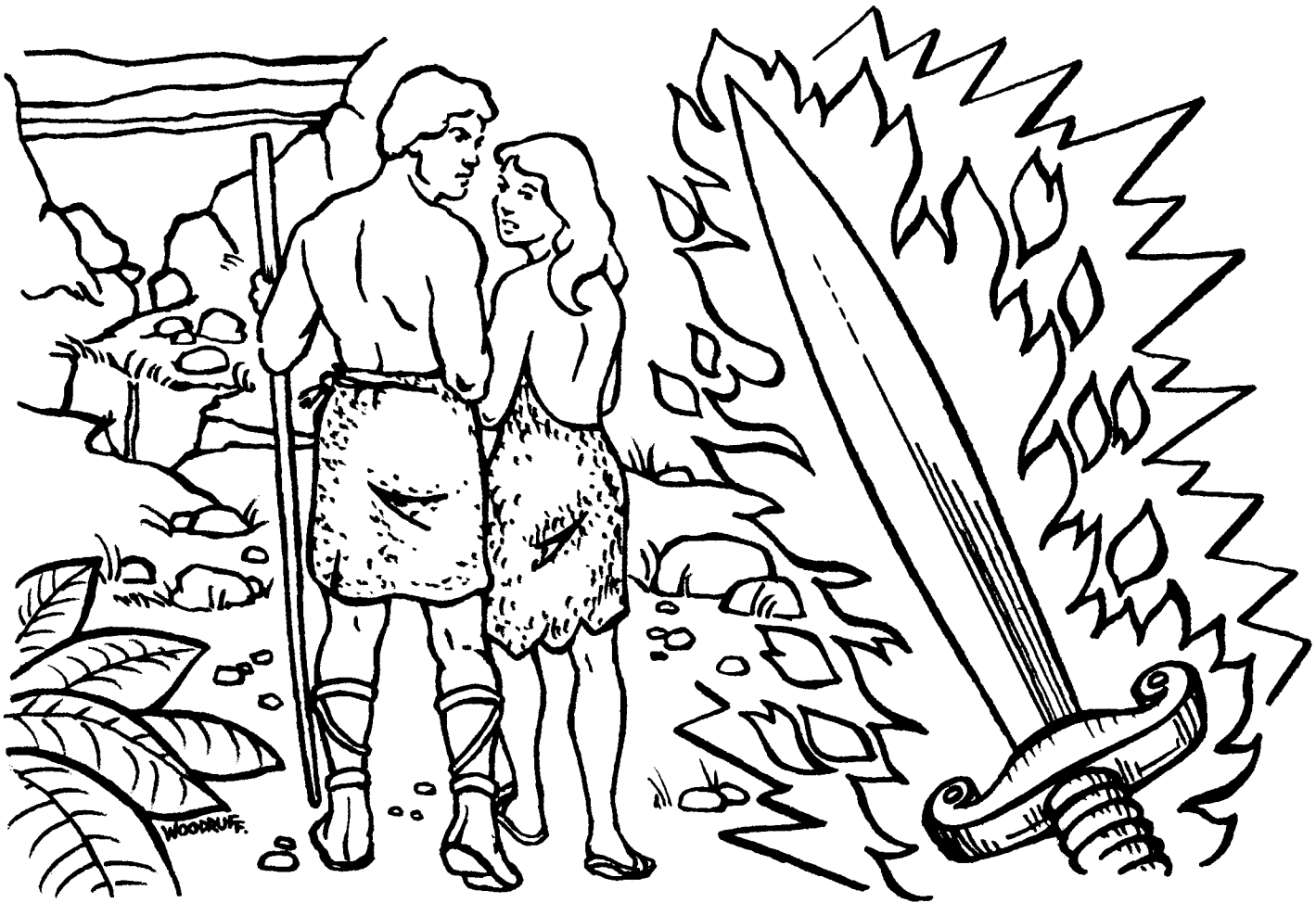
Adam and Eve against God.

God gave Adam and Eve some rules to obey. As long as they obeyed the rules they would live close to God and would be happy and healthy. God put two special trees in the garden. He told Adam and Eve that they could eat the fruit of the Tree of Life but not the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. If they ate of the Tree of Life they could live forever. But if they disobeyed and ate of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil they would die.

One day as Eve took a walk in the Garden, she saw a serpent. Serpents were friendly at this time, but this one was different. This one talked and spoke to Eve. She didn't know it, but it was Satan speaking to her through the serpent. The serpent told Eve it was not true that she would die if she ate the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. He lied to Eve, telling her how wise she and Adam would be if they ate the fruit.

Eve listened, took the fruit and bit into it. It tasted so good that she took it to Adam, and he ate some, too.

Then they felt guilty. They knew they had disobeyed God. They were ashamed of their sin and tried to hide. But God knew where to find them. When God asked them if they



had eaten of the tree, Adam tried to put the blame on his wife by saying, "Eve gave it to me."

God was unhappy that they didn't obey Him. But God let them choose the way they would live their lives. It is the same with us. We can either choose God's way of love and happiness or Satan's way of hate and false pride—which leads to sorrow and unhappiness.

If Adam and Eve had not disobeyed God, they could have lived forever in happiness. But now they knew that they would someday die. Because they had sinned, God sent Adam and Eve out of the

beautiful Garden of Eden. God punished them, just as a parent must punish a disobedient child.

After some time, a son was born to Adam and Eve. They called him "Cain." They later had another son, who was named "Abel."

God told Adam and Eve that they should, at certain times, kill a lamb and burn it on an altar as a sacrifice. They were to teach their sons to make sacrifices, too, as a reminder of their sins and to ask God's forgiveness.

Cain and Abel worked very hard as they grew up. Cain became a farmer and grew fruits and vegeta-



bles, while Abel became a shepherd of sheep. One day they brought their sacrifices to an altar. Abel brought his best lamb. Cain had a few animals, too, but didn't want to give

God any, so he brought some of his fruit and vegetables instead. Cain did not want to obey God. He thought God should think his sacrifice was just as good as Abel's. But God's

way is always right, whether or not it looks right to man.

God could not accept Cain's sacrifice, so Cain became angry that God accepted his brother's sacrifice. He became so envious and angry that he killed Abel. Cain knew he had sinned and tried to hide, but God's voice came to him, asking him where his brother was. Cain lied, saying he didn't know where Abel was. But God knew what happened.

God punished Cain by sending him away from his family and by no longer blessing the crops he planted.

By the time Adam died, the earth had become filled with people. The world was filled, also, with hate, greed and unhappiness—because the people were not living by God's laws. Because God loved the people so much, it made Him sad to see them miserable and unhappy.

So, God decided to stop their unhappiness by ending their lives in a flood that would cover the whole world!

The only man on earth who was living by God's laws was Noah. One day God spoke to him, telling Noah of His plan to take away the other people's lives because they were so unhappy. He told Noah that He would bring them back to life many years later when Jesus Christ would

be ruling the earth. Then they would obey their Creator and would be very happy.

God said He would save Noah and his family from the Flood because Noah obeyed God's laws. But Noah was puzzled. How could his family be saved if a flood was to cover the whole earth? God told Noah to build a large ship and gave him exact instructions about *how* to build it, step by step.

Noah obeyed God and he and his three sons began to build. Of course, other people began to notice what Noah and his family were doing. "They must be crazy," they said to each other. They had never seen a boat that big—especially on dry land!

Noah and his sons kept working very hard on the boat—for more than 100 years! While they built the ship, called an ark, Noah kept telling people that if they would start obeying God, that He would save them, also, from the Flood. But no one outside Noah's family believed him.

Even after the ark was finished, there was much work to do. They had to gather tons of food for the many animals God told Noah to take on board.

One day those who had laughed at Noah suddenly stared at what they saw. All kinds of animals and

birds were coming to the ark!

Of all the animals that are clean to eat, seven pairs entered the ark. Of the unclean animals, one pair entered—one male and one female. It must have looked like a huge zoo gathered there. All the animals were soon in cages or stables. With Noah and his family safely inside the boat, God closed the door, shutting inside the eight people who would survive the flood.

A week went by with no sign of rain. The people outside the ark were laughing at Noah.

But, then, the sky grew dark. Small drops of rain began to fall, and

then the light rain became heavy. Soon the people were no longer laughing; they were filled with fear. Before long, water was everywhere and everything was swept into it. Soon the water covered even the highest mountains, and every person was drowned except the eight inside the ark.

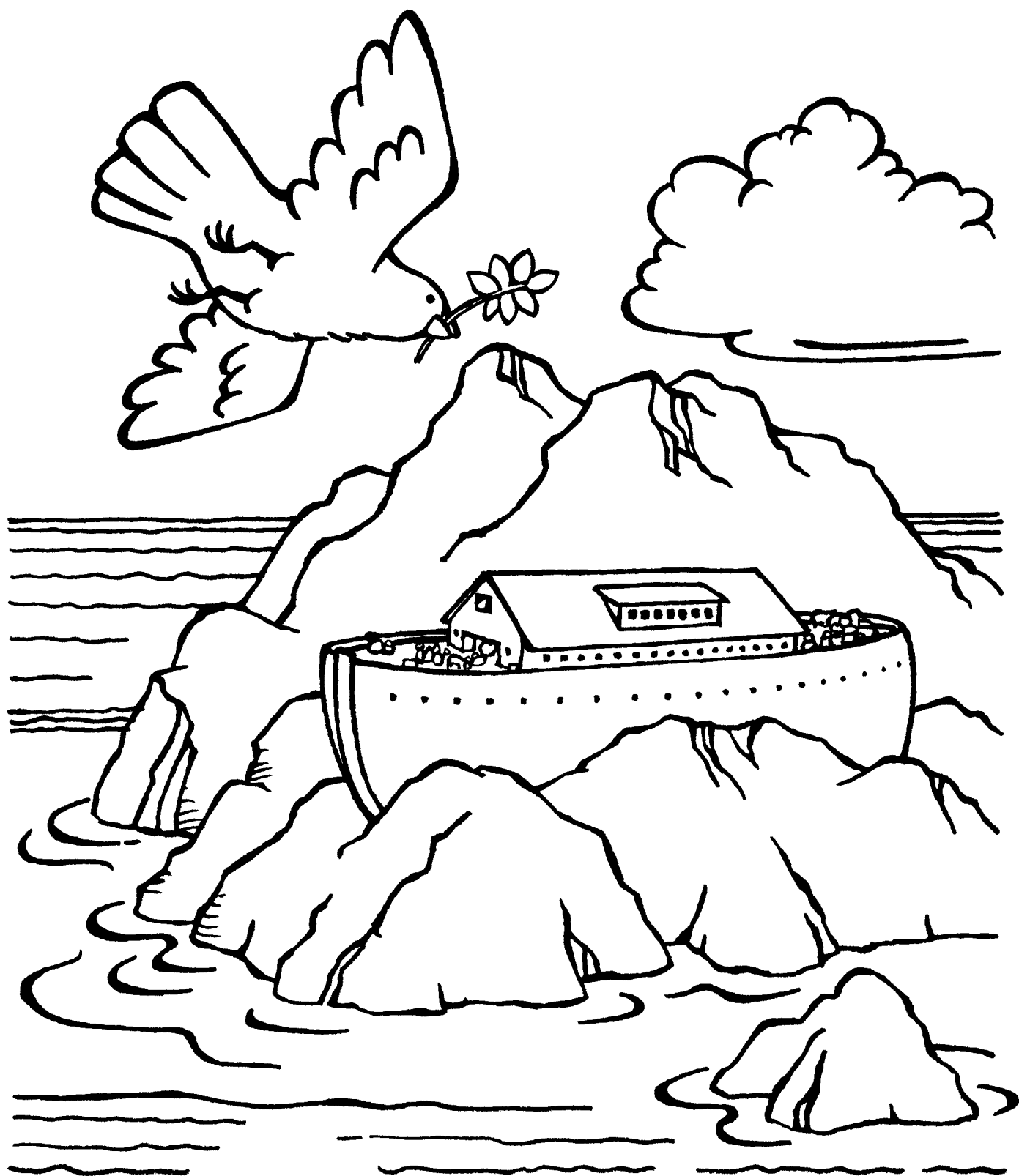
During the many weeks inside the ark, Noah and his family were kept busy taking care of all the animals.

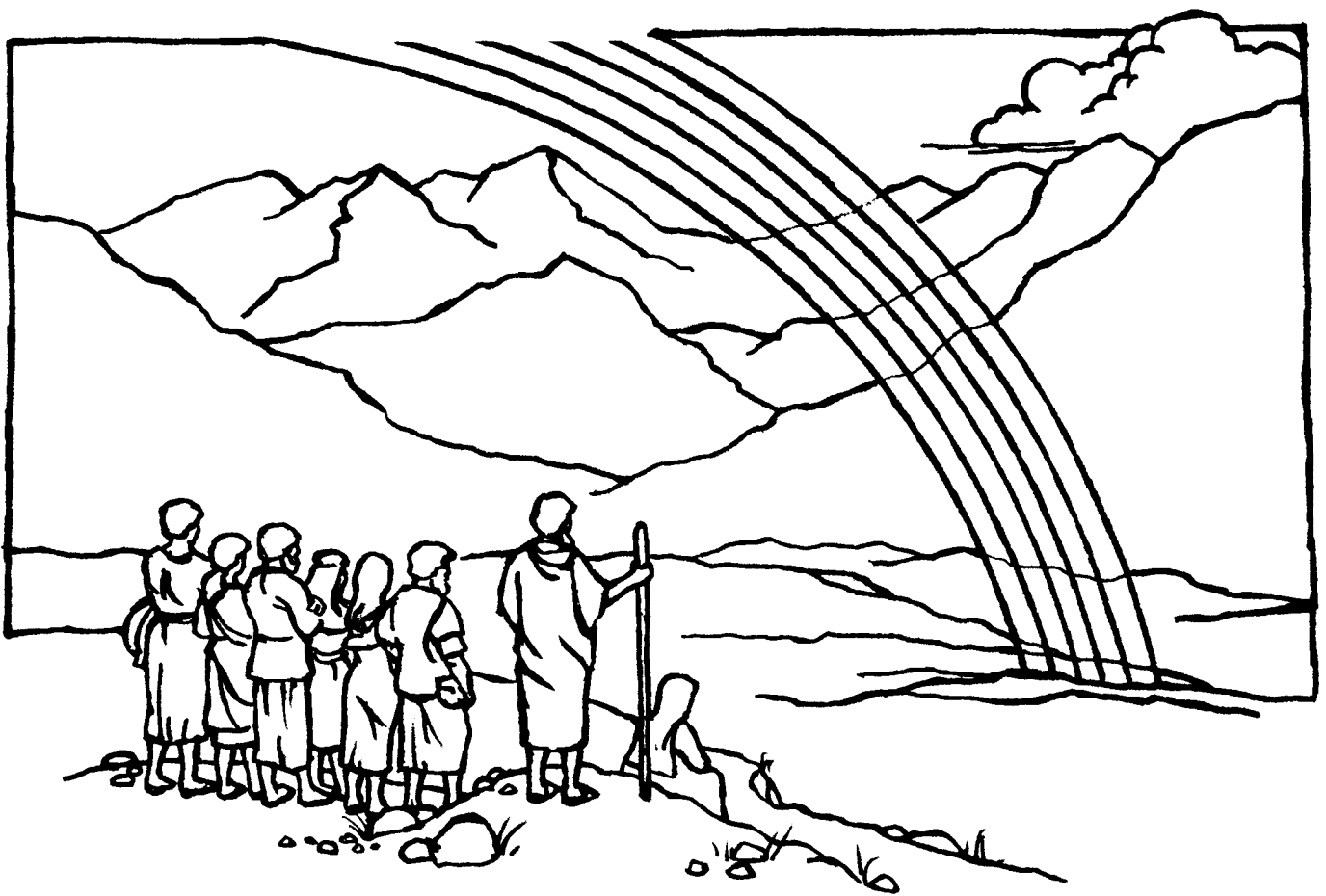
Finally, the waters began to go down, and the ark drifted against a mountain (Mt. Ararat). They waited several more months for the level of water to drop. Noah sent birds out to



see if there was any dry land yet.
Finally, when one bird, a dove,
brought back an olive leaf, Noah

knew it would soon be time to leave
the ark, for the leaf proved there
was again dry land on which his





family and the animals could live. Noah waited until God told him it was time to leave the ark, then all the animals were led out and sent on their way to scatter over the earth.

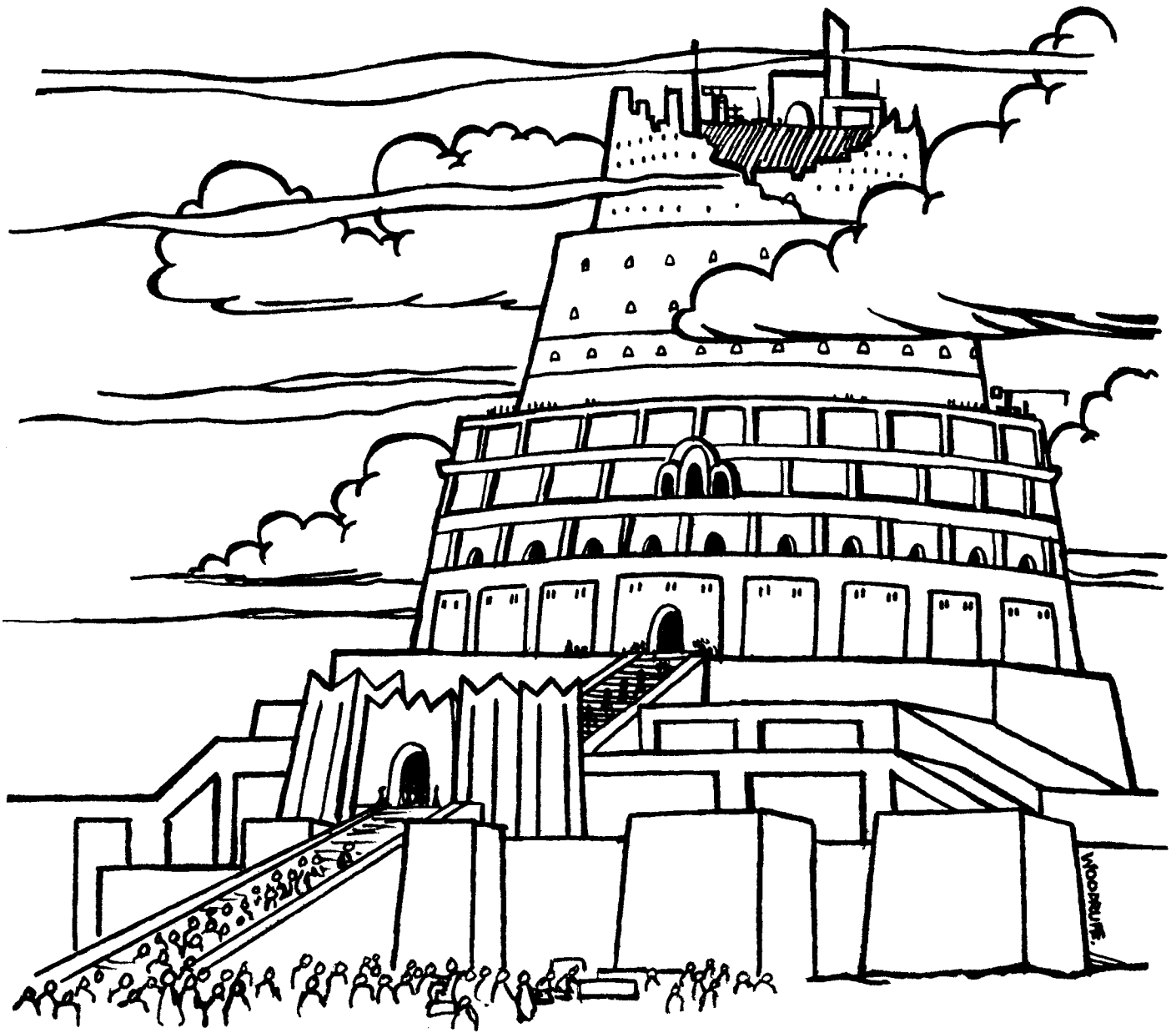
Noah and his family were so thankful to God for taking care of them that Noah sacrificed some of the clean animals as an offering. God promised Noah that He would never again bring a flood over all the earth. From then on, when a rainbow appeared in the sky, it was to remind men of this promise from God.

From then until now, all the people on the earth have descended from Noah's three sons and their wives.

As the years passed, there were again many people. They started living close together again, which God knew would not be best for them. Sure enough, soon they forgot God's laws, and Satan gave them ideas that led to their worshipping false gods, called idols.

A man named Nimrod became the strong leader of one of the cities, even making the laws. And people decided to obey Nimrod, rather than God!

Nimrod decided to build a tower—the greatest tower ever—so that people would feel awe and wonder and he could hold the people under



his rule. Men worked hard on this tower month after month, building it higher and higher. They wanted to build it so high that it would reach heaven.

God saw what they were trying to do, and He knew He had to stop it. So, He stepped in. Up to now the people all spoke the same language. But God confused their language and suddenly they couldn't understand each other. These misunderstand-

ings made them angry. Arguments turned into fights. Because of the confusion in speaking, the tower was called "Babel," meaning "confusion." After they stopped working, the tower and city were never finished. And, since they could no longer understand each other, God scattered the people into faraway lands. Nimrod's plan to control a whole city and its religious beliefs was temporarily stopped by God.

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Books of the Old Testament

I Samuel
II Samuel
I Kings
II Kings
I Chronicles
II Chronicles
Ezra
Nehemiah

Esther
Job
Psalms
Proverbs
Ecclesiastes
Song of Solomon
Isaiah
Jeremiah

Lamentations
Ezekiel
Daniel
Hosea
Joel
Amos
Obadiah
Jonah

Micah
Nahum
Habakkuk
Zephaniah
Haggai
Zechariah
Malachi

The words below can be found in the puzzle reading forward, backward, up, down or diagonally. When you have circled all the words on the list, the remaining letters spell out a phrase from the first chapter and first verse of a book in the Bible. The first word has been circled to help you get started.

“—————”
(— — —, 1:1)

Abel ✓
Adam
animals
brother
Cain
day
Eden
Eve
farmer
fish
flowers
God

grass
heavens
insects
man
moon
night
rest
Sabbath
sin
stars
sun
Tree of Life