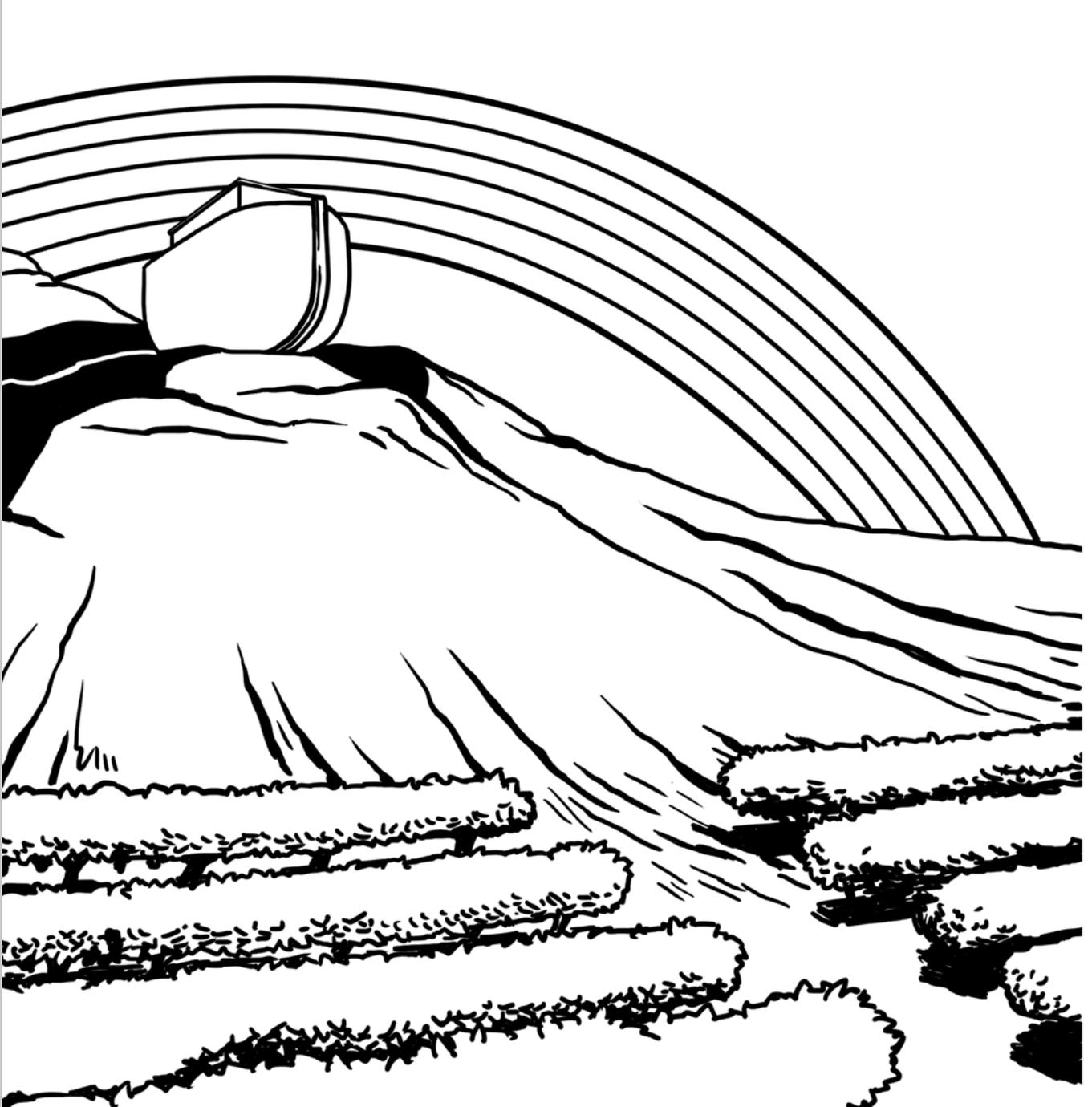




LEVEL 3
3·2
LESSON 2

Imperial Academy Bible Lessons



Noah, the Ark and the Tower

Noah, the Ark and the Tower

Adam and Eve's first child was Cain. Cain grew up to be selfish and evil, and he murdered his brother Abel. God sent Cain away from the families of Adam's other children. Cain raised his own family in the land of Nod. There he built a city and named it Enoch, after his son. Cain's children were like him: They sinned against God and became liars, thieves and murderers.

The families of Adam's other children also sinned against God. They chose to do what *they* thought was right rather than what *God* said was right. God used Seth and some of his descendants to warn people that sinning leads to misery and death. But the people did not listen to these warnings. Instead, more and more of them chose to live the way of Cain, which was the way of Satan!

The Bible indicates that the descendants of Cain eventually began to intermarry with the descendants of Adam's other children. The children who came from these unions became very wicked. They ate wrong

foods, drank too much, and broke God's laws of marriage. They thought about evil continually (Genesis 6:1-5; Matthew 24:38).

When God looked down and saw all the selfishness and violence people were committing, He decided to end it. He chose to send a great flood that would cover the whole world with water! It would drown everyone and end their misery and the evil that they were doing to each other. God knew that thousands of years later, He would put Satan away and rule the world Himself. Then He would resurrect these people who died in the Flood.

The Earth was so full of evil in those days that God found only one man who was still trying to follow His laws. His name was Noah.

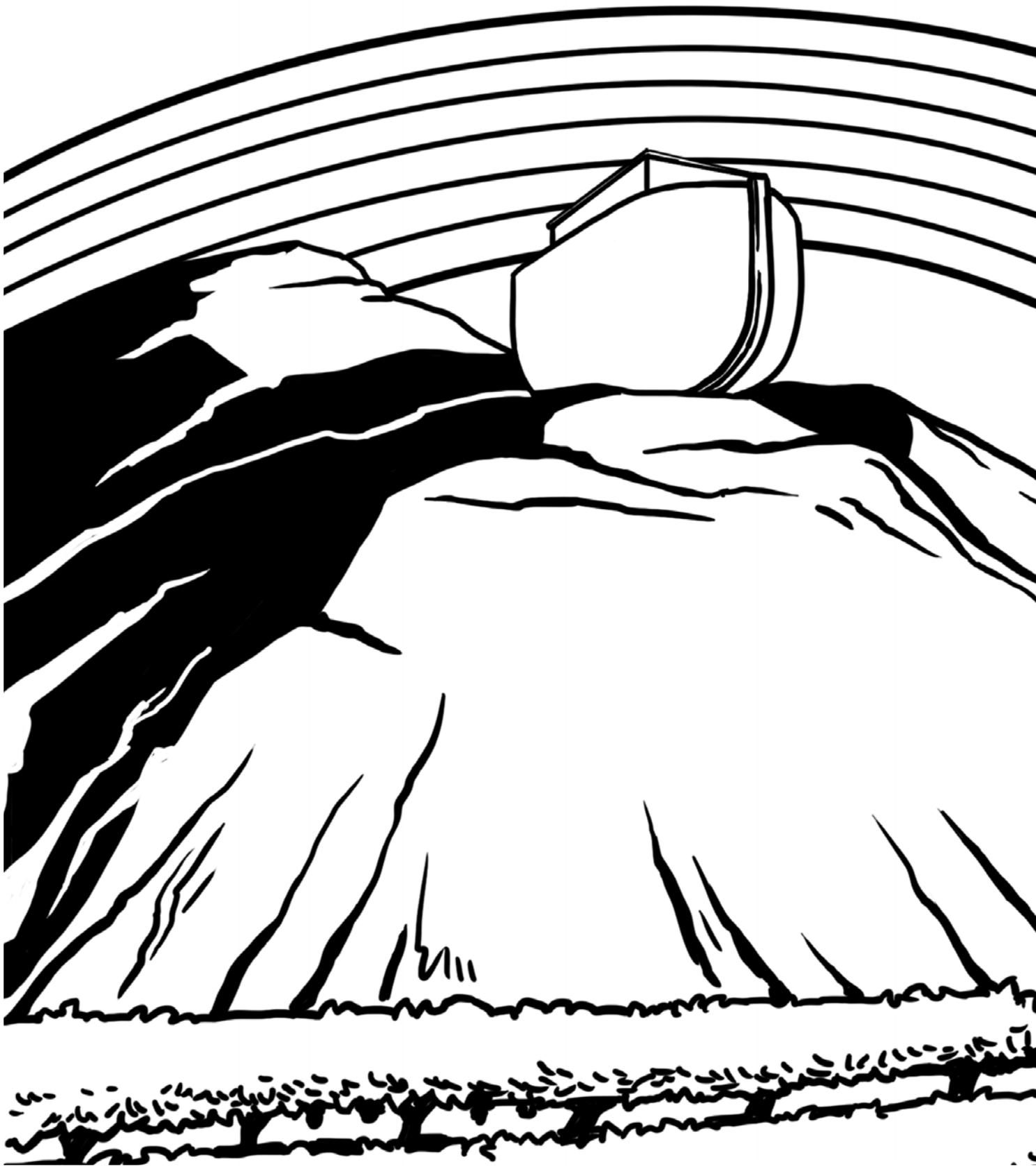
THE GREAT FLOOD

Noah was a descendant of Seth. Even though Noah's father and grandfather had turned away from God, he did his best to obey God's laws. Because Noah was trying to live God's way of life, God warned

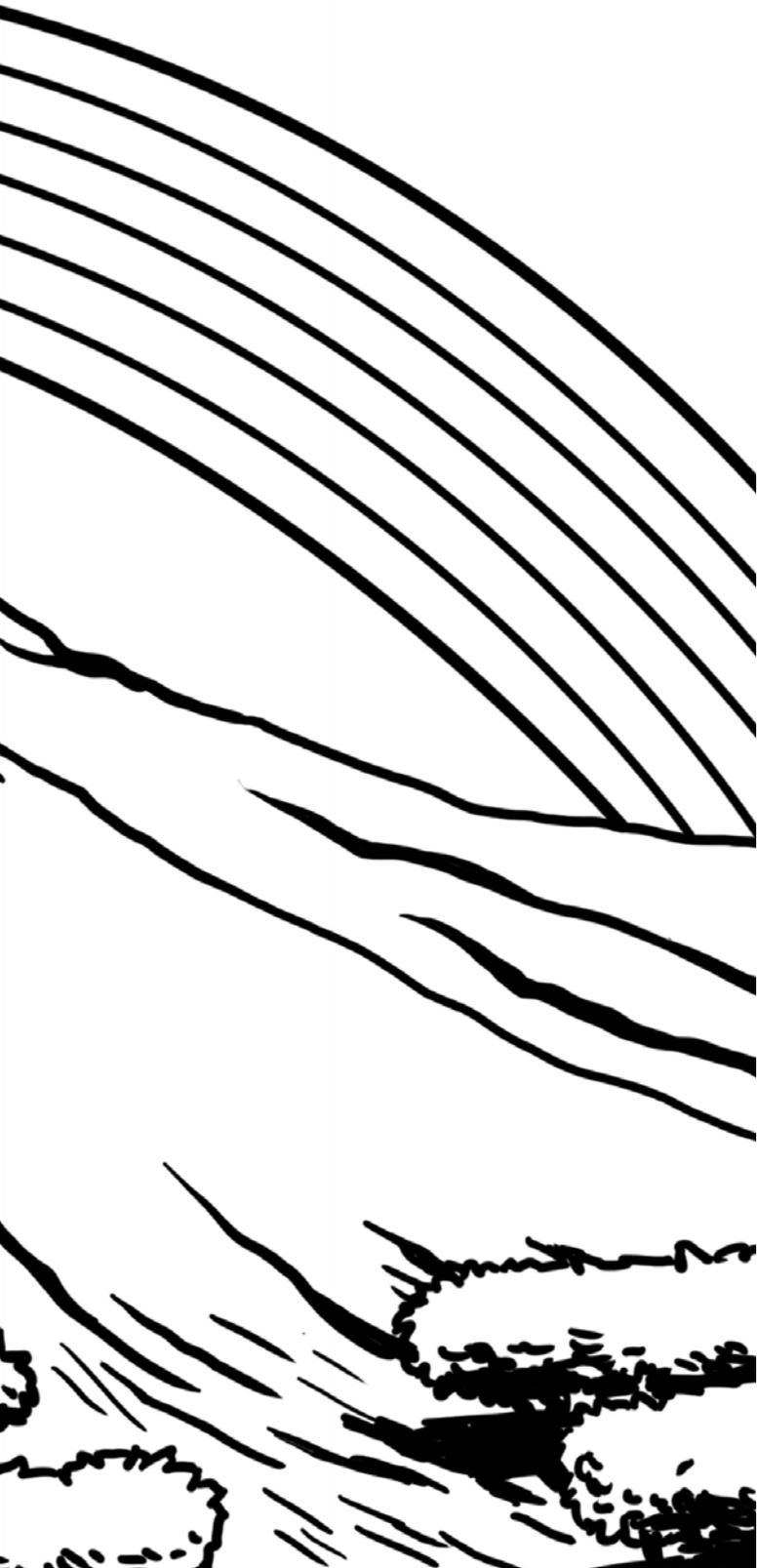


ILLUSTRATIONS: MELISSA BARREIRO/IABL

When the Flood came, only Noah and his family were safe.



After the ark landed on Mount Ararat, Noah's descendants began to spread across the Earth.



him about the coming Flood. He gave Noah instructions to build a huge ship, called an ark.

Noah obeyed and started building it with his three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth. It took a long time to build a ship that big. It had to be large enough to save his family and hundreds of different kinds of animals from a worldwide flood. People came to watch Noah and his sons build this giant ship. Noah warned them that they were sinning and that God was going to punish them with a flood if they did not repent. The people only laughed at him and mocked him.

Noah worked on the ark and warned people for more than 100 years. For more than 100 years, there was no flood.

Then something very unusual happened. God brought thousands and thousands of animals to the ark. Noah took seven pairs of every animal that was clean to eat and one pair of every animal that was unclean to eat. Each pair had a male and a female. Noah and his family put these animals into stables and cages inside the ark so that they could survive the Flood. After the animals were loaded, Noah, his wife, his three sons and their wives climbed into the ark. Then God closed the door and sealed it shut!

A whole week passed. There was no flood. People outside laughed at Noah. They called him crazy for getting his family stuck inside a

useless ship with thousands and thousands of animals. But at the end of the week, the sky grew dark and rain began to fall. Then it began to storm. People began to worry. Then water shot up out of the ground! People became terrified as water began rising everywhere. Rivers flooded their banks. Lakes got larger and larger. People tried to get away from the water, but the rain fell for 40 days and 40 nights. By the time it stopped, every person on Earth had drowned—except for Noah and his family, who were safe inside the ark!

Noah's family remained in the ark and took care of all the animals for many months as the floodwater slowly dropped lower and lower. One day there was a crunching sound as the ark settled on a mountain: Mount Ararat. Noah sent out birds in search of plant life. When a dove finally brought back an olive leaf, Noah knew there was dry land where his family and the animals could live!

When God told Noah to leave the ark, he and his family led the animals out and sent them on their way to scatter over the Earth. Then he took some of the clean animals and offered them as a sacrifice to God. God accepted Noah's sacrifice. He promised that He would never flood the whole Earth again. As a sign of His promise, God put a rainbow in the sky. Whenever you see a rainbow, remember the reason God created it: to remind us of His promise!

THE TOWER OF BABEL

As the years passed after the Flood, Noah's sons and their wives had many children. The land was filled with people. God told the people to spread out across the Earth. But like the people before the Flood, these people also disobeyed. Most of Noah's descendants chose to live the same selfish way that Adam and Eve had chosen when they ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Noah's descendants refused to spread out like God commanded. Instead, they lived close together in cities in the land of Shinar.

The people were afraid of wild animals. Animals were no longer tame and peaceful as they had been in the Garden of Eden. Animals such as lions attacked people. But one man was very good at killing these dangerous wild animals. His name was Nimrod.

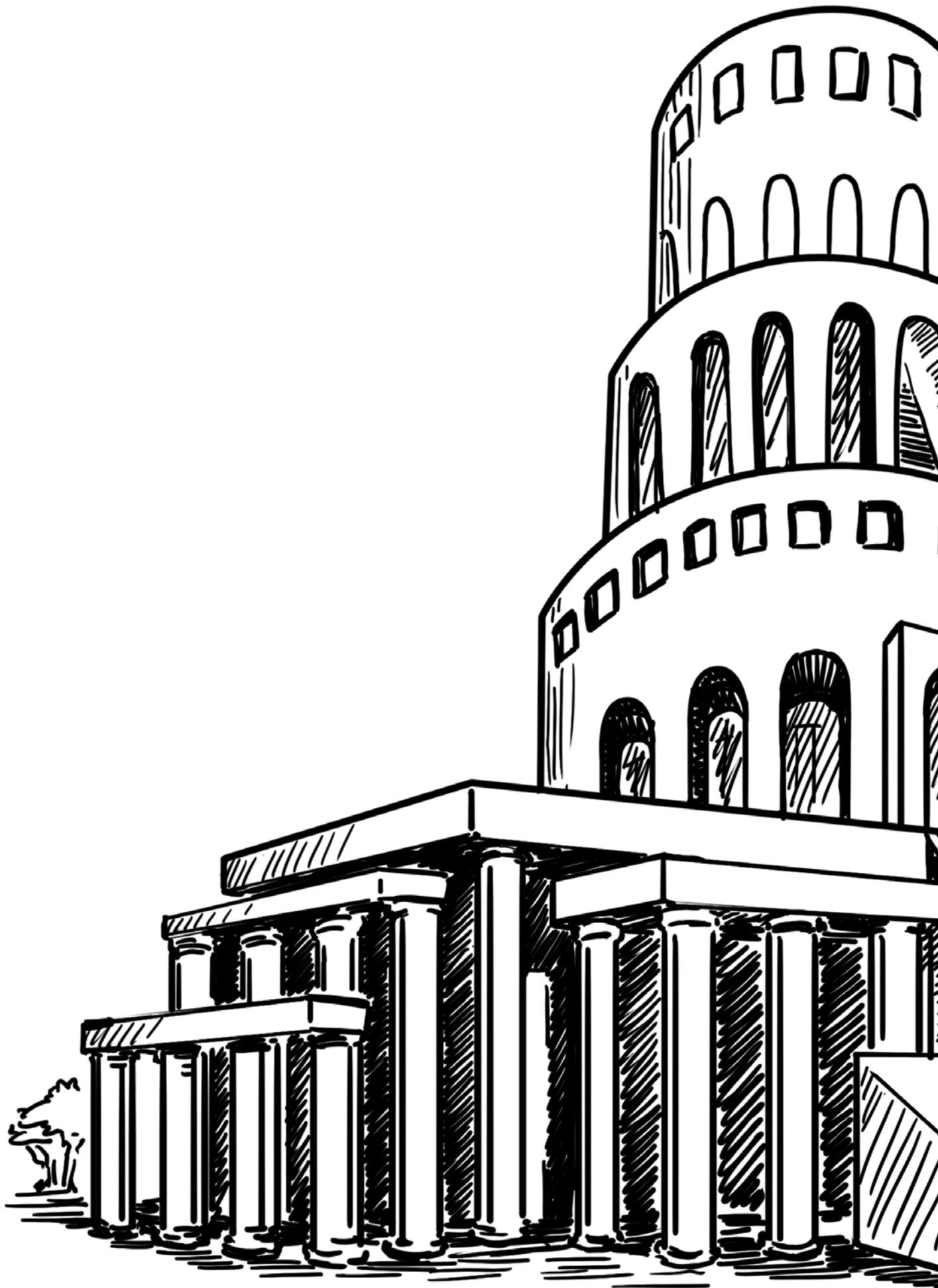
Nimrod was a great-grandson of Noah. But he was against God. Babylonian history records that he married a very wicked woman named Semiramis. He became the king of Shinar. People trusted him and obeyed him rather than God.

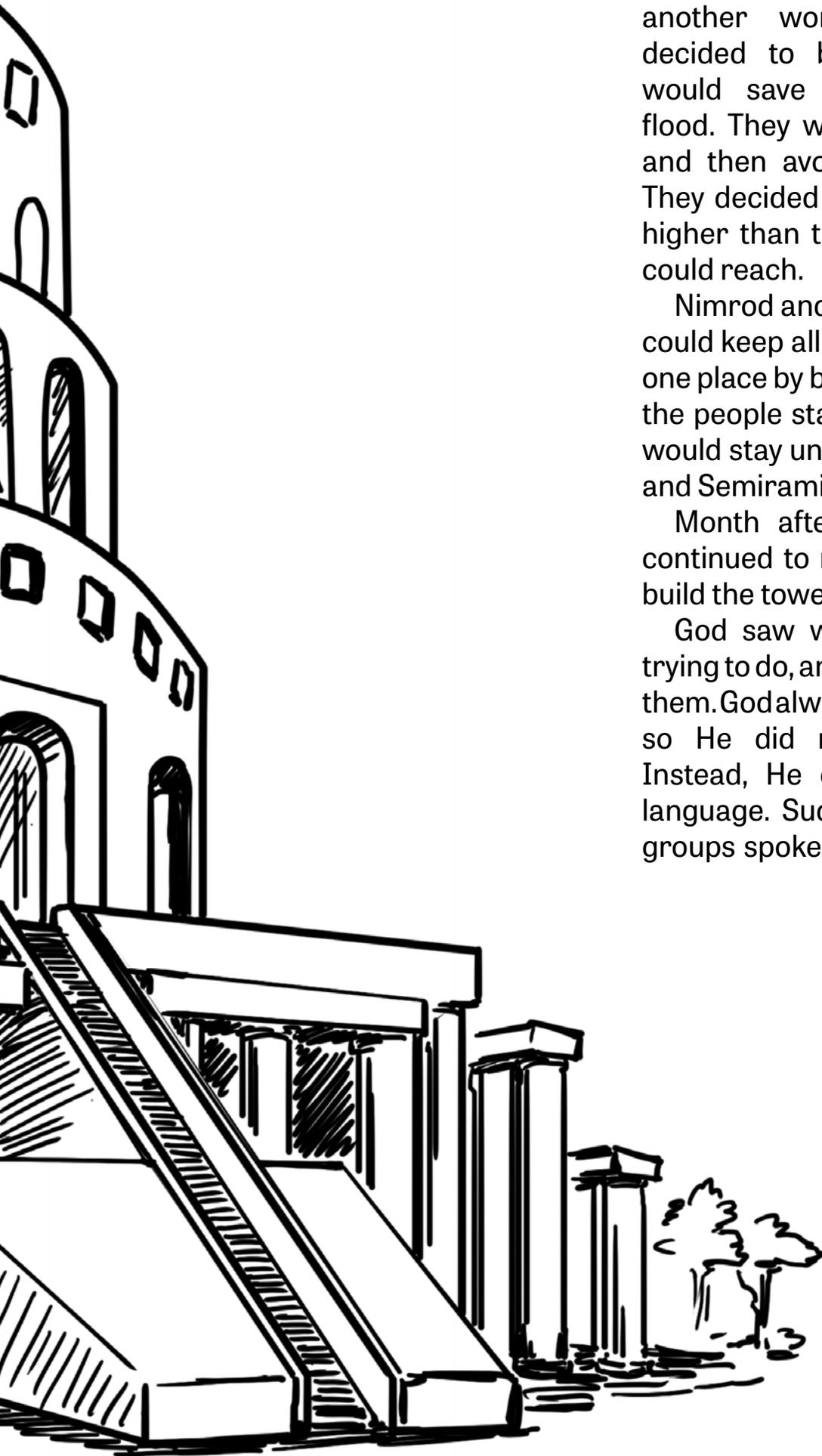
Nimrod and Semiramis told people not to worship the God of Noah. They told them to worship physical things like fire, the sun, stars and serpents. Whether they knew it or not, they were actually worshipping Satan.

The people did not believe God's promise that He would not send



People looked to Nimrod as a protector because of his ability as a hunter.





another worldwide flood. They decided to build something that would save them from another flood. They wanted to disobey God and then avoid God's punishment. They decided to build a huge tower higher than they thought any flood could reach.

Nimrod and Semiramis knew they could keep all the people together in one place by building such a tower. If the people stayed in one place, they would stay under the rule of Nimrod and Semiramis.

Month after month, the people continued to rebel against God and build the tower.

God saw what the people were trying to do, and He knew how to stop them. God always keeps His promises, so He did not flood the Earth. Instead, He changed the people's language. Suddenly different family groups spoke in different languages

Nimrod led the people to build the tower of Babel.



People chose to worship idols instead of God.

instead of all people speaking just one language. The people could no longer understand each other!

As they became confused, they began to argue and fight. The tower became known as the Tower of Babel, which means *confusion*. People stopped working on the tower, and it was never finished.

Since people no longer all spoke the same language, they talked only to those who could understand the language they spoke. Families began to separate from each other, likely grouping by language. They began to leave Shinar and spread out across the Earth, the way God had commanded.

Nimrod's plan to rule the whole world was stopped. Yet the people were stubborn. Although they were forced to spread out over the Earth, they did not repent and turn to God. They continued to worship the sun, fire, snakes and other idols, just like Nimrod and Semiramis had taught them. Since each family now spoke a

different language, each family had a different set of names for their false gods. As the families spread across the Earth, they took their belief in these gods with them spreading their pagan religion around the Earth.

Today we have many types of false religions. All these false religions can be traced back to this original false religion established by Nimrod and Semiramis!

After Noah died, God decided to begin a new stage in His plan. The people before the Flood had turned away from Him. The people after the Flood had done the same thing. Now God would do something special. He would start a new nation. He would work with the people in this nation and give them an opportunity to be an example to the other nations. God would bless this nation for its obedience. This would show them and the world that living God's way brings blessings!

God chose to start this special nation with one man.

BIBLE MEMORY Books of the Old Testament

Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy
Joshua
Judges
Ruth
1 Samuel
2 Samuel

1 Kings
2 Kings
1 Chronicles
2 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

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Gerald Flurry

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Scranimals

Can you unscramble the letters below to reveal
some of the animals Noah took on the ark?

___ ___ ___ ___ ___ DAAPN

___ ___ ___ ___ ___ NEHAELPT

___ ___ ___ ___ ___ OROGKANA

___ ___ ___ ___ INOL

___ ___ ___ ___ ___ TBRABI

___ ___ ___ ___ ___ LEBTEE

___ ___ ___ ___ ___ LABFUFO

___ ___ ___ ___ ___ KICRCTE

___ ___ ___ ___ ___ EMCLA

___ ___ ___ ___ ___ OEVD

___ ___ ___ ___ ___ COCROAN

___ ___ ___ ___ ___ SOEMO