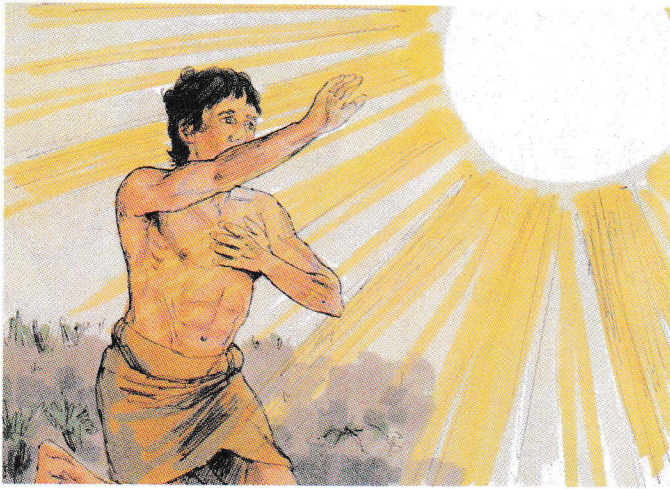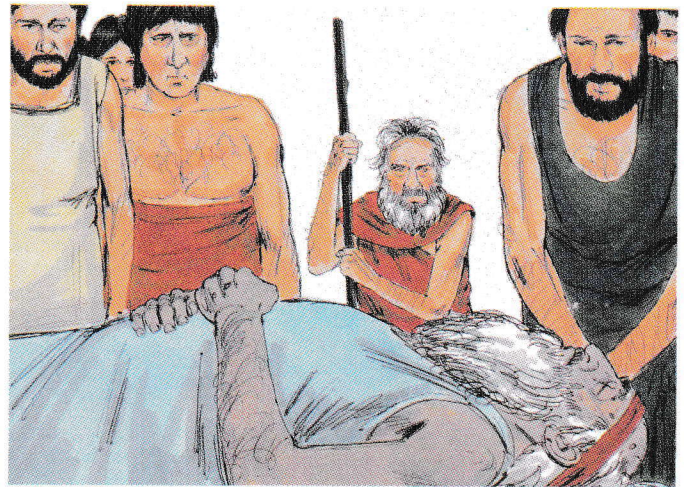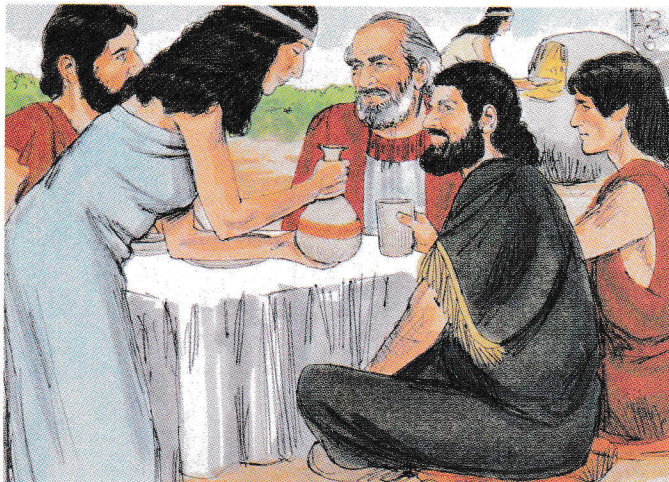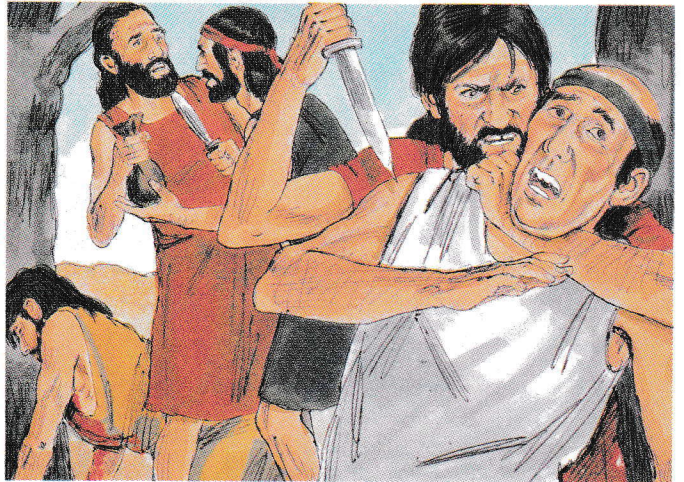# God Sends a Flood

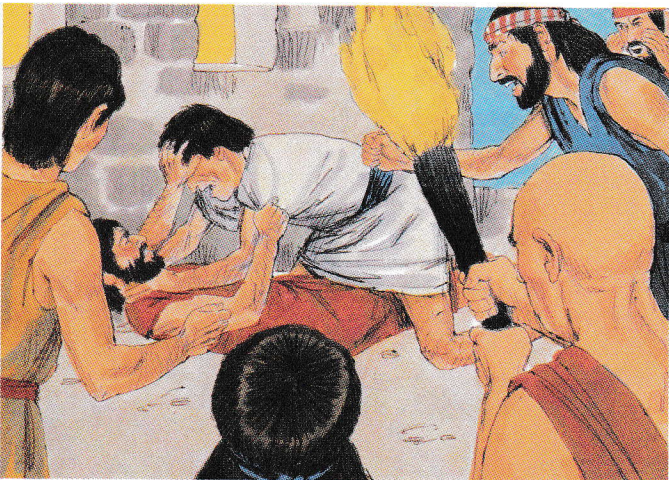**1** After Cain killed his brother Abel and was sent away, Adam and Eve had many other children.

2 In those days people lived to be very, very old. But no matter how long people lived, everyone had to die sooner or later. No one could escape death forever.
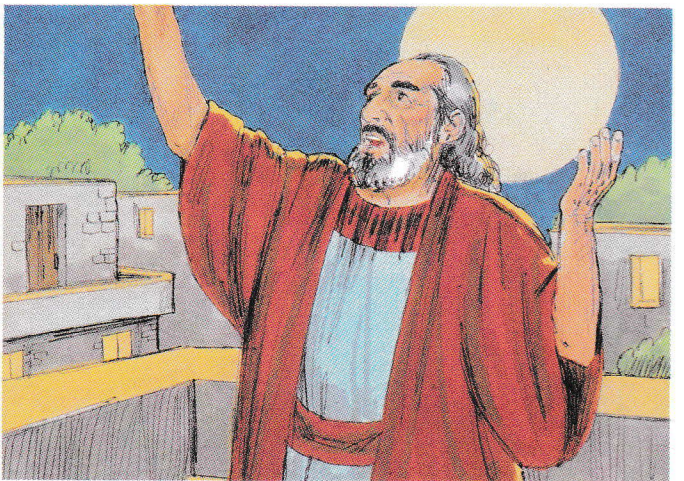
3 There was a man named Noah living then. He was an old man with three sons. Their names were Shem, Ham, and Japheth.
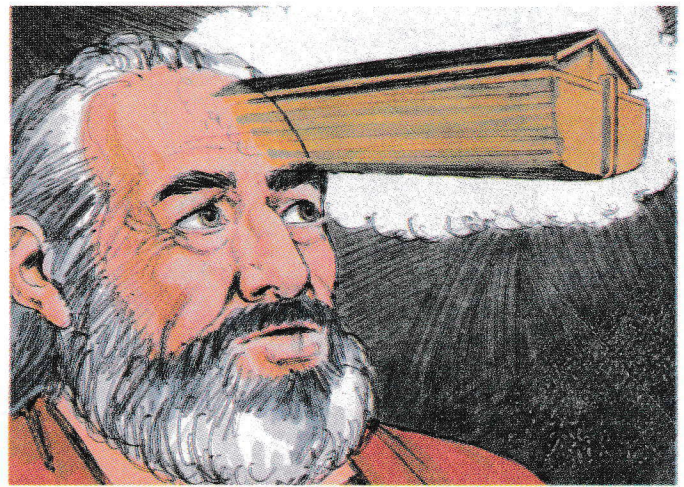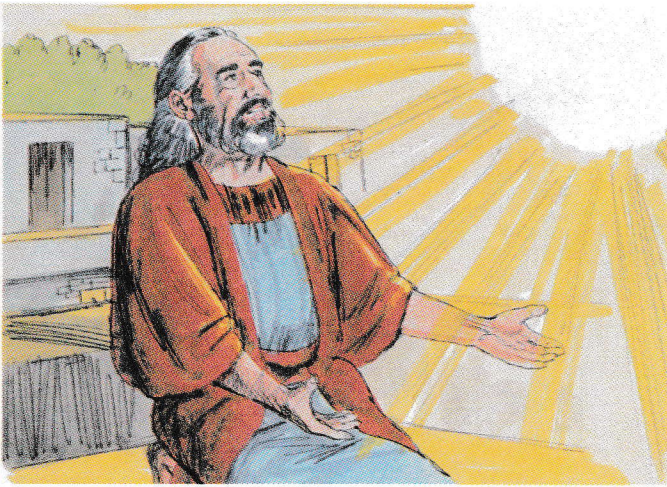
4 People were doing very evil things in Noah's day. It seemed as though the more people there were, the more wicked people became.

5 Finally, people's wickedness became so great that God was sorry he had ever made them. He decided to destroy all the people living on the earth who did not obey him.
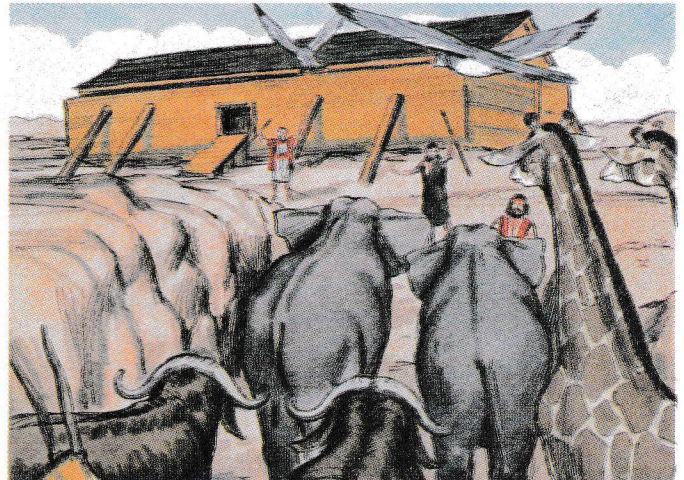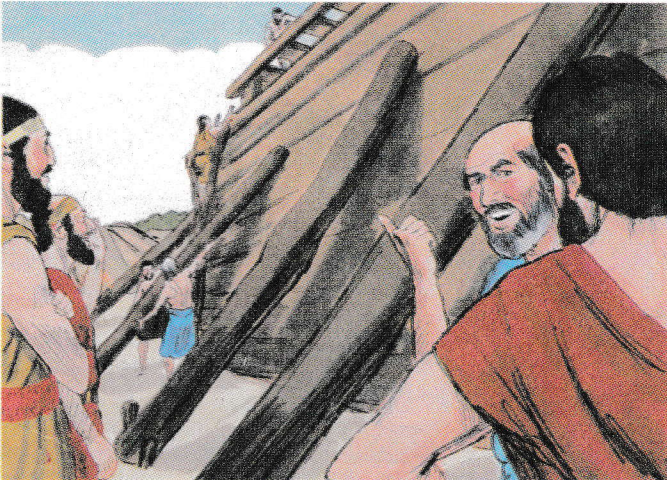
6 However, there was one man whom God planned to save—Noah. He was the only person living in those days who was not evil. Noah was a good man who loved God.
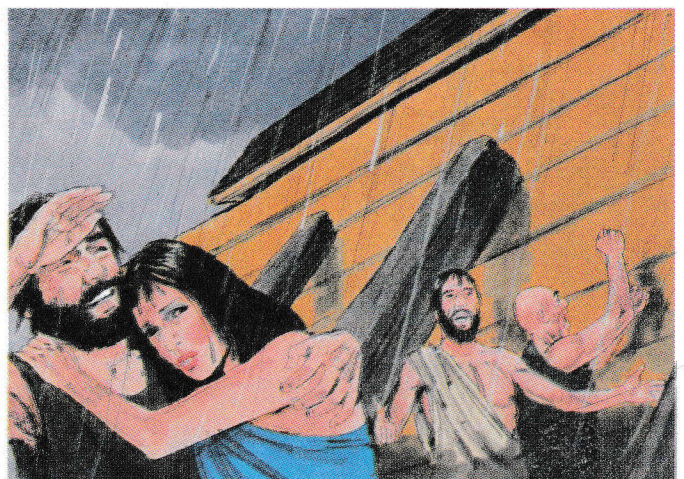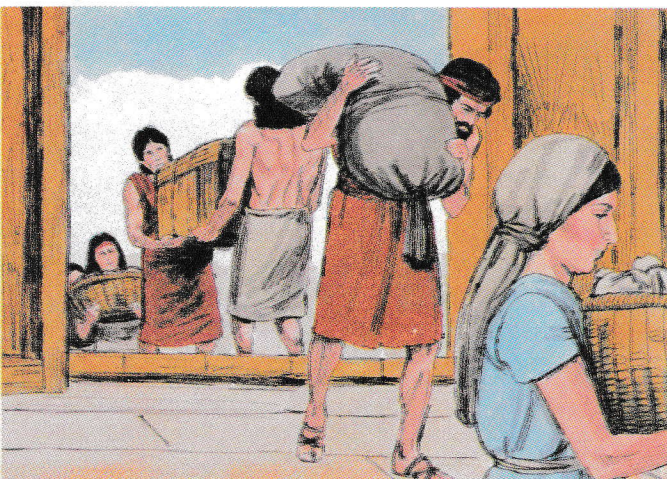
7 Because God was pleased with Noah, he told Noah about his plan. "I will bring a flood upon the earth," God said, "to destroy all living things." Noah was to have a part in God's plan.

8 God told Noah to build a huge boat, called an ark. God told Noah exactly how he wanted the ark built.

9 "Make a boat with three decks and many rooms," God told Noah, "and cover it with a roof." It took Noah a long time to build such a huge boat, but he did exactly as God had commanded him.

10 "All kinds of birds and animals will be taken into the ark," God told Noah. God wanted to save a male and a female of every kind of animal from the coming destruction.

11 Noah and his wife and his three sons and their wives would have to live in the ark for a long time, so they put on board enough food for themselves and for the animals.

12 As soon as all the preparations were completed, Noah and his family entered the ark and God shut the door. Then, as God had said, rain began to fall. The destruction of the world had begun!