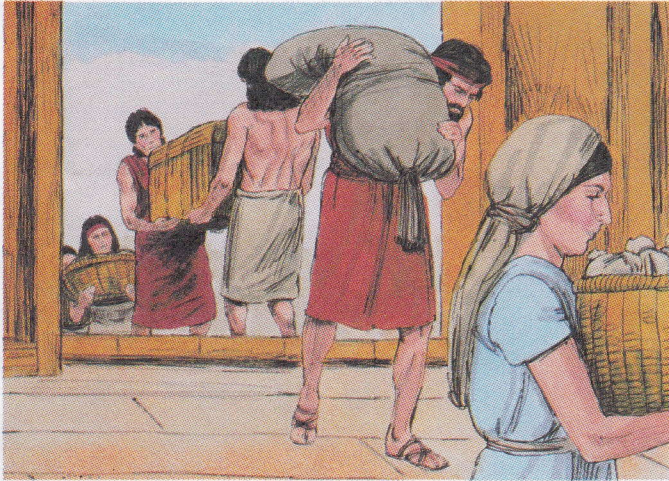
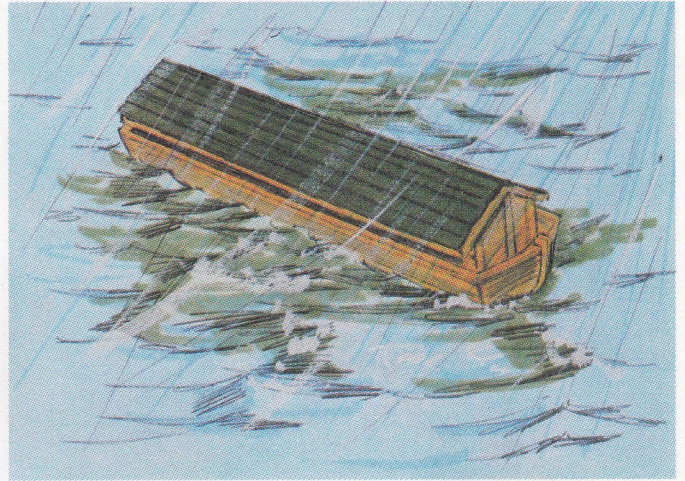


The Ark Comes to Rest



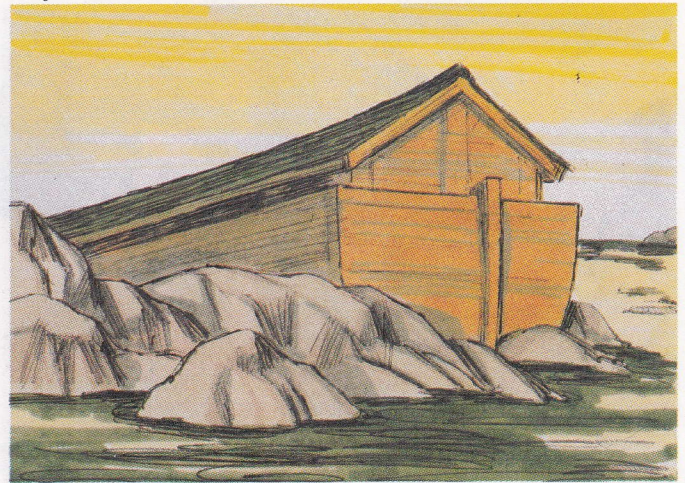
1 On the day the rain began to fall, Noah and his family entered the ark. It rained and rained for forty days and nights, but the ark floated on top of the water.



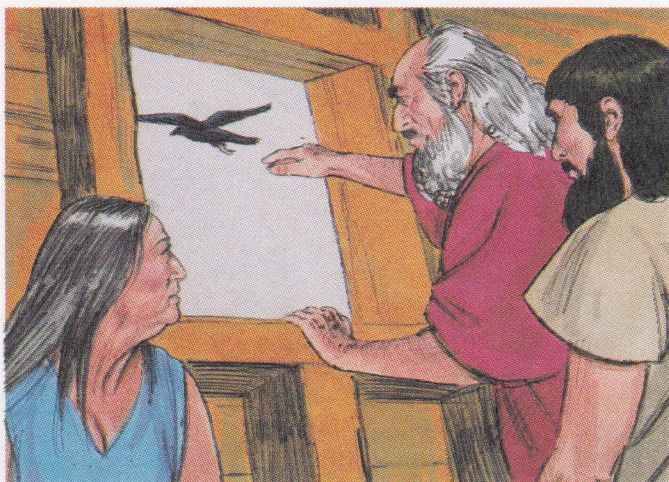
2 The water became so deep that it covered even the highest mountains. All the animals, all the birds, and all the people on the earth died in the flood. Only those with Noah in the ark remained alive.



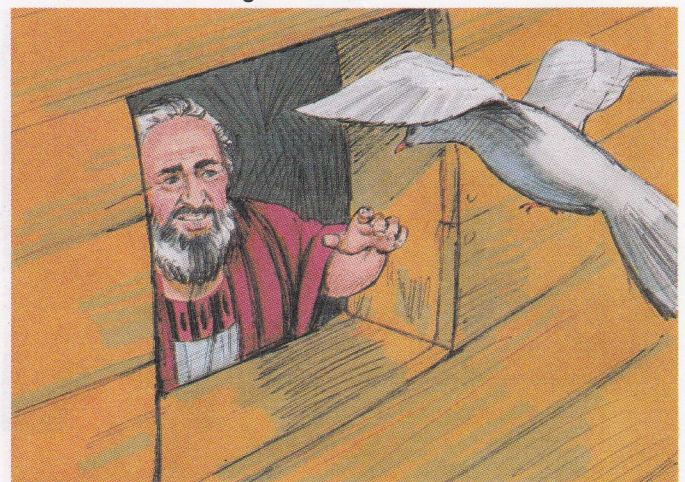
3 But God had not forgotten Noah. He caused a wind to blow, and the wind began to make the water slowly go down.



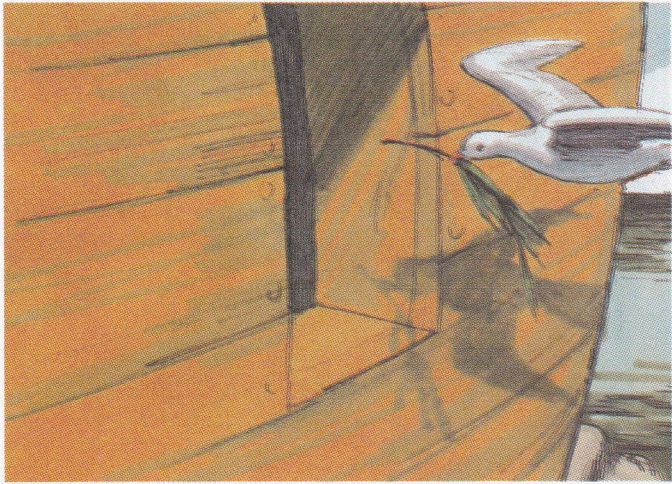
4 After 150 days the ark finally stopped floating and came to rest on top of a mountain called Ararat. Noah and his family stayed in the ark and waited as the waters continued to go down.



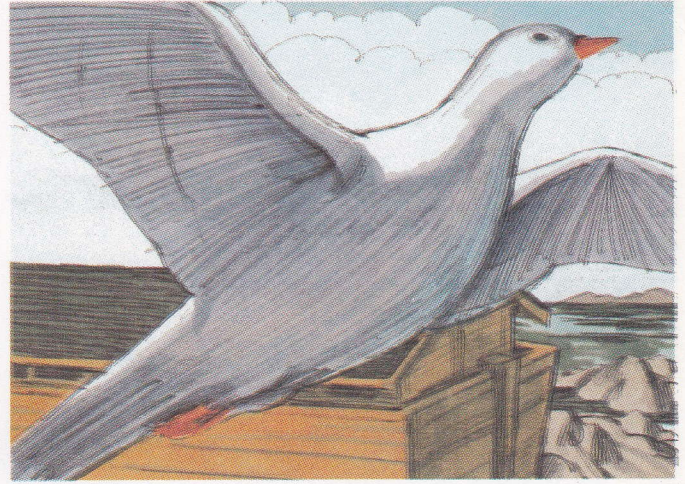
5 Forty days later Noah opened the window of the ark and sent out a raven. It did not come back but just kept flying around and around until the water was completely gone.



6 Next Noah sent out a dove to check whether the water was gone. The dove could find no place to light and returned to the ark.



7 Seven days later Noah sent out the dove again. This time it returned to the ark with a freshly plucked olive leaf in its beak. Noah knew by this that the water had gone down below the tree tops.



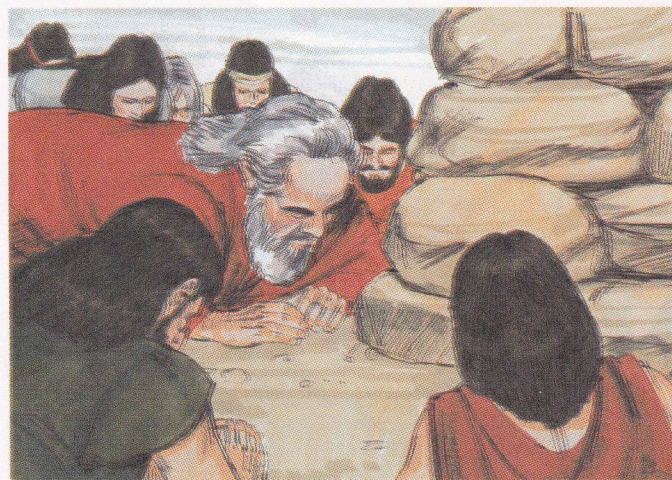
8 Still another seven days passed before Noah sent the dove out again. This time it did not come back at all. Noah knew that it was now safe for him and his family to leave the ark.



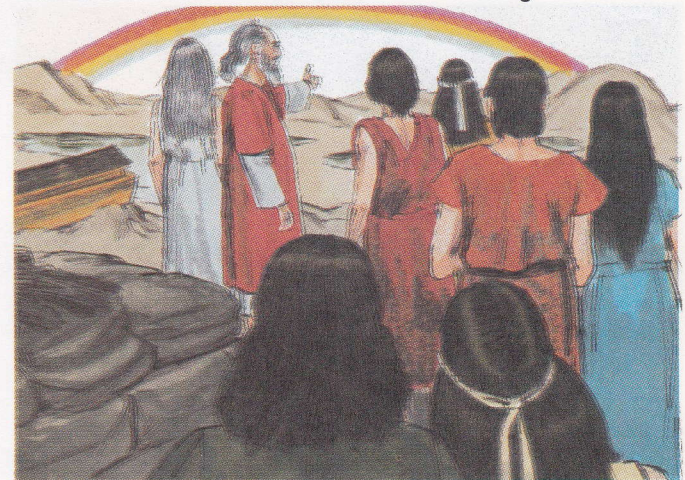
9 Then God said, "Noah, it's time for you and your family to get off the ark and bring out all the birds and animals so that they can have babies and spread all over the earth."



10 When Noah got off the ark, he built an altar to the Lord. God was pleased with Noah's offering. God told Noah that it was all right to eat meat from then on, but that no one should kill another human being.



11 God blessed Noah and his family and said to them, "You must have many children so that your descendants will live all over the earth."



12 Then God made a promise never again to destroy all the living things on the earth with a flood. The rainbow would be a reminder of that promise. Thus was the old world destroyed and the new begun.