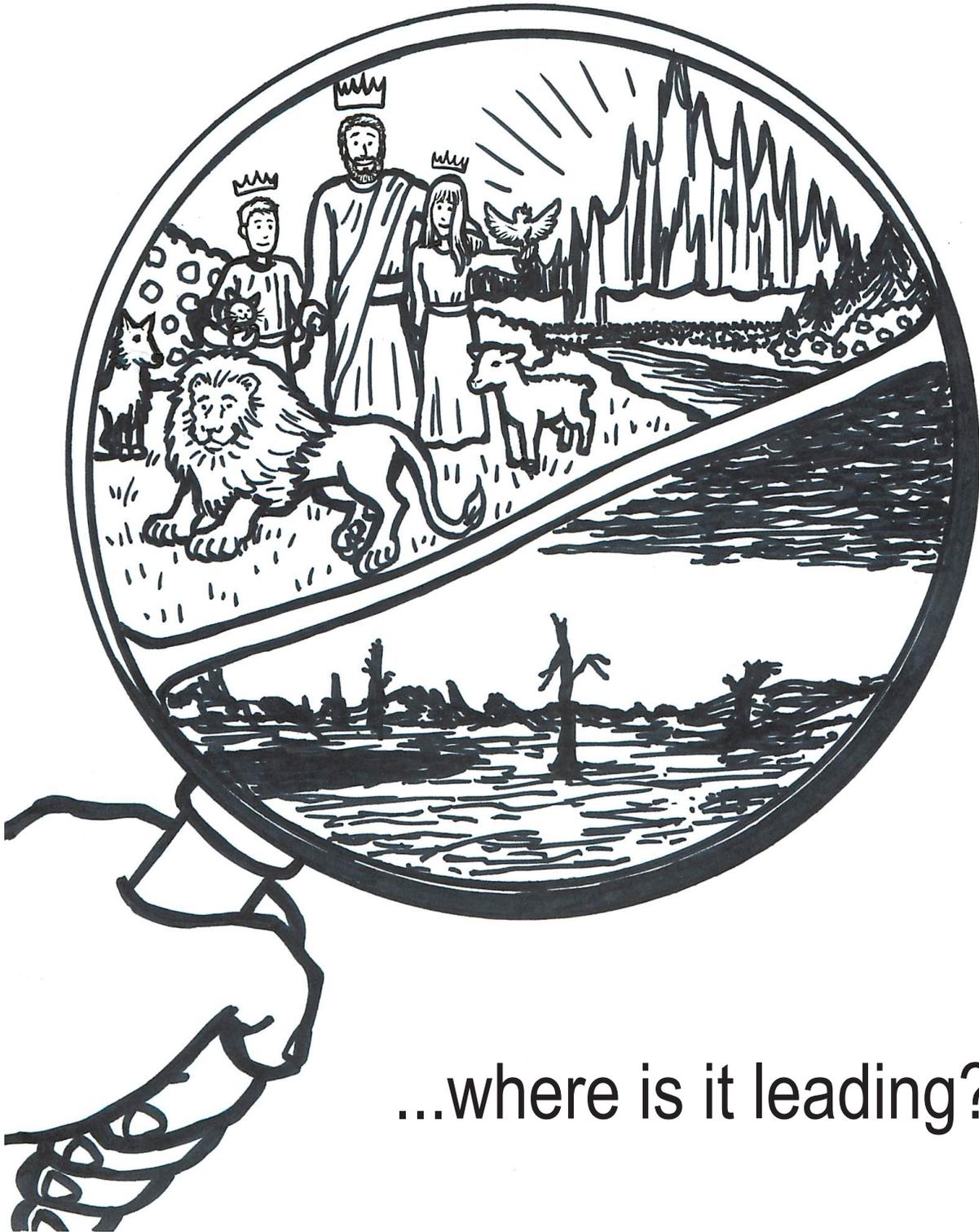


My Life Focus...



...where is it leading?

Acknowledgements

God: He has given us a way out of this life of sin.

Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. ISAIAH 1:18

Pastor Jeffrey Marshall: Thank you for the time you spent at the Cedar Lake Seventh-day Adventist Church being the shepherd of the flock. Your sermons not only made us think, but put us into action. Continue to inspire those around you as you let God lead in your life.

Thy Word Creations (www.thywordcreations.com): many years ago when our children were young we went to a program put on by them. Our girls learned Psalm 23 from the book and tape that we got. And through the years we made our own chapter books that we used for worship.

Kevin Herzog: for doing the graphics. A picture is worth a thousand words.

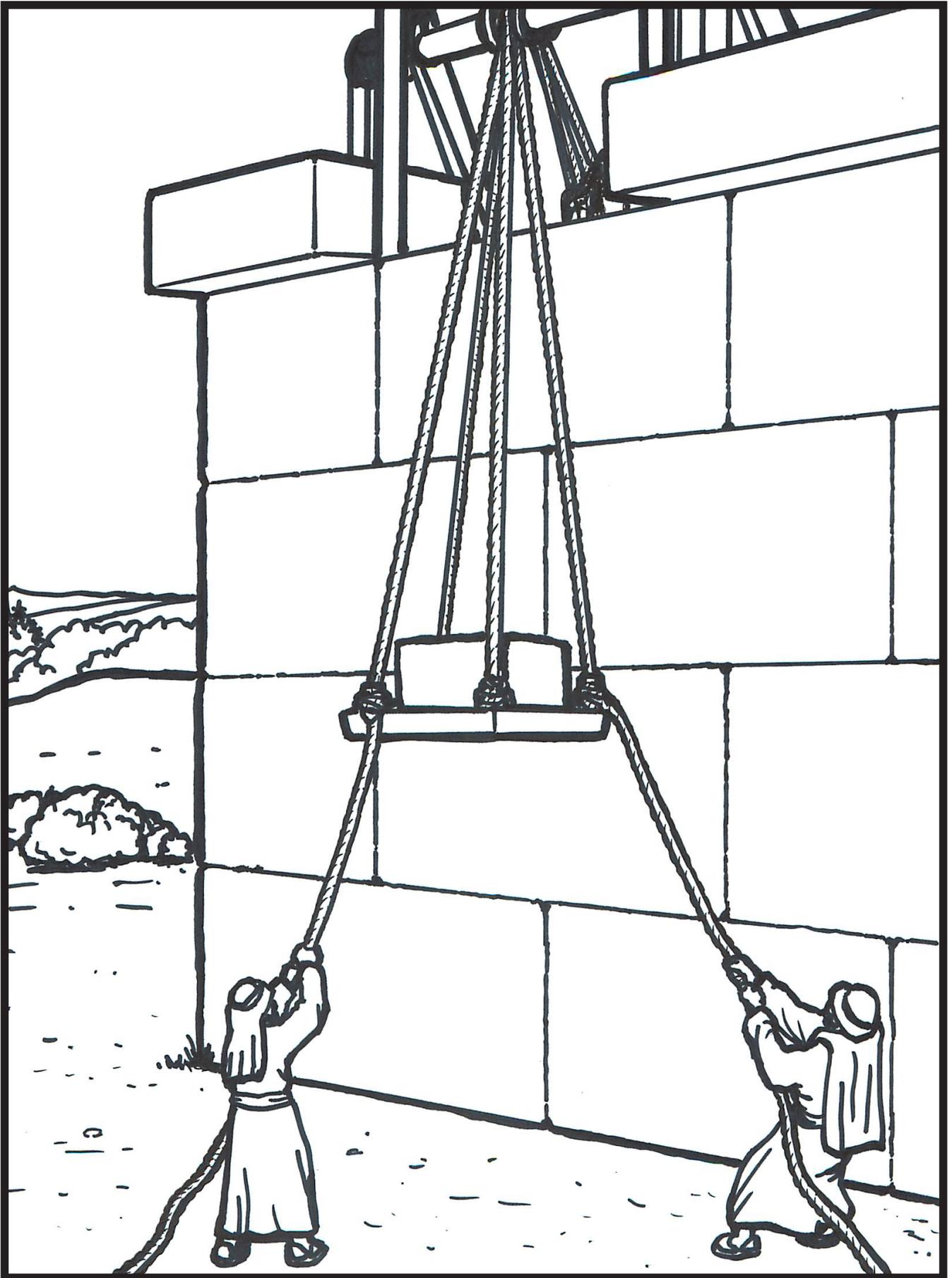
The following gave valuable input to the forming of this coloring book:
Laura & Julie & Wendy Kroulik, Karina Snyder, Pete Eskildsen,
Steve & Cheryl Williams, Michelle Coy, Jacob Conner, Cari Haus,
and many others who gave their affirmation.

Matthew

24:37-39

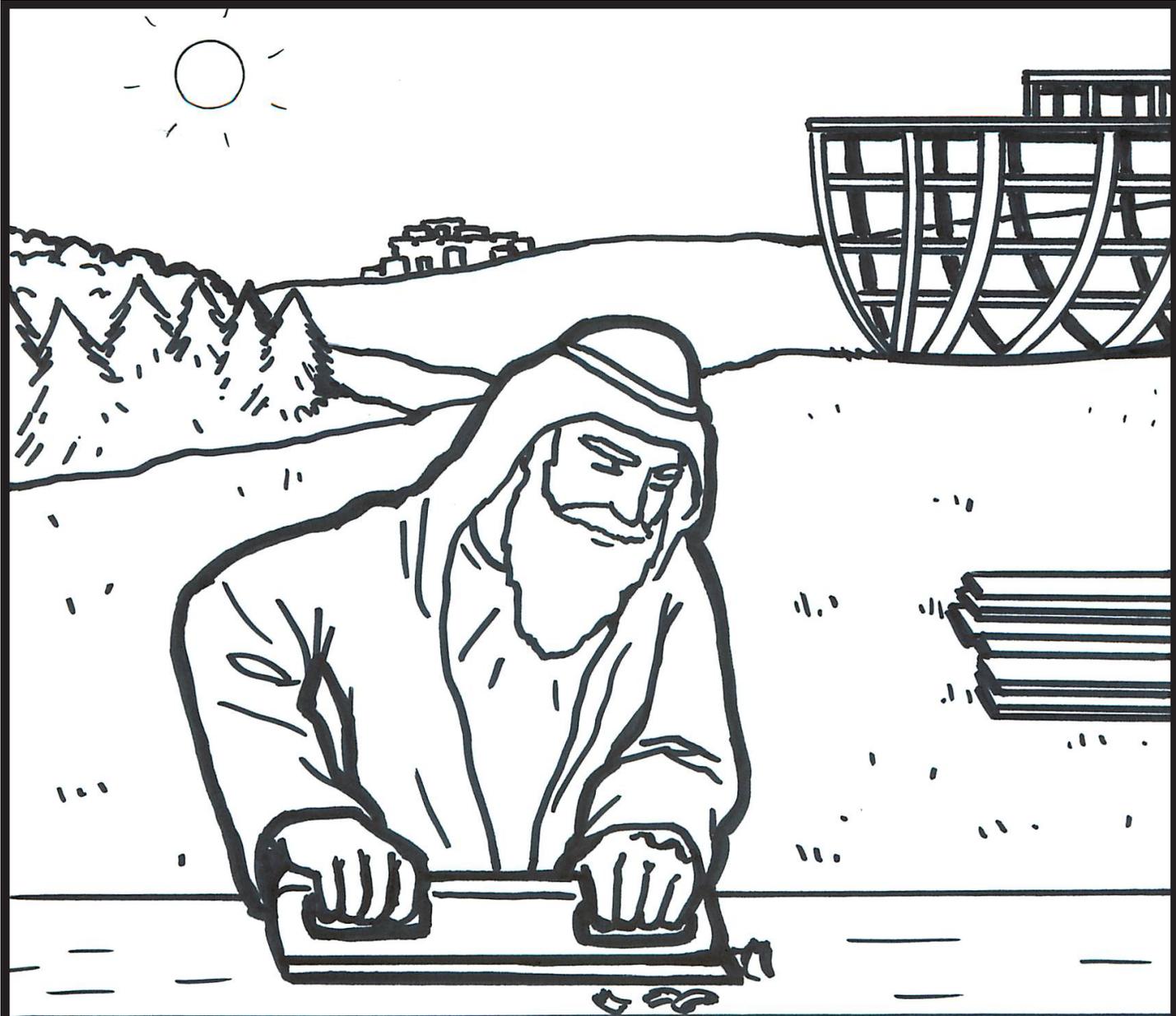
Fine print:
This text was used in a sermon.
It got me thinking.

Antedeluvians building walled cities for protection.



But as the days

Noah building an Ark for protection.



of Noah were,

Taking up time with entertainment.



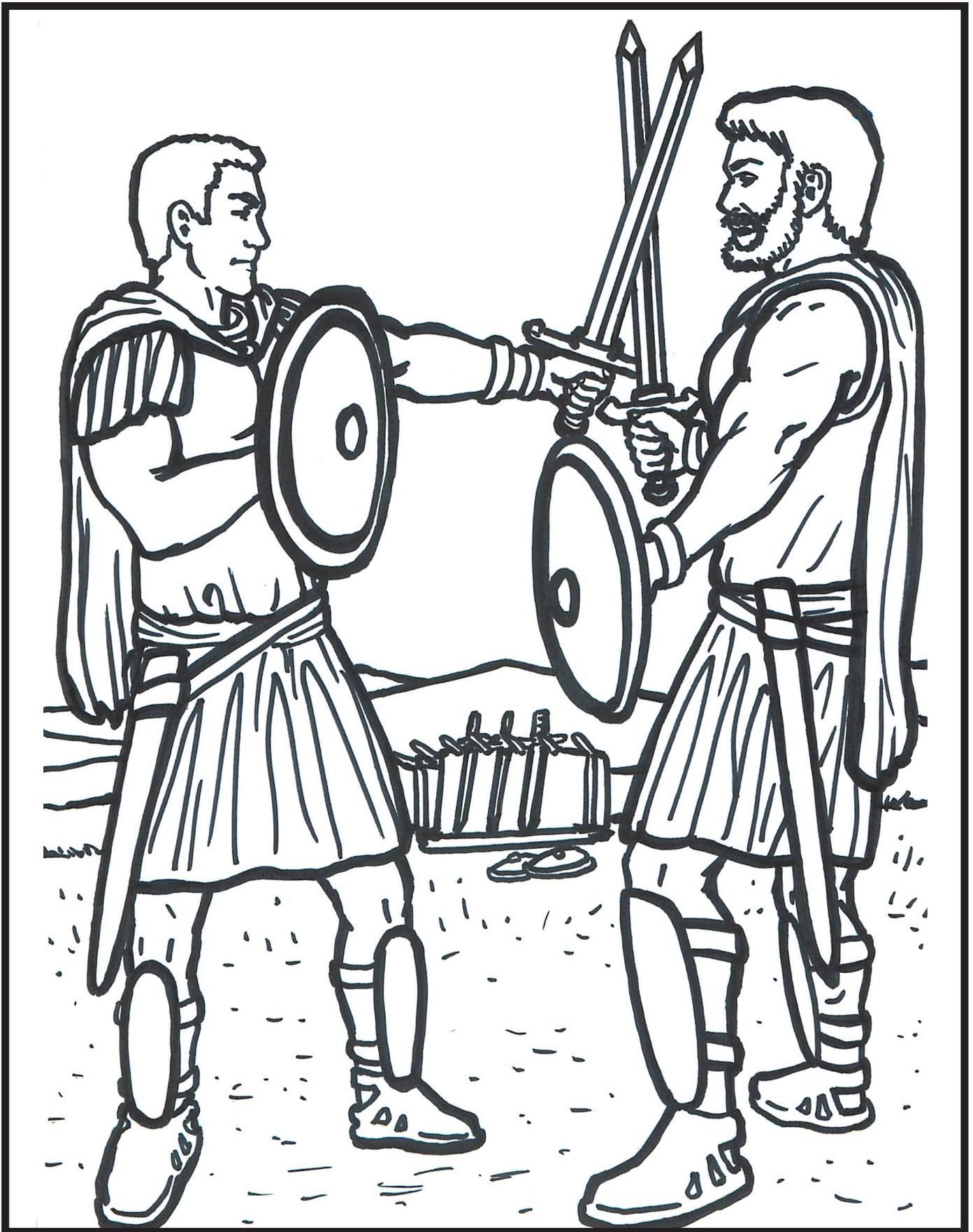
So also shall the coming

Taking time to learn more about God.



of the Son of Man be.

Antedeluvians fighting to take from others to make their kingdom bigger and better.



For as in the days

Antedeluvian children being taught about God and His love for them and others.



that were before the flood

Eating “feel good” junk food.



They were eating

Family sitting together having a picnic eating wholesome food.



and drinking,

Worldly-style wedding “easy in easy out.”



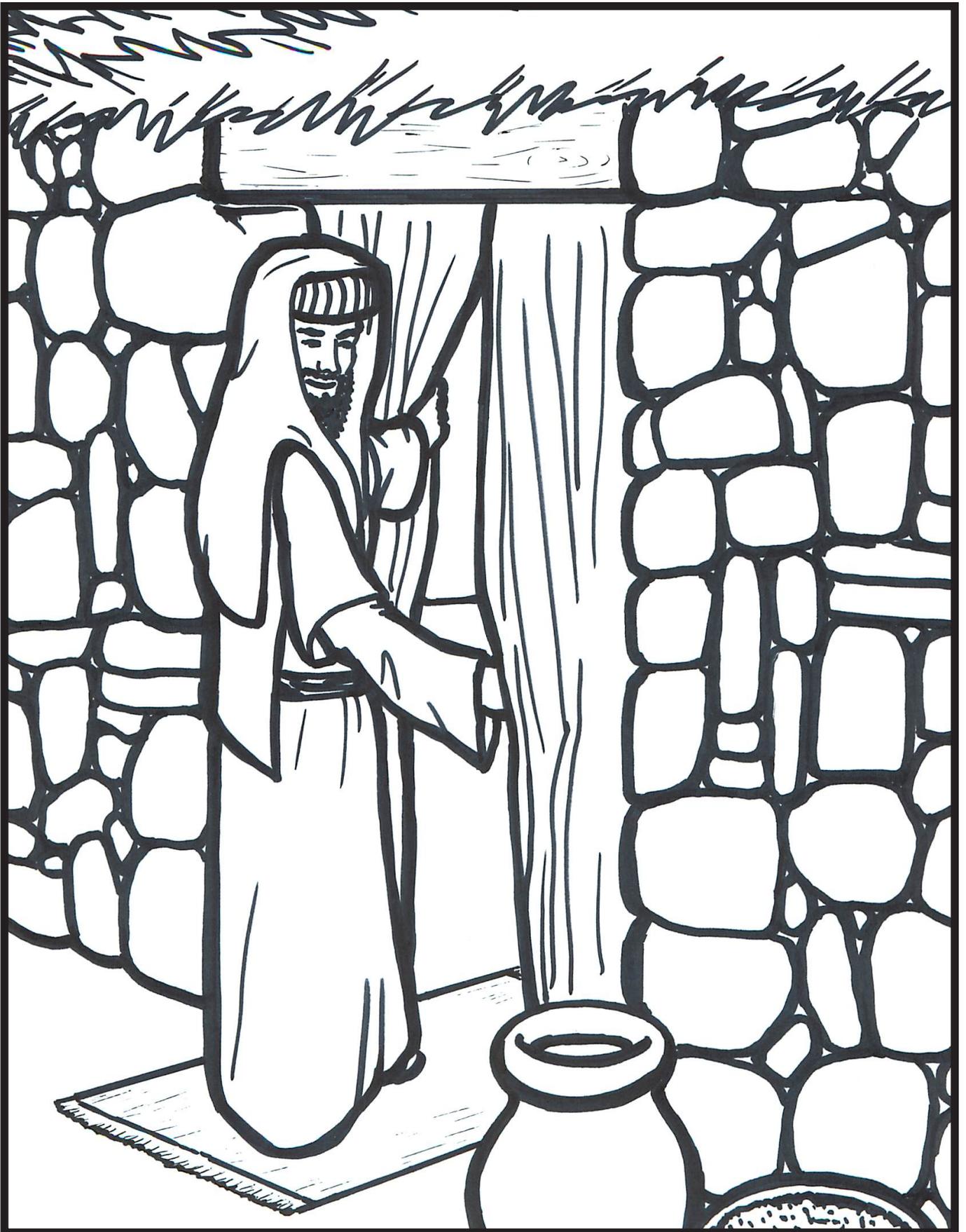
Marrying and

Church wedding sanctioned by God to last a lifetime.



giving in marriage,

Antedeluvian entering his home.



Until the day

Noah entering the Ark.



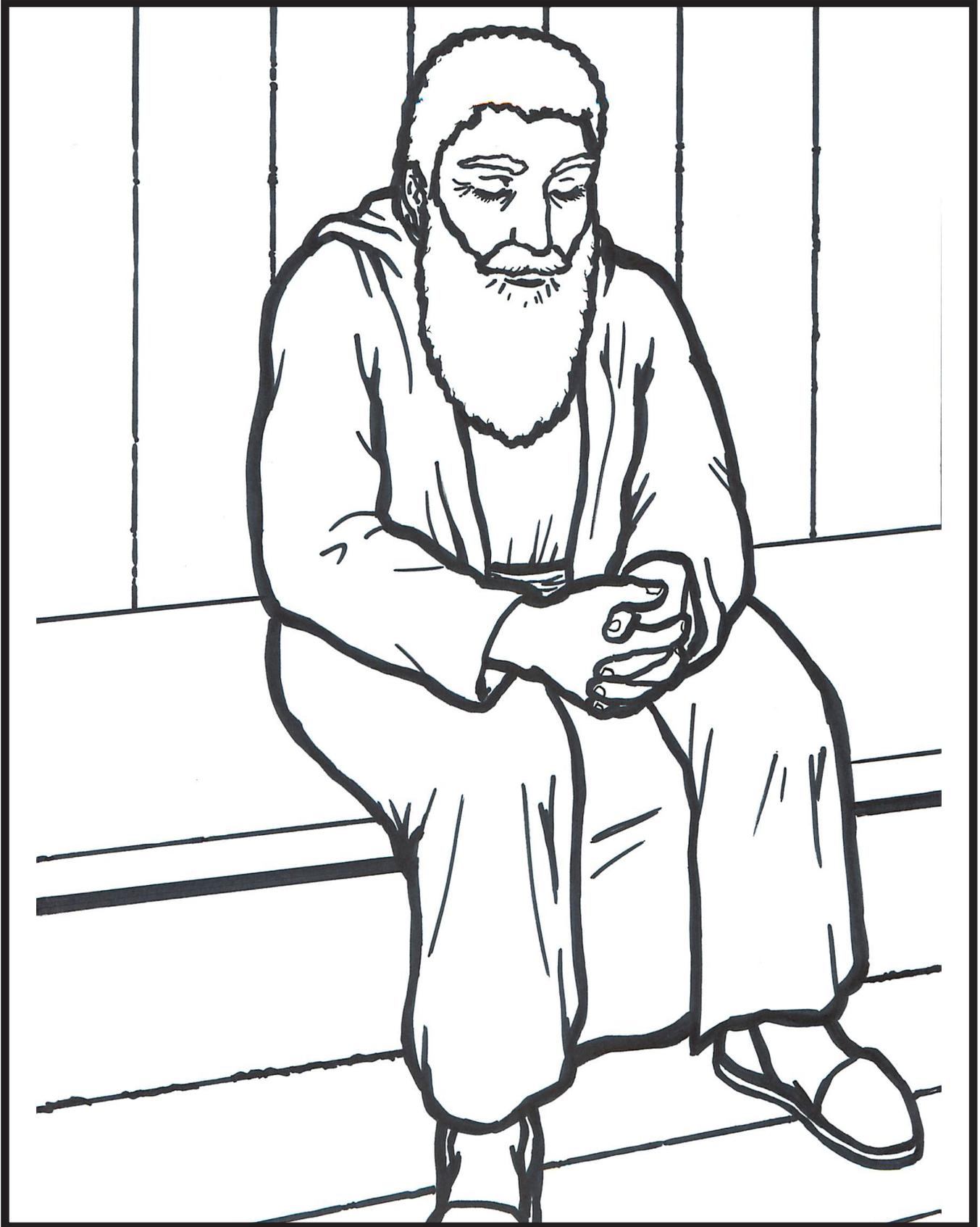
that Noah entered into the ark,

Antedeluvians having a “wait for the flood” party.



And knew not until the flood came,

Noah waiting for the flood to start.



and took them all away;

Going to an amusement park to have fun.



So shall also the coming

Giving out "Magabooks", sharing God's love.



of the Son of Man be.

Parents Corner

When at Cedar Lake Seventh Day Adventist Church I heard a sermon that used the verse in the Bible Mathew 24:37-39.

“But as the days of Noe [were], so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.”

It got to me to thinking. Noah and family ate, antediluvians ate, Noah drank, antediluvians drank, Noah got married, antediluvians got married, Noah gave his children away in marriage, and antediluvians gave their children away in marriage. So what is so different? Noah was saved and the others were not. Focus! Yes, the focus of their lives. Noah and his family were focused on getting ready for the flood. Antediluvians were focused on maintaining or increasing their self-gratification.

So I had to ask myself what is the focus of my life? Am I getting ready for the Lord to come? Or is my focus on a nice home, good friends, and a good standing in the community?

BUT WAIT!!! Am I reading into the verse what is not there? I needed to check what E.G. White said about the verse. (Well Luke 17:26, 27)

“God did not condemn the antediluvians for eating and drinking; He had given them the fruits of the earth in great abundance to supply their physical wants. Their sin consisted in taking these gifts without gratitude to the Giver, and debasing themselves by indulging appetite without restraint. It was lawful for them to marry. Marriage was in God’s order; it was one of the first institutions which He established. He gave special directions concerning this ordinance, clothing it with sanctity and beauty; but these directions were forgotten, and marriage was perverted and made to minister to passion.

A similar condition of things exists now. That which is lawful in itself is carried to excess. Appetite is indulged without restraint. . . . Multitudes feel under no moral obligation to curb their sensual desires, and they become the slaves of lust. Men are living for the pleasures of sense; for this world and this life alone. . . . The picture which Inspiration has given of the antediluvian world represents too truly the condition to which modern society is fast hastening. . . .

As the time of their probation was closing, the antediluvians gave themselves up to exciting amusements and festivities. Those who possessed influence and power were bent on keeping the minds of the people engrossed with mirth and pleasure, lest any should be impressed by the last solemn warning.

Before the Flood God sent Noah to warn the world, that the people might be led to repentance, and thus escape the threatened destruction. As the time of Christ’s second appearing draws near, the Lord sends His servants with a warning to the world to prepare for that great event. Multitudes have been living in transgression of God’s law, and now He in mercy calls them to obey its sacred precepts. All who will put away their sins by repentance toward God and faith in Christ are offered pardon. “{Conflict and Courage 41.2-5}

I did not find where the thought or focus of my life was wrong. There is nothing wrong with eating, drinking, marrying, and giving in marriage. God gave these gifts to us to enjoy. But do I give gratitude to the Giver and follow his law or am I living for the pleasures of sin? Am I putting God first? If I do He will supply all my needs (Matt. 6:31-33).

“When the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come.” Christ is waiting with longing desire for the manifestation of Himself in His church. When the character of Christ shall be perfectly reproduced in His people, then He will come to claim them as His own. {Christ’s Object Lessons 69.1}

My focus should be building my character like Christ. That is what I will be taking to heaven and show others about God. But what is the character of Christ?

“To parents who have begun their training wrong, I would say, Do not despair. You need to be soundly converted to God. You need the true spirit of obedience to the Word of God. You must make decided reforms in your own customs and practices, conforming your life to the saving principles of the law of God. When you do this, you will have the righteousness of Christ which pervades that law, because you love God and recognize His law as a transcript of His character. True faith in the merits of Christ is not fancy. It is of the highest importance that you bring the attributes of Christ into your own life and character, and educate and train your children with persevering effort to be obedient to the commandments of God. A “Thus saith the Lord” should guide you in all your plans of education. . . .” {Child Guidance 69.2}

His law, the commandments, is His character. In my morning reading I came across this in Testimonies to the Church Vol. 6.

Teaching Home Religion

“Those who bear the last message of mercy to the world should feel it their duty to instruct parents in regard to home religion. The great reformatory movement must begin in presenting to fathers and mothers and children the principles of the law of God. As the claims of the law are presented, and men and women are convicted of their duty to render obedience, show them the responsibility of their decision, not only for themselves but for their children. Show that obedience to God’s word is our only safeguard against the evils that are sweeping the world to destruction. Parents are giving to their children an example either of obedience or of transgression. By their example and teaching, the eternal destiny of their households will in most cases be decided. In the future life the children will be what their parents have made them.

If parents could be led to trace the results of their action, and could see how by their example and teaching they perpetuate and increase the power of sin or the power of righteousness, a change would certainly be made. Many would break the spell of tradition and custom.

Let ministers urge this matter upon their congregations. Press home upon the consciences of parents the conviction of their solemn duties, so long neglected. This will break up the spirit of pharisaism and resistance to the truth as nothing else can. Religion in the home is our great hope and makes the prospect bright for the conversion of the whole family to the truth of God. {Testimonies to the Church Vol. 6 119.1-3}

I was thinking how we can teach your children to focus on Gods soon return. Years ago my wife and I learned about Thy Word Creations, a publisher of Scripture books. The book had a picture on one side of the page and the scripture verse on the other side. We would read the verse to our children and they would look at the picture turn the page and do it again. Doing this day after day they would learn the verses. We used their books and made our own scripture books for worship. So I am putting together a scripture coloring book. The format is focus that will lead to selfish character contrasted with a focus that will lead to a Christ filled life.

The cover is a picture of living in heaven contrasted with those not there--destroyed forever. Where is your focus leading to Heaven, or Hell? (Not an ever burning hell, just not there forever).

“But as the days of Noah were,” Is a picture of an antediluvian building a walled city to protect them from others taking their belongings and Noah building the ark after Gods plans to protect against the coming flood. Is my focus building my character after God’s plan or building my own character after plans that seems right to me?

“so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.” Is a family on the couch texting, reading a novel, and watching TV, and person reading the Bible. Is my time focused learning more about God and His kingdom or some entertainment?

“For as in the days that were before the flood” Are antediluvians fighting to take more self wants and true education, a family in the mountains training about God. Is my focus learning more about God and his requirements for my life or getting all I can?

“They were eating and drinking,” Is someone eating junk food and a family picnic with good food. Is my focus putting the right food into my system to make it work well or food to stimulate my taste buds?

“marrying and giving in marriage,” Is a worldly wedding with divorce door on the other end and church wedding. Is my focus for a lasting marriage or for a marriage to fill my wants at the time and get another when my wants change?

“until the day that Noah entered into the ark,” Antediluvian going into their home and Noah going in the ark. Is my focus going into God’s safety or going in my own way?

“And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away;” Are people in a home having a fun party and with Noah in the ark waiting for the rain. Is my focus waiting on God or having selfish fun?

“so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.” Attending an amusement park and giving out Magabooks. Is my focus out spreading God’s word or out having fun?

MY LIFE FOCUS IS LEADING ME TO SOMEWHERE!!!

Focusing on God’s soon Return



Erwin Kroulik

Our Influence

“Every act of our lives affects others for good or evil. Our influence is tending upward or downward; it is felt, acted upon, and to a greater or less degree reproduced by others. If by our example we aid others in the development of good principles, we give them power to do good. In their turn they exert the same beneficial influence upon others, and thus hundreds and thousands are affected by our unconscious influence. If we by acts strengthen or force into activity the evil powers possessed by those around us, we share their sin and will have to render an account for the good we might have done them and did not do, because we made not God our strength, our guide, our counselor.”--Testimonies for Church, vol. 2, p. 133 (1868).

Glossary

amusement park:	<i>a large park equipped with such recreational devices as a merry-go-round, Ferris wheel, roller coaster; etc., and usually having booths for games and refreshments.</i>
Antediluvians:	<i>those living before the flood that covered the earth.</i>
Ark:	<i>the boat that Noah built by God direction to float on the water that covered the earth.</i>
days of Noah:	<i>the time in earth history before the flood that covered the earth.</i>
Entertainment:	<i>a form of activity that holds the attention and interest of an audience, or gives pleasure and delight.</i>
Flood:	<i>cover or submerge a place or area with water over what is normally dry land.</i>
Focus:	<i>the center of interest or activity.</i>
Kingdom:	<i>a territory or group of people ruled by the same monarch.</i>
Marriage:	<i>the moral union of a man and woman as partners in a relationship.</i>
Magabooks:	<i>the selling of religious books.</i>
Son of man:	<i>Jesus own description of himself, and it is the term that links Him to humanity.</i>
Worldly:	<i>concerned with material values or ordinary life rather than a spiritual existence.</i>

Acknowledgements

I want to thank *Your Story Hour* for granting permission to include the story of Noah on the CD. It is copyrighted and may not be duplicated without permission from *Your Story Hour*. Erwin Nanasi (Minister of Music, *Weimar Institute*) for using his talent of playing the piano added to the message given on this recording. Jeff Coon for running the sound system and doing the recording. Nancy Coon and Erwin Kroulik for reading the Bible verses.

Track	Name	
1	Matthew 24:37-39	
2	Genesis 6	
3	Genesis 7	
4	Genesis 8	
5	The man that believed what God said	http://www.yourstory.org -- copyrighted
6	Hebrews 11:7 & 2 Peter 2:4-9	
7	Luke 17:26-30	
8	Draw Me Nearer (306)	(the everlasting gospel)
9	To God be the Glory (341)	(judgment is come)
10	All Things Bright and Beautiful (93)	(keep the commandments of God)
11	Don't Forget the Sabbath (388)	(the faith of Jesus)
12	When We All Get to Heaven (633)	(Jesus Comes Again)

The songs have the theme of the Three Angel's Message--the end time message for us to give to the dying world.

Revelation 14:6-12

6 And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,

7 Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

8 And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.

9 And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand,

10 The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:

11 And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.

12 Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.