

THE BIG PICTURE

STORY BIBLE



DAVID R. HELM with illustrations by Cici Schorner

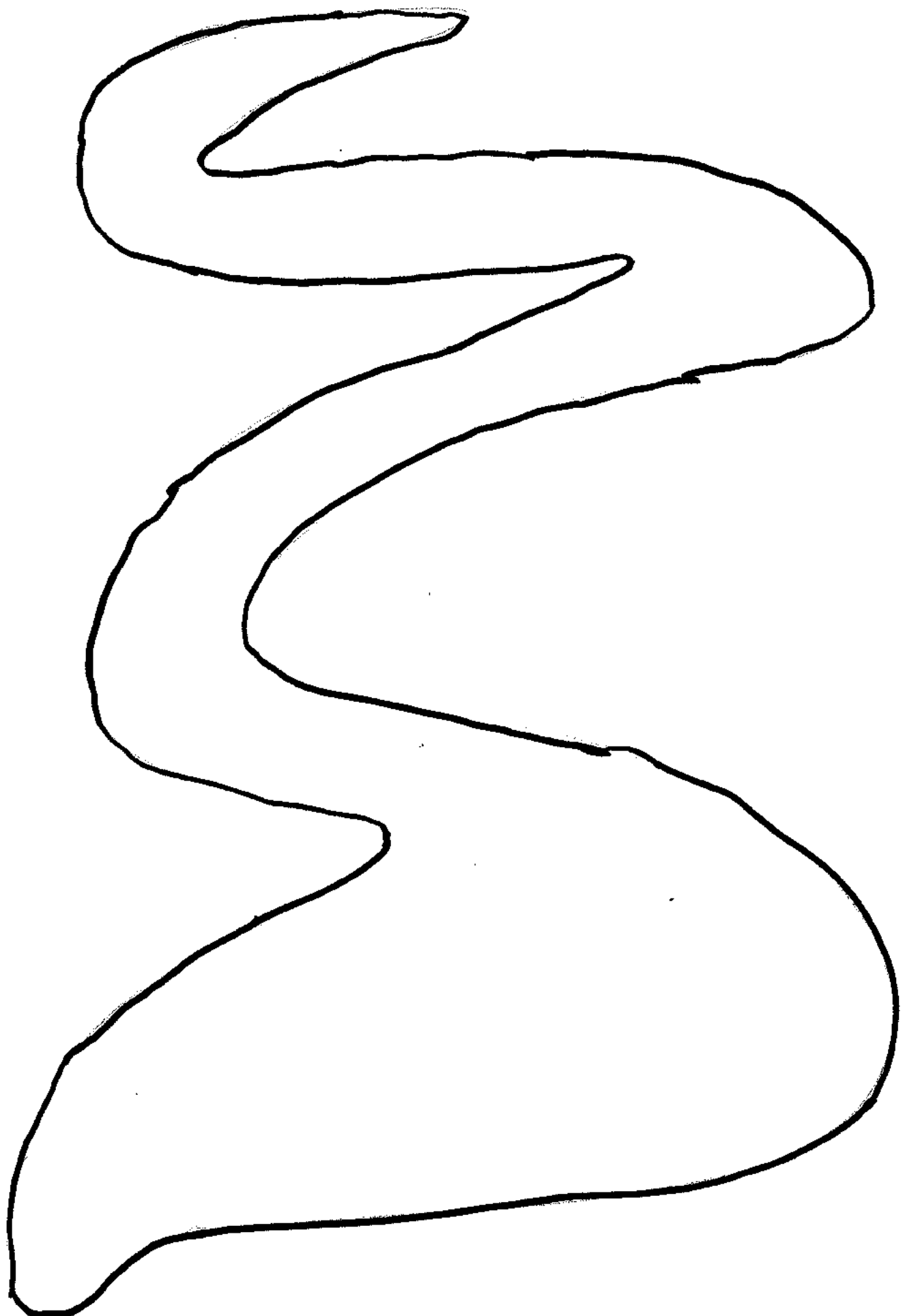
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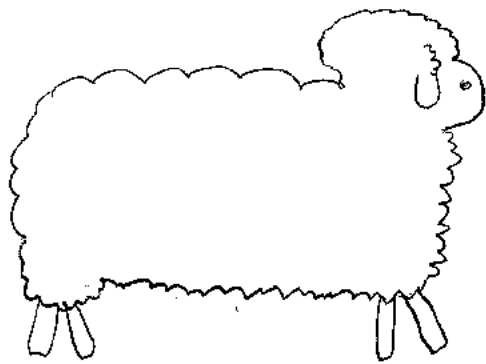


PRESENTED TO

FROM

DATE





in Memory of
Daniel Mark Oster
May 29-31, 1997.

THE BIG
PICTURE
STORY BIBLE

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15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 - 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 - 3 2 1

For my children -

Noah, Joanna, Baxter, Silas and
Marian, and the children of their
generation, that they may come to
know by faith

what Daniel already knows by sight.

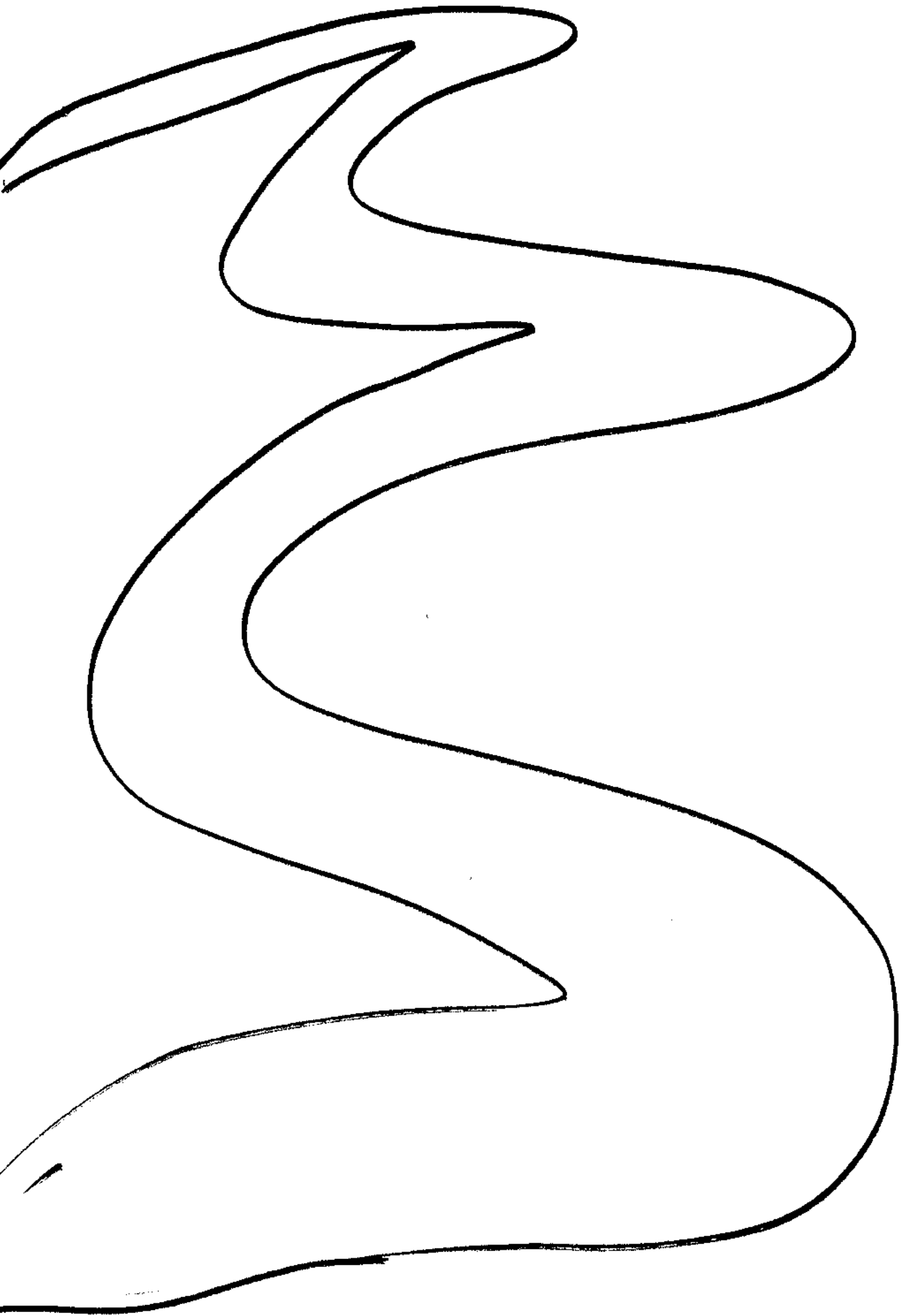
D. H.

For my parents,

who introduced me to the forever King
and taught me to love his holy Book

that their faithful labor for the
Kingdom may continue to bear fruit
in coming generations

G. S.



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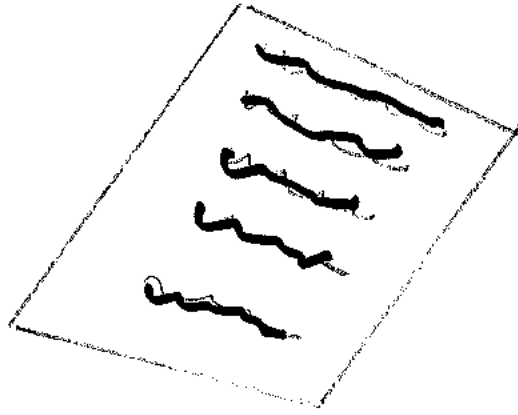
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THE

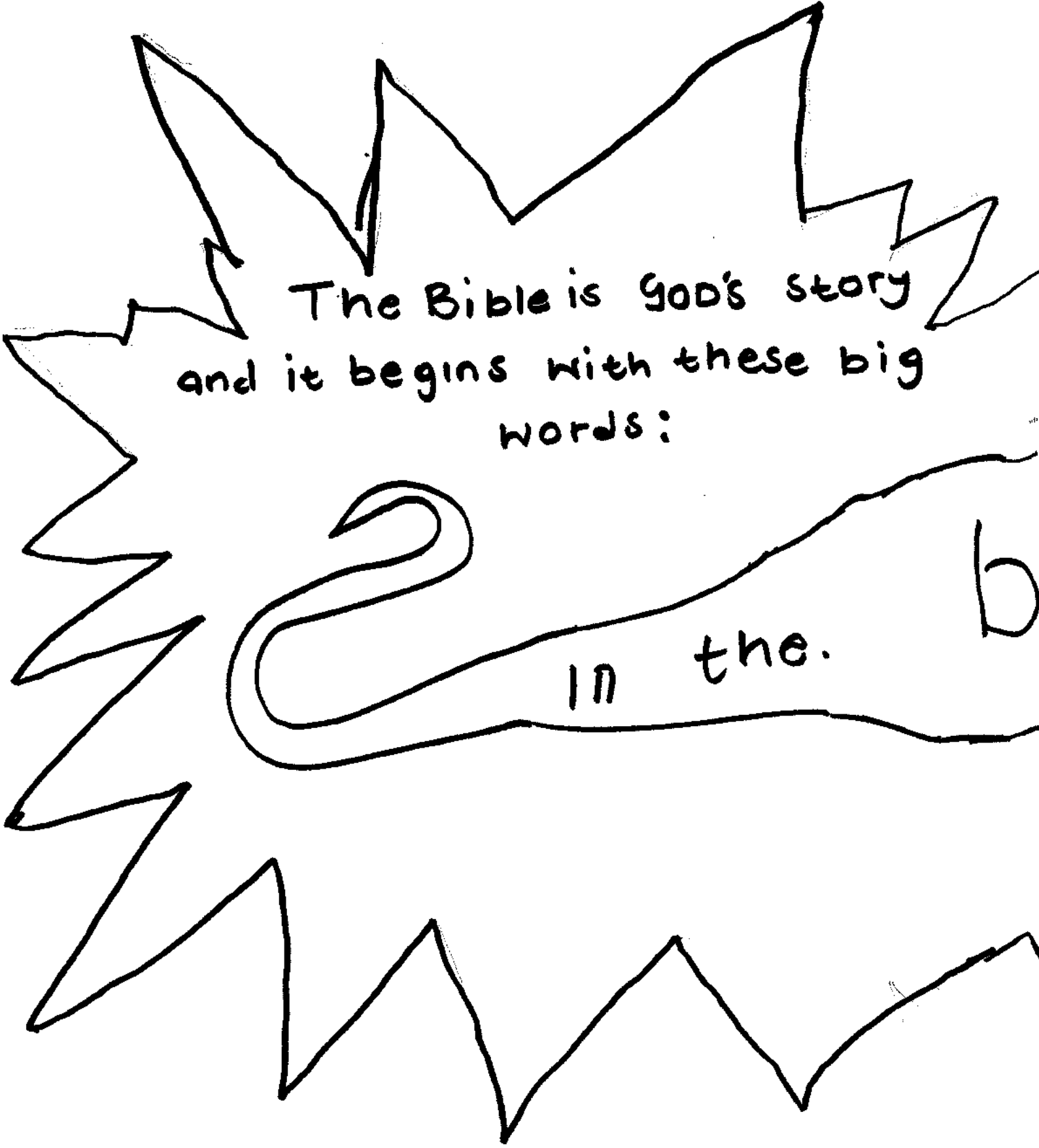
OLD

TESTAMENT

THE VERY GOOD BEGINNING



PART 1.




The Bible is God's story
and it begins with these big
words:

in the. b



egginig,

GOD



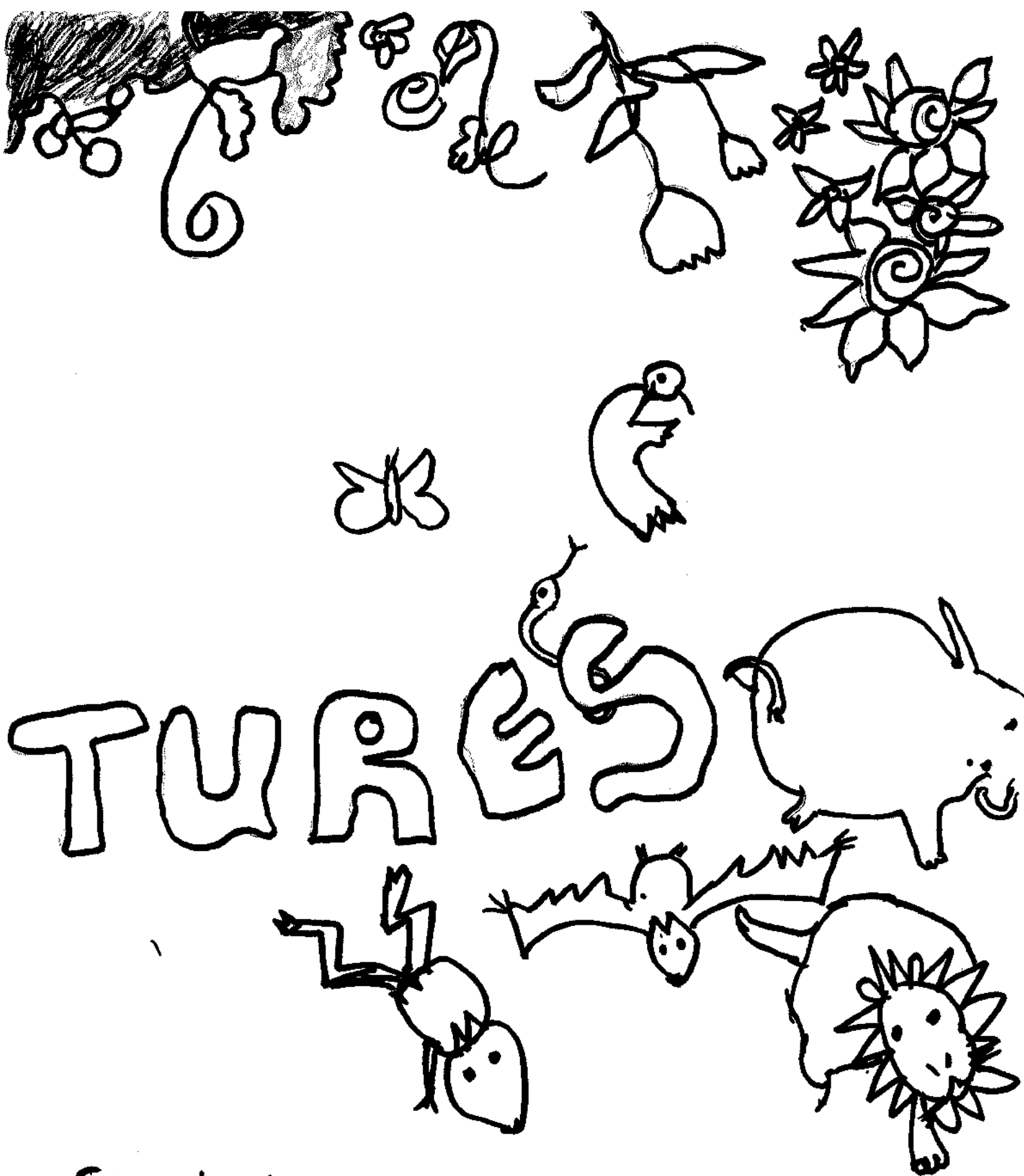
"in the begginig,
God created the heavens
and the earth."



CREER

Do you know how God Created
everything?





Simply by speaking words,

Imagine making the world with words!
Strong words.

Powerful words.

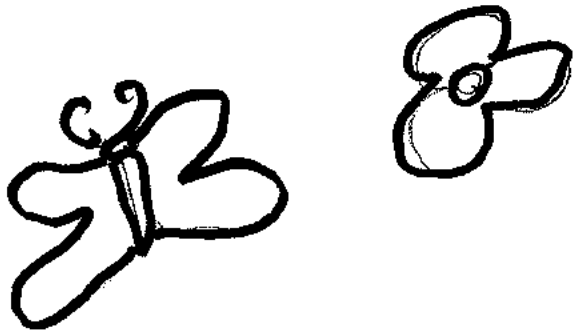


With words
God created
everything!
He made the stars
the sun, and the
moon.
He made the
animals, the
fish, the trees,
and flowers too.
Everything.



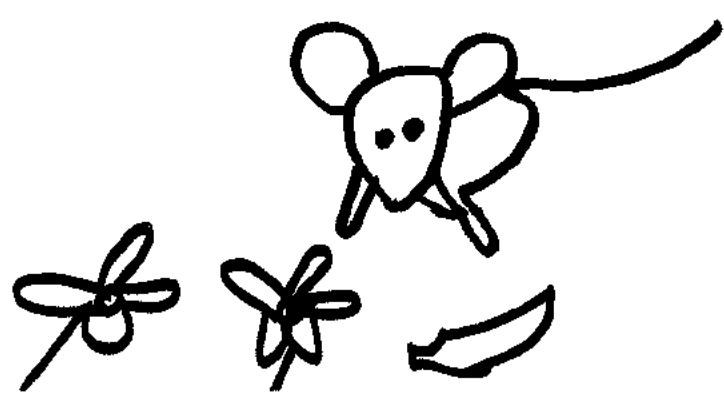
And then after all these things,
God created...





People!







Can you see Adam and Eve?

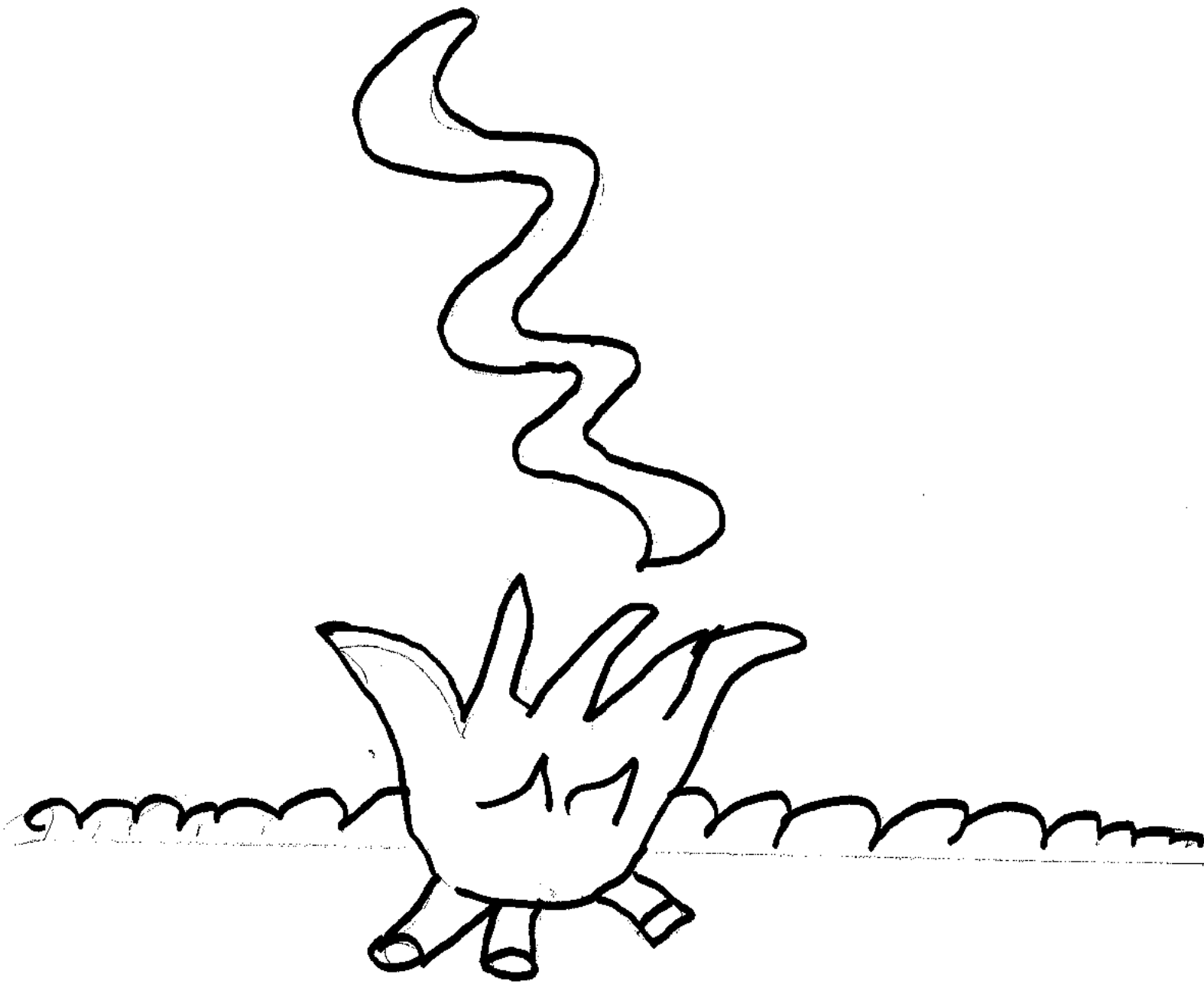
God put his people in the garden of Eden.

They were made in the image of God.

They were to be the rulers of God's place.





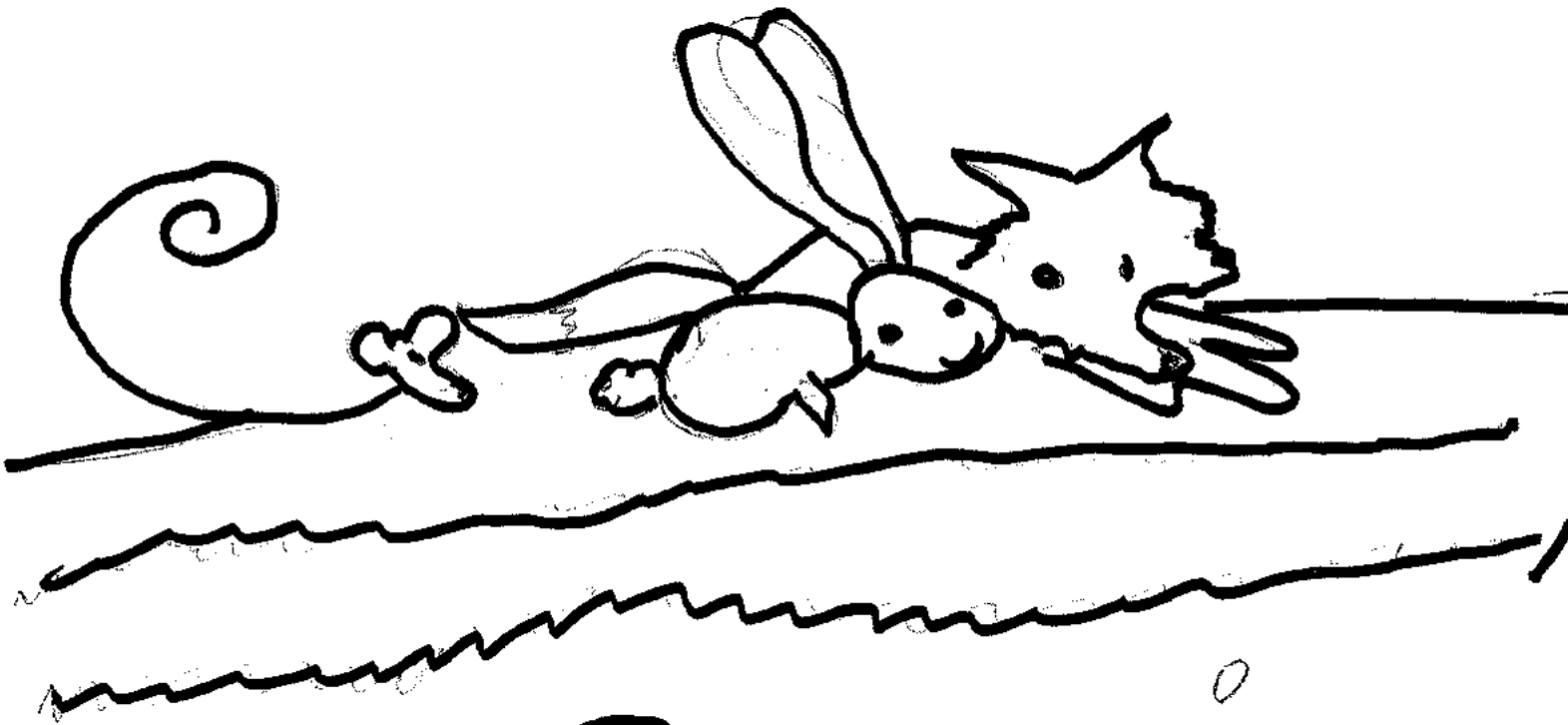
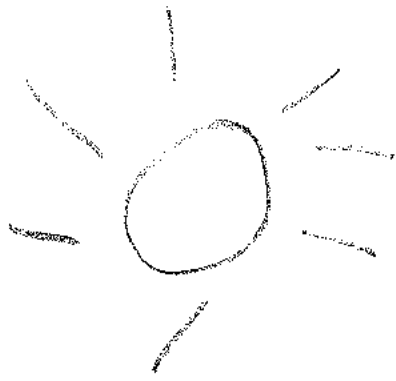


Adam and Eve were very special to God.
Did you know that you are also very
special to God?

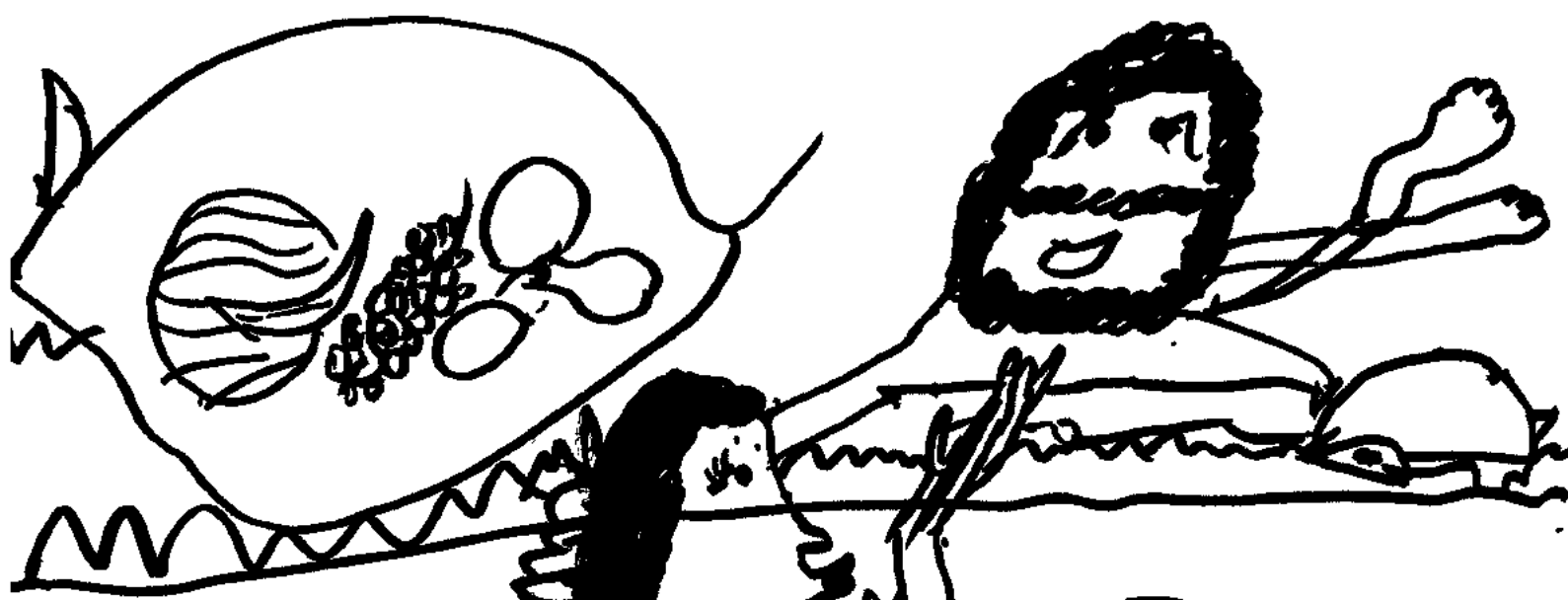
You are special because you are made
in his image too!



Being created in the 'image of God' must have made Adam and Eve very, very happy.



God was happy too.
He was pleased with his world and his
people because he saw that were very
good.



Nothing was wrong.
Nothing was bad.
Nobody disobeyed God.







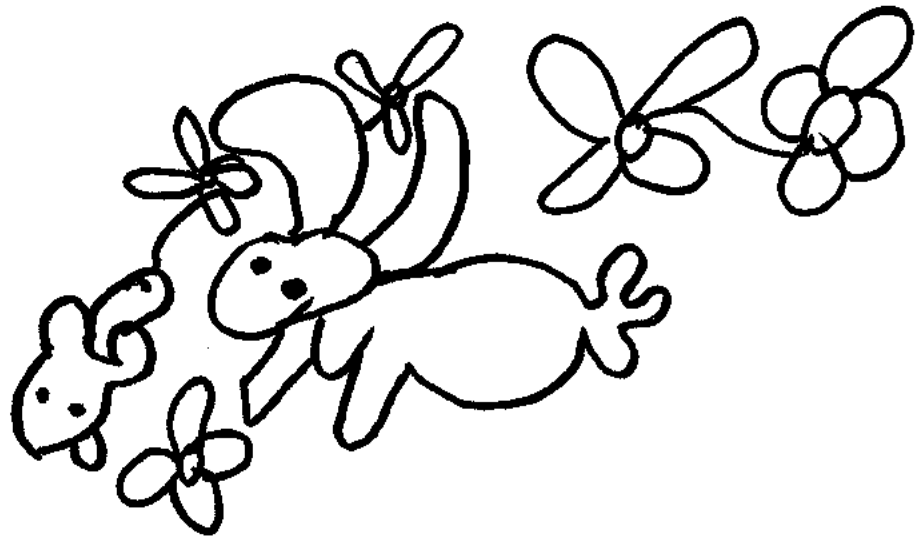
in the very good beginning,
everything and everyone
knew how good God was.



God gave Adam and Eve good words
to obey.

He told them not to eat from a special
tree.

You see, God was teaching Adam and Eve
that he was their king,
that people were to obey God's word.





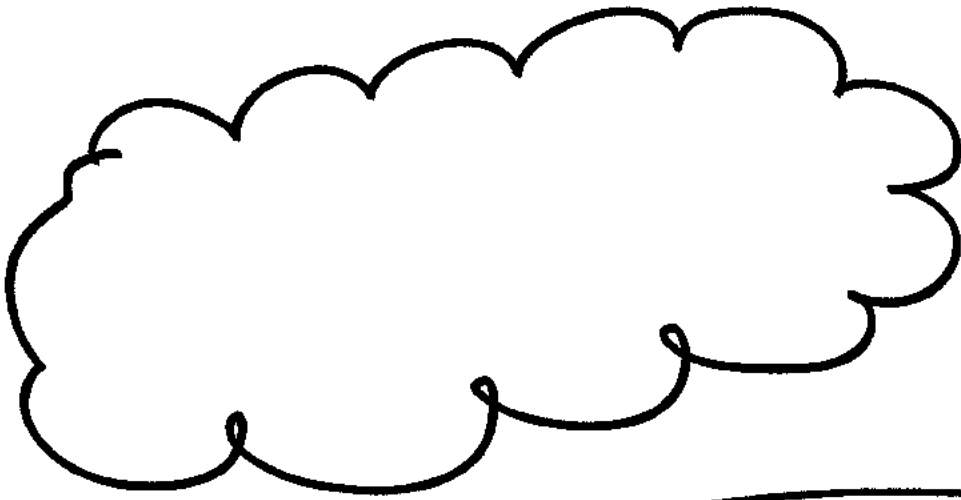
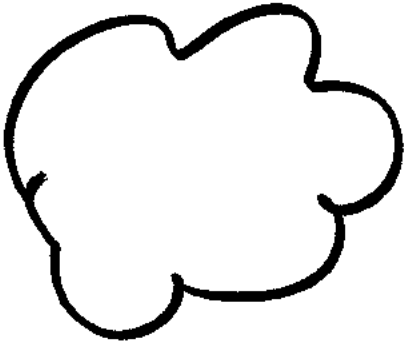
God also said that
IF Adam and Eve disobeyed his word,
they would surely die.



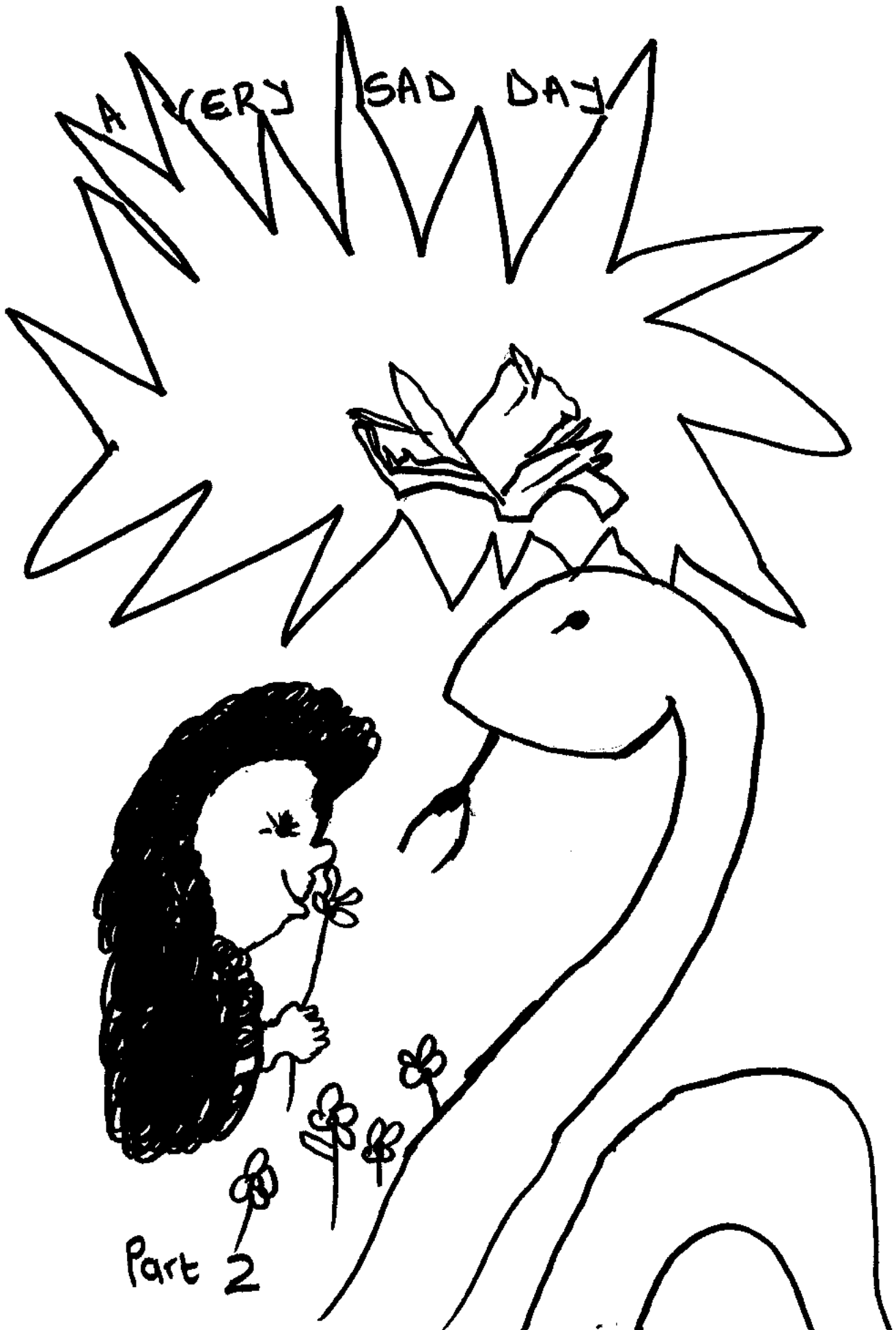
So God's peope, Adam and Eve,
lived in God's place, the garden of Eden.
And they ruled God's world
by obeying his good word.

Do you know what
happened next?






A VERY SAD DAY



Part 2



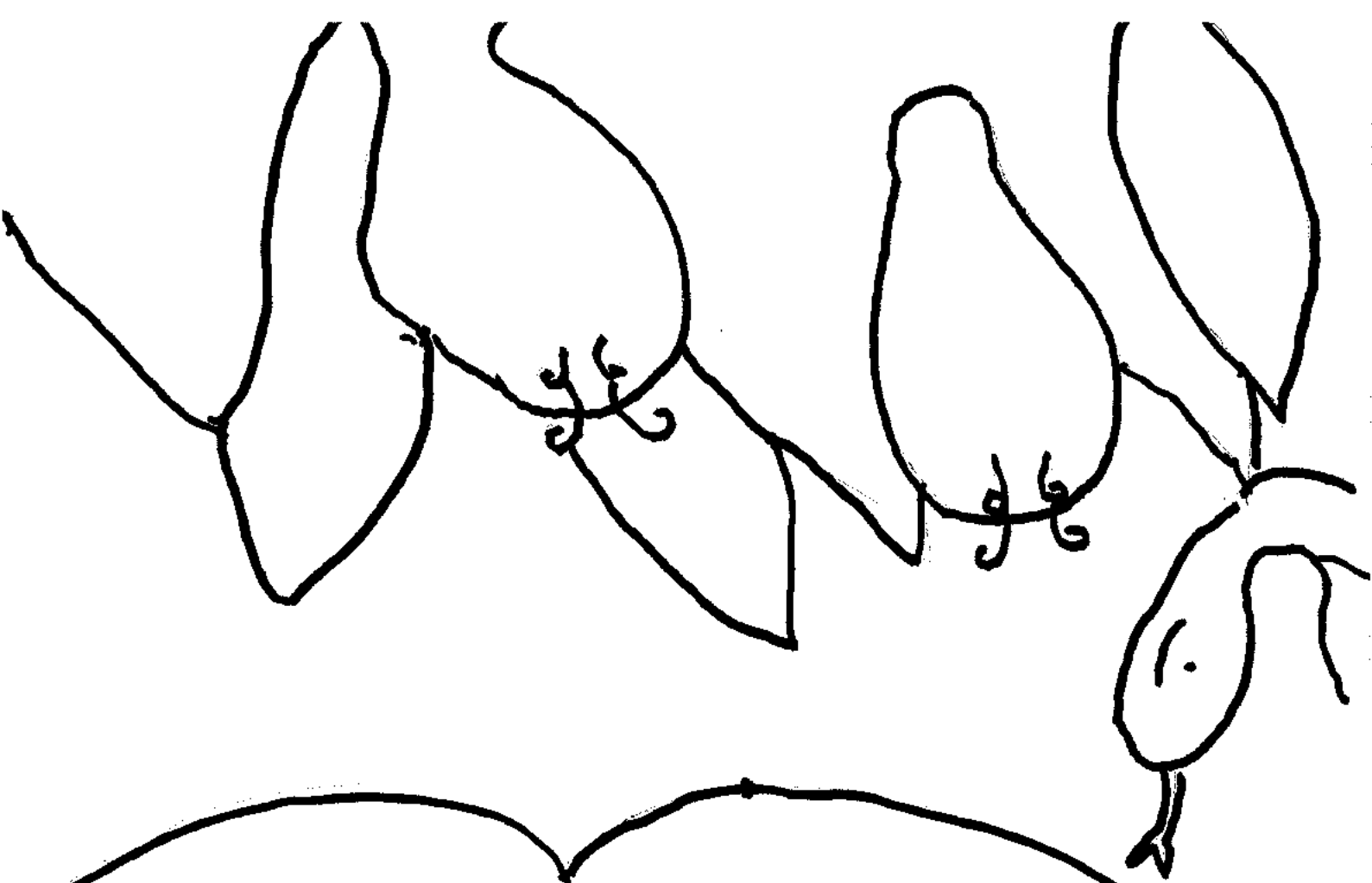
Stan crept into God's
beautiful garden
looking like a snake

Stan hated God. Stan
wanted to be God.
Satan tempted God's
people to eat from the
tree.

He told them to doubt God's
goodness. He tempted them
to disobey God's word.

He told them,
"you will not
surely die"





Now Adam and Eve had a choice to
make.

They could obey God's word
or they could listen to Satan.

What do you think you
would have done?

Do you know what
Adam and Eve did?



Adam and Eve chose to
doubt God's goodness.

They chose to disobey God
's word

They did not let
God be King over
them

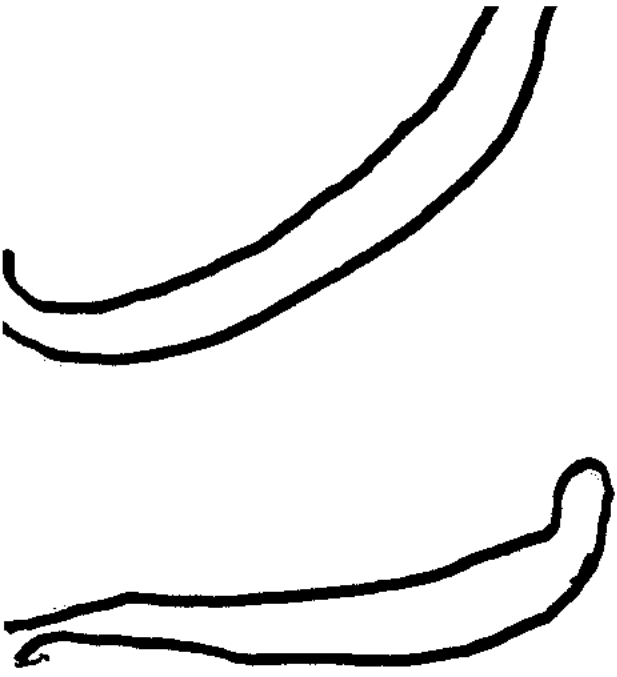


They ate Fruits From the tree.

They listened to the voice of Satan
Instead of the word of God



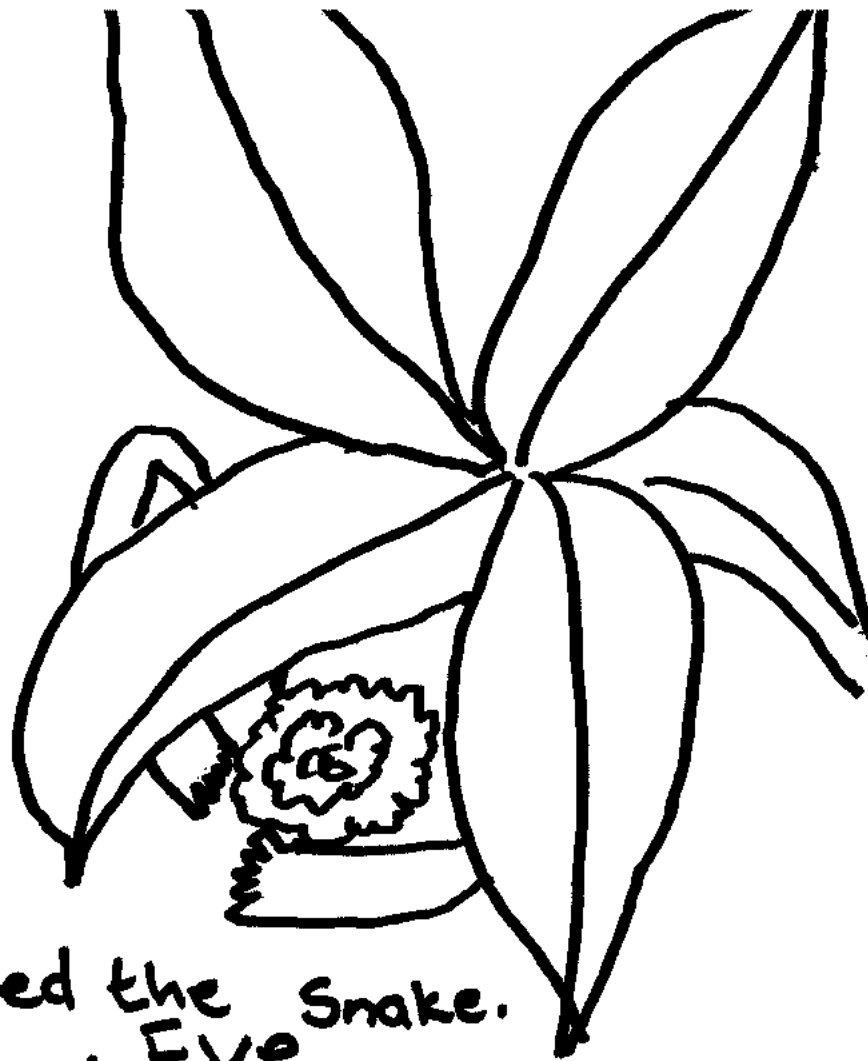
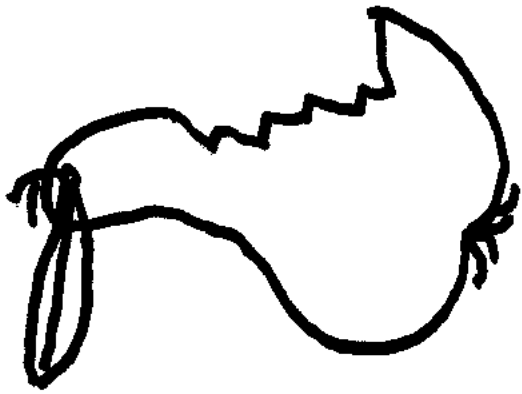
What a very sad day.



Can you imagine what
God thought about all this?

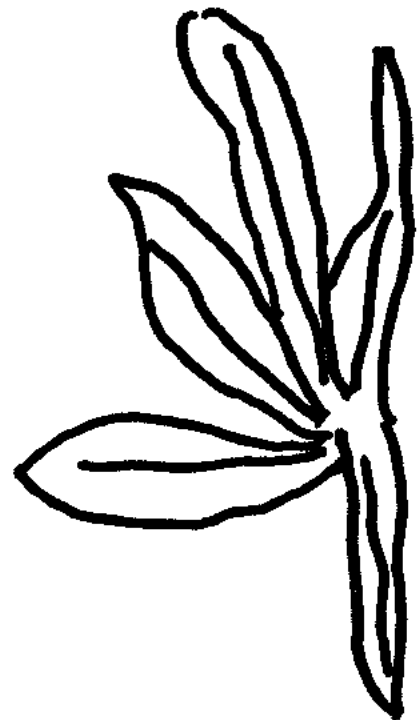
God was very angry.





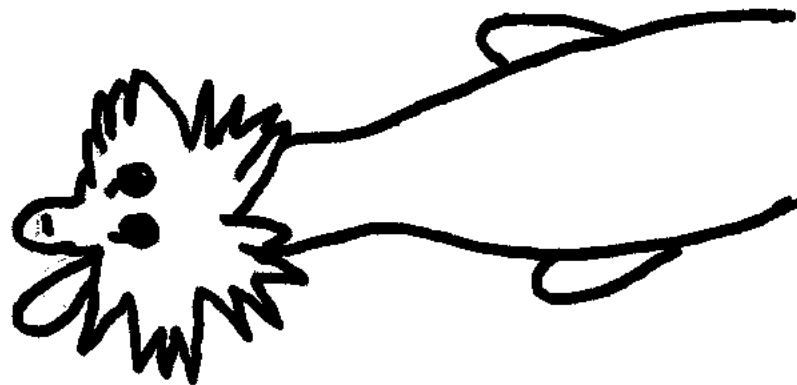
God Cursed the Snake.
God Punished ~~Adam~~ Eve.
And God Punished Adam too

Do you know why God had to
Punished them?



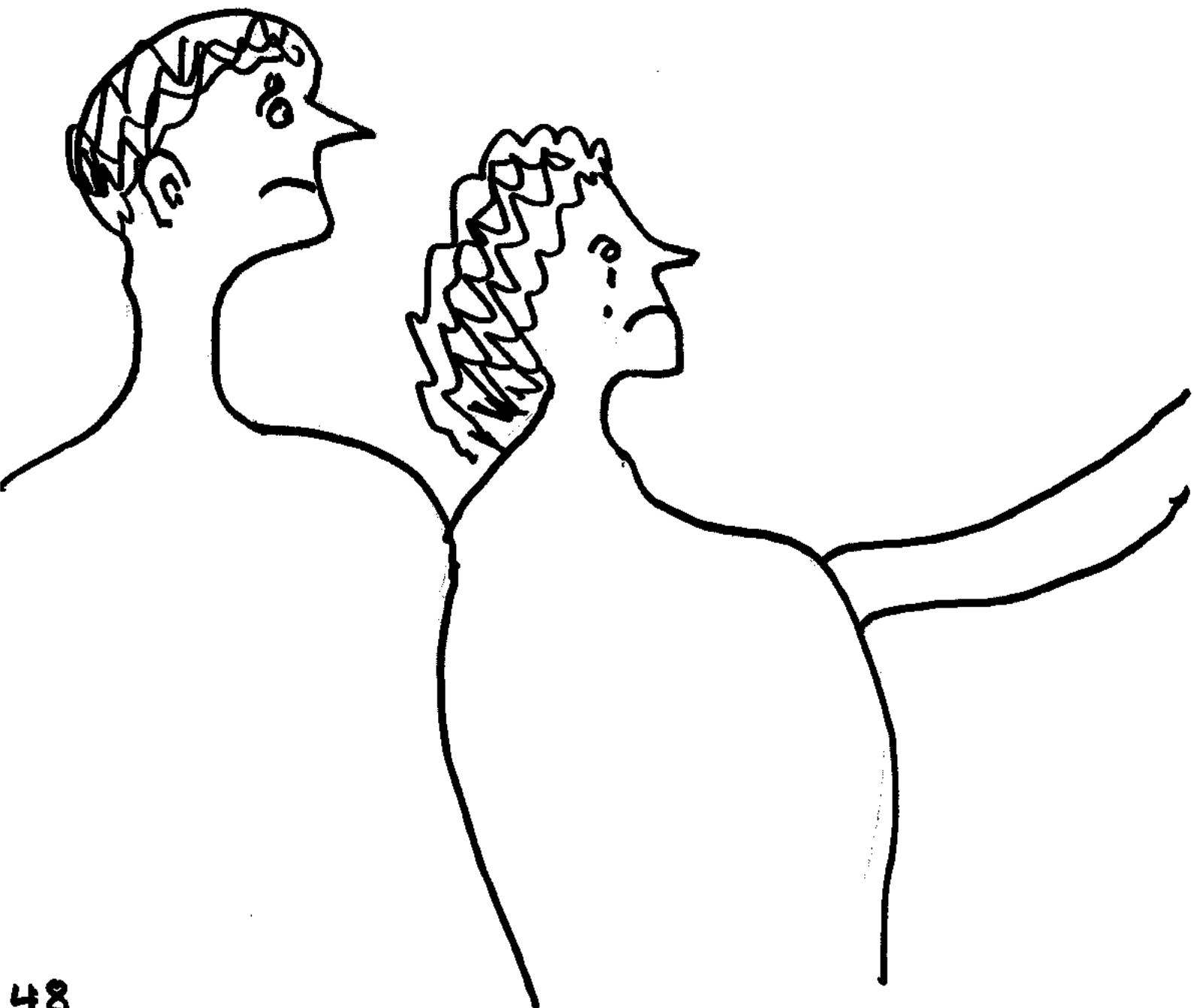
God punished them because
they disobey God's word,
Which was meant to rule
Over his place and his people.

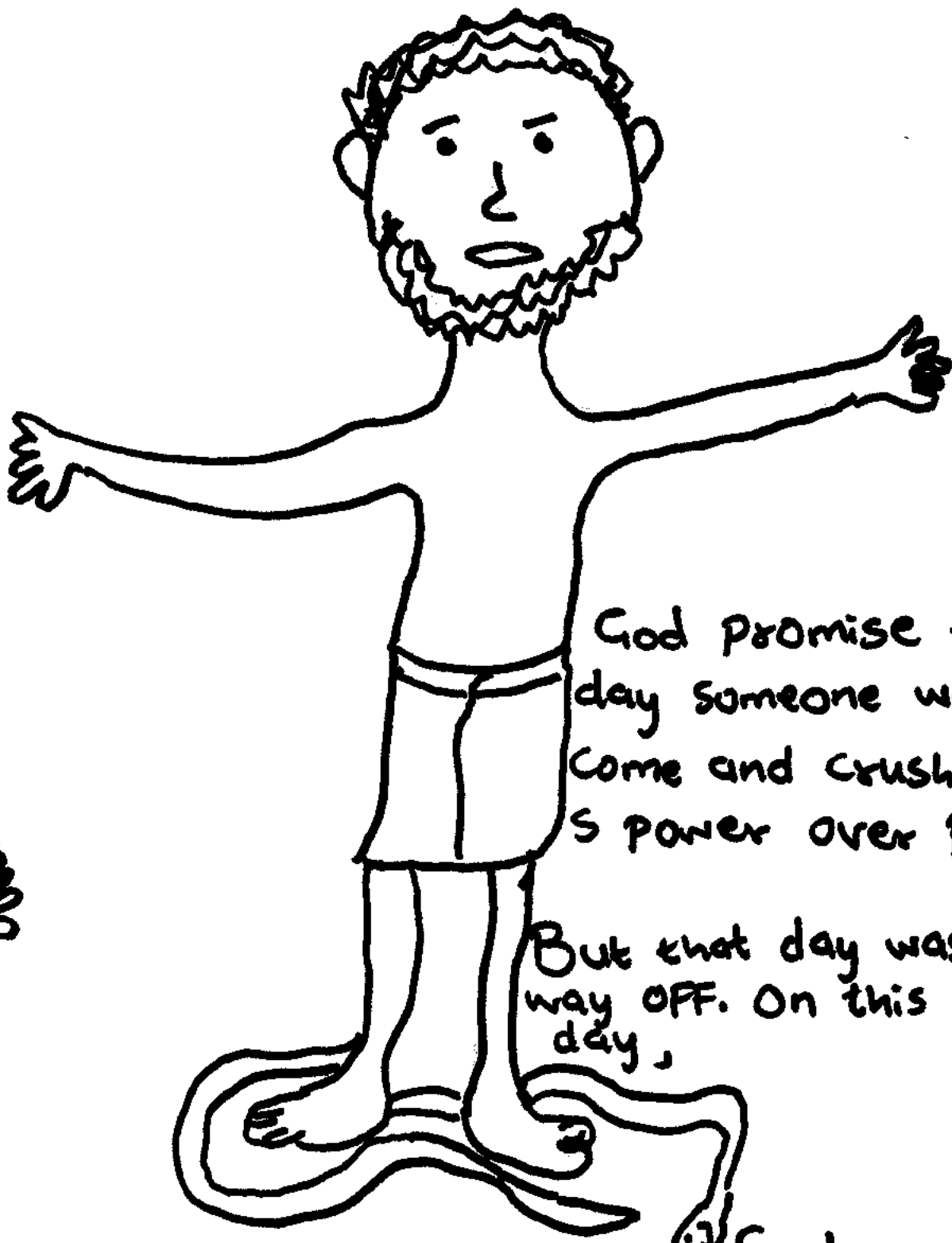
Did you know that some good news
came on this sad day too?





God gave Adam and Eve a hit that he would not always be angry with them.

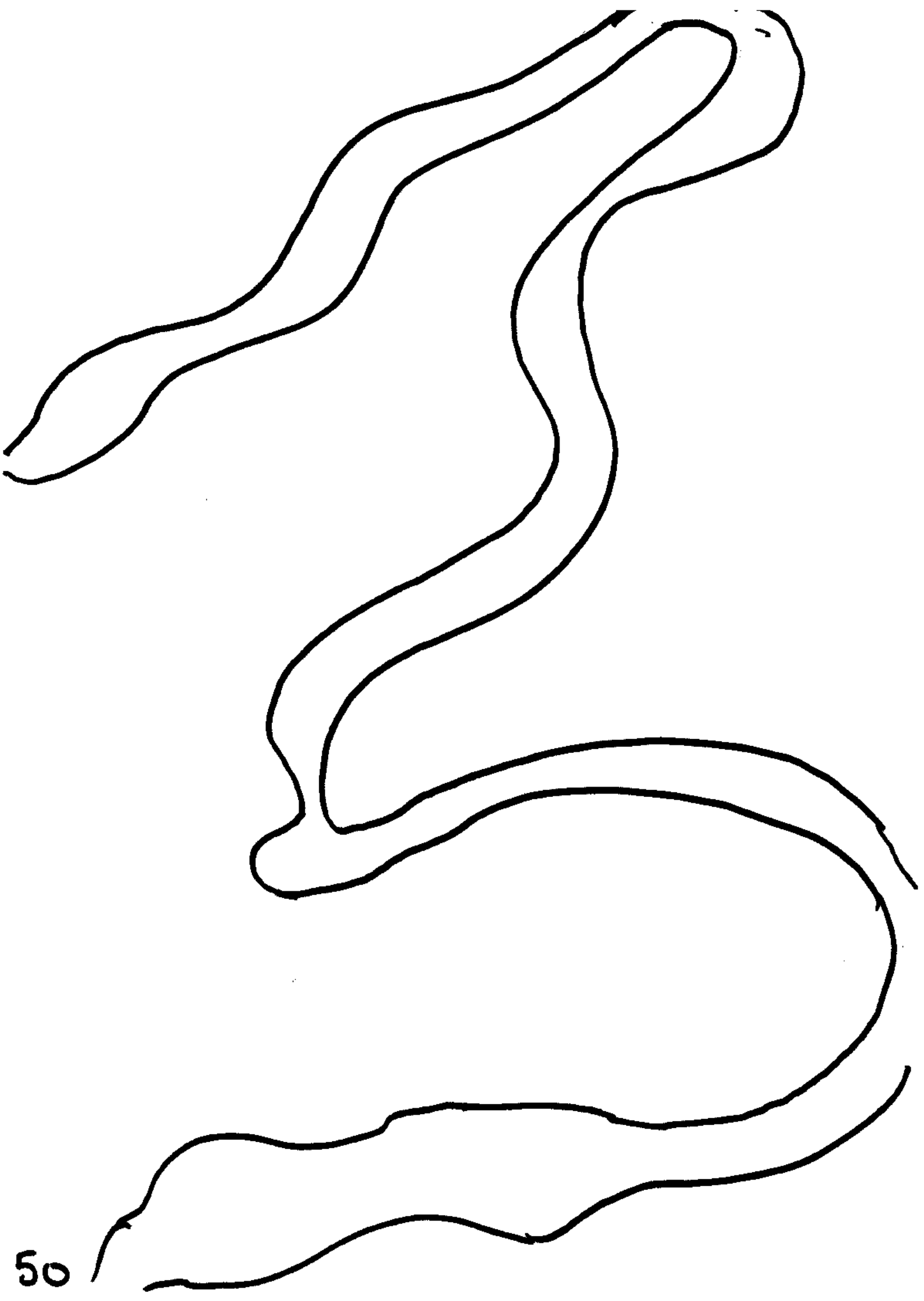


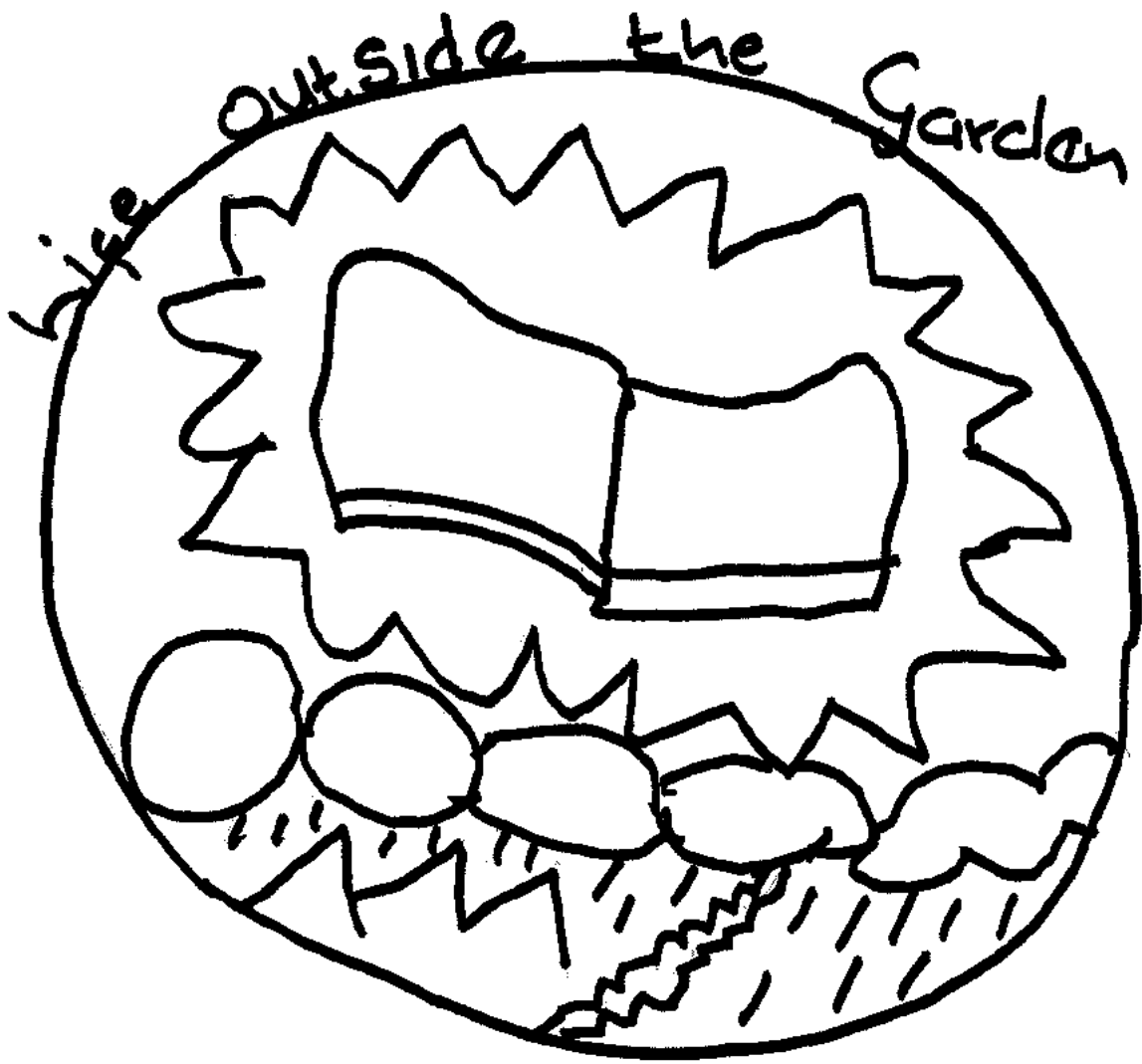


God promise that one day someone would come and crush Satan's power over people

But that day was a long way off. On this very sad day,

God made Adam and Eve leave the garden

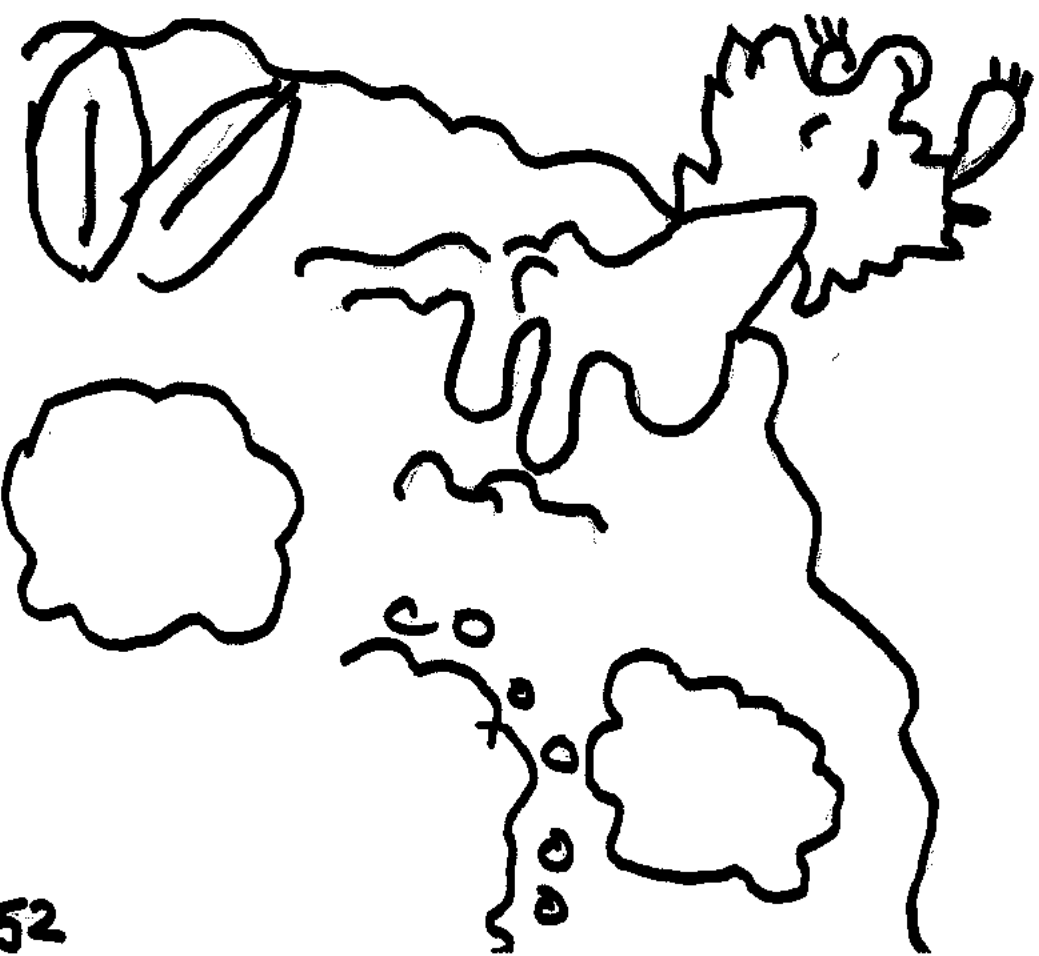


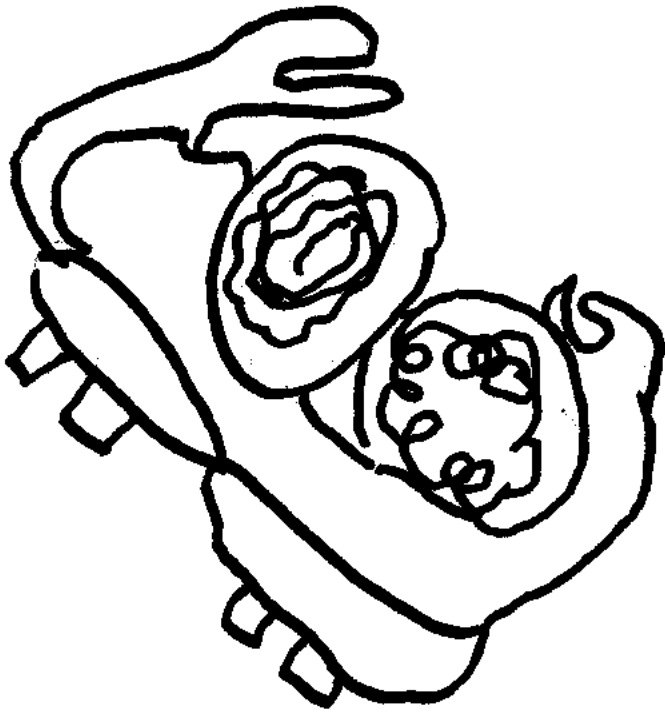


part 3



Do you remember why God's
People had to leave God's place?





God drove Adam
and Eve out of the
garden of Eden

Because they disobey him
and rejected him as
King



And everything God had warned them
about disobeying his word came
true.

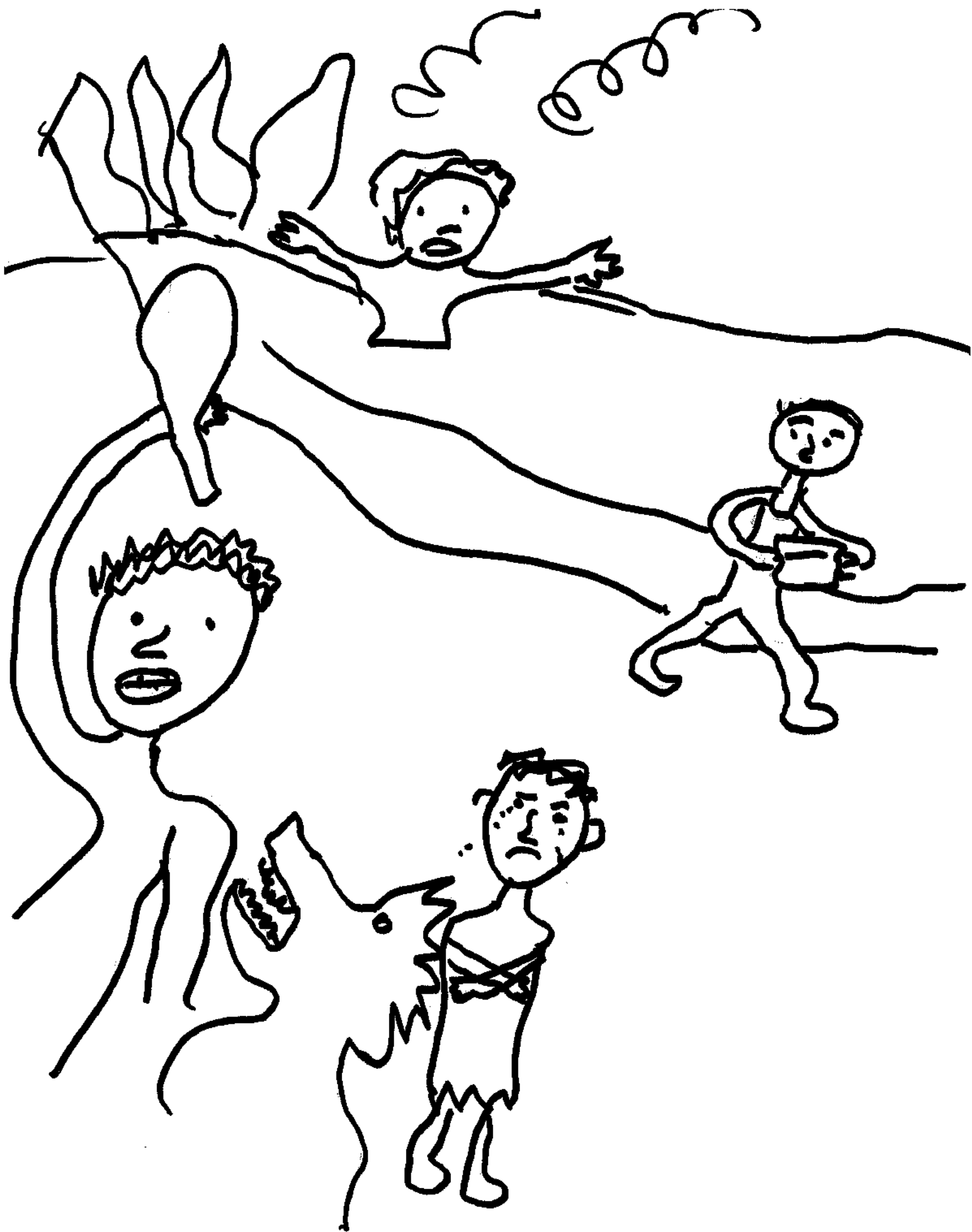


Adam and Eve were now separated from God and began having difficulty with each other. Raising children was hard.

Finding food was even harder. And their coming death was now beginning to make their bodies grow older.

Life outside the garden was
terrible

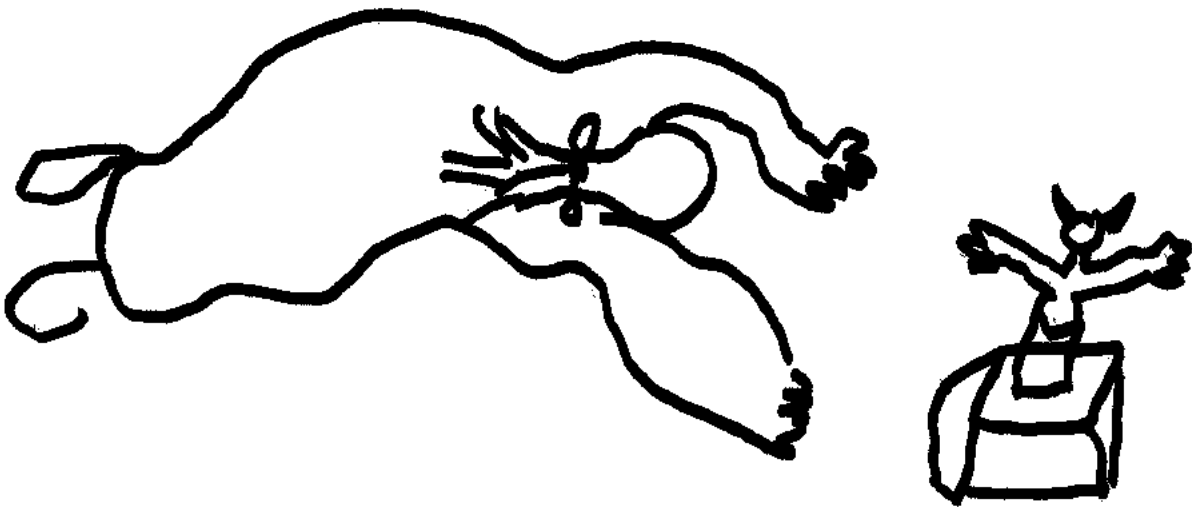




Now Adam and Eve ruled
the world in evil ways.

And they had children who did
just the same.

Their children
and grandchildren,
and great-grandchildren all turned
away from God

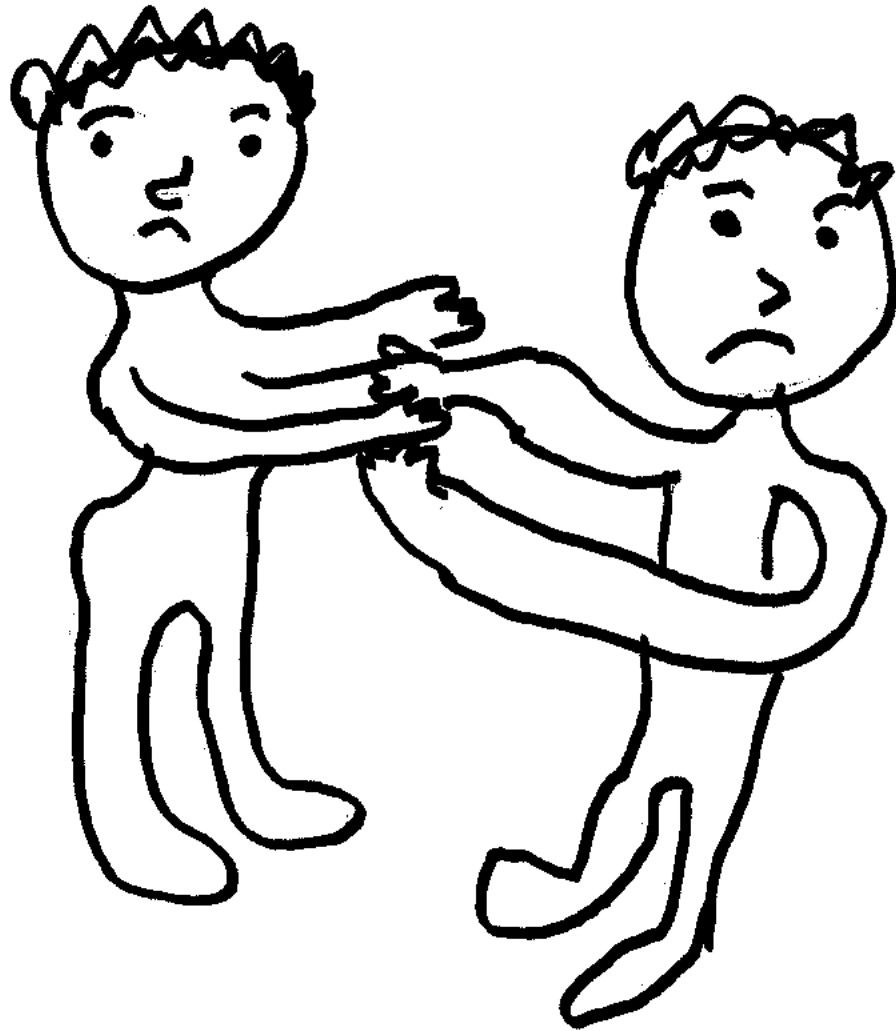




outside the garden
everyone doubted how
God was.

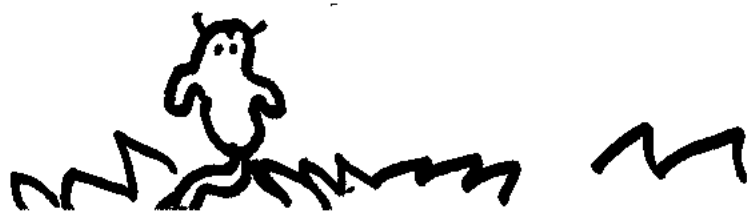
Outside the garden
everyone disobeyed God
's word

Outside. the garden
everyone ruled the word
in evil ways



This made God very sad
All the people of the earth
has rejected him as king

So...



God decided to judge all the people of the earth. He decided to send a big Flood on the place he had made.

But there was one man, named Noah, who listened to God.

God told Noah to build a great big boat.



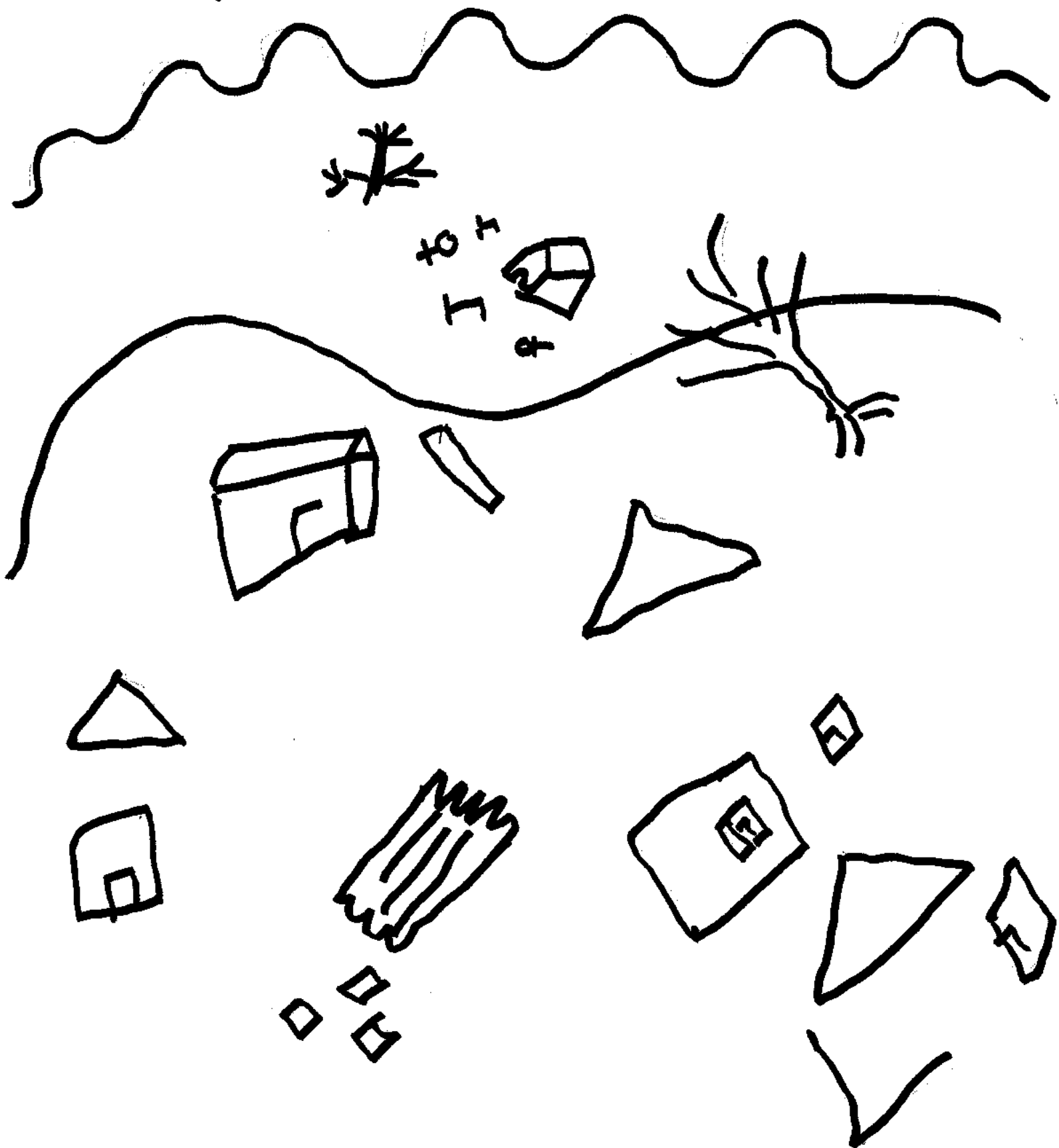


God told Noah to put
many animals on the boat.
God told Noah to bring his
family on the boat.
And Noah did what God
said then...

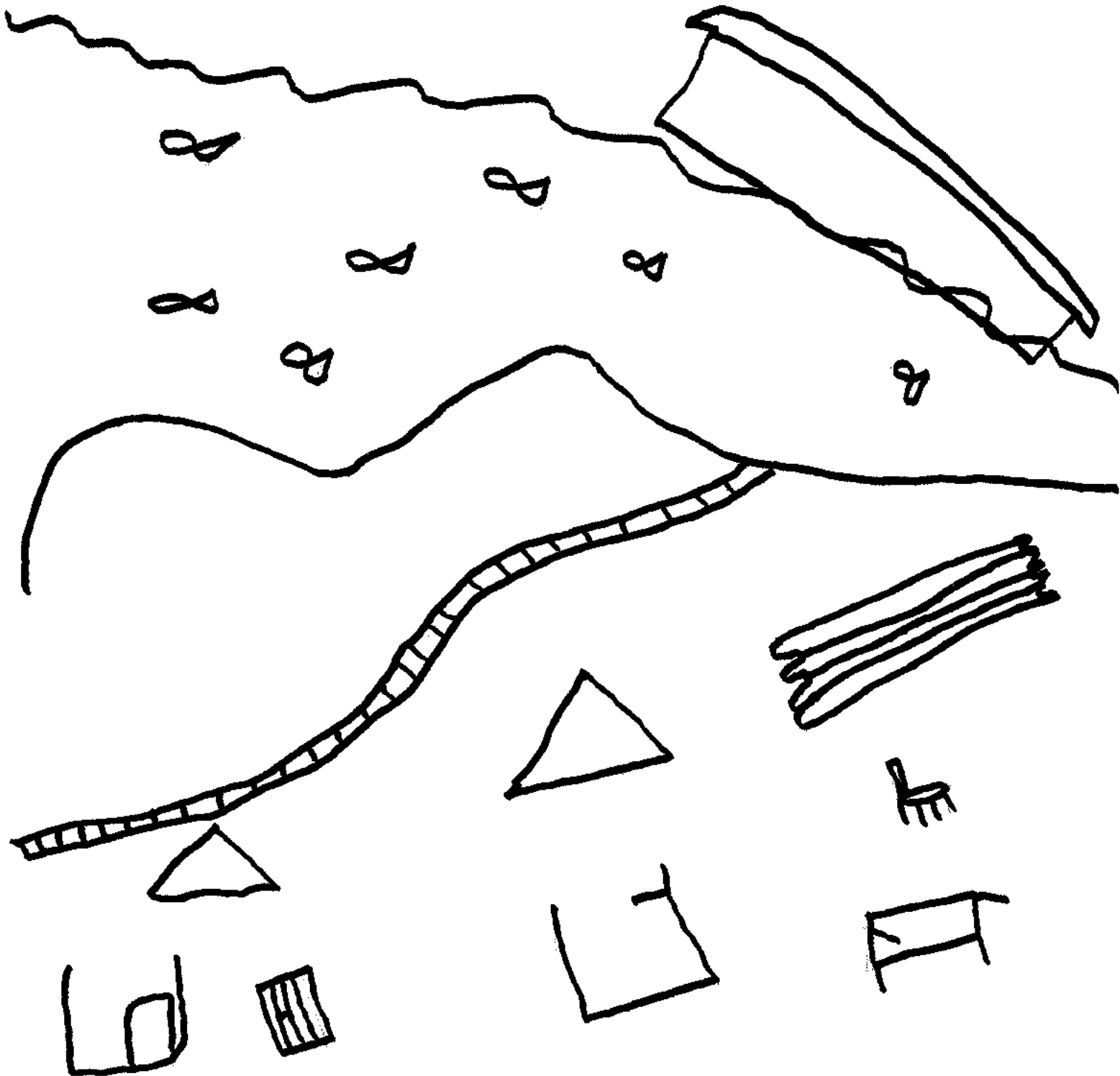
God Judged the World.

God sent a big flood of water.

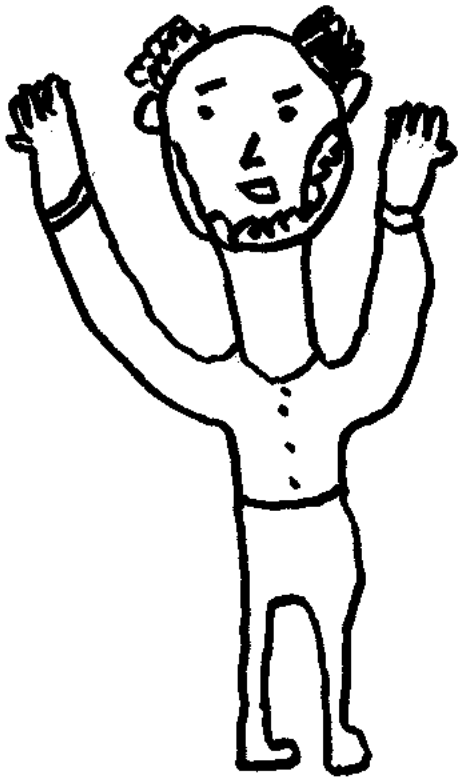
Everything that lived on land died.



But Noah, his Family
and the animals on the boat
were saved.







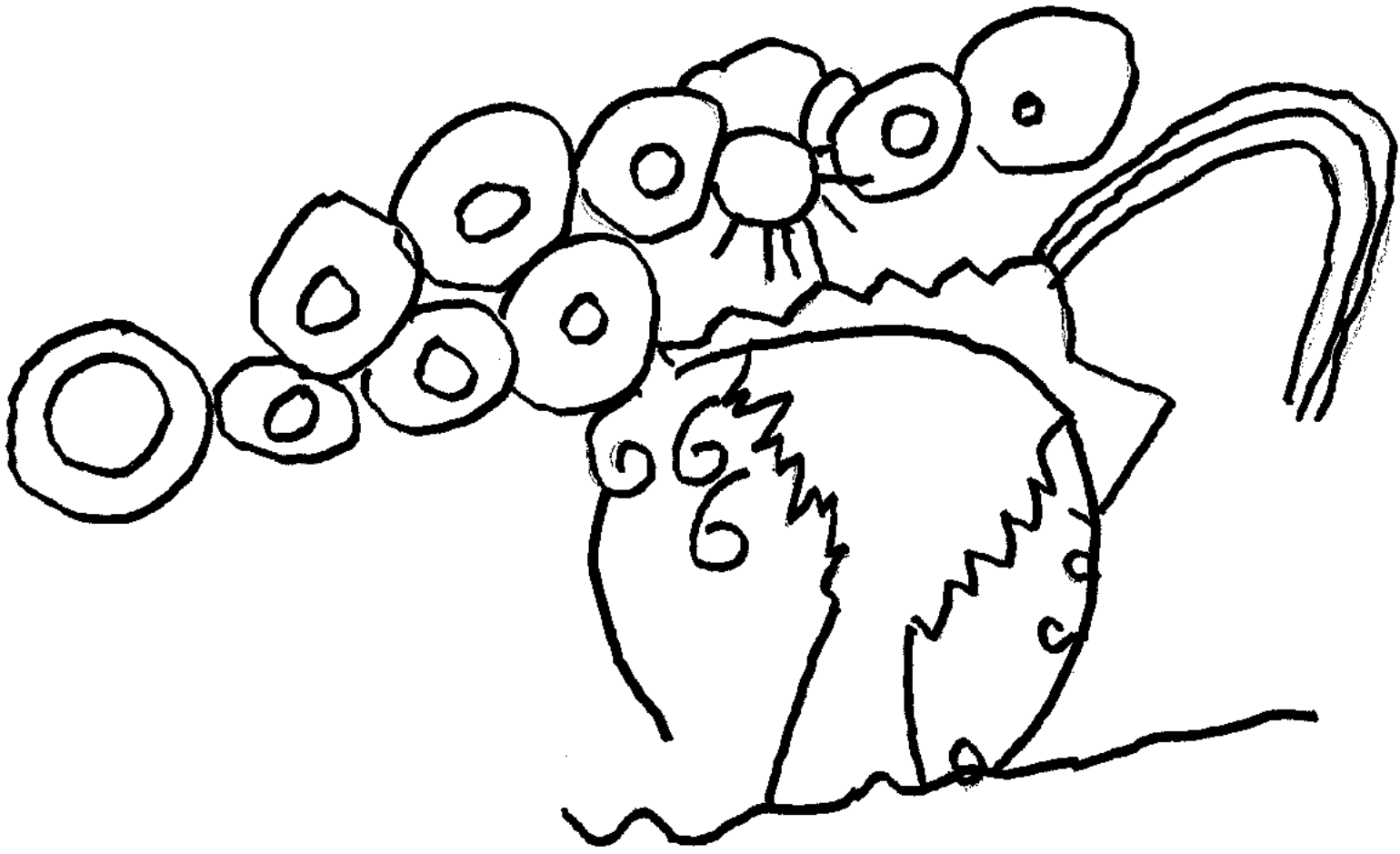
Do you know what the
Flood teaches us?

God will judge every single person
who rejects him as King.



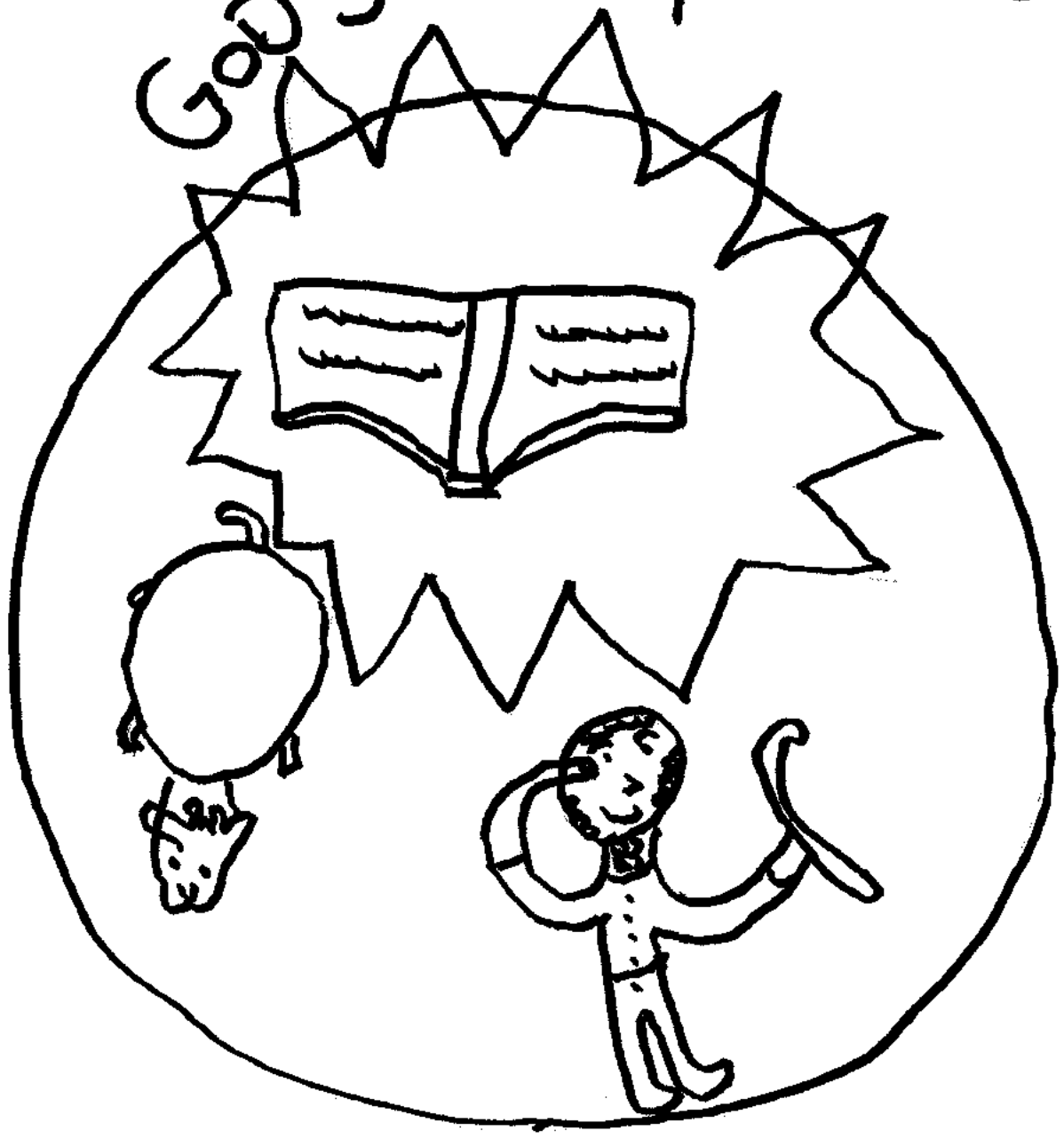
And do you know what God's judgment
teaches us?

Every single person needs God's blessing.



And guess what?
God Promised to do just that!
God Promised to bless
all the people of the earth!

GOD'S BIG PROMISE

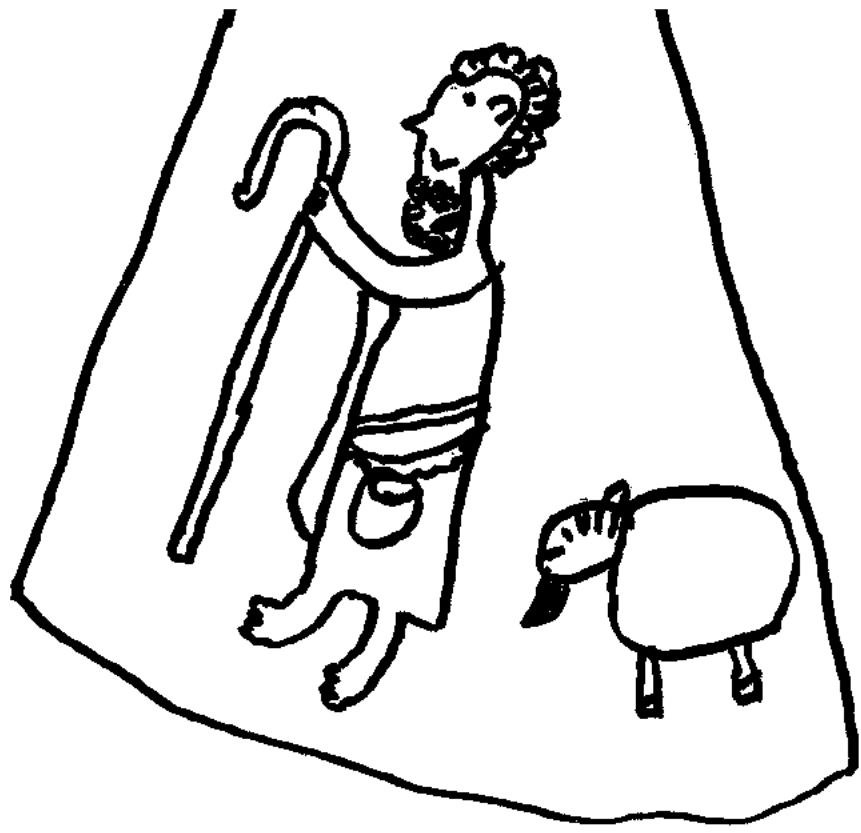


Part 4

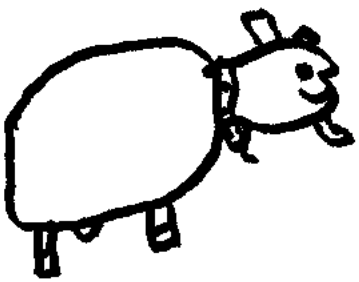


Many years after the
Flood God make a
big promise.

He said to a man named
Abraham,



"Go.. to the land I will
show you.
And I will make of you a
great nation...
and in you all the families
of the earth shall be
blessed."





Wow! That was good news.
God told Abraham to go to a new
place, because God was going to
make a new people, so that
God's blessing would spread to
all people!

What a big
Promise God
Made to Abraham!





Abraham listened to God's words, and then Abraham did what God said. Abraham went to the land God showed him.

Do you know how Abraham felt when he got there?

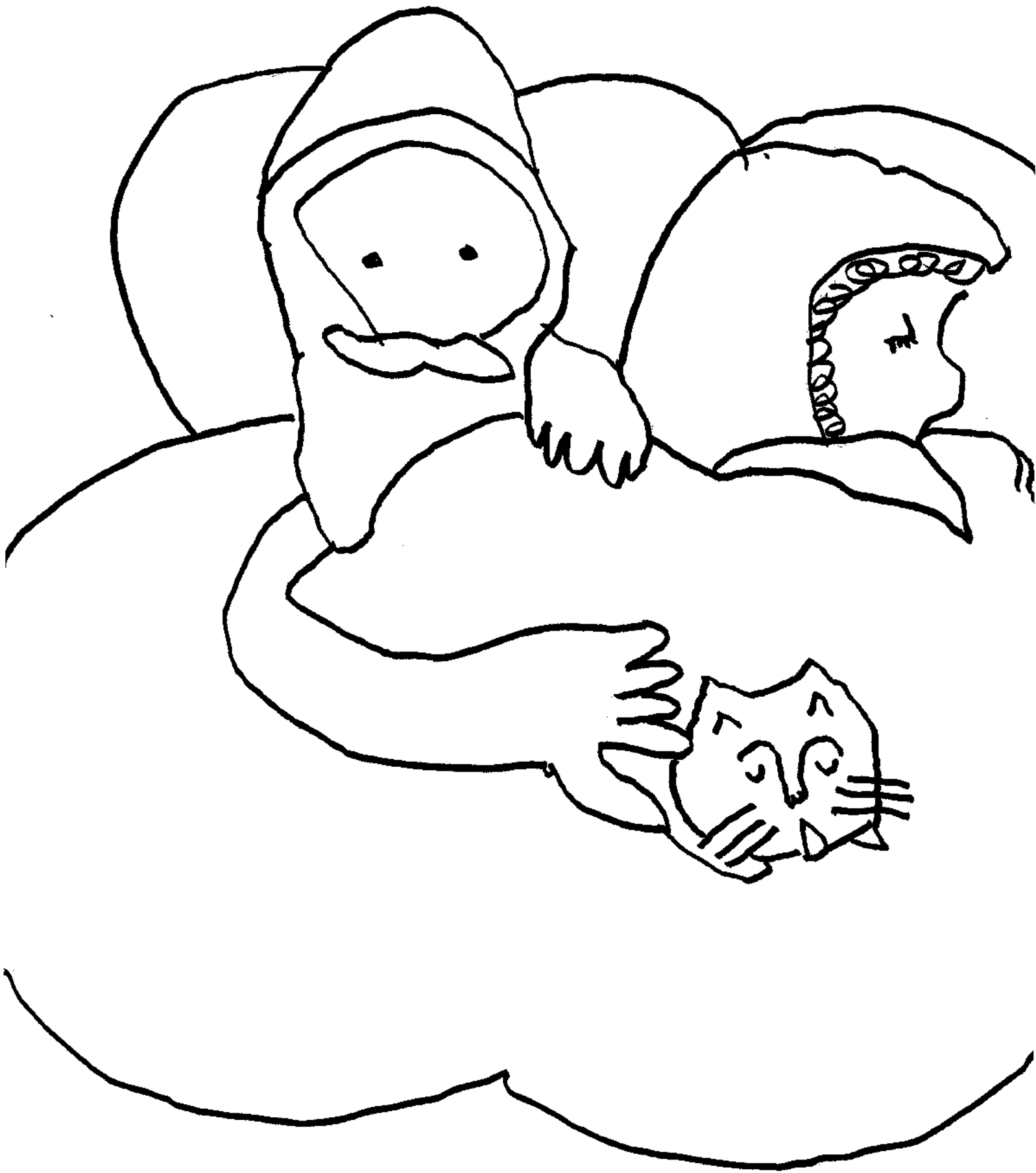




Abraham felt afraid.
He wasn't sure how God would keep
his promise.

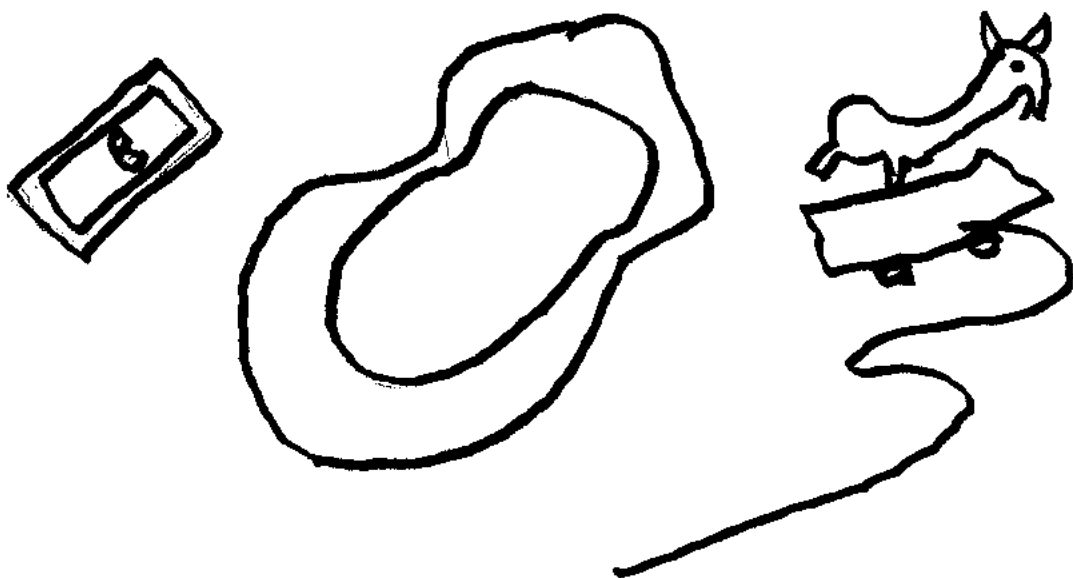
After all, Abraham and his wife, Sarah
were very old, too old to have
children





One night Abraham thought and thought, How could he become a great people if he didn't have even one child?

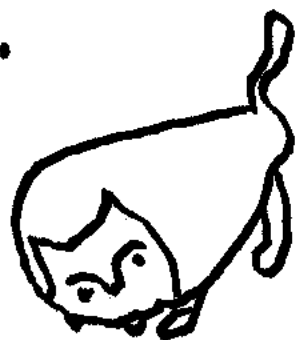
And how could he become a blessing to all people without children and grandchildren of his own?

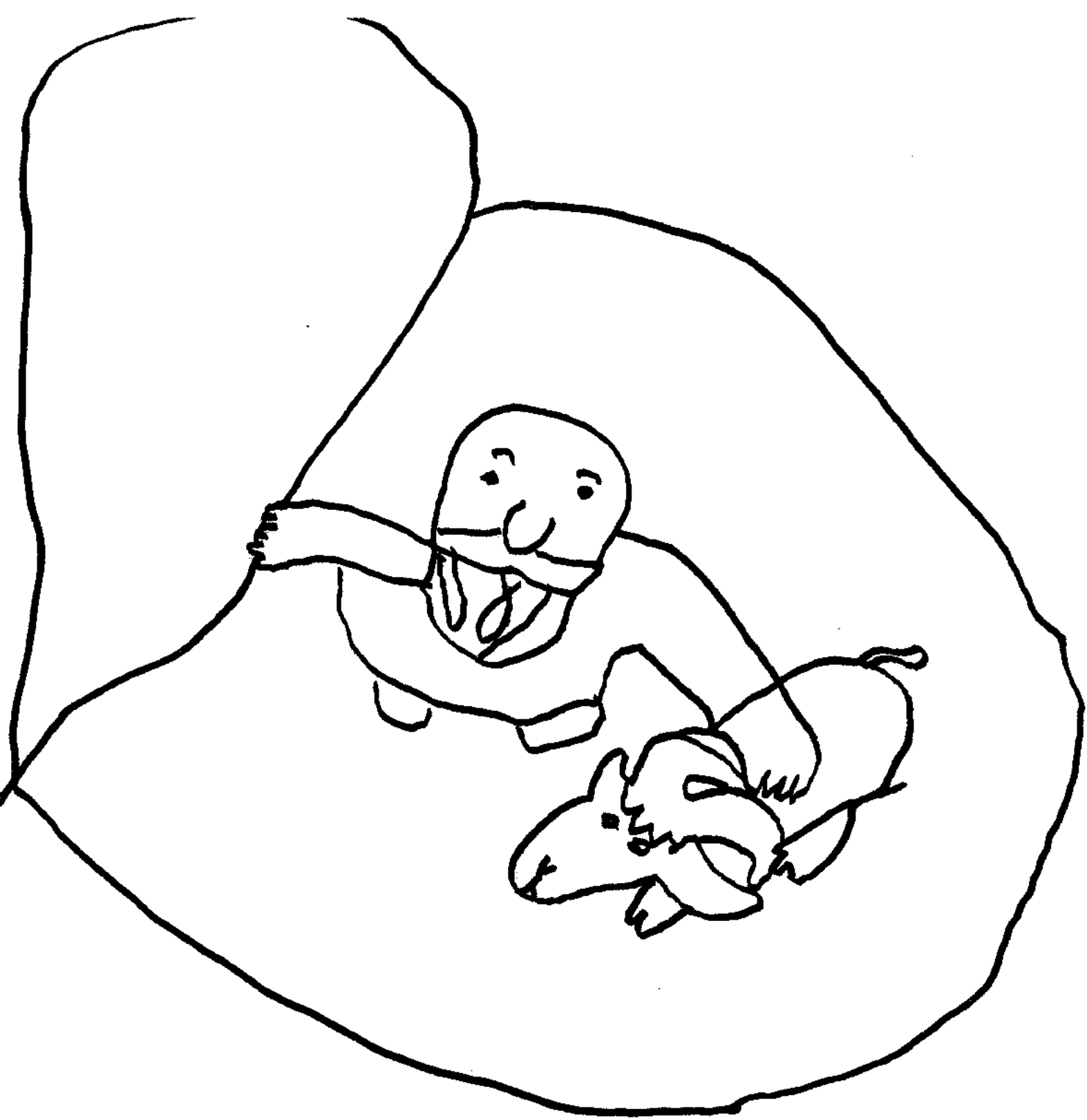


God knew what Abraham was thinking. God talked to him:
"Don't be afraid, Abraham.
Come outside and look up into the
night sky. Count all the stars, if
you can. You will have as many
children as there are stars in the
sky!"

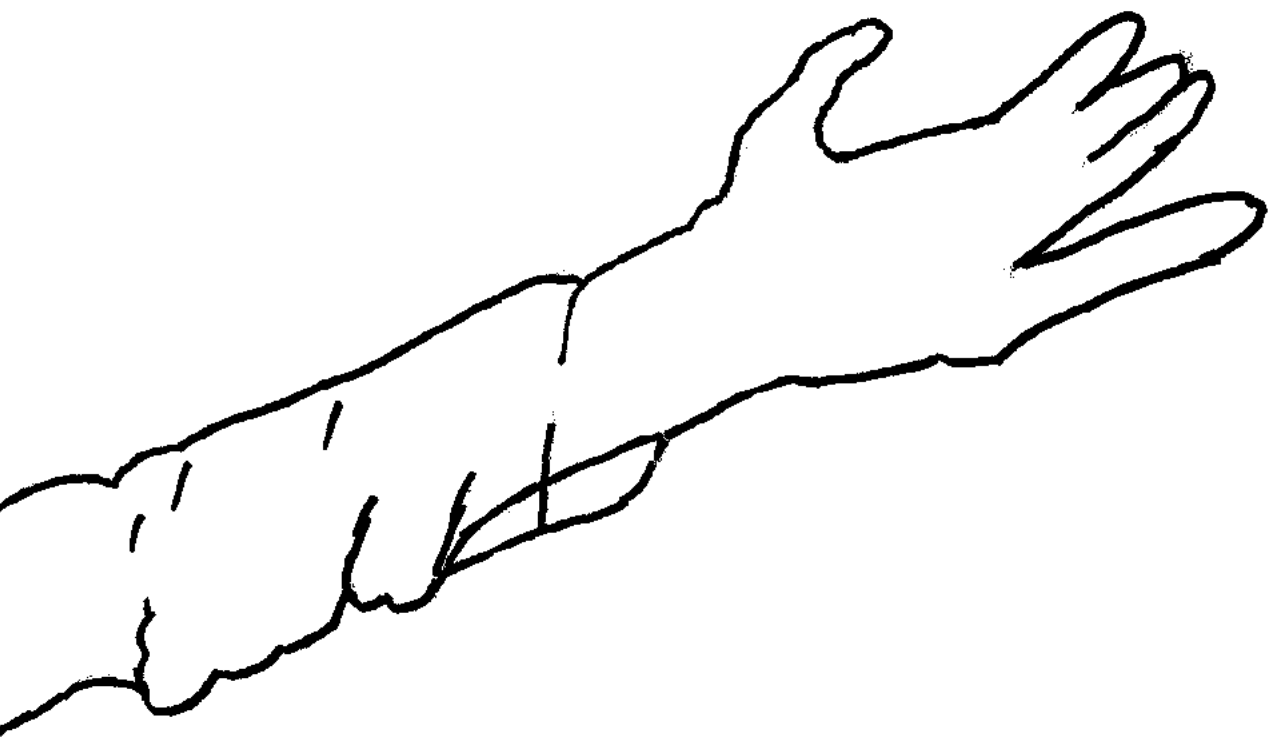
So Abraham went
outside. Abraham look-
ed up into the sky
and tried to count the
stars.

And then something happened.
As he stood there counting,
suddenly...









Abraham believed God's word!

That made God very happy. His Promise was very big, and Abraham's Faith in God's promise was very big too.





Part 5

At last it happened.
God kept his promise to Abraham and
gave him a son, Isaac.
God's promise of a new people wa
beginning to grow!
And so God's promise passed on from
Abraham to Isaac.



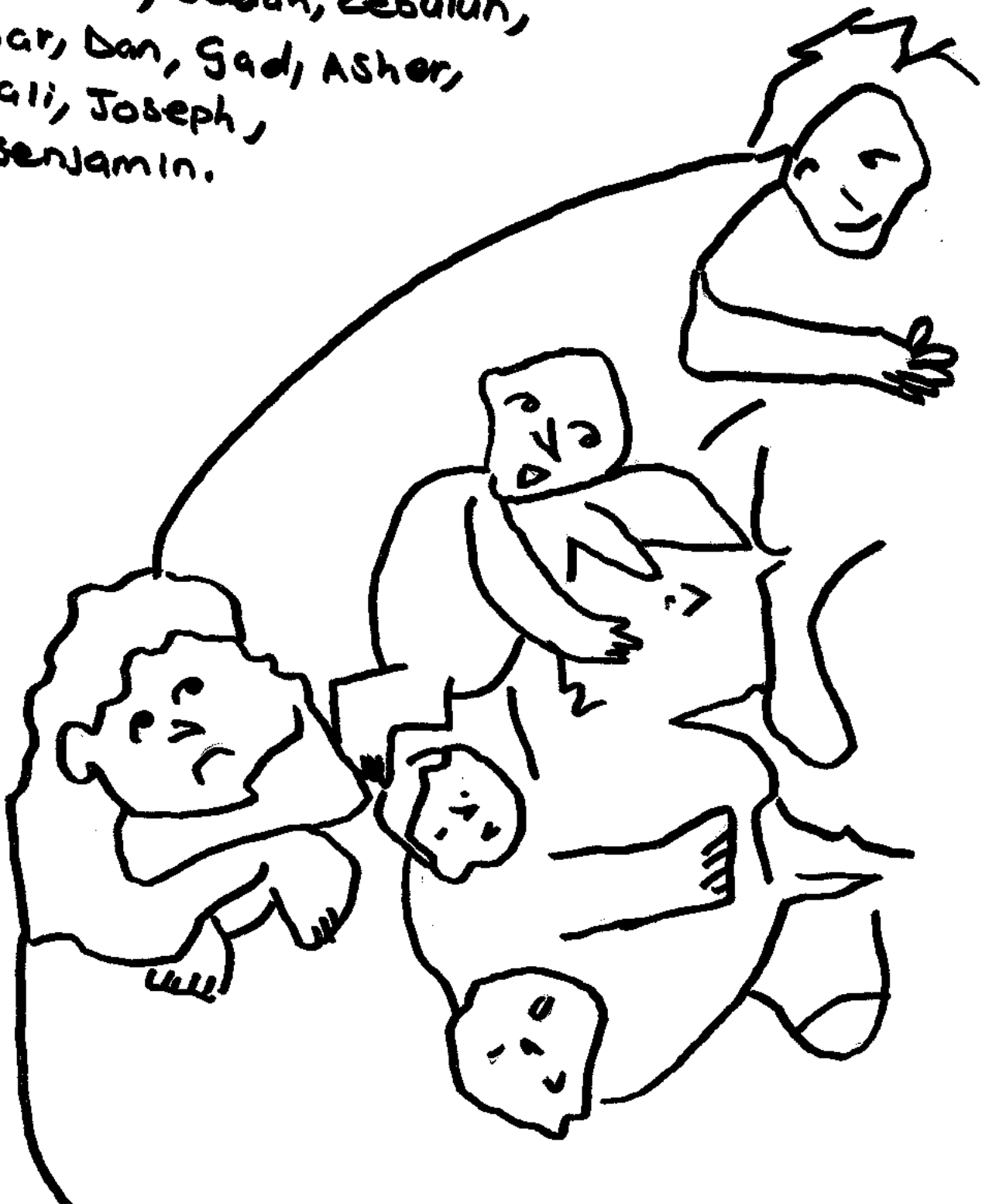


When Isaac grew up, God gave him a son, Jacob.

God's promise was beginning to grow and grow!

And so God's promise passed on from Abraham to Isaac to Jacob.

When Jacob grew up
God gave him twelve son!
And he named them Reuben,
Simeon, Levi, Judah, Zebulun,
Issachar, Dan, Gad, Asher,
Naphtali, Joseph,
and Benjamin.





God's promise was beginning
to grow and grow and grow!!!
But while God's people were
growing in number...

They also were growing apart.

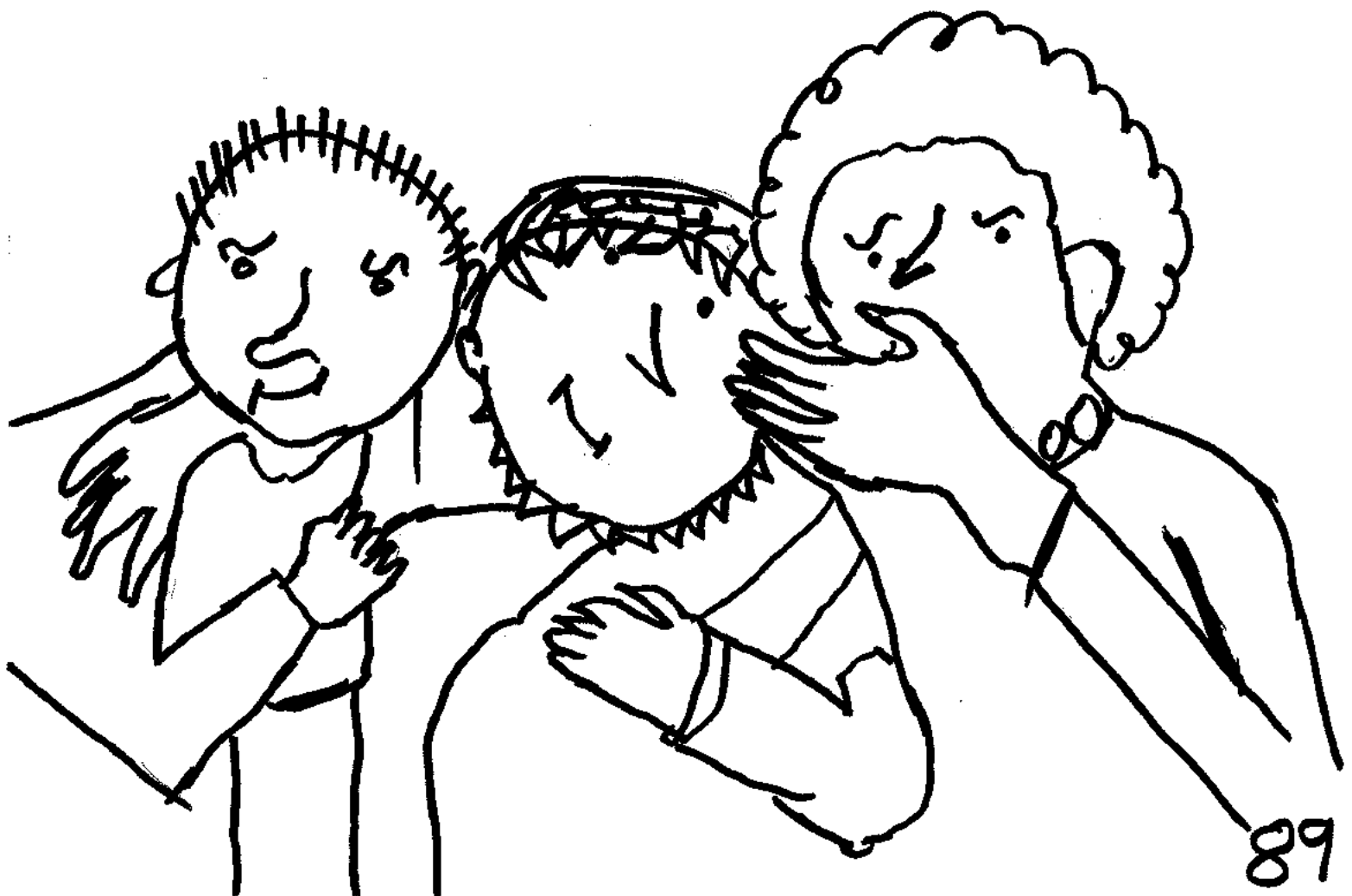




Jacob's many sons hated their younger brother Joseph.

They did an evil thing.

They put him in a pit and then sold him to be a slave in a faraway place.

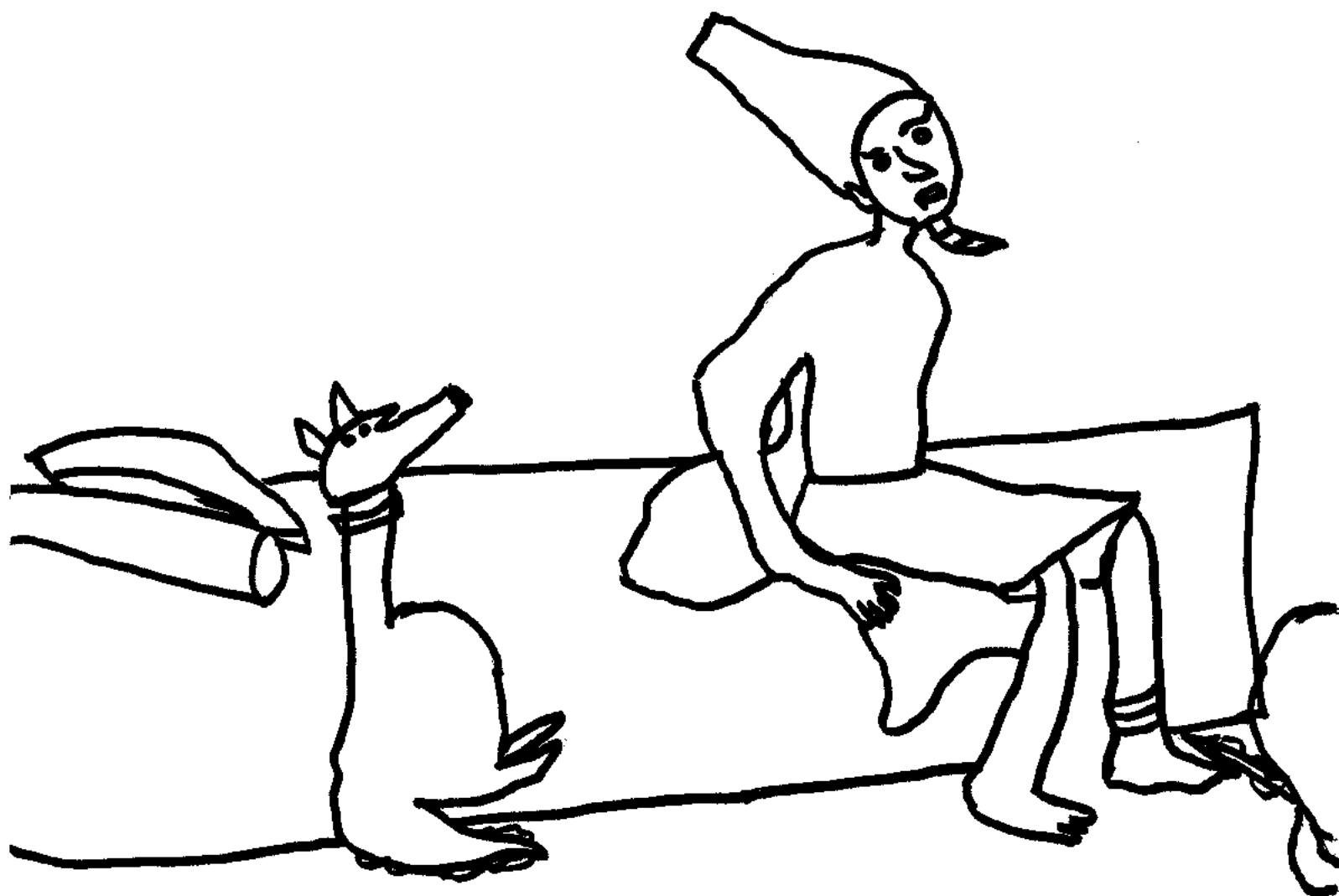




Isn't that sad?
Do you think Joseph was all
alone in faraway Egypt?



No. He was not alone
God was with Joseph.
And God was going to use this
evil thing, that happened to
Joseph for good!



God showed Joseph that in a few years there wouldn't be enough food for all the hungry people in the land. Joseph believed God.

And pharaoh, the king of Egypt, believed Joseph. He put Joseph in charge of the kingdom, and Joseph helped him by storing up food.





Then came the time of trouble,
Just as God had said.
People came from distant lands
to buy the stored food.
They were hungry and about
to die.



mmmm
23 15
When Joseph's father, Jacob,
heard that there was food in
Egypt....

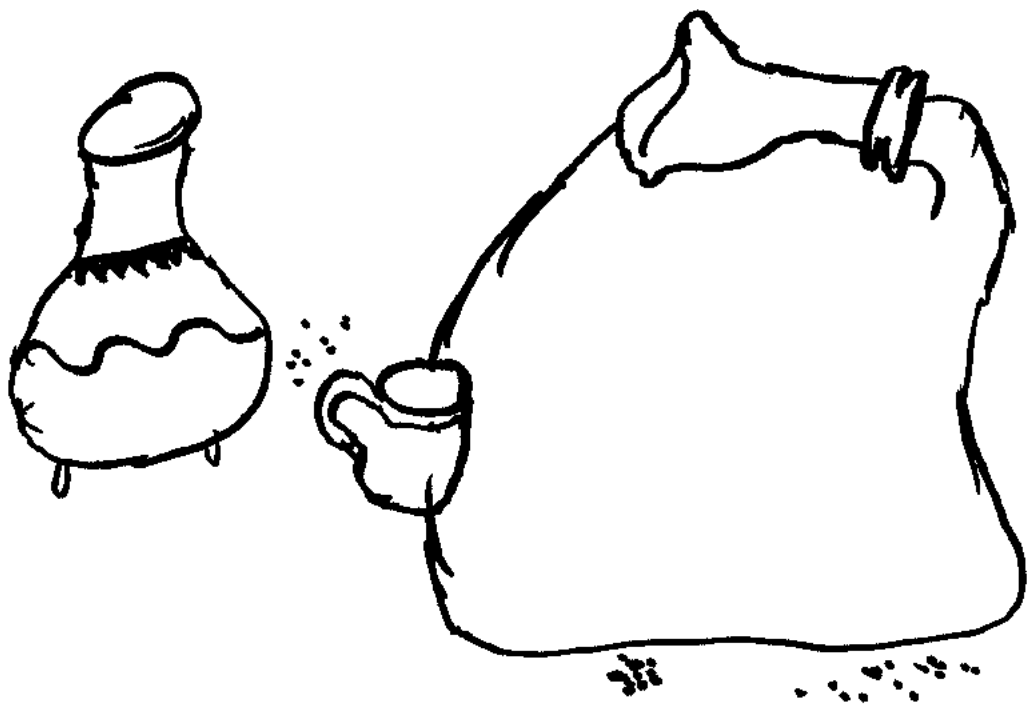


He told his sons to go and buy some.
So they went

And Joseph,

now a very powerful man, recognized
them.

But his brother did not recognize
Joseph.





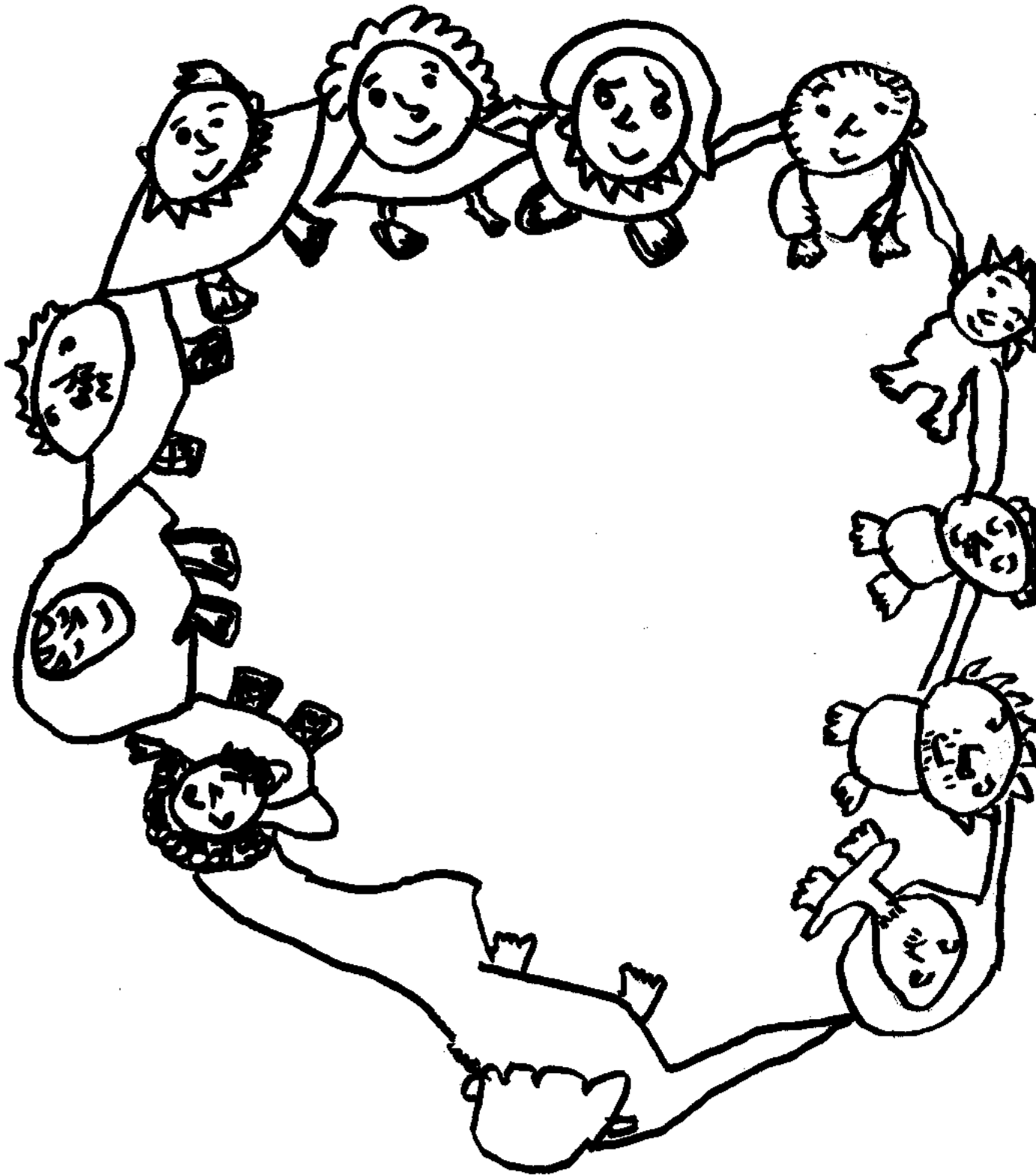
After all these years
Joseph could have gotten
even with them. Joseph
could have sold them
as slaves.

Joseph could have killed
them.



But instead
Joseph gave them food.
Joseph forgave them.

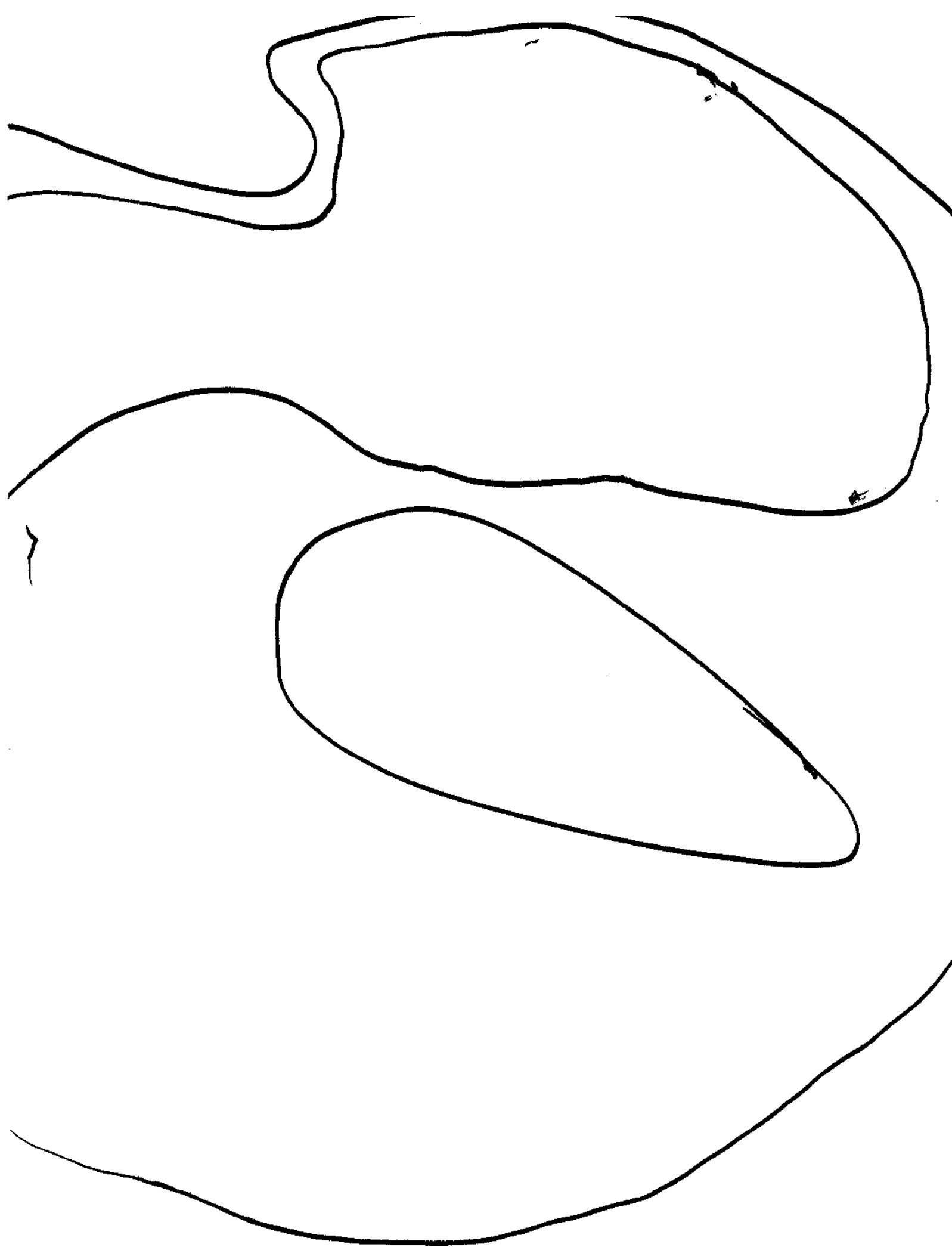




He told them not to worry.
He told them God had been with him
in Egypt.
He told them God had sent him ahead
to Egypt, so that God's people would
not die



Soon Jacob's family would begin to grow
in Egypt




God's People Become Great



Part 6





Jacob moved his growing household
to Egypt.

Bags were packed.

Camels and donkeys were loaded with
things, and everyone started out.

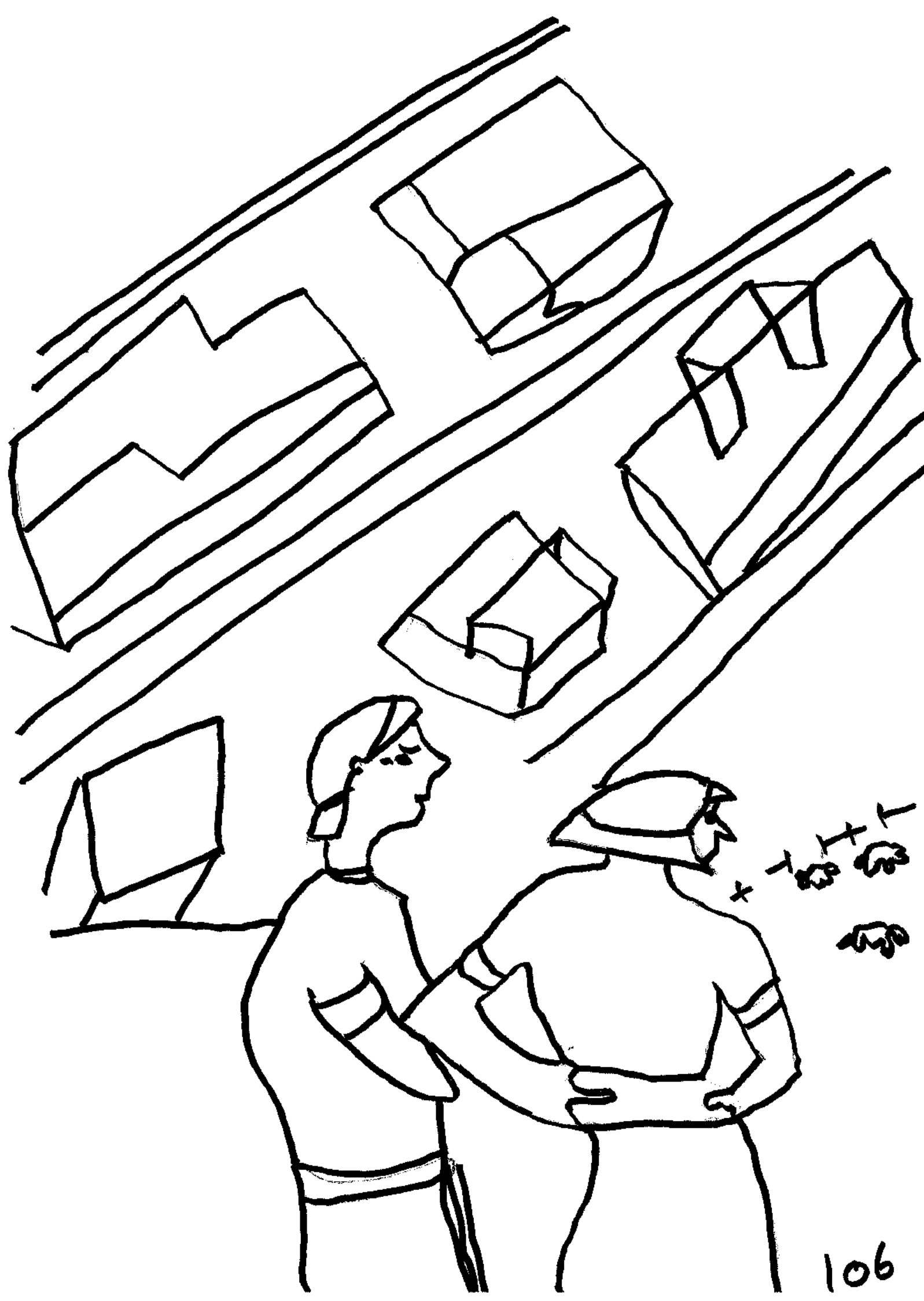
First came Jacob, the son of Isaac,
the grandson of Abraham.

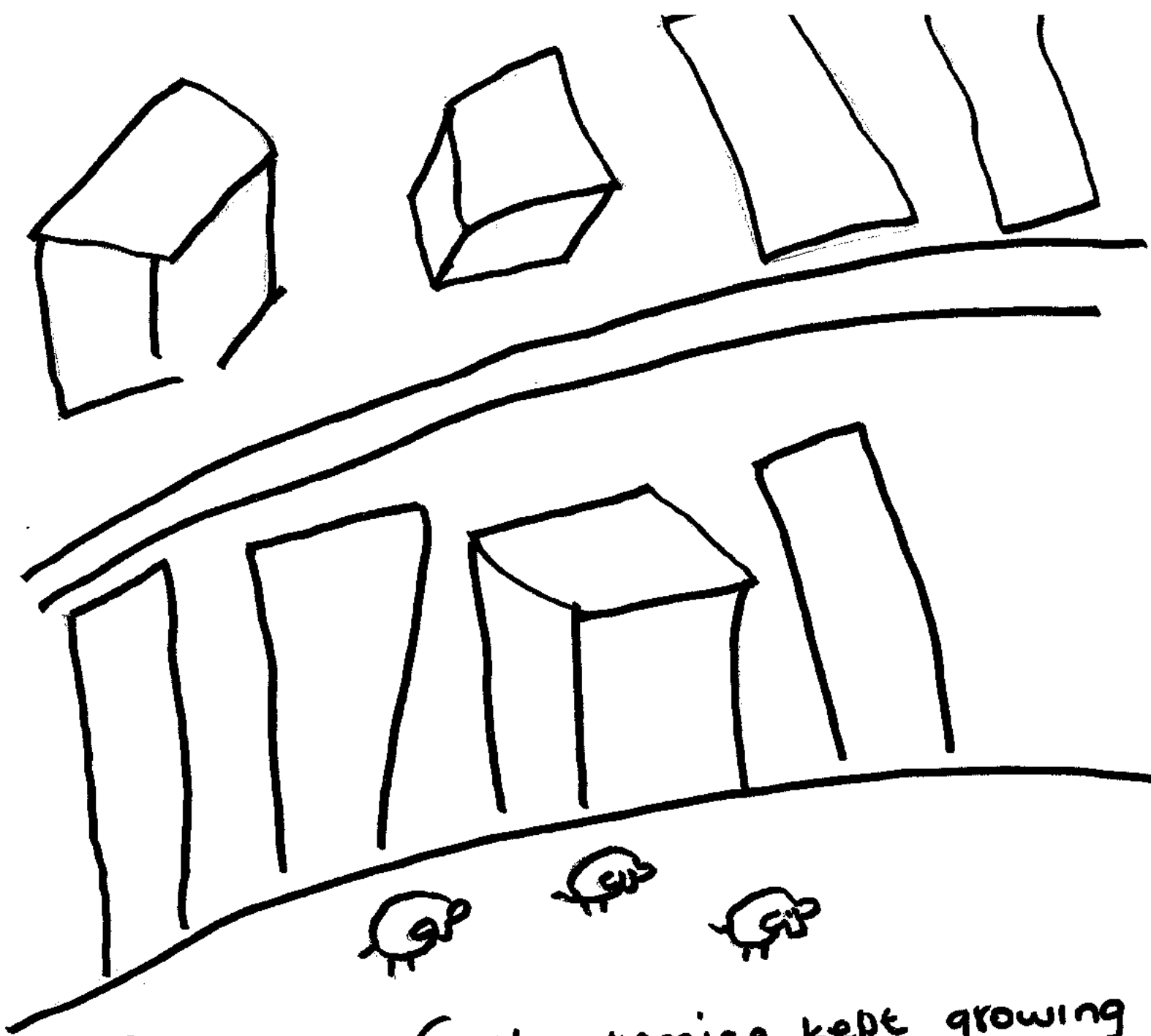
Next came Jacob's sons.

And then came all their families.

Seventy people moved to Egypt!

By now God's promise of a great
people was really growing!





And God's promise kept growing long after Jacob and his sons died. After four hundred years in Egypt, God's people had grown into a great nation named Israel.

In fact, Israel had so many people that the land was filled with them.

Do you think the Egyptians liked having all these people in their land?



Pharaoh, the king of the land,
hated the people of Israel.
Pharaoh hated Israel's God too.

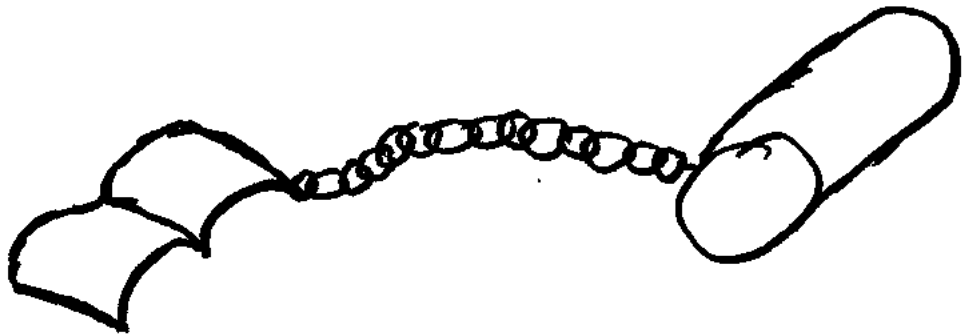
So he treated God's people like slaves
He made them work, work, work.

He was so evil
that he even killed some of God's
people.





God's people were in trouble
They cried out to God for help
and God heard them



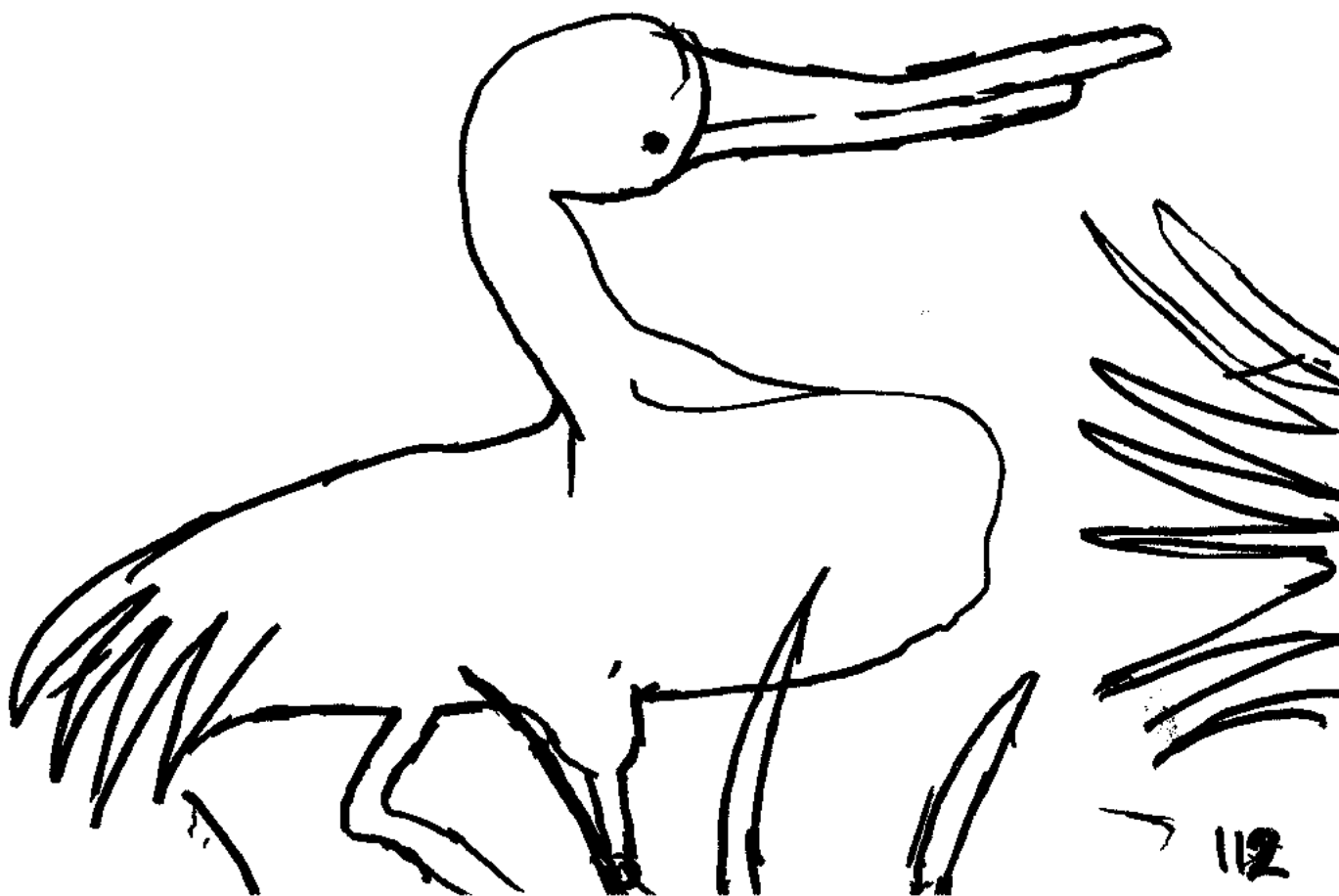
Do you see the little baby boy?
He was God's answer to the people's cry
for help.

His name was Moses, and one day he would
rescue God's people.

When Moses grew up, God spoke to him.

Moses listened to God and then

Moses did what God told him to do.







He went to pharaoh and said God's words:
"Let my people go!"
But the king said no.
He did not listen to God.

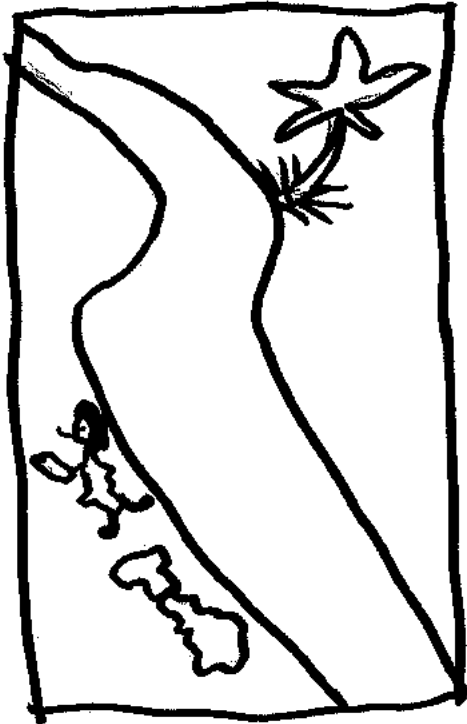
Moses told pharaoh that if he disobeyed
God's word,

terrible things would
happen to the Egyptians

Did that make the King
decide to listen to
God?

No, pharaoh still refused
to let God's people go.





So God made
the river turn
to blood



The entire land
swarmed with
Frogs,





But pharaoh still
refused to let
god's people go.

and dust turned into
gnats.



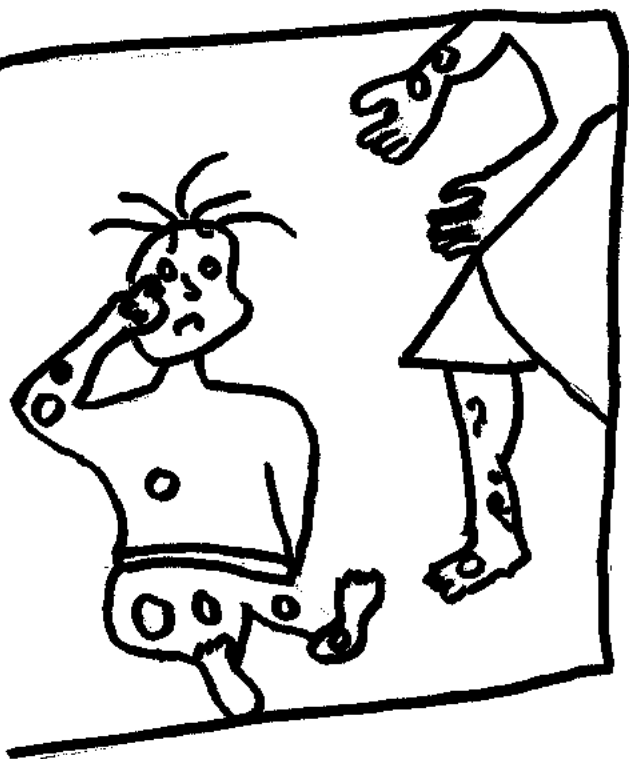


So God made the houses
full of flies



The animals of
Egypt got
sick and died.

But pharaoh still refused
to let God's people go.

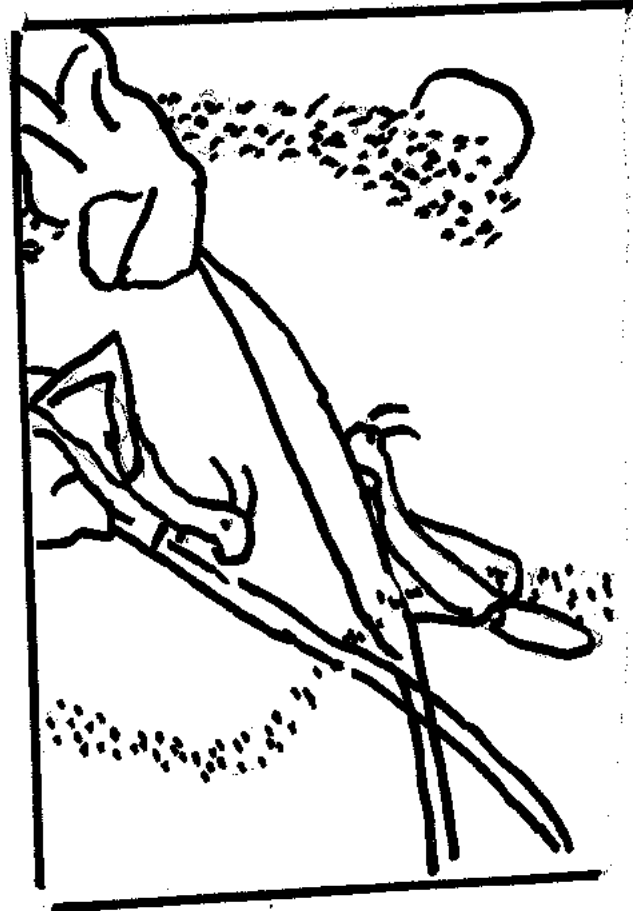


and the people got
painful sores.





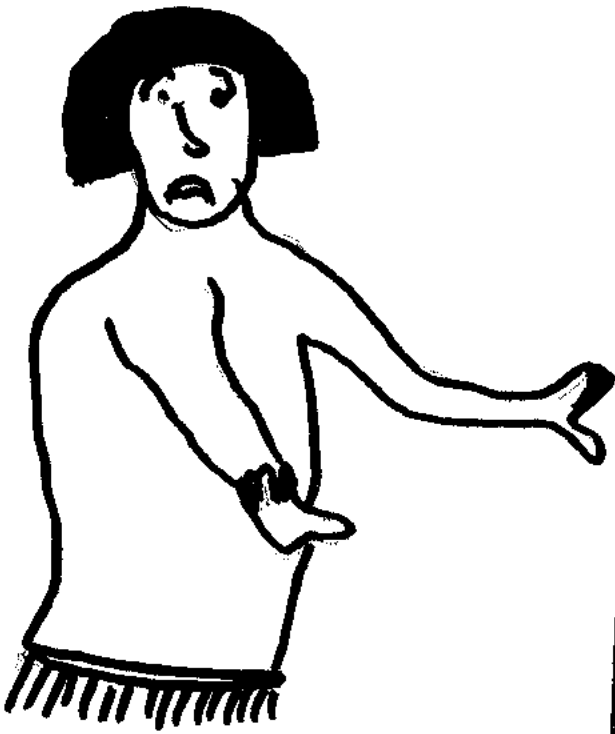
So God made hail
Fall From the Sky



Locusts Covered
the ground.

But pharaoh still refused to let God's people go.

Can you imagine what it would take for pharaoh to let God's people go?



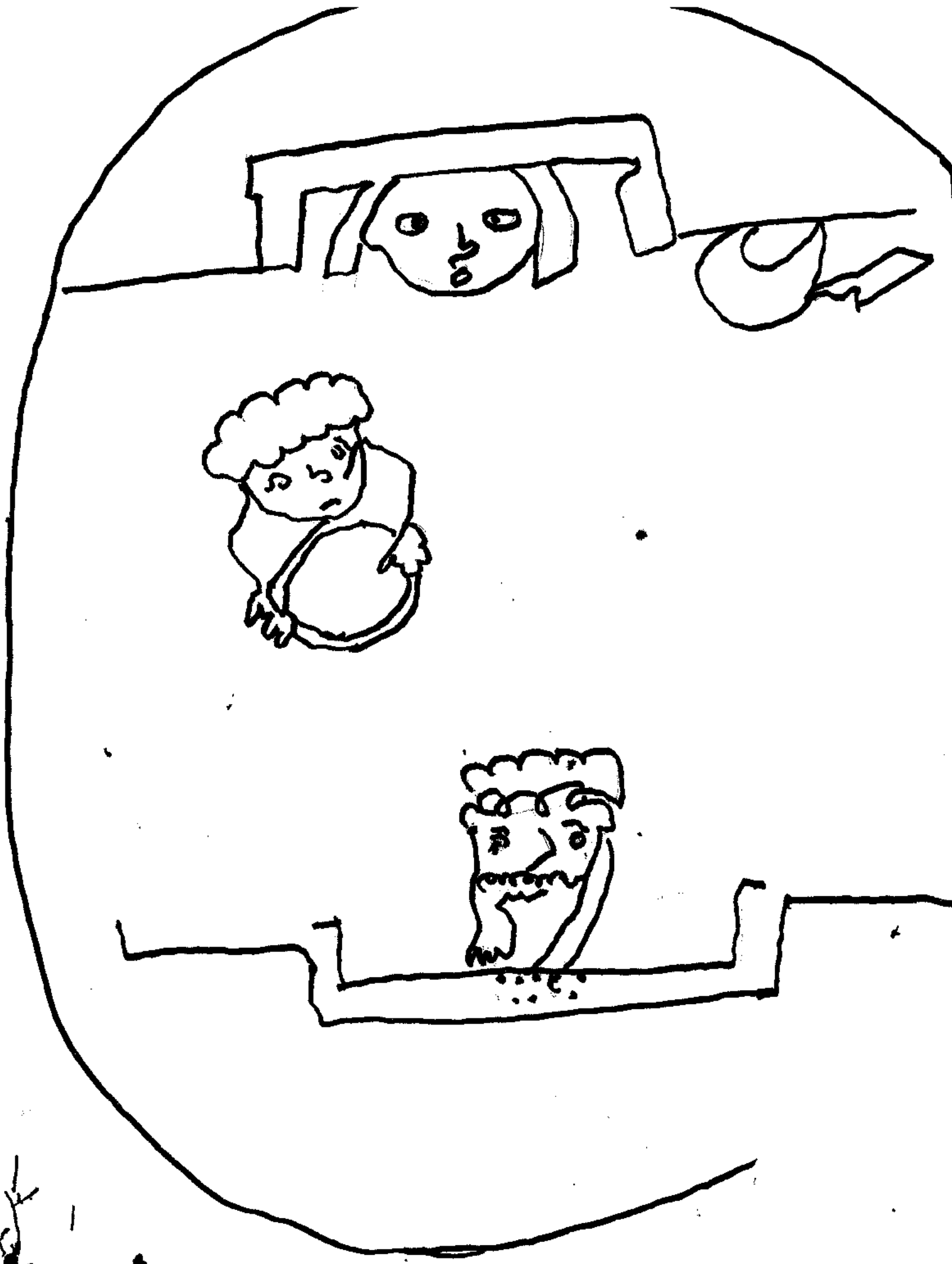
and darkness spread out over the land.









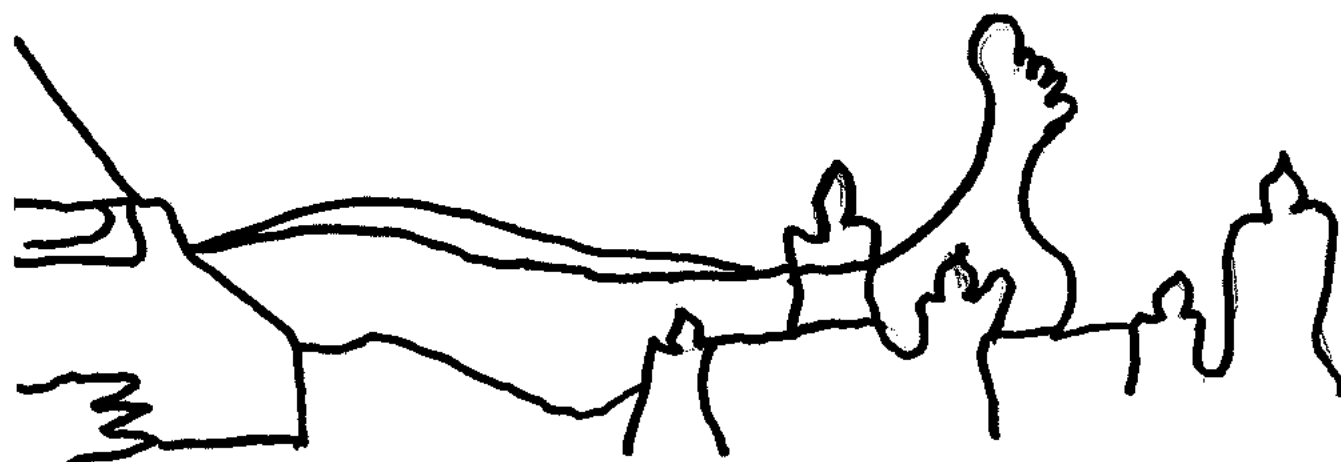


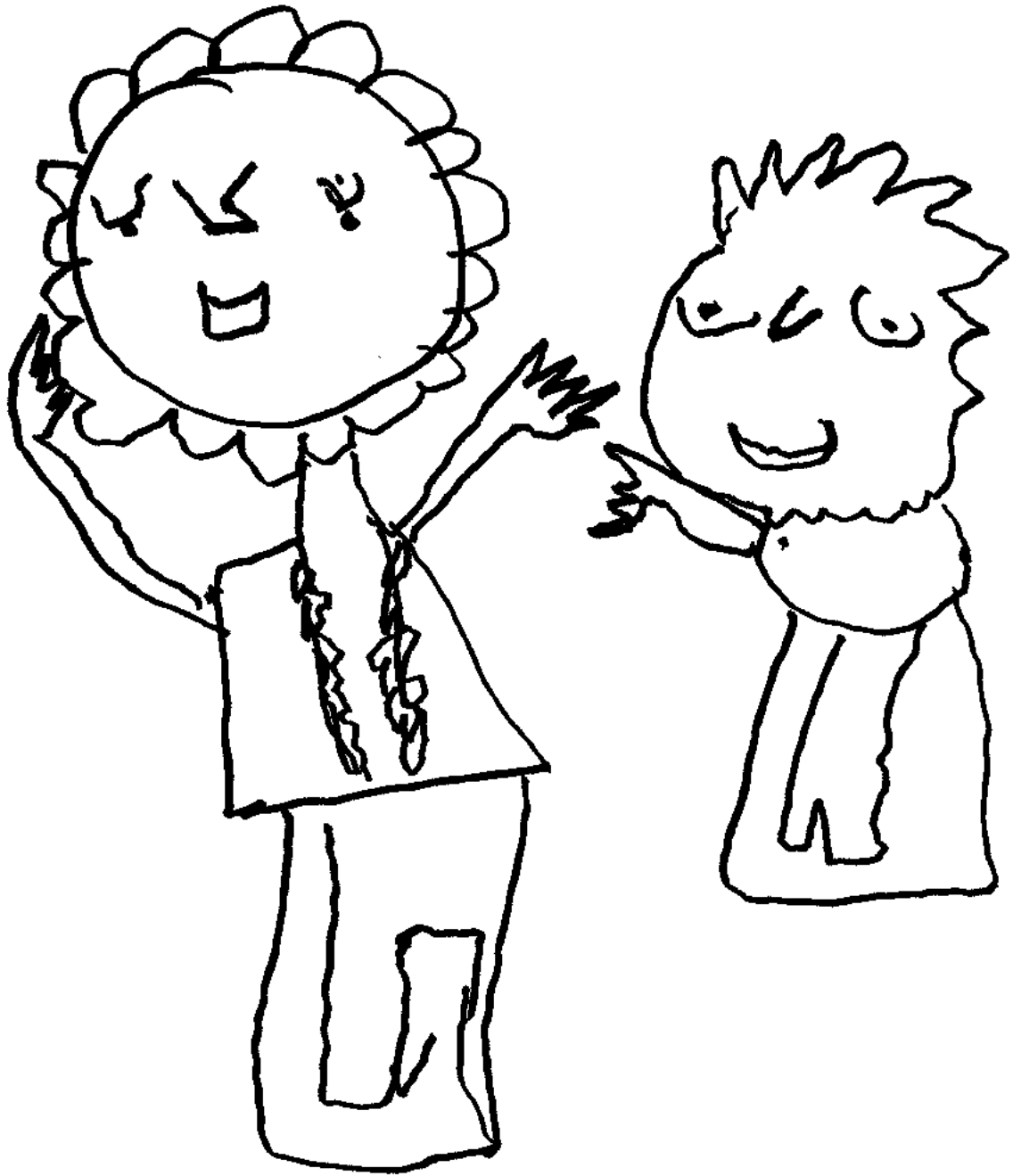


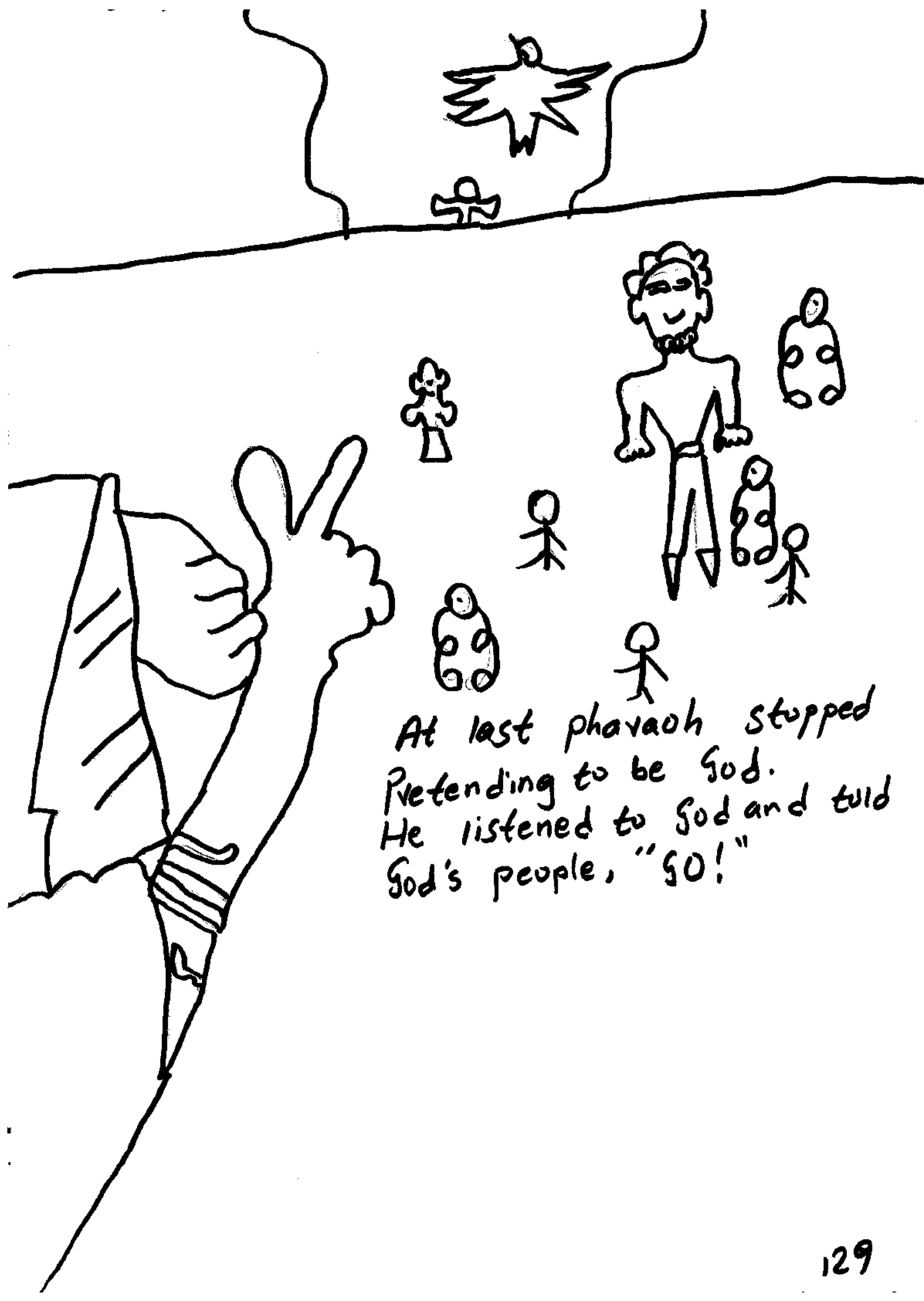


That night the Lord took
the lives of the firstborn in homes
that did not have God's great Sign.
Many Egyptians died that night

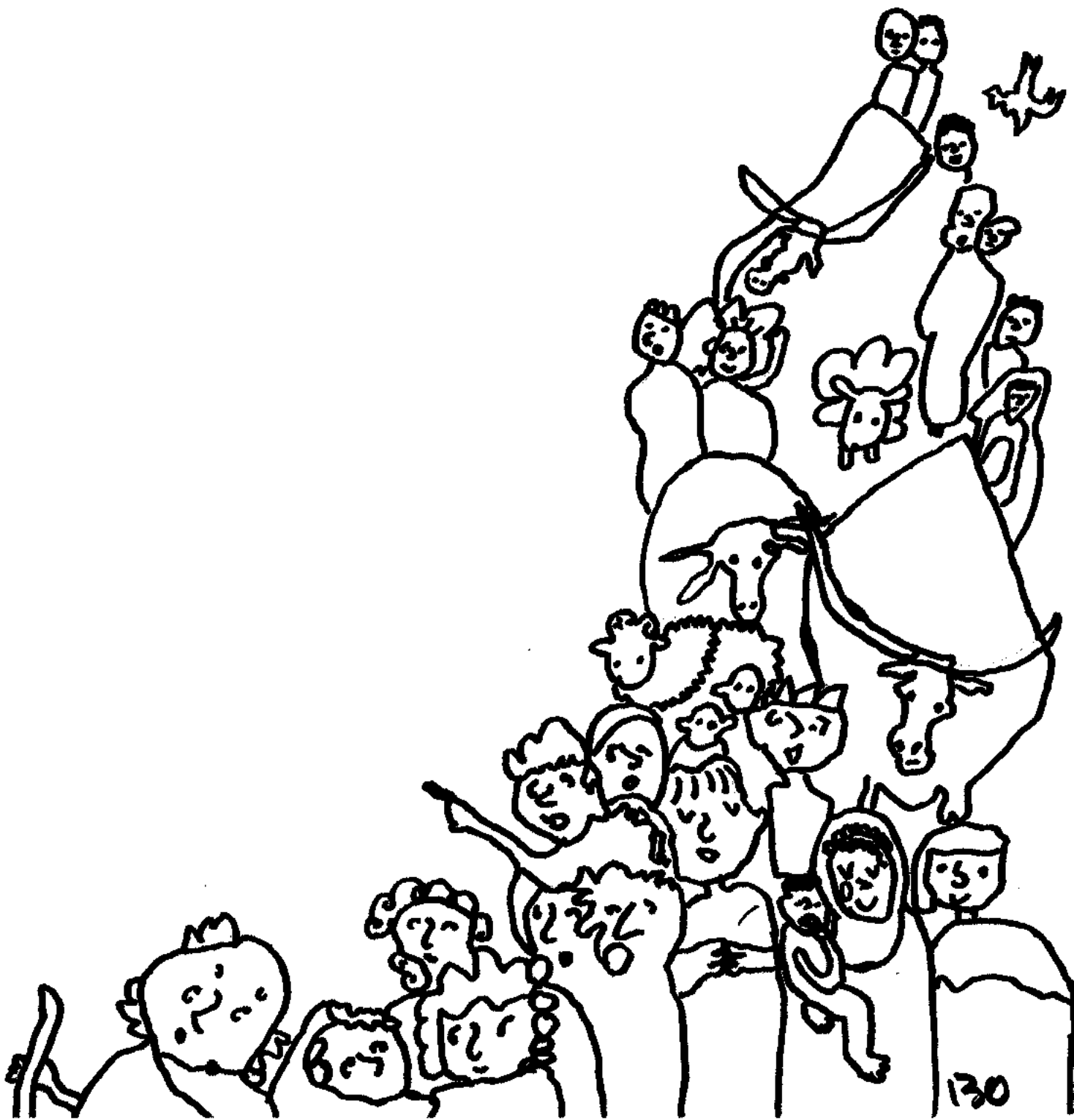
But the Lord did not take
the lives of the firstborn in homes
that had blood over their doors.
God "passed over" the families of Israel.







At last pharaoh stopped
Pretending to be God.
He listened to God and told
God's people, "GO!"



God did keep his promise
to Abraham!
He did make him into a great nation.
When God's people left Egypt, there
were almost one million of them.

Do you know what
God did next?



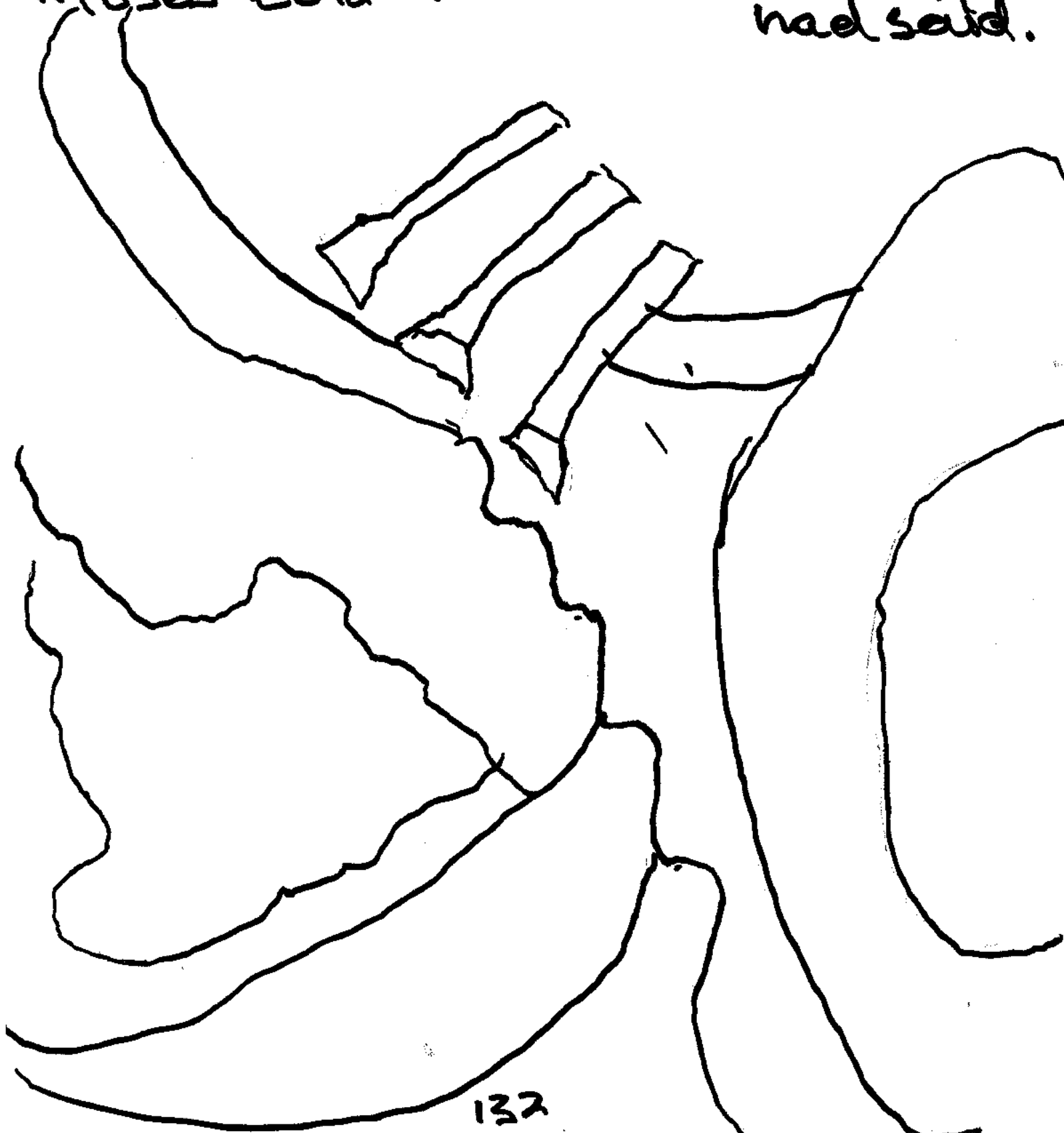
God gave this great nation his ^{good} word

Moses went upon a mountain top
to meet with God.

~~God~~ The mountain shook, and lightning
flashed.

God spoke to Moses then.

Moses told the people all that God
had said.







Moses told them how to love God
Moses told them how to love others.
Moses told them how to live as
God's people

And to make sure that no one
would forget.

Moses had God's words written
down in God's holy book.

But do you know what happened?
Something sad.





God's People still Forget God's Word:

Many of them doubted that God's Word was good.

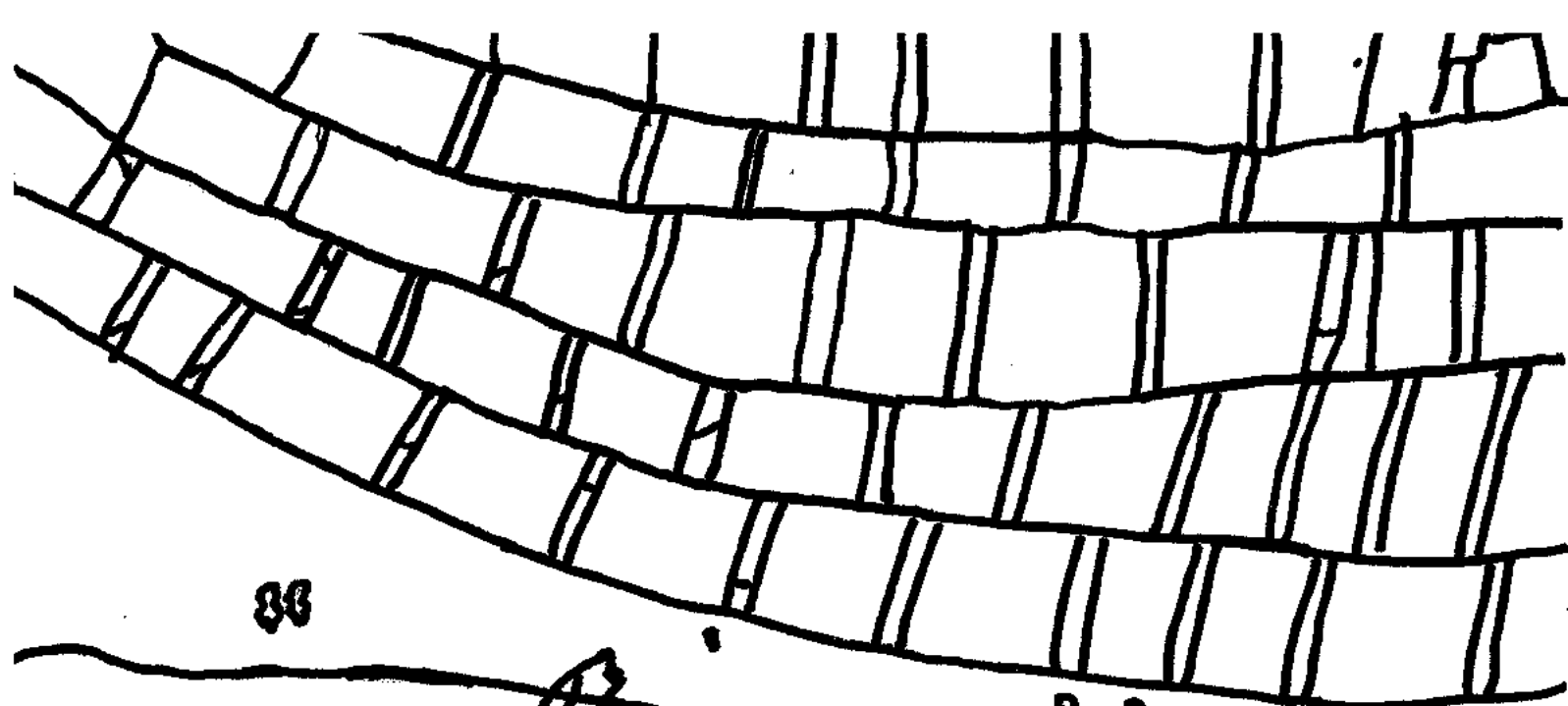
Many of them disobeyed God's Word.

Many of them did not let God be King over them.









88



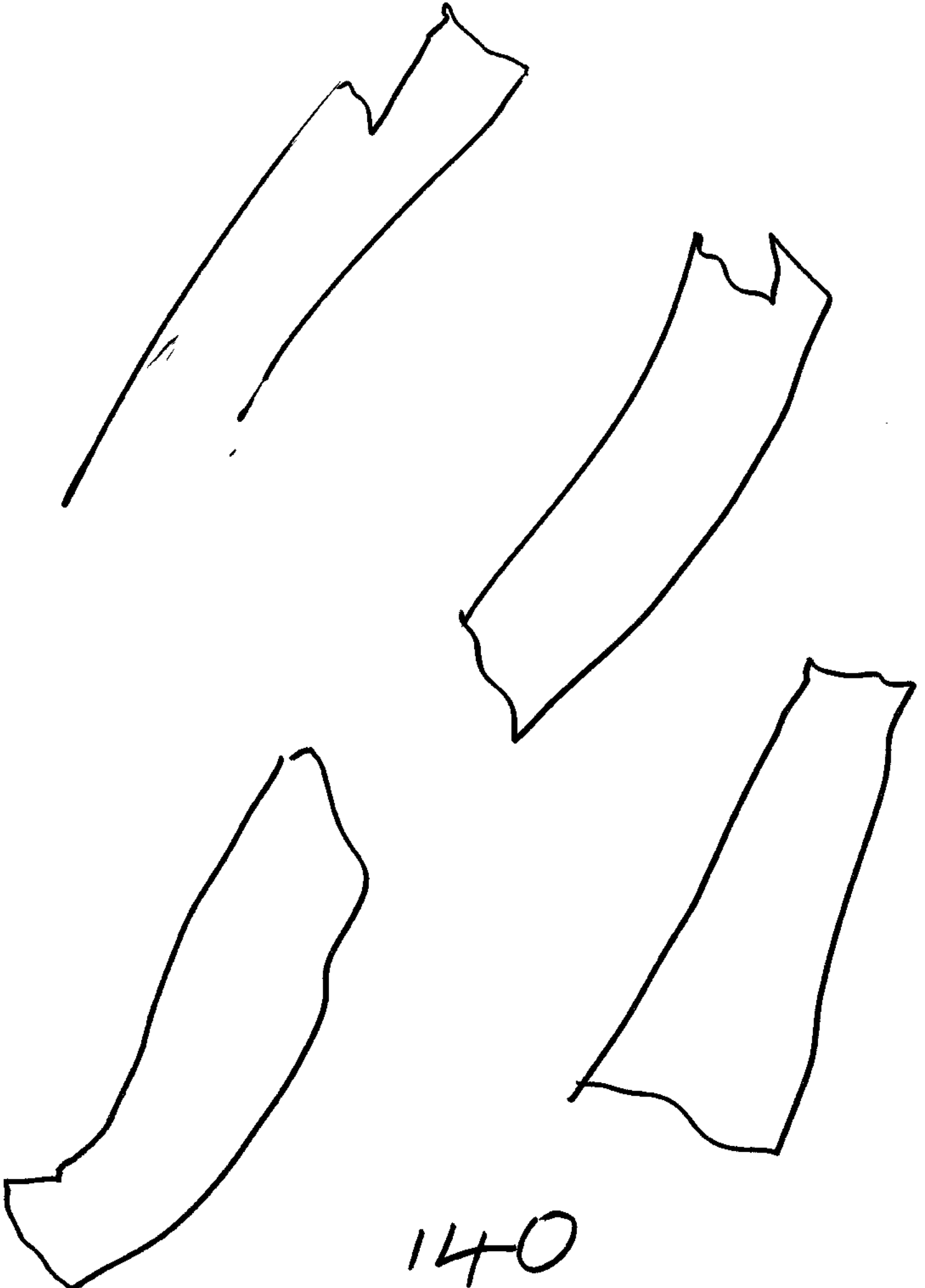
So God punished his people.
He made them live in the desert for
a long, long time.

But after forty years,
God was ready to keep another part of his
promise.

God was ready to bring his people into
their own place.



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Part 8

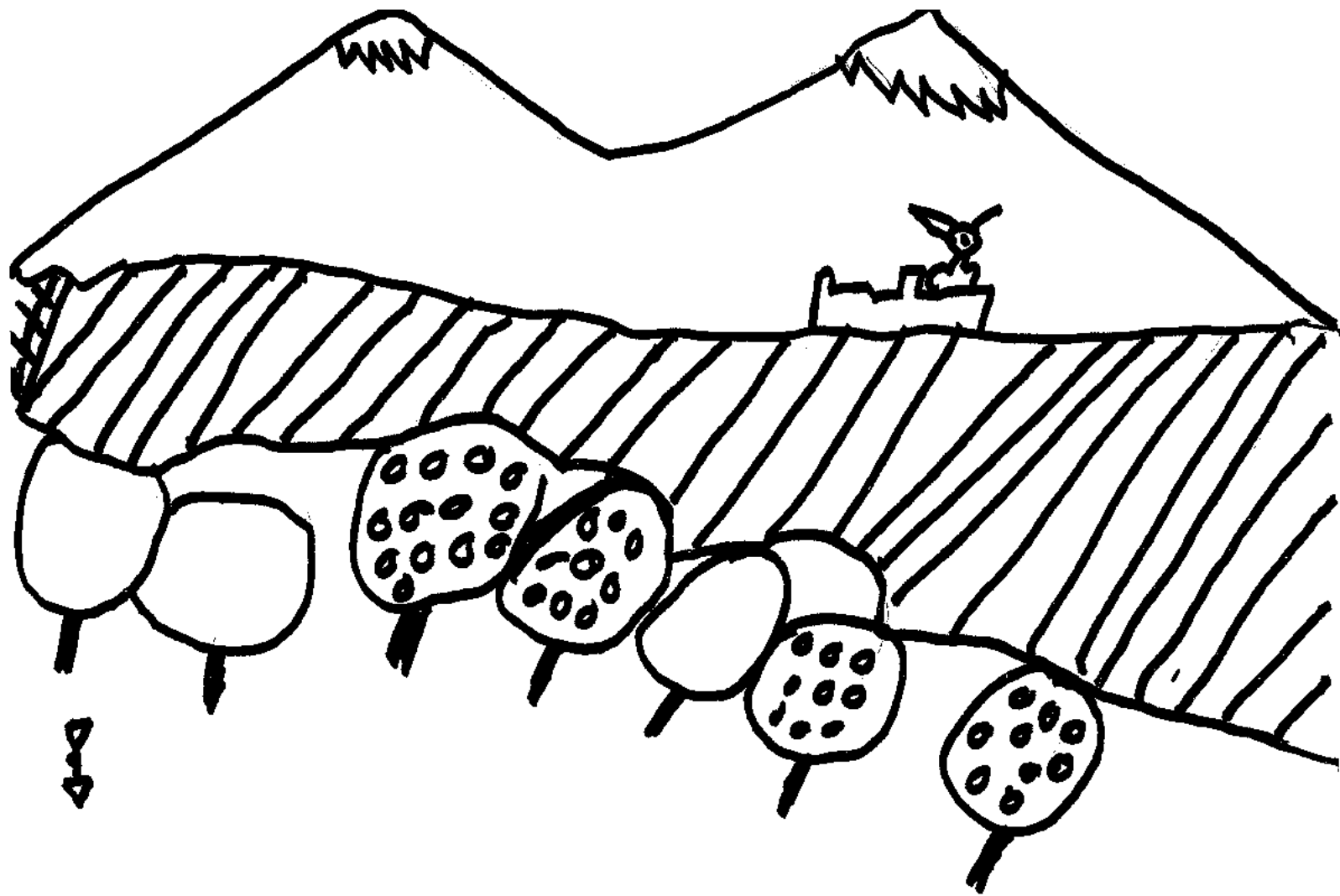


God's special place was called
Canaan.

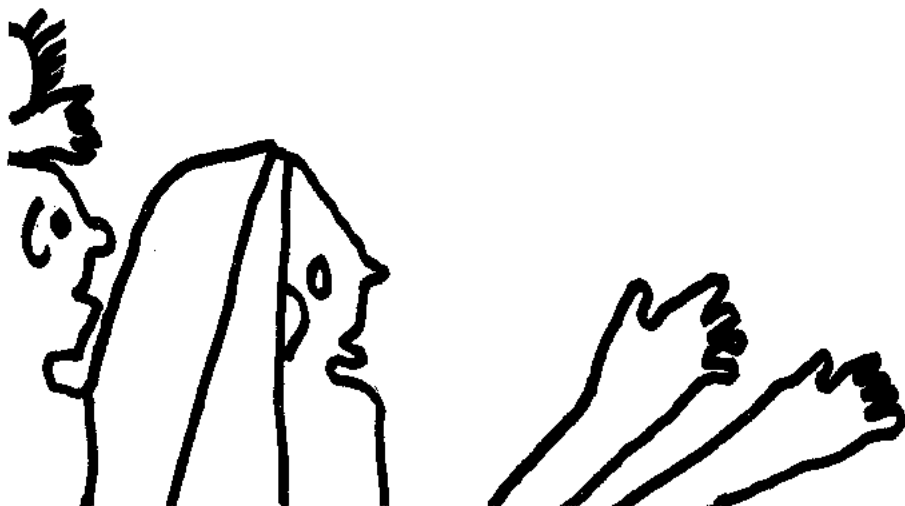


And God chose a man named Joshua
to lead his people into it.



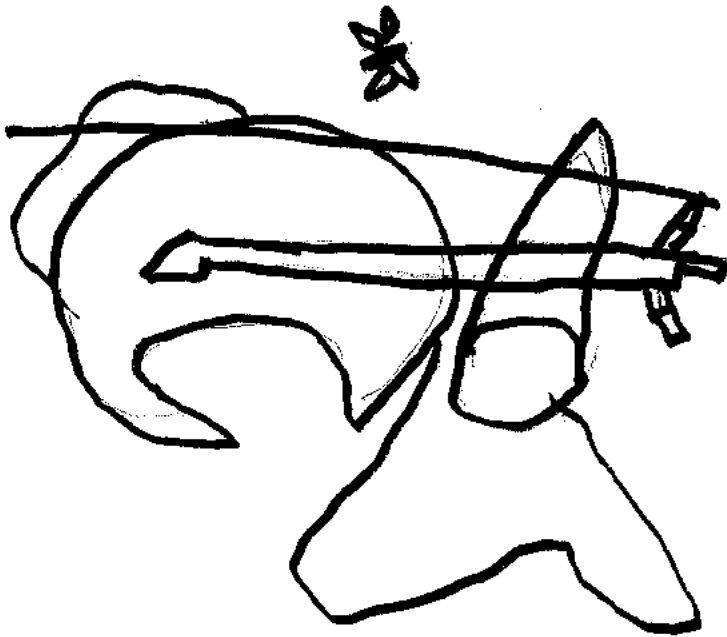


But there was a problem
Other people already
lived in canaan

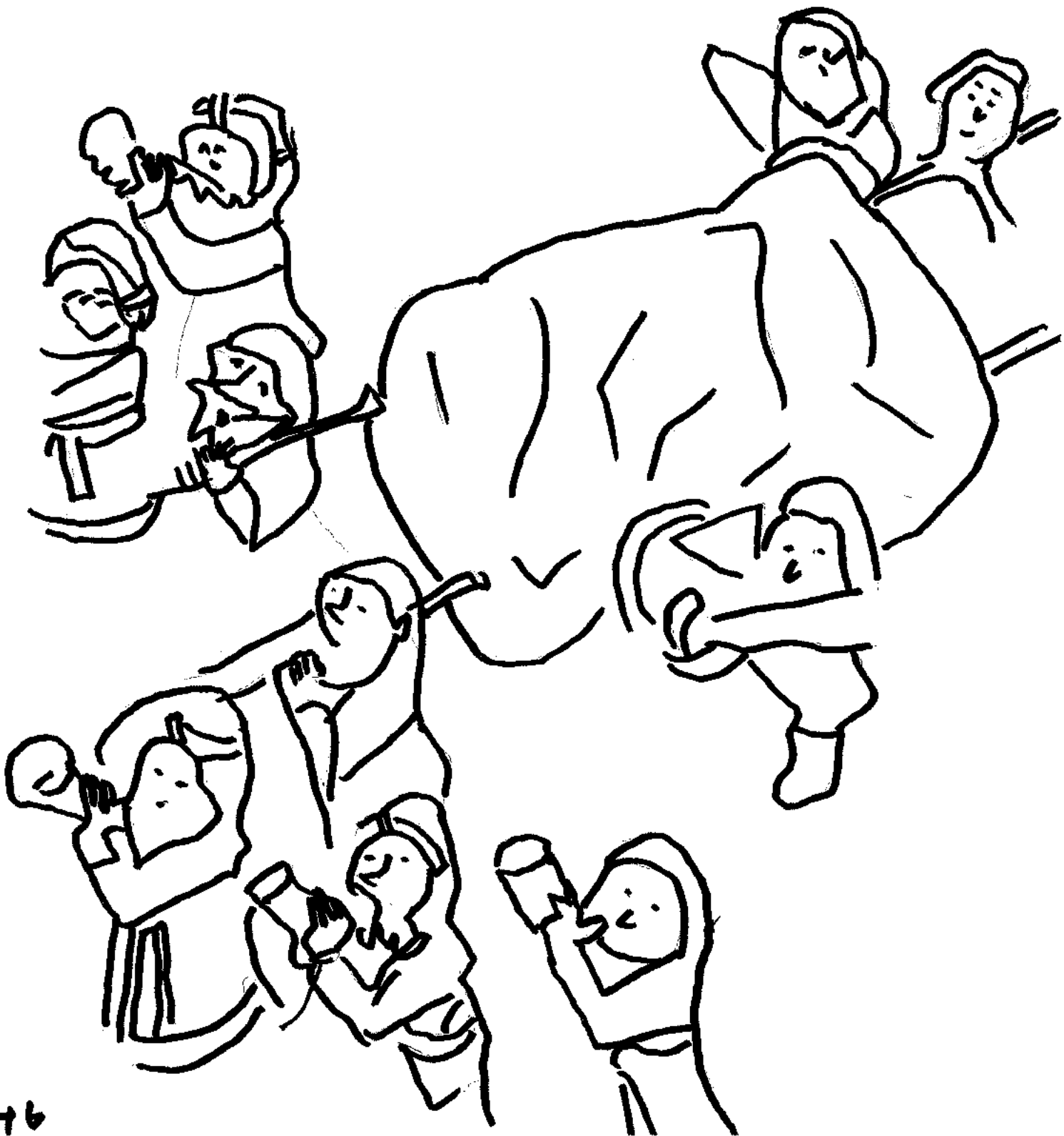


They lived in cities like Jericho
with big, strong walls around them.
The cities were filled with people
who did not listen to God.

God told Joshua
Be strong and courageous."









God told Joshua to have the
People march around Jericho six
days in a row.

So the people marched and marched
all day long - one, two, three, four, Five,
Six whole days they marched.

Do you know what happened on the
seventh day? When the trumpets
sounded and the people shouted...



God kept his promise, and
the walls came tumbling
down

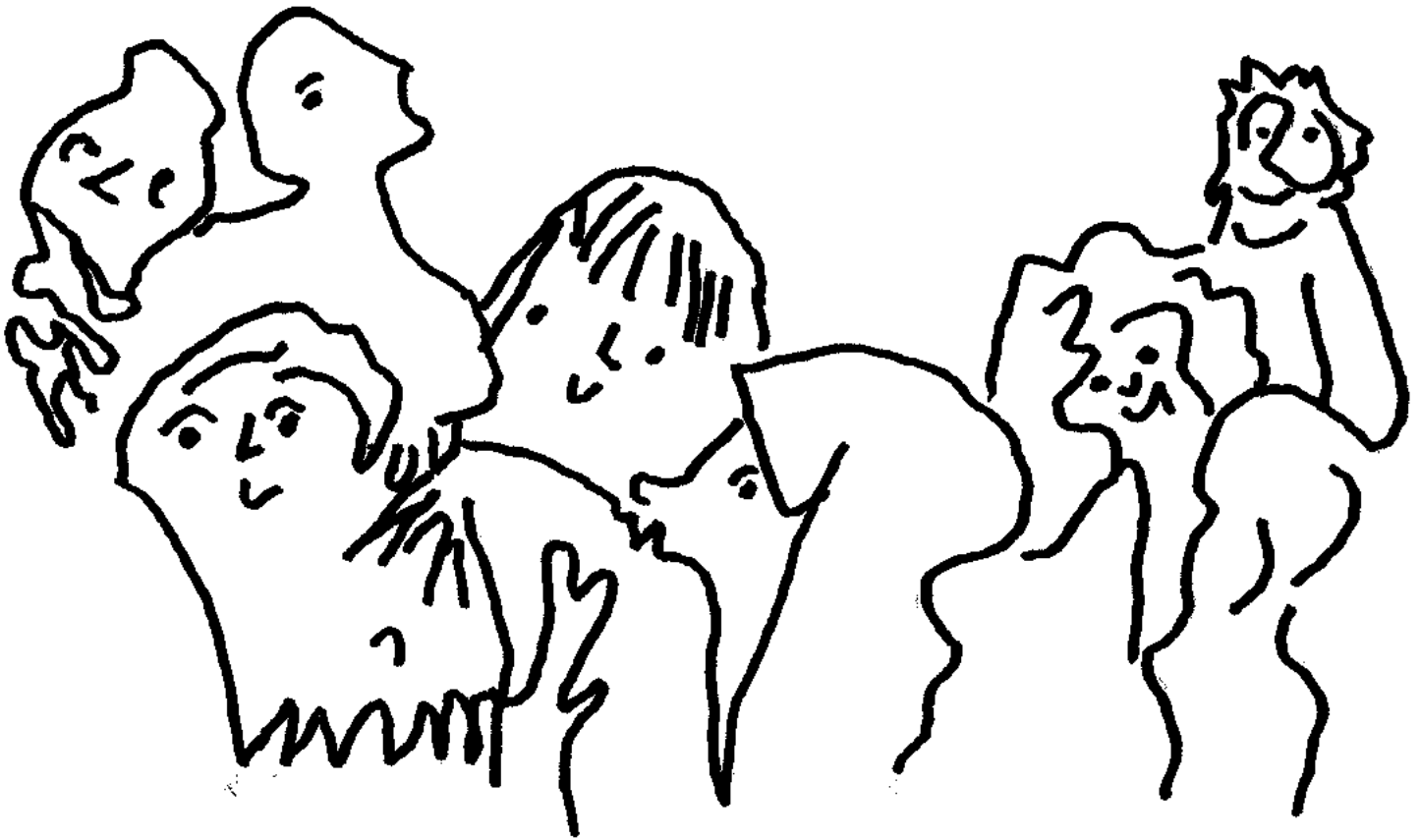
God drove out
their enemies.

Then God's people
lived in the land he
had promised them.





When Joshua was an old man,
he reminded the people to obey God's word.
"Choose this day whom you will serve
But as for me and my house,
we will serve the Lord."



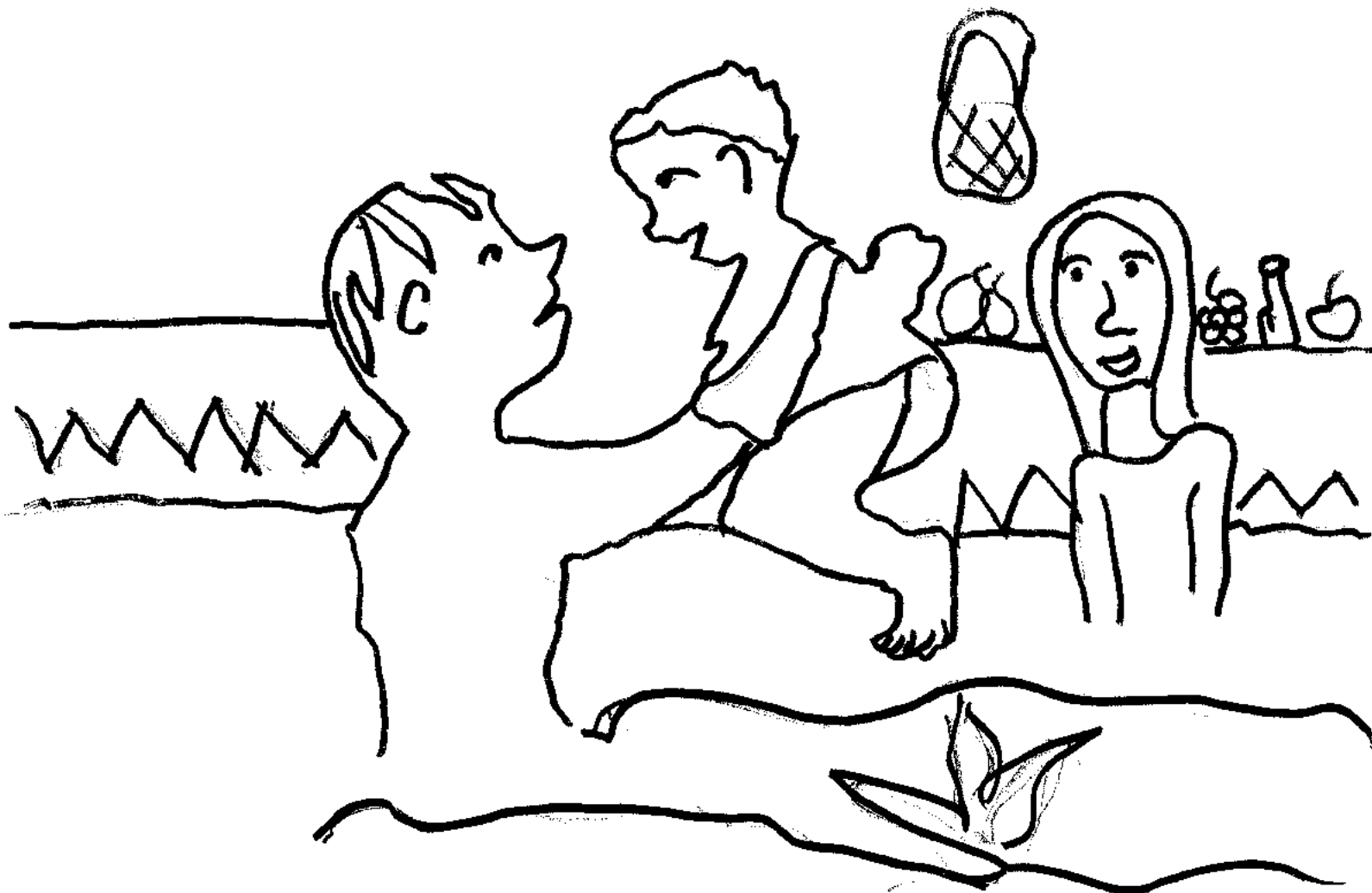
And the people said,
"We also will serve the lord."



on that,
Many of God's good promises
to Israel were fulfilled.



Israel promised to be God's people
Israel promised to obey God's word.
IF they kept their promise,
they would always live in God's promised
place.

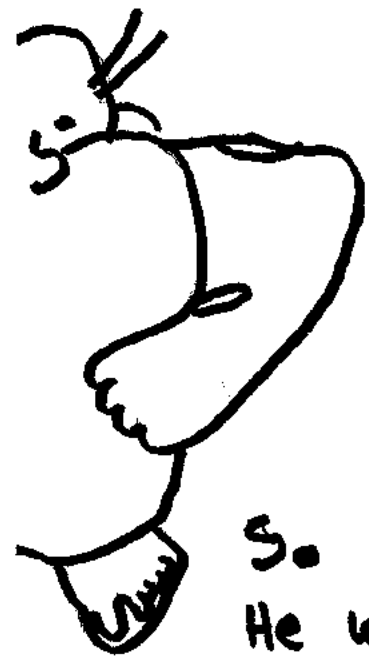




But what is the point of it:

Israel disobeyed
God's word and
rejected God from
being king over
them.





So God punished Israel.
He let their enemies rule over them.



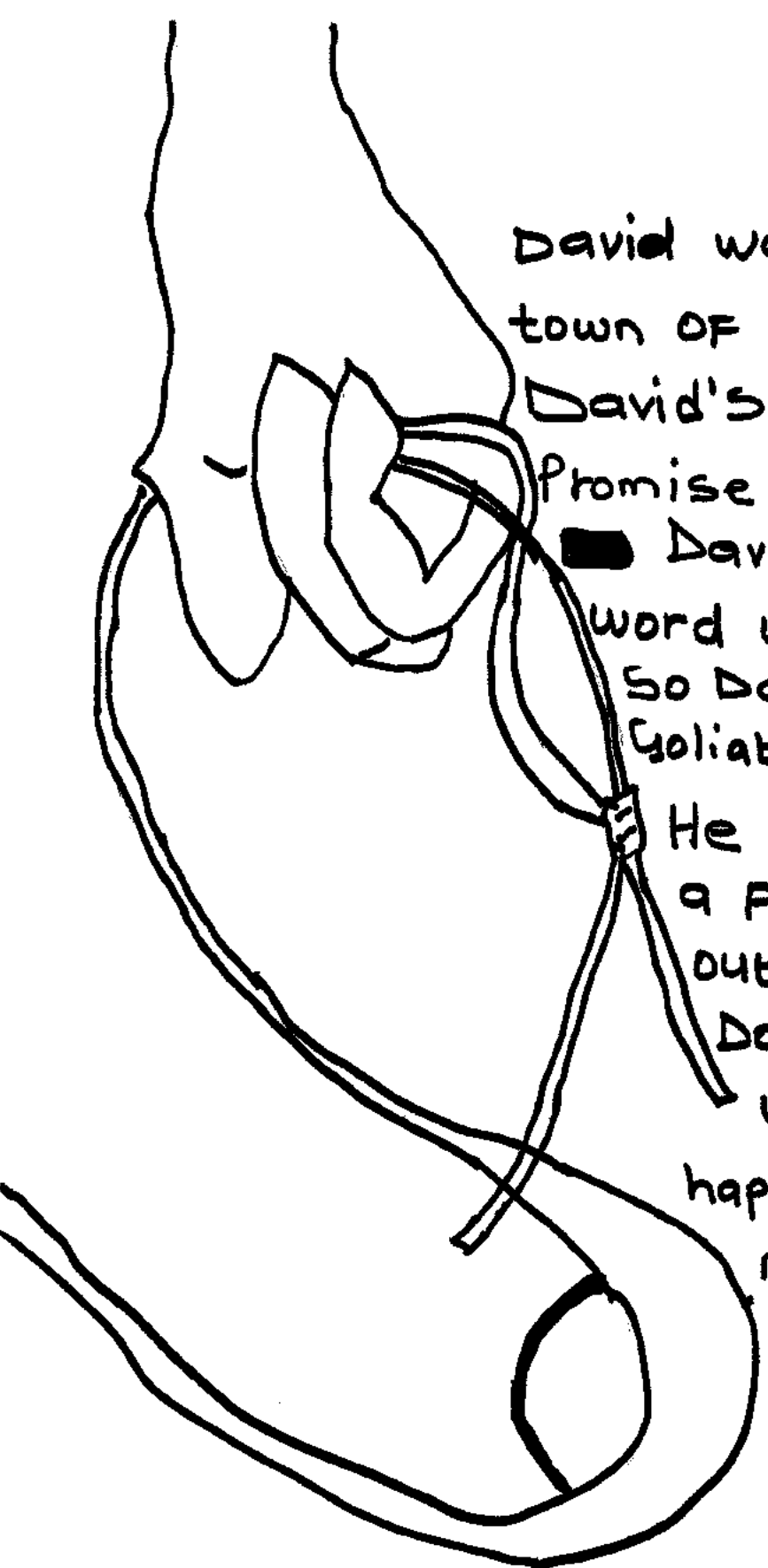


During this time philistines ruled god's people.
One of the philistines was so big and strong
that not one of god's people would fight him.
Goliath was a giant.
He stood over nine feet tall.



Goliath hated God's people.
All the men of Israel were afraid of him.
All except one.





David was from the little town of Bethlehem.

David's belief in God's Promise was big

■ David's trust in God's word was strong. So David decided to fight Goliath.

He took his sling and a few stones and ran out to attack the giant.

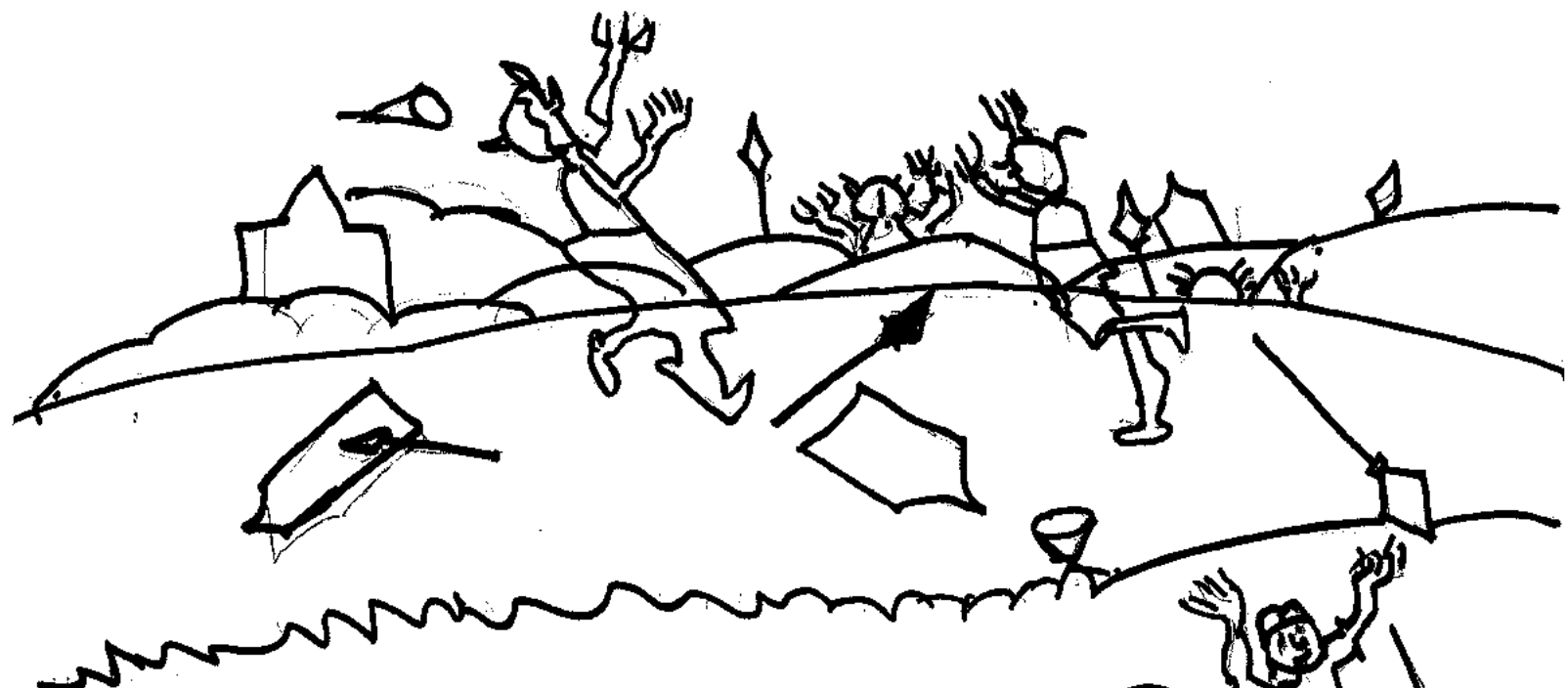
Do you know

what

happened

next





God kept his promise
to rescue his people!

The first stone that
flew from David's sling
hit Goliath right between
the eyes.



David killed Goliath and rescued Israel from the Philistines.

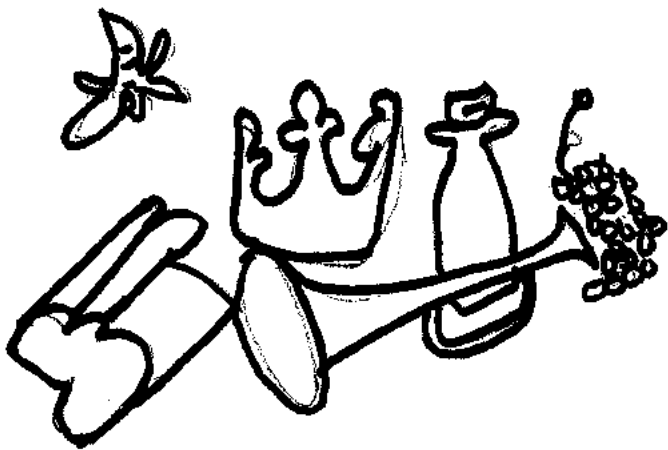


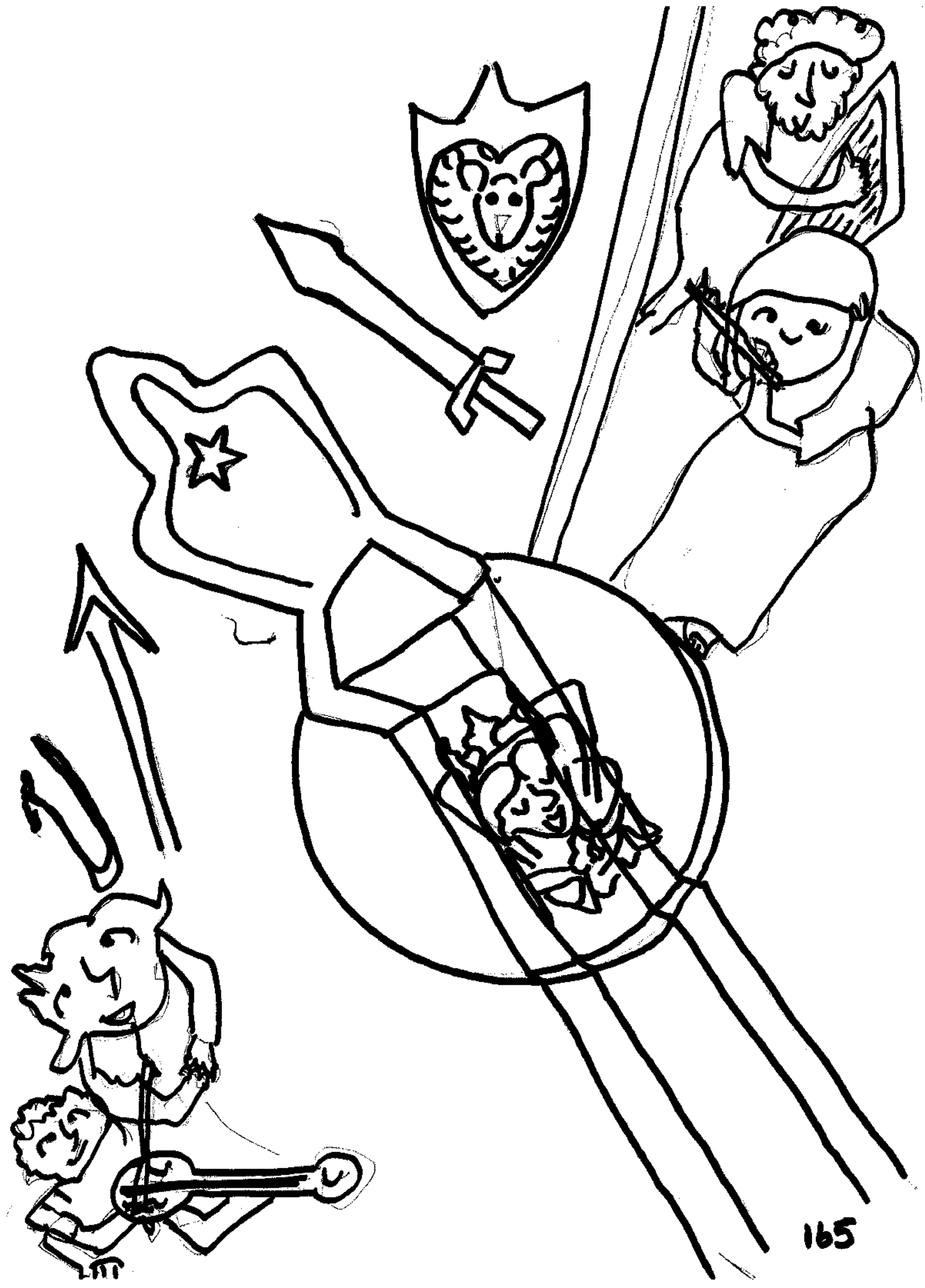
God was with David.

And God gave David victory
over his ~~enemies~~ enemies in other
battles.

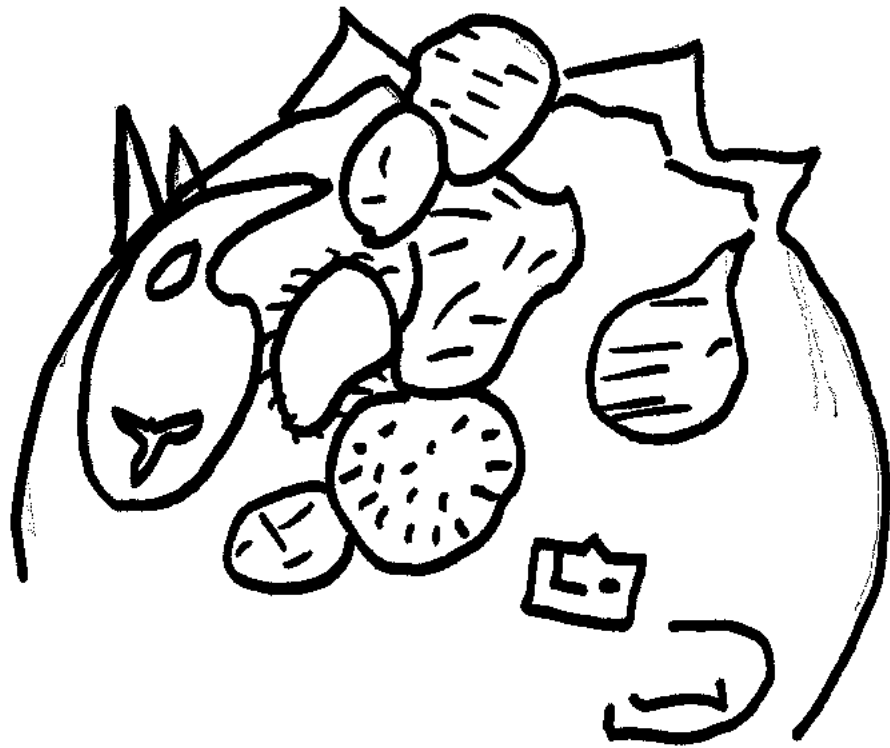
David, the mighty warrior,
became king over God's people.
David ruled over God's special place

Do you see David singing to God
He is thanking God for keeping
his promises



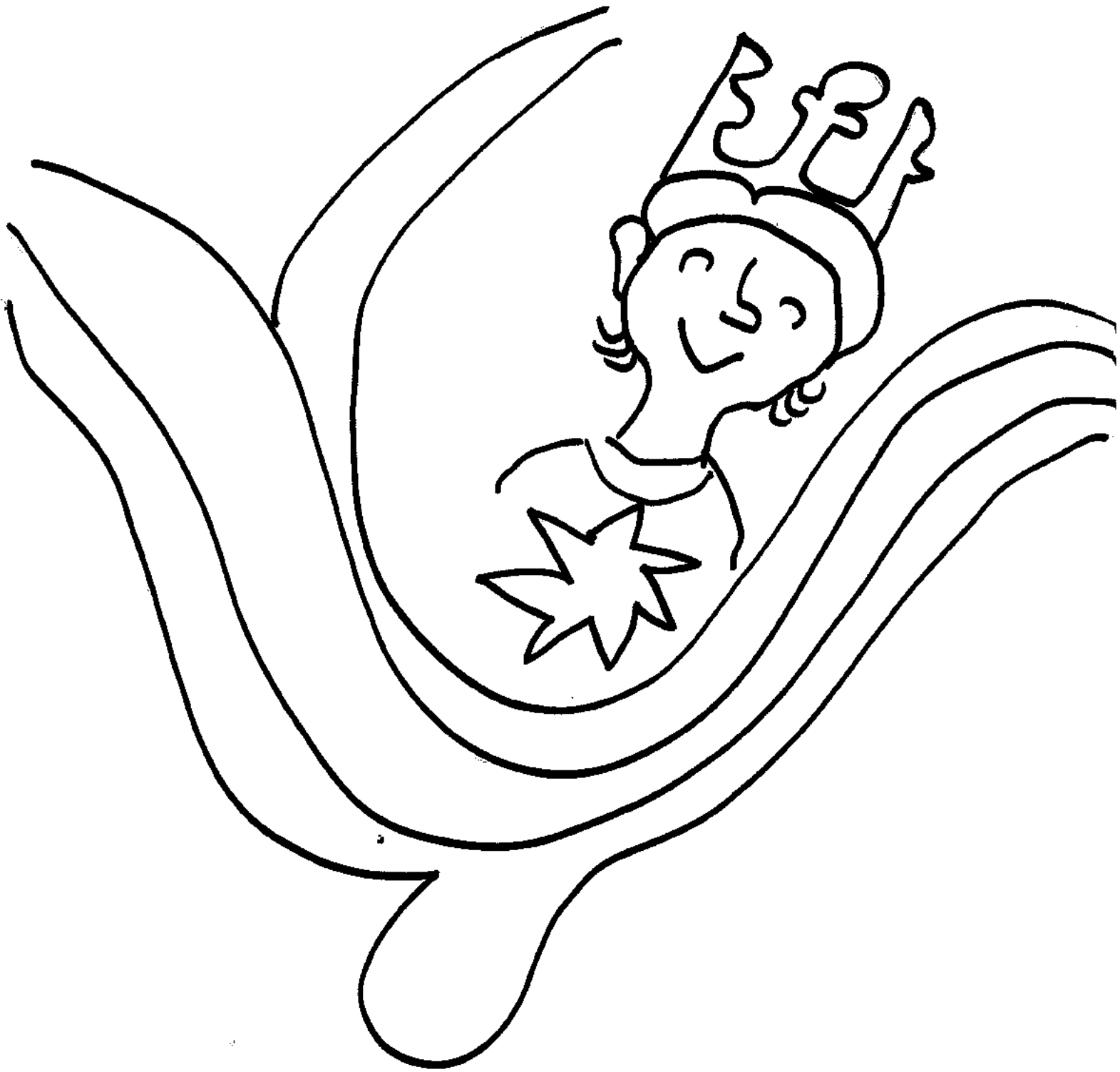


Now that God's people were in God's place,
it seemed that soon they would become a
blessing to all people of the earth.





part 9



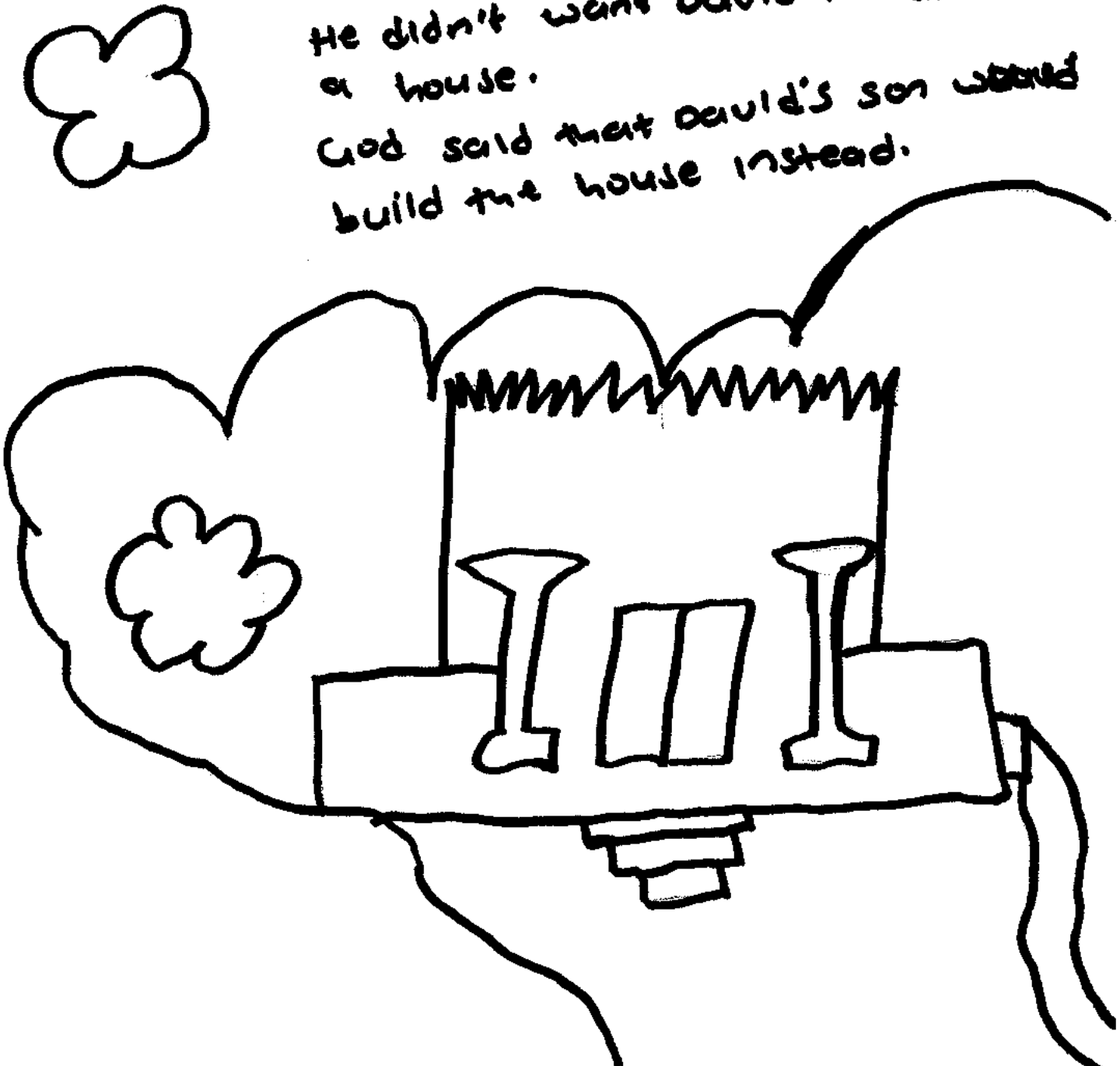
David was amazed at how good
God was.

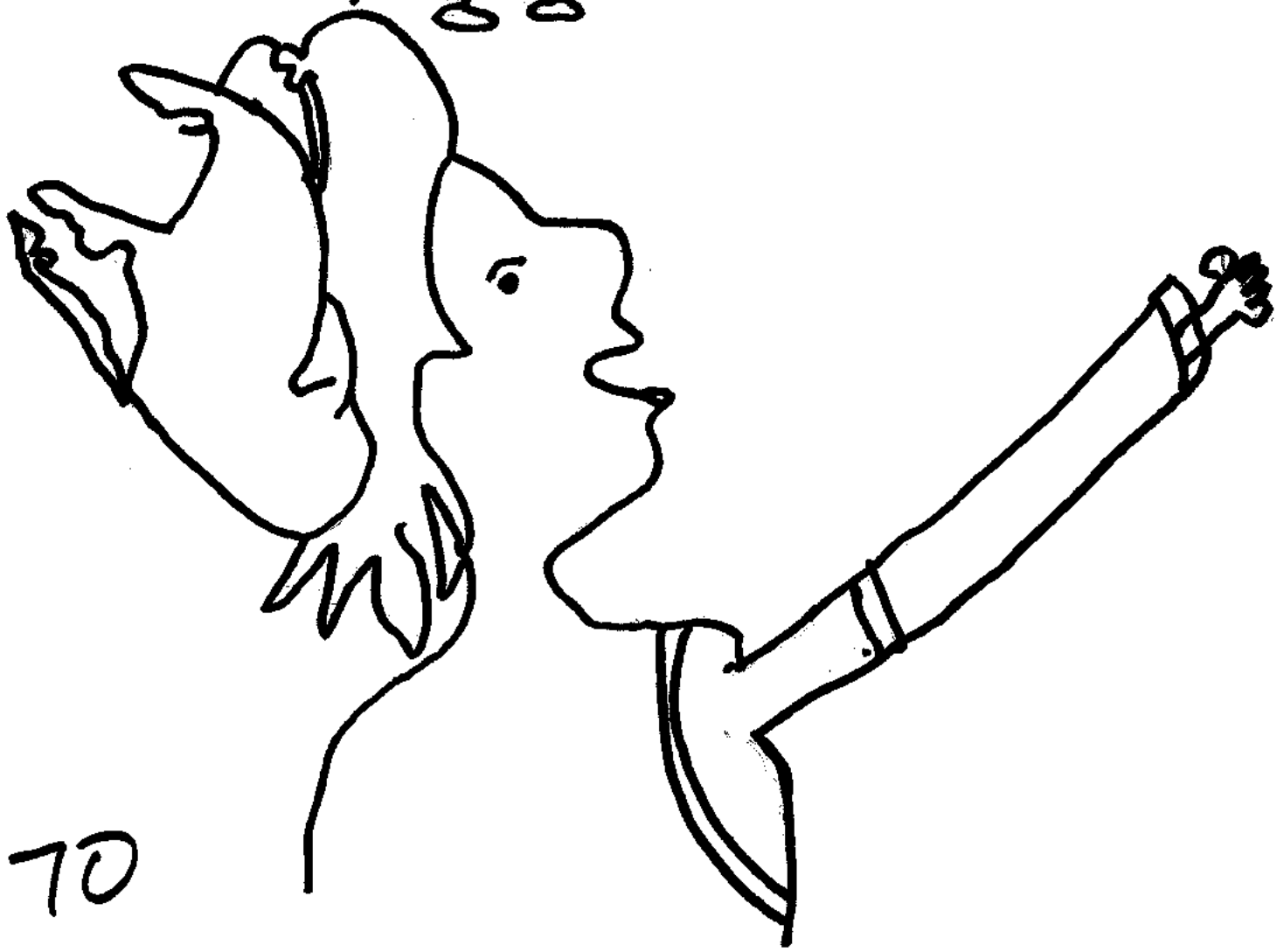
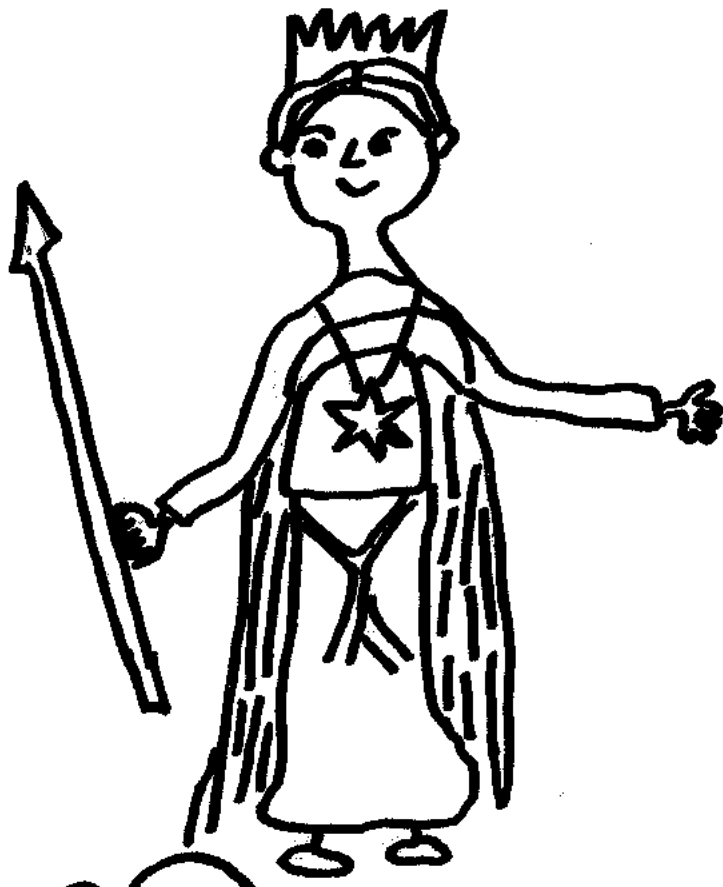
David wanted to do something nice for
God.

David decided to build God a house.

But one night God sent word to David.
He didn't want David to build him
a house.

God said that David's son would
build the house instead.





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The God surprised David.

God promised to build David
a house!

Not a real house made of bricks
or wood but a kingdom - God's
Kingdom

And then God surprised David again!
God promised him that someone from
David's family would live forever as
God's king

If that weren't enough, surprised David
again!

This forever ruler would be the promised
one who would bring God's blessing
to all the people of the earth.

God's surprising Promise
made David very happy!
He thanked God, and the
promise was written in
God's holy book.

AFTER David died



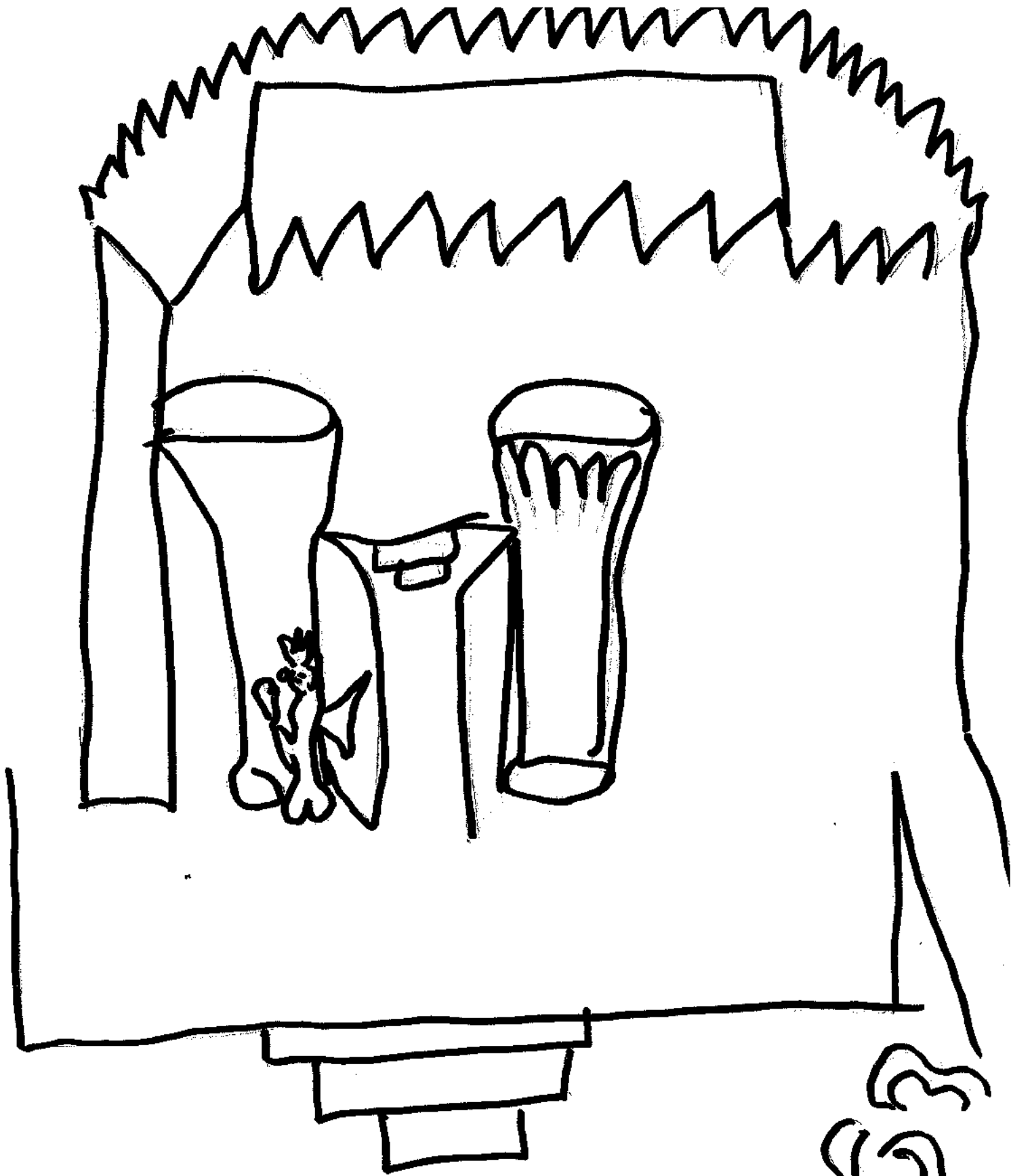


David's son Solomon became
king.

With gold and wood he build a
great house.

It was a beautiful place called
a temple.

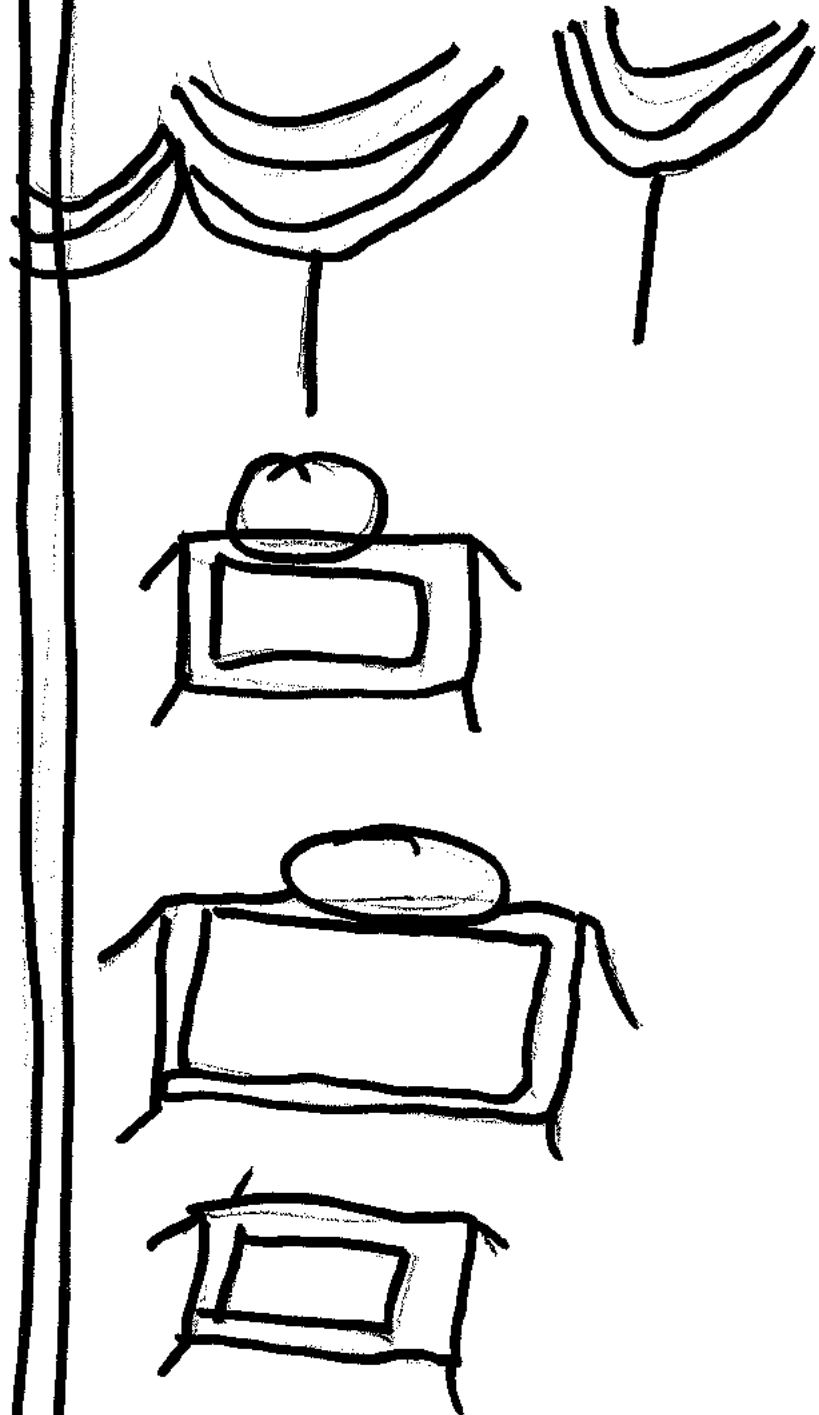




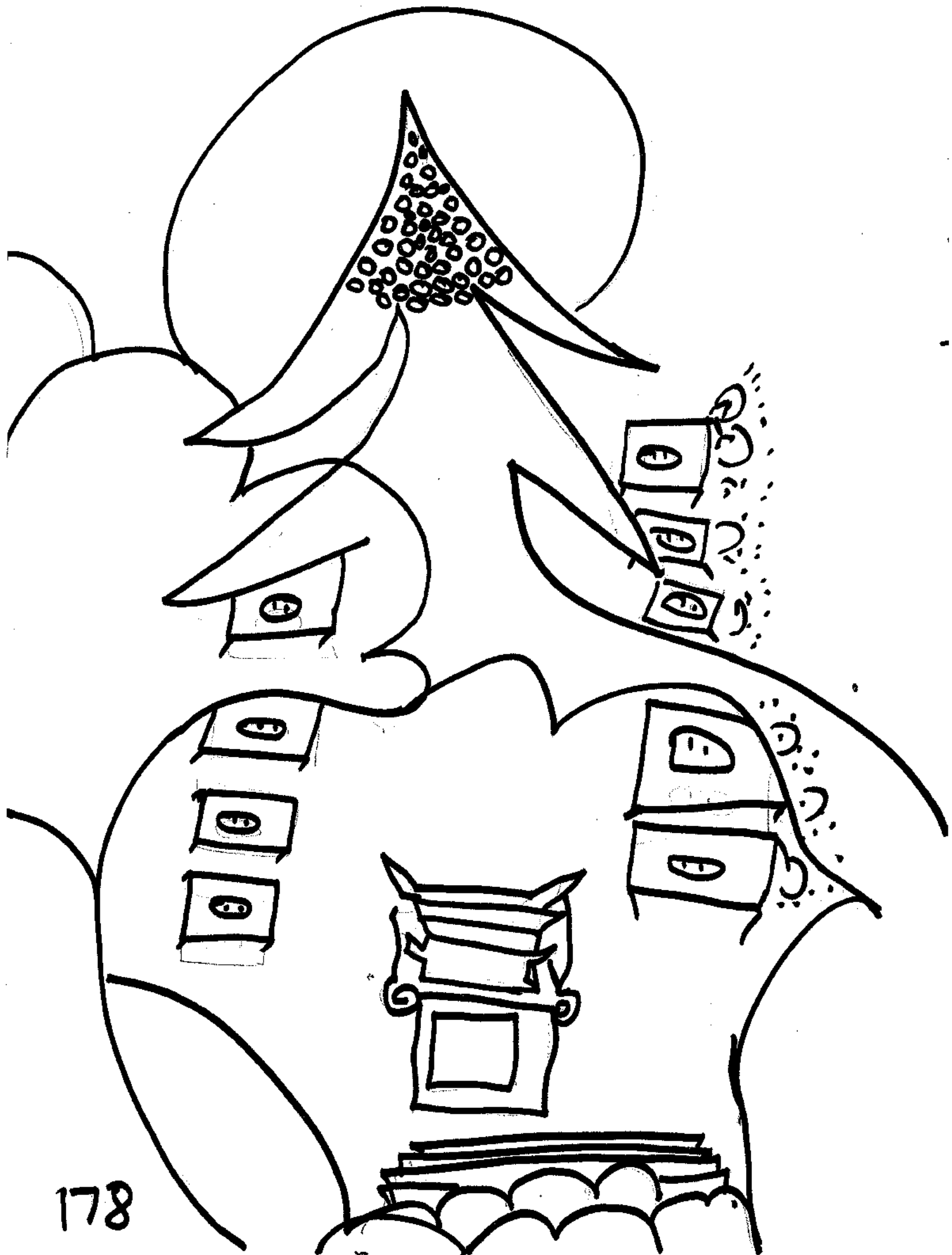
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This temple was
where the people
made blood
sacrifices for
their sins.
When God saw
that great sin
he would
forgive, or
pass over,
the sins of
this people





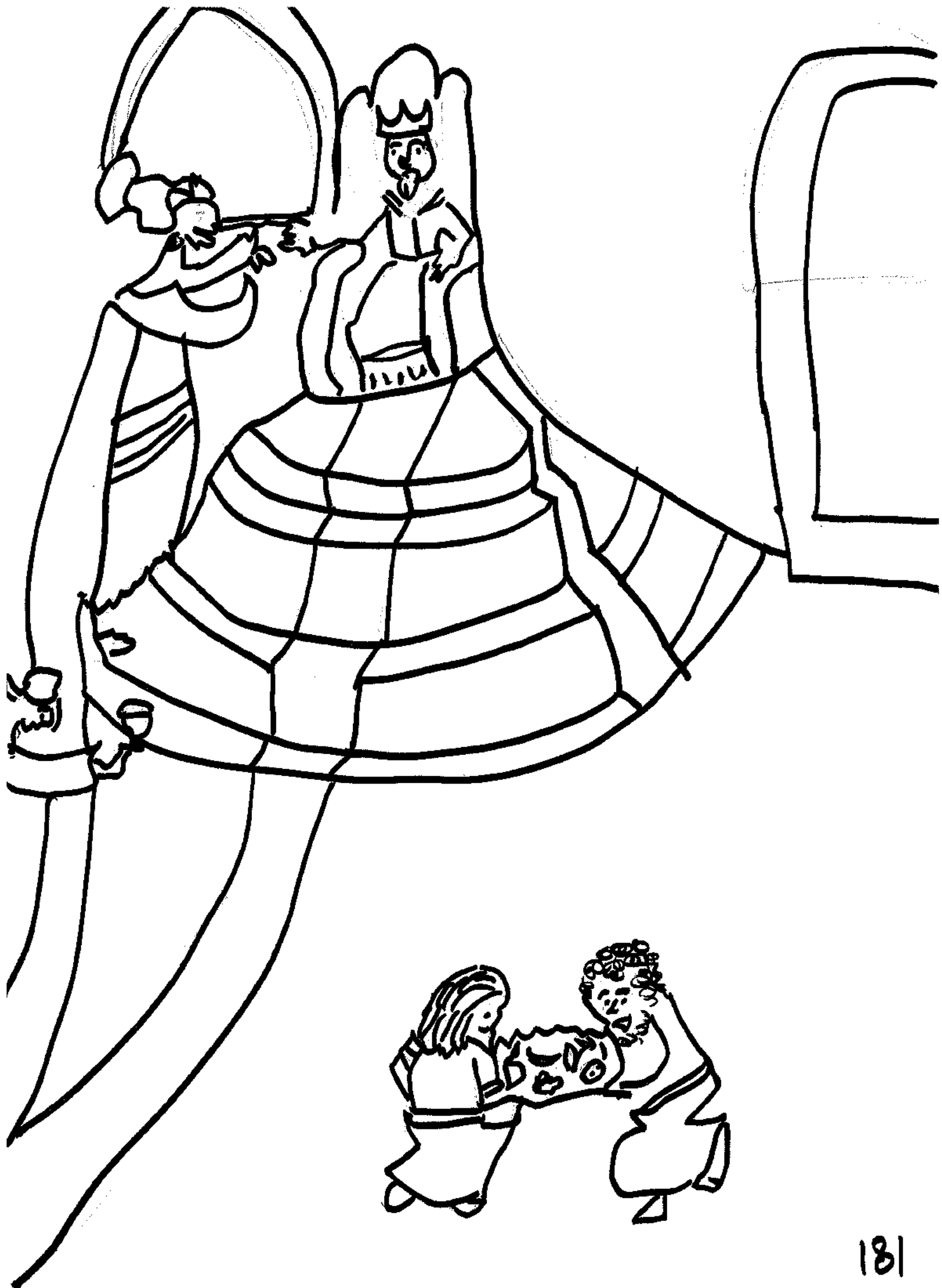


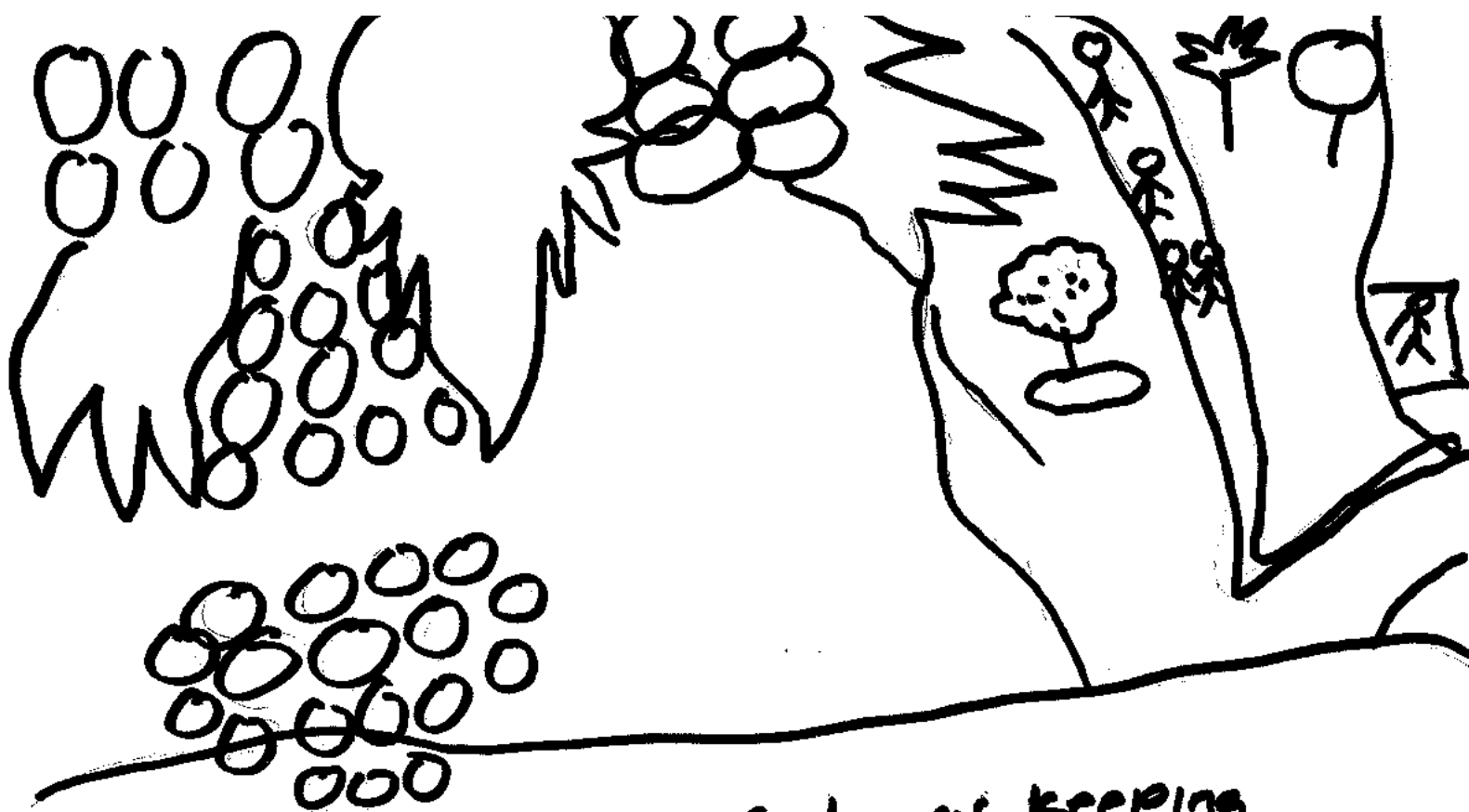
After the temple was finished,
God came down in a cloud.
The people were happy and
gave thanks to the Lord, saying
"He is good, for his steadfast
love endures forever".

A queen come to see Solomon,
his place, and the temple he had build.

She asked him lots of questions,
and God gave Solomon wisdom for them all
The queen was amazed and greatly helped
by all he said and was blessed by
God for having come.



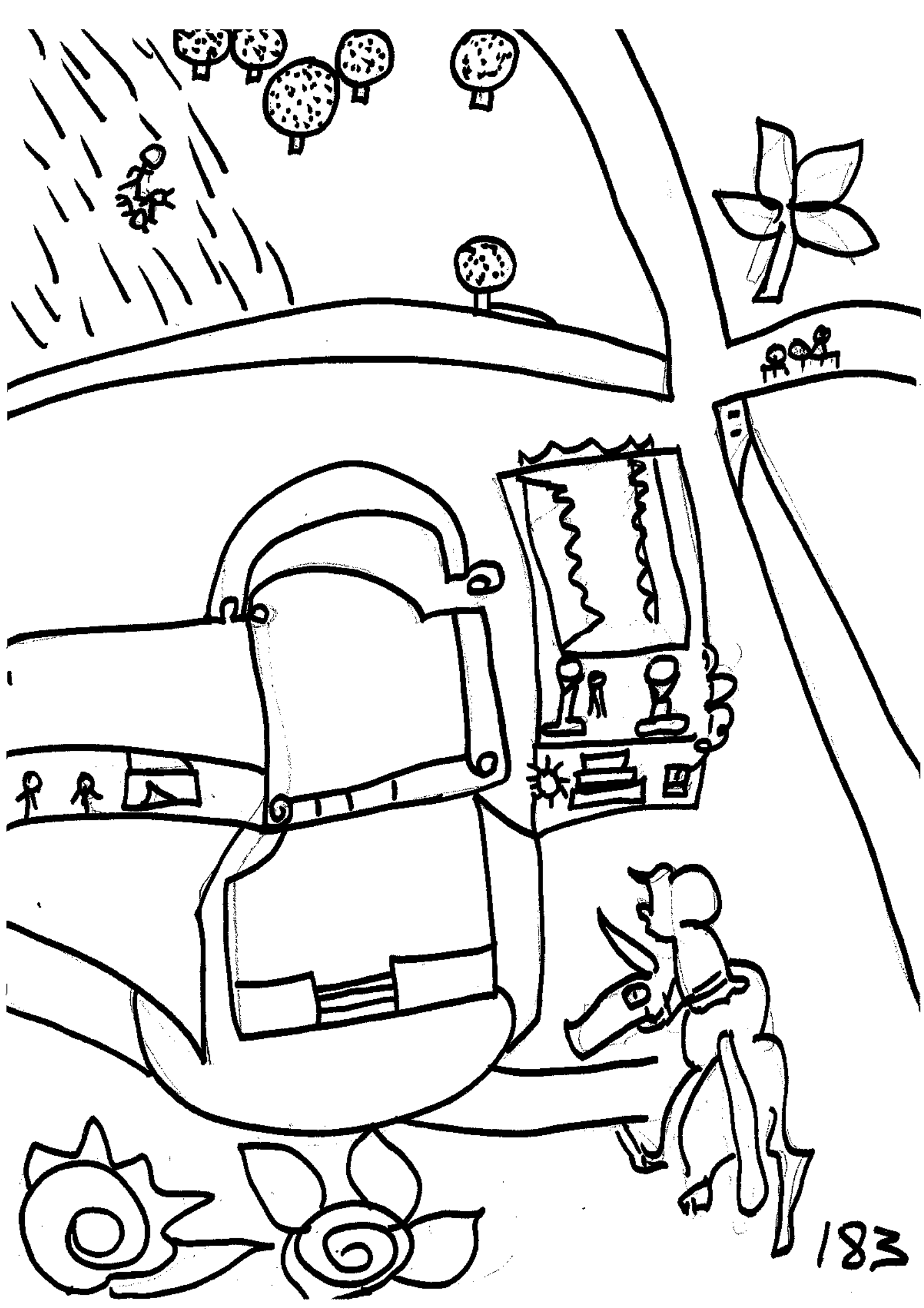


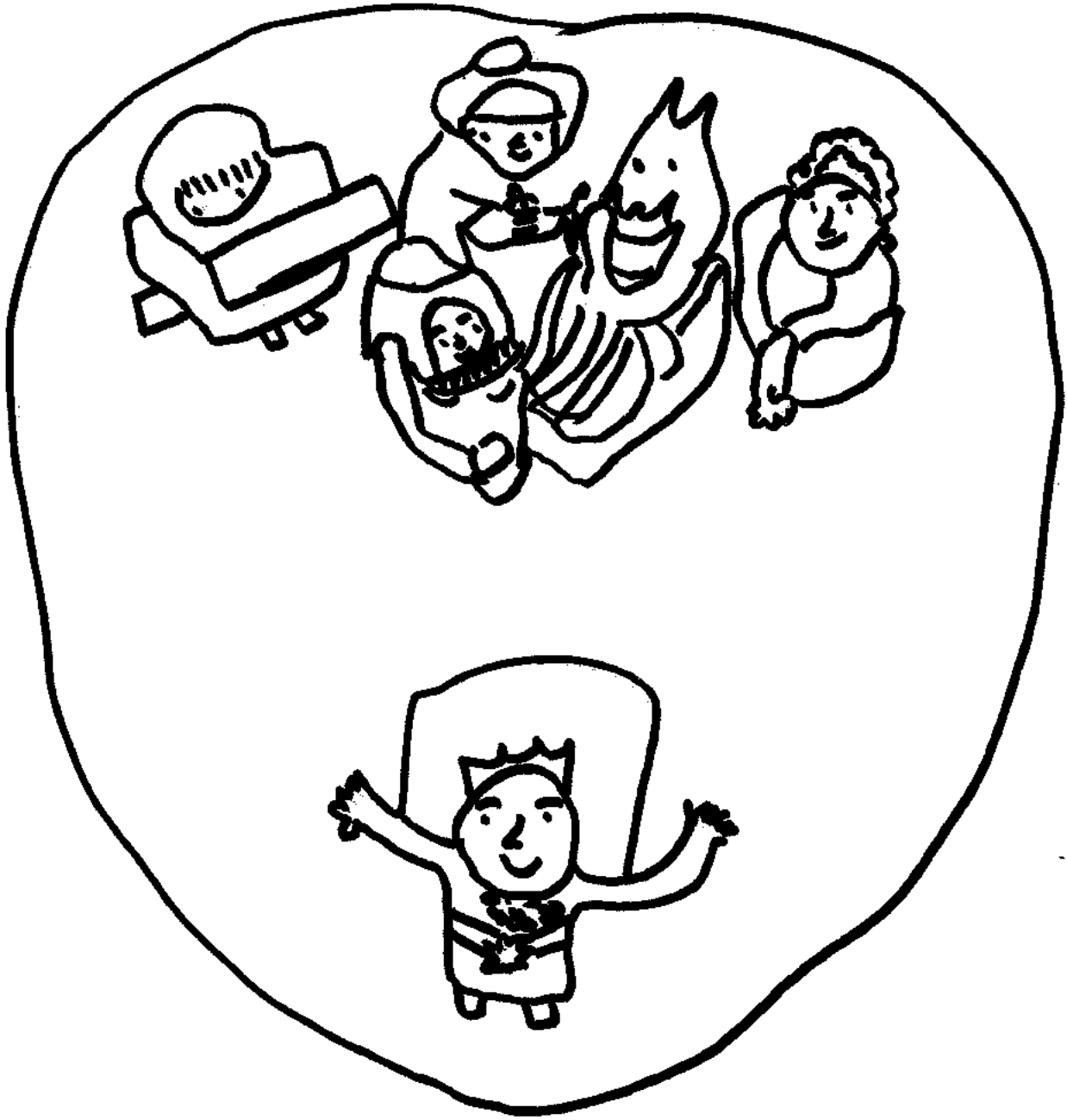


you see, God was keeping
all his promises to Abraham

He had already made Abraham
into a great nation.
and he had given Israel the land
And now God's King was bringing
God's blessing to other people
of the earth

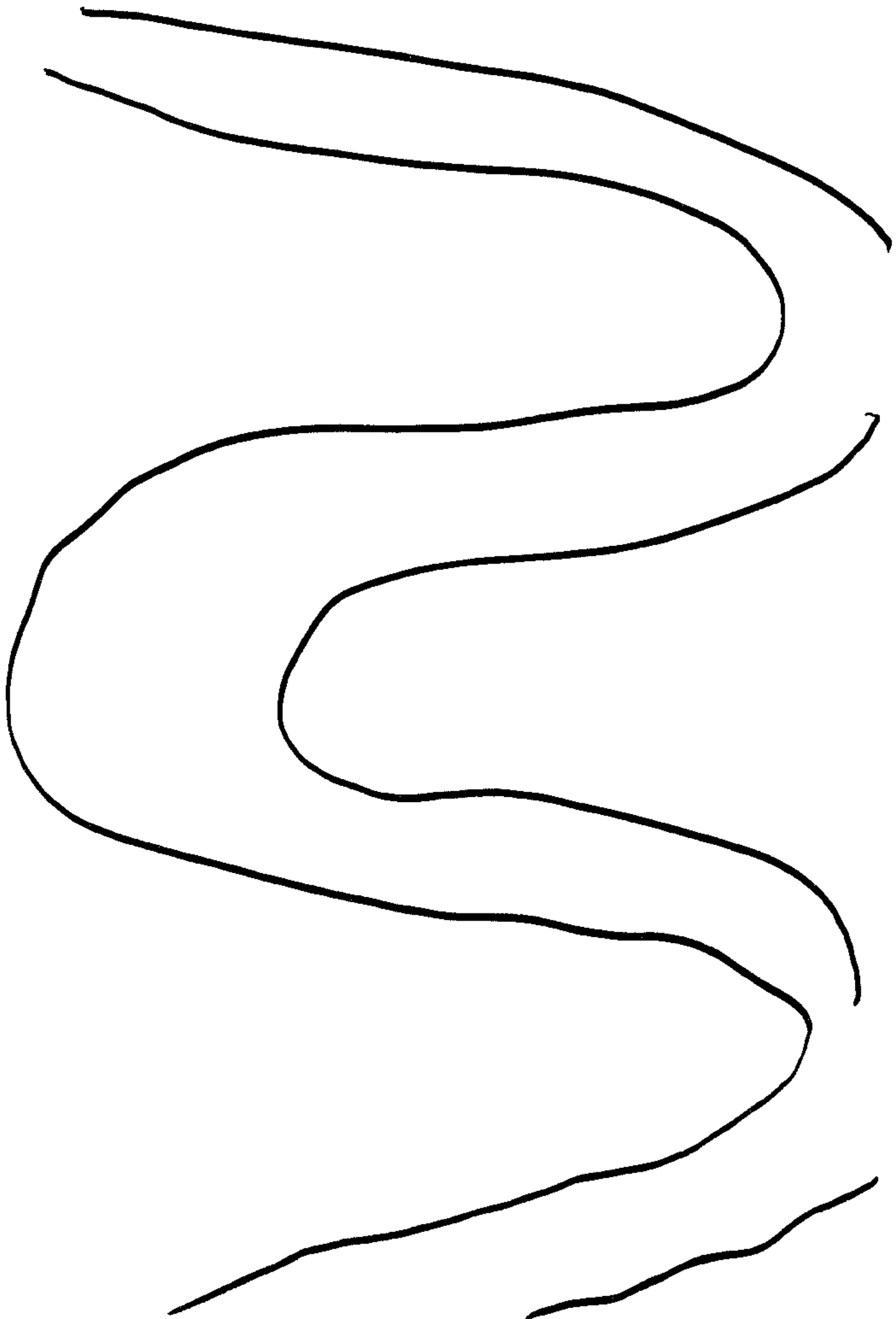




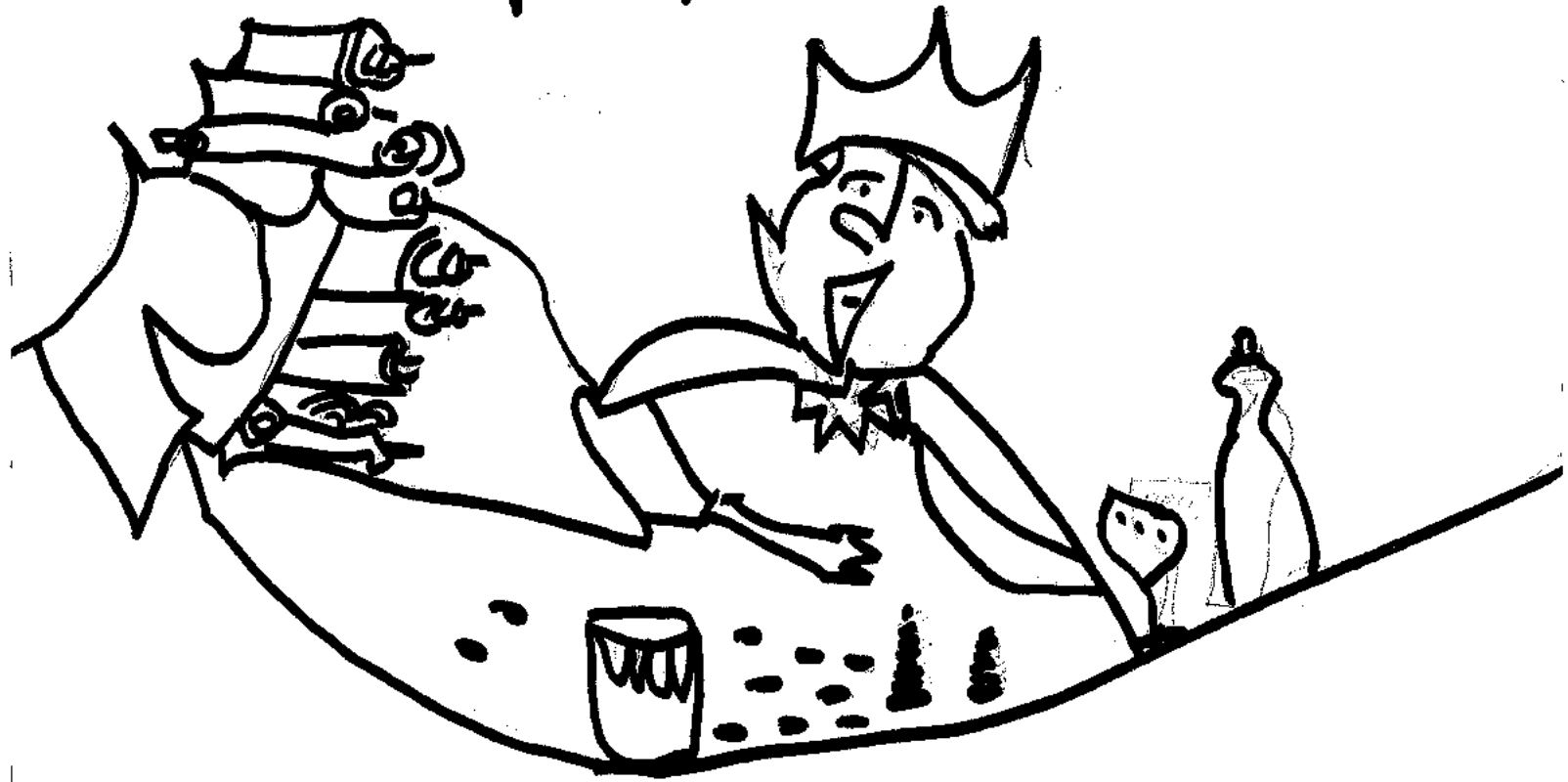


Does this make you wonder
if Solomon might be God's Forever
King?

Could he be the promised one to bring
God's blessings to everyone?



Another Very Sad day



Part 10

King Solomon turned
his heart away from
God. God's people
turned their hearts
away from God too.



They doubted that God was good.
They disobeyed God's word.
They rejected God as their king.





Before Solomon died, God told him that someday his kingdom would be torn apart.

After Solomon died, God's word came true.

God was angry. He sent prophets to warn God's kings and people to stop disobeying God's word.

One of those prophets was Elijah.



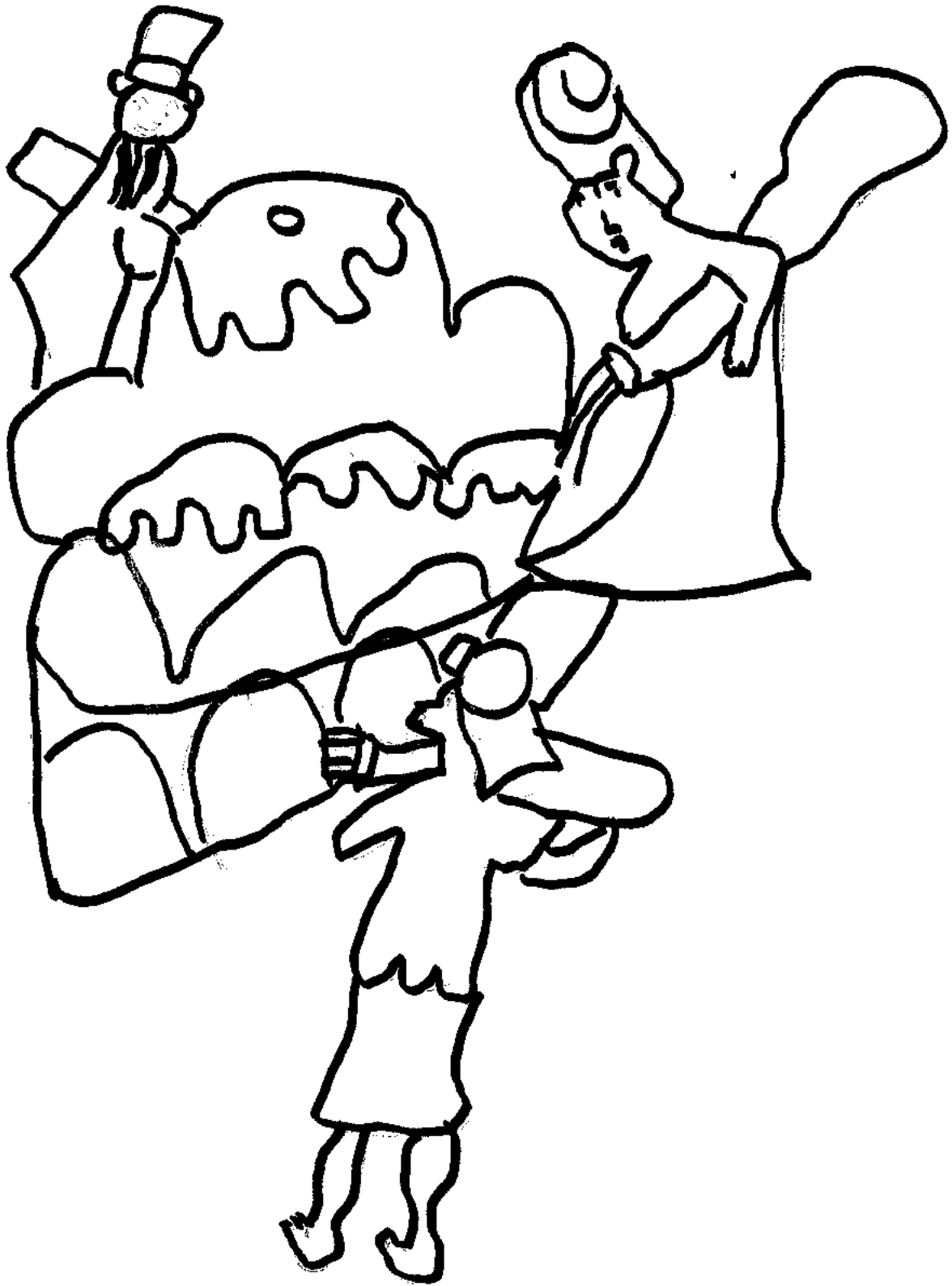


At that time the ruler over part of God's People was Ahab. Elijah challenged Ahab's Prophets to a contest. He told the prophets to ask their god to send down fire on an altar. King Ahab's prophets asked and asked but fire never came.

Then Elijah build an altar.

He told the people to pour four big jar of water on his altar.

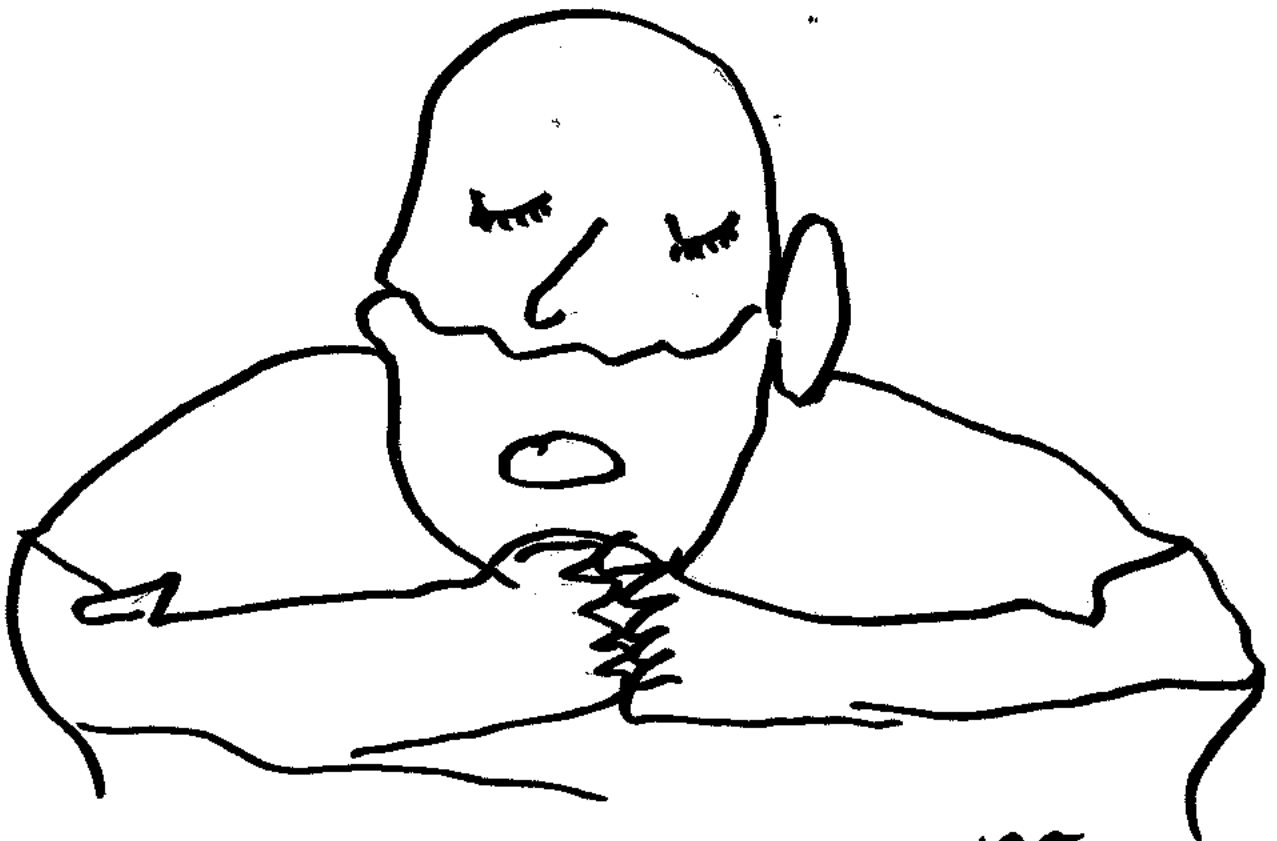
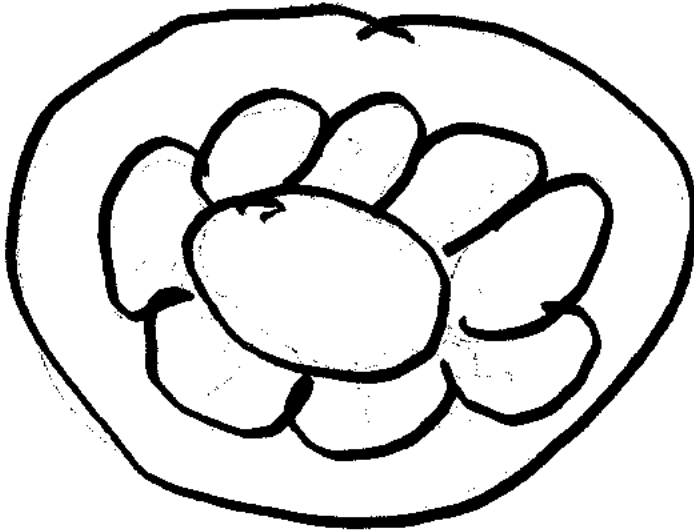
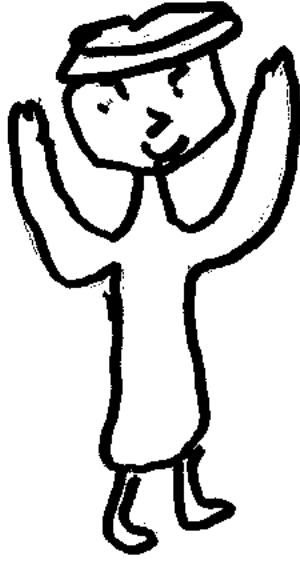
Then he told them to do it again, and again!



Twelve jars of water soaked Elijah's
altar.

Only then did Elijah step forward and pray,
"O Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel,
let it be known this day that you are God
in Israel

Answer me ... that this people may know
that you, O Lord, are God, and that you
have turned their hearts back."
And do you know what happened then?



God answered Elijah's
Prayer!





fire fell from the sky
and burned up Elijah's
sacrifice. God's fire
burned up the stones,
the soil, and all the
water that had soaked
the altar.

The people were
amazed!

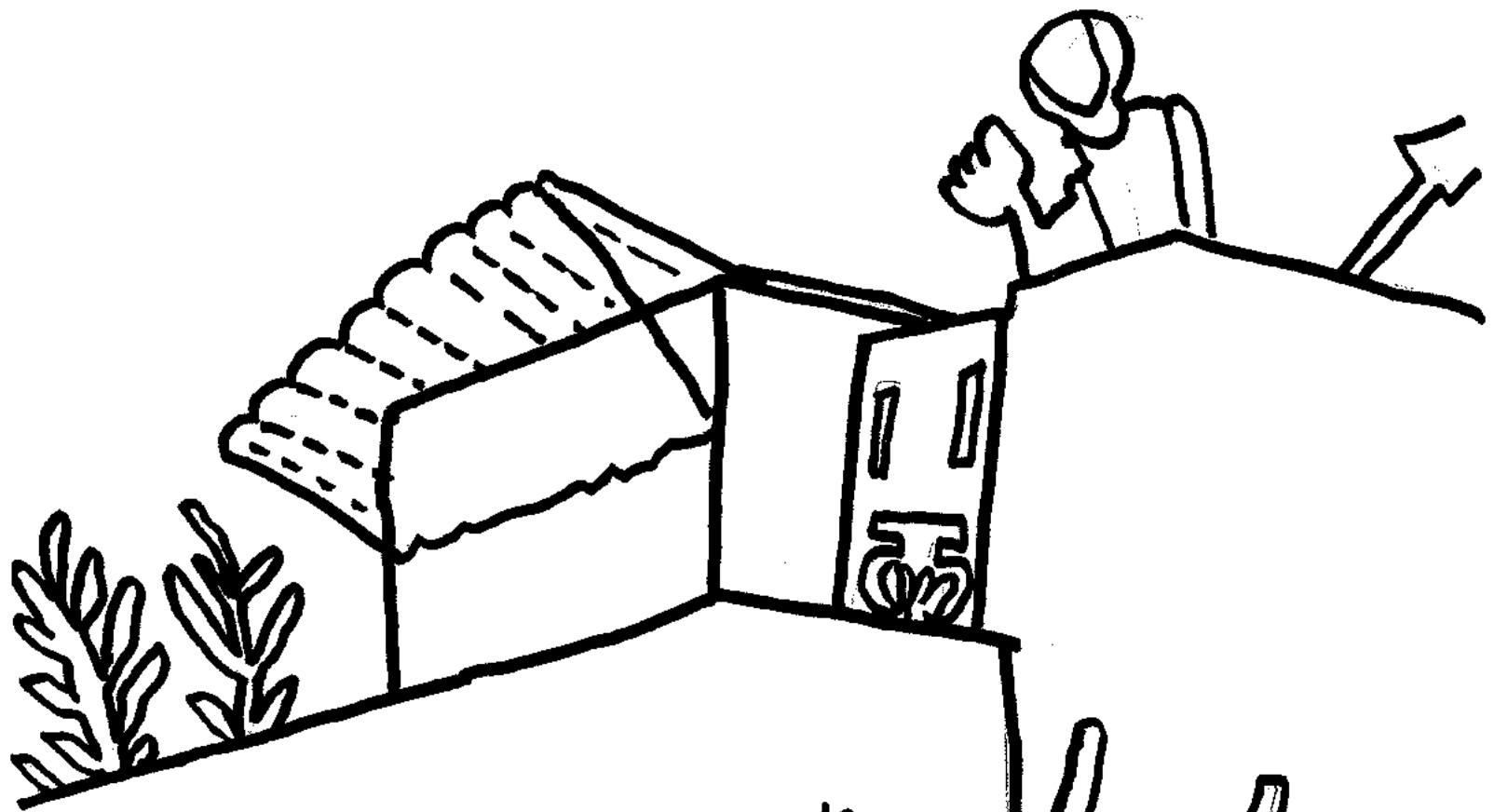


But do you think this made
them return to God?
No! It didn't
They continued to disobey God's
word

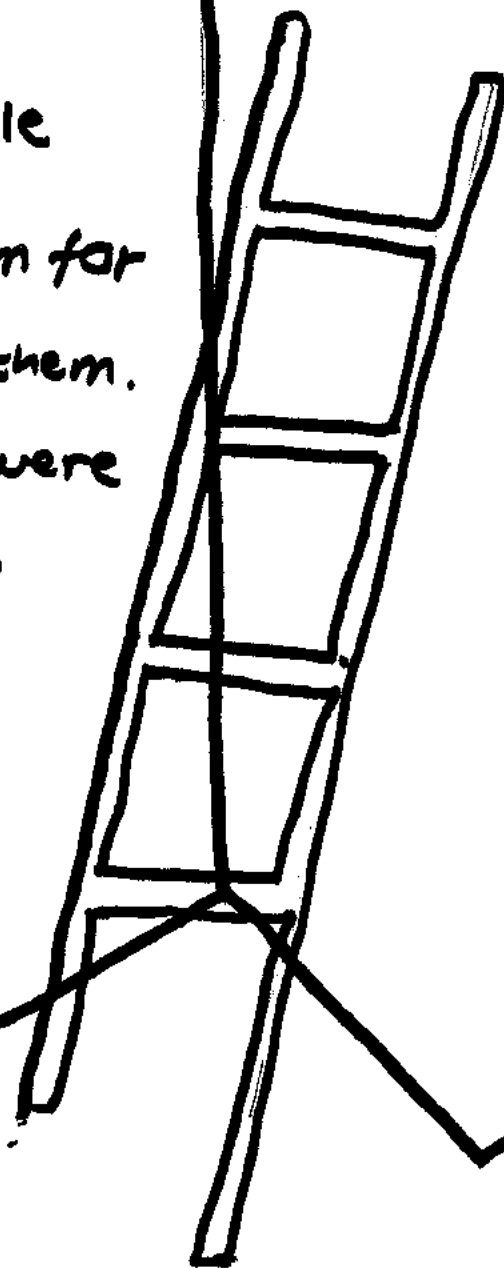
So.....







God Punished his people
by sending a ruler from far
away to make war on them.
Many of God's people were
killed or taken away.

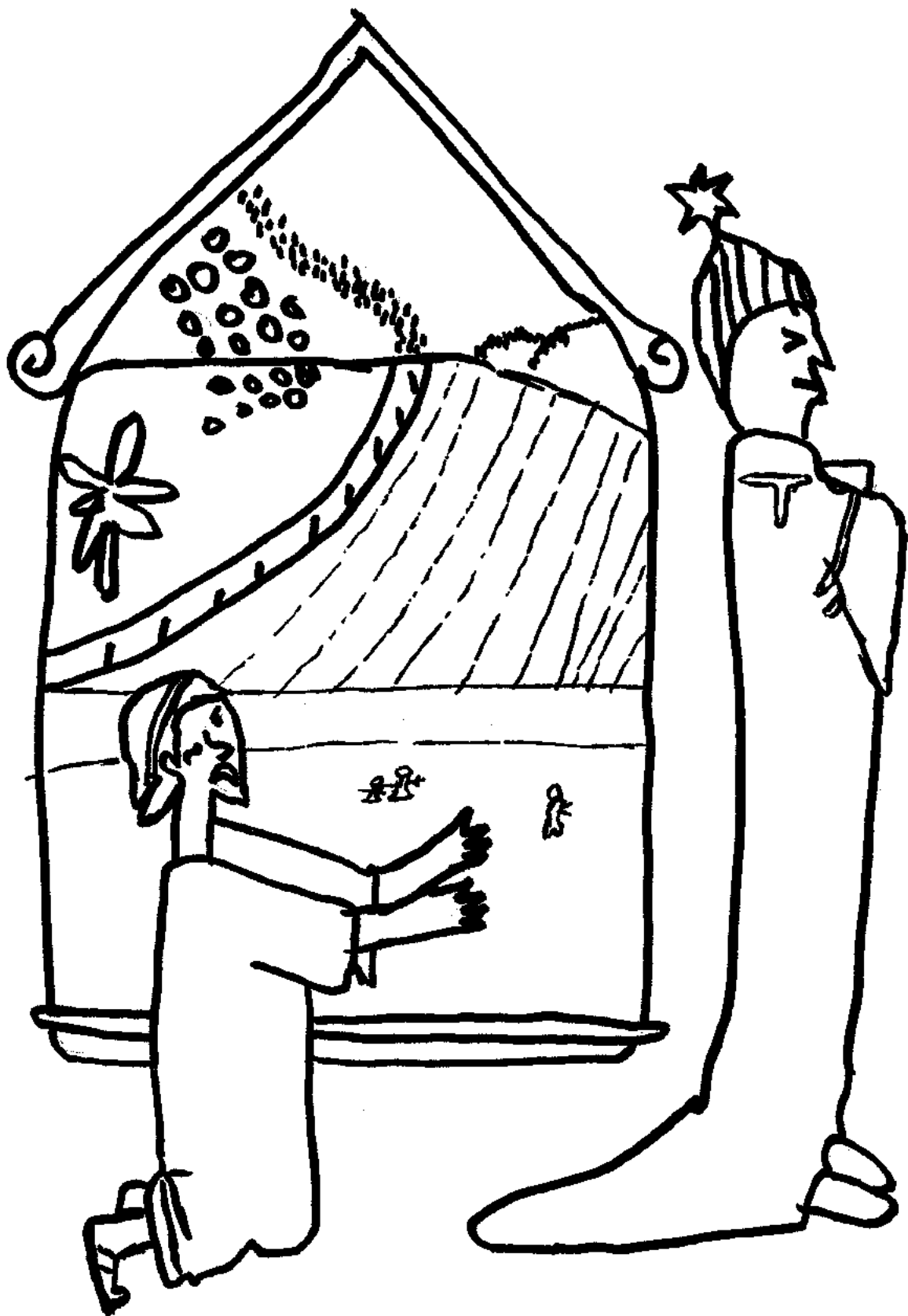








Later, King Zedekiah ruled over the rest of God's people. He did many evil things, and still he did not think that God would punish him.



He thought to himself,
Didn't God promise us this land forever?
So God sent the prophet Jeremiah to say
to the King, "No."

But Zedekiah refused to listen.
So...

God punished his people again
by sending another king to make war on
them.



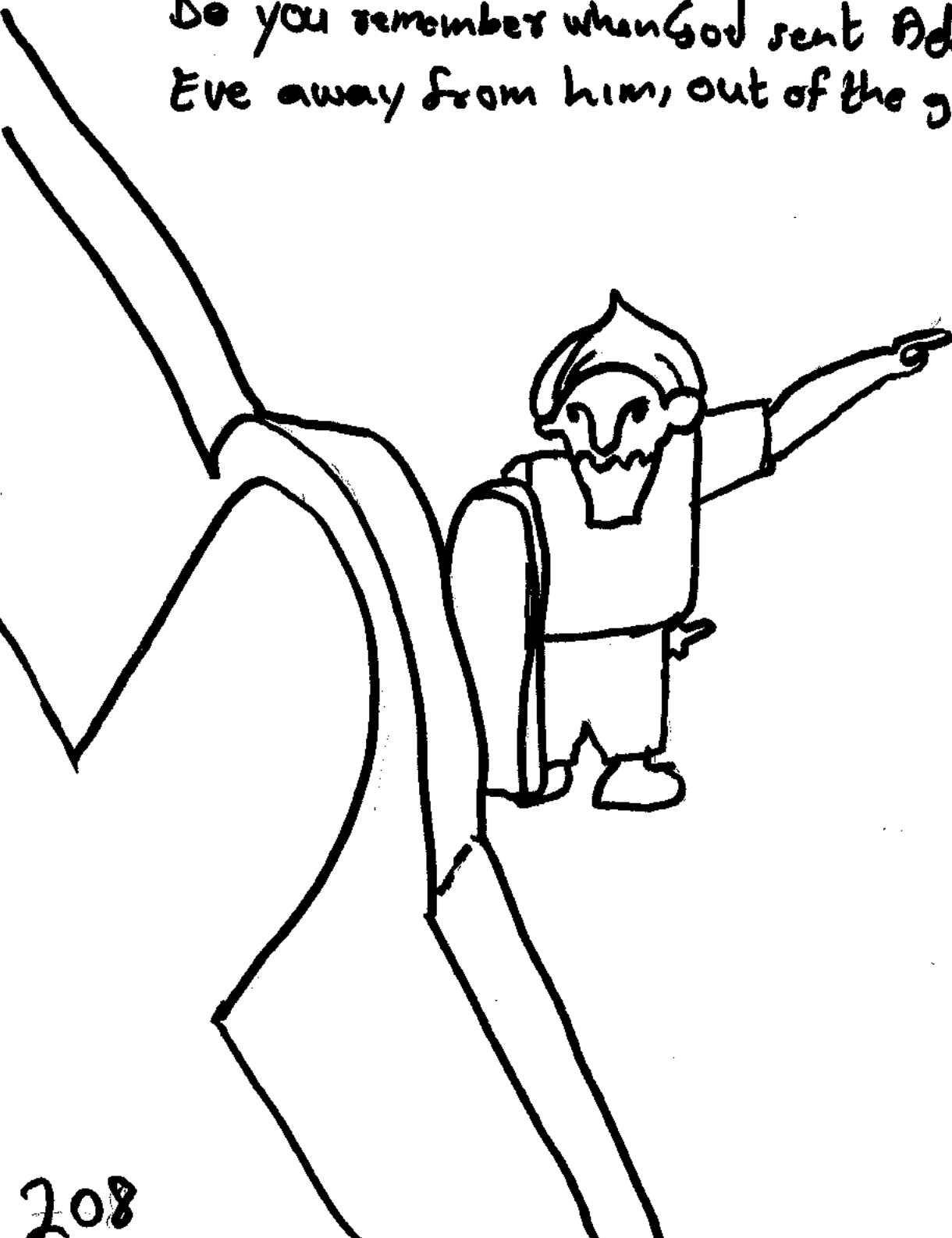


King Nebuchadnezzar
came all the way
from Babylon, and he destroyed
Jerusalem. He burned Solomon's
temple to the ground and
took the rest of God's people
far away their land.

This was another very sad day.

God's people had to leave God's place
because they would not have God for their
King.

Do you remember when God sent Adam and
Eve away from him, out of the garden?

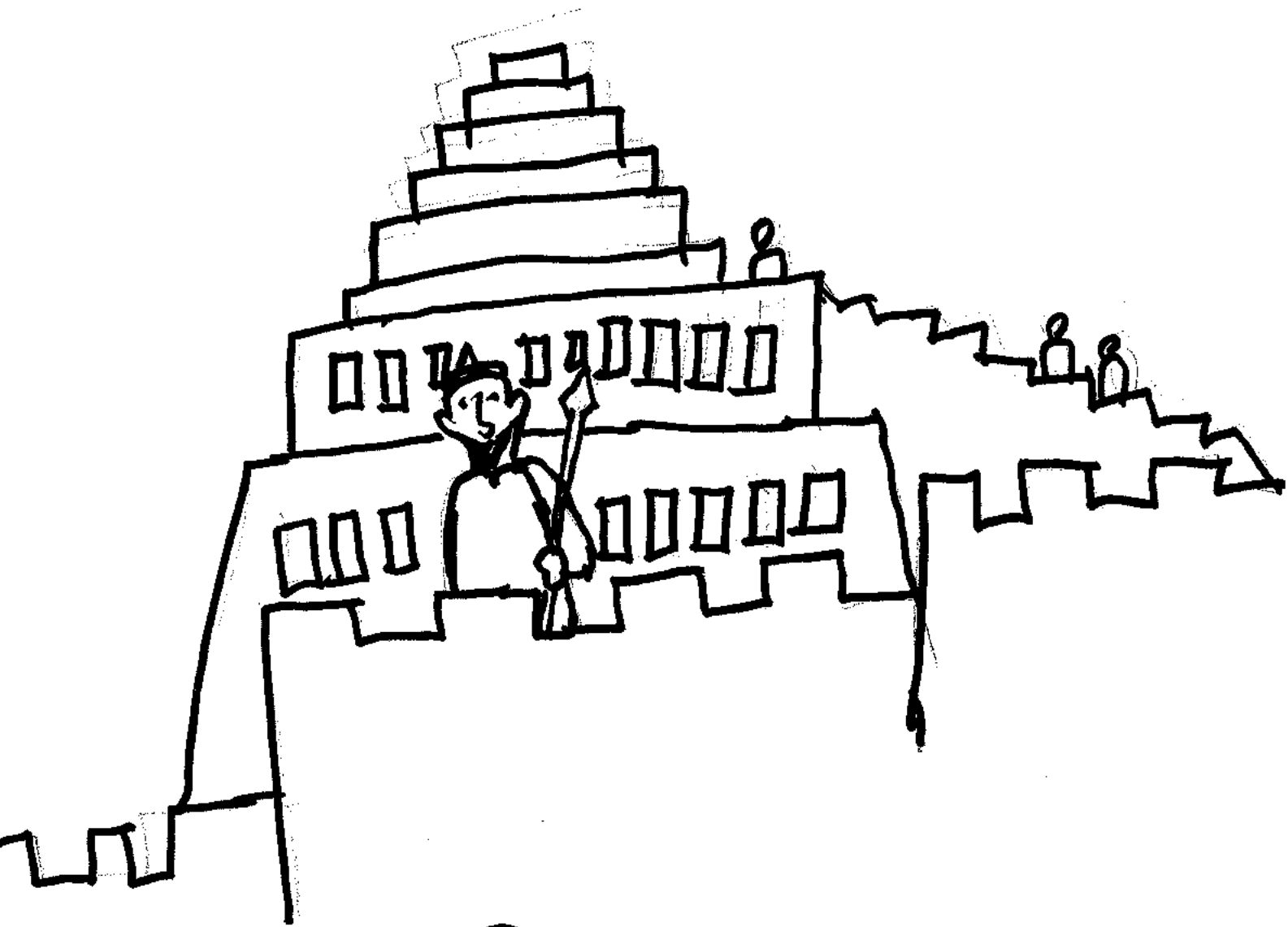




Well, God was doing it again.
He was sending people out of his place
because of their sin.

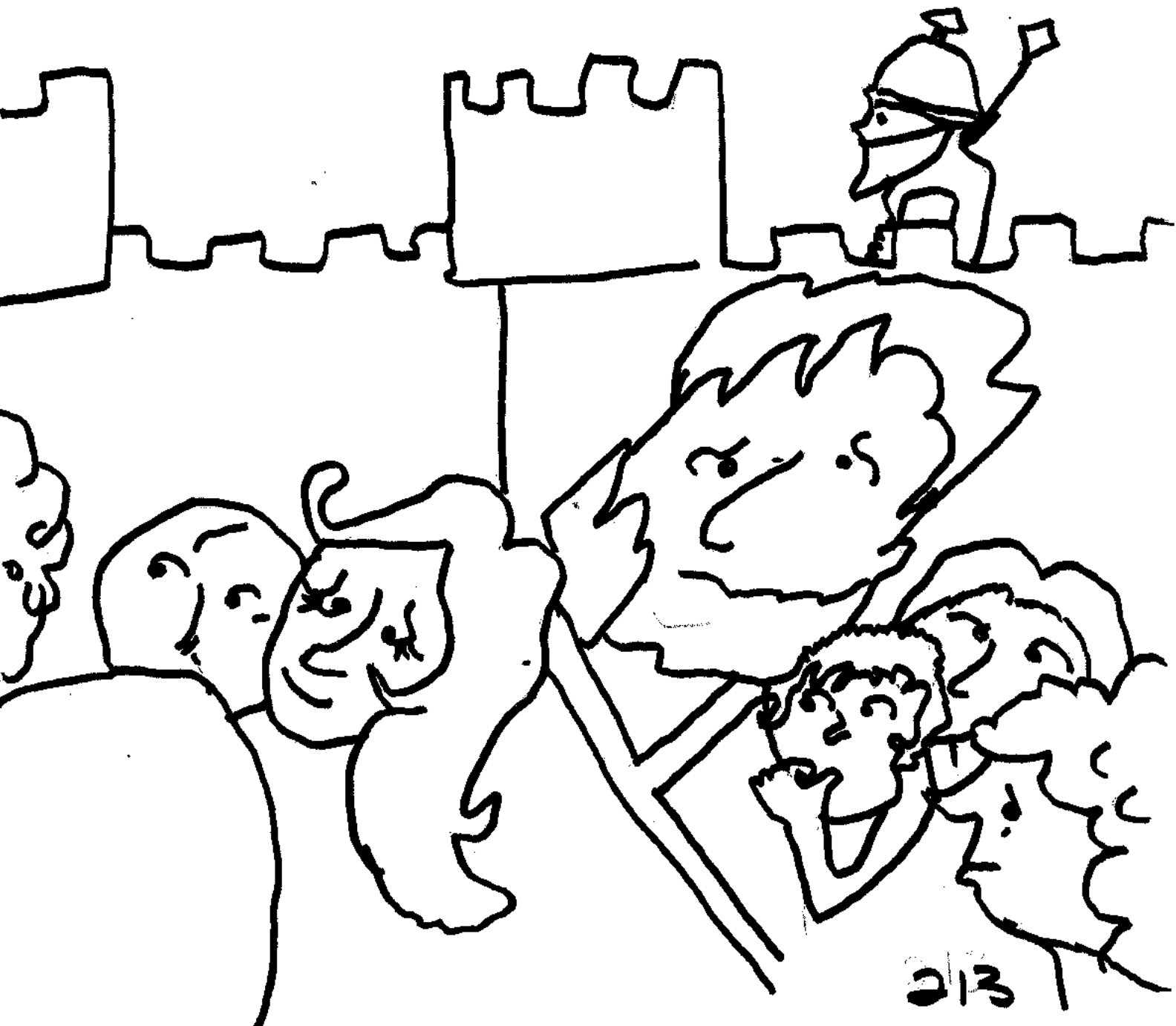




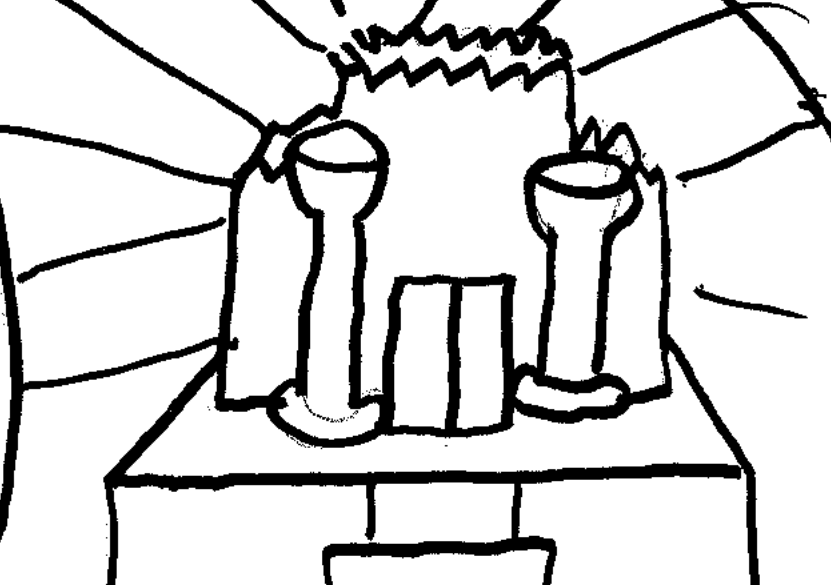
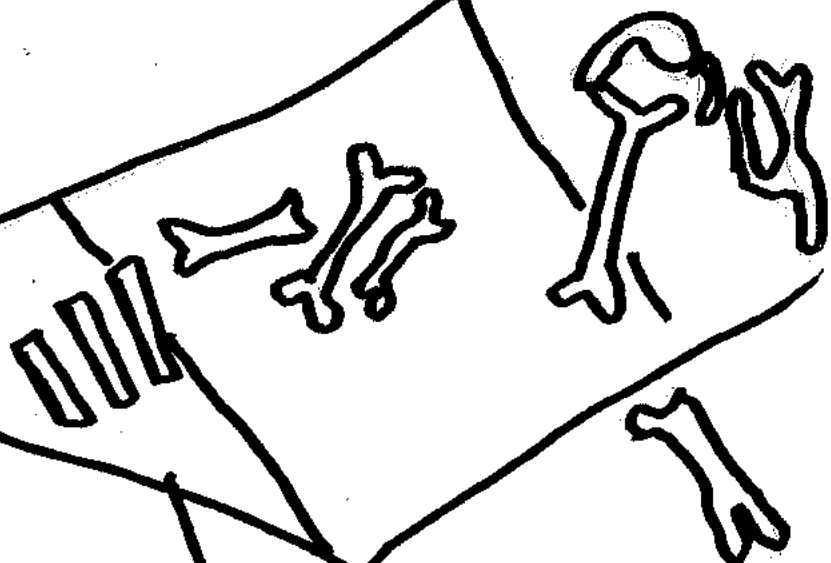


Even though God's people were far from home, God still spoke to them.

God sent more prophets.
They spoke all his words and
wrote them down in God's holy book.



The prophet Ezekiel wrote that one day
God would raise ^{up} the temple and give
his people new hearts.





Isaiah reminded them that God's forever king would come from the family of David.



The prophet Jeremiah was hopeful too. He said that Israel would return home again in seventy years.





Seventy years passed, and the
prophe 4.

Daniel prayed to God.

He asked God to remember his
promise,
and God heard Daniel's prayer.



Finally God's people
went home to Jerusalem.
They returned to the land
But they had a lot of
work to do.
Jerusalem and the
temple were ruined.

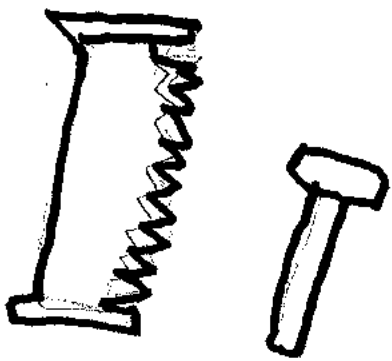
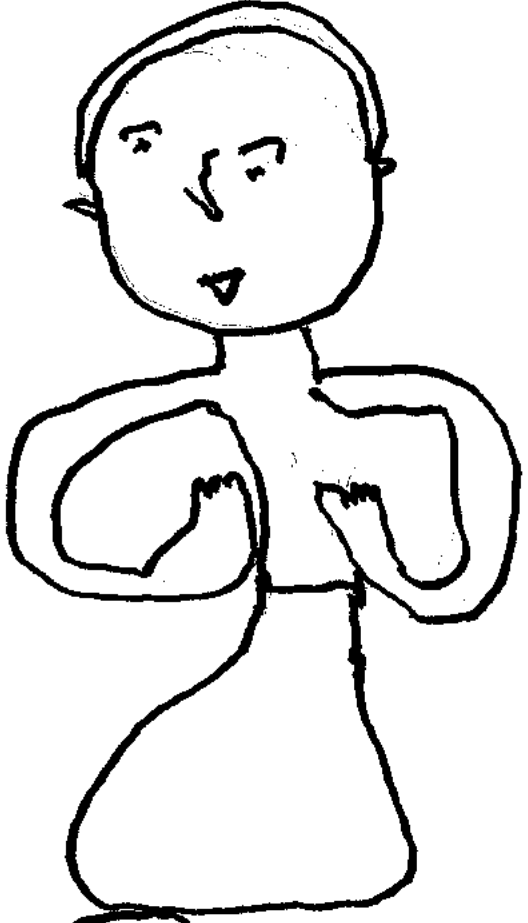




They Worked very hard
And when the foundation
was Finished

Can you see the
People rebuilding the City
Walls and the temple?

The people celebrated



All the people shouted loud praise to God.
They were happy. With trumpets
and cymbals they sang to God.



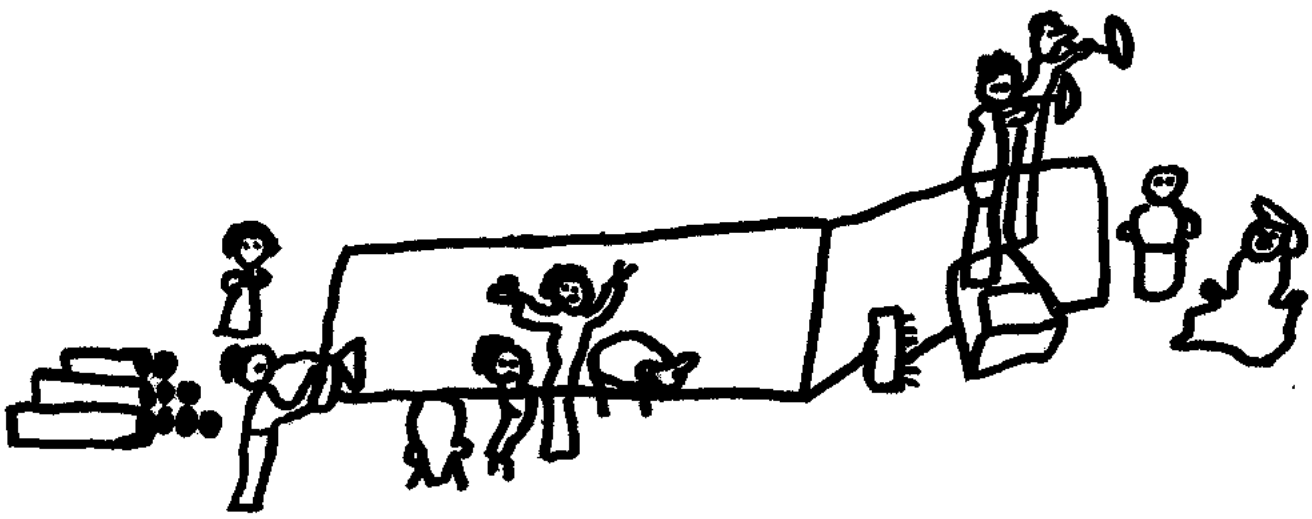
"For he is good, for his
steadfast love endures forever..."





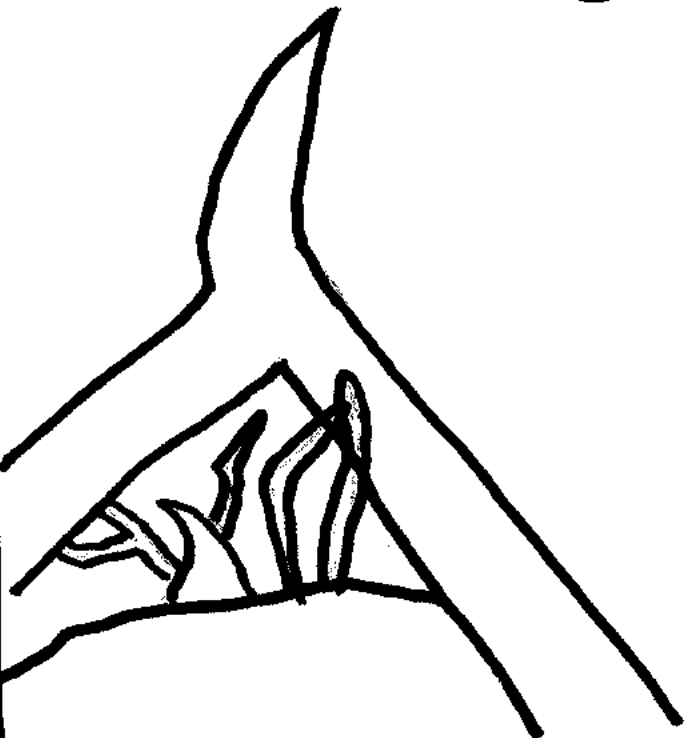
But many of the older men cried.
Can you guess why?

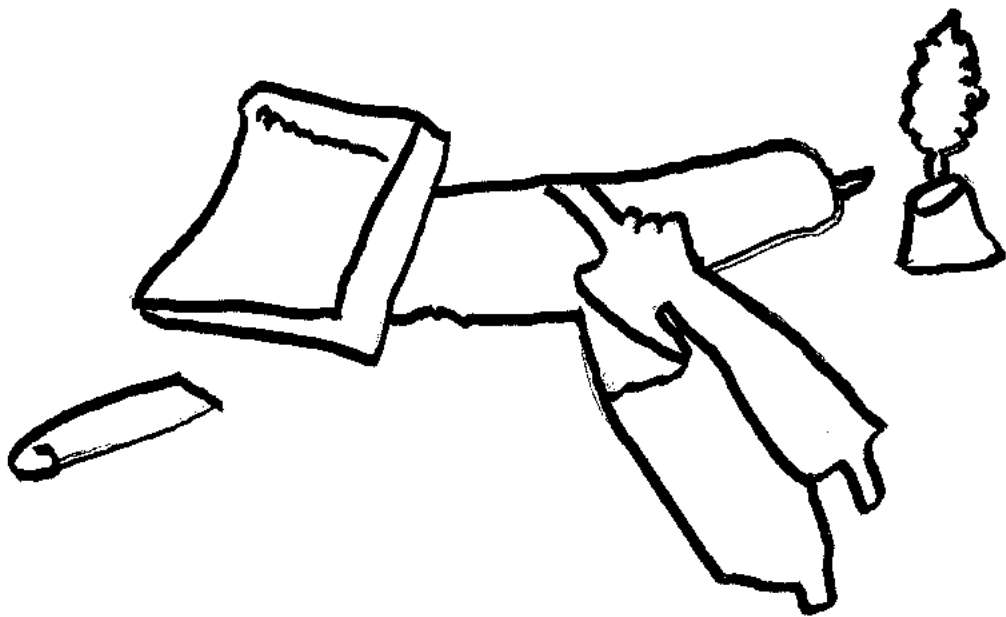
They cried because they remembered
Solomon's beautiful temple and knew that
Israel could never completely rebuild
God's place.





They cried because they still longed
for God's forever kings to come.

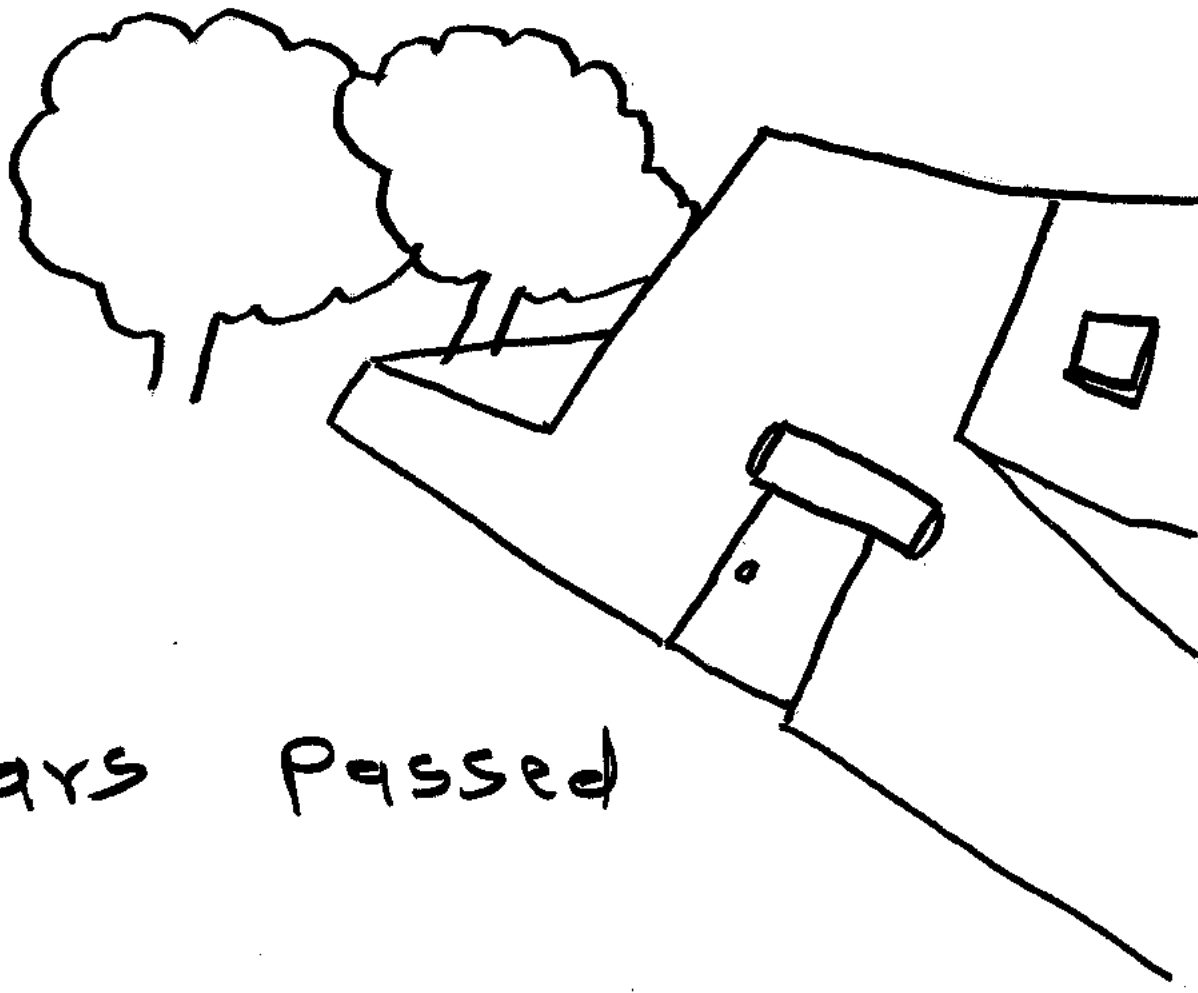




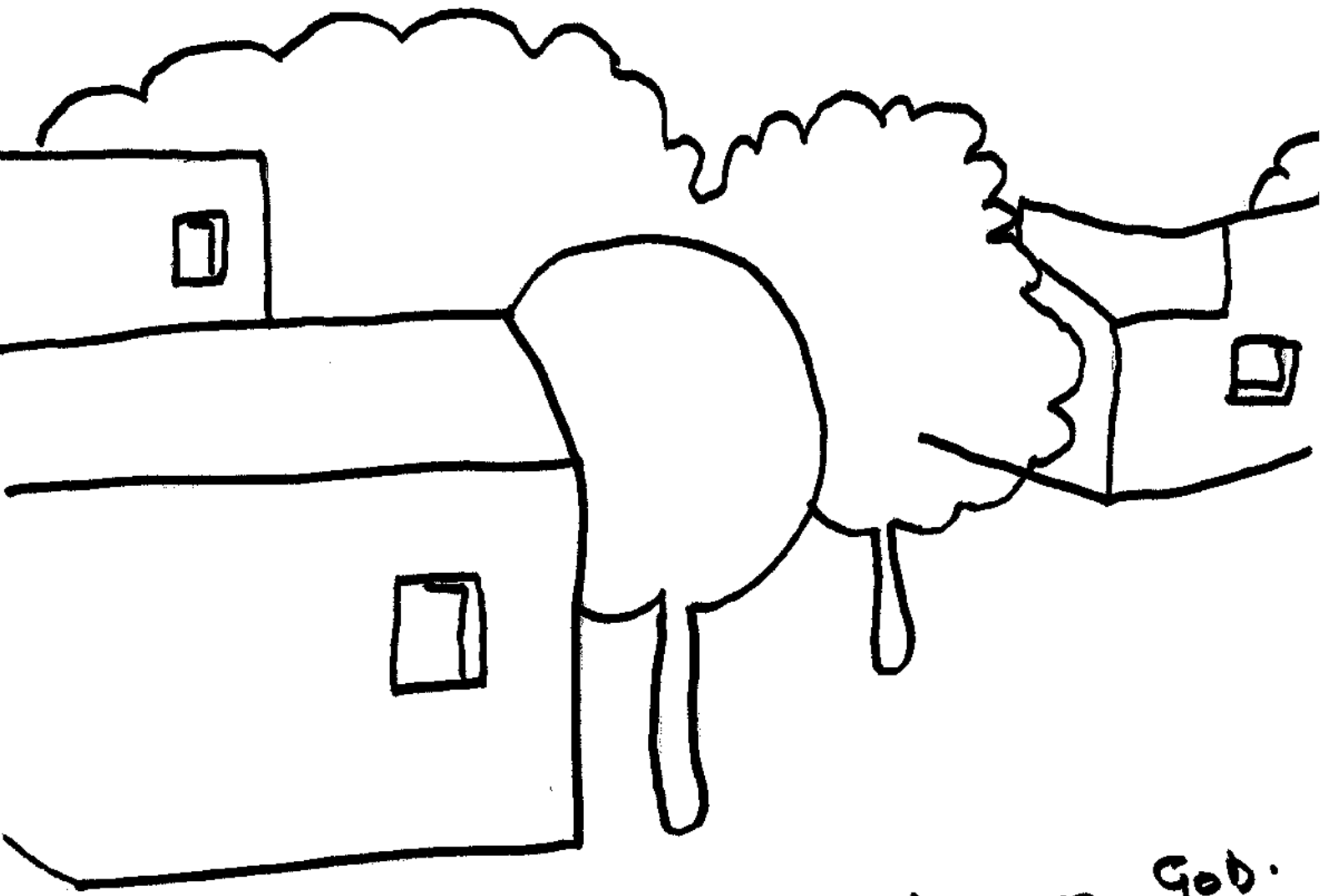
THE NEW TESTAMENT

MANY SILENT YEARS

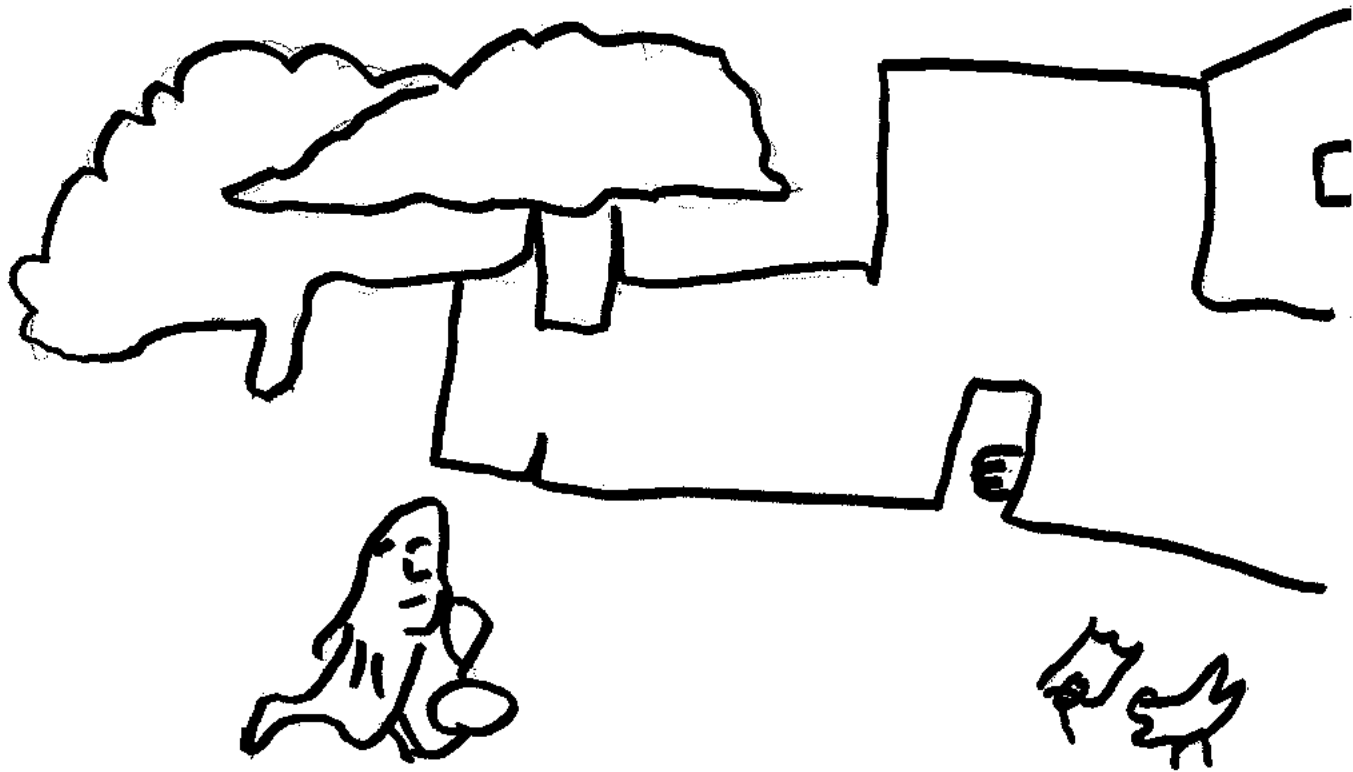




years passed



Without a single word from God.



and the years turned into many years,
and the many years turned into hundreds
of years, and the great promises of God
seemed to fade away.

Israel become less important in the world.
Other nations become great -
strong nations,
powerful nations
whose kings ruled over God's people.
One such king ----.



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Was Caesar Augustus.

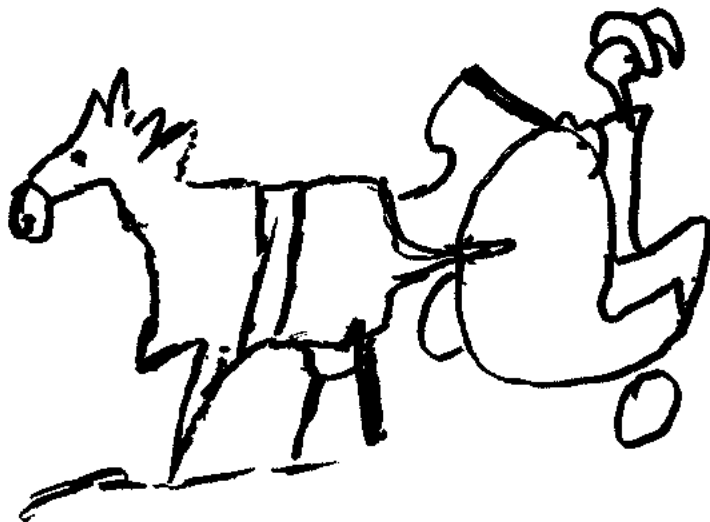
This Roman ruler thought he was very important.

One day he wondered to himself,

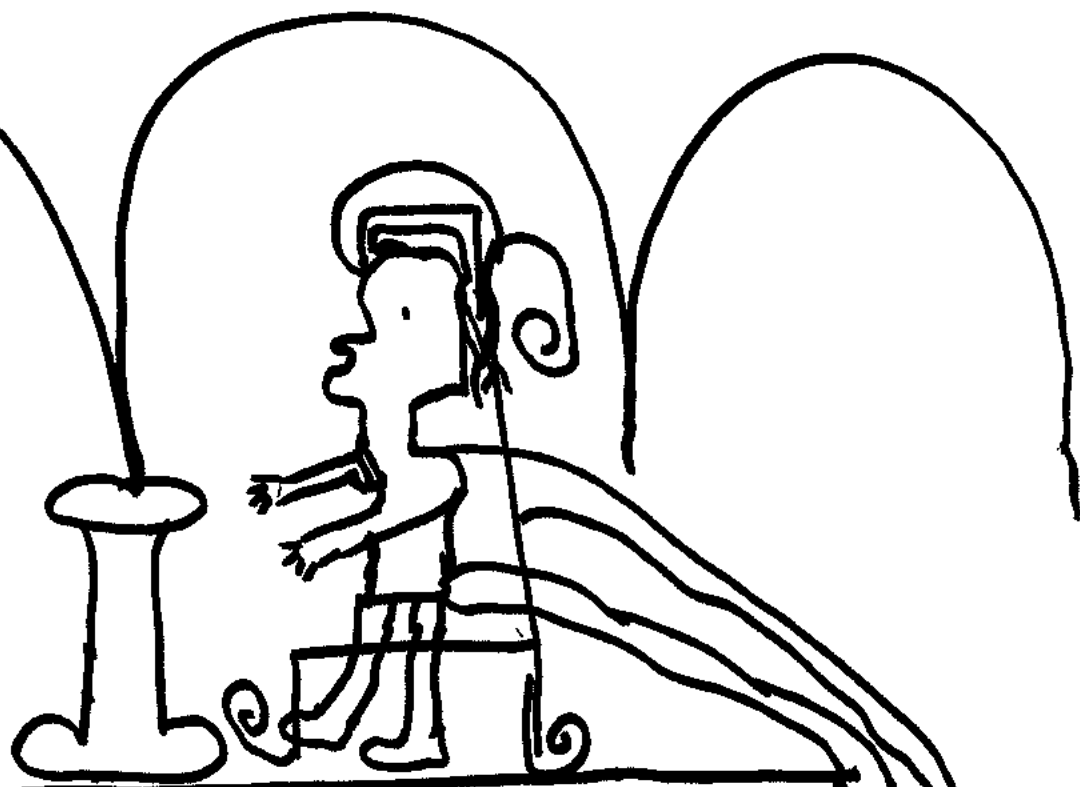
How will everyone know that I am
the great Caesar,
the Roman ruler,
the king of the world?

I know

I will count all the people under my
rule.
Surely that will show the world how great
I am.

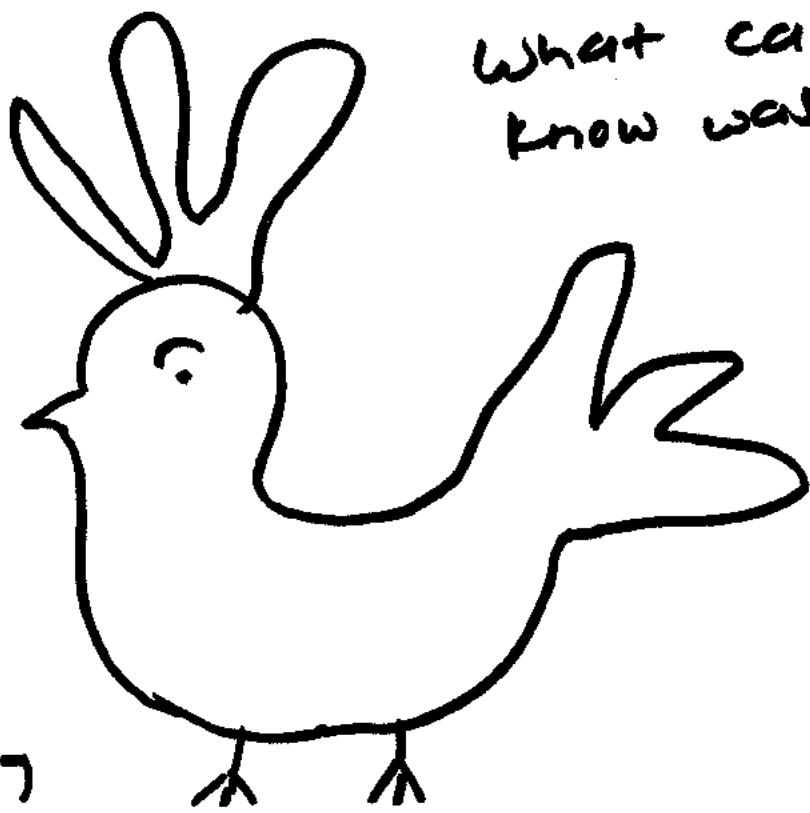






So Caesar, the Roman ruler
the king of the whole
Roman world, began
counting all his people to
show everyone how great
he was.

What Caesar did not
know was that





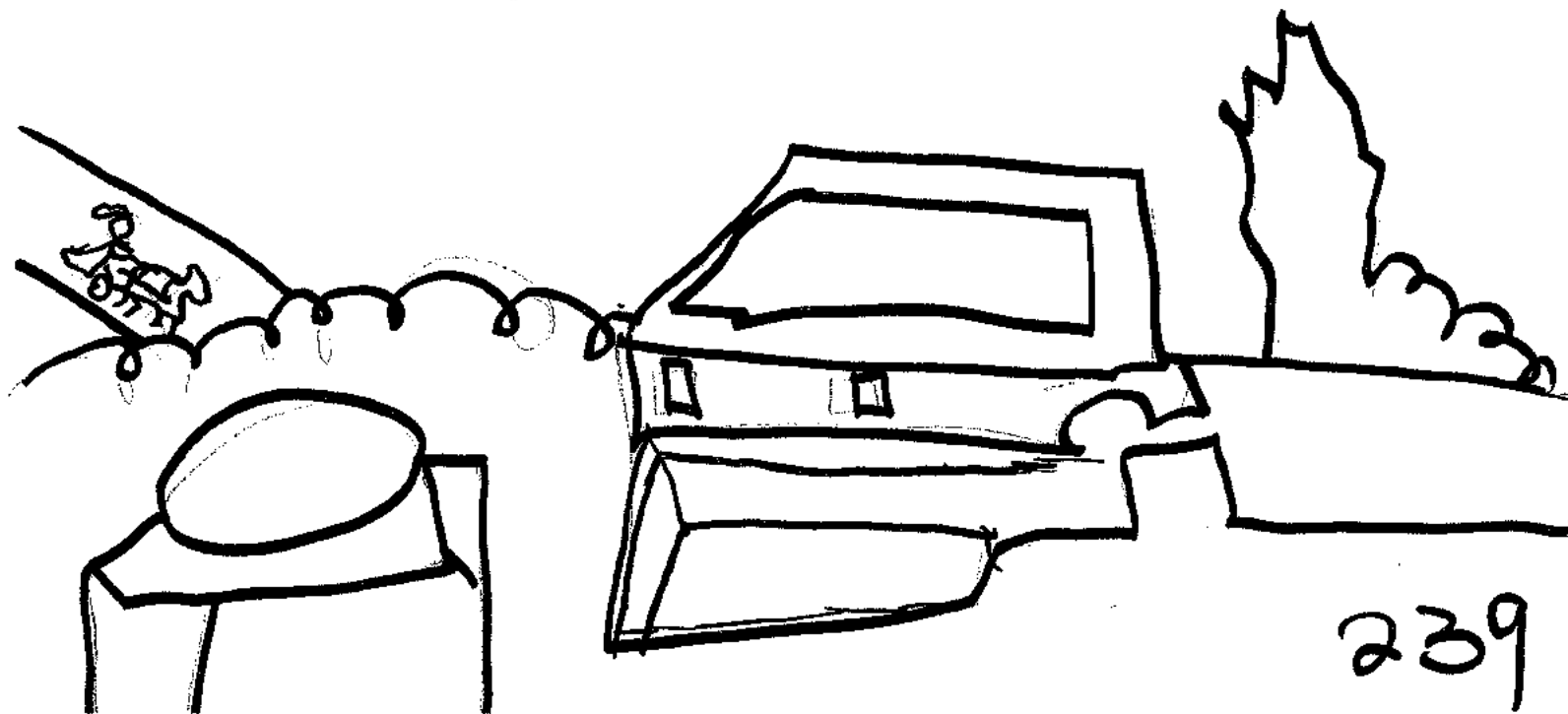
God

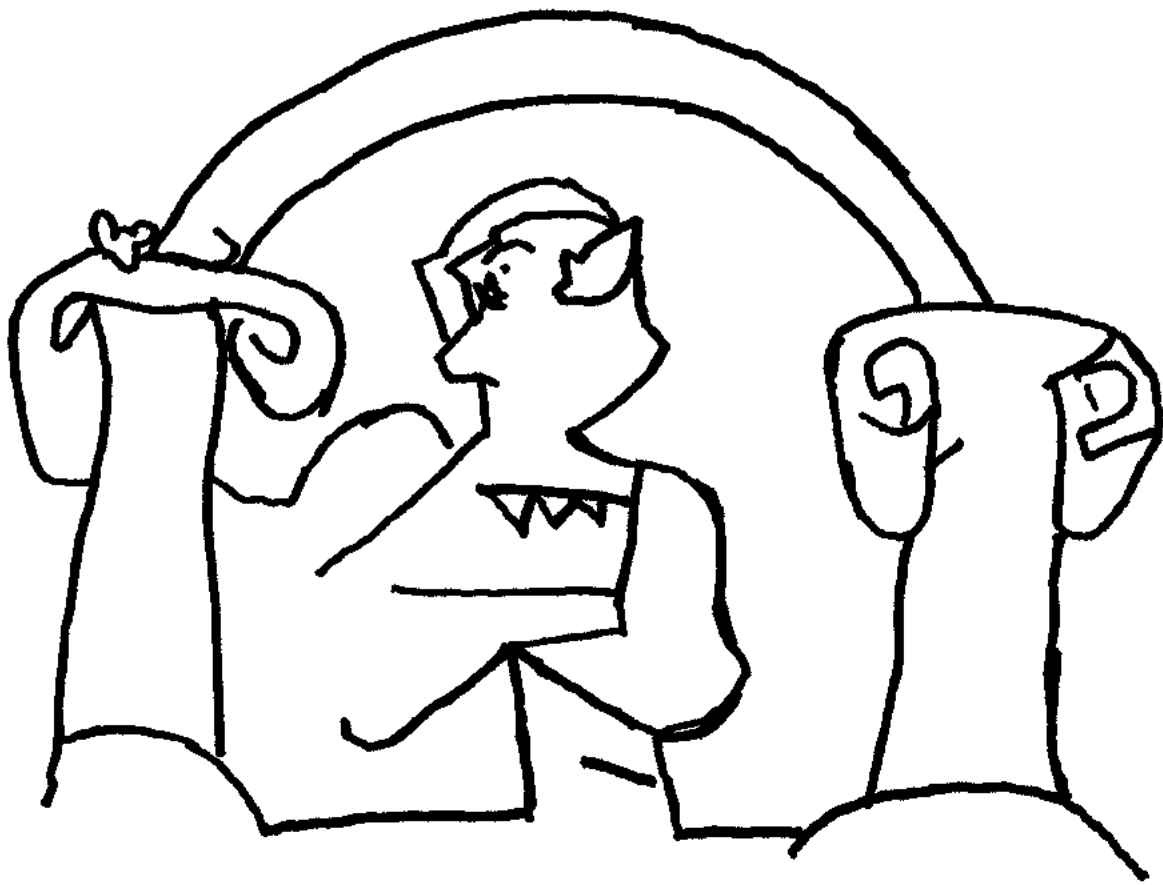
the world's true ruler, the king OF the Universe, was getting ready to show everyone how great he was.

God was going to end his many years of silence.

God was going to keep his promise of a

Forever King.





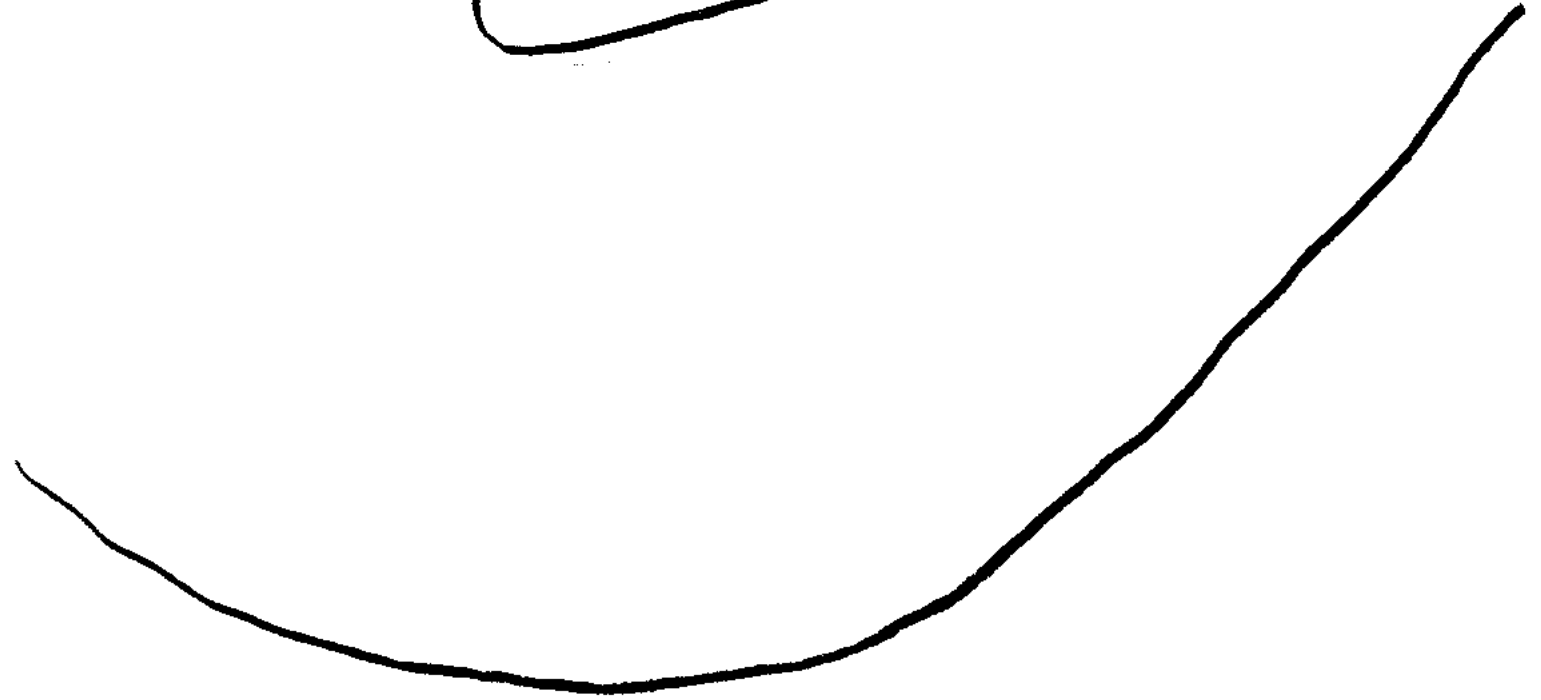
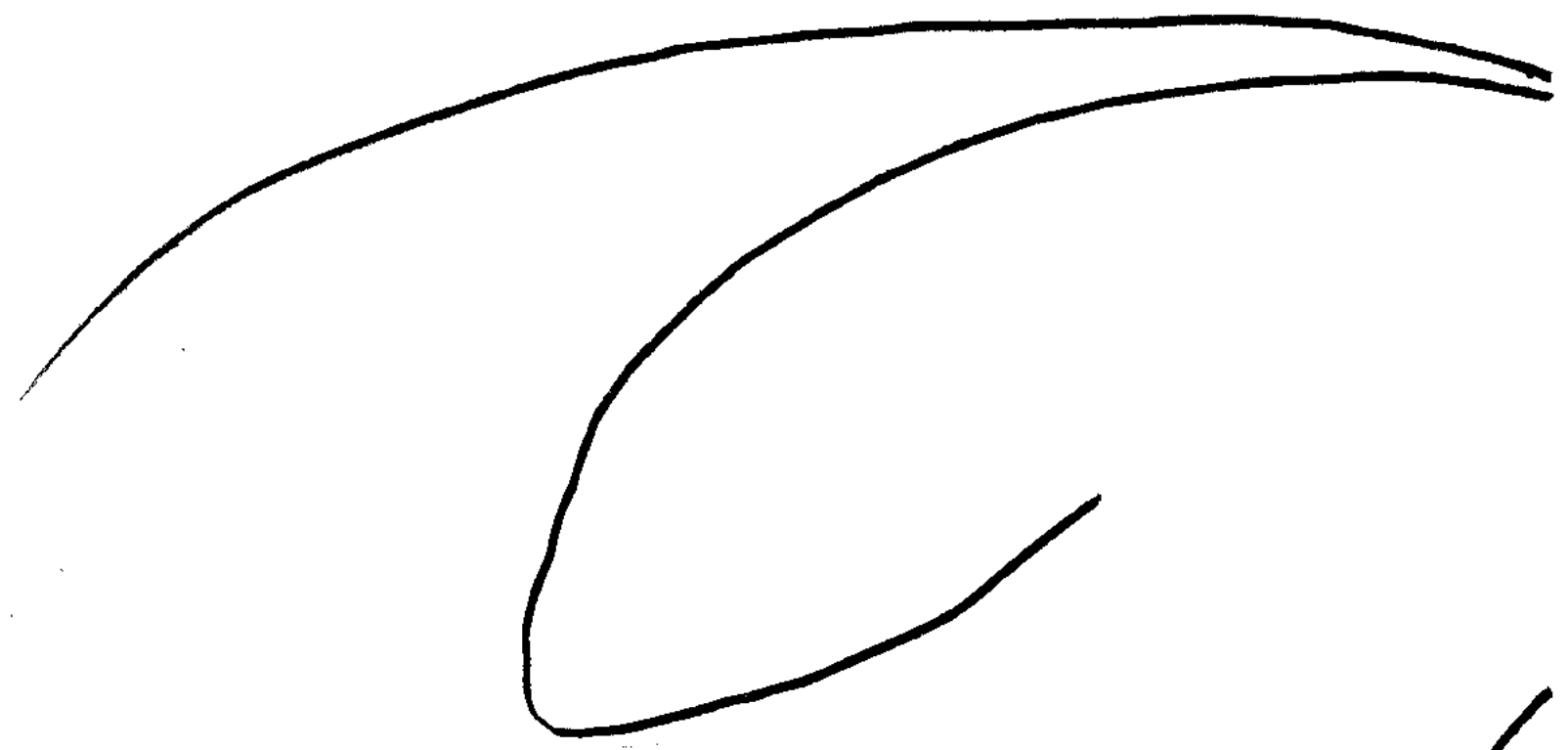
And do you know how God was going to do this?

Not like Caesar...

Not proudly, by counting all his people, but humbly, by becoming one of his people

In the power of his spirit God would bring
his forever King into the world as a baby!

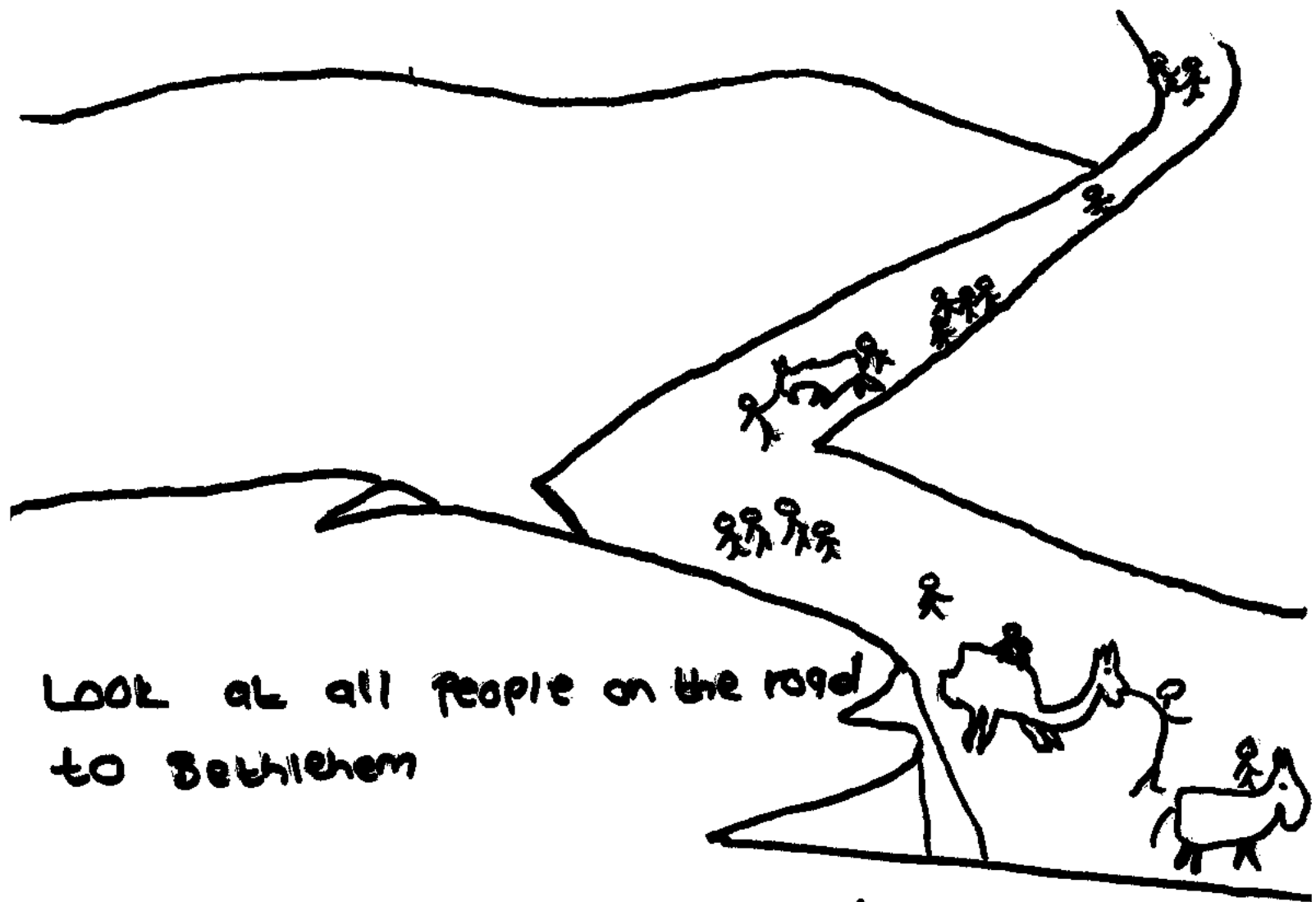




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GOD'S PROMISED ONE IS BORN





LOOK at all people on the road
to Bethlehem

They were on their way to be counted
and they were very unhappy

They were mad at King,
and they frowned as they walked
They were angry with the king,
and they grumbled as they walked.



But not everyone was unhappy.
Do you see the happy couple on
the road?

If they were mad at King, their
face didn't show it.

Do you have any idea why they were
so happy?





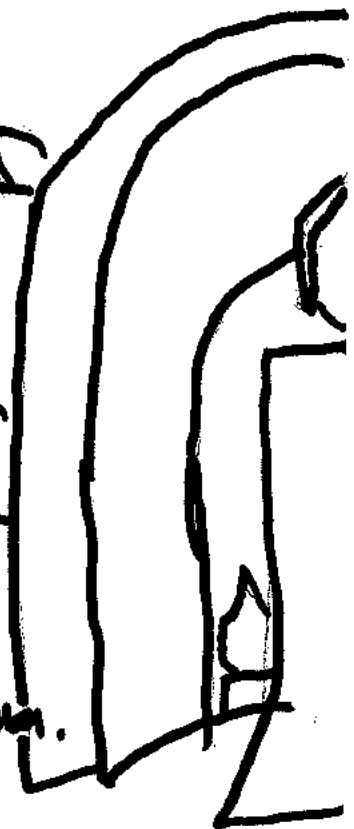
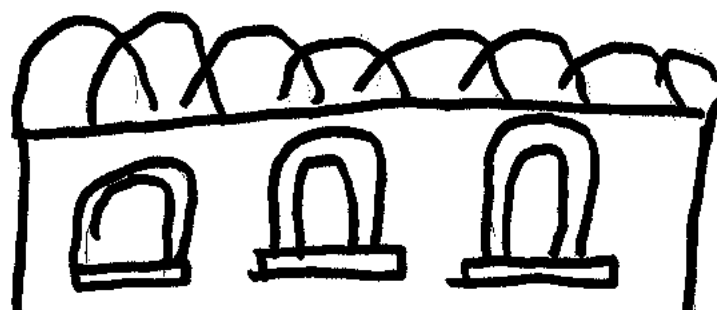
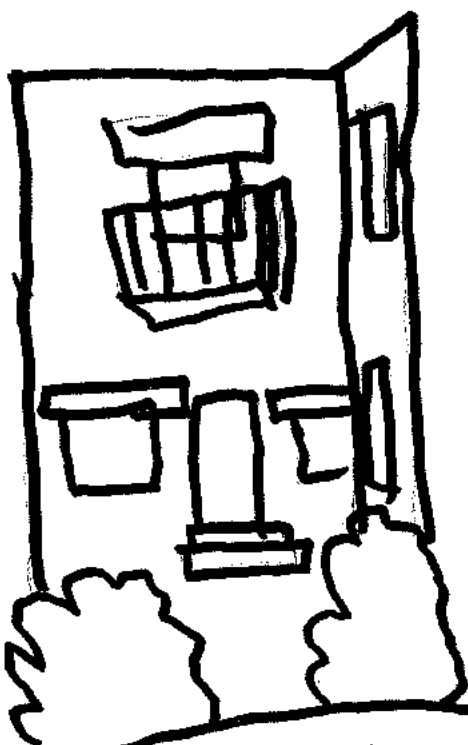




Mary soon was going to have baby!

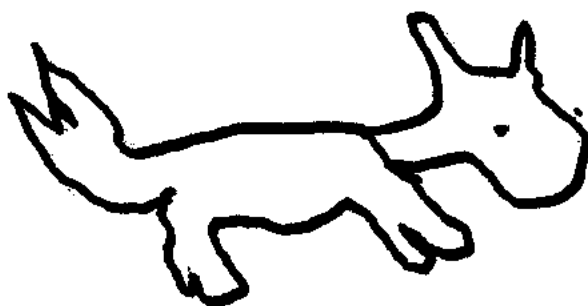
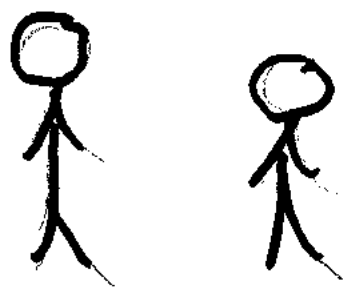
God had told Mary and Joseph that their baby was the one promised long ago. He would rescue God's people, give God's place back to them, and bless all the people of the earth.

But in this crowded city,
Where would this
Special baby be born?



In a nice, big home?
No, Not in a nice, big home.

In a hotel?
No, Not in a clean hotel.





All the nice, big homes
and clean hotels
were filled up with people.

Can you guess where this
special baby would be born





God's forever king was born
in a stable, a place for
animals.

His parents named him
Jesus.

They wrapped him up
warmly
and laid him in a
manger.





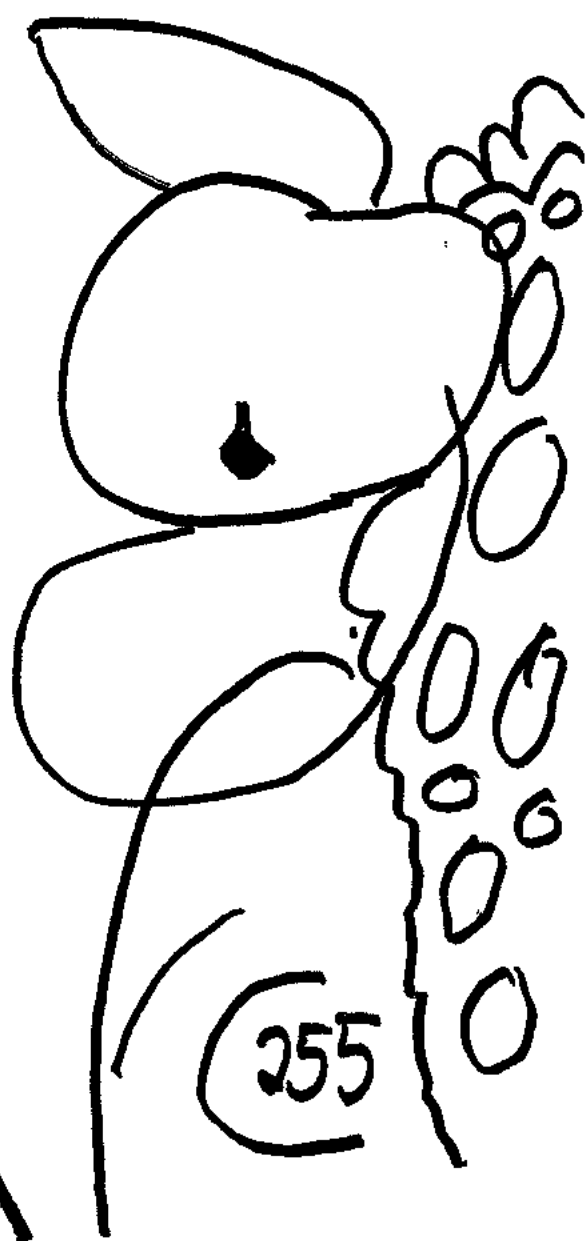
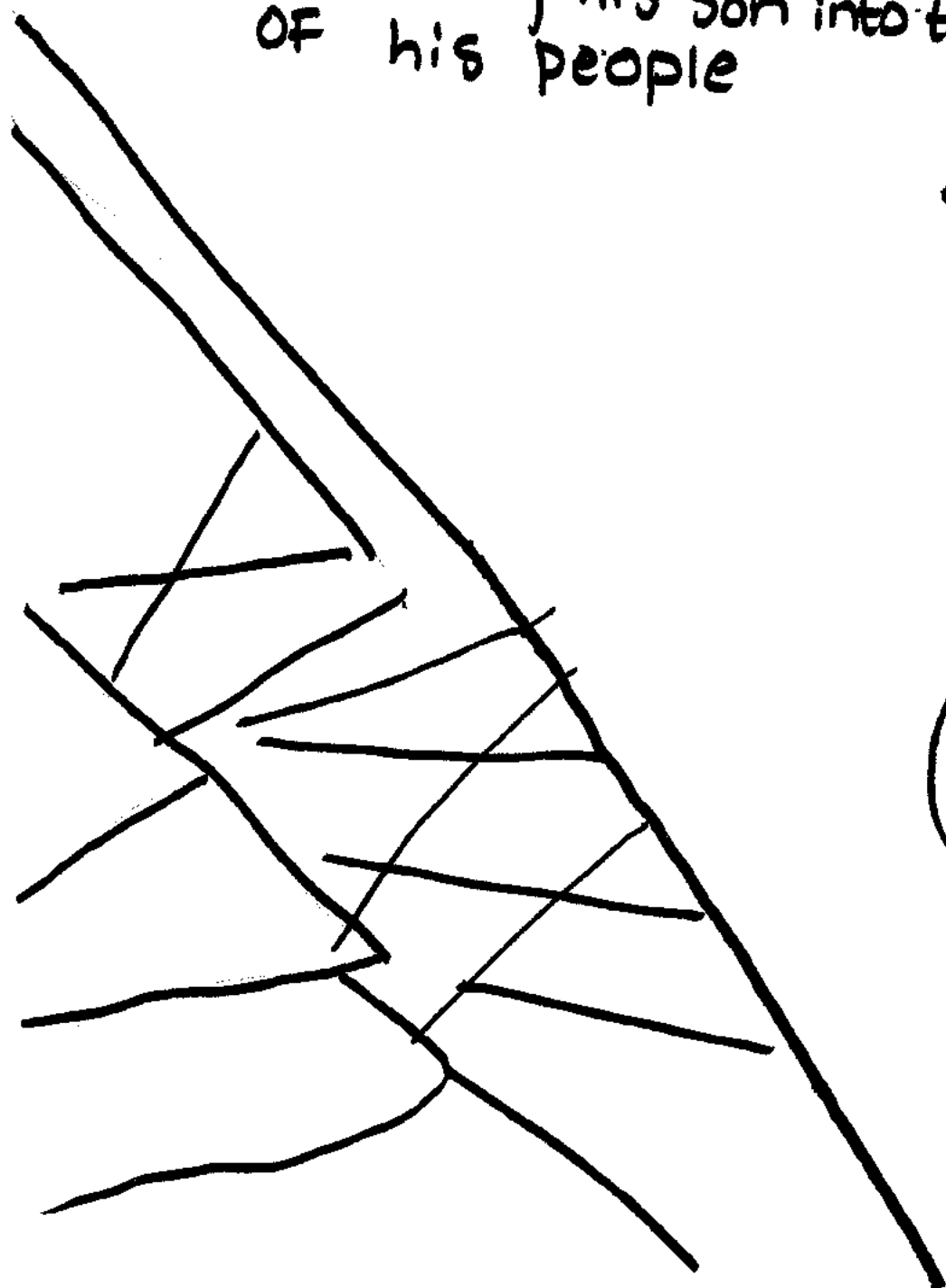
What a strange place for the promised one!
Who would have imagined it?



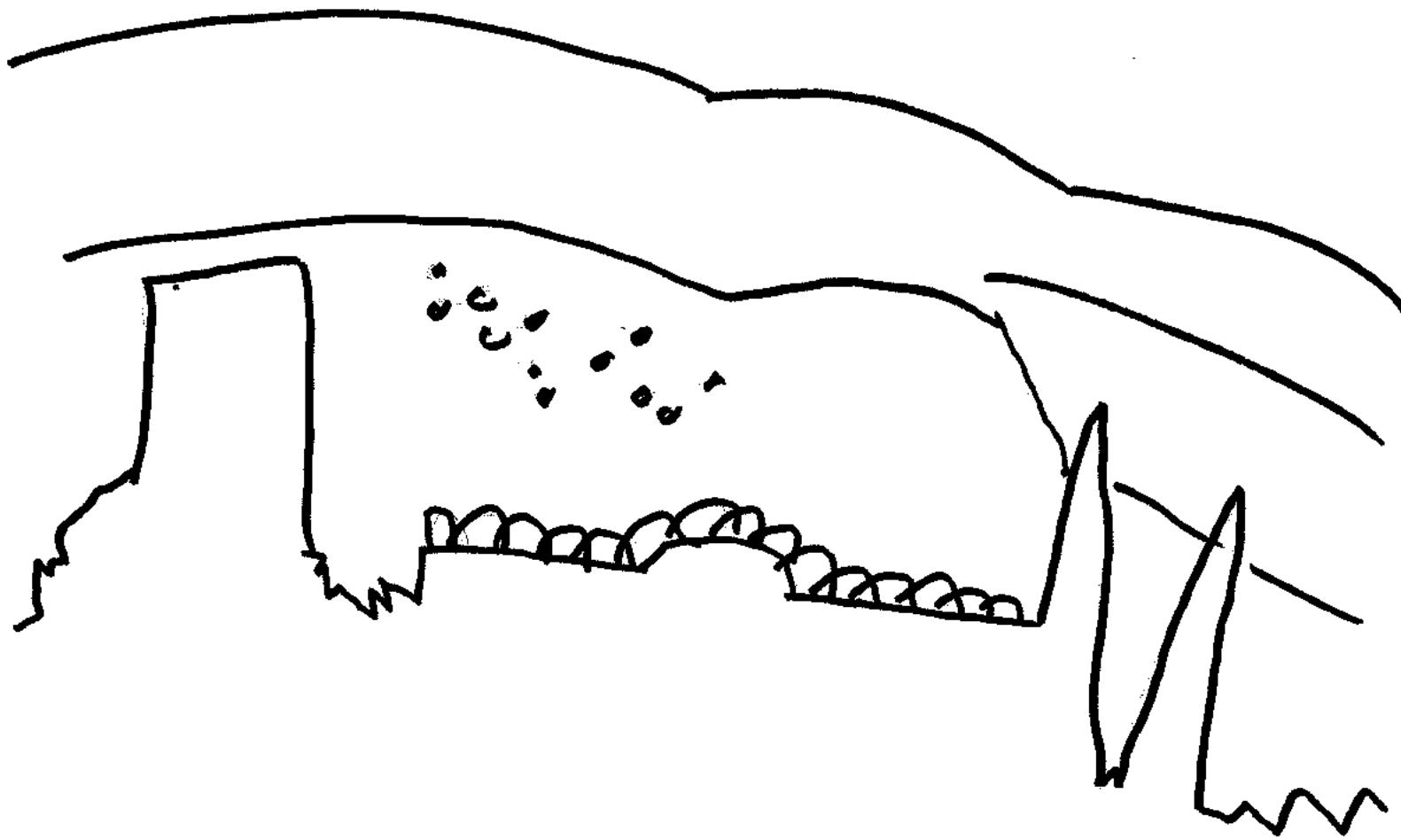


While Caesar, the King of the Roman world,
was showing everyone how great he was
by counting all of his people

God, the King of the universe
was showing the world how great he was
by sending his son into the world as one
of his people



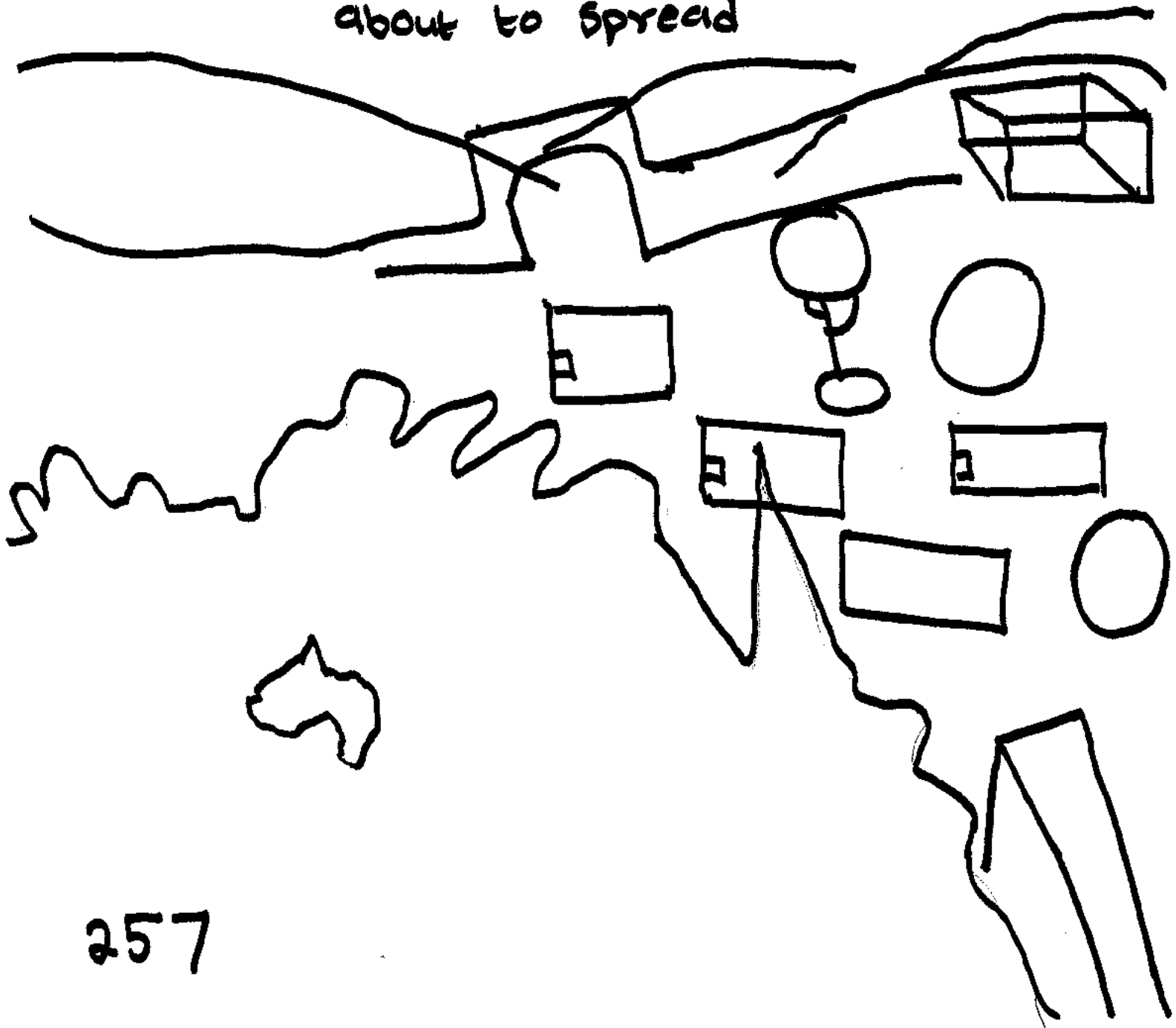
What a very big day!

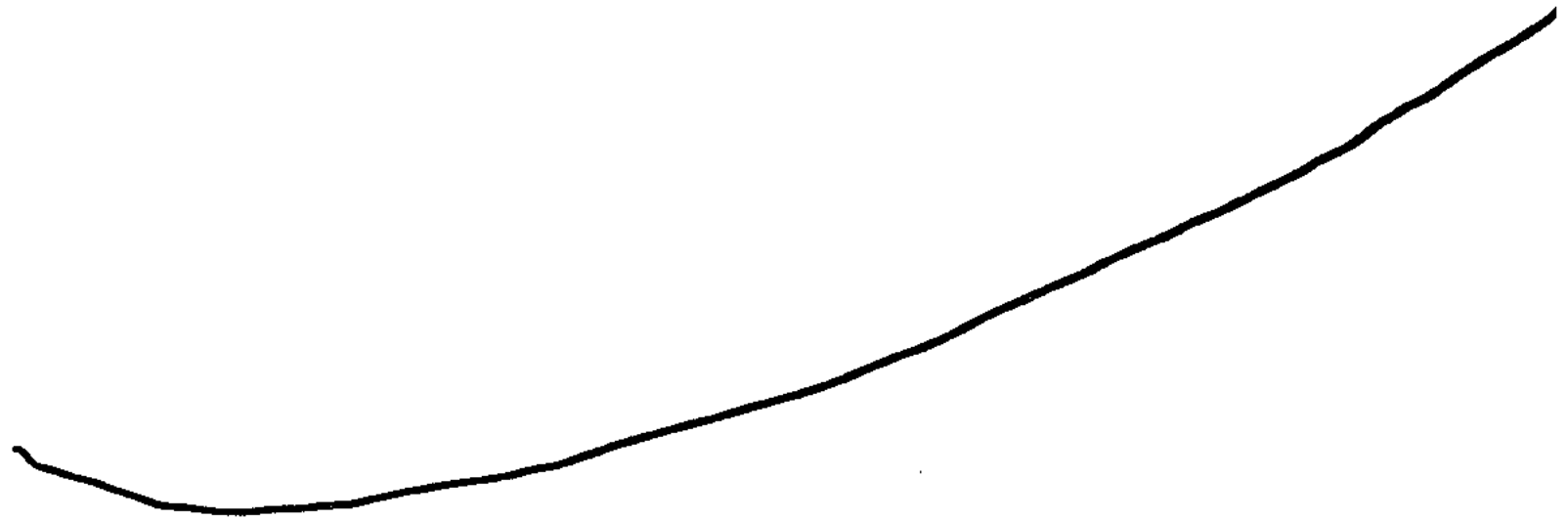
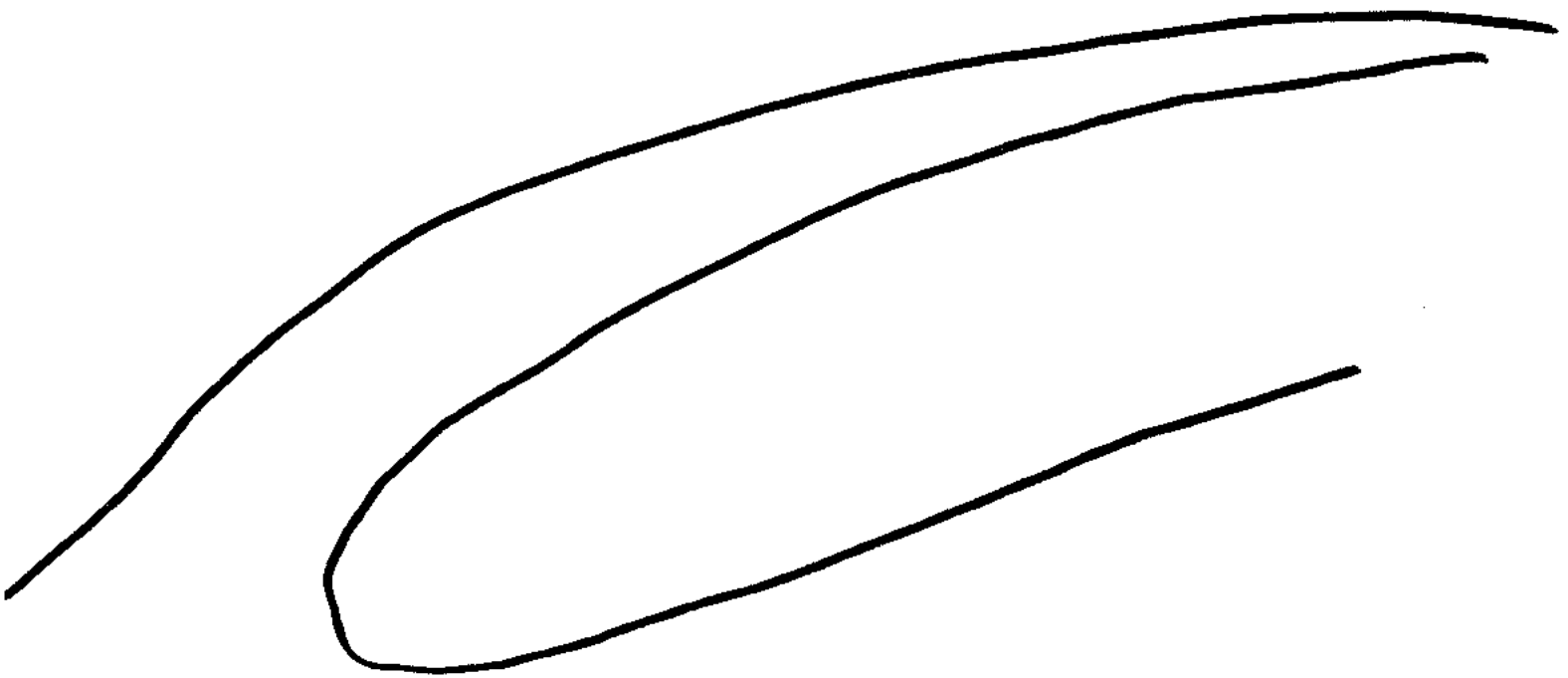




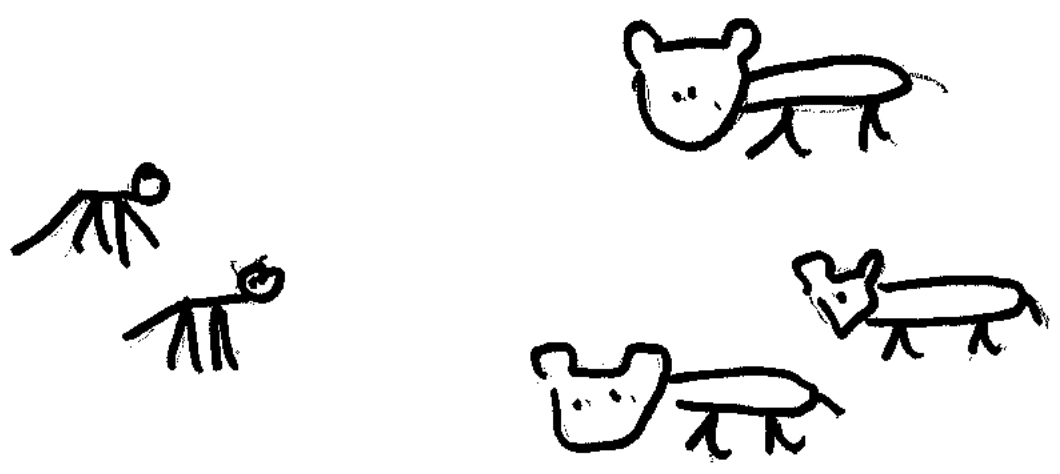
What God had promised to Abraham,
Isaac, Jacob,
and David arrived in the birth of Jesus!

And news of his great arrival was
about to spread

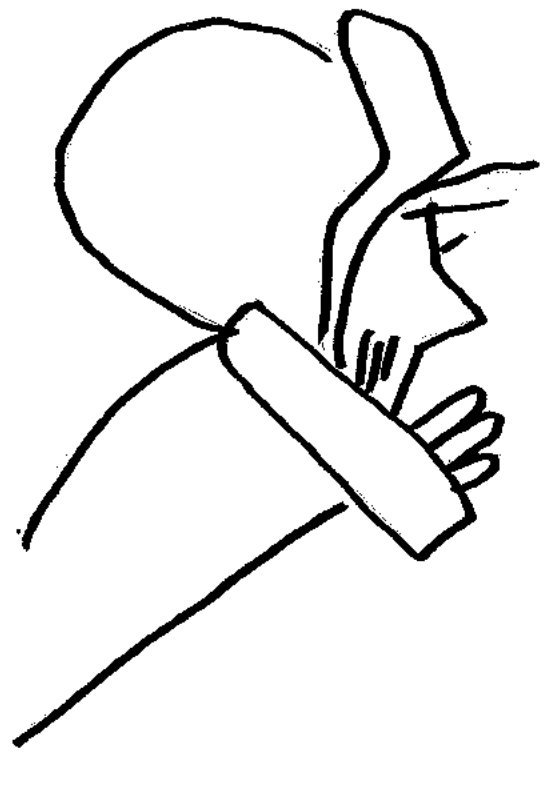








Look at all those sheep
Do you see the man watching
over the sheep?
They are shepherds.





On the night that Jesus
was born,
out of the rolling hills of
Bethlehem,
some shepherds were enjoying
the cool air.

It was dark.
It was quiet.
And then all of a
sudden...





God Surprised the shepherds!

A bright light shone in the night sky.

An angel made a big announcement
to the shepherds:


"I bring you good newsfor all the people.
For unto you is born this day in the city of David
a savior, who is christ the Lord.....
You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths
and lying in a manger."

The shepherds were so amazed!

And then there was another surprise.







More and more and more angels came,
until the sky was filled with
wonder and brightness

Together they sang,
"glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace
among those with whom
he is pleased!"



At this, the shepherds ran to
Bethlehem as fast as they could.
They wanted to see
the long-awaited promise
of God lying in a manger.



And when they got there
they saw the baby Jesus

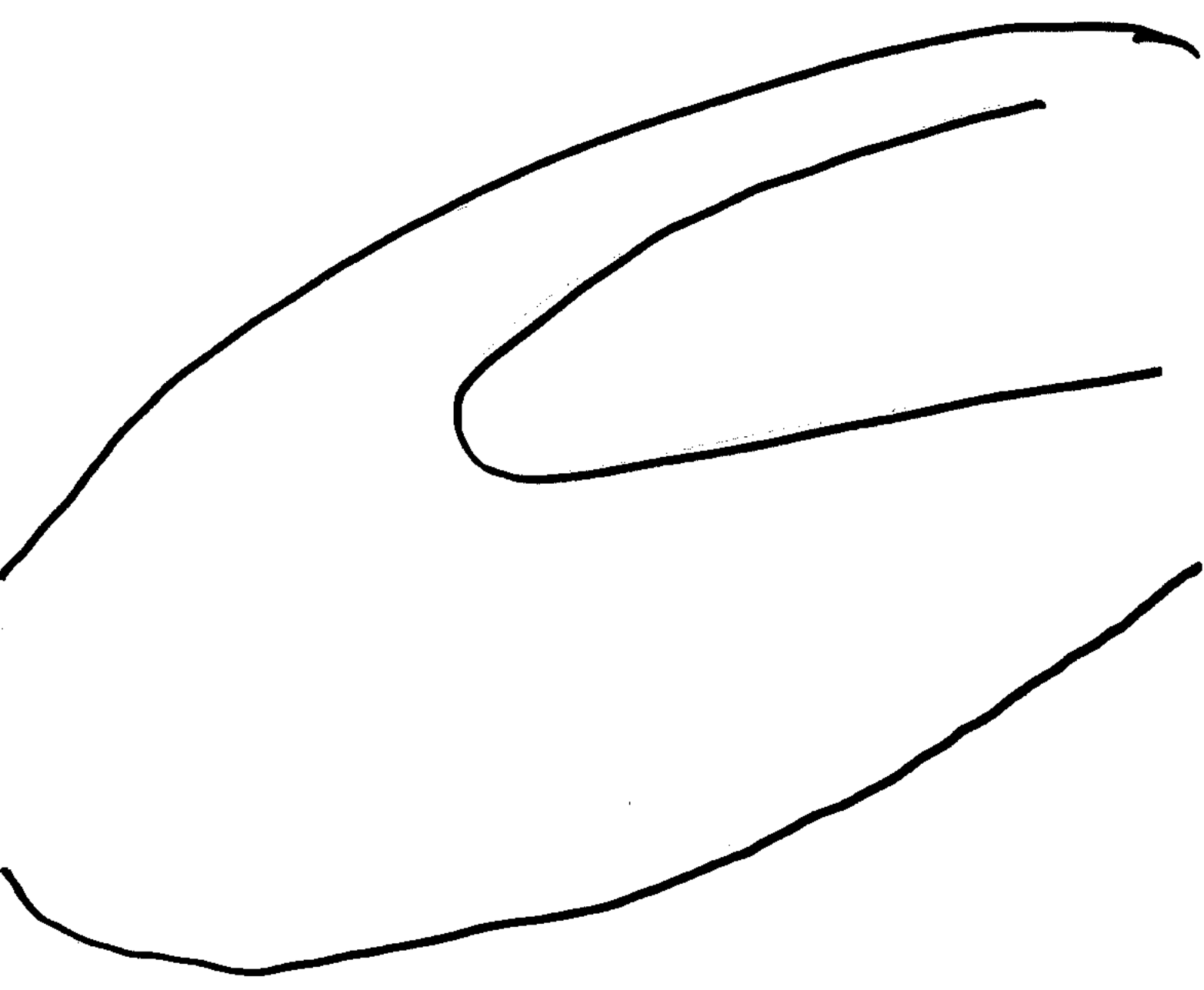
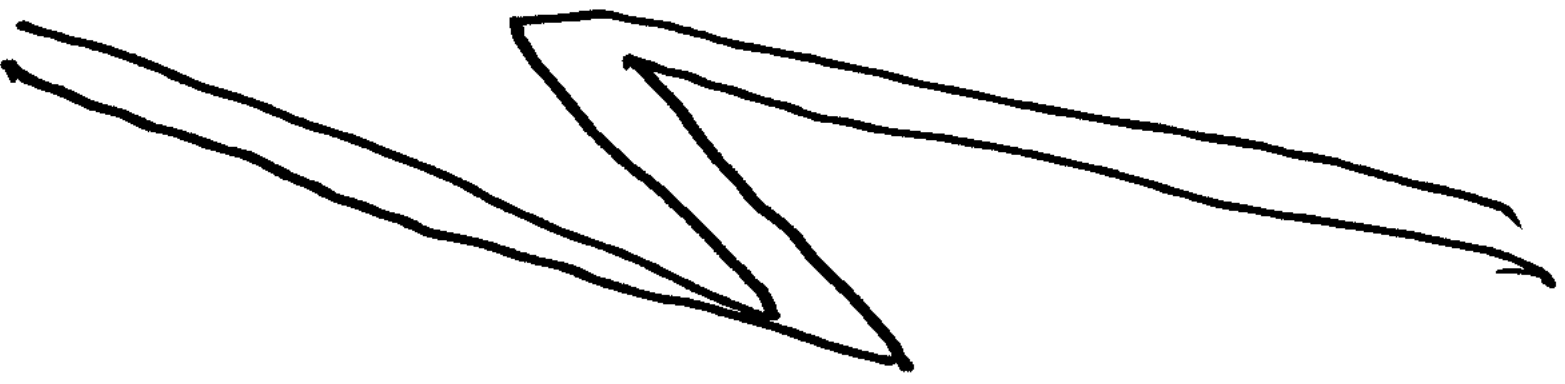


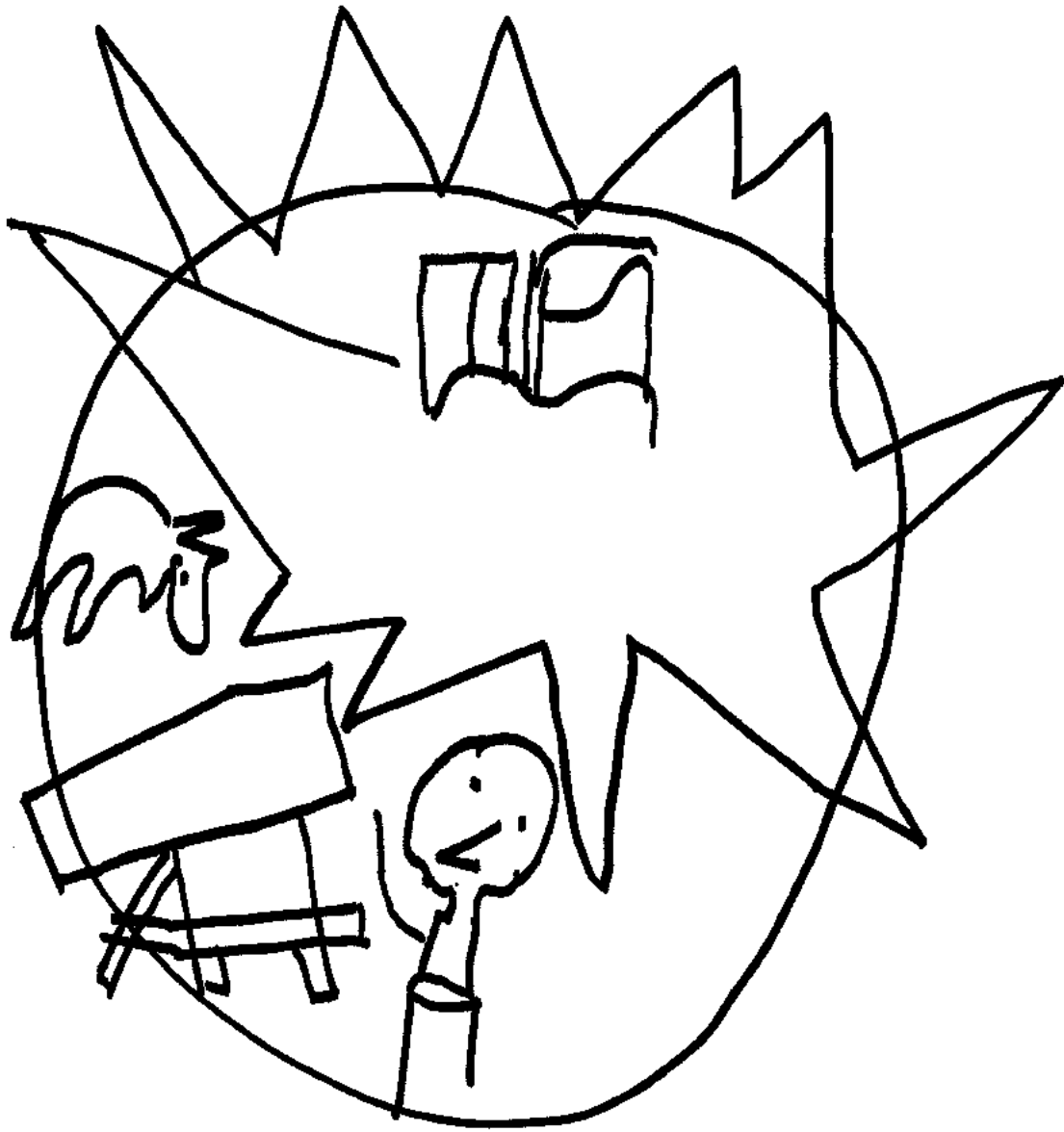
They smiled. They knew
Everything the angels had
told them was true!

Jesus, God's forever king,
had been born!



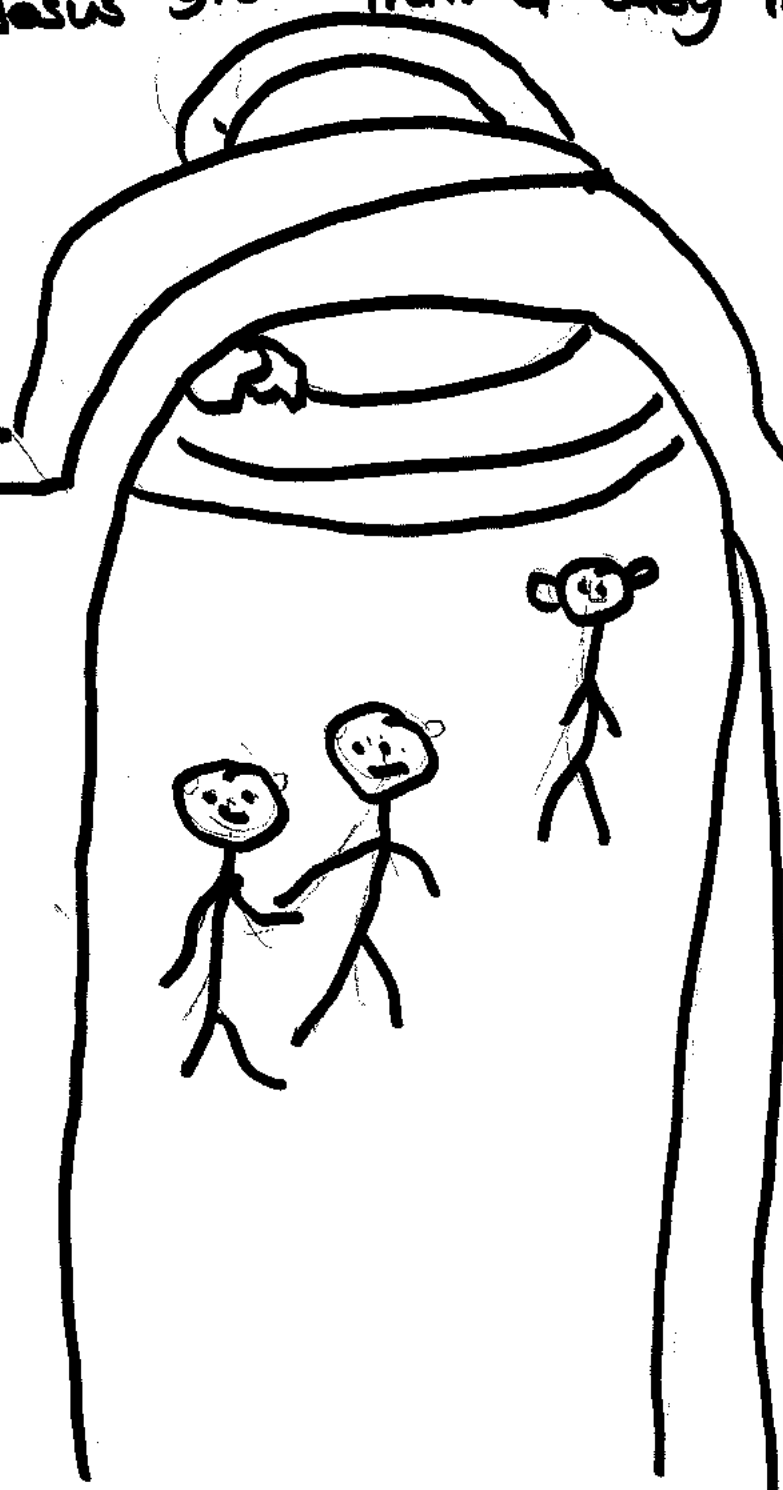








Thirty years passed,
and Jesus grew from a baby into a
man.





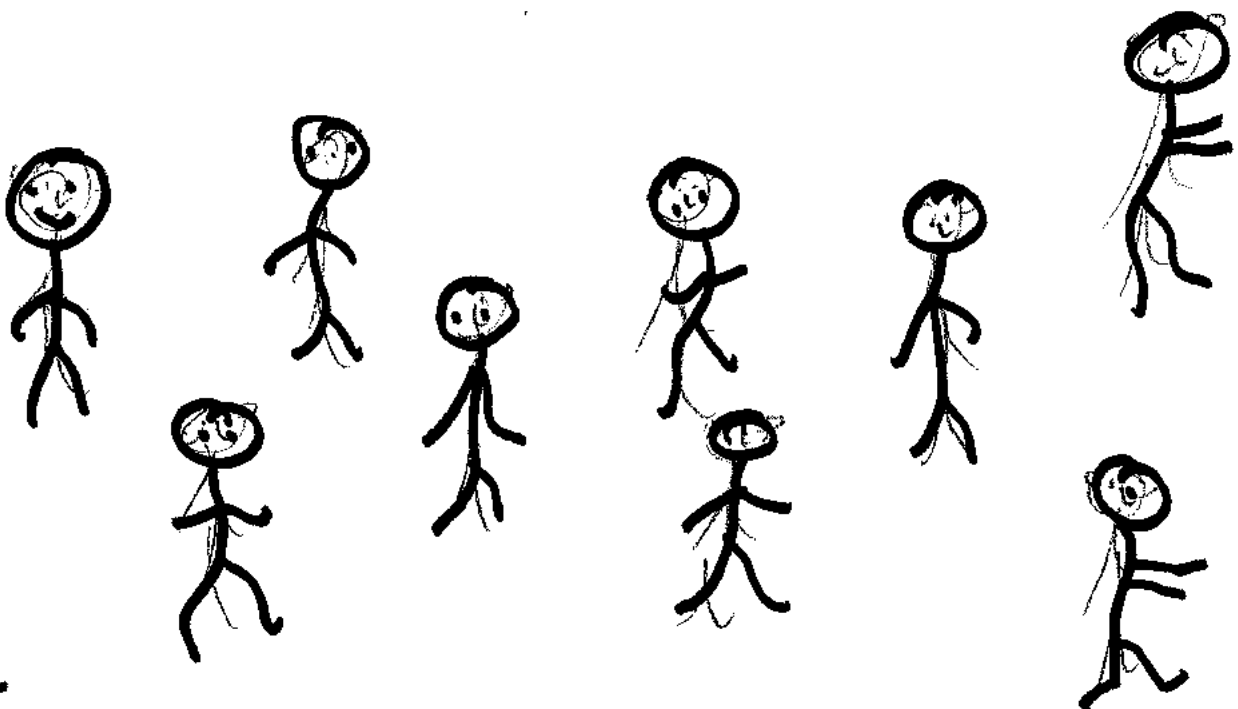
Thirty years passed
and the world still had not heard
the message the angels had sung to
the shepherds.

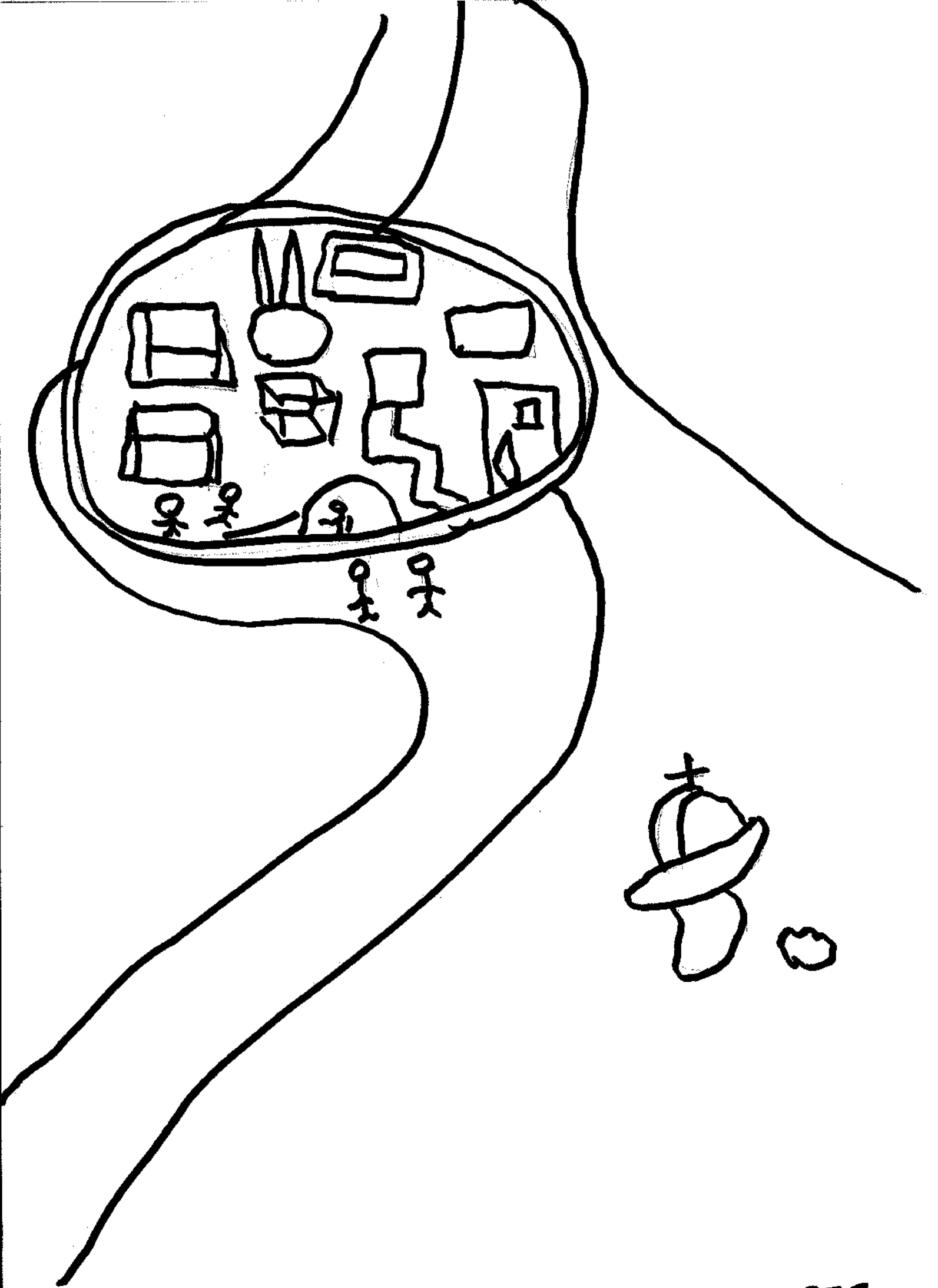
Thirty years passed
and so far no one had become a follower
of Jesus.
Do you know how God told people
they should follow his son?

God didn't use angels this time.
Instead, God used a man.

This man was already teaching
people about God's kingdom.

This man lived in the desert,
and his name was...







John did not dress like most God's people.
John did not eat like most of God people.
John did not speak like most of God's people.



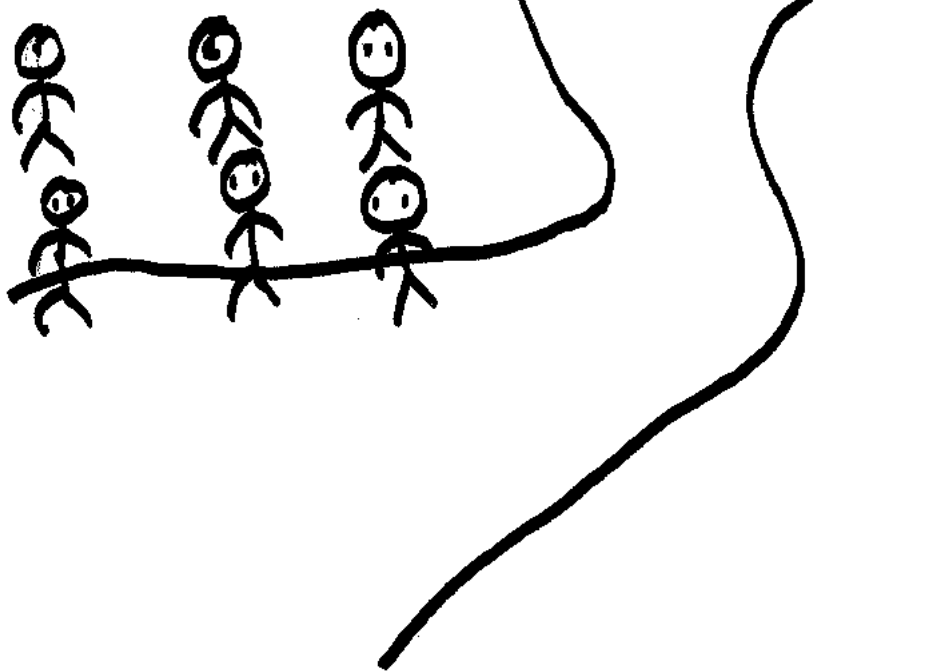
But that not keep God's people
From coming out to the desert
to listen to John



John was baptizing people
to get them ready for the coming kingdom
of God

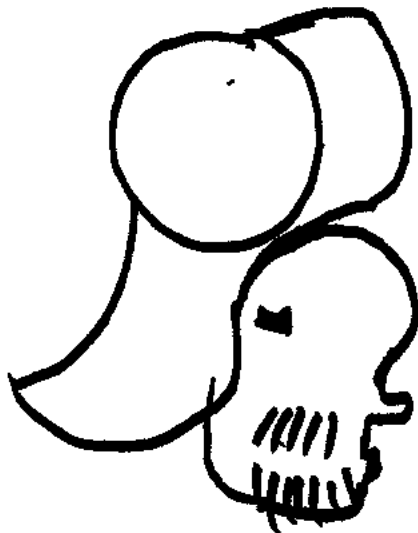
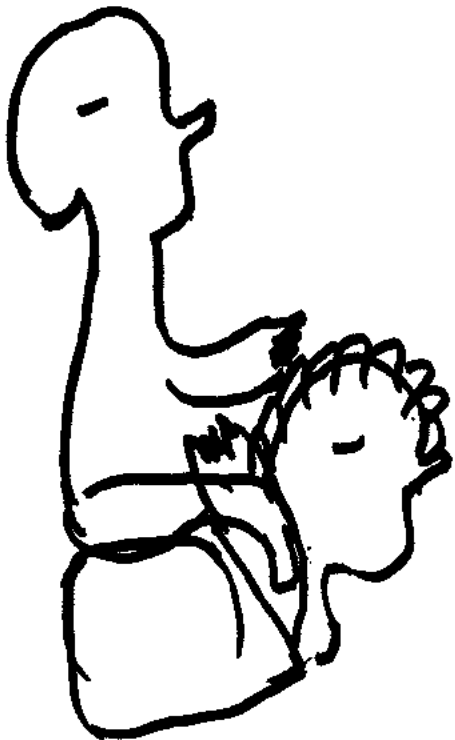
People came from the hills and valleys
They came from big cities and small towns


In fact, so many people came that
some began to wonder,
"Could John be the prophet sent to rescue us
Could John be the one to give us back God's place?
Could John be the king who will bless all the people
of the earth?"



John told them,
"No I am not the promised one.
but I am preparing the way for the King
And then one day when John was
baptizing people in the river — — —



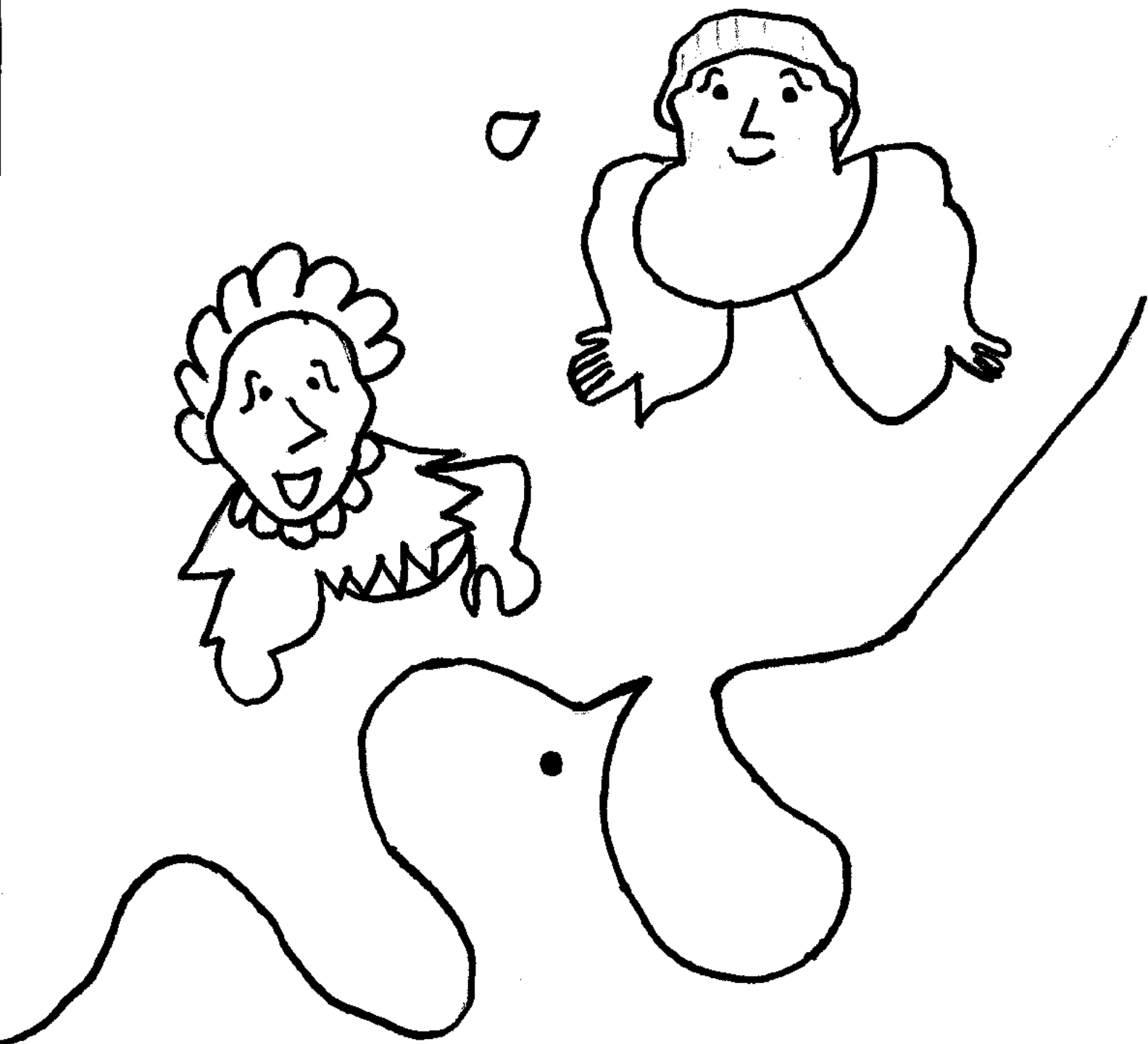




Jesus came to him and
asked to be baptized

When John baptized Jesus
a dove flew down and rested on Jesus.
A loud voice came from heaven:
"You are my beloved son;
with you I am well pleased"

John told the people
that Jesus was God's
promised King.



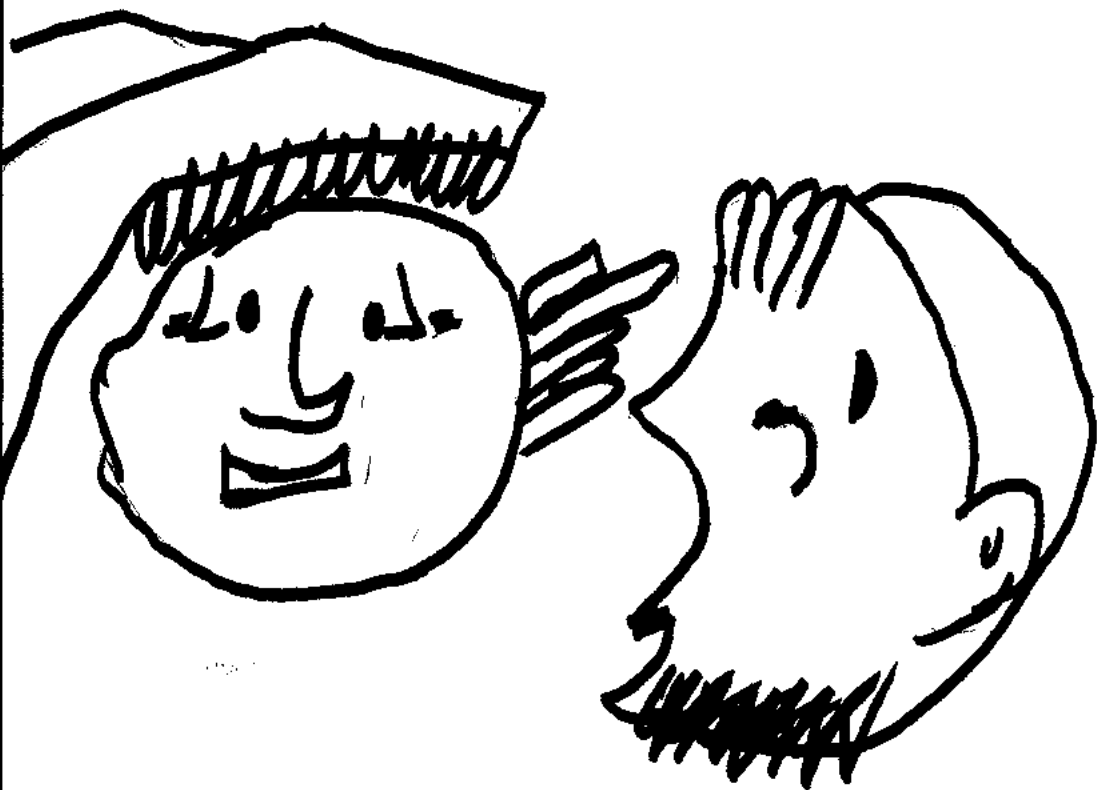
HE told them to follow JESUS
because JESUS could take away their SIN





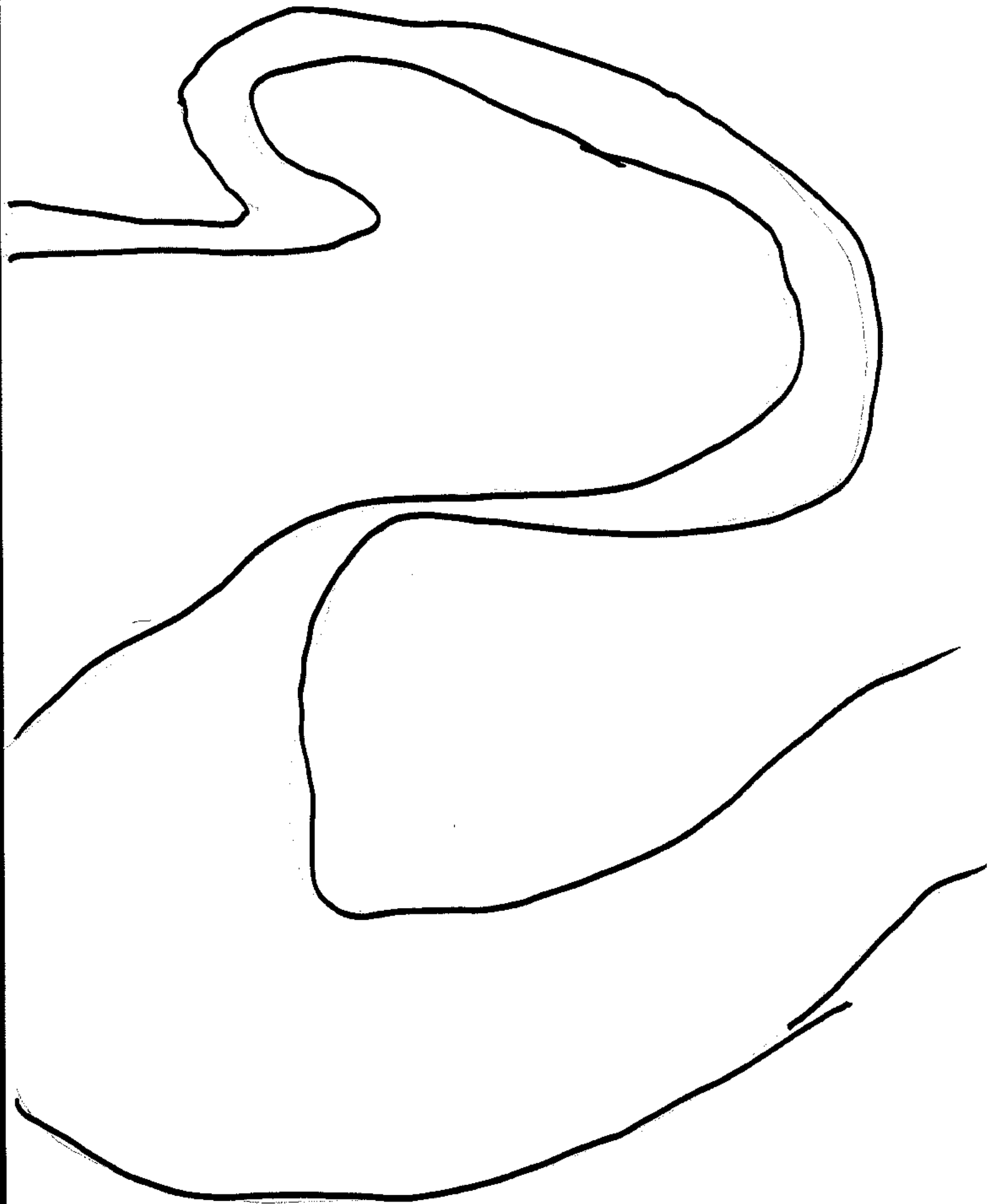
People began to listen to Jesus preach
about the Kingdom of God.
And to some he said, "Follow me."

Jesus chose ~~twelve~~ twelve
special disciples.
Do you remember Jacob's twelve sons?
Well, Jesus was beginning to call out a
new people for God.



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part 16

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One day Jesus was walking through the temple. This was the place where people went to meet with God.



This temple wasn't the one that Solomon had built
and it wasn't the one that Israel had rebuilt either.
No, those temples had been destroyed hundreds
of years before.

Herod had built this temple.

The Romans had made Herod king.

Herod was clever and tricky.

He built this place to keep God's people
happy so

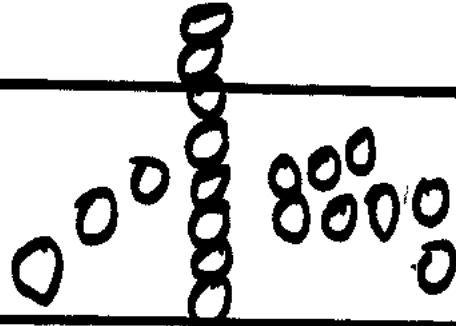
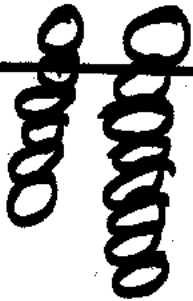
they would obey him as king.



While walking through the temple ...



Jesus saw men selling cattle
and sheep and doves



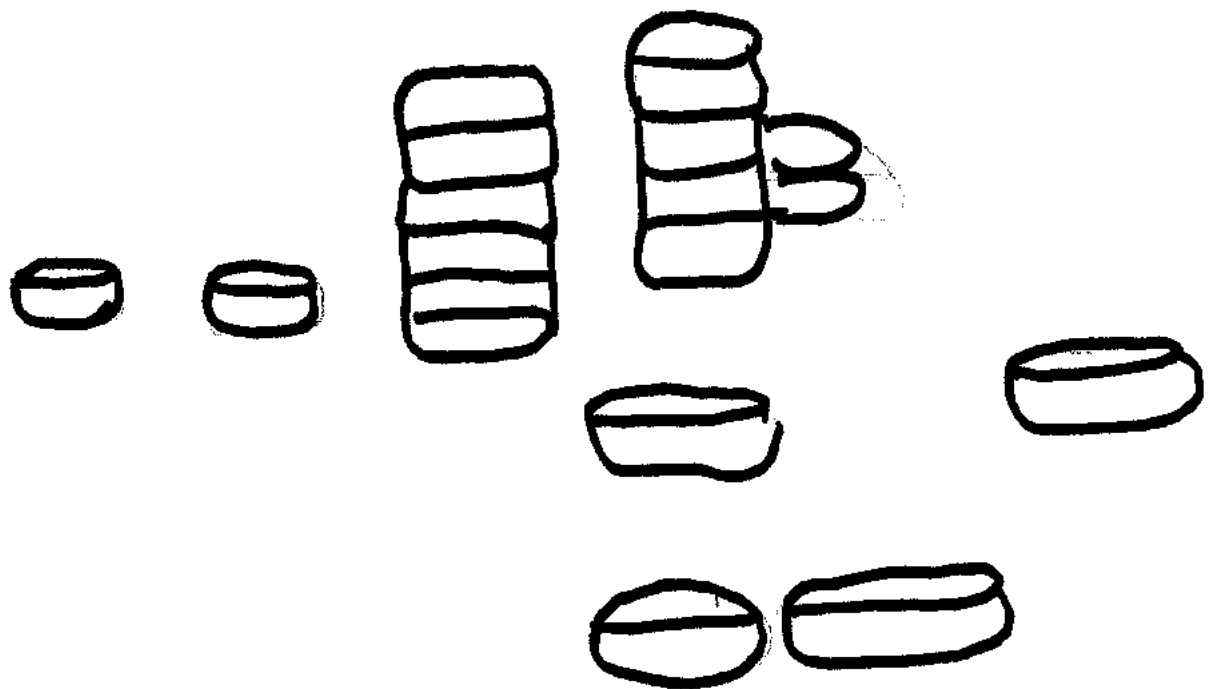
Jesus saw other greedy men sitting at
tables trading money.

Seeing all this made Jesus angry.
The temple was supposed to be a holy place.
This was the place where blood sacrifices
for sin were made.

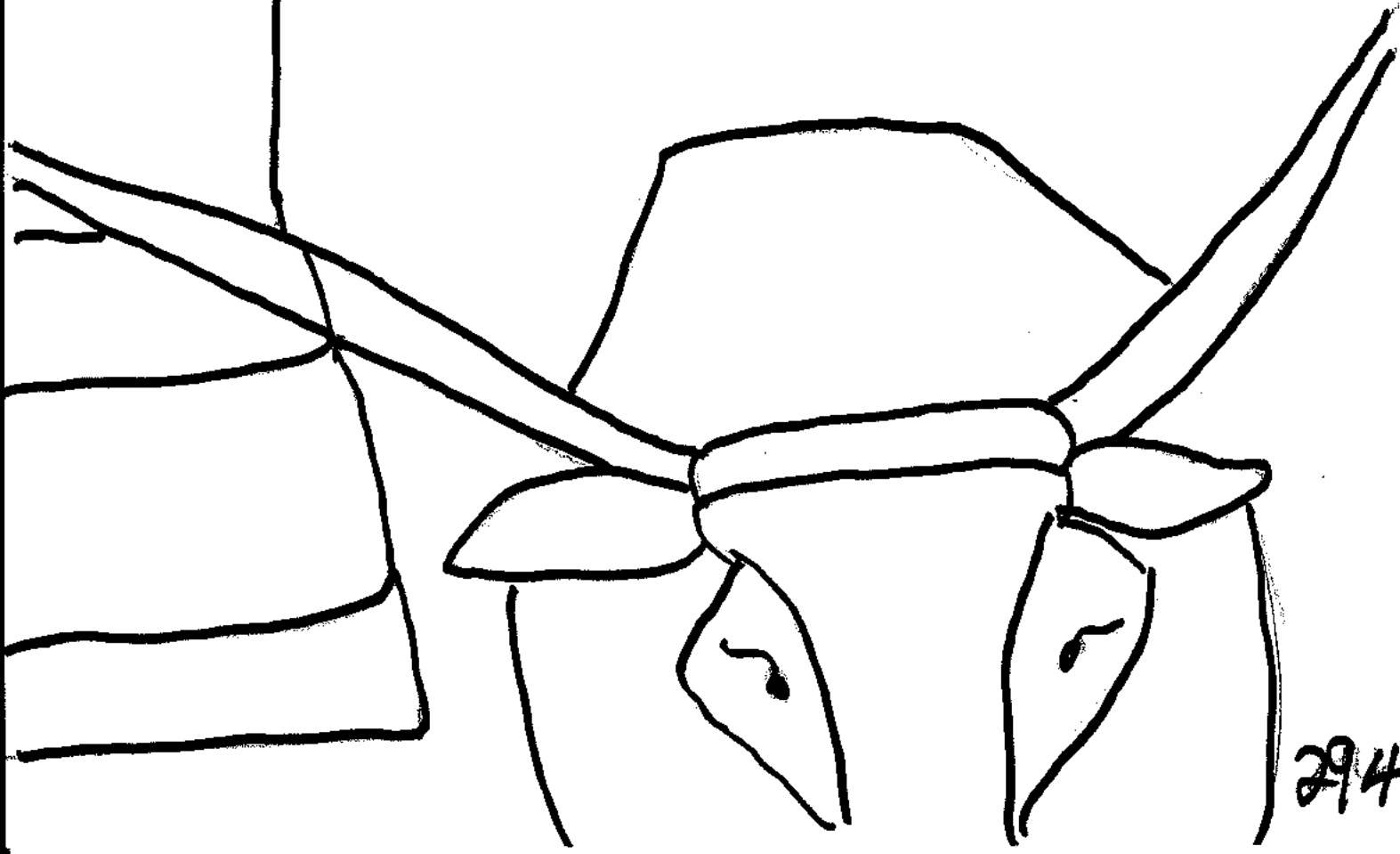
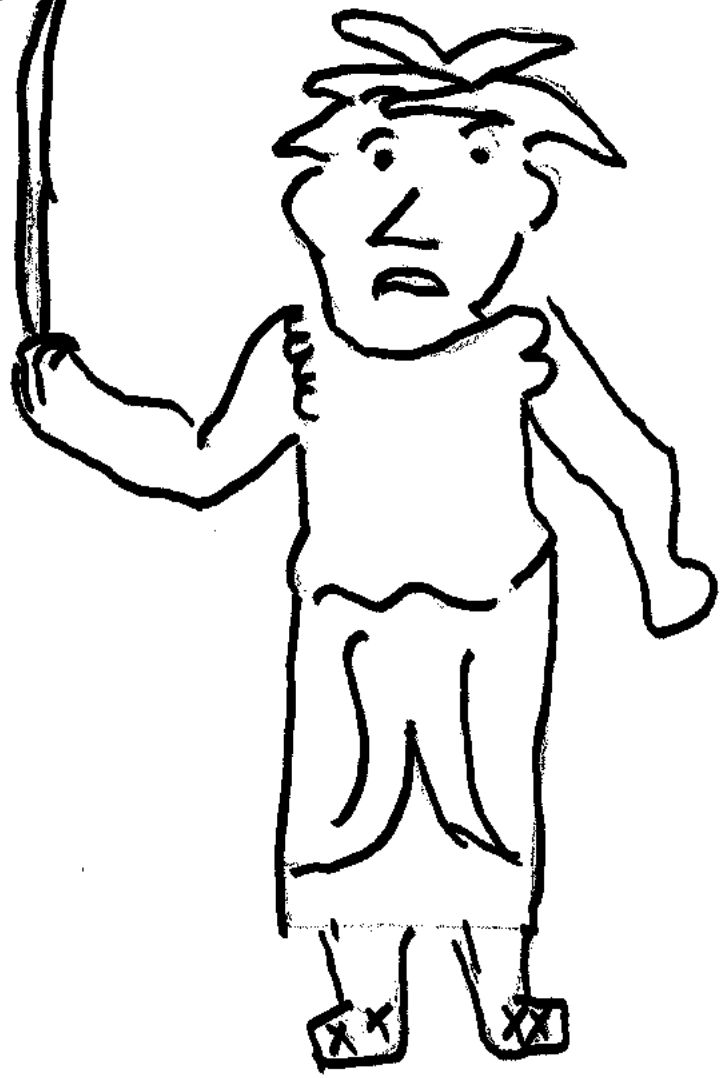




INSTEAD, THE TEMPLE HAD BECOME A WICKED PLACE.
PEOPLE CAME TO LOOK IMPORTANT
AND TO PUT LOTS OF MONEY IN THEIR OWN POCKETS.
PEOPLE WERE SINNING INSTEAD OF COMING TO BE FORGIVEN
WHAT JESUS SAW MADE HIM SO ANGRY THAT.

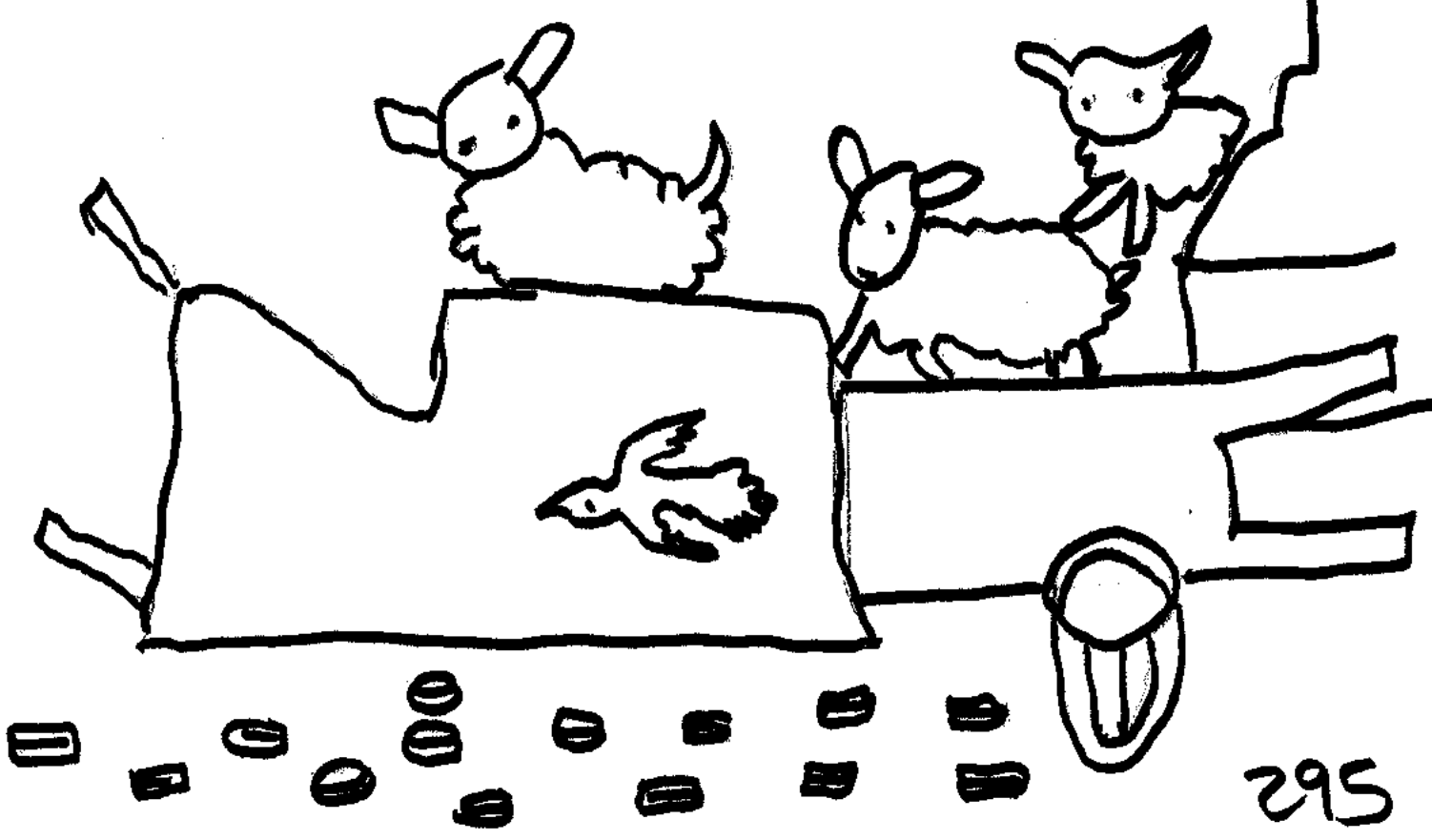


Hedd something about it



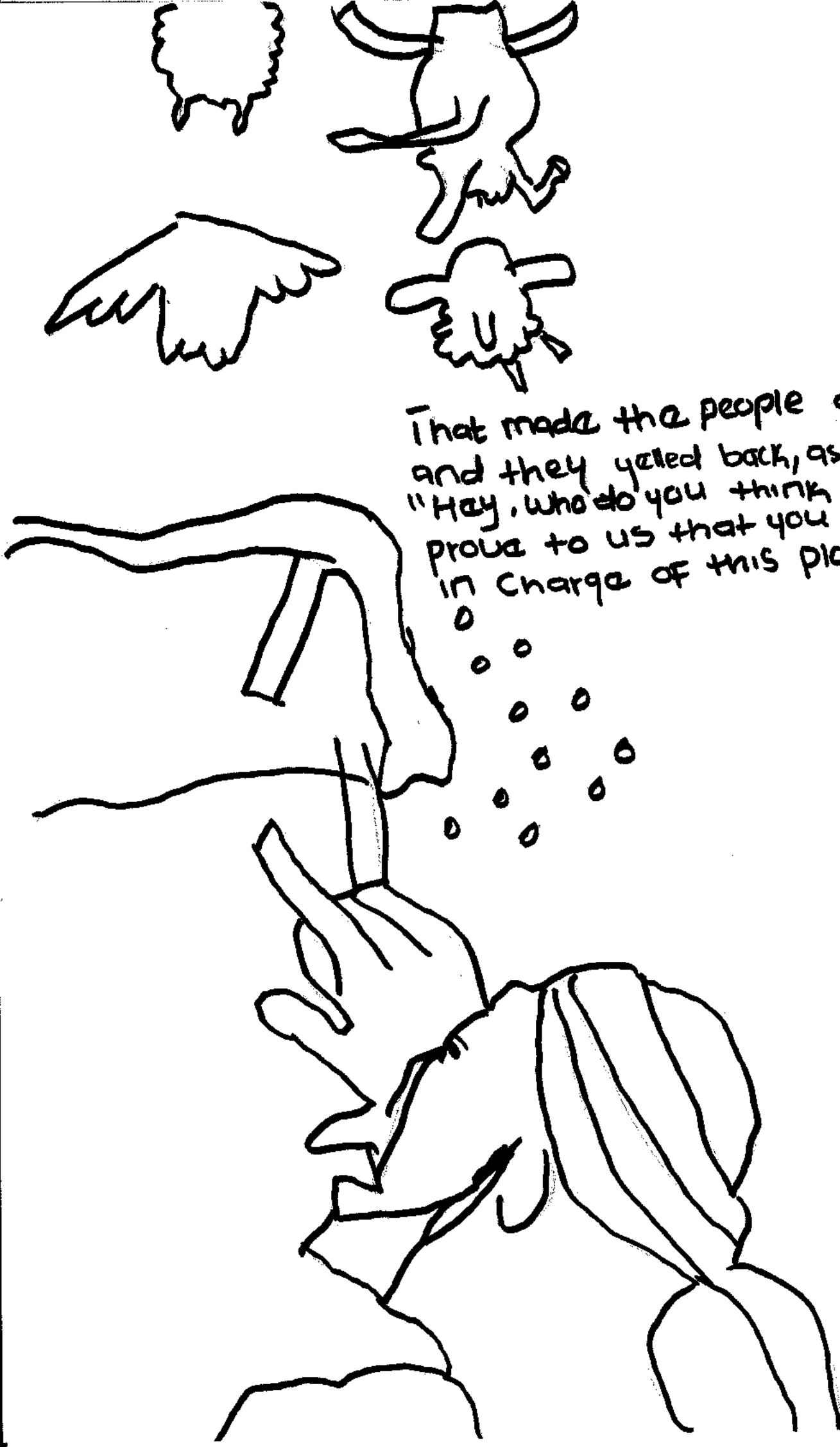


He tipped over the tables of the money
traders,
and all the coins scattered
He made a whip and drove out the sheep
and the cattle,
and all the doves scattered.
And while he was doing this



Jesus demanded :
"TAKE these things away :
do not make my father's house
a house of trade





That made the people angry,
and they yelled back, as if to say,
"Hey, who do you think you are?
prove to us that you are
in charge of this place?"



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When Jesus heard this he raised
his voice for all to hear:

"Destroy this temple,
and in three days I will raise it up."

At this . . .



Everyone got quiet

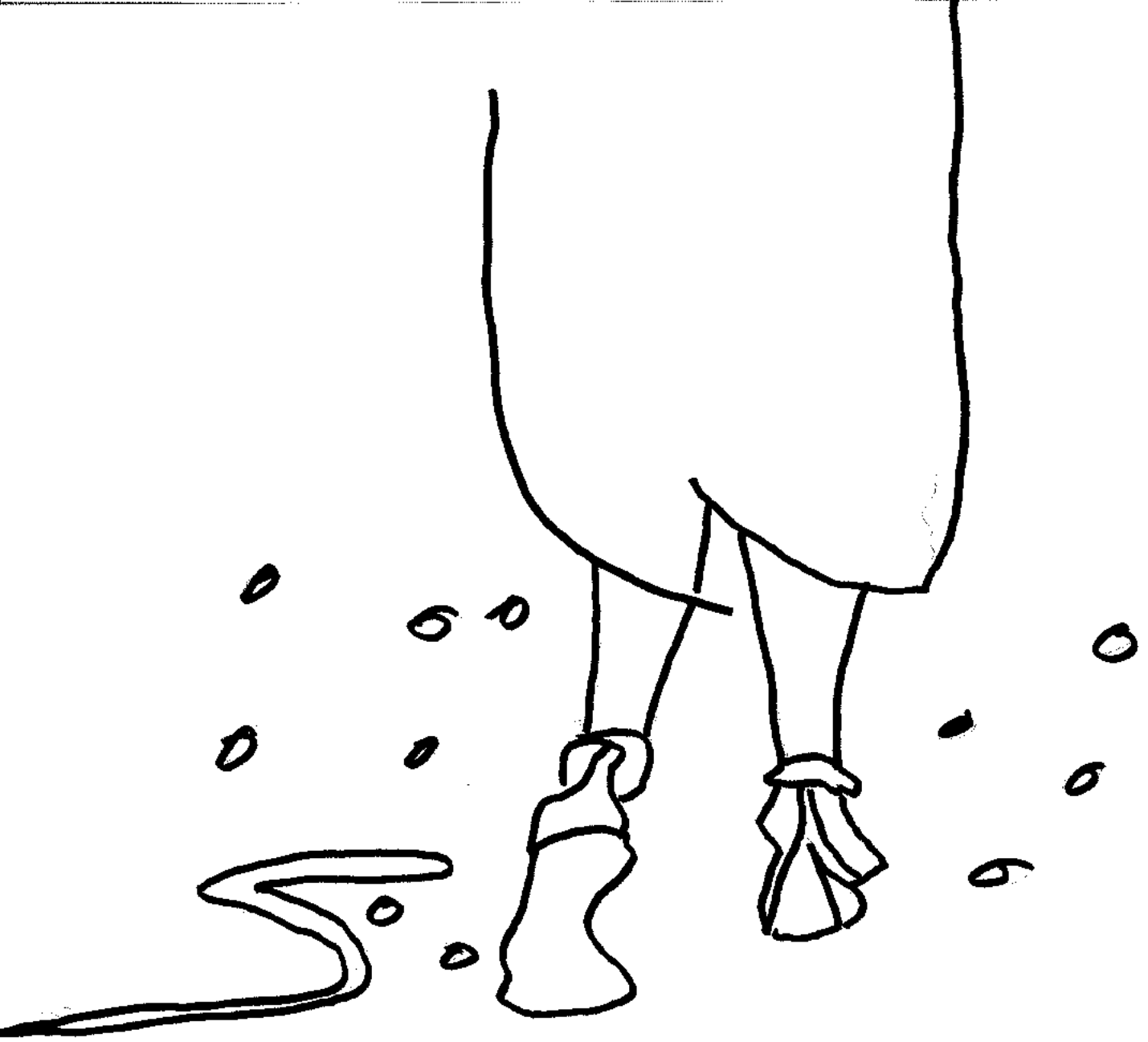


The leaders of god's place
scratched their heads;
they closed their eyes,
and they thought,
surely, this man is confused.



Finally one of them said to Jesus
" It has taken forty-six year to build
this temple,
and will you raise it up in three
days? "





Jesus didn't answer

Jesus just walked away.

He was right. The leaders did not understand

what he was saying about God's special place.



This stone temple wasn't God place anymore.

Jesus was God's special place.

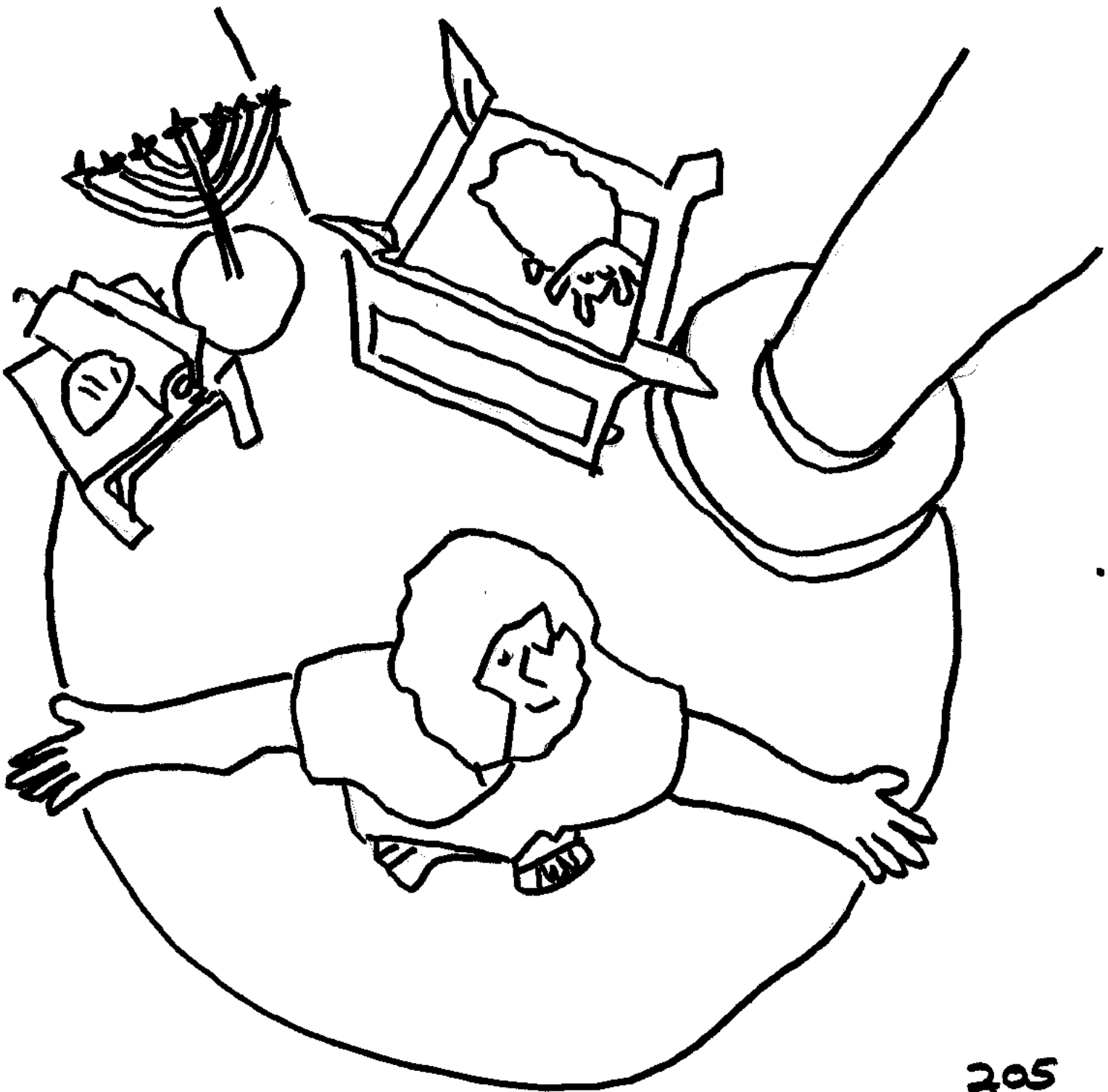
His body was God's holy temple.

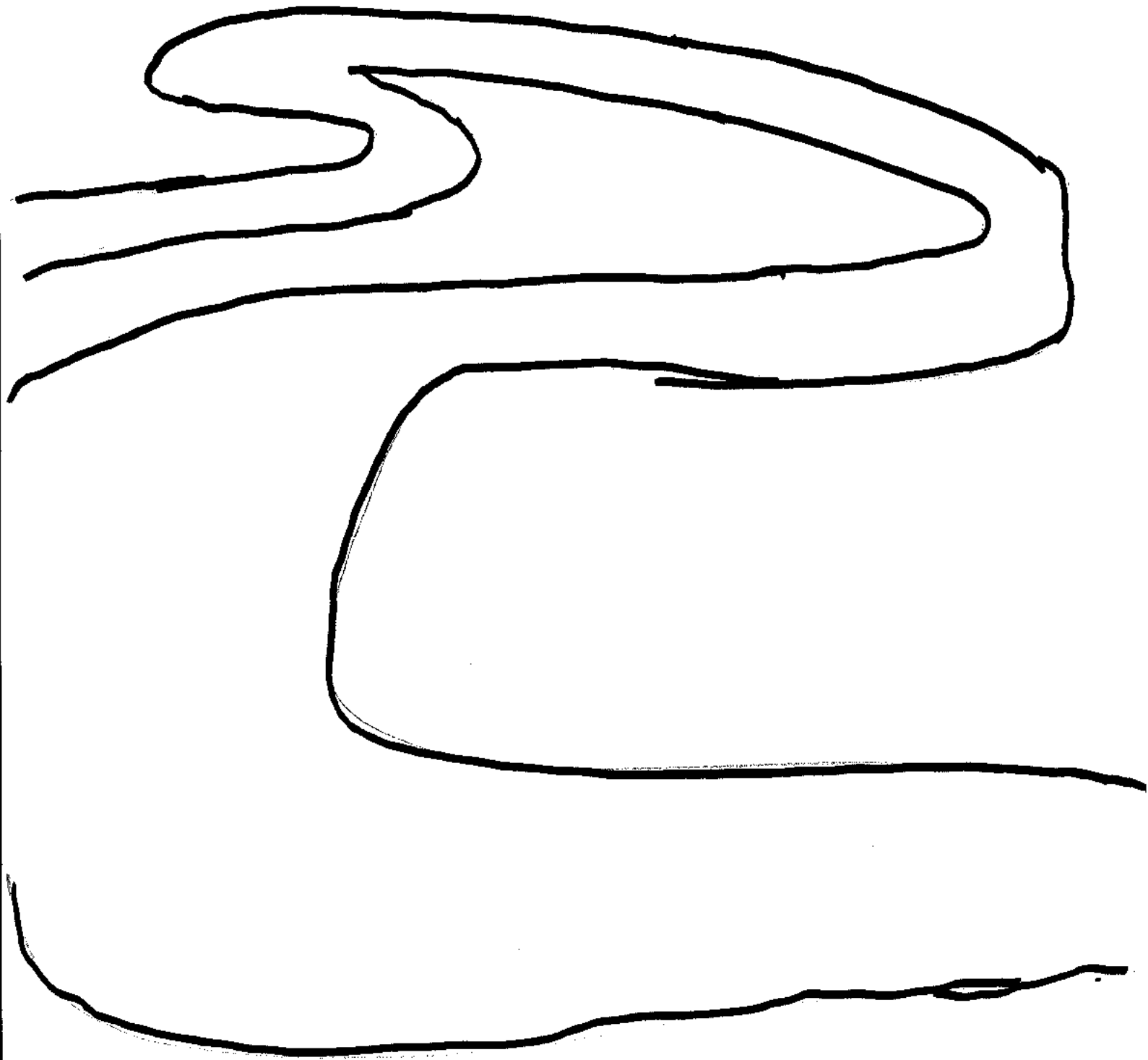
His blood would pay for sins.

He was better than the places
built by Solomon, the Israelites, or Herod.

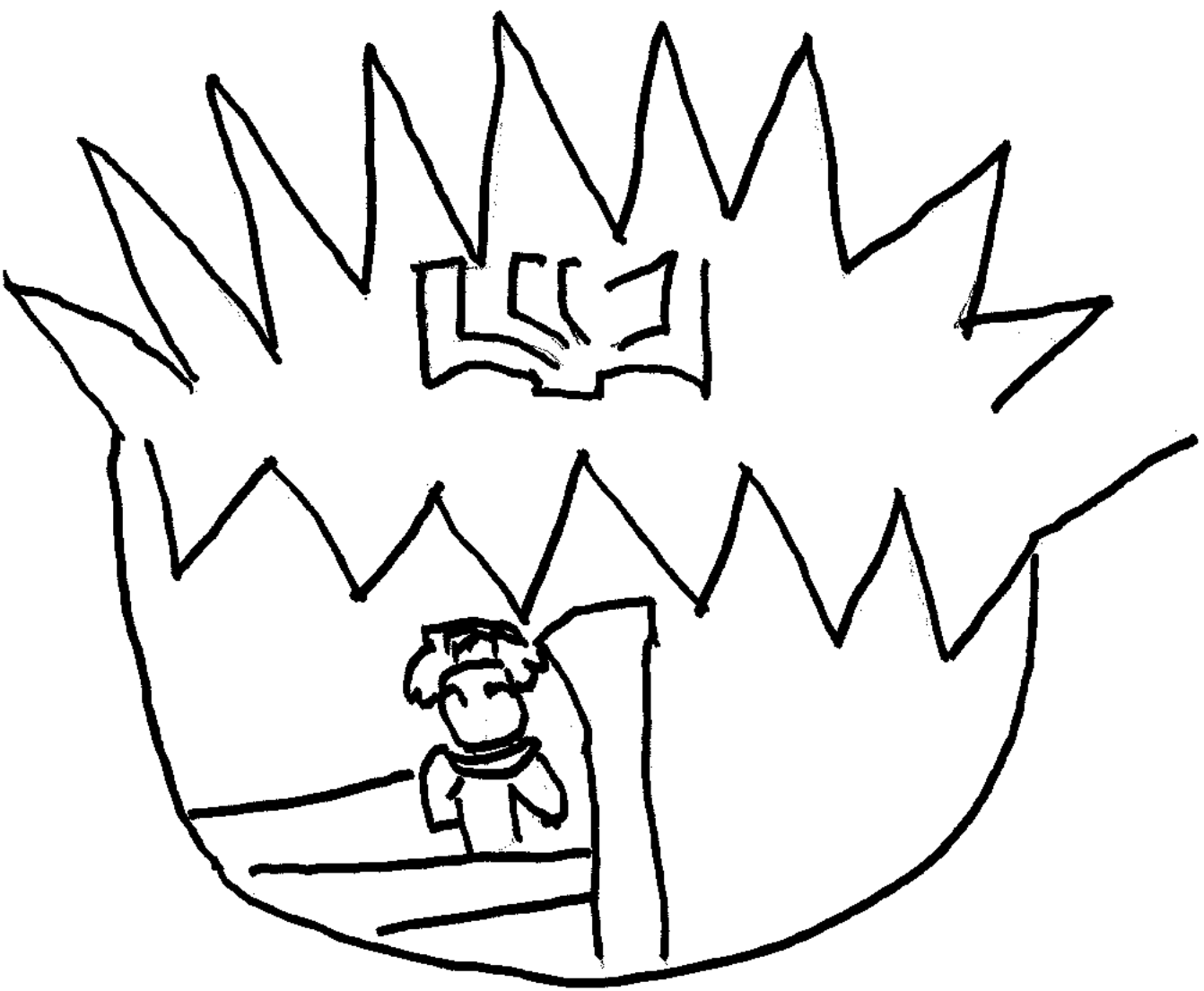
But on that day no one understood Jesus,
although there was a man who thought he
did.







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part 17



one night, long after most people were asleep,
a man walked along the streets of Jerusalem.

The man's name was Nicodemus.
Do you see him?
He was one of the leaders who liked Jesus.
But he also thought that Jesus was
mistaken.





He knew what Jesus had done in the temple
And he wanted to remind Jesus that the temple was an important place in God's Kingdom.

At last he found the home where Jesus was staying.



Jesus and nicodemus
sat down to talk





Nicodemus began,
"We know that you are a
teacher come from God,
for no one can do these
signs that you do unless
God is with him"

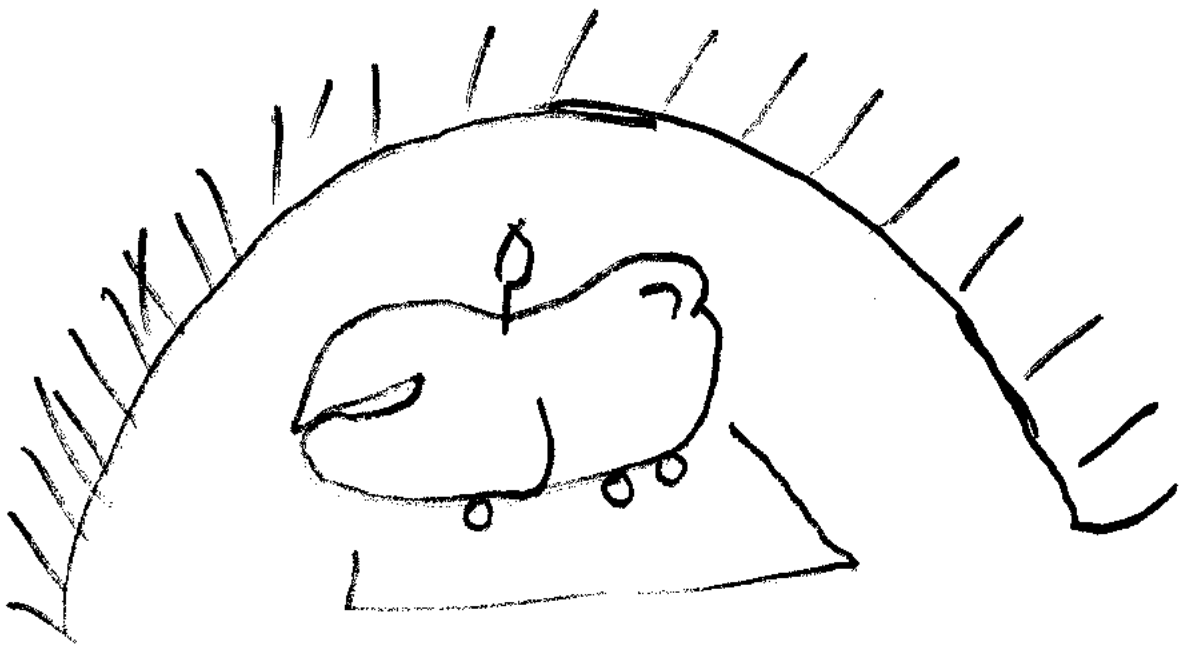
Jesus replied
unless one is born again
he cannot see the
kingdom of God"



Nicodemus was surprised
"How can a man be born when he is old?
Can he enter a second time
into his mother's womb and born?"

Then Jesus told Nicodemus that no one can enter
the Kingdom of God unless he is born again.

Nicodemus did not understand.





Couldn't he see the Kingdom of God
without being born again?
After all, he could see the temple.
Wasn't that a sign of God's Kingdom?

Couldn't he enter the Kingdom
without being born again?
After all he was in in Abraham's family line.
Wasn't that a sign that he had already entered
the Kingdom of God when he was born?



Jesus hinted from god's holy book
about god's spirit who brings new life.
He tried to help nicodemus understand)



Jesus explained
that nicodemus had not been
born into god's kingdom.
Instead, god's kingdom had to be born in him.
But, sad to say, nicodemus, a teacher of
god's holy book, did not yet understand.

(LW)

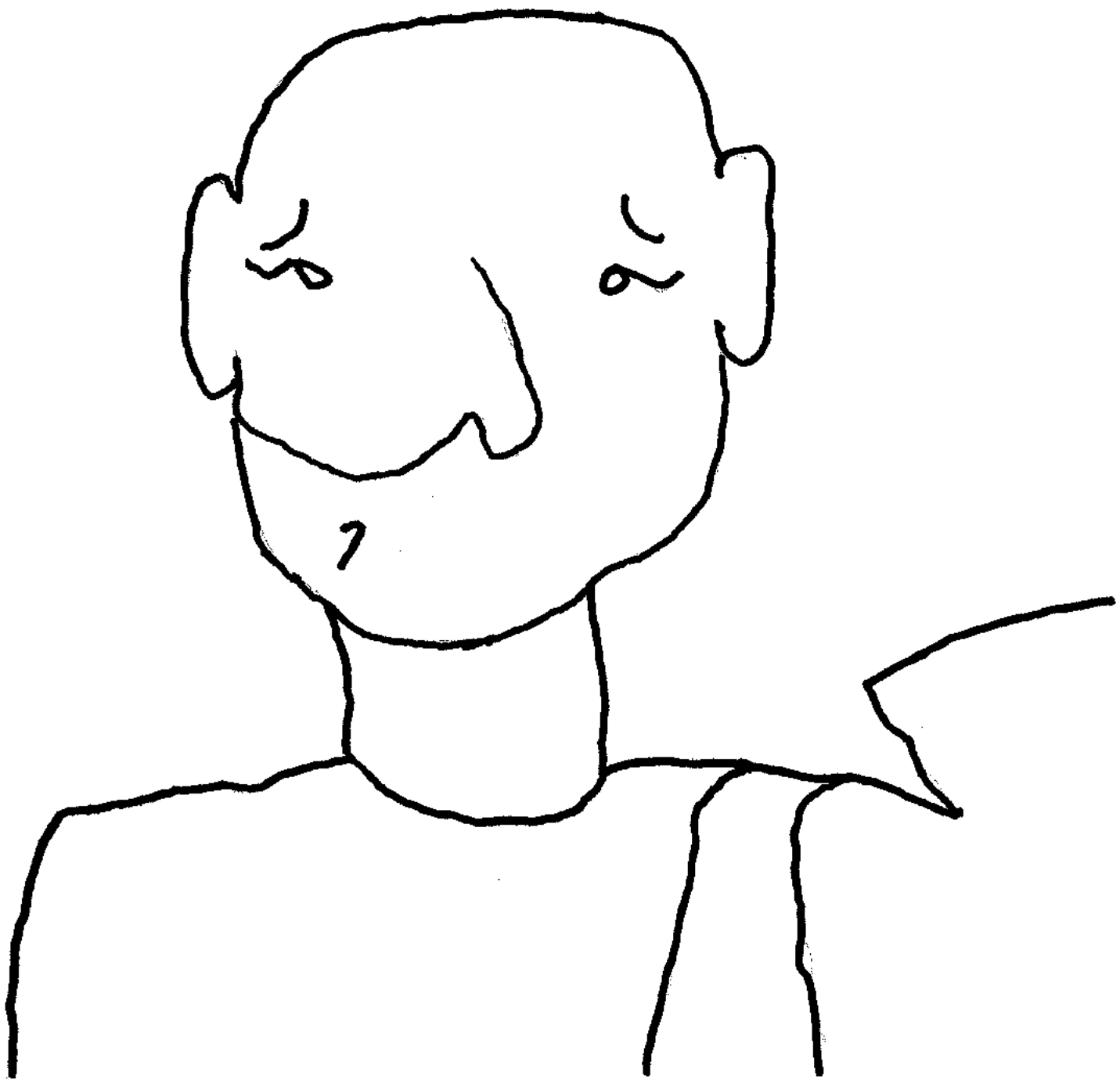
(LW)



He went out again into the dark night confused
But some would understand.

Others would not take so long to believe
that Jesus was sent from God.

Others would see and be born again





Part 18

One day as Jesus walked along,
he saw a man blind from birth -
a man who could not see





Jesus' disciples asked him
who had disobeyed God,
"... this man or his parents,
that he was born blind?"



Jesus said there was a different reason why this man born blind.
Jesus told them to watch and see the work God had sent him to do.



So the disciples watched as.....





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Jesus walked over the blind man and spat upon the ground.

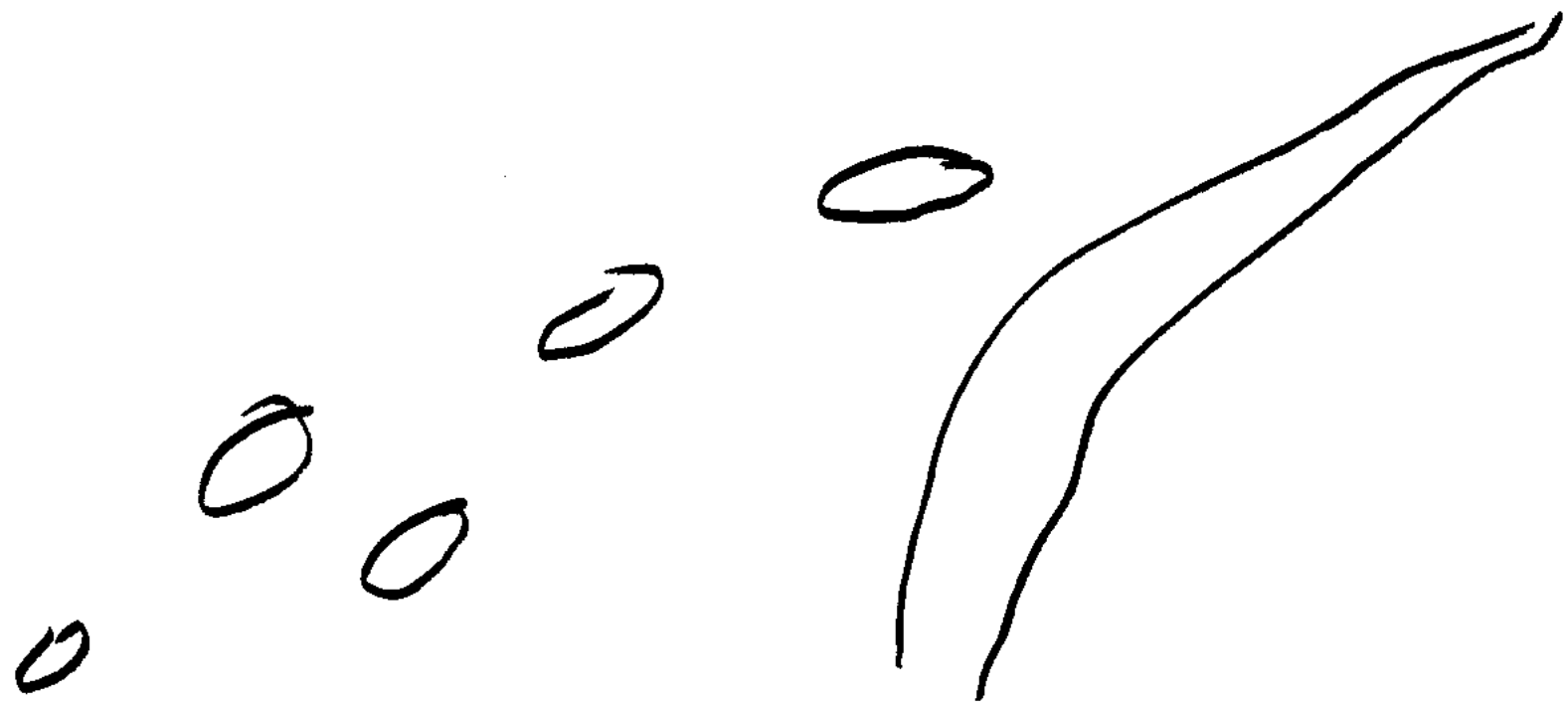
He made some mud with the spit and put it on the blind man's eyes.

Then Jesus said,

"Go, wash in the pool of Siloam"
(which means sent).

So the man went.

And the man washed.



When the man opened his eyes.
again, he could see!

By this miracle God showed
everyone that Jesus had been
sent to do God's work.





Now some of the leaders
listened to the man's story,
but they did not believe that Jesus
had made him see.

They said of Jesus,
"This man is not from God!"

But the man who had been blind knew
better.

He told them that Jesus must have
come from God.

This made the leaders so angry that.....

They threw the man out
of the temple.

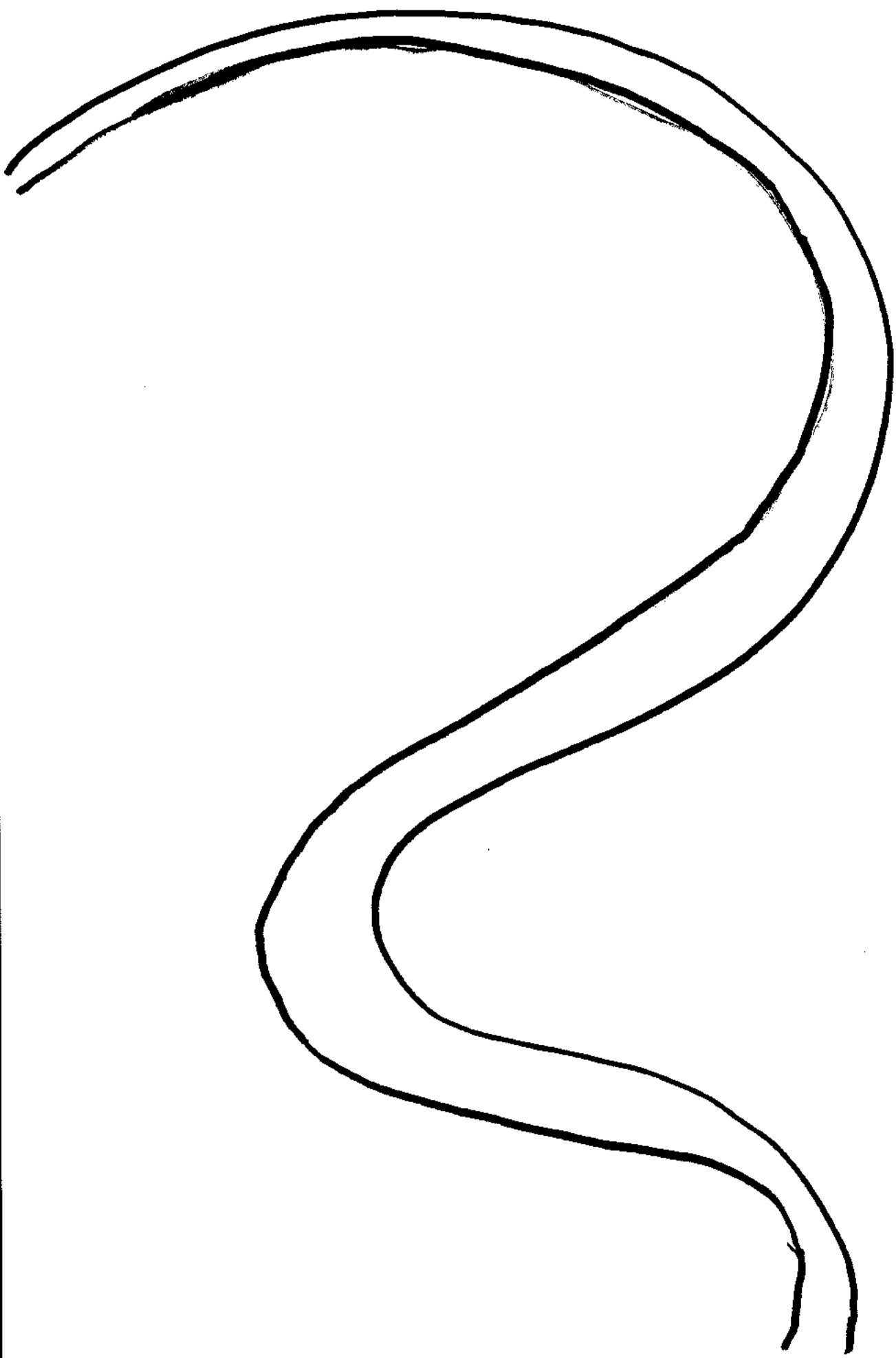
Later Jesus found the man.

Jesus told him that God had sent
him into the world

to make people see that he could
rescue them from sin.

The man now saw who Jesus
really was, and he believed.







A man named Lazarus was
very sick.

His sister, Mary and Martha,
knew that he was dying.

They wanted Jesus to come
and heal Lazarus.

So they sent for Jesus.





Jesus loved his friends, but when he heard Lazarus was sick, he did a surprising thing. He stayed where he was. He did not come right away.

Jesus knew God was going to use him to do something amazing. Jesus was going to show God's power over death.

So Jesus waited until Lazarus died, and then he went to be with his friends.



By the time Jesus got there,
Lazarus had been in a tomb
for four days.



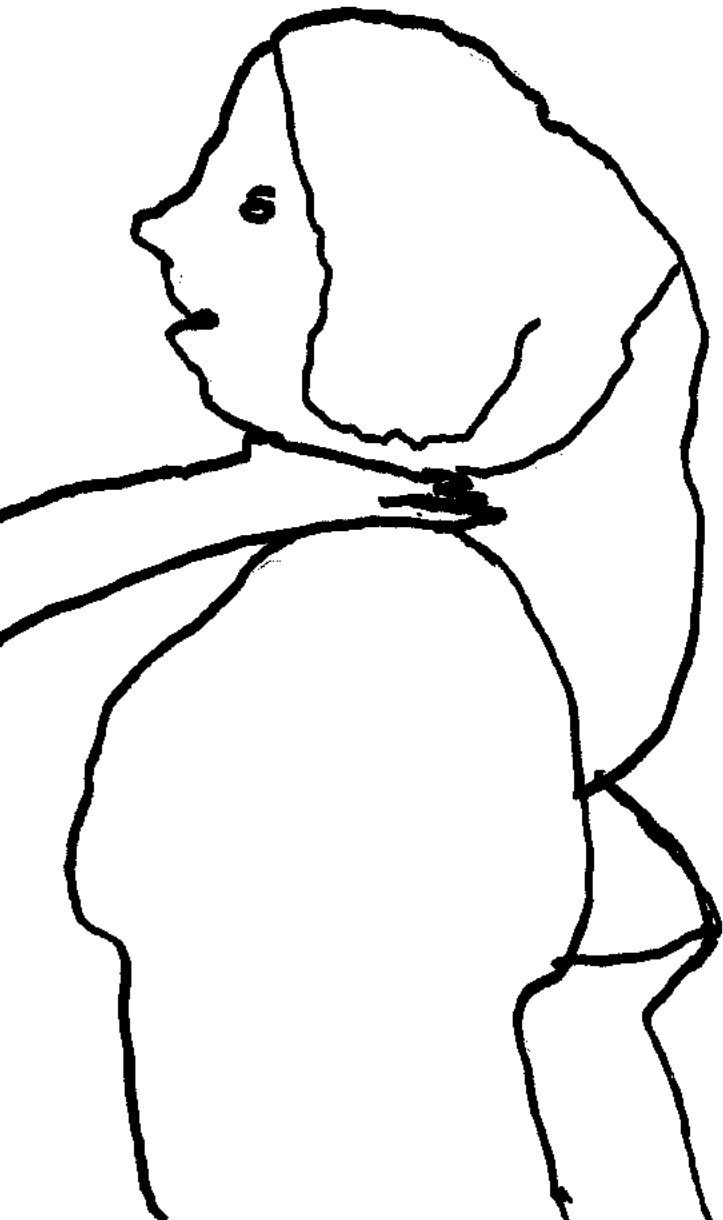
Marthamet him and said
"Lord, if you had been here,
my brother would
not have died

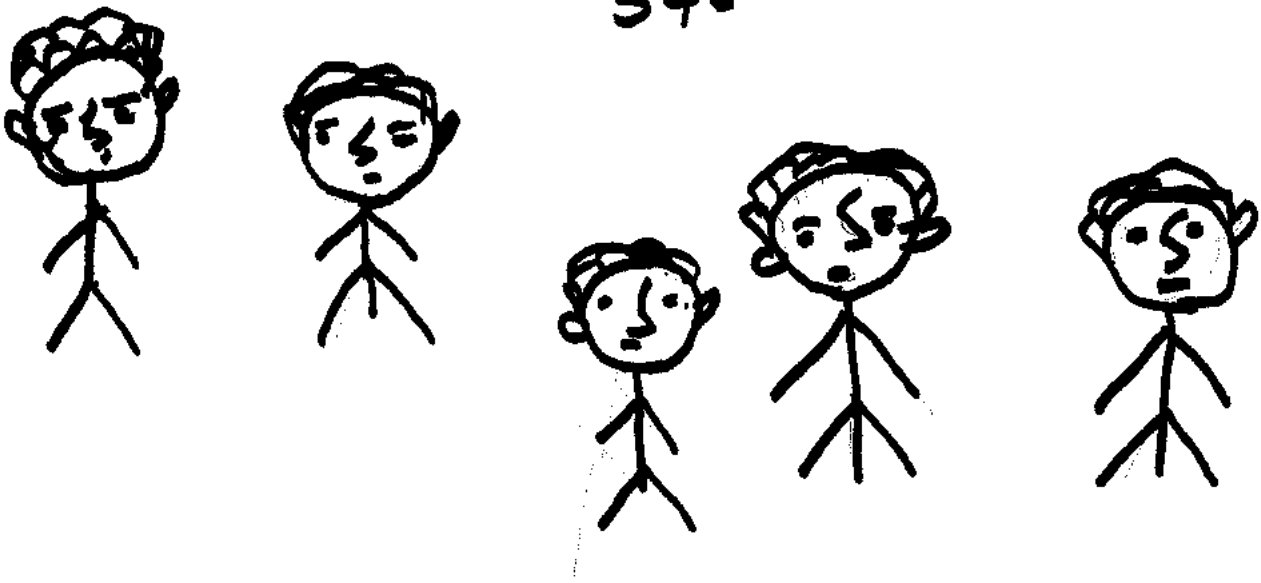


Jesus replied
"your brother will rise again....
I am the resurrection and the life...
Whoever believes in me, though
he die, yet shall he live...
Do you believe this?"



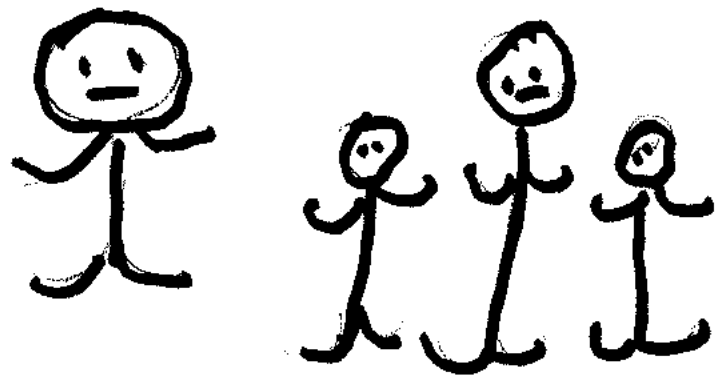
Martha said yes.
She believed that Jesus
was God's King and Son
Who was sent to
bring life to the world.

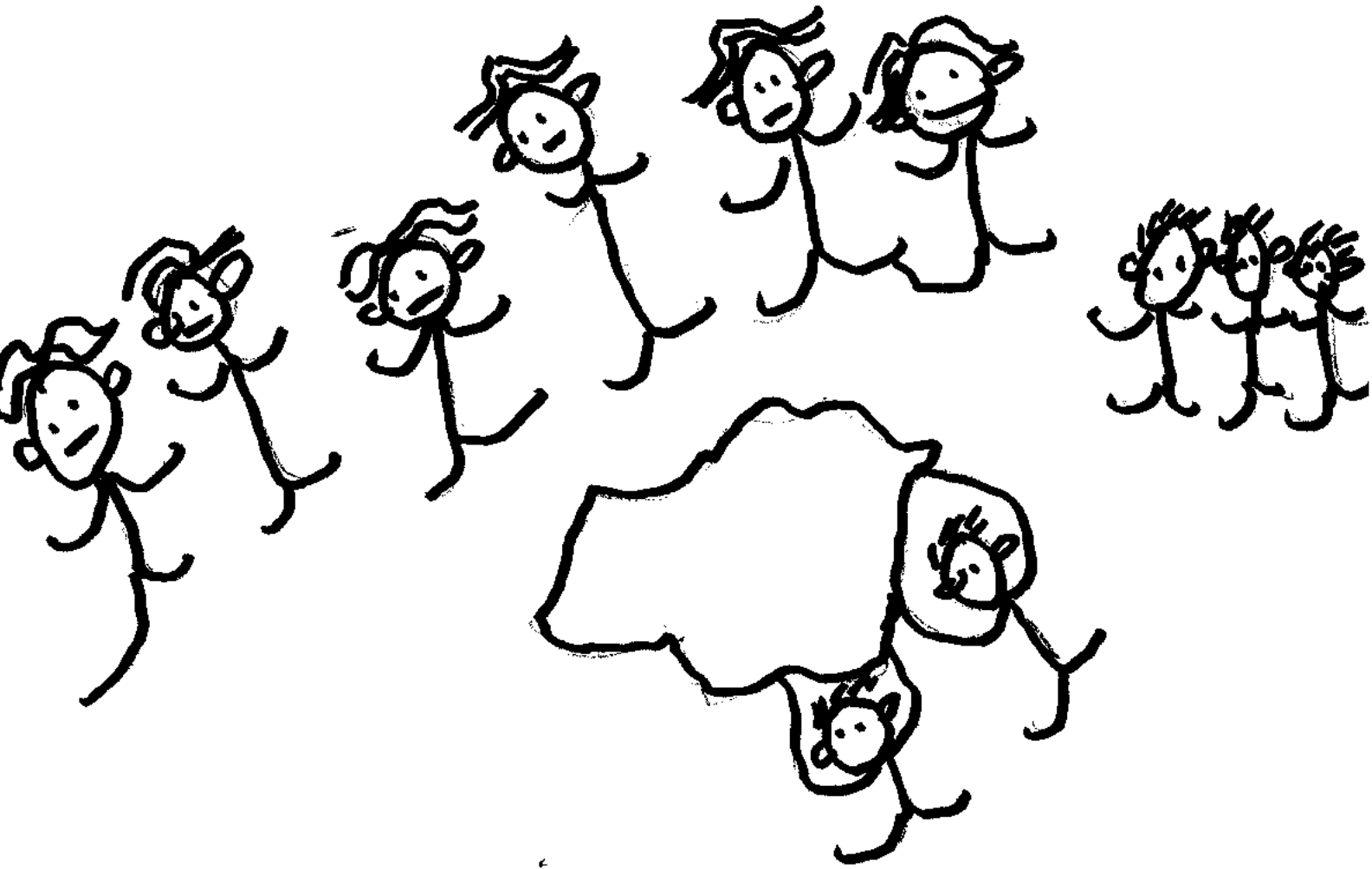




Then mary came to see jesus,
and jesus saw her crying.
He went with mary to the tomb.
And then jesus cried too.

Some who were saw jesus and said,
"Could not he who opened the eyes of
the blind man
also have kept this man from dying?"





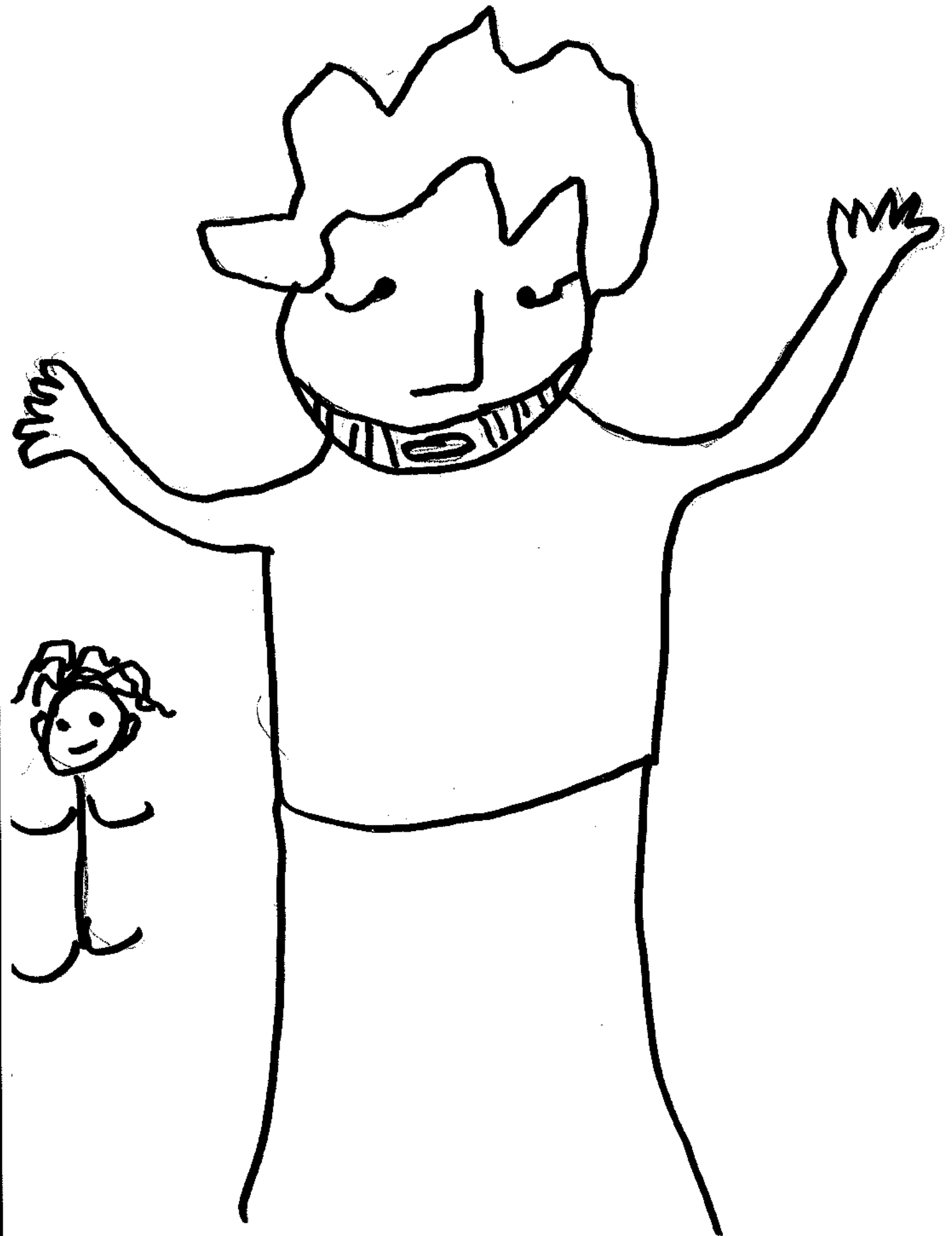
They did not know that Jesus was getting ready to show them that God had sent him to rescue people from sin and death.

Jesus told them to open the tomb. Only then did Jesus step forward and pray,

"Father, I thank you that you have heard me....."

I said this.... that they may believe that you sent me".

Page 350

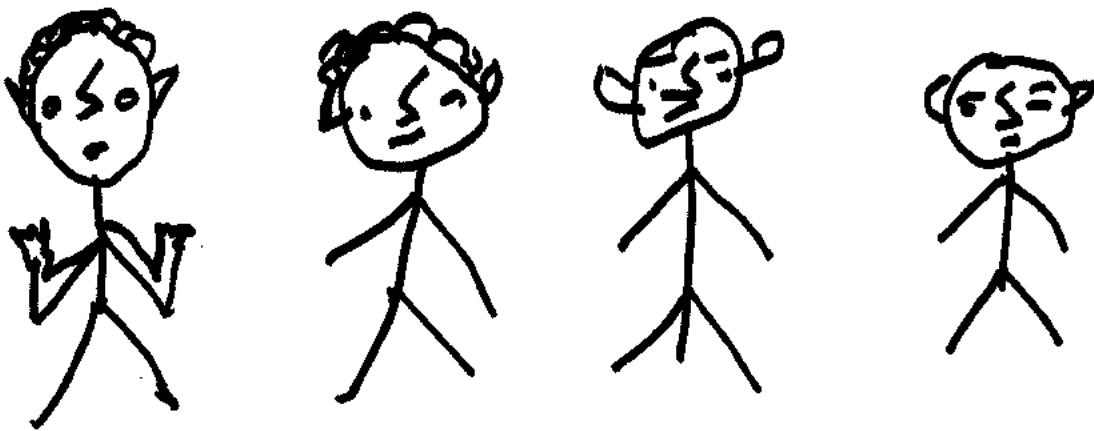


Then in a really loud voice,
Jesus shouted, "Lazarus,
come out!"

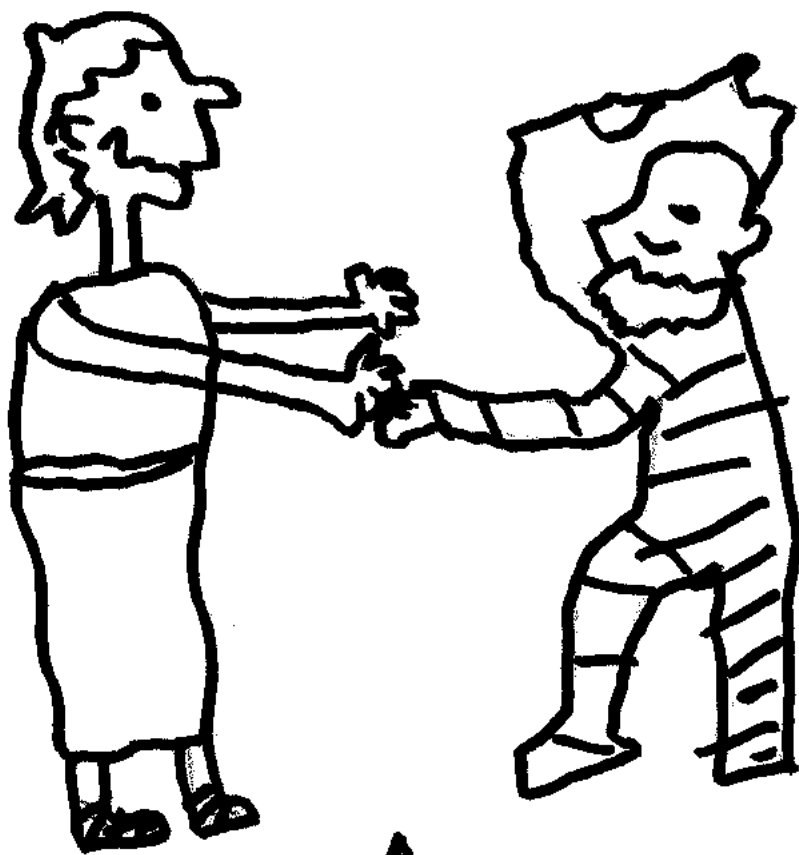
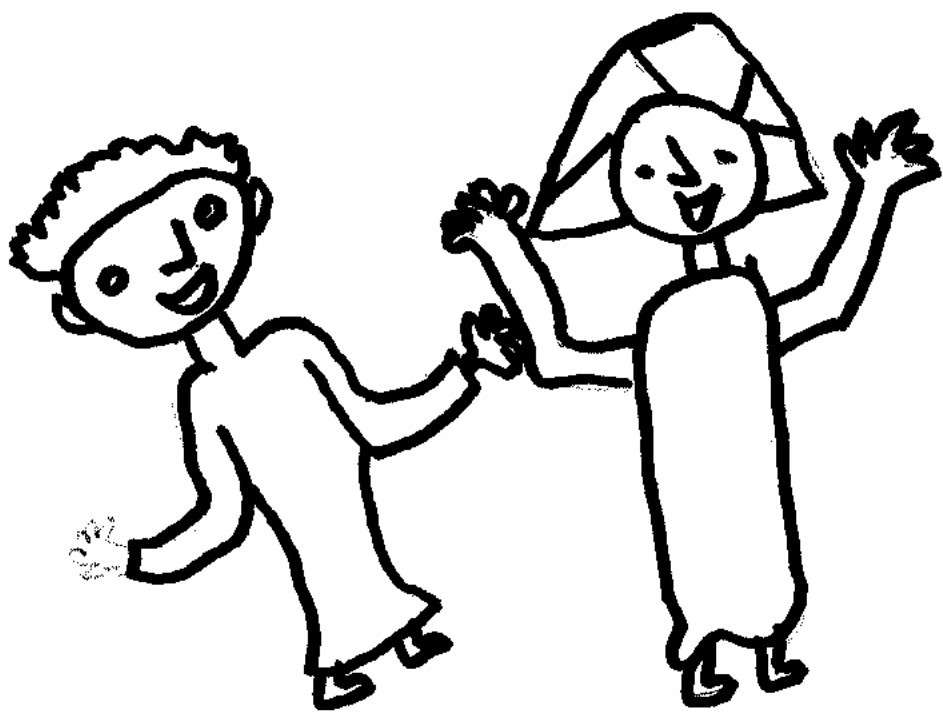


And do you know
What happened?

God answer jesus' prayer!



Lazarus came out. He was alive.
And dead was now alive again.
Jesus showed the people that God's
spirit had power to bring new life.





many people believed
in Jesus on that day.



They believed:

Here is the one who will rescue God's people.

Here is the one who has become God's place.

Here is the one who even rules over death and can bring God's blessing to all the people of the earth.



The people were ready to make Jesus their King!

But that made the leaders
angry.

They were jealous of Jesus.

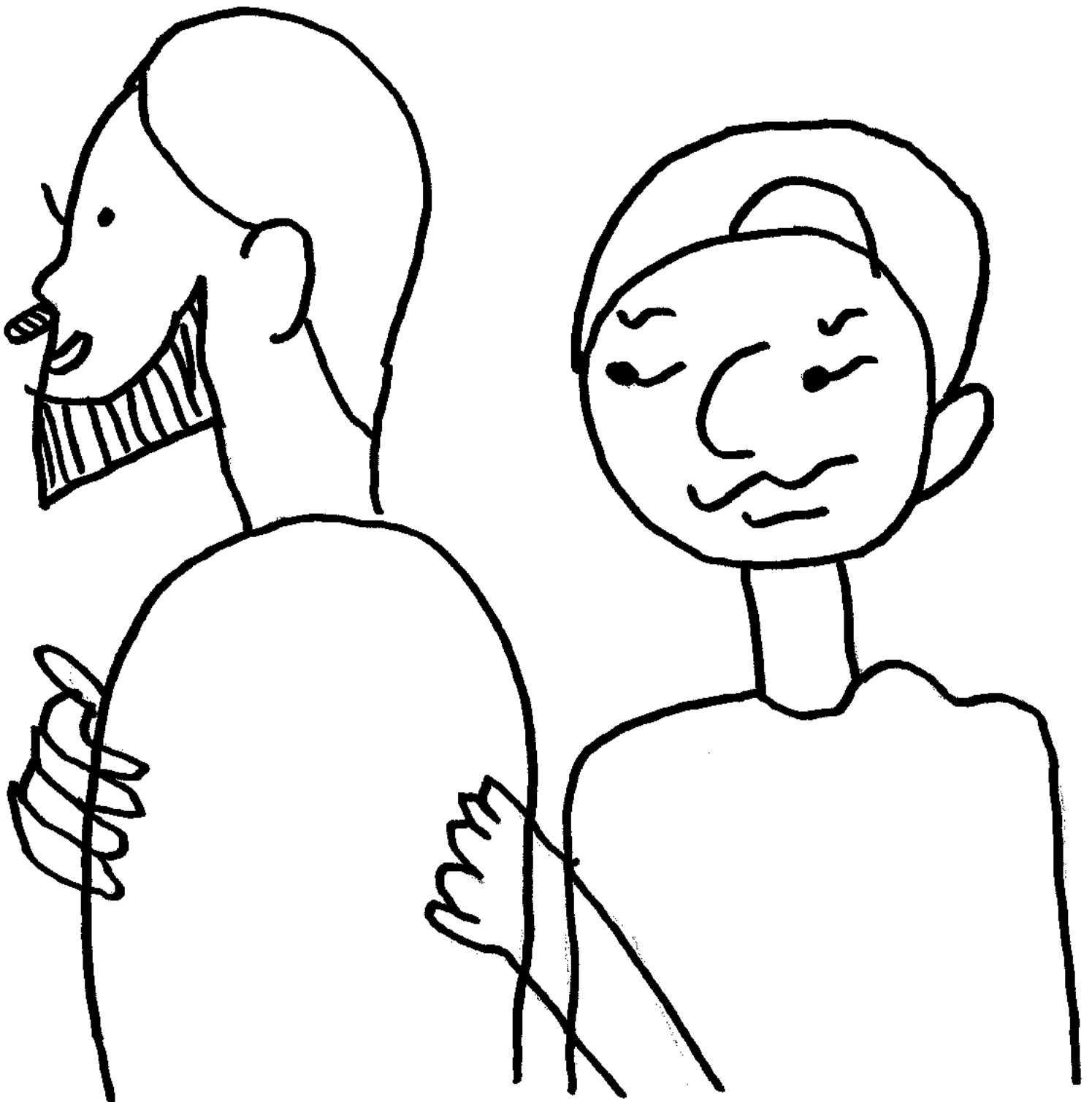


They hated him and
did not want him as
their King



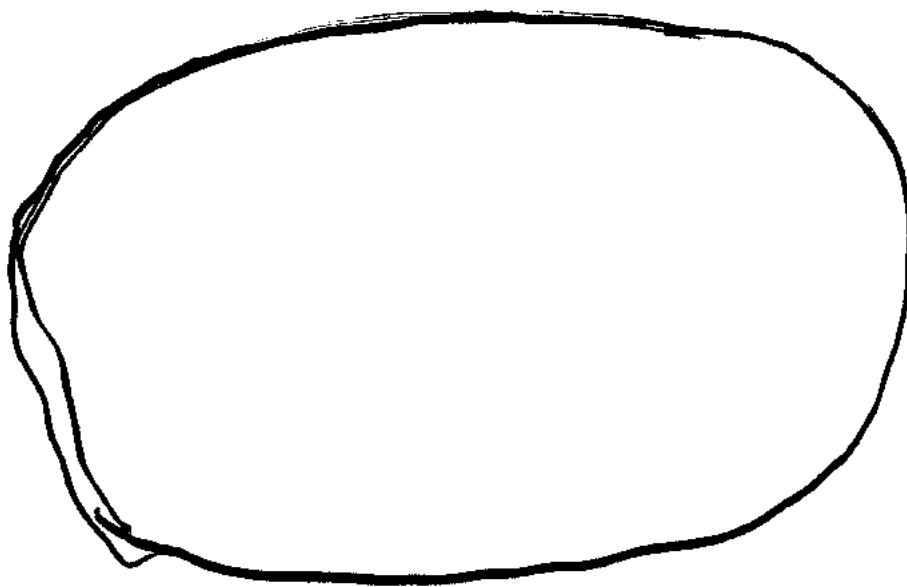
They decided that the time had come.

They would kill him as soon as they could



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Jesus wears God's kingly crown



part 20

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Jesus knew his time had come.
Soon he would be King



To get ready for
this big moment, he went
to a place where he could pray.
"Father, the hour has come;
glorify your Son...."

Jesus worked hard praying.
But the disciples were tired, and they
slept as Jesus prayed.

When Jesus finished, he woke them up.

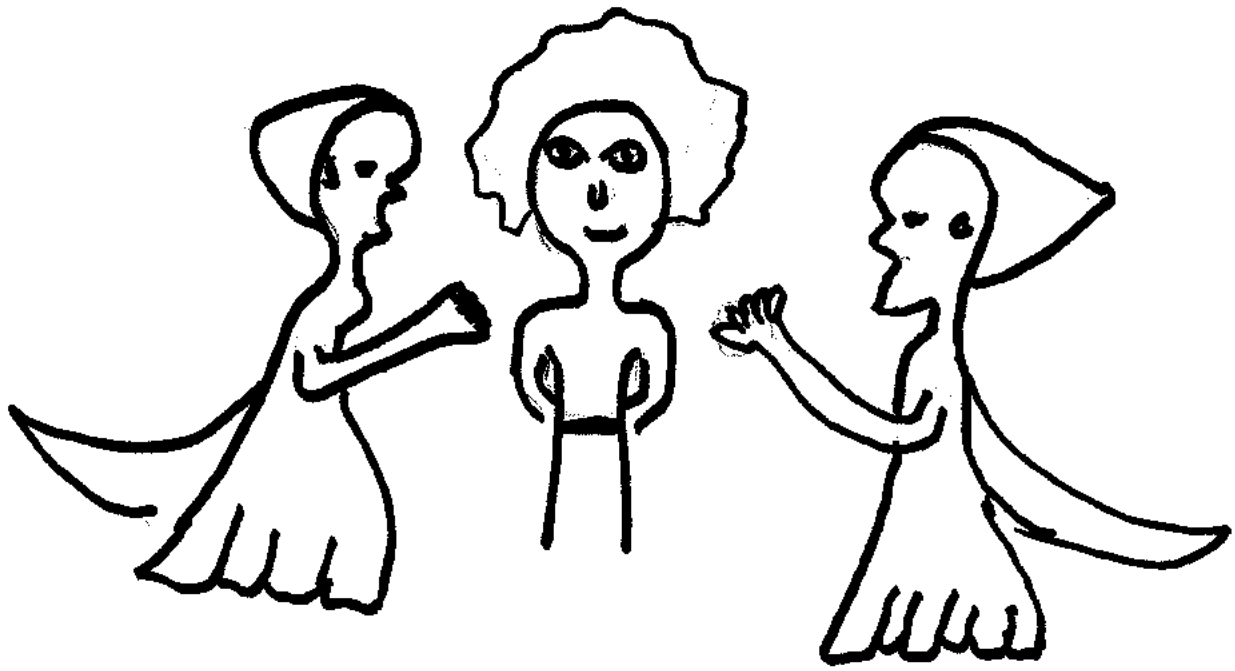
He told them that his time had
come. Just then...

Some people who hated Jesus marched
up to them. They brought soldiers with them too.



These men didn't believe Jesus
was God's forever king.
They tied up his hands and arrested
him.
Jesus' followers ran away.





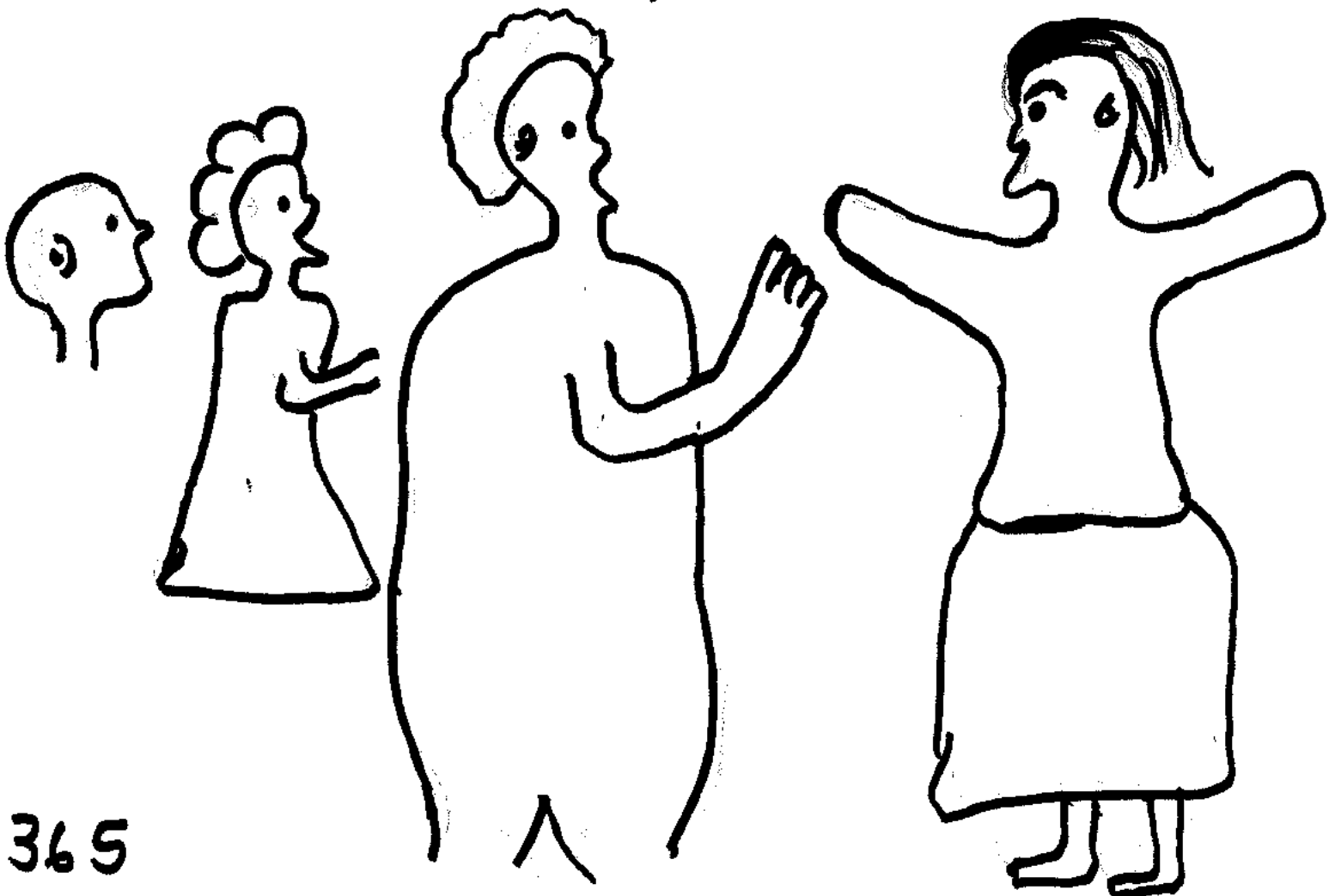
The soldiers and some learders took Jesus to a place where they hit him in the face.

Then they led him off to Pilate, a Roman ruler, and said, "Jesus is trying to take over as king!"

A criminal like this should die. He should not be king.

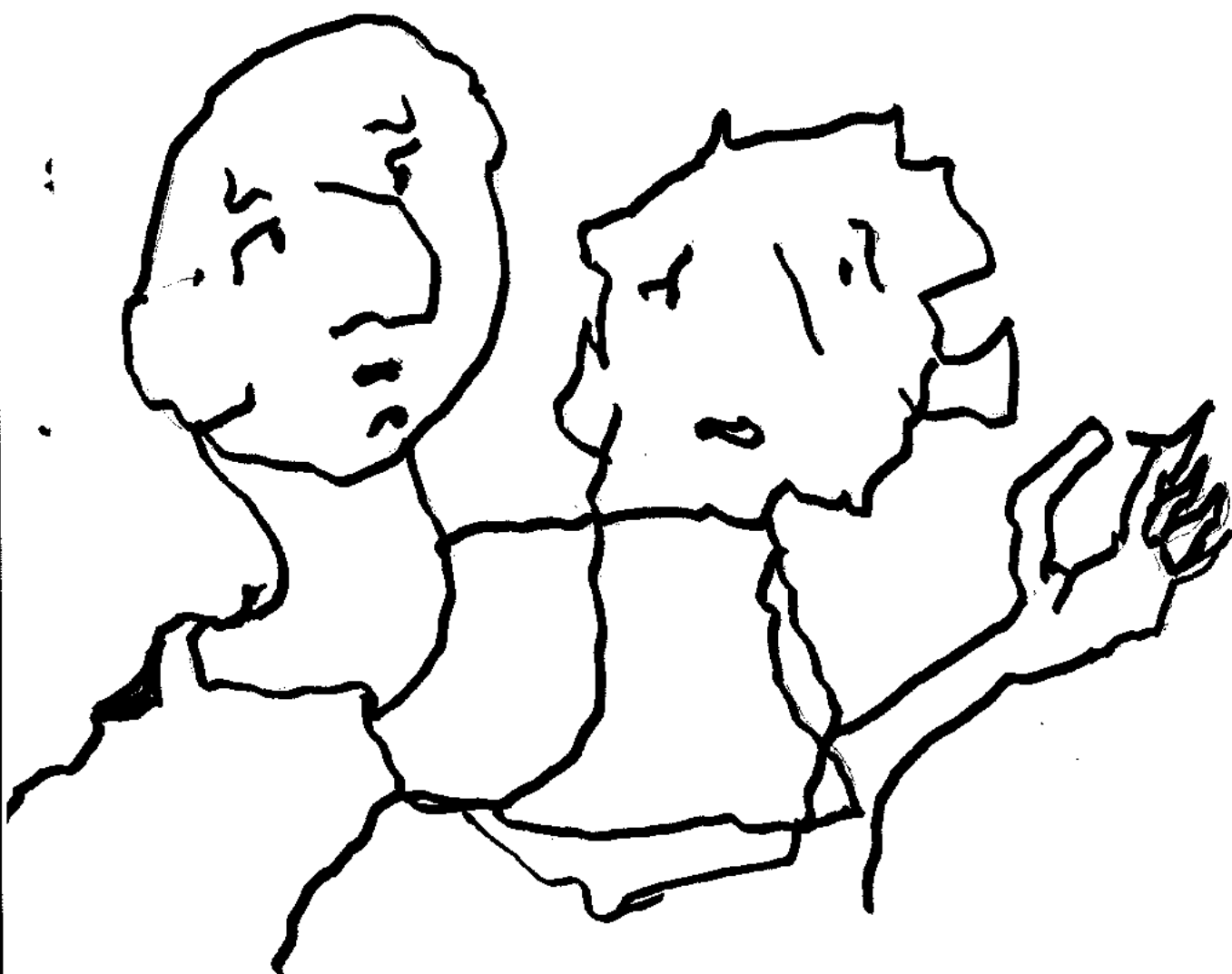
He would rather be ruled by Rome than by this pretend king."

"Crucify him,
Pilate."



Pilate talked to Jesus,
He asked him,
"Are you the King?"

Jesus answered,
"My kingdom is
not of this world."



Pilate did not think Jesus was trouble.

Pilate did not think Jesus was a threat to Roman rule.

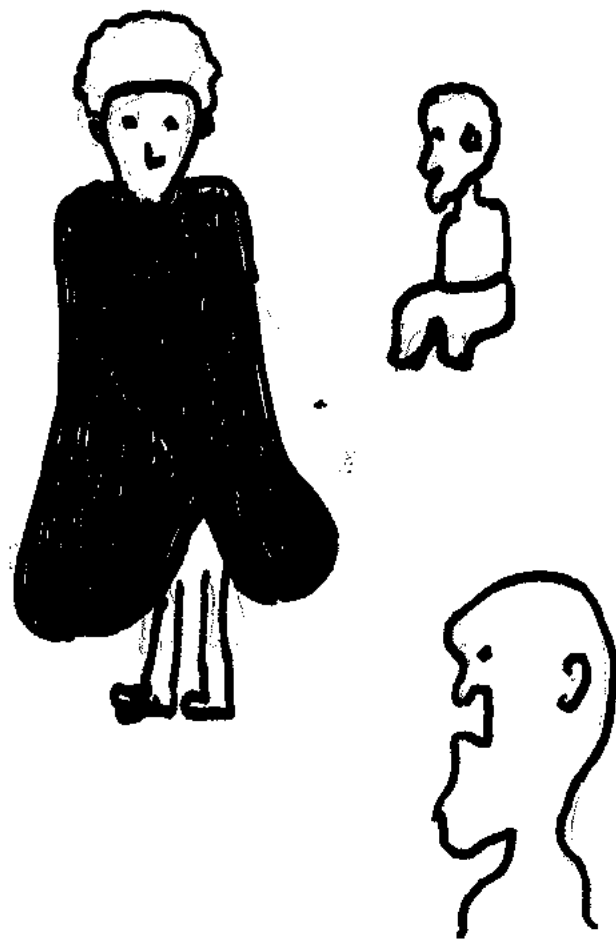
Pilate may have thought to himself,

If I can show the people that I am in control, then they will let him go.

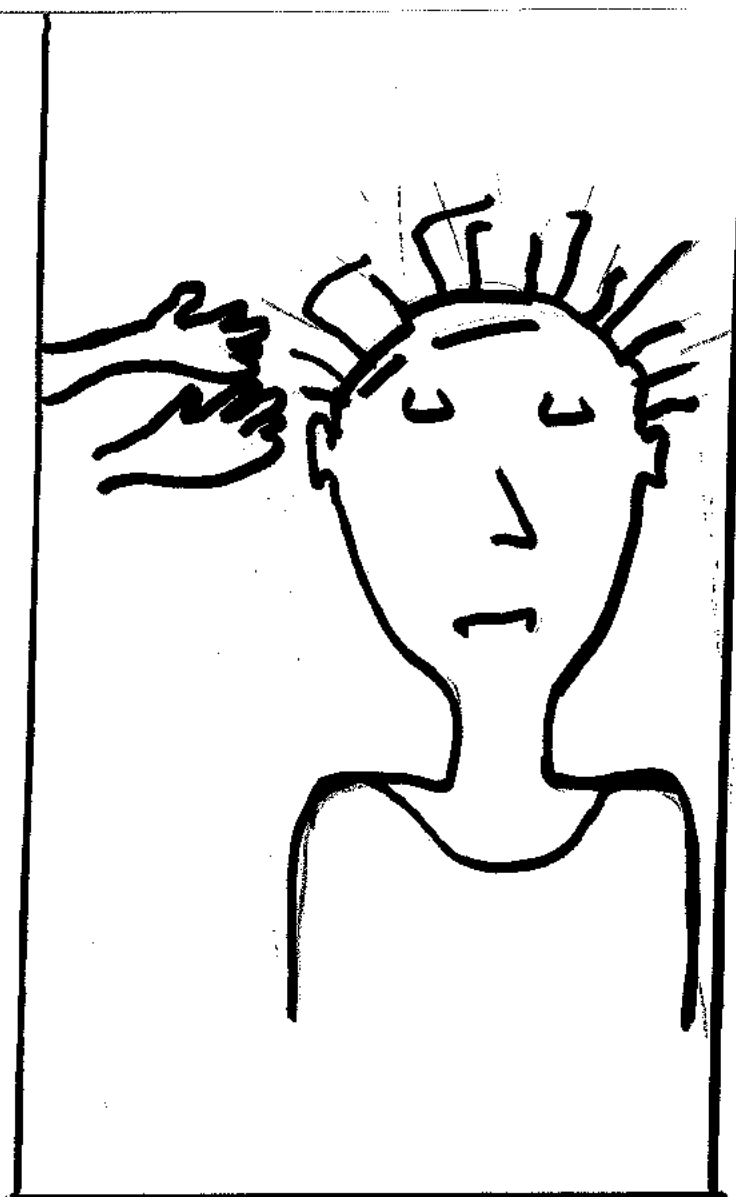
So...



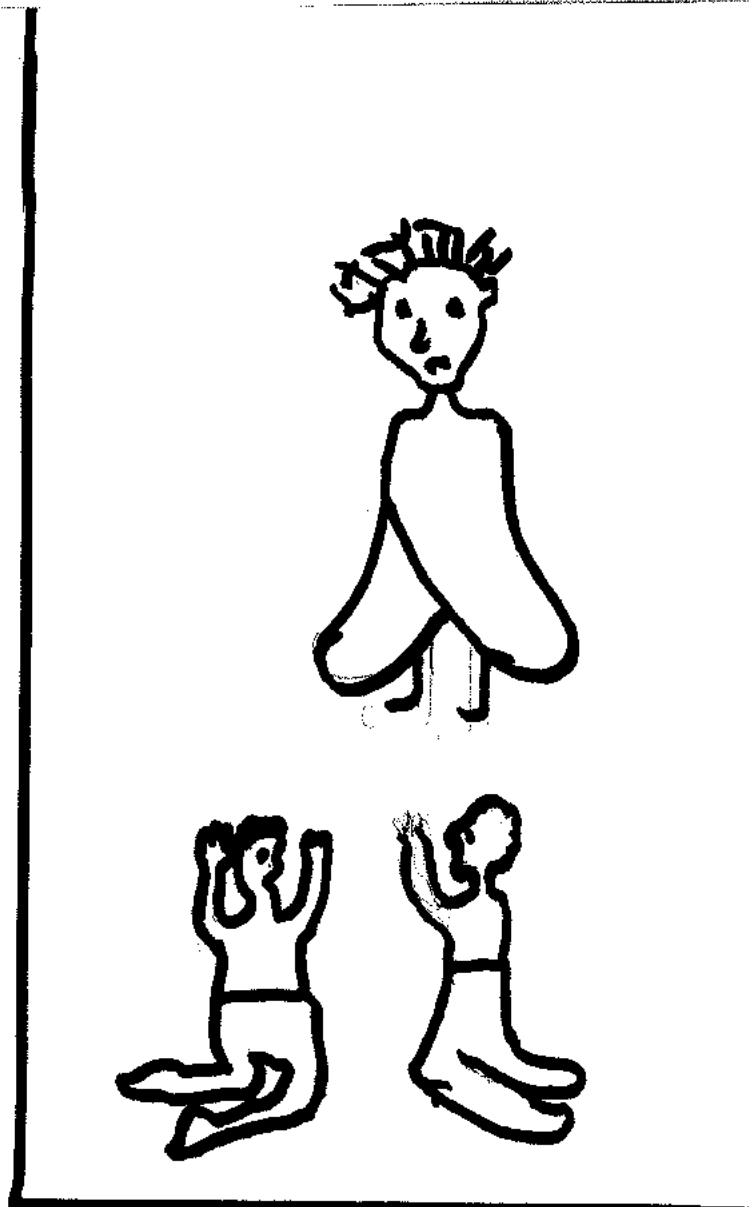
Pilate had Jesus beaten. The soldiers whipped him many times.



They laughed at the idea of Jesus as king. They dressed him in a purple robe.



They made a crown of thorns and put it on his head.



They punched him and made fun of him:
"Hail, king of the Jews!"

Then Pilate tried to let Jesus go.

But the people only shouted louder.

They wanted to kill Jesus.

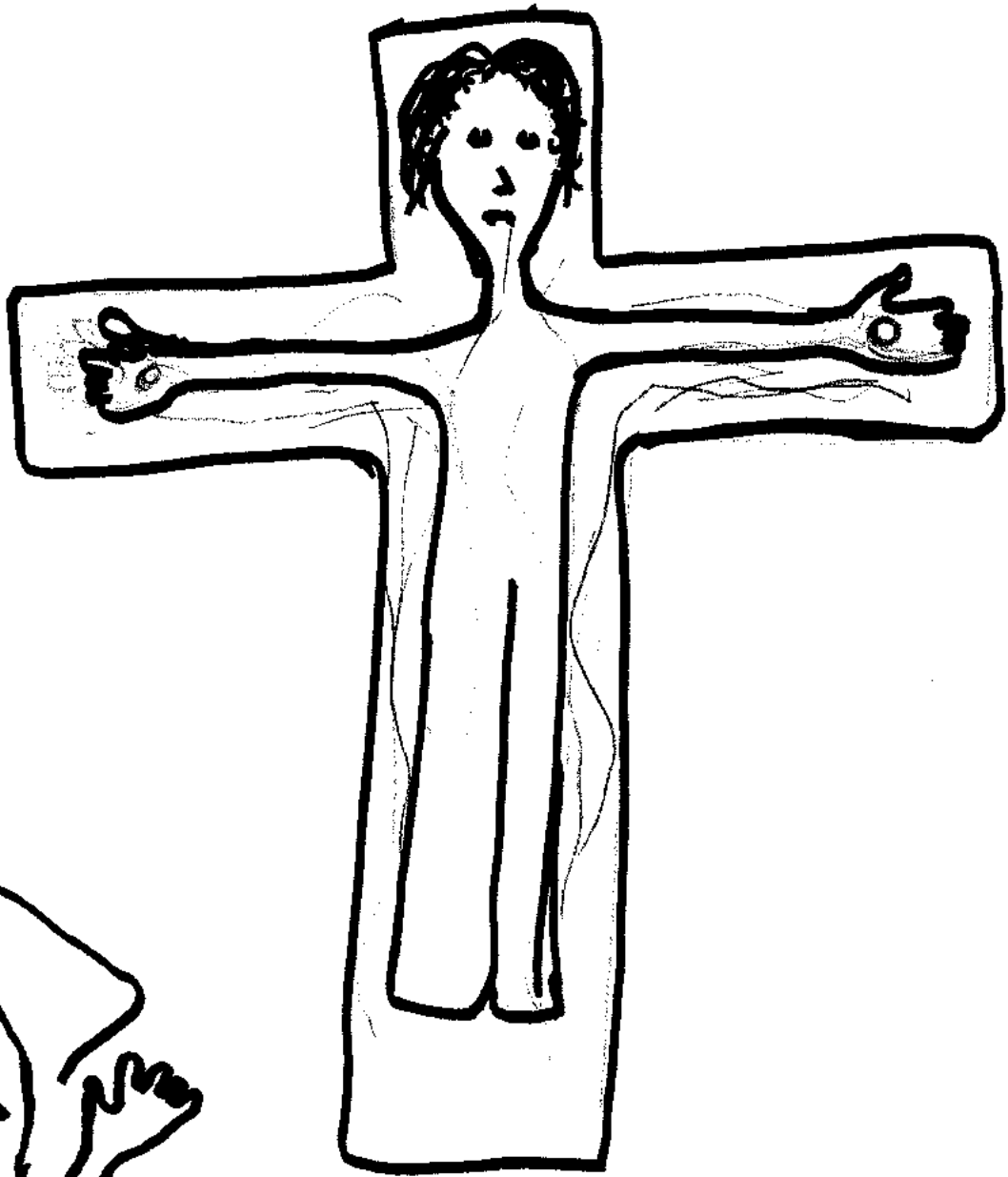
They warned Pilate that the time had come.

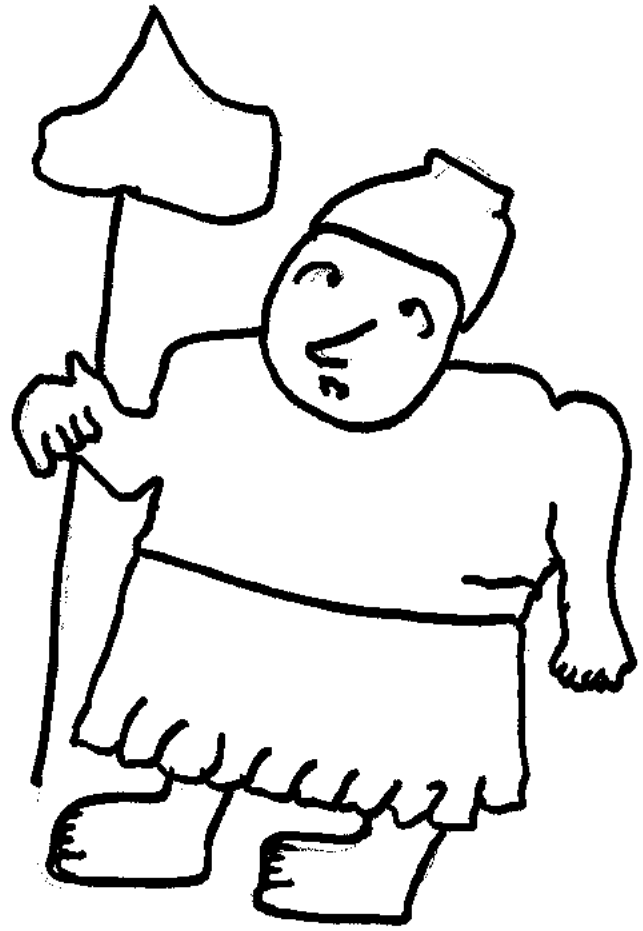
So Pilate decided to have Jesus killed.

He looked out only for himself.

And so...







On a small hill outside the city of Jerusalem, Jesus was nailed to a cross, and died.

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Part 21

Darkness fell upon the land.

Jesus was dead.

He was buried in a tomb.

A big stone was rolled in front
of the entrance,

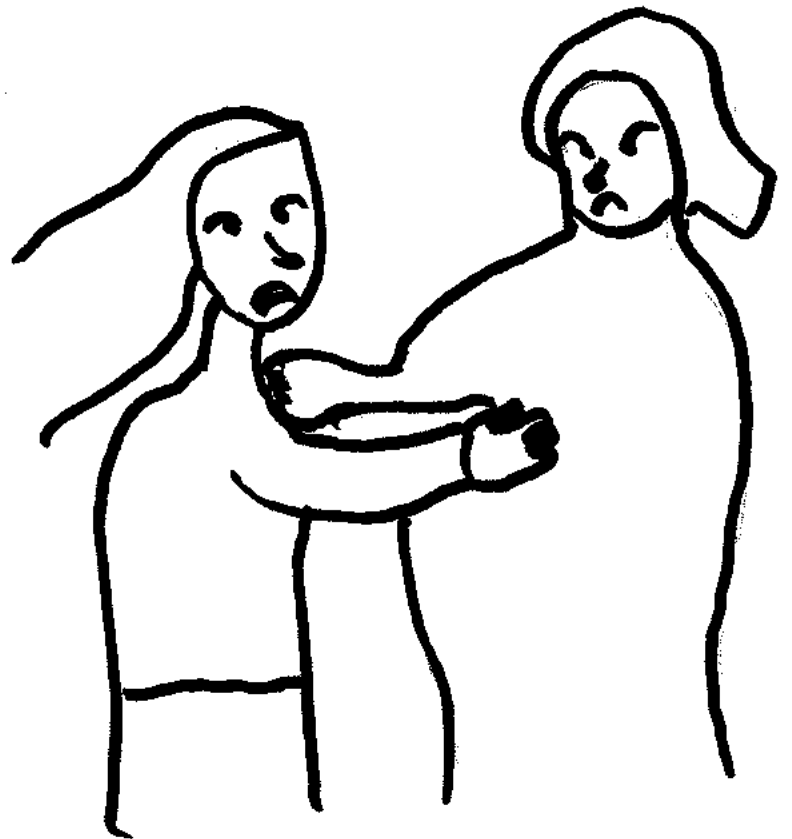
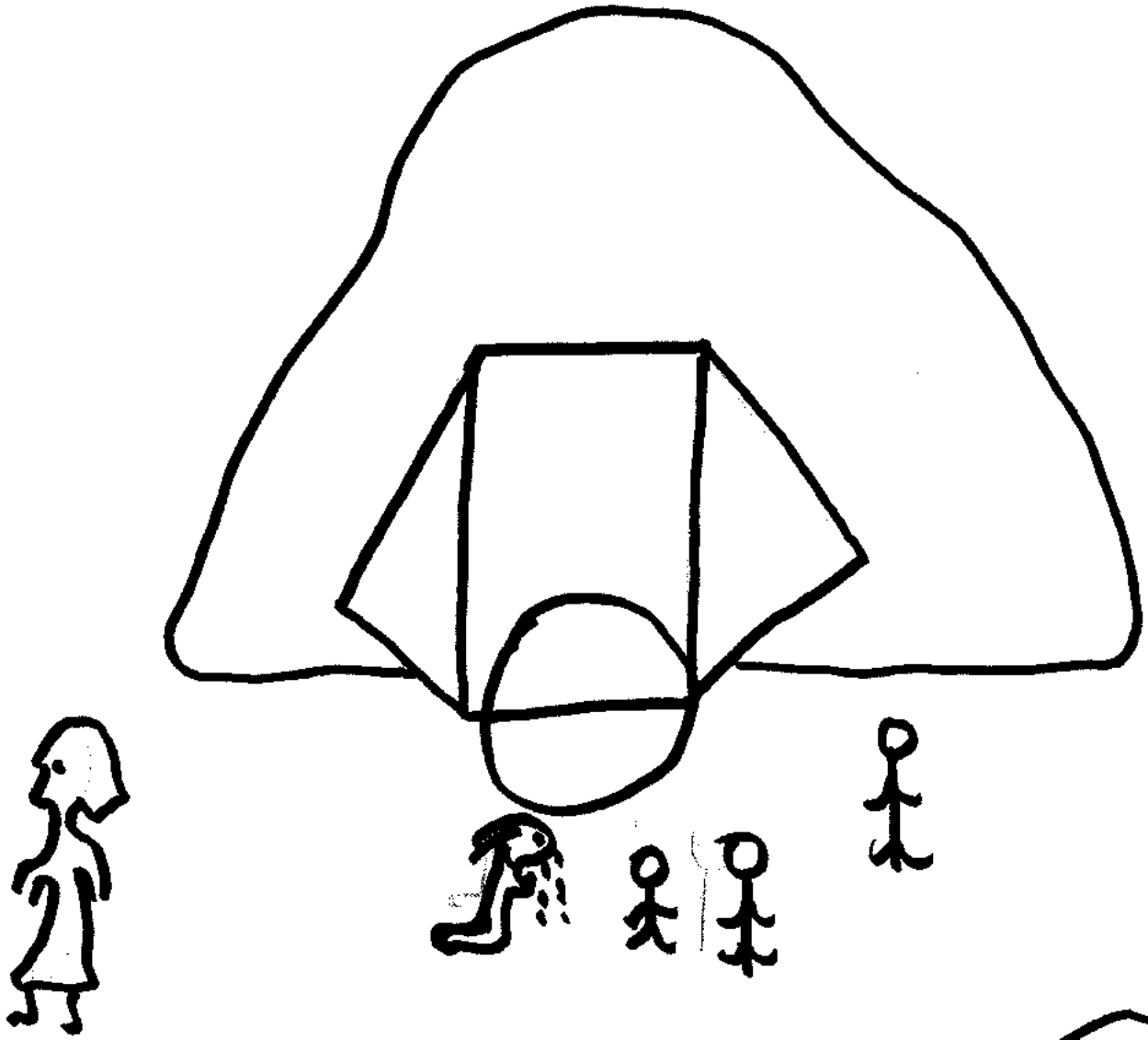
and the people all went home.

For Jesus' followers, that dark day
was followed by a long night.

The hours passed very slowly.
Jesus' friends cried.

They had thought he was the king.

But now their hearts were filled with
sorrow, and their minds were filled with fear.

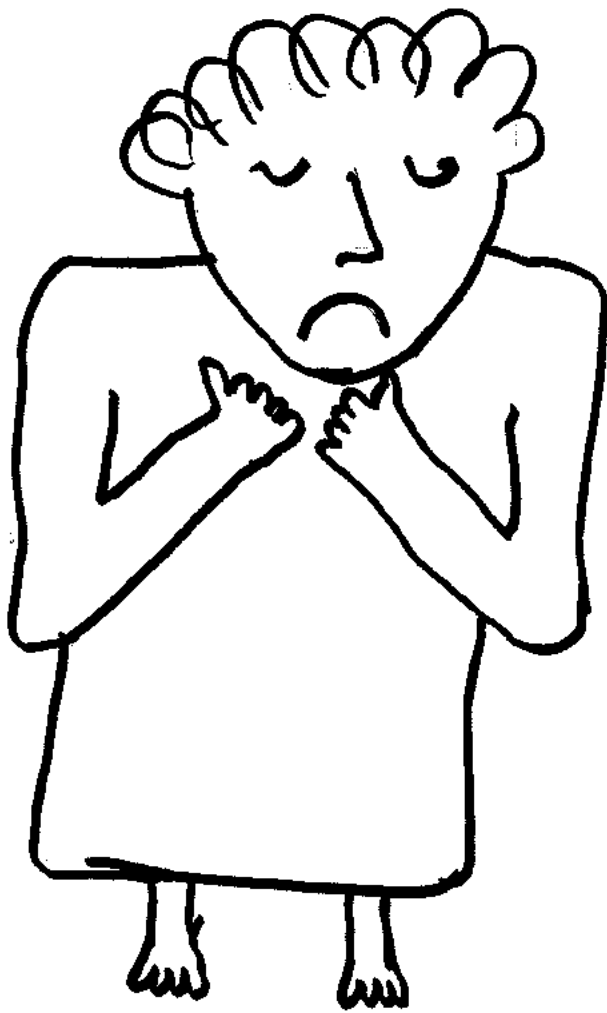




"What happened?"

"Why did Jesus have to die?"

"Wasn't Jesus God's forever King?"



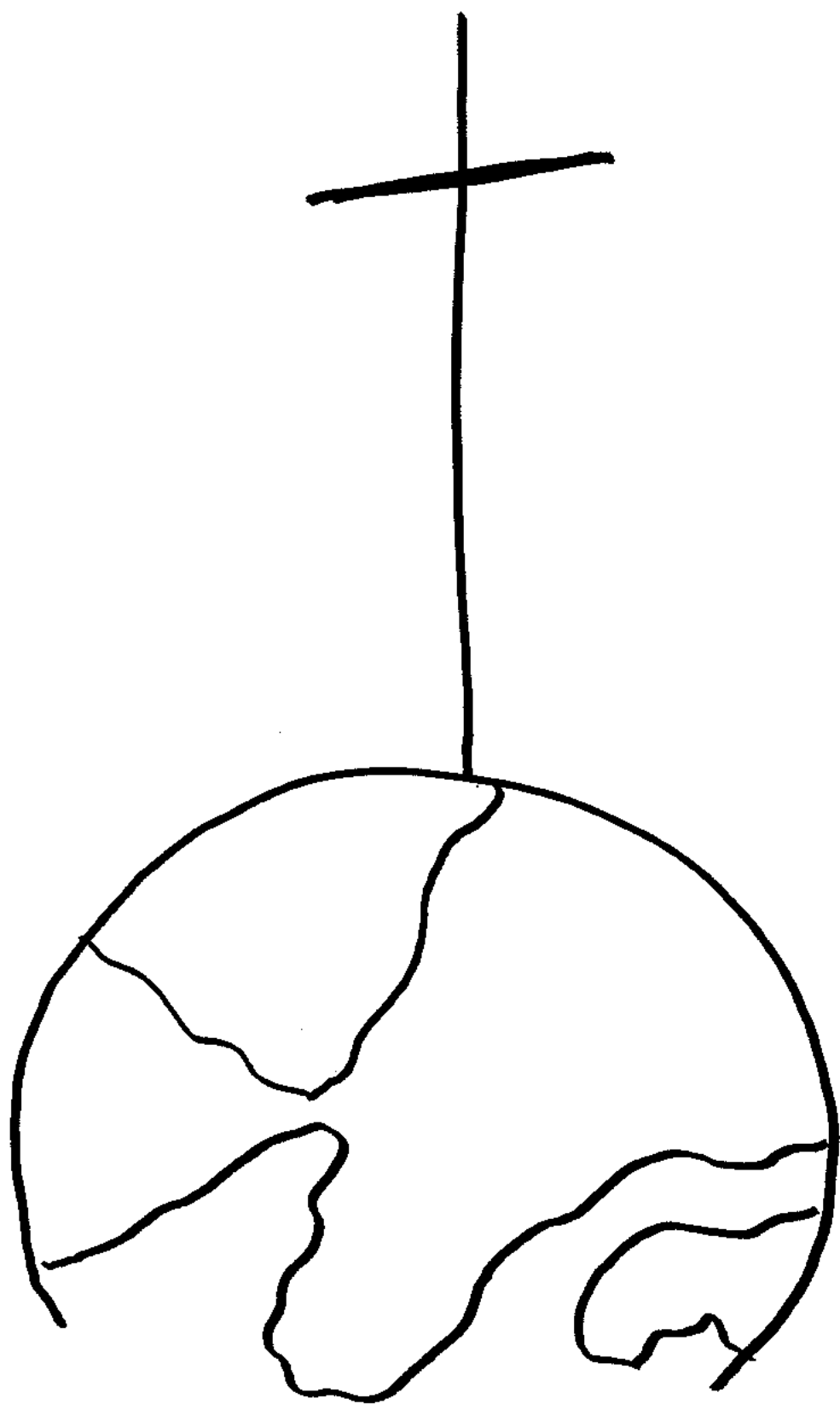
The questions kept coming until the next day turned into night.

As Jesus' followers tried to sleep they thought,
We will be sad forever.

• Will God ever rescue his people from sin?"

"Will we ever have our place with him?"

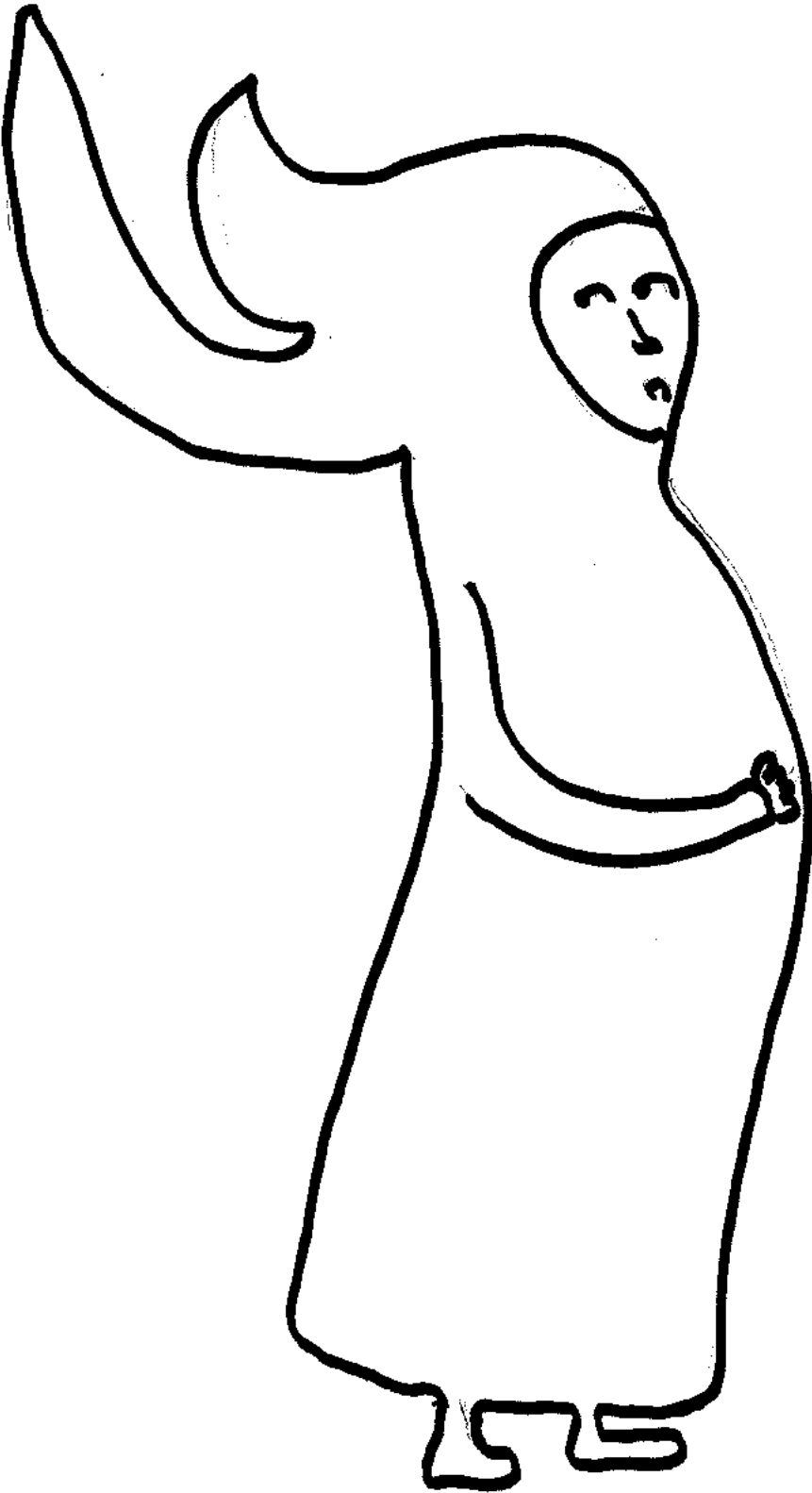
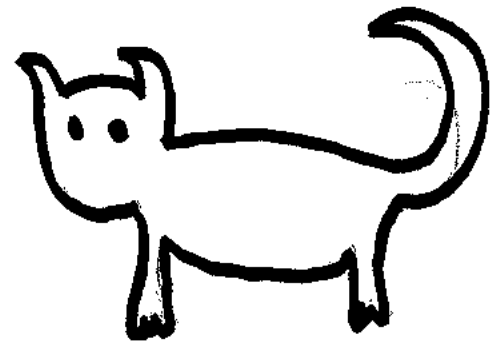
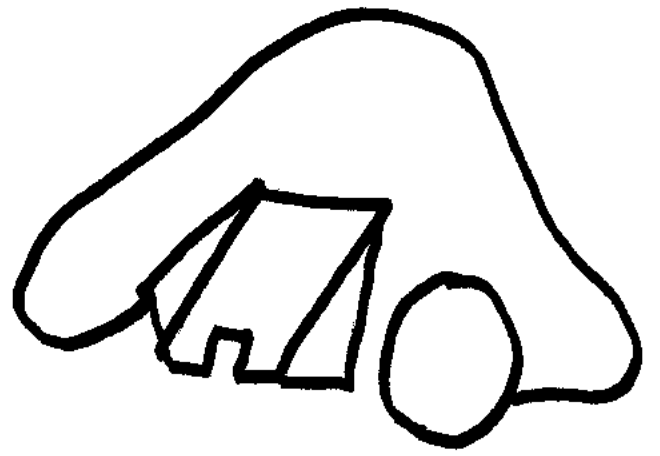
"Will God ever bring again his blessings on all people of the earth?"



A BRAND-NEW DAY



Part 22



It was the third day after
Jesus has died on the cross.
The sun was not yet up.

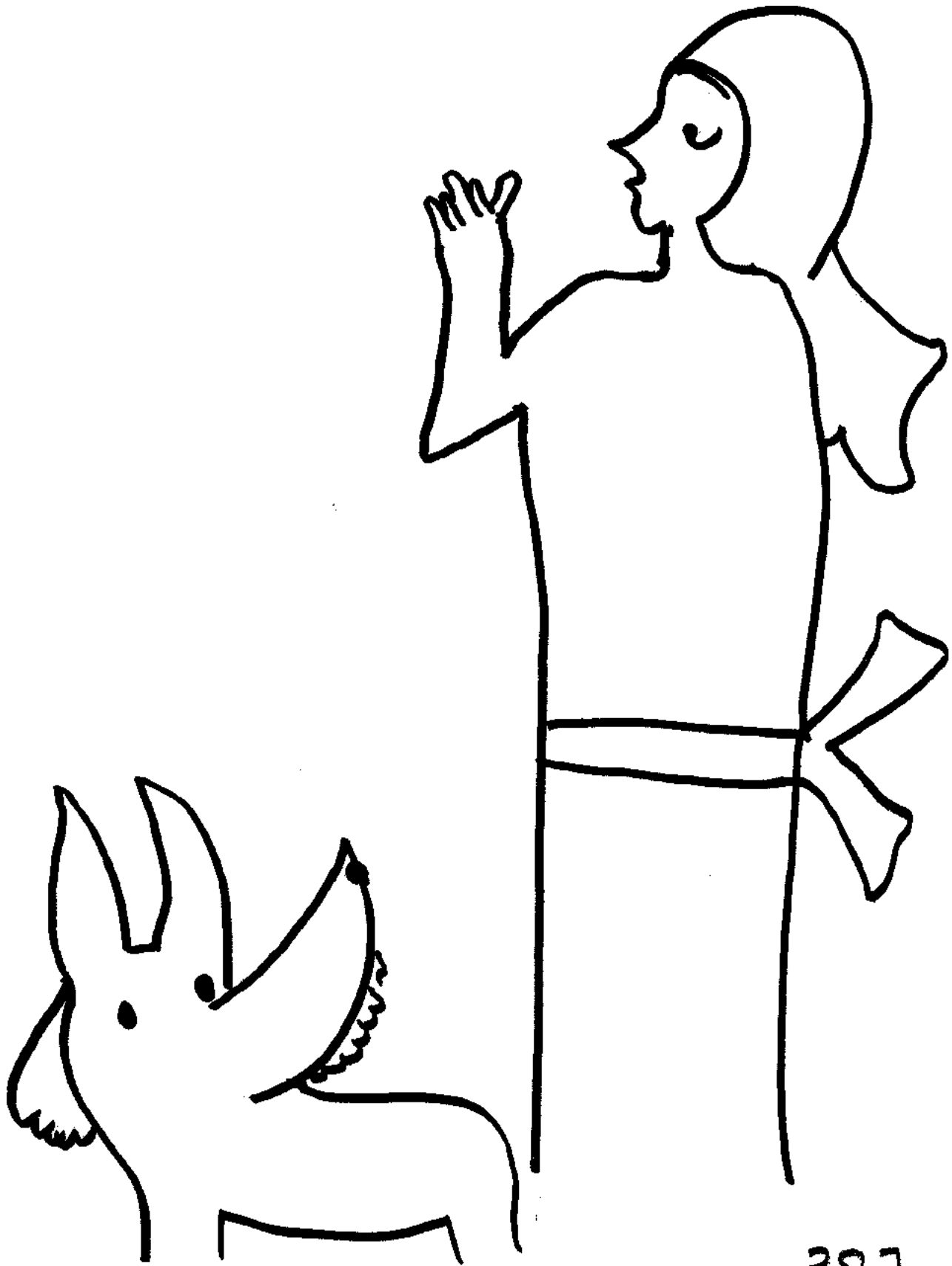
One woman, Mary Magdalene,
couldn't sleep.

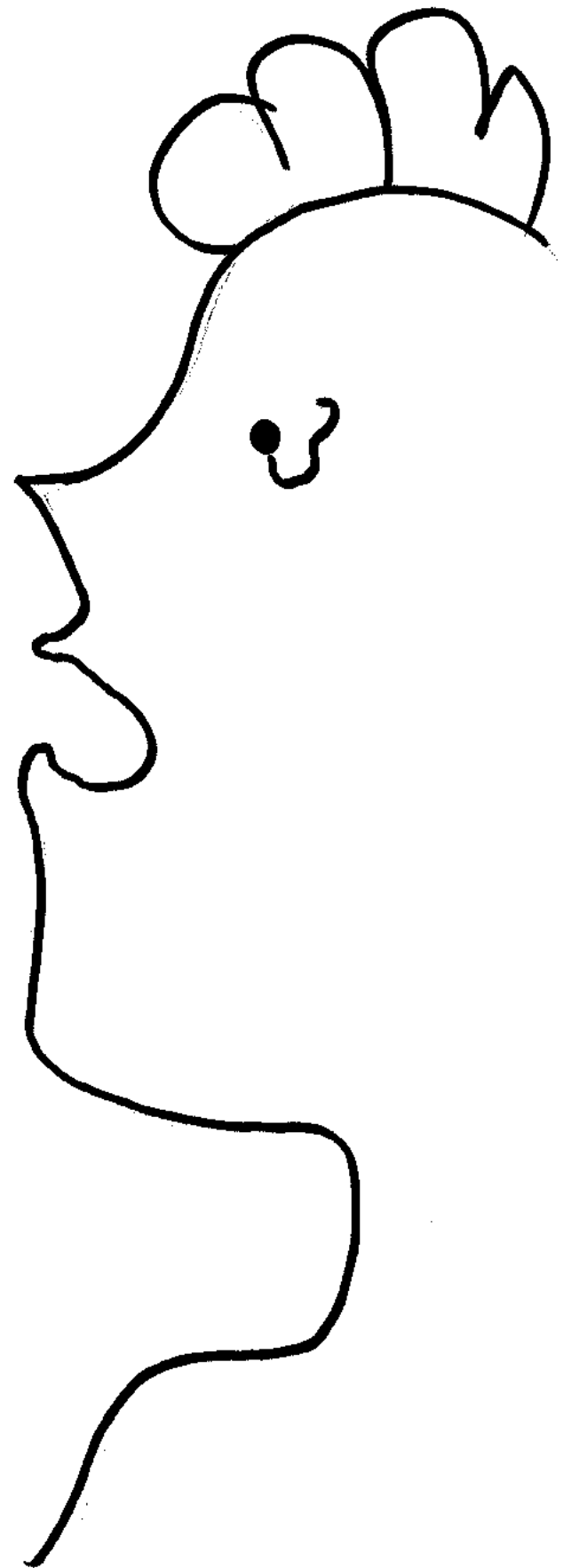
She had believed in Jesus and
had hoped he was the king.

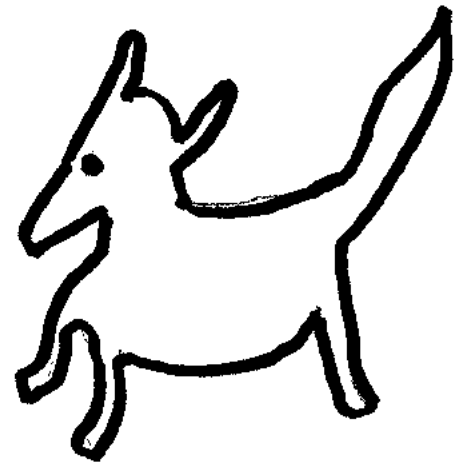
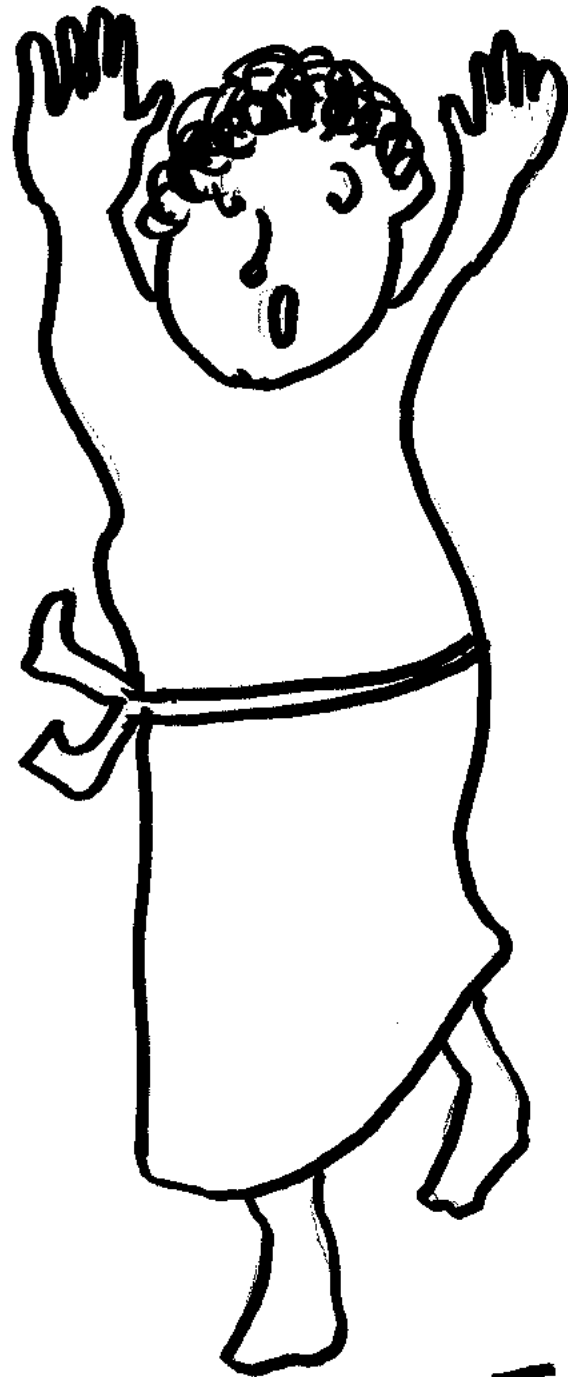
She got up very early while
it was still dark and went
to the tomb where Jesus
was buried.

As she came close,
suddenly she grew
anxious and afraid.
The big stone that covered
the entrance was gone.
Jesus's tomb was open
and it was empty.

She turned and ran.
She did not stop.







Seeing two of Jesus' followers,
She caught her breath and cried,
"They have taken the Lord out
of the tomb."



Her friends ran
off!

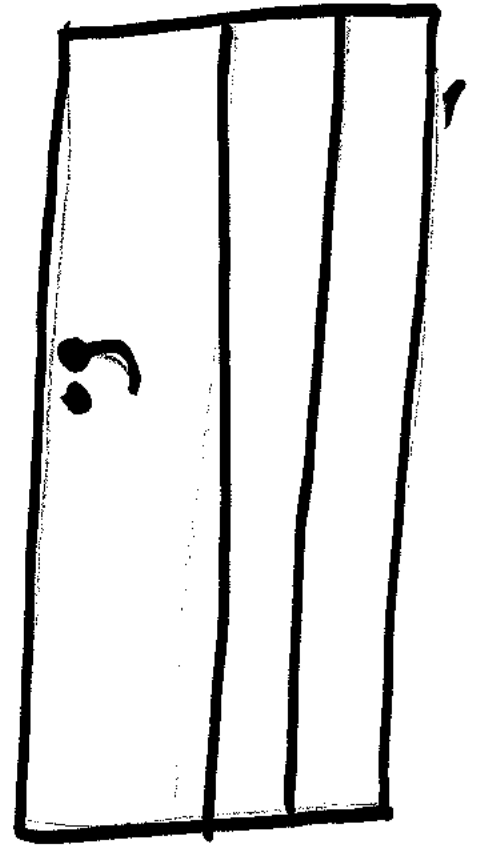
They raced to the
tomb.

They looked around,
they went inside,
but Jesus was
not there.

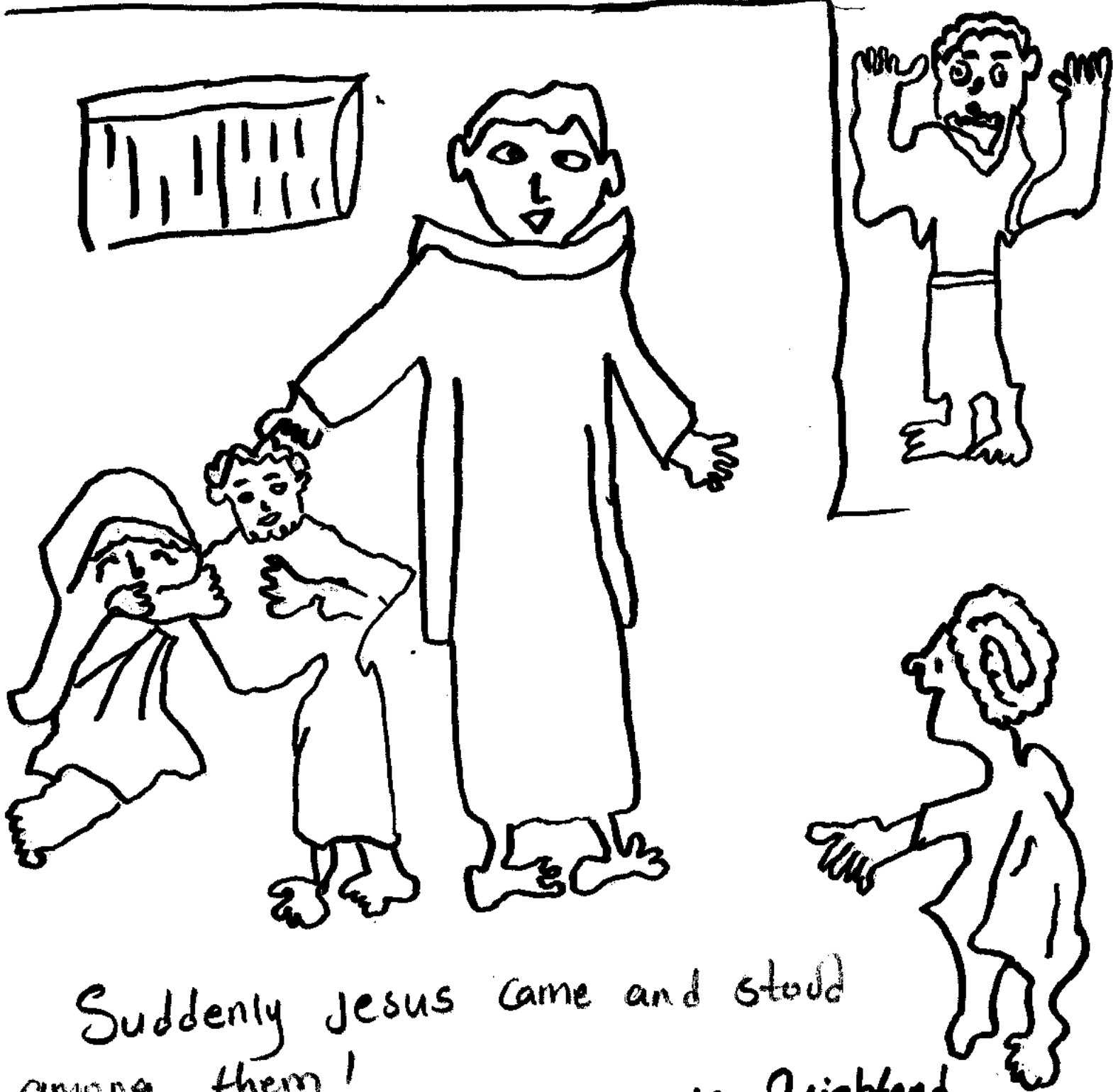


As they walked back home ,
they wondered what had
happened.

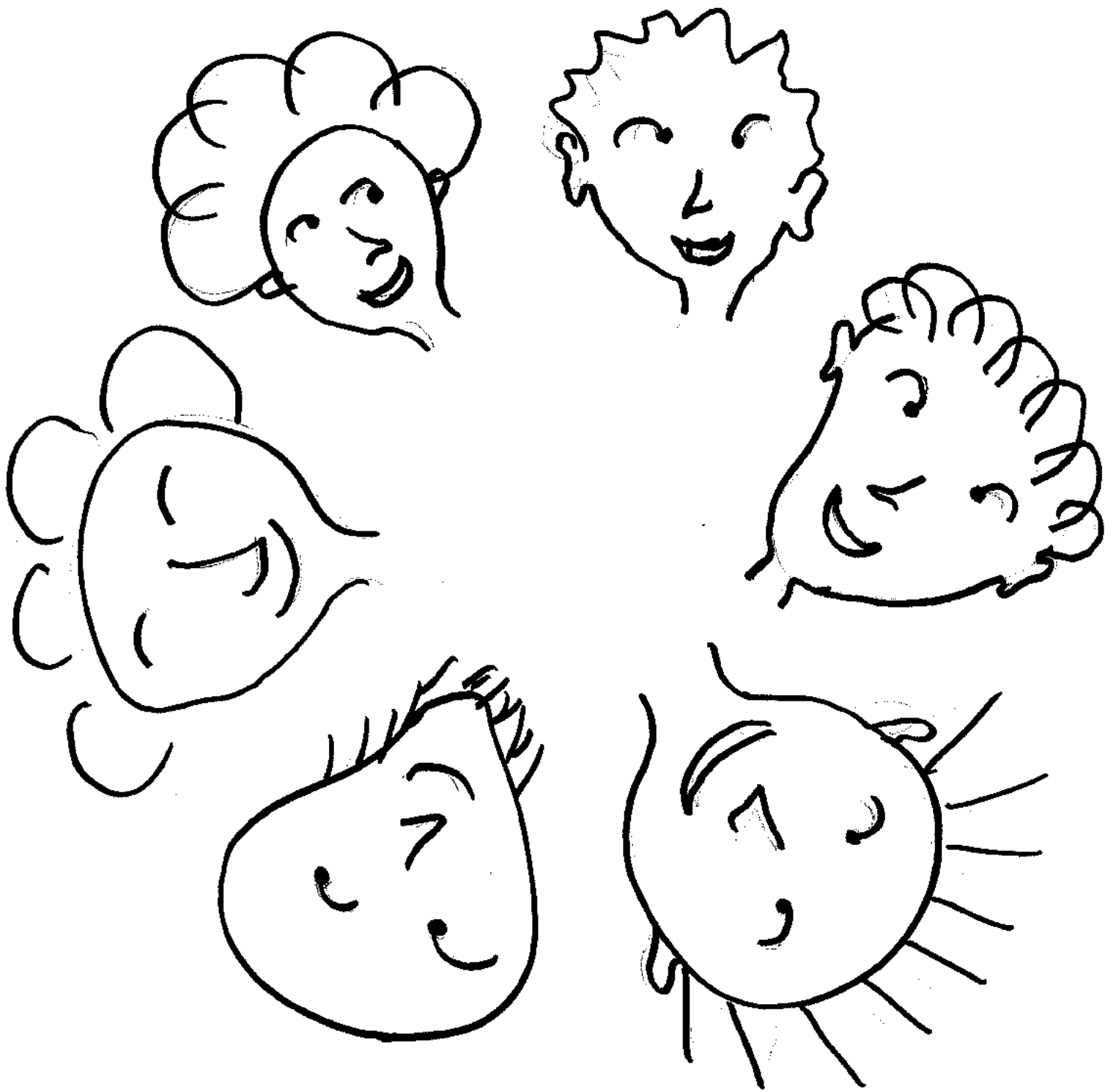
That evening ...



Some of Jesus' followers
were meeting together. They
were afraid, and so they
had locked the doors.



Suddenly Jesus came and stood
among them!
At first his followers were frightened,
but then their fear turned into joy.



The sadness they had felt was gone.
Their hearts were glad again.

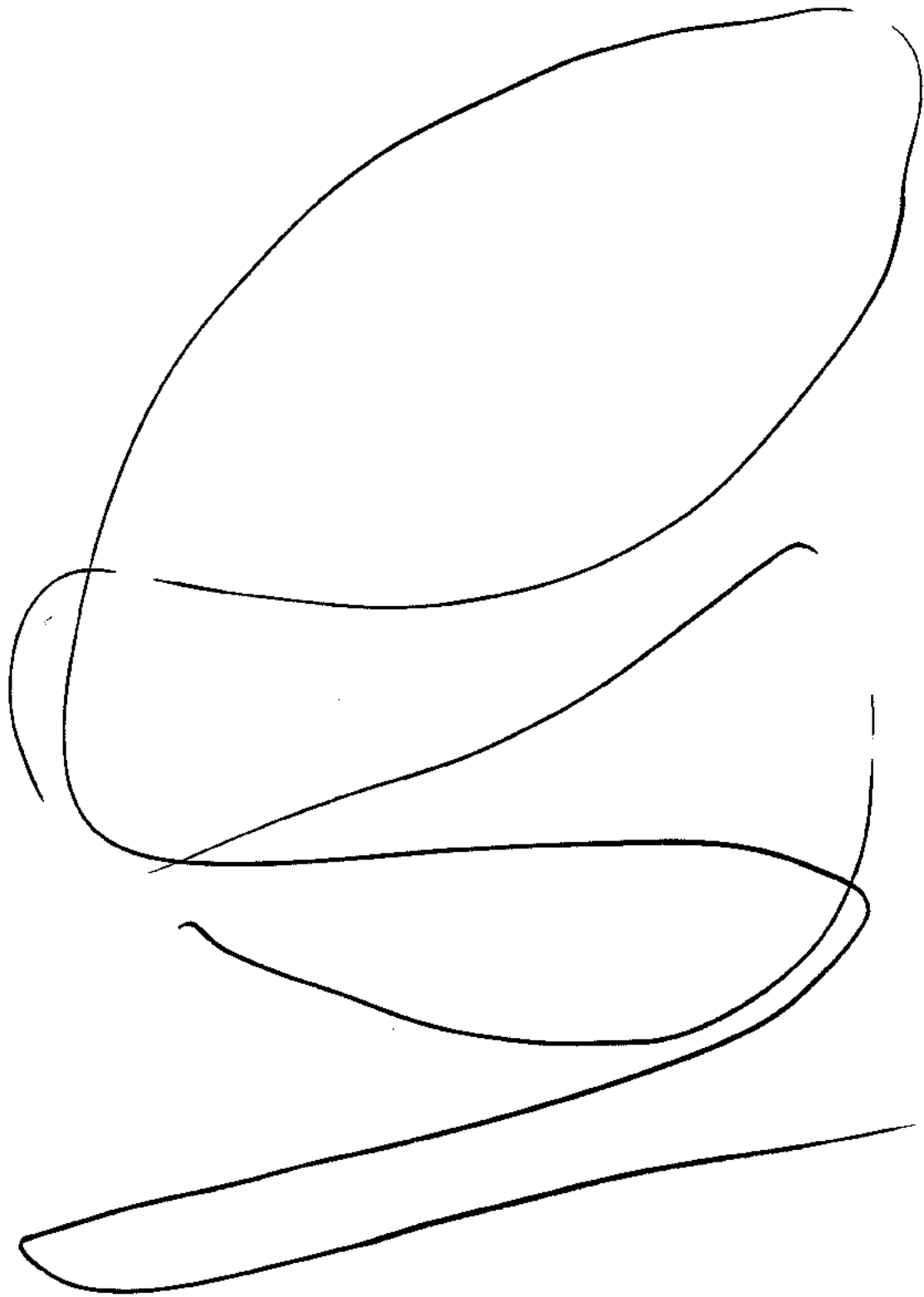
Jesus was alive.

Jesus really was alive

Jesus was risen from the dead.

The Son had risen!

It was a brand-new day.



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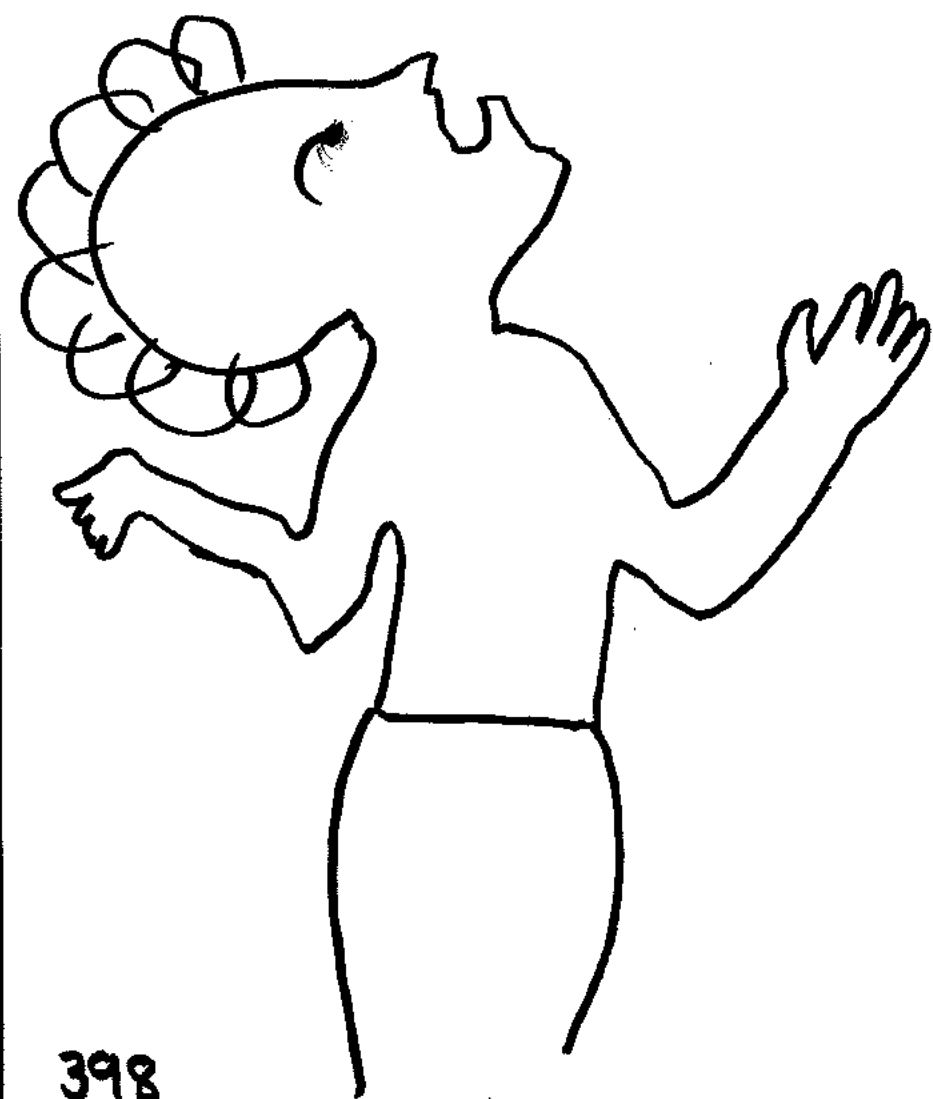
GOD'S PROMISE IS EXPLAINED



Jesus' followers could hardly believe it.

"We have seen the Lord!"

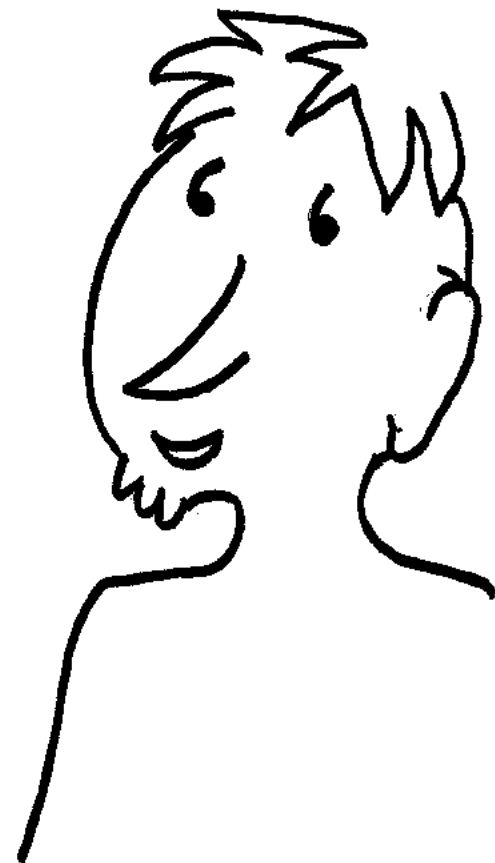
They were full of joy,
but they were not full
of understanding.



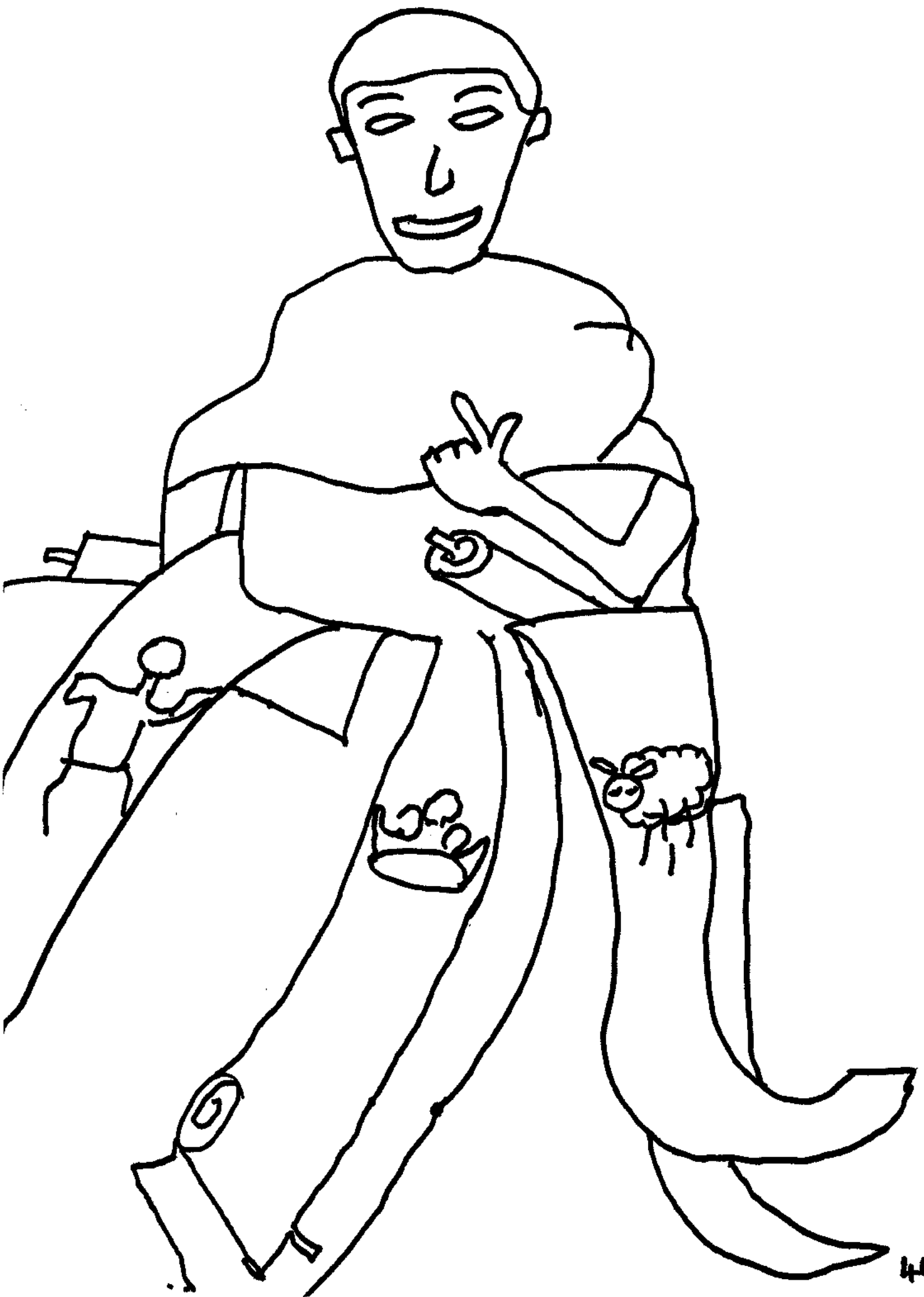


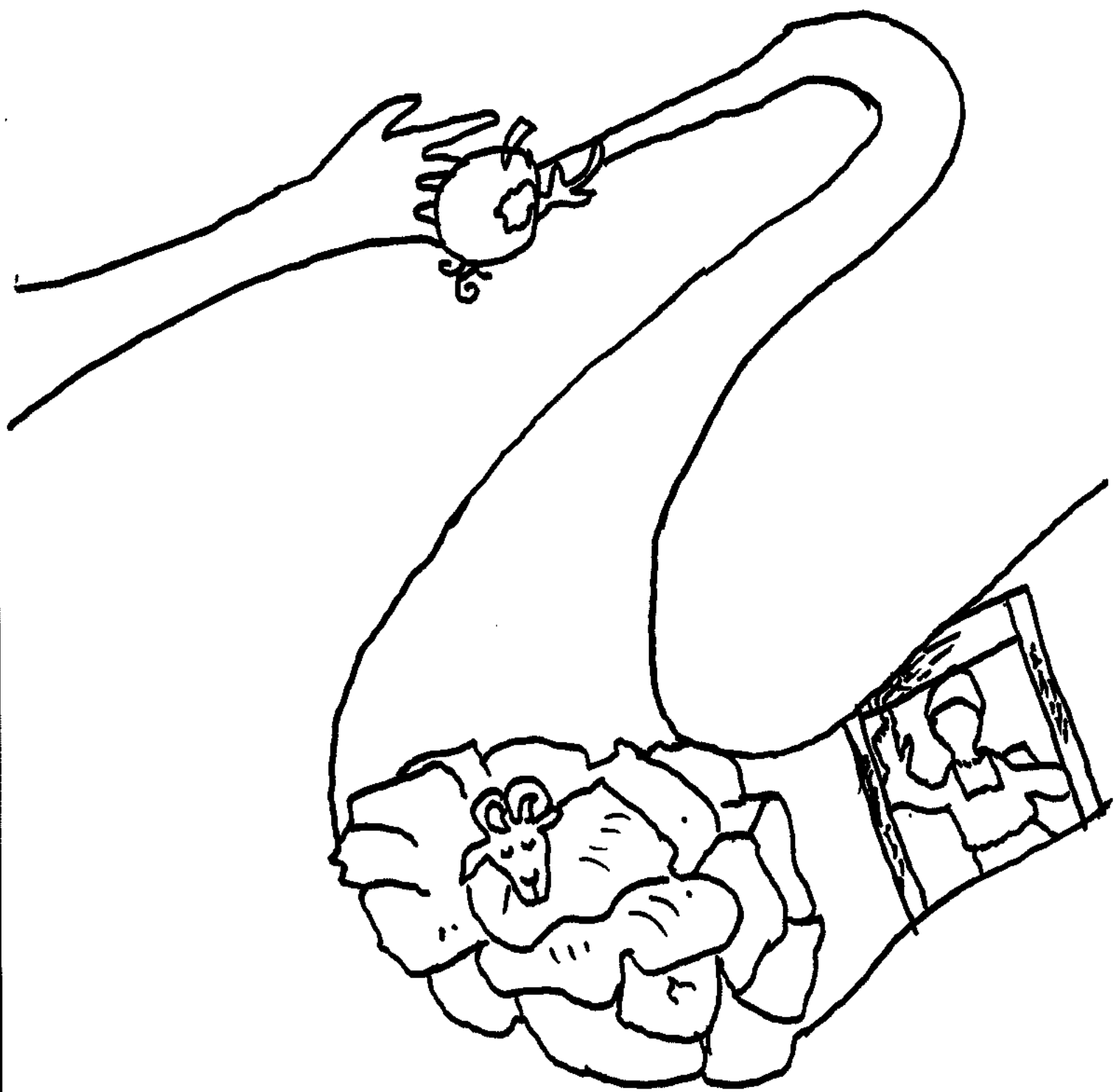
They could see Jesus
with their eyes,
but they could not
see why he had to
die and rise again.

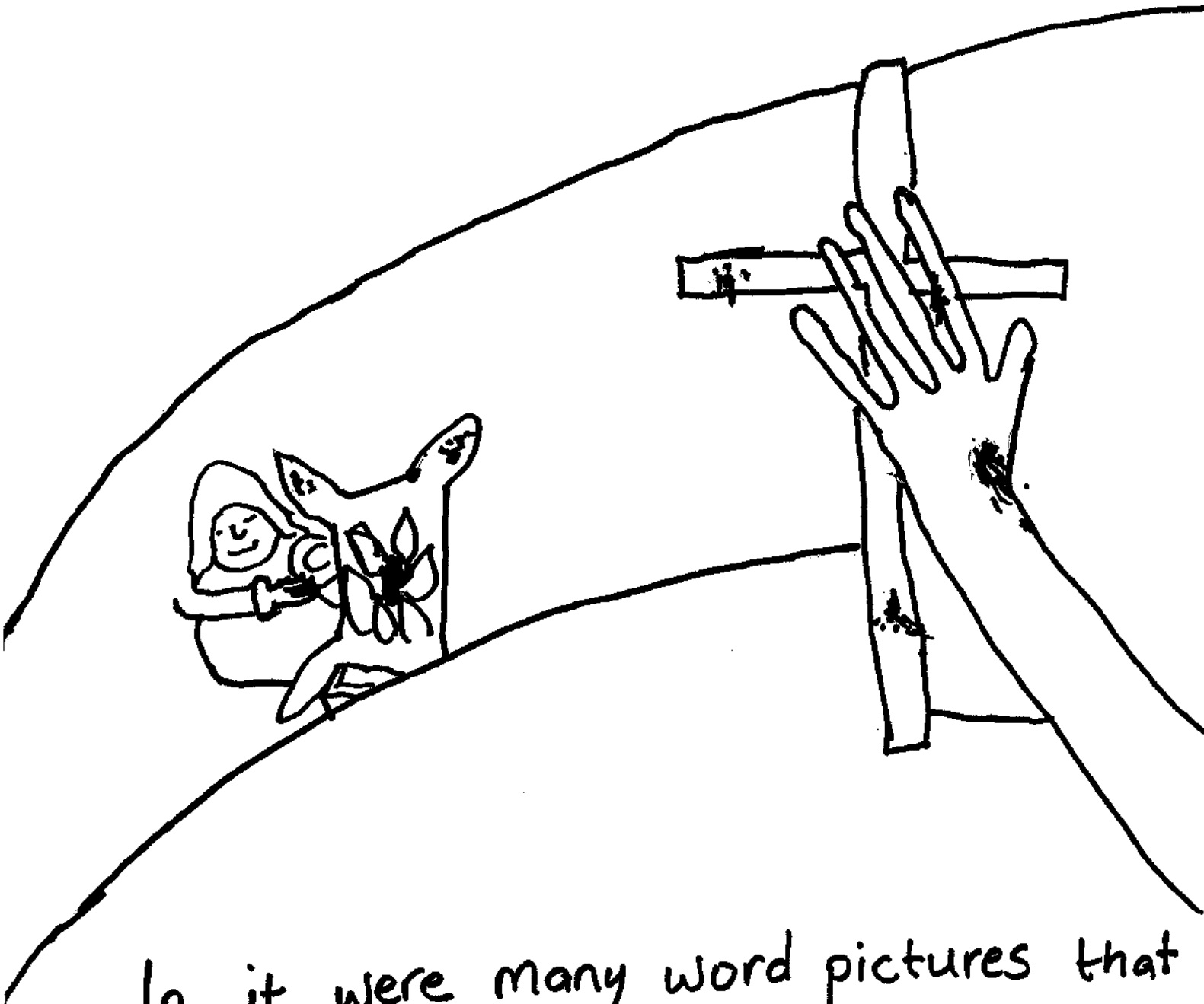
And so . . .



Jesus opened up God's holy book that had been written long ago. He started with the books of Moses and then the Prophets and the Psalms. He showed them everything that was written there about him.

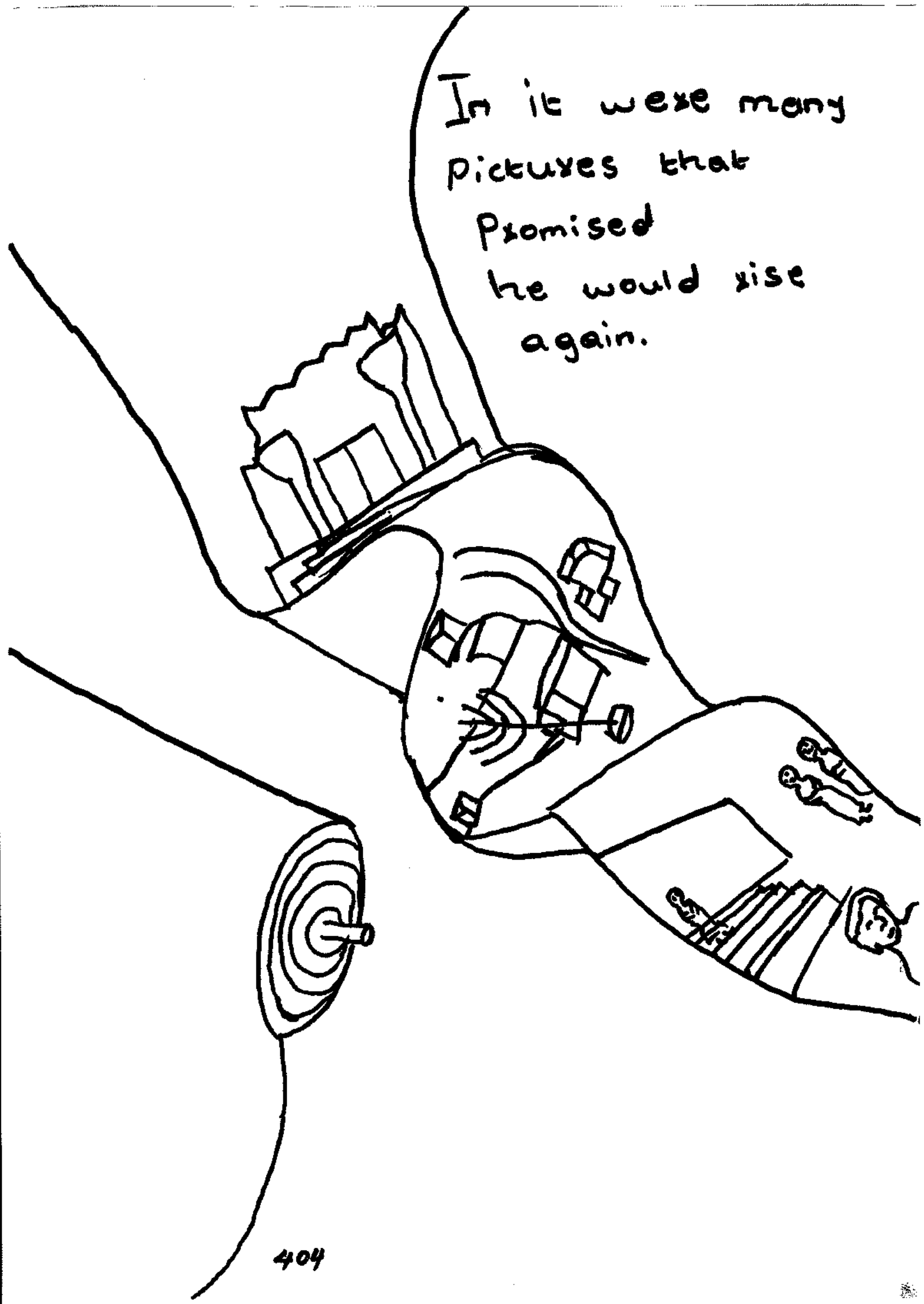






In it were many word pictures that
Provided he must die to pay the
Penalty for sin.

In it were many
pictures that
promised
he would rise
again.





Jesus followers were amazed
as they listened and as they read.

Before, they had said,
"we have seen the Lord!"



But now they could read
God's holy book and say,



"Even here, especially here,
We have seen the Lord!"



Jesus taught them carefully because
he knew the day was coming
when people would no longer
see him with their eyes.

They would read of him instead.

He knew God's holy book would
help others to believe and say,
"we have seen the Lord!"

And they too would be full of joy.



Do you see the Lord?





Painted on the pages of ~~the~~ Israel's
hard and happy history is the
big picture of God's forever King



part 24

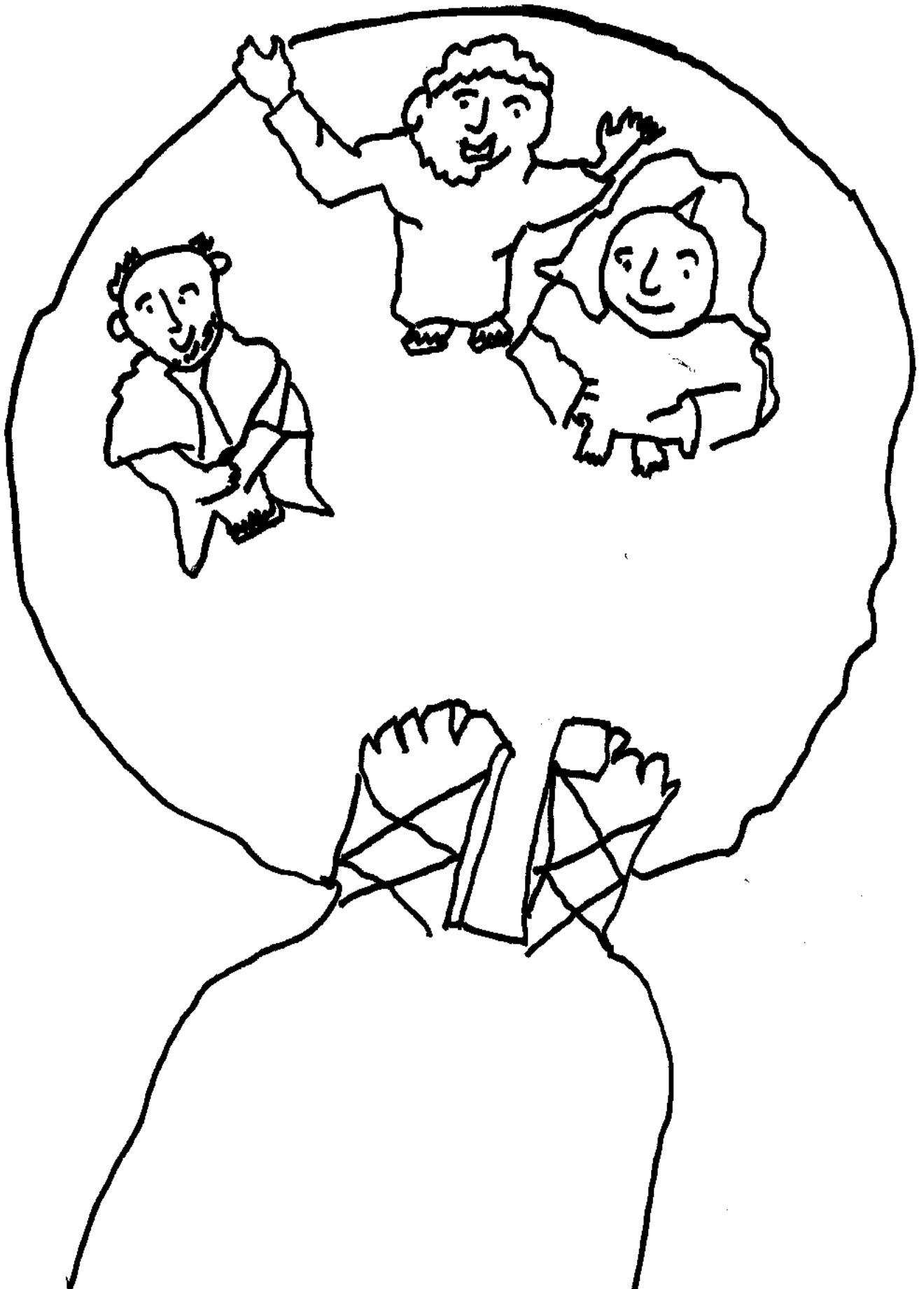
For forty days after his resurrection
Jesus taught about God's Kingdom.

He told his chosen followers
that they had Kingdom
work to do.

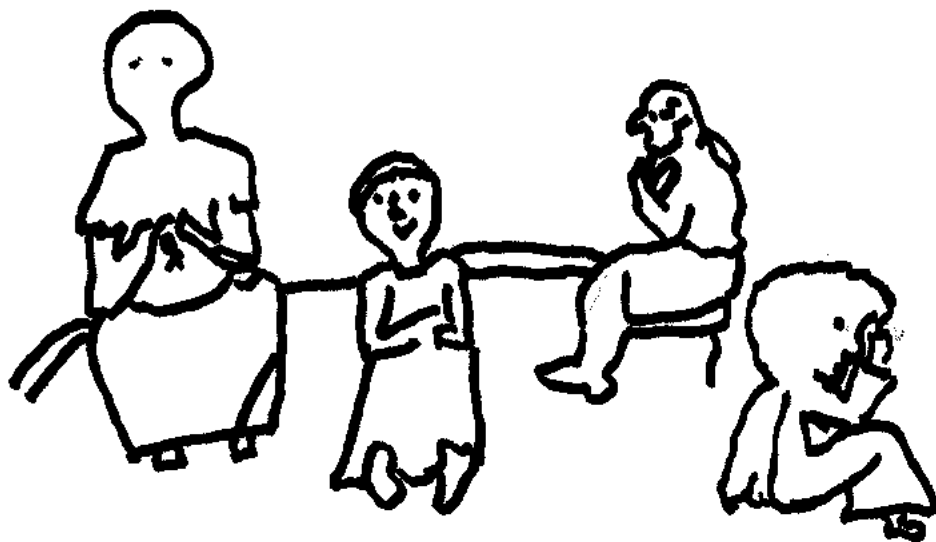
He said that although
he must go away for a time,
they must wait for a gift
he would send to help
them do that work.



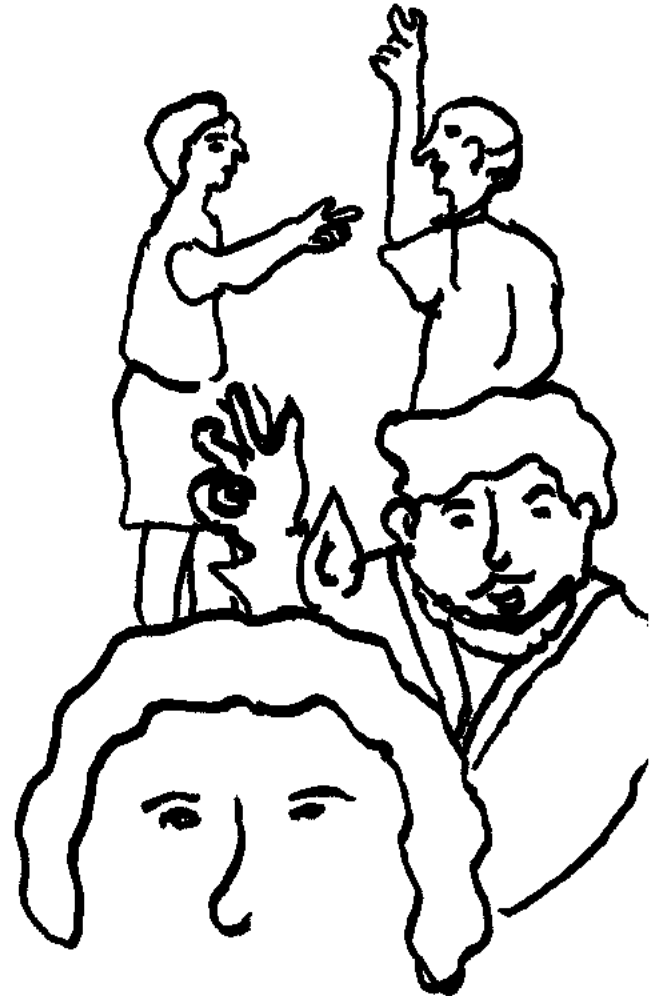




And then suddenly Jesus left them.
He was lifted up into the sky.
He took his throne in heaven
and began his kingly rule.



His followers went back to Jerusalem
and waited for the promised gift.
Ten days passed, and...



Then they heard something.
There was a loud sound like
the wind blowing.
It came from heaven and
filled the room.

Then they saw
something. Little
flames of fire
floated overhead
and came to rest
on each of them.



Then they said something.
They were praising God
in languages that had
never learned.

The promised gift,
the Holy Spirit,
had come to
them!

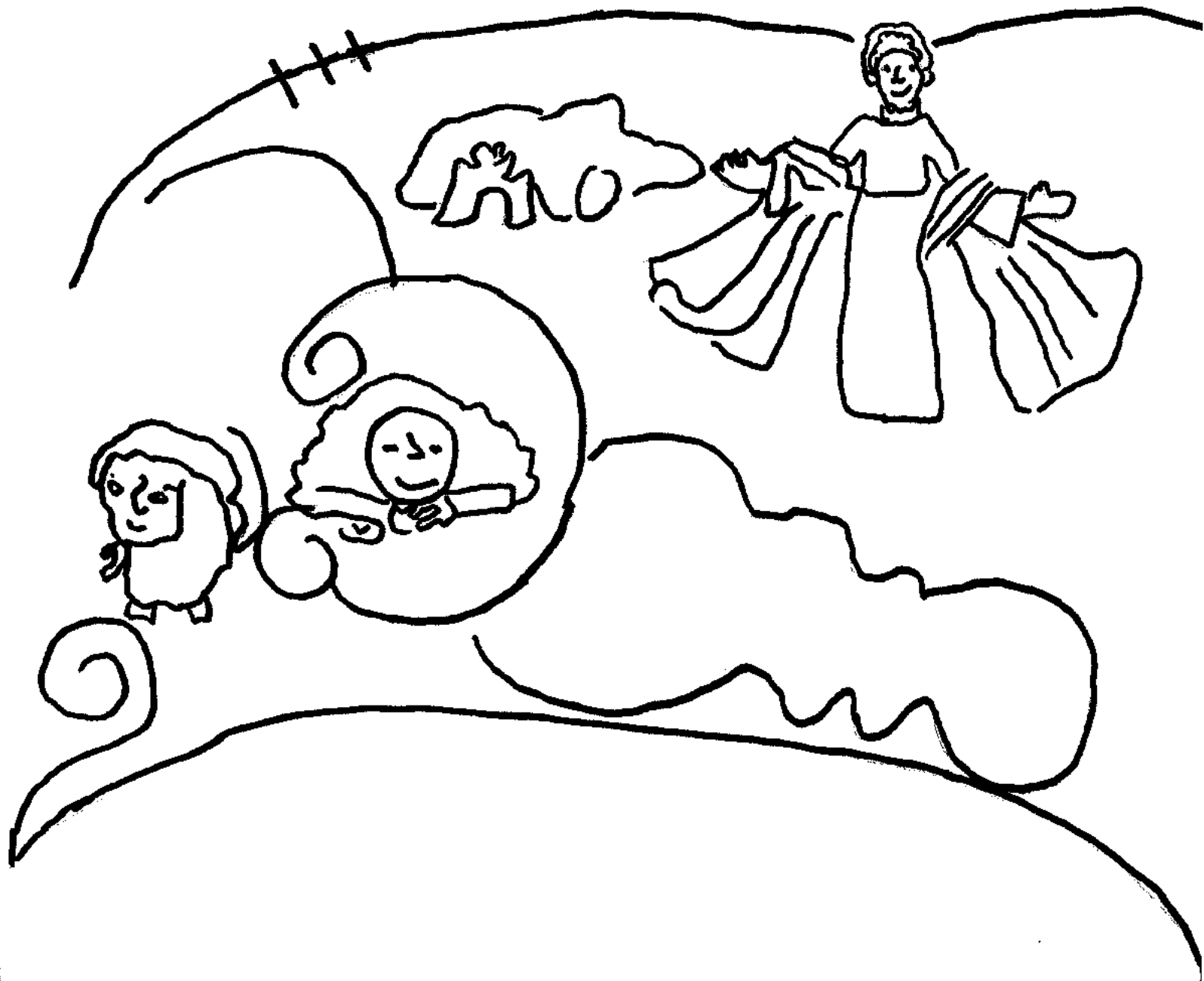
Other people also heard the wind and voices. But they didn't recognize the Holy Spirit.

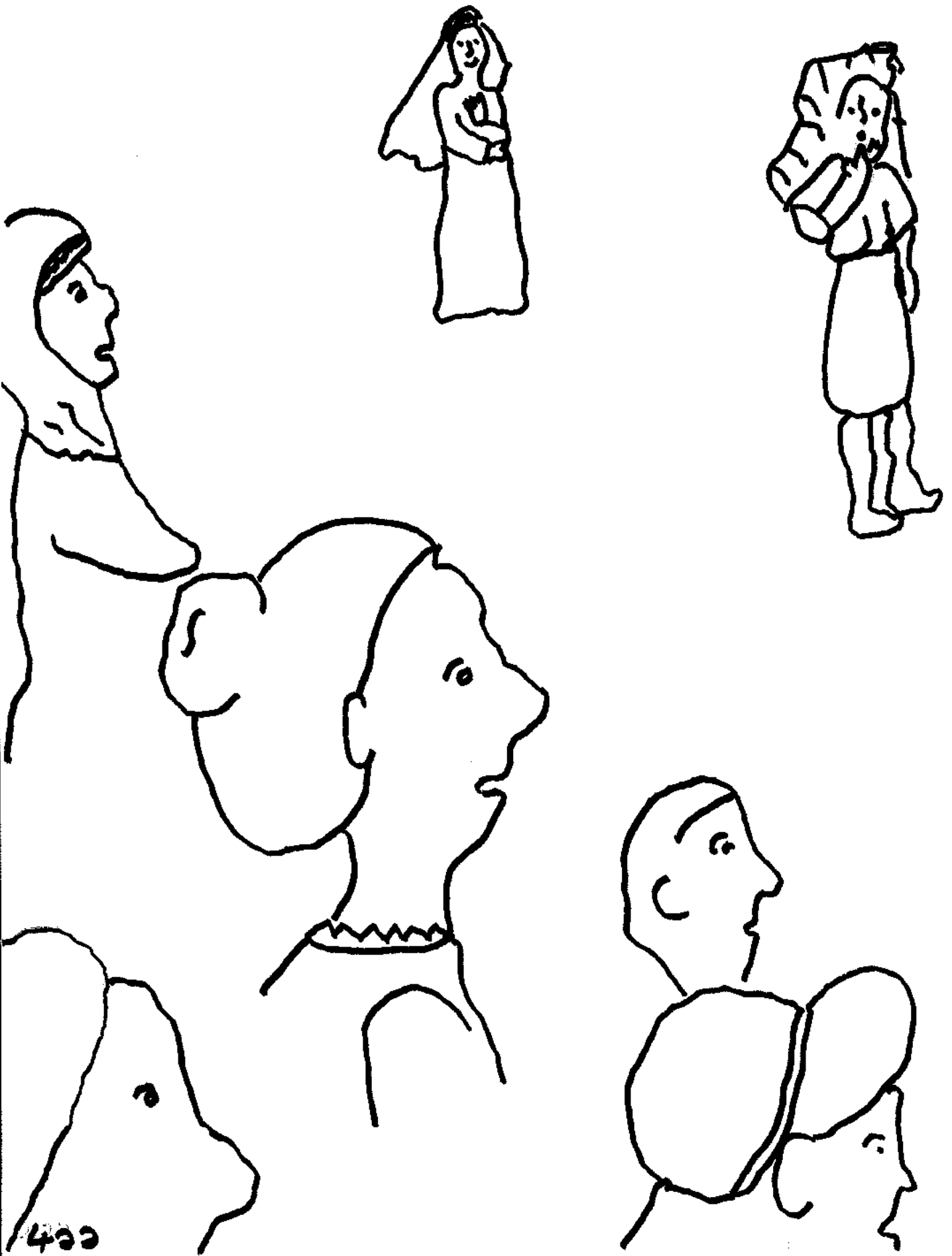
They wondered if Jesus' followers were drunk.

Peter raised his voice and spoke:

"These men are not drunk, as you suppose..."









This news entered into their hearts.

Many confessed their sins and believed.

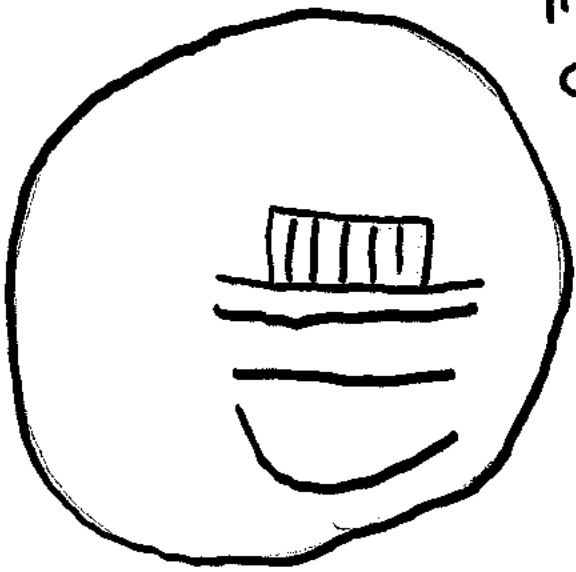
On that special day, God's Spirit gave new life to many
God's people were growing in number again!



And as the good news of God's kingdom spread, still more people repented and believed

The good news spread
and spread and spread!

The word that was preached
in Jerusalem went out all
across the land.



it spread to
people in Judea.

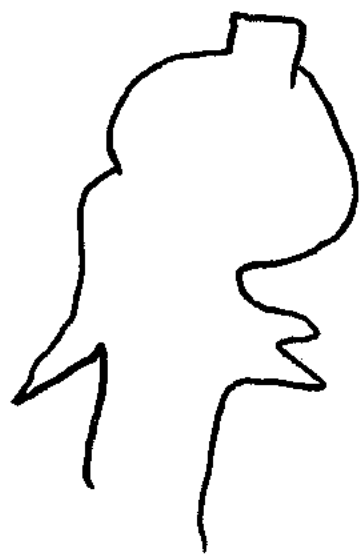
It spread to Samaria too.

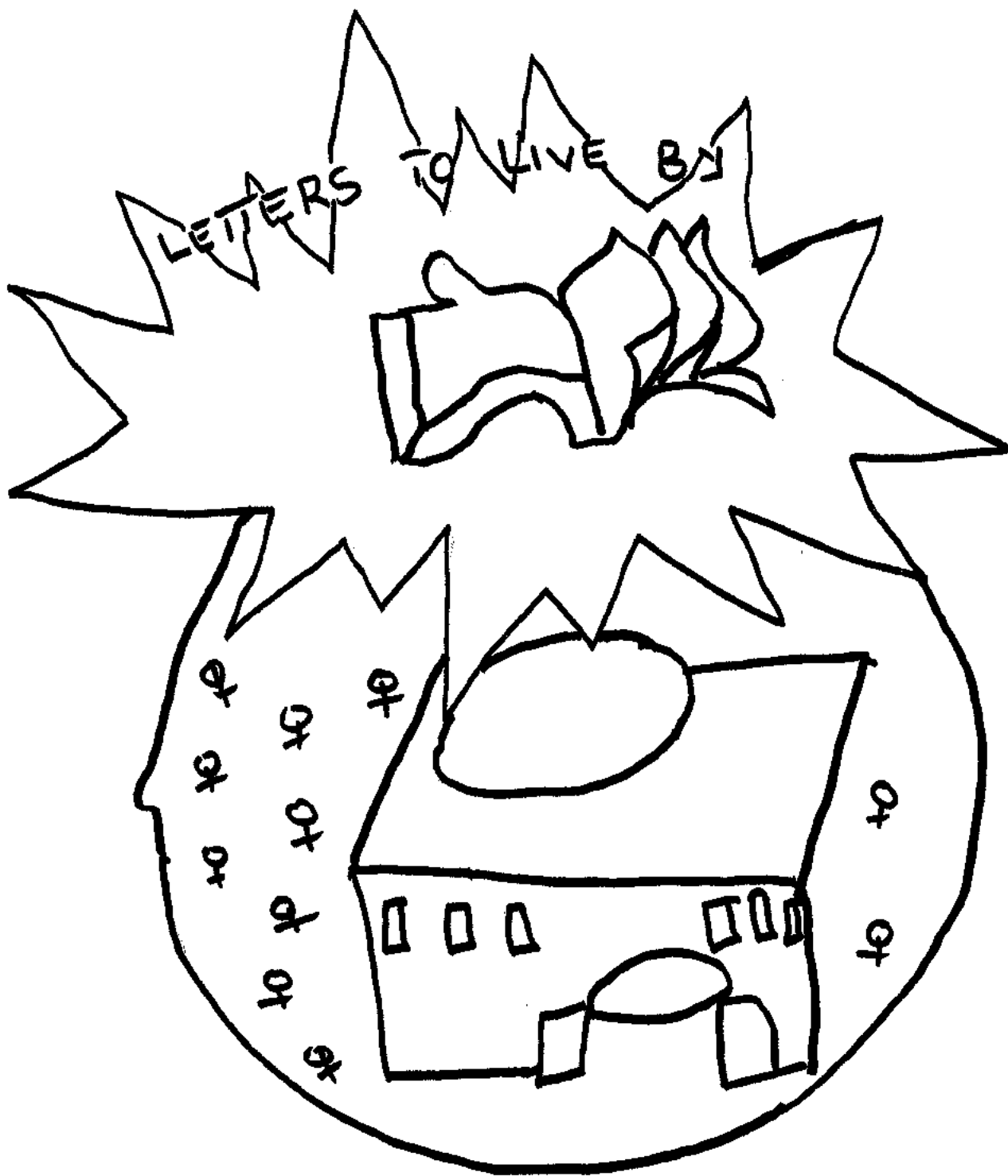
Later the apostle Paul
spread it as far away
as Rome.



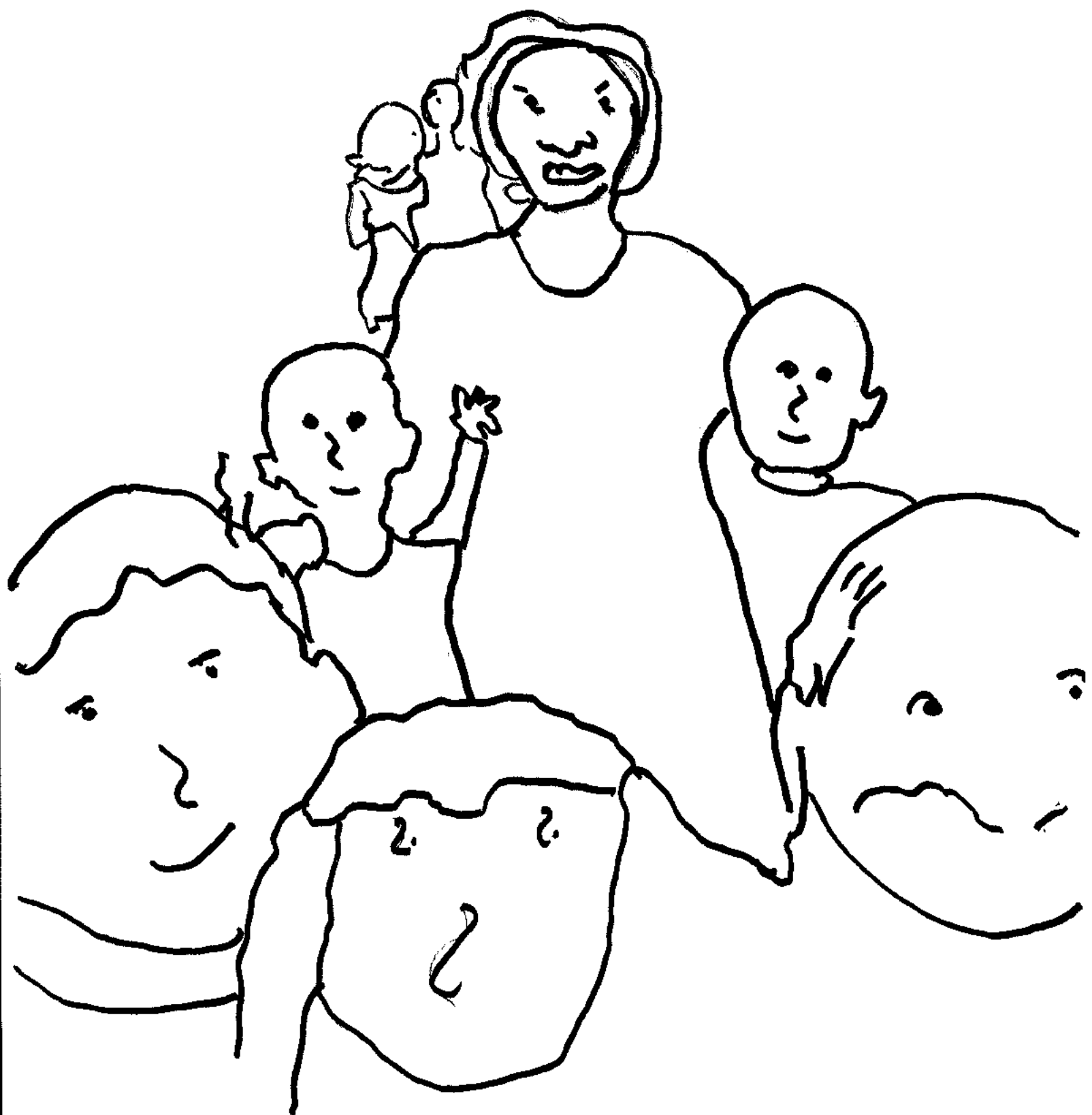


Far and near, people from every Nation
Were beginning to follow Jesus
as their king





Part 25





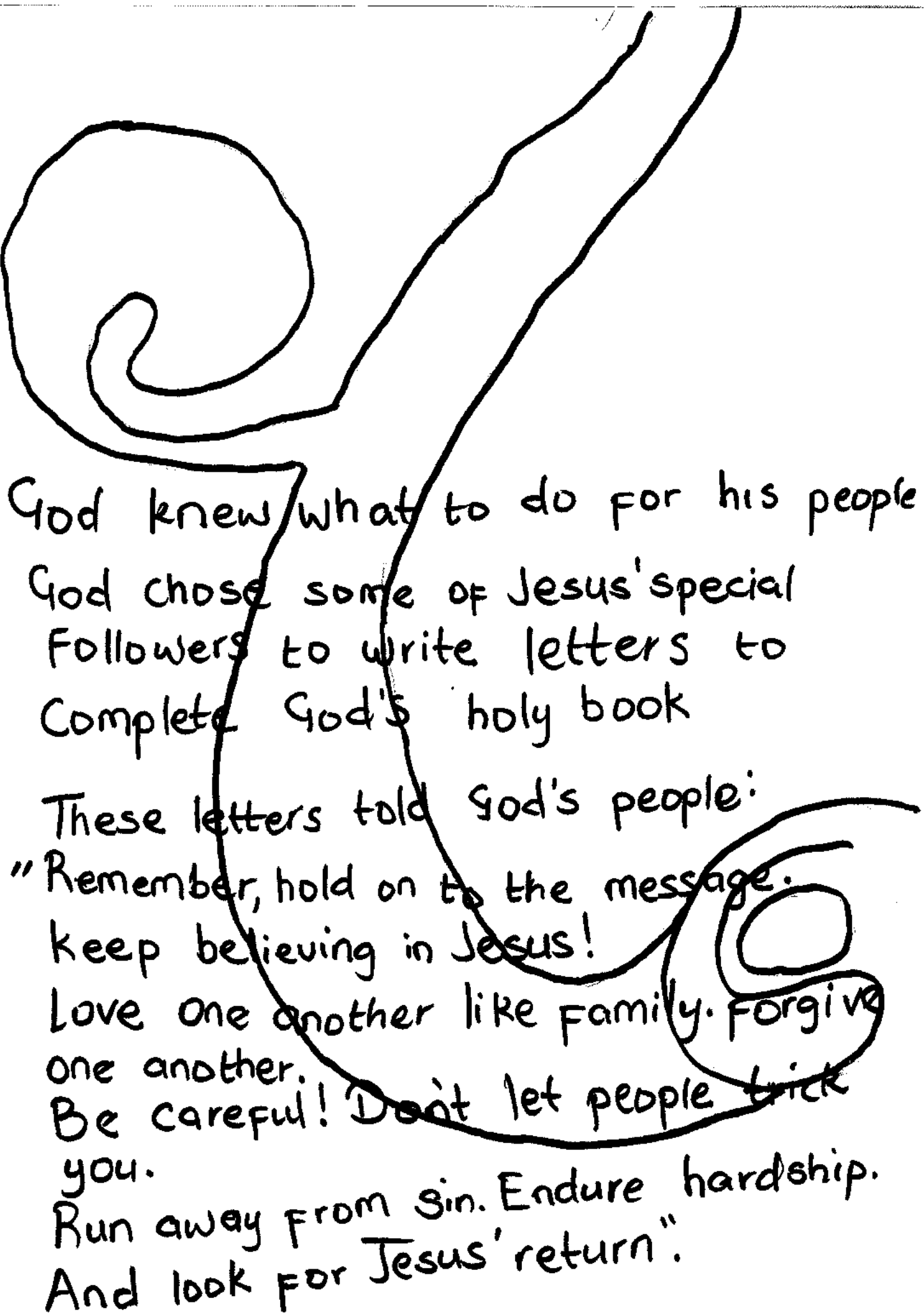


They had not seen Jesus face
to face

They had not talked with him
or heard him teach.

And those who had been
with could not be with them
all the time.

Would God's people know
what to do?



God knew what to do for his people
God chose some of Jesus' special
Followers to write letters to
Complete God's holy book

These letters told God's people:

"Remember, hold on to the message.

Keep believing in Jesus!

Love one another like family. Forgive
one another.

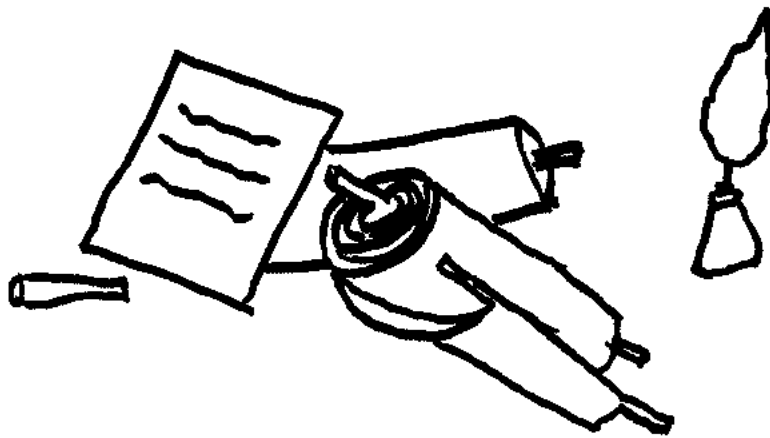
Be careful! Don't let people trick
you.

Run away from sin. Endure hardship.

And look for Jesus' return".



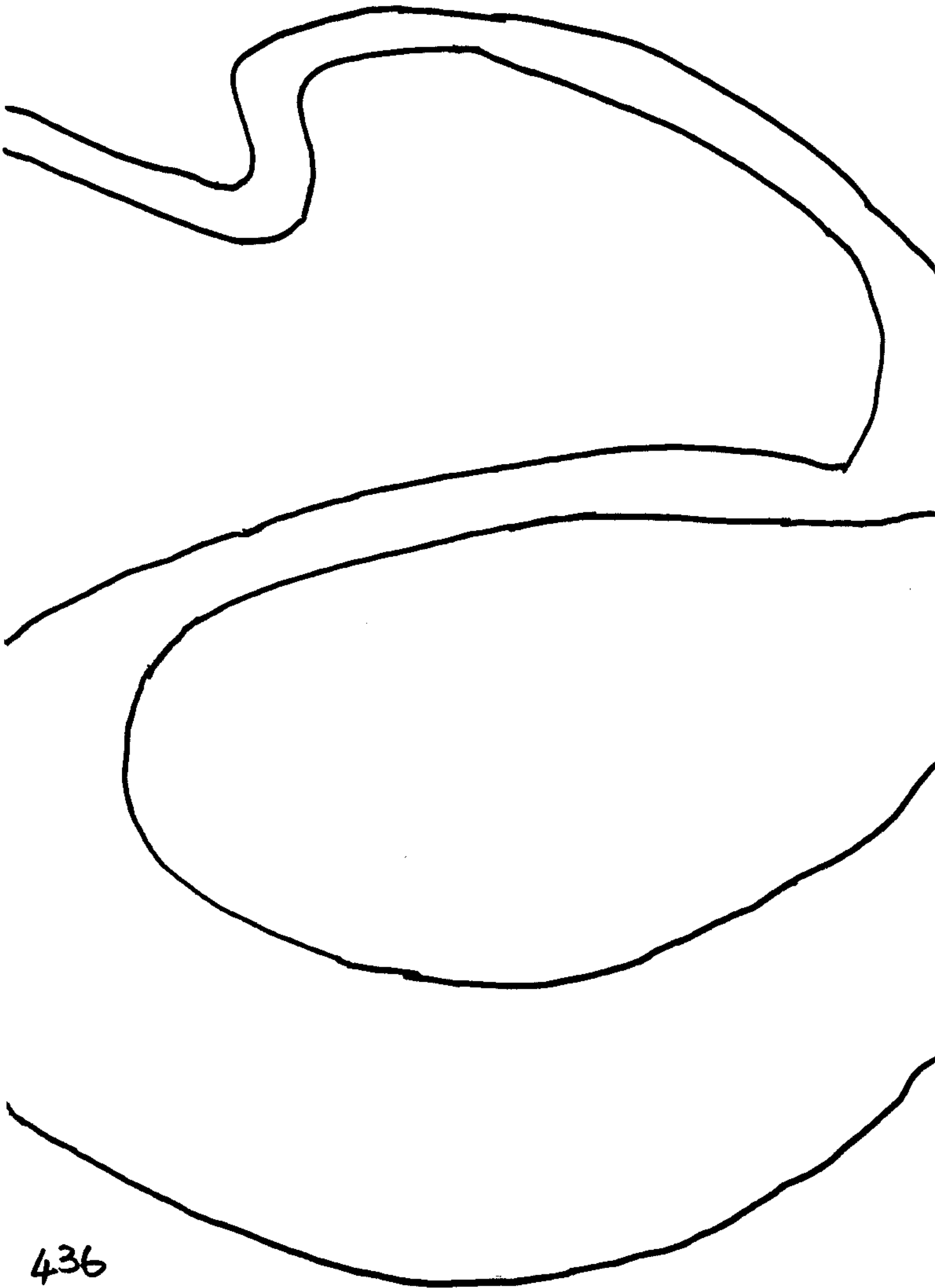




Everywhere that God's Kingdom
Spread these letters could be
found.

They helped God's people grow in
Faith.

They made God's young church strong.

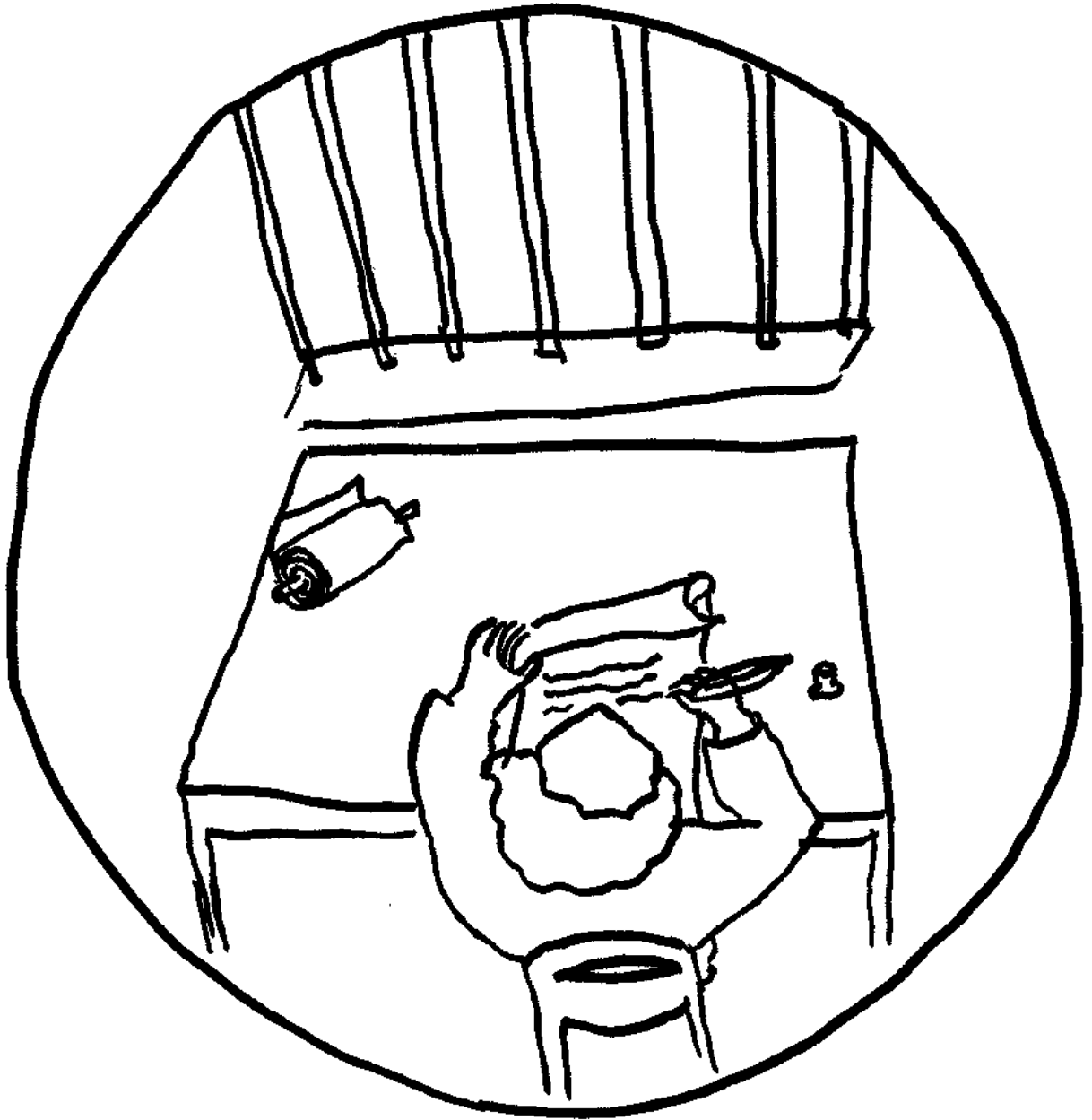


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THE VERY GOOD ENDING



Part 26



Do you see the man writing?

His name is John

Long ago he had run with Peter
to the empty tomb.

~~Later~~ ^{Later} he had traveled far and wide,
telling others of God's King
But now John was very old.

He would not be doing much
travelling or speaking anymore
People who didn't believe his
message had seen to that!
They were keeping John here
as a prisoner.

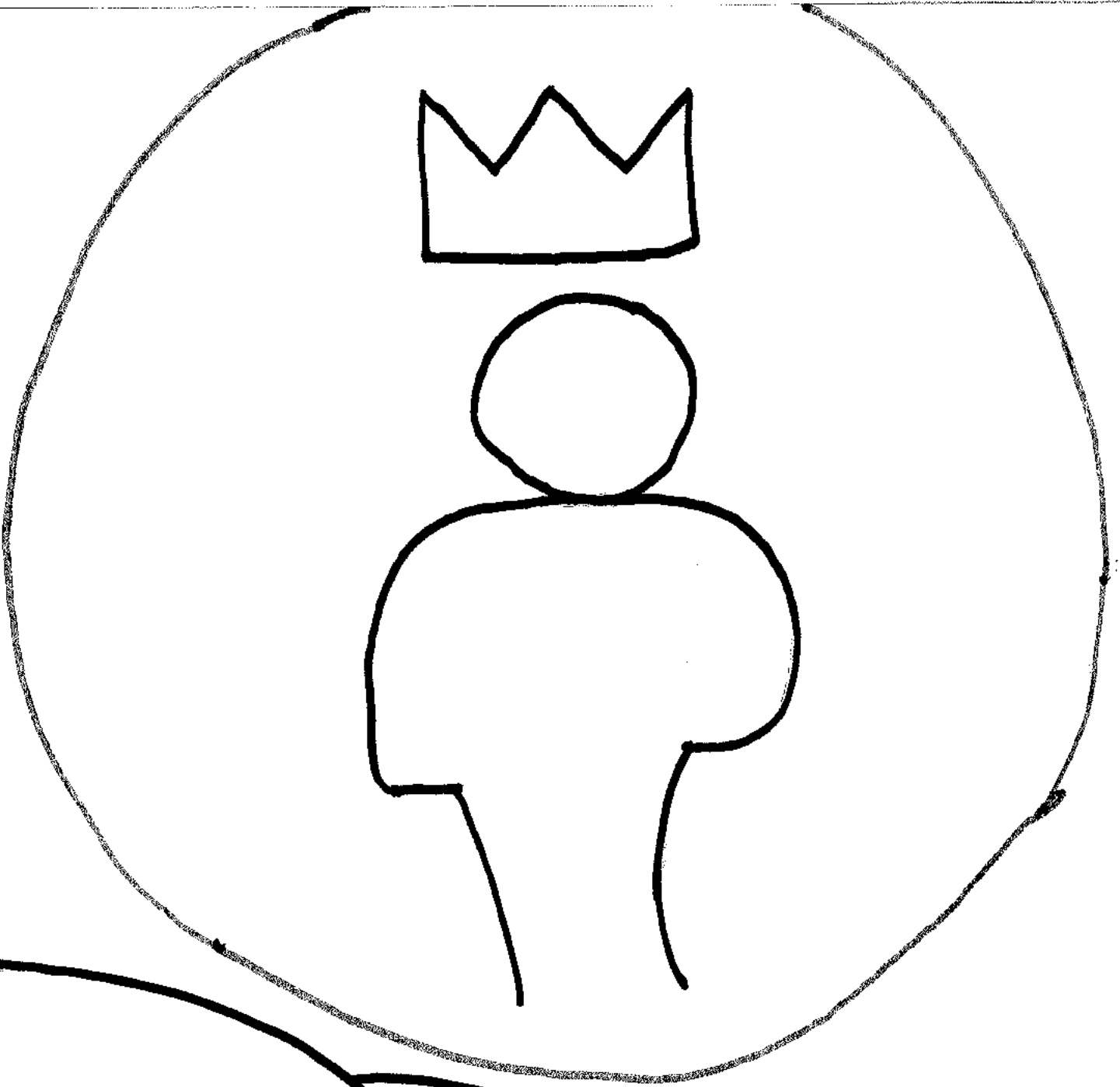


But God had a
big surprise for him to go.

One day, without any warning,
440

God gave John a peek into the future! John was not in prison on the island anymore. He traveled to heaven in a vision.





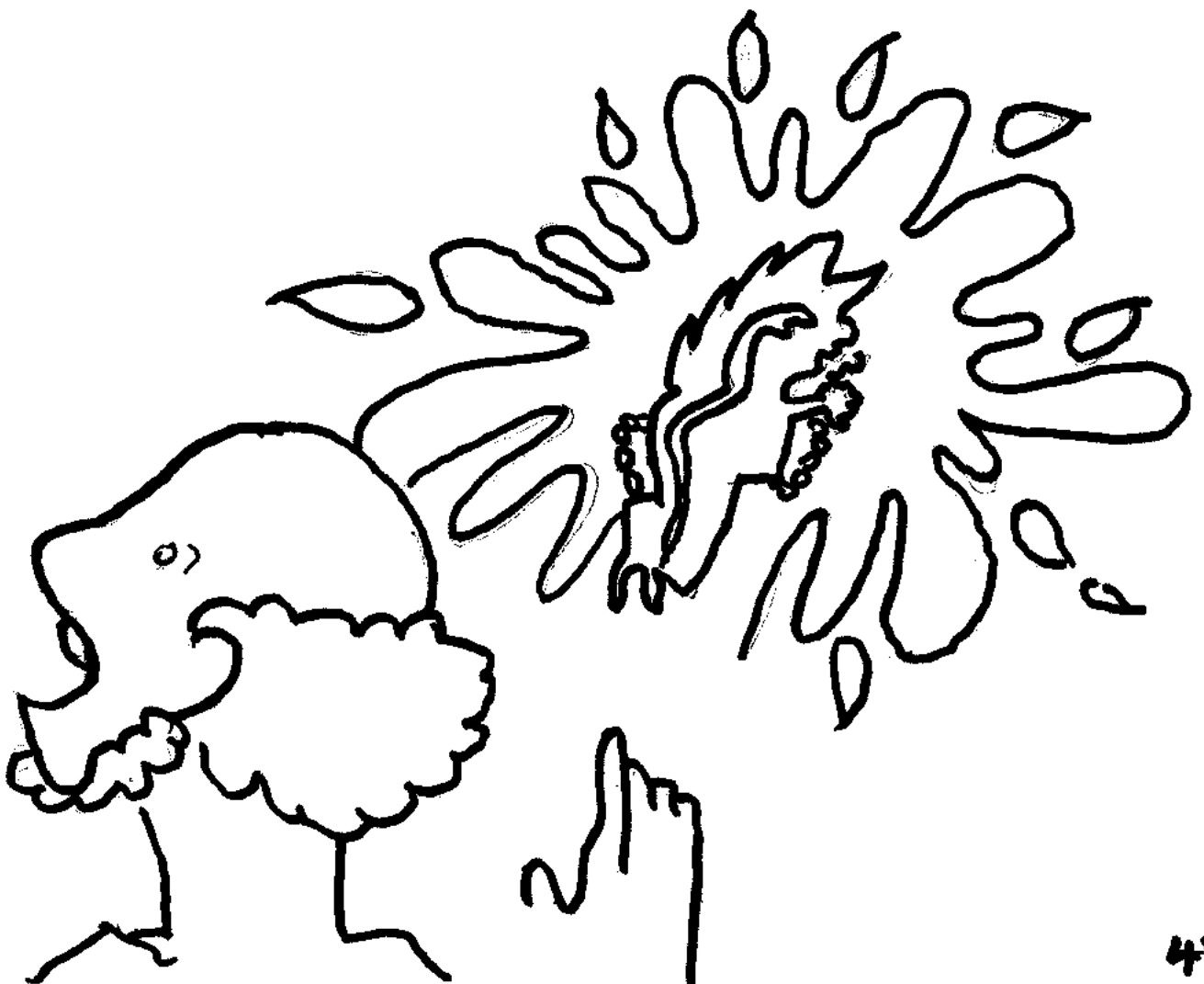
An angel showed
John many things.

John saw the holy room of
God and the throne where
Jesus sits.

He saw the place of hell
for everyone who rejects Jesus as
God's King.

He even saw Satan crushed
forever!

And he also saw...




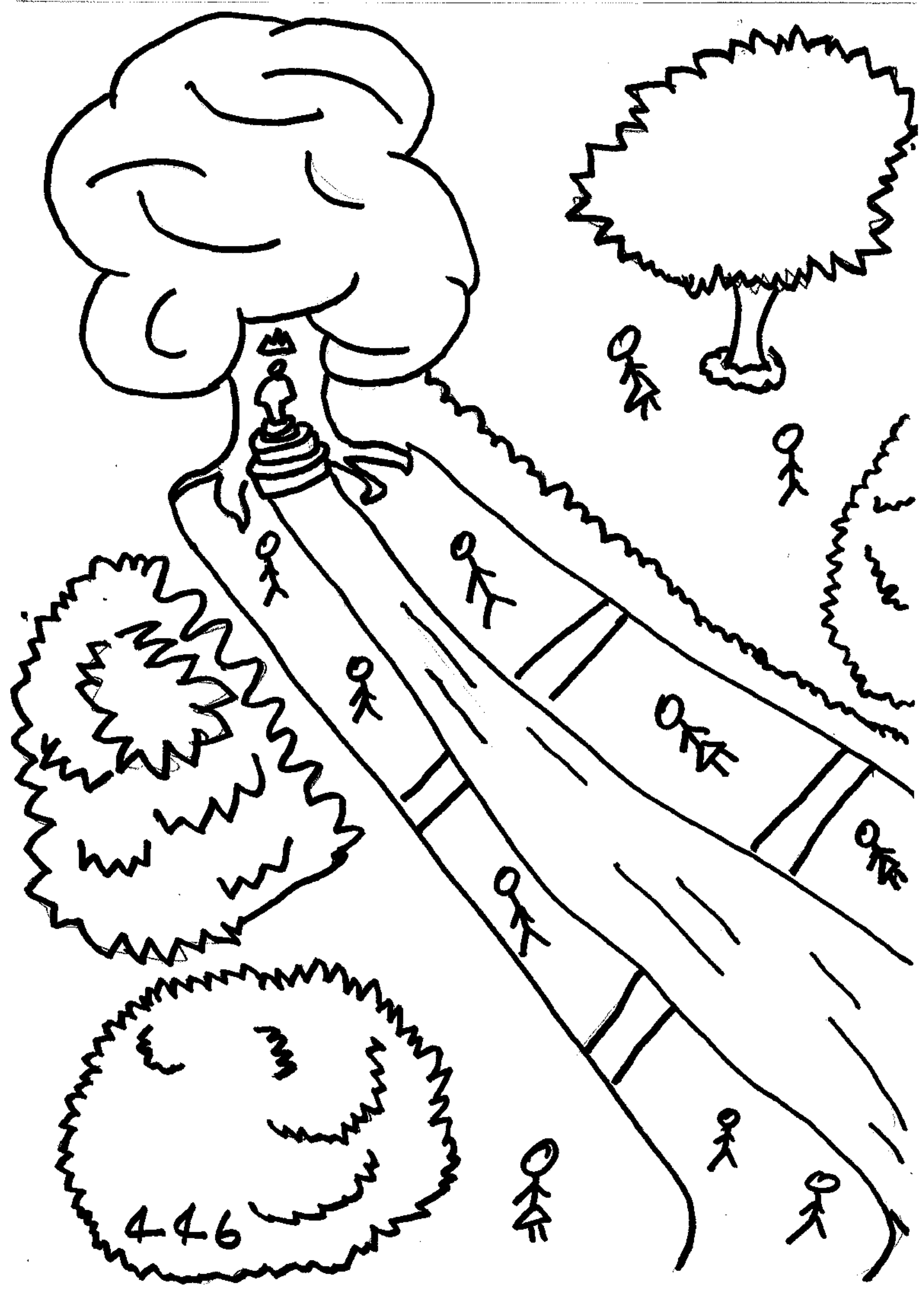


wavy

A new heaven and earth.

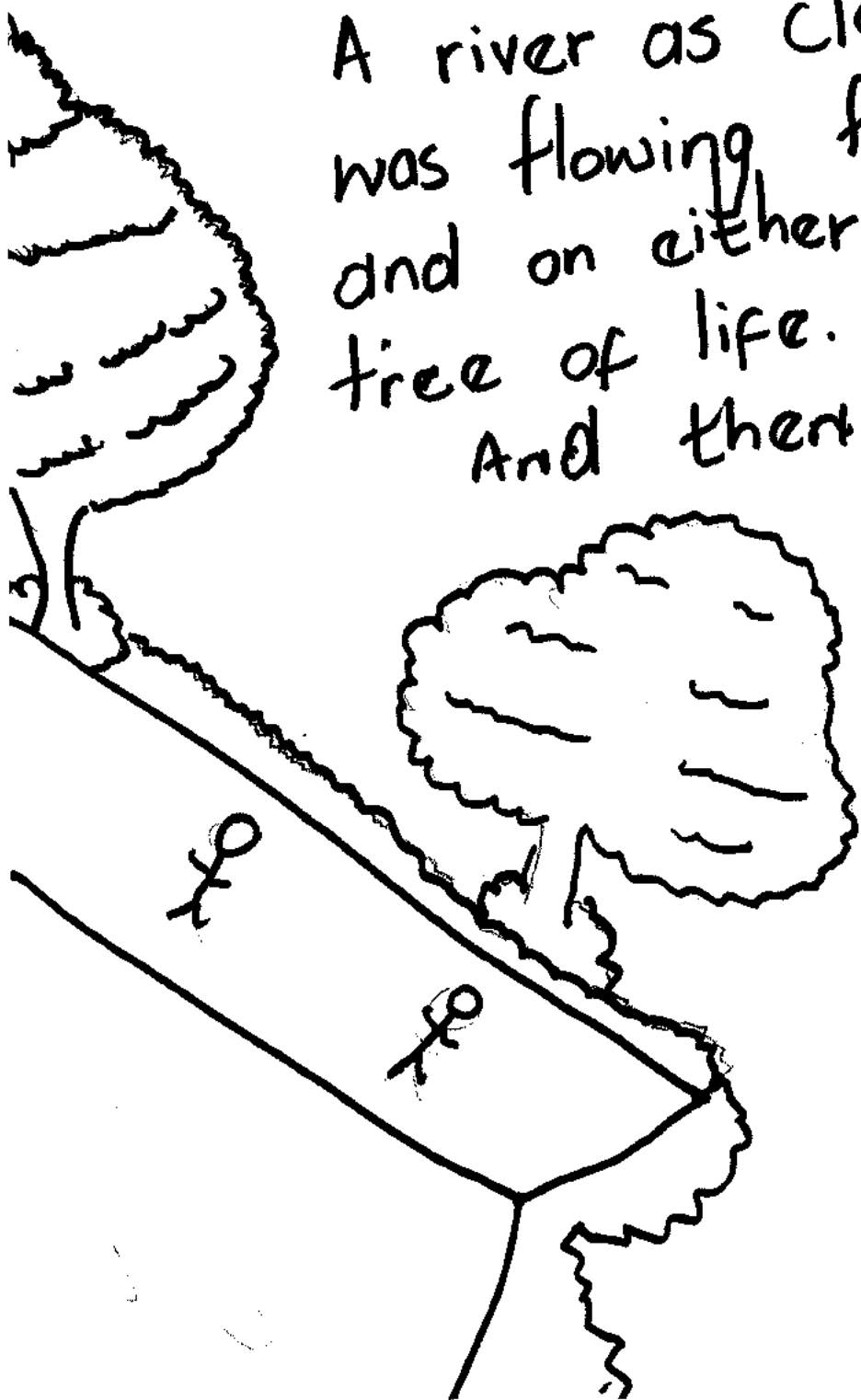
And then he heard something wonderful. A loud voice came from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people... He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away. I am making all things new... Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."





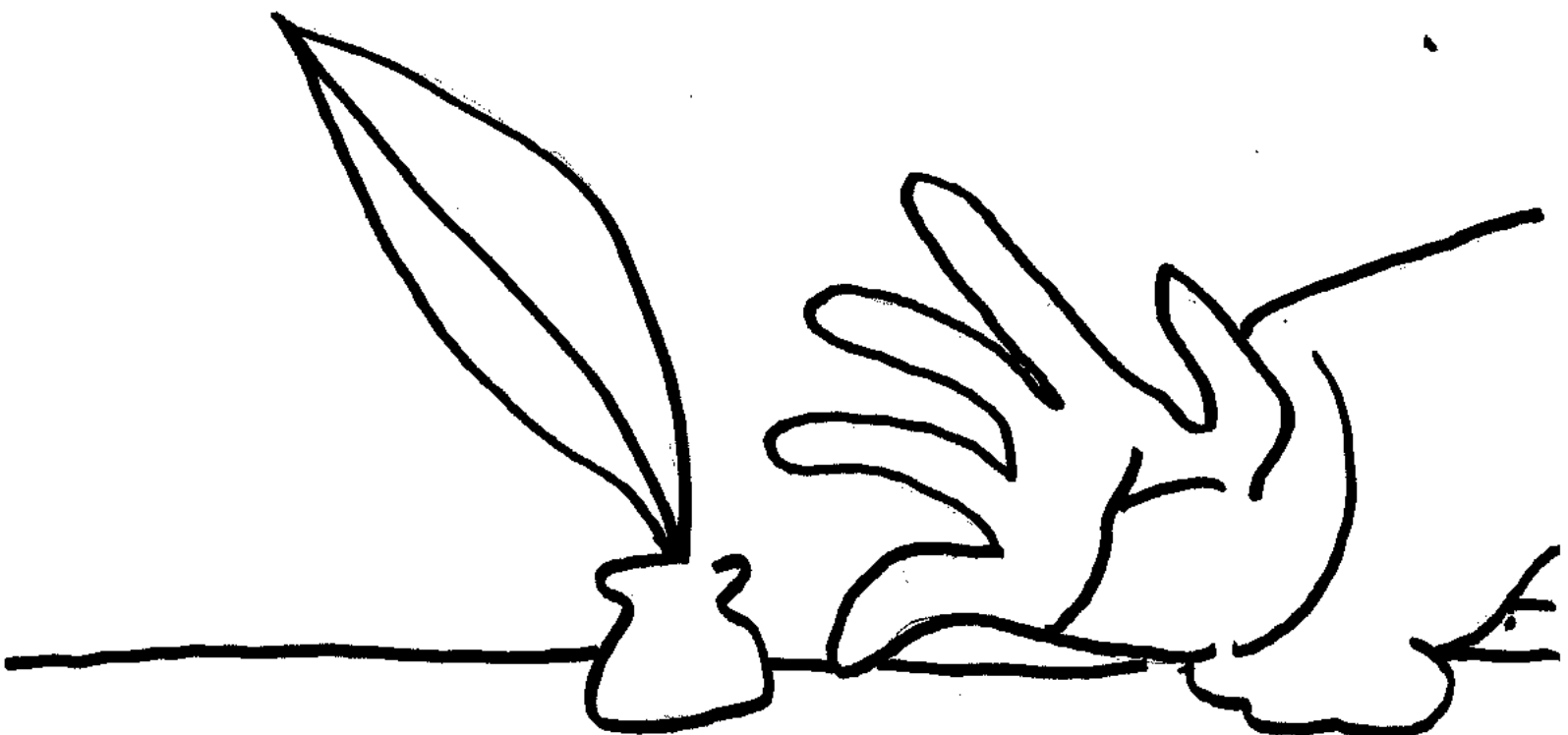
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After hearing this, John
saw a garden inside a city.
A river as clear as crystal
was flowing from the throne,
and on either side was the
tree of life.
And there...



John awoke from
his vision.

John smiled. John knew.
All God's promises, all the
things Jesus had told
him years ago were true.

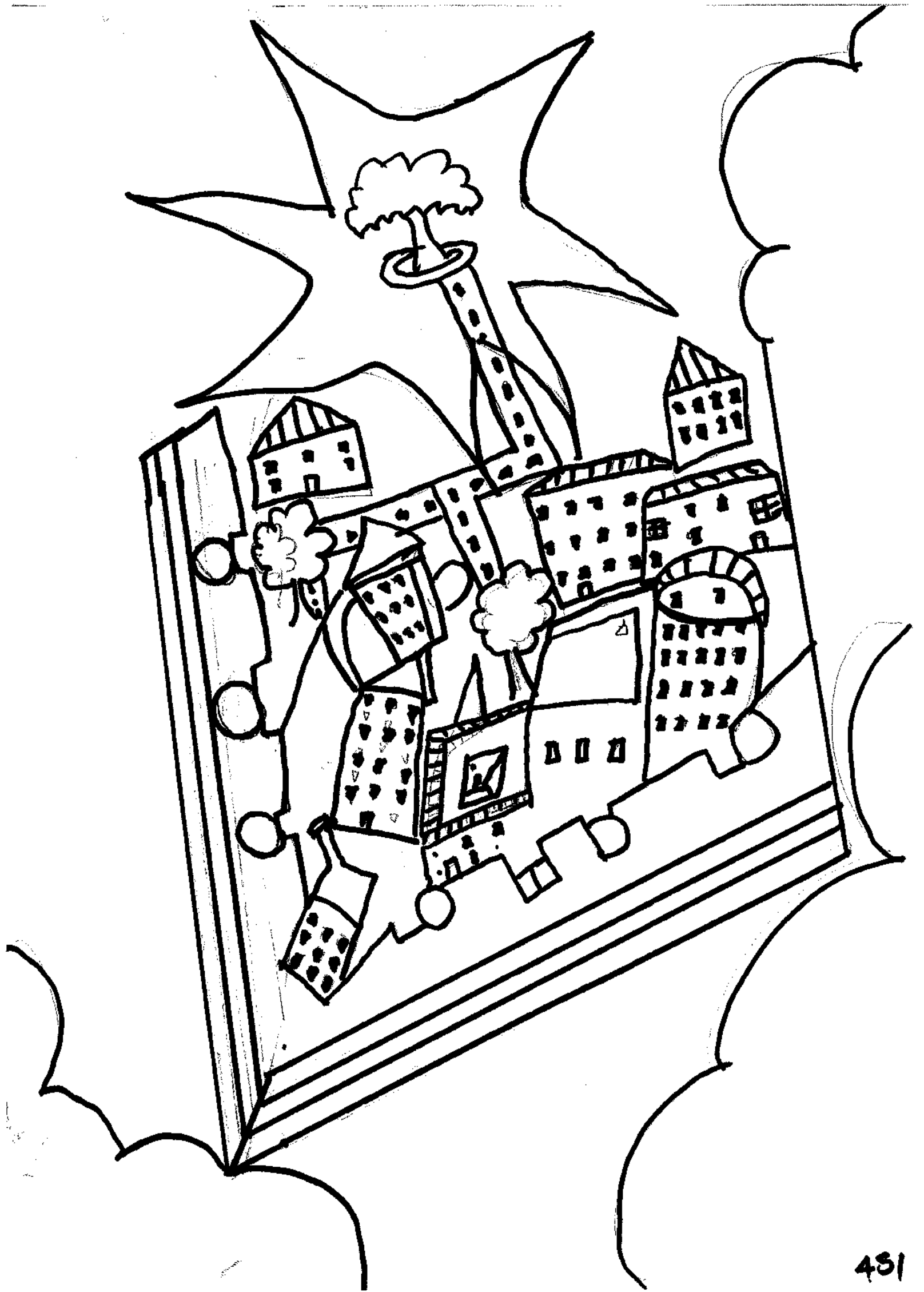


The old man could
hardly write fast enough.
He had seen the very
good ending waiting
for everyone who follows
Jesus as God's
king.



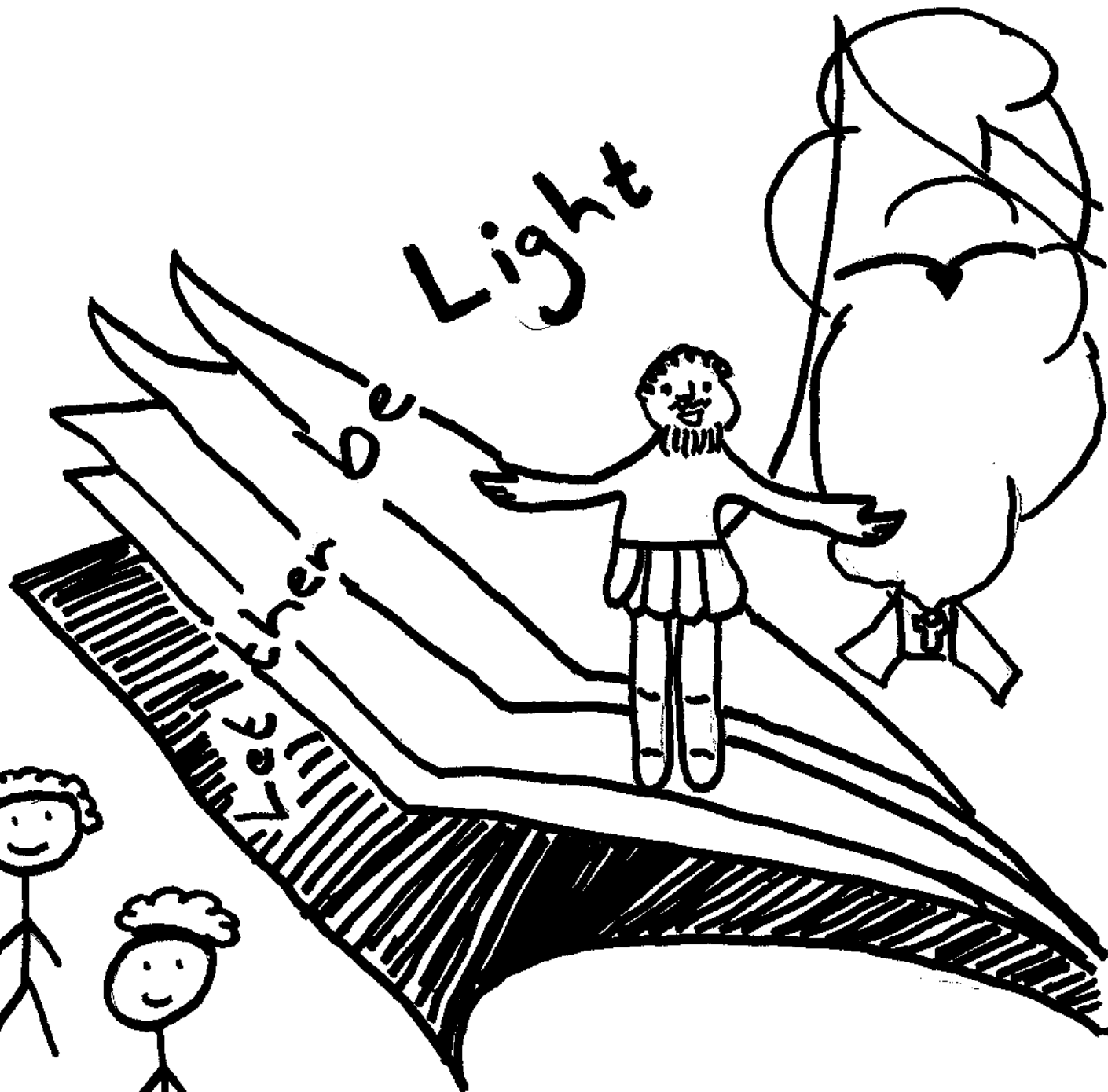
God's forever people
will one day live
in God's forever place
under God's forever
rule.



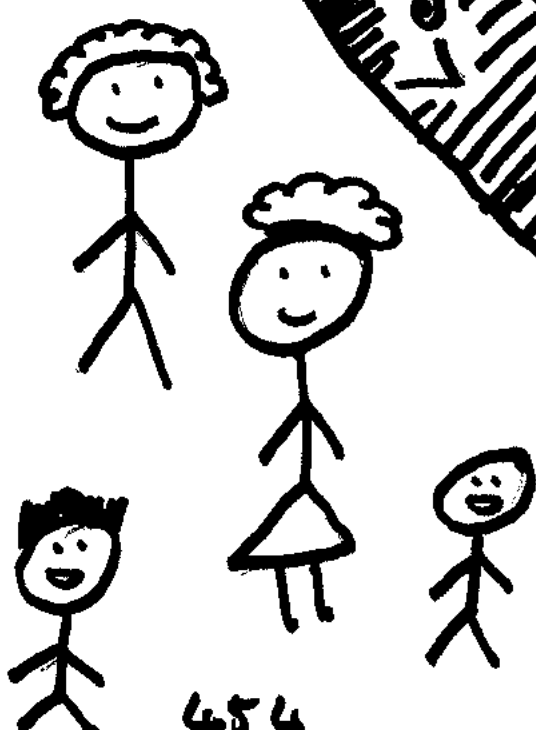


Can you believe it?

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!



Share the Light





The Bible is a big book about a big God who keeps a big promise

Every one loves a good story - especially children! But what we sometimes overlook is that the Bible is more than a collection of great stories. It is the real account of God's love for the world!

The Big Picture Story Bible presents this remarkable true story. Simple words and striking illustrations unfold the storyline of God's word from Genesis to Revelations. All ages will enjoy this exciting discovery of a God who keeps his big promise.



David R. Helm serve as lead pastor of the Hyde Park congregation of Holy Trinity Church in Chicago. He also serve as chairman of the Charles Simeon Trust, an organization that promotes practical instruction in preaching.



Growing up, Gail Schoonmaker loved to draw pictures depicting the songs and stories she heard in church. She earned a B.A. in art from Wheaton College and makes her home in Chicago's Hyde Park neighborhood with her husband, Keith, and their four children.

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