

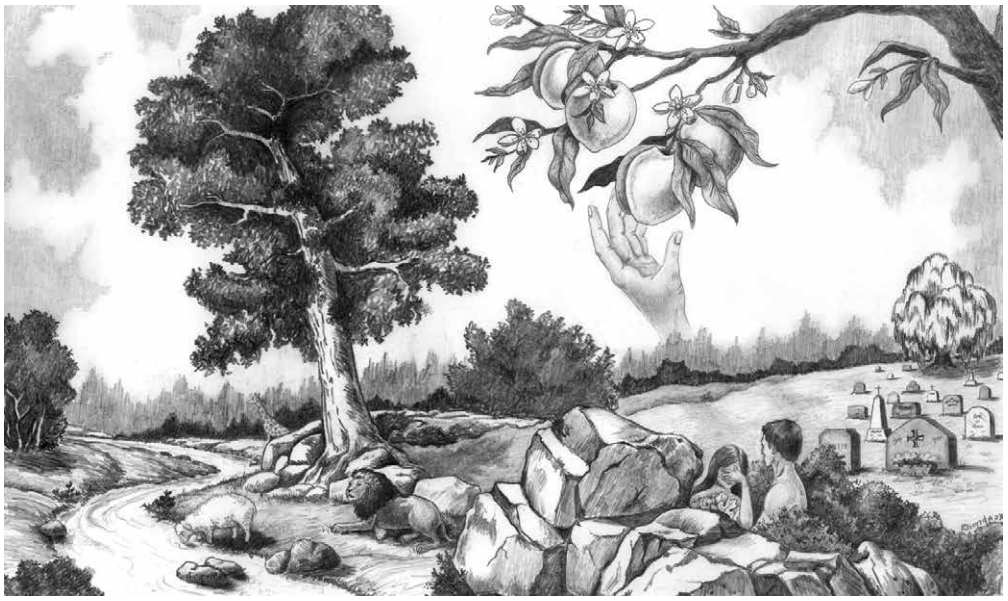
Don't Throw in the Towel

I'm asking you to engage your mind in imagination! Imagine yourself in a large circular room with a cyclorama on its walls illustrating God's plan for mankind from creation to full redemption. The paintings depict God's plan to take His people from the "lost paradise garden" in Genesis, chapter 3, to the "new garden" described in Revelation, chapters 21 and 22.

Join me now on this imaginary tour. As we enter the cyclorama, we turn around, face the door, and begin observing the artwork from left to right.

First scene: Creation of the earth, the sun, the moon, and millions of stars.¹

1. Genesis 1



Second scene: Adam and Eve living in their paradise garden. Lush green foliage, trees loaded with organic fruit, and peaceful animals make this the ideal setting for a perfect honeymoon.¹

Third scene: Adam and Eve disobeying God's command as they eat the forbidden fruit.²

In the next scene, they are trying to hide from God.³

Moving to the next picture, you see they lost their paradise garden, their perfect honeymoon setting. God drove them out of Eden into a land of violence, sorrow, sickness, and death.⁴

1. Genesis 2:8-25

2. Genesis 3:1-6

3. Genesis 3:7,8

4. Genesis 3:22-24

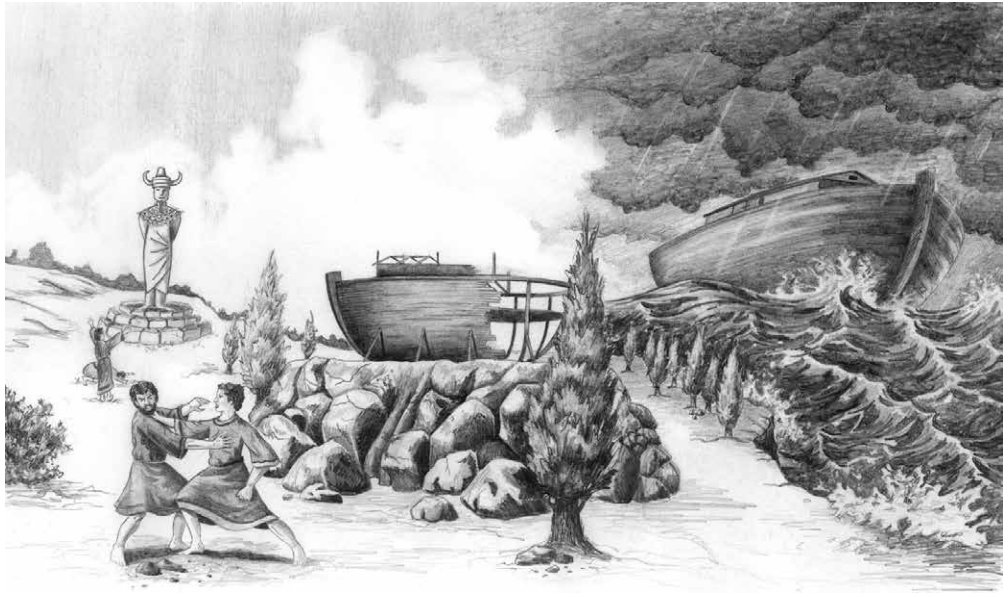


Violence Strife Leprosy 911 Cemeteries
Murder Sickness Pain Death
Viruses Toil Funerals

However, God still wanted a people separated unto Him who would be His very own. So before He drove them from the garden, He promised them a redeemer, a Savior.¹ When the fullness of time is come, God will send His Son “to redeem them that were under the law.”² Can you picture a downcast man and woman being driven out of their honeymoon paradise? As they go, God promises a Savior. Hold on to that promise!

1. Genesis 3:15

2. Galatians 4:4,5



Move on to a scene hundreds of years later. You see a people who have become very wicked. The imagination of their heart is continually on evil things. Corruption and violence are so great that God decides to destroy the human race.¹

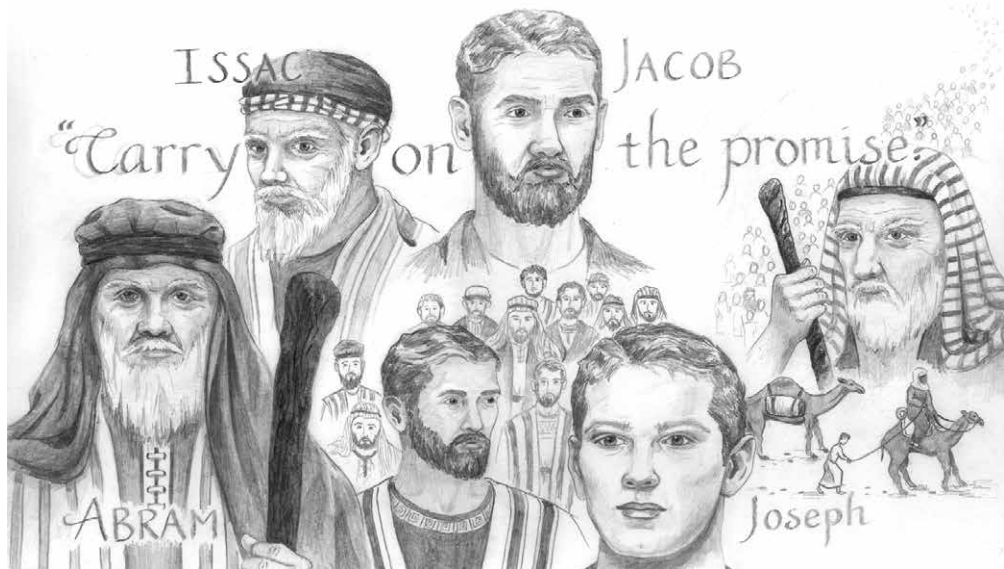
“But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.”² God instructs Noah to build an ark in which he will be safe from God’s judgment on the human race. Noah walks with God and believes God’s promises. Therefore, he floats high and dry while the wicked people of the world perish.³

Next we move to a scene about a third of the way into our cyclorama tour. Here is God calling Abram to leave his country and his family and go to a land that God will

1. Genesis 6

2. Genesis 6:8

3. Genesis 7 and 8



show him. God promises to bless Abram as he serves God and carries on the promise.¹

Then there is Isaac. God says, “You carry on the promise.”²

Next is Isaac’s son, Jacob. “The blessing is yours, Jacob. Take it on!”³

Notice Judah and his brothers, the sons of Jacob. Judah shall carry on the lineage of the promise.⁴

We proceed to the moving story of Joseph, the lad sold to slavery in Egypt, who is a type and symbol of the promised Messiah.⁵

Here is Moses, leading the children of Israel out of the bondage of Egypt toward their promised land of milk and honey.⁶

We see Joshua challenging the people, “Choose you this day whom ye will serve.”¹

1. Genesis 12:1-5

2. Genesis 26:1-5

3. Genesis 28:10-15

4. Genesis 49:8-12

5. Genesis 37; 39-50

6. Exodus