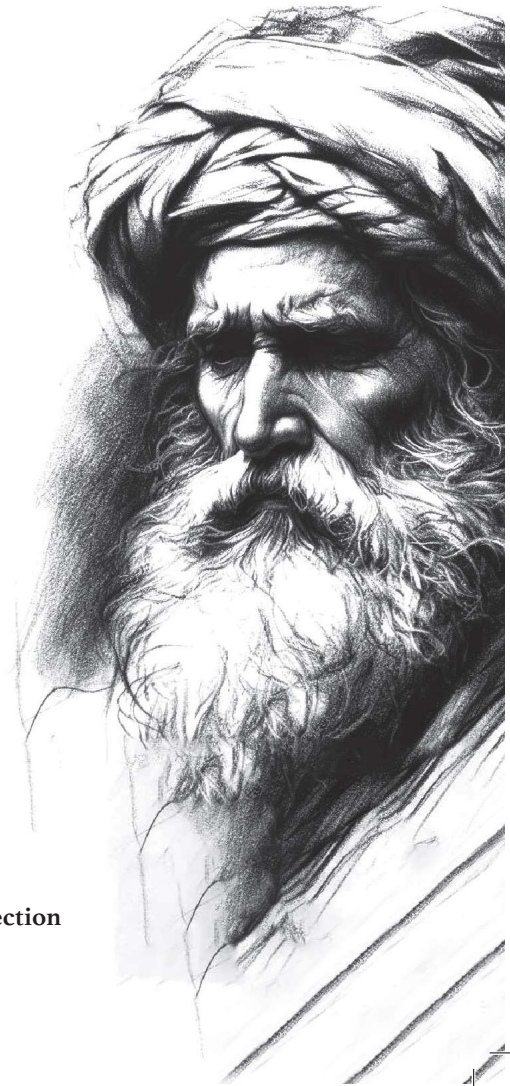


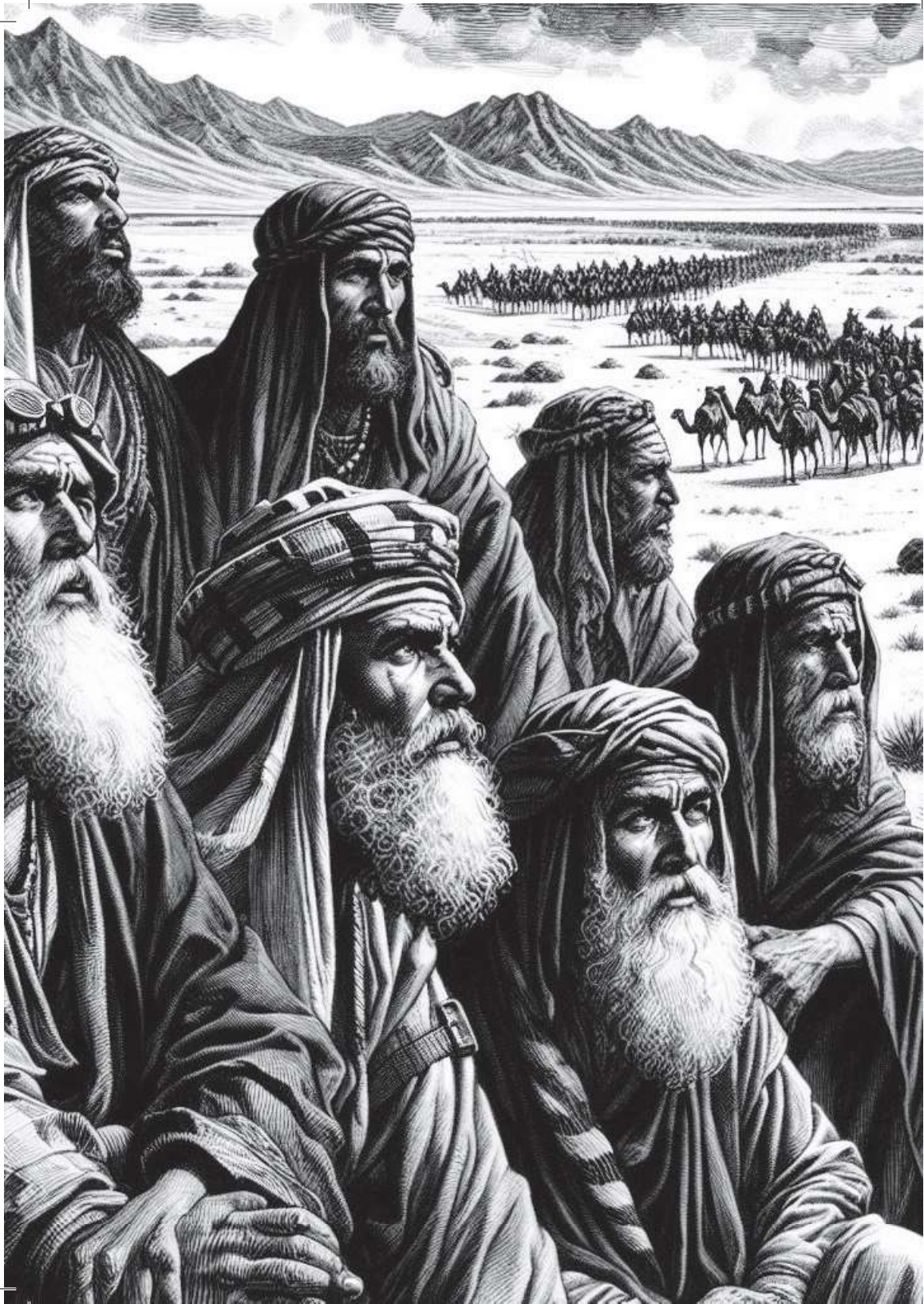
*Clarisse Barros*

# **Anonymous Men**

**in the Old Testament**



**God's Anonymous Collection**  
Volume II



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## **Dedication**

To my husband,  
my son,  
my son-in-law,  
my grandchildren and my father.

To the Lord Jesus Christ - God made Man.

## Acknowledgements

To the Lord, for showing me that writing is a pulpit, and that I have a ministry to fulfill.

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To Dr. Palmeiro Barros, my husband, who knows that I write for hours on end, usually during the day, but often at dawn, when the silence is greatest, and who always supports me.

To those who pray tirelessly for my writing ministry (your prayers have made all the difference!).

To my readers, for walking with me through the pages of Scripture.

My greatest gratitude!

## Introduction

This is the second volume in the series *God's Anonymous*. The first tells of women from the Old Testament whose names are not revealed to us, but who, despite their anonymity, were instruments of great achievements, such as the Egyptian princess who saved the baby Moses from the waters of the Nile, or the mother of Samson, who gave birth to a special boy, a son like no other, endowed with extraordinary physical strength, chosen by God to be the judge of his people for twenty years. Like her, many other “nameless” women have their faith, their courage and their example of life to follow, like Noah’s wife, or to avoid, like Lot’s wife, recorded in the Bible, even though we don’t know their names.

Over the years, I have always appreciated the courage of so many people to go unnoticed in the world, to do simple but important things over and over again, without expecting any recognition, to carry out the mundane tasks of everyday life, without which life for all of us would be very difficult, if not impossible!

I thank God for all the people who help make our society work, from the baker who gets up at dawn to knead our bread, to the truck driver who drives his truck for hours so that we have access to the products we need. To the garbage collectors, street sweepers, laborers, miners, teachers and educational assistants, doctors, and all the staff who work hard to ensure that we have decent, quality health care when we need it (especially during this pandemic); the miners, the builders, the train drivers, the pilots, the administrators, the researchers, the scientists, the engineers, the architects, the poets, the painters, the musicians, the dreamers, and all the many people who never make the headlines but without whom the world would be a much worse place!

The Bible mentions the deeds and words of people whose names are not recorded along with their accomplishments. But God, the Almighty, who chooses and empowers individuals for various projects and tasks, knows who they are!

Your name, reader, is in God's records! In His books are recorded the efforts you made, the use you made of your gifts and talents, every drop of sweat, every tear that no one noticed (except God!), every failure and every victory, what you learned from the difficulties you encountered along the way, how you applied your knowledge, how you developed those muscles of faith and that firm warrior stance! God values your story. God knows your heart. God knows what no one else knows about you because He has always kept His eyes on you!

One day your name will be known. How do you want to be known? What words or titles would you like to have associated with your name? Readers, the choice is yours!

My prayer is that this book you are holding in your hands will change the way you see yourself; that it will change the way you see God's purposes and the mission He has carefully chosen for you; that it will change the way you look at your job, your financial situation, your position in the company where you work, the opportunities that come your way, the way you see hierarchy; that it will change the way you see and value your family, your mission as a husband, father, son, uncle, grandfather, friend, neighbor, colleague, or any other role. I pray that this book will show you the value and eternal reach of your simplest gestures, words, and attitudes. Finally, I pray that you will see the love that God has for you and that you will learn more about the extent of that inexhaustible love!

God bless you mightily!

Clarisse Barros

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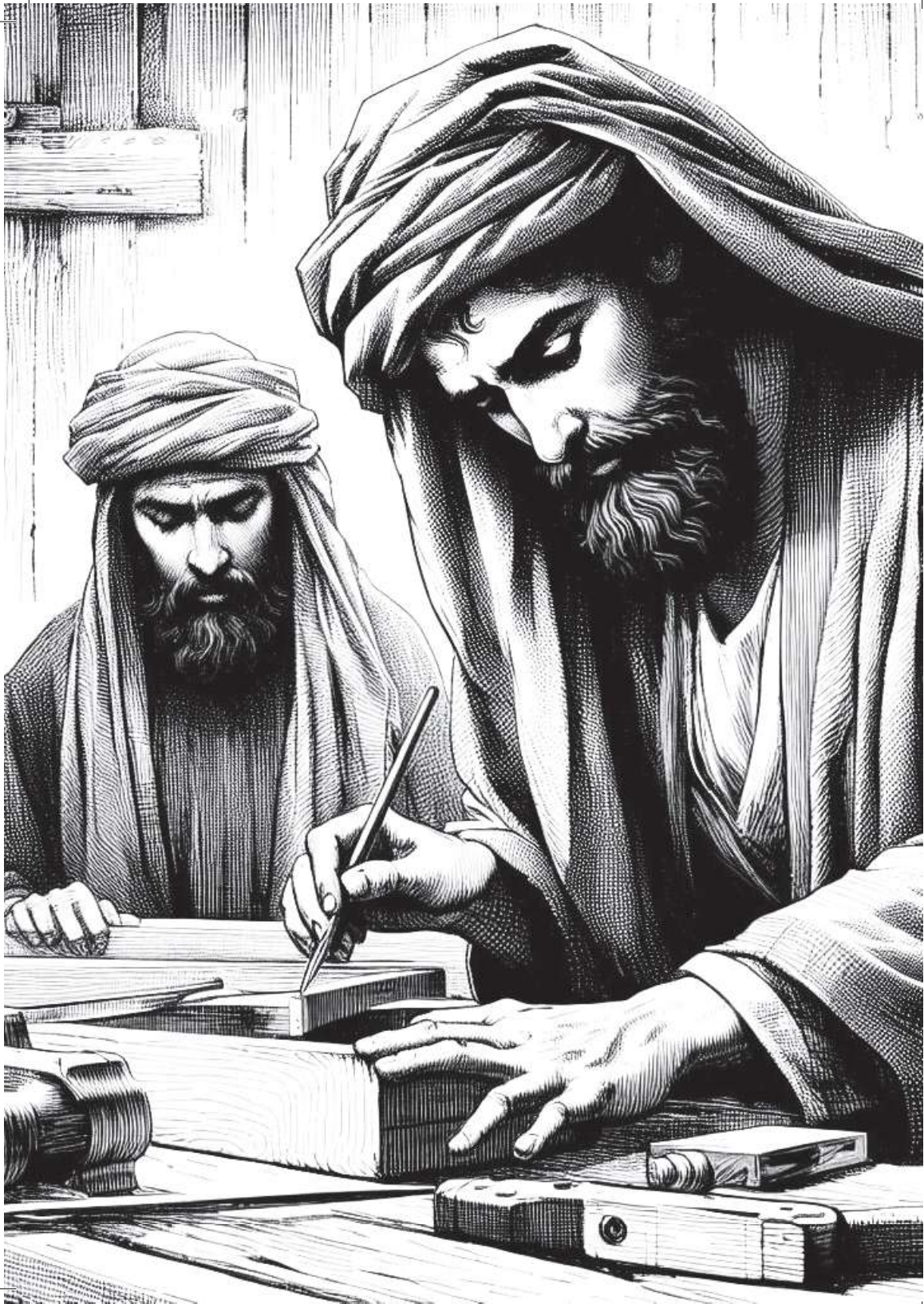
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# Part I

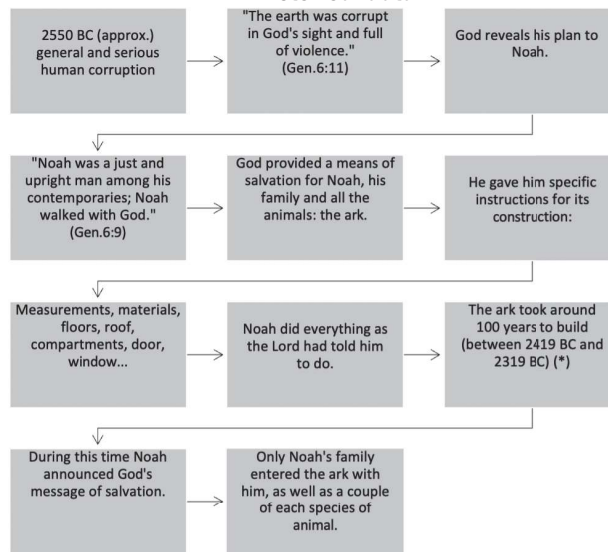
Men builders



# Chapter 1

## Noah's carpenters

### - Historical data -

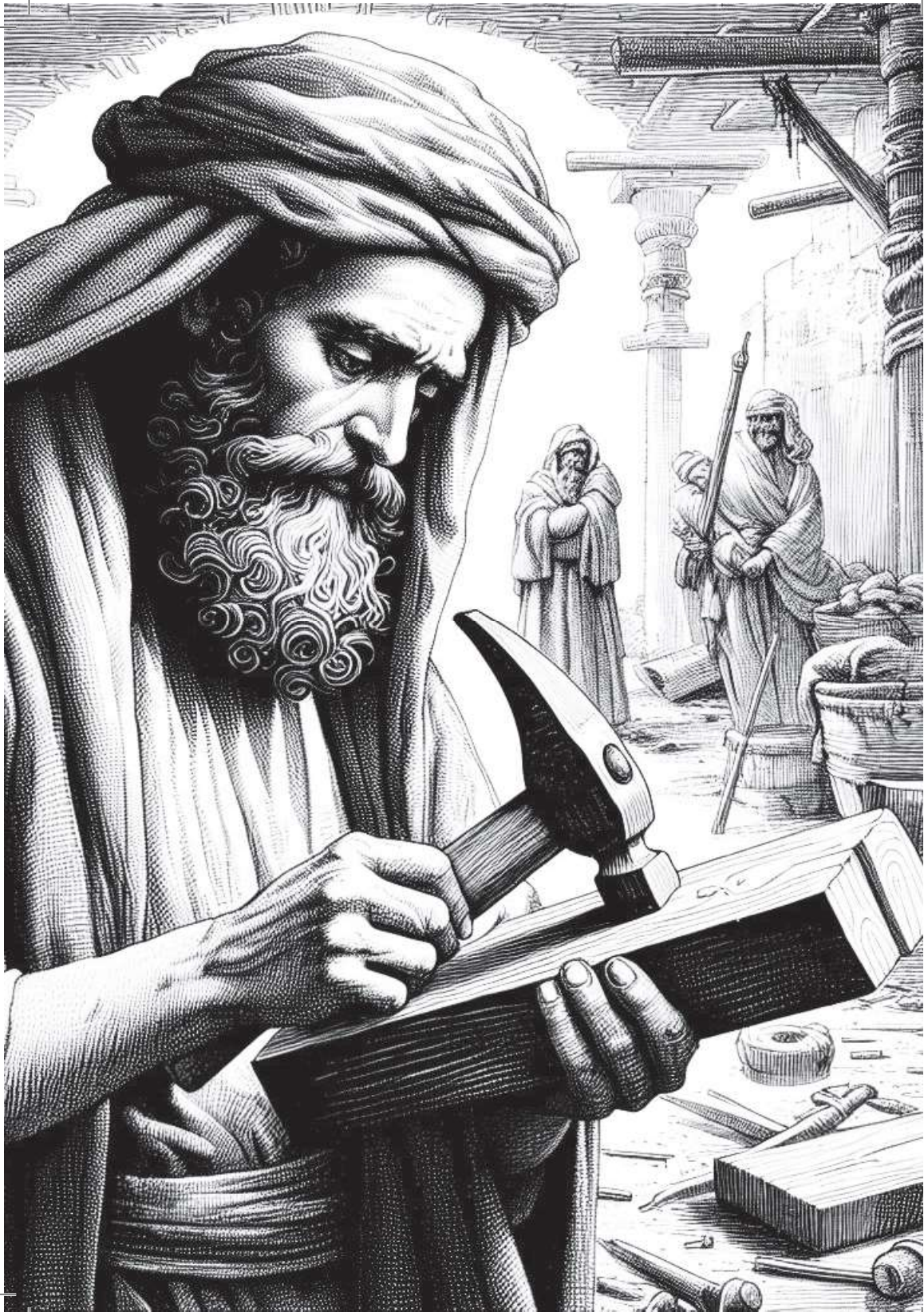



(\*) According to the Bible in Chronological Order by Editora Vida.

### God behind the scenes

Everyone's life has a story. Regardless of your name and the time in which each of us lives, God is interested in being a part of that story. He creates each human being with the holy intention of "intertwining" and "intervening" in their lives. He tries to make himself heard and understood in many ways. Just look at some of them with me:

- If we look closely, we can easily discover God's fingerprints in the wonders of creation - in the grandeur of a mountain, in the perfection of created beings, each with their own unique characteristics, their knowledge, their purpose, their way of living and communicating. We will also discover it in an example of faith, in the character of a person shaped by his Creator...



- 
- We can also see God's signature in visible and invisible, microscopic things whose existence has been discovered by the persistent research of various sciences;
  - - If we listen carefully, we will hear the whisper of His voice both in the passing wind and in the silence of the forest; in the lapping of the waves on a calm day or in the rumble of thunder on a stormy day; in our conscience, in our heart, and finally, clearly and unequivocally, in His written Word!
  - In addition to all this, there are circumstances in life that point to God: a deliverance, the solution to a complex problem, a unique opportunity that presents itself to us, a hand that holds ours in a difficult moment, a phone call from a friend who hasn't called in a long time, help that comes to us unexpectedly?

God moves for us. He thinks of us. He loves us always, forever. He is writing our story. We are not alone on the stage of life. The writer of the script is acting with us!

We will read a little about the story of Noah and how God intervened in his life in the following Bible passage (in the New Living Translation).

*"This is the account of Noah and his family. Noah was a righteous man, the only blameless person living on earth at the time, and he walked in close fellowship with God. Noah was the father of three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. Now God saw that the earth had become corrupt and was filled with violence. God observed all this corruption in the world, for everyone on earth was corrupt. So God said to Noah, "I have decided to destroy all living creatures, for they have filled the earth with violence. Yes, I will wipe them all out along with the earth!"*

*Build a large boat from cypress wood and waterproof it with tar, inside and out. Then construct decks and stalls throughout its interior. Make the boat 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high. Leave an 18-inch opening below the roof all the way around the boat. Put the door on the side, and build three decks inside the boat—lower, middle, and upper.*

*"Look! I am about to cover the earth with a flood that will destroy every living thing that breathes. Everything on earth will die. But I will confirm my covenant with you. So enter the boat—you and your wife and your sons and their wives. Bring a pair of every kind*

*of animal—a male and a female—into the boat with you to keep them alive during the flood. Pairs of every kind of bird, and every kind of animal, and every kind of small animal that scurries along the ground, will come to you to be kept alive. And be sure to take on board enough food for your family and for all the animals.”*

*So Noah did everything exactly as God had commanded him.*

*(Genesis 6:9-22 NLT)*

### **Noah’s paintings - did they exist?**

When Noah received the extraordinary mission from God to build the great ark, he had to calculate the materials that would be needed for the project. It wasn’t his project. It was God’s project! But he, as a man, would have the high privilege of carrying it out.

*God has plans and projects that no one but you can bring to fruition, in God’s way, in God’s time! Think about it!*

Noah’s working skills, knowledge, and experience were not enough. Even if he added all the talents of his three sons, all his strength, skills and abilities, all the good ideas of his wife and three daughters-in-law, he would still be far from having the knowledge, strength and expertise needed to build the ark! There were so many factors to consider! Noah would need help. He needed to sit down and do the math. Shall we go into numbers? Here are some suggestions:

- How many trees would have to be cut down in the forest?
- How many boards, planks, beams and slats of wood were needed?
- How many nails?
- How many hammers?
- How many saws, knives and blades of different cuts?
- How much bitumen to insulate the big boat?
- How much power?
- How many men?
- How many carpenters?
- How many blacksmiths would be needed to keep the tools sharp and in good working order?
- How long would it take just to prepare the materials?
- How much time did you have each day to do the job?
- What was the deadline for completion?

- How many partitions would have to be made on the three floors of the ark ?
- How much water would we need to store? How much food? For how long?
- How many animals were coming? He didn't know all the species... There was no encyclopedia to enlighten him... Only God.

*When we are called to a mission, whatever it may be, it is important to sit down and do the math, as the Lord Jesus Christ taught:*

*"But don't begin until you count the cost. For who would begin construction of a building without first calculating the cost to see if there is enough money to finish it? - Luke 14:28 "(...) to see if there is enough money to finish it (...)" means to see if you have the resources to start, continue, and finish the project in a way that honors God. To see if you have the faith to go forward, the foundation confirmed by God's Holy Spirit and His Word, the financial and human resources, if necessary.*

When we look at a finished project, we don't have a clear idea of everything that happened during its construction: We can't accurately assess the costs, the material and human resources, the effort, the discipline, the perseverance, the injuries and accidents on the job, the sacrifices, the doubts that arose, the problems that arose and the solutions that were found to resolve them, what was left behind to ensure that the project was completed and delivered on time... So many details that completely escape us!

Did Noah try to find workers and helpers? Maybe some carpenters or lumberjacks? Maybe some strong and courageous friends? The Bible doesn't tell us what decisions were made regarding these aspects. There is, however, something that is clearly conveyed to us:

*God "(...) did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly..." (2 Peter 2:5)*

God preserved Noah and seven other people-his family. Noah was a preacher: He spoke of God's justice that would come upon the world