

ye have made it a den of thieves

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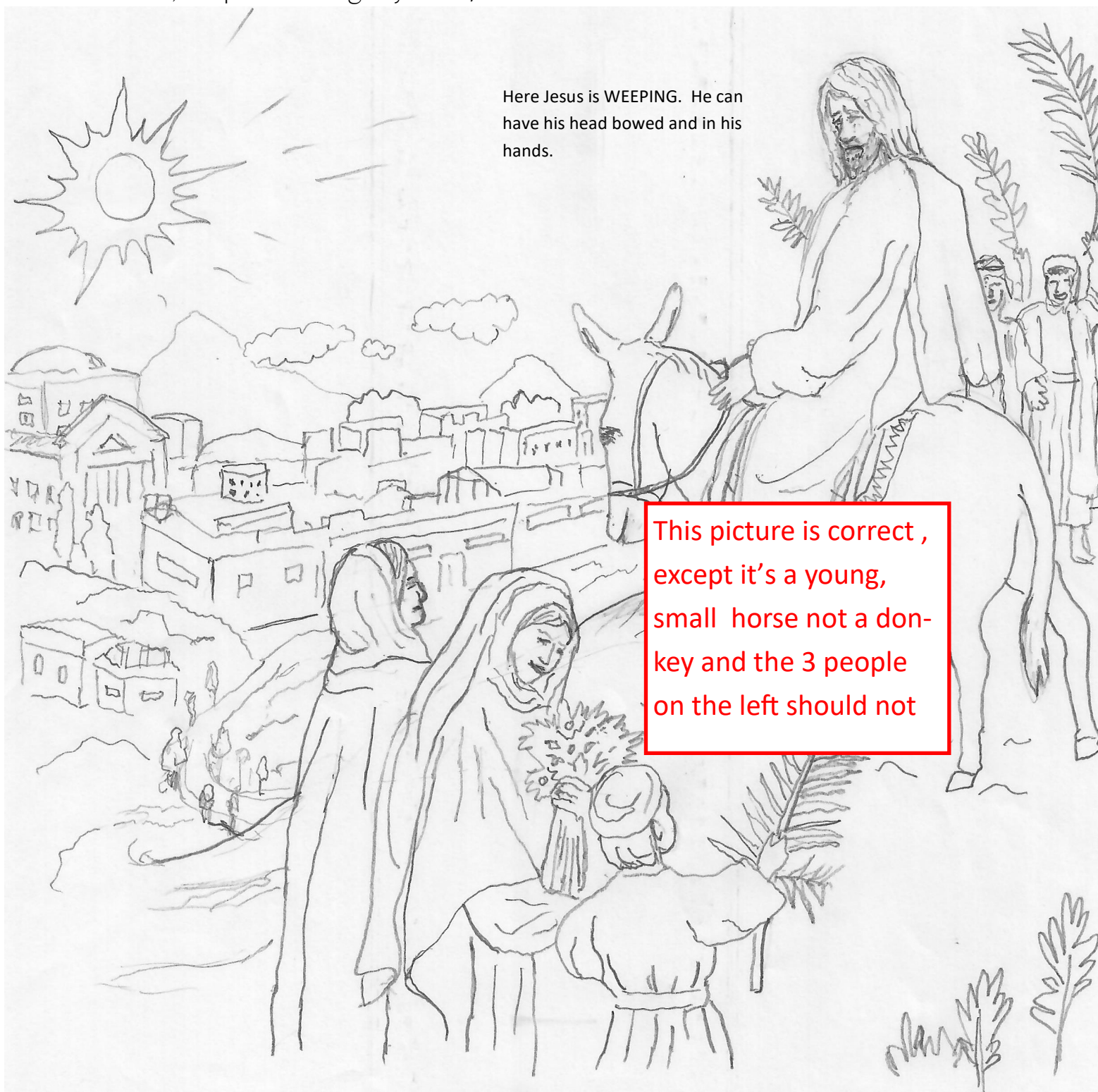
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Don't do this one yet.



“When He was come near, He beheld the city, and wept over it.” Amid the universal rejoicing of the triumphal entry, while palm branches waved, while glad hosannas awoke the echoes of the hills, and thousands of voices declared Him king, the world's Redeemer was overwhelmed with a sudden and mysterious sorrow. He, the Son of God, was in tears, not of ordinary grief, but of intense, irrepressible agony. GC 17.2



The Majesty of heaven in tears! the Son of the infinite God troubled in spirit, bowed down with anguish! The scene filled all heaven with wonder. That scene reveals to us the exceeding sinfulness of sin; it shows how hard a task it is, even for Infinite Power, to save the guilty from the consequences of transgressing the law of God. Jesus, looking down to the last generation, saw the world involved in a deception similar to that which caused the destruction of Jerusalem. GC 22.2

Many of the rich brought large sums, which they presented with great ostentation. Jesus looked upon them sadly, but made no comment on their liberal offerings. Presently His countenance lighted as He saw a poor woman approach hesitatingly, as though fearful of being observed. As the rich and haughty swept by, to deposit their offerings, she shrank back as if hardly daring to venture farther. And yet she longed to do something, though it might be, for the cause she loved. She looked at the gift in her hand. It was very small in comparison with the gifts of those around her, yet it was her all. Watching her opportunity, she hurriedly threw in her two mites, and turned to hasten away. But in doing this she caught the eye of Jesus, which was fastened earnestly upon her. DA 614.4

The Saviour called His disciples to Him, and bade them mark the widow's poverty. Then His words of commendation fell upon her ear:

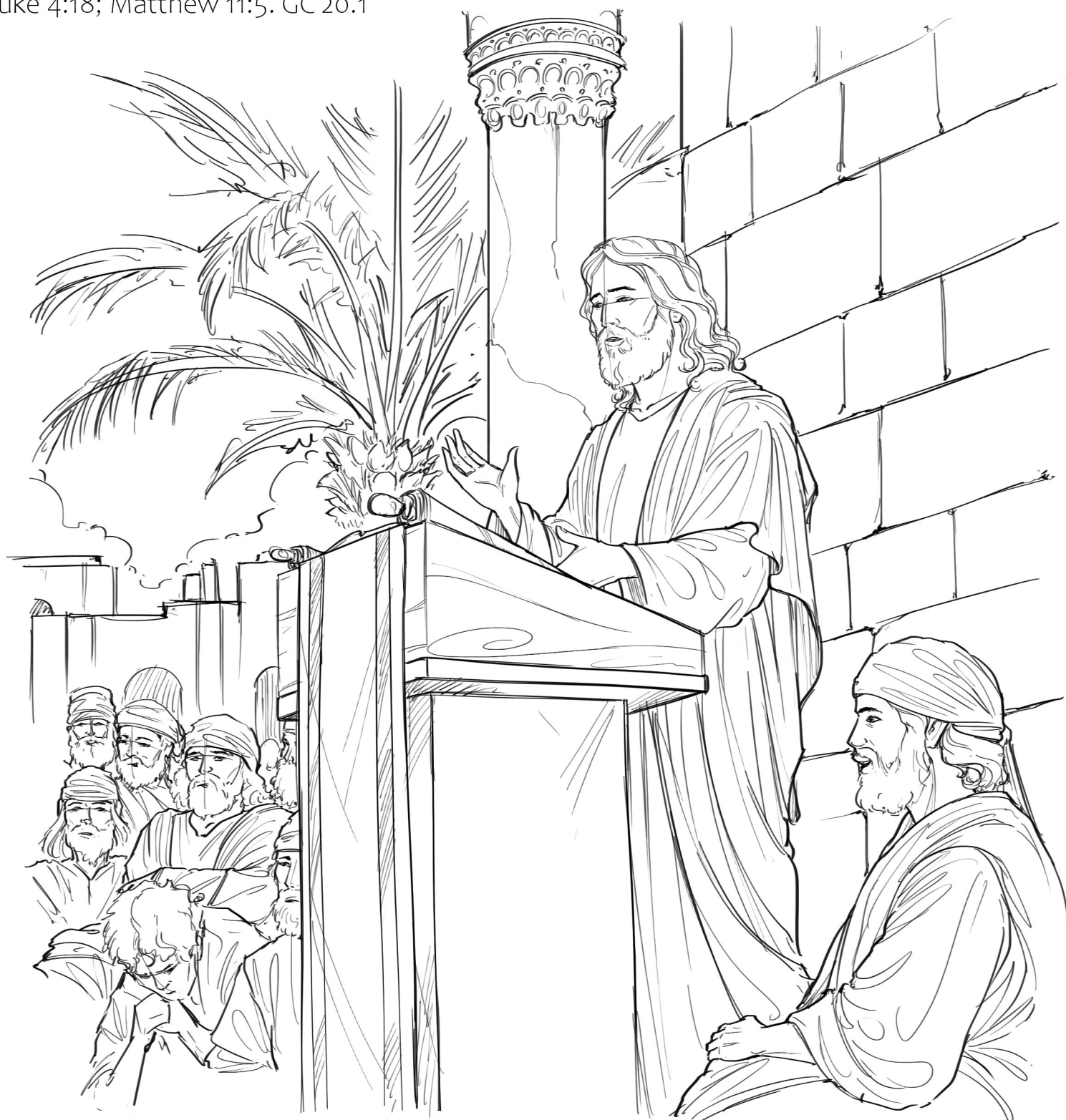


Of a truth I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast in



Tears of joy filled her eyes as she felt that her act was understood and appreciated. Many would have advised her to keep her pittance for her own use; given into the hands of the well-fed priests, it would be lost sight of among the many costly gifts brought to the treasury. But Jesus understood her motive. She believed the service of the temple to be of God's appointment, and she was anxious to do her utmost to sustain it. The poor widow gave her living to do the little that she did. She deprived herself of food in order to give those two mites to the cause she loved. And she did it in faith, believing that her heavenly Father would not overlook her great need. It was this unselfish spirit and childlike faith that won the Saviour's commendation.

Despite the fact that Satan was relentlessly trying to destroy Jesus, for three years the Lord of light and glory had gone in and out among His people. He "went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil," binding up the brokenhearted, setting at liberty them that were bound, restoring sight to the blind, causing the lame to walk and the deaf to hear, cleansing the lepers, raising the dead, and preaching the gospel to the poor. Acts 10:38; Luke 4:18; Matthew 11:5. GC 20.1



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Just before He bent His footsteps to the garden, Jesus had said to the disciples, “All ye shall be offended because of Me this night.” They had given Him the strongest assurance that they would go with Him to prison and to death. And poor, self-sufficient Peter had added, “Although all shall be offended, yet will not I.” [Mark 14:27, 29](#). But the disciples trusted to themselves. They did not look to the mighty Helper as Christ had counseled them to do.



Jesus in gethsemane praying and disciples sleeping

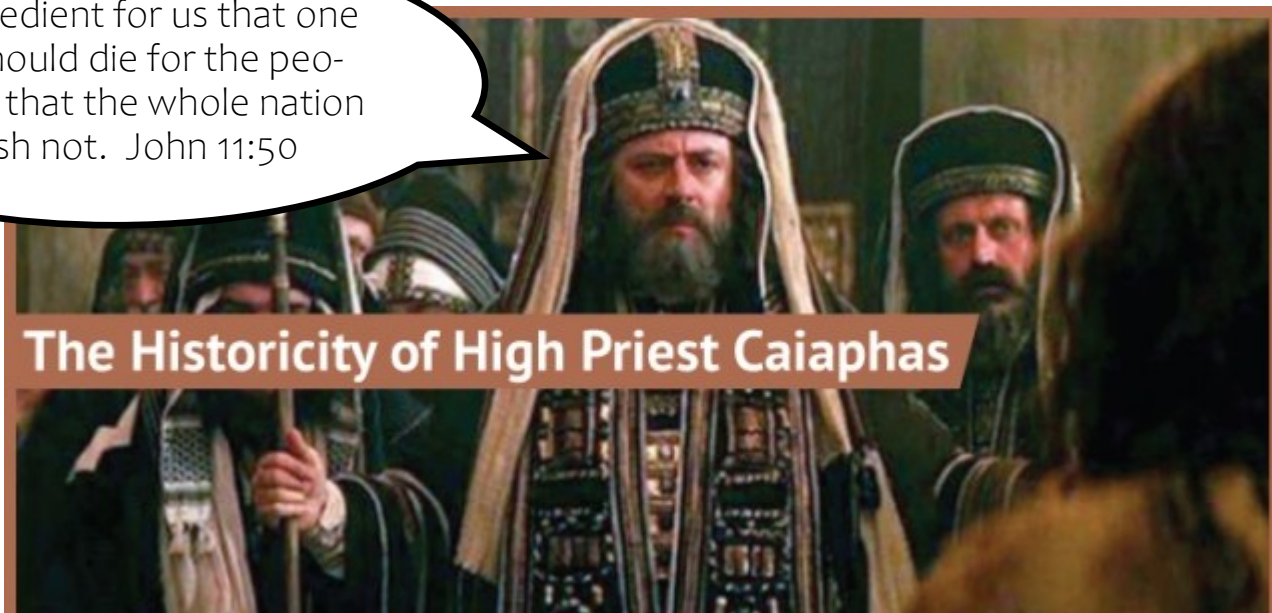


Thus when the Saviour was most in need of their sympathy and prayers, they were found asleep. Even Peter was sleeping. And John, the loving disciple who had leaned upon the breast of Jesus, was asleep. Surely, the love of John for his Master should have kept him awake. His earnest prayers should have mingled with those of his loved Saviour in the time of His supreme sorrow. The Redeemer had spent entire nights praying for His disciples, that their faith might not fail.



Though they knew Him to be sinless, they had declared that His death was necessary to their safety as a nation. If Christ were sacrificed, they might once more become a strong, united people. GC 27.1 The cunning Caiaphas said,

It is expedient for us that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not. John 11:50



The Historicity of High Priest Caiaphas



In the future, this same argument that was brought against Christ will appear conclusive; and a decree will finally be issued against those who hallow the Sabbath of the fourth commandment, denouncing them as deserving of the severest punishment and giving the people liberty, after a certain time, to put to death those who honor all the divine precepts. GC 615.2



they cried out again, “Away with this Man, and release unto us Barabbas”! “What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ?” Pilate asked.

Again the surging multitude roared like demons. Demons themselves, in human form, were in the crowd, and what could be expected but the answer, “Let Him be crucified”? DA 733.2



But the case had gone too far for argument. It was not evidence of Christ's innocence that they wanted, but His condemnation. DA 733.3 Still Pilate endeavored to save Him. “He said unto them the third time, Why, what evil hath He done? I have found no cause of death in Him: I will therefore chastise Him, and let Him go.” But the very mention of His release stirred the people to a tenfold frenzy. “Crucify Him, crucify Him,” they cried. Louder and louder swelled the storm that Pilate's indecision had called forth.

“When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but that rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, “I am innocent of the blood of this just Person: see ye to it.” But mark ye, priests and rulers, I pronounce Him a just man. May He whom He claims as His Father judge you and not me for this day's work.” Then to Jesus he said,

Pilate

Forgive me for
this act; I cannot

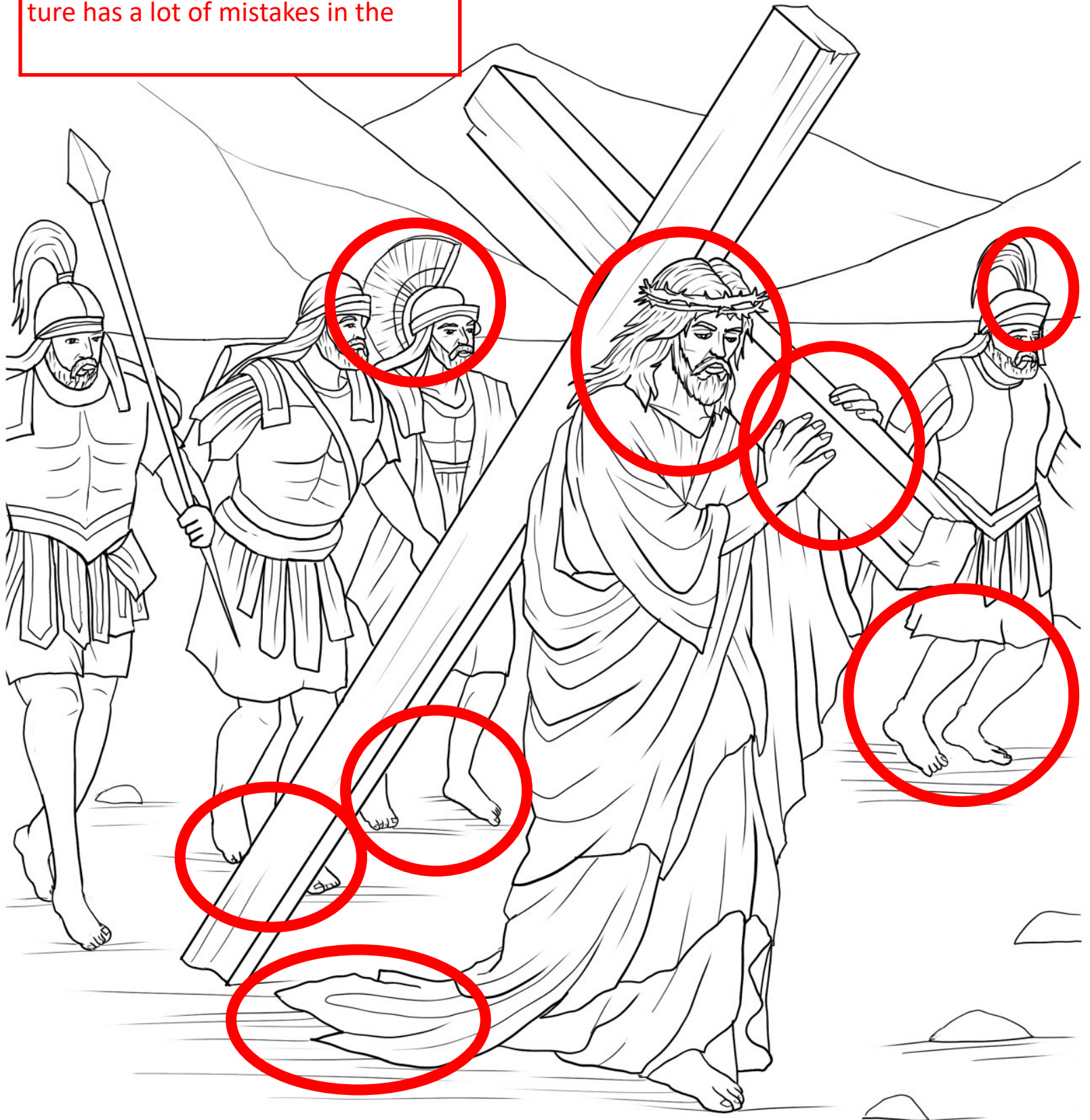
Jesus



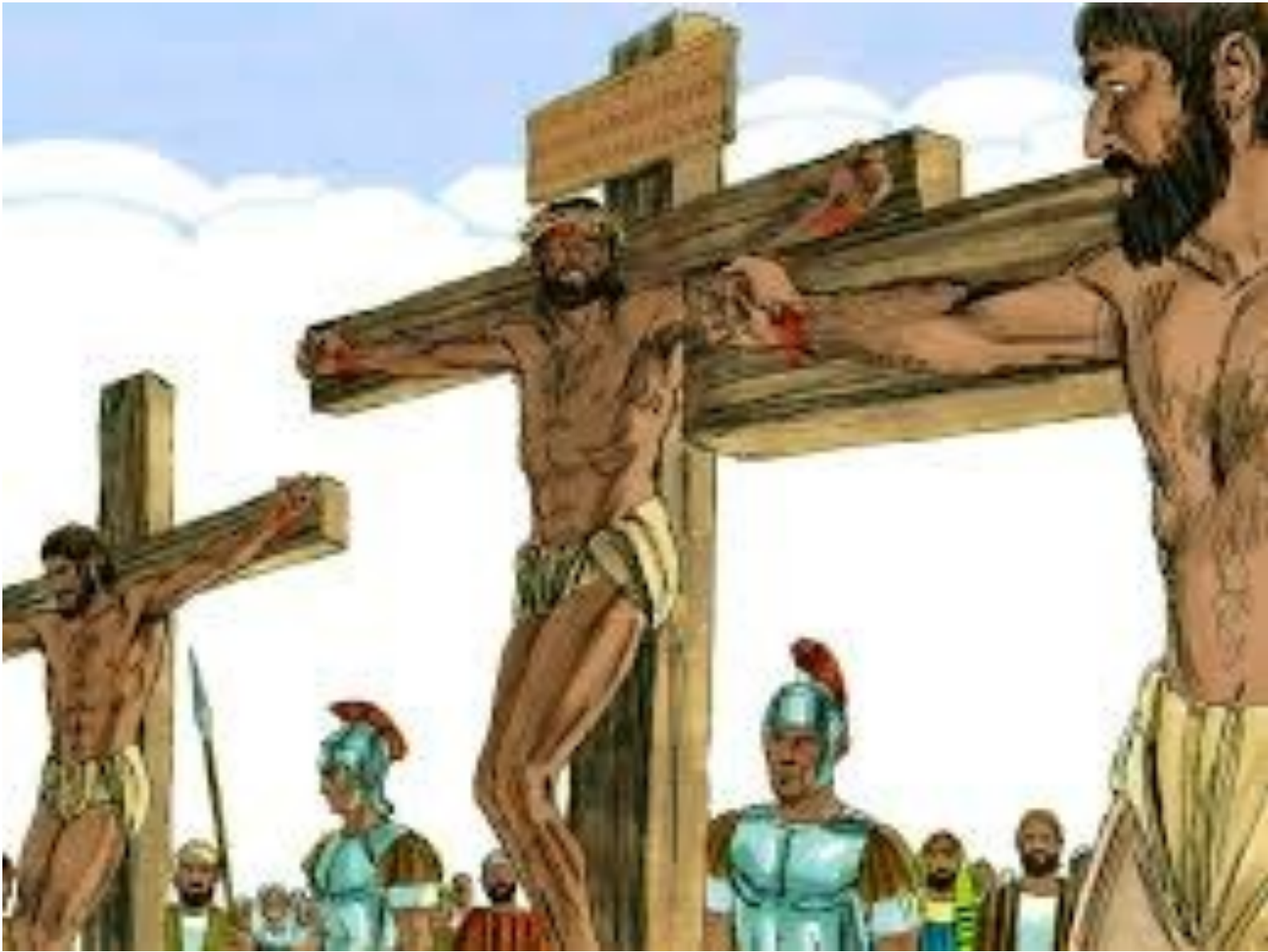
Pilate longed to deliver Jesus. But he saw that he could not do this, and yet retain his own position and honor. Rather than lose his worldly power, he yielded to the demands of the mob and chose to sacrifice an innocent life. How many, to escape loss or suffering, in like manner sacrifice principle. Conscience and duty point one way, and self-interest points another. The current sets strongly in the wrong direction, and he who compromises with evil is swept away into the thick darkness of guilt.

When Adam and Eve had sinned by giving in to the deceptions of Satan, God gave an evidence of His love by yielding up His only-begotten Son to die for the fallen race.

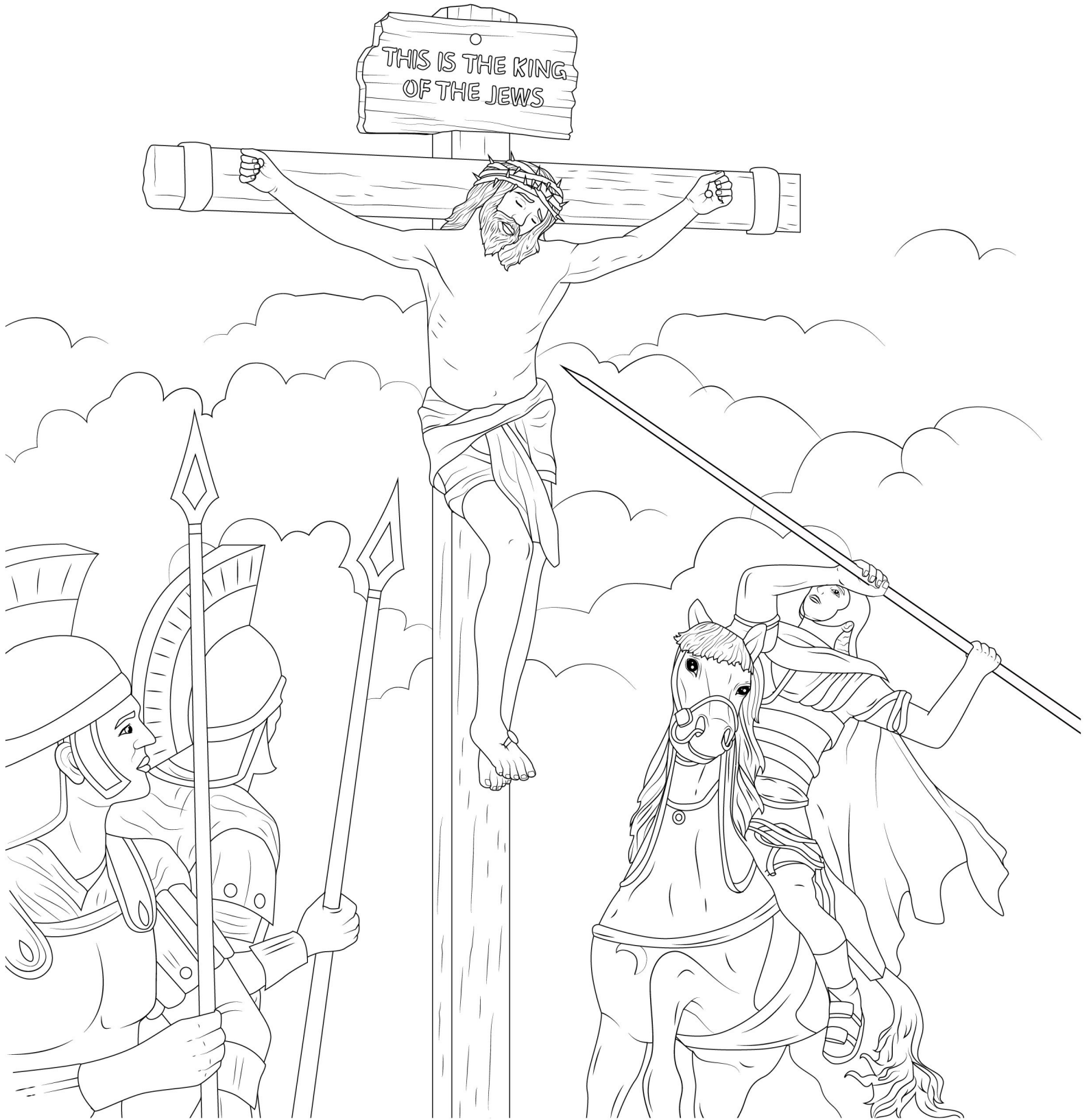
I think the cross can be thicker.
Thicker than Jesus' Head. This picture has a lot of mistakes in the



Those who flatter themselves that God is too merciful to execute justice upon the sinner, only need to look to the cross of Calvary. The death of the spotless Son of God confirms that “the wages of sin is death,” and every disobedience to God's law must receive its just retribution.



The hatred of the people who rejected His love, and at the last cried, “Crucify Him! Crucify Him!”—aroused the shock and righteous anger of the unfallen universe. Satan’s pent-up fires of envy and malice, hatred and revenge, burst open on Calvary against the Son of God, while all heaven gazed on the scene in silent horror.



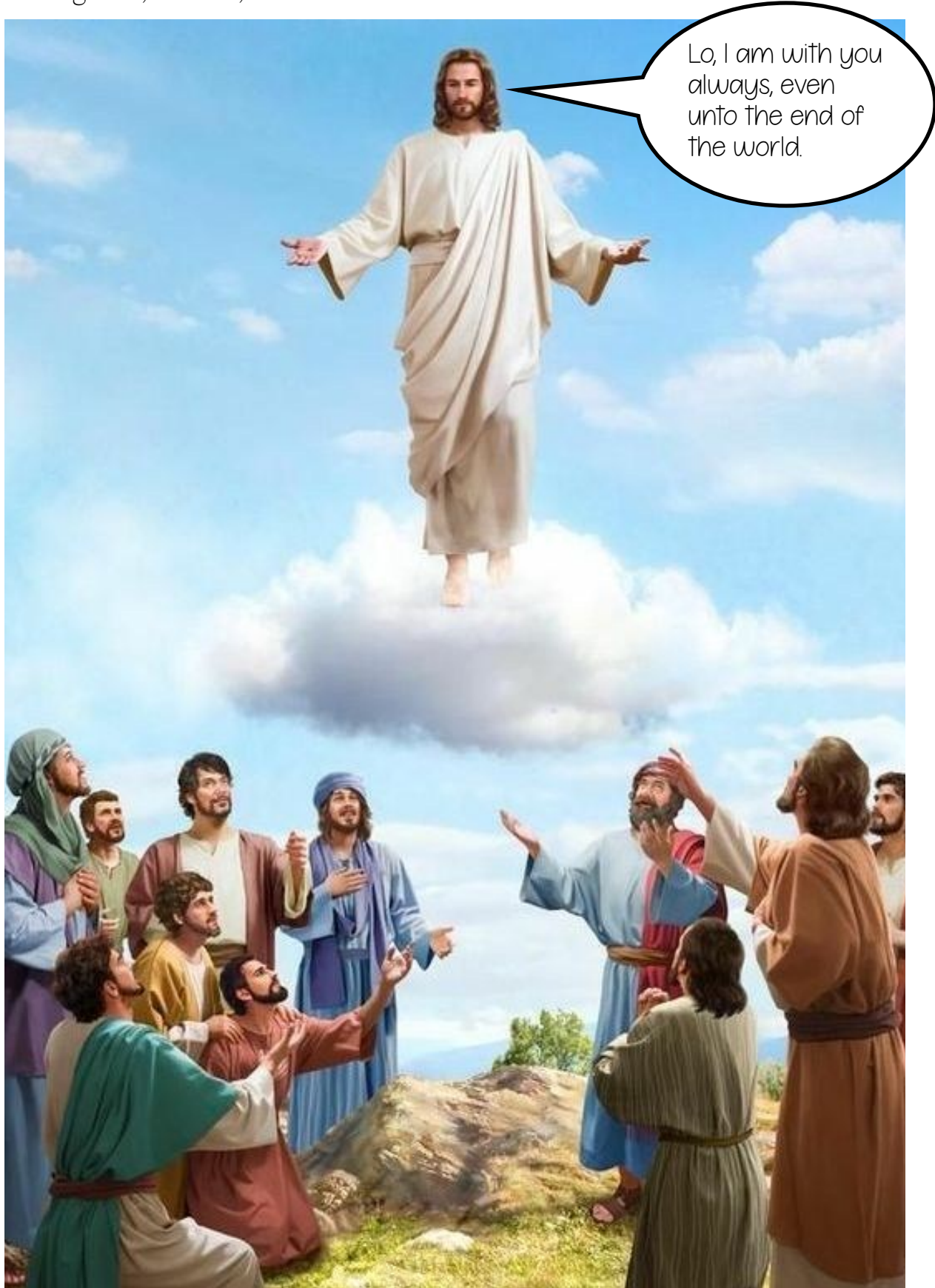
In the atonement, the character of God is revealed. The mighty claim of the cross demonstrates to the whole universe that the path of sin which Lucifer had chosen could in no way be blamed on the government of God. In the Savior's expiring cry, “It is finished,” the death knell of Satan was rung. The great controversy which had been so long in progress was then decided, and the final eradication of evil was made certain.

How people many echo Mary's despairing cry? And to how many might the Savior's words be spoken?



He is close beside them, but their tear-blinded eyes do not discern Him. He speaks to them, but they do not understand. Oh that the bowed head might be lifted, that the eyes might be opened to behold Him, that the ears might listen to His voice! Mourn not as those who are hopeless and helpless. Jesus lives, and because He lives, we shall live also. From grateful hearts, let the glad song ring out, Christ is risen! He lives to make intercession for us. Grasp this hope. Believe, and thou shalt see the glory of God. DA 794.6

Christ had been in the world for thirty-three years; He had endured scorn, insult, and mockery; He had been rejected and crucified. But as He ascended, He did not withdraw from them His sympathy and love, nor chastise them for their faults and failures. Instead, He looked lovingly upon them and spoke words of the deepest tenderness. With hands outstretched in blessing, and as if in assurance of His protecting care, He said,



As He passed upward, the awe-stricken disciples looked with straining eyes for the last glimpse of their ascending Lord. At the same time the sweetest and most joyous music floated down to them from the angelic choir. DA 830.3

While the disciples were still gazing upward, voices addressed them which sounded like richest music. **They TURNED AROUND**, and saw two angels in the form of men, who spoke to them, saying,



And the angels had assured them that the very One whom they had seen go up into heaven, would come again even as He had ascended. He will come "with clouds; and every eye shall see Him." "The Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the Archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise." "The Son of man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then shall He sit upon the throne of His glory." [Revelation 1:7](#); [1 Thessalonians 4:16](#); [Matthew 25:31](#).