

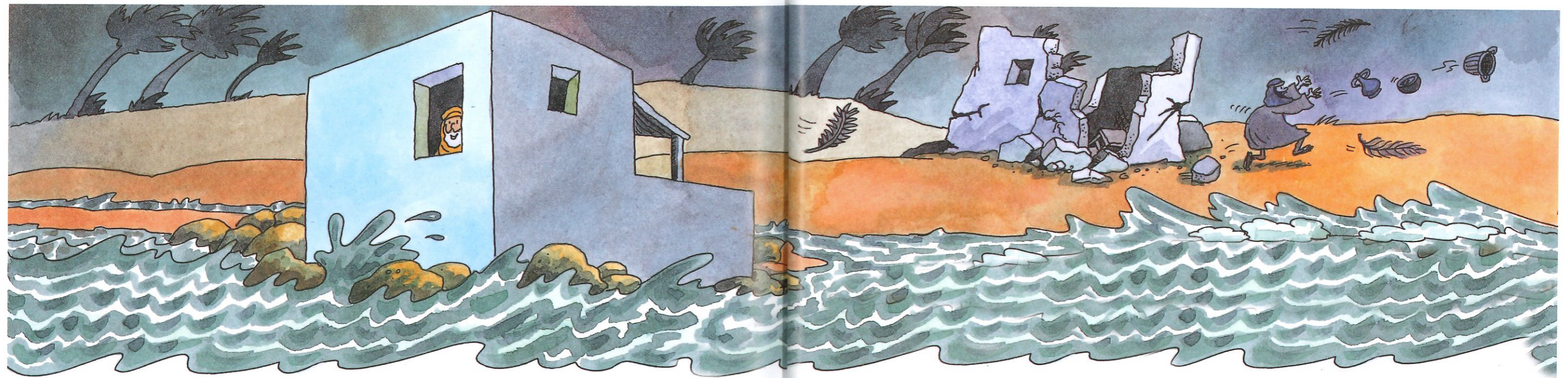
The two houses



Jesus was a good teacher. Crowds of people would come to hear him talk. They especially enjoyed listening to his stories. One day, Jesus told a story about two men and the houses they built.

‘One man was wise,’ said Jesus. “Where shall I build my house?” he thought. “Shall I build it near the river? Shall I build it near the sea? Shall I build it in a field? No! I will build it on solid rock!”

‘So the wise man began to build his house. Building on rock was hard work. It took a long time. But when the house was finished, the wise man was very pleased.



‘Soon afterwards there was a terrible storm. The wind howled. The rain poured. The rivers grew higher and higher.

‘The wise man’s house trembled and creaked. It shivered and shook, but it did not fall down. It was built on solid rock.

‘The other man was foolish. “I don’t care where I build my house,” he said. “Anywhere will do! I’ll build it on the sand.”

‘So the foolish man built his house on the sand. The soft, smooth sand was easy to work with. It didn’t take long to build. And when the house was finished, the foolish man was very pleased.

‘When the terrible storm came, the foolish man’s house trembled and creaked. It shivered and shook. It wibbled and wobbled. Then it crashed to the ground with a loud BANG!

‘The foolish man’s house fell down because it had been built on sand.’

Jesus looked at the people who were listening to him. ‘If you listen to me and then you do what I say,’ said Jesus, ‘you will be like the wise man who built his house on the rock.’