

The Story of Creation



God Makes the World

GENESIS 1

Long ago, before time began, our world was dark and desolate. Then God began to create order and beauty.

First he commanded light to break into the darkness. And there was light.

Next he ordered the raging oceans to go back, so that dry land appeared. But the land was empty and silent, except for the lapping of the waves and the sigh of the wind. So God commanded the earth to produce trees and plants. How lovely the first green leaves and bright flowers looked!

Then, high above in the lofty skies that he had made, God commanded the sun to shine in the day and the moon to give a gentler light by night.

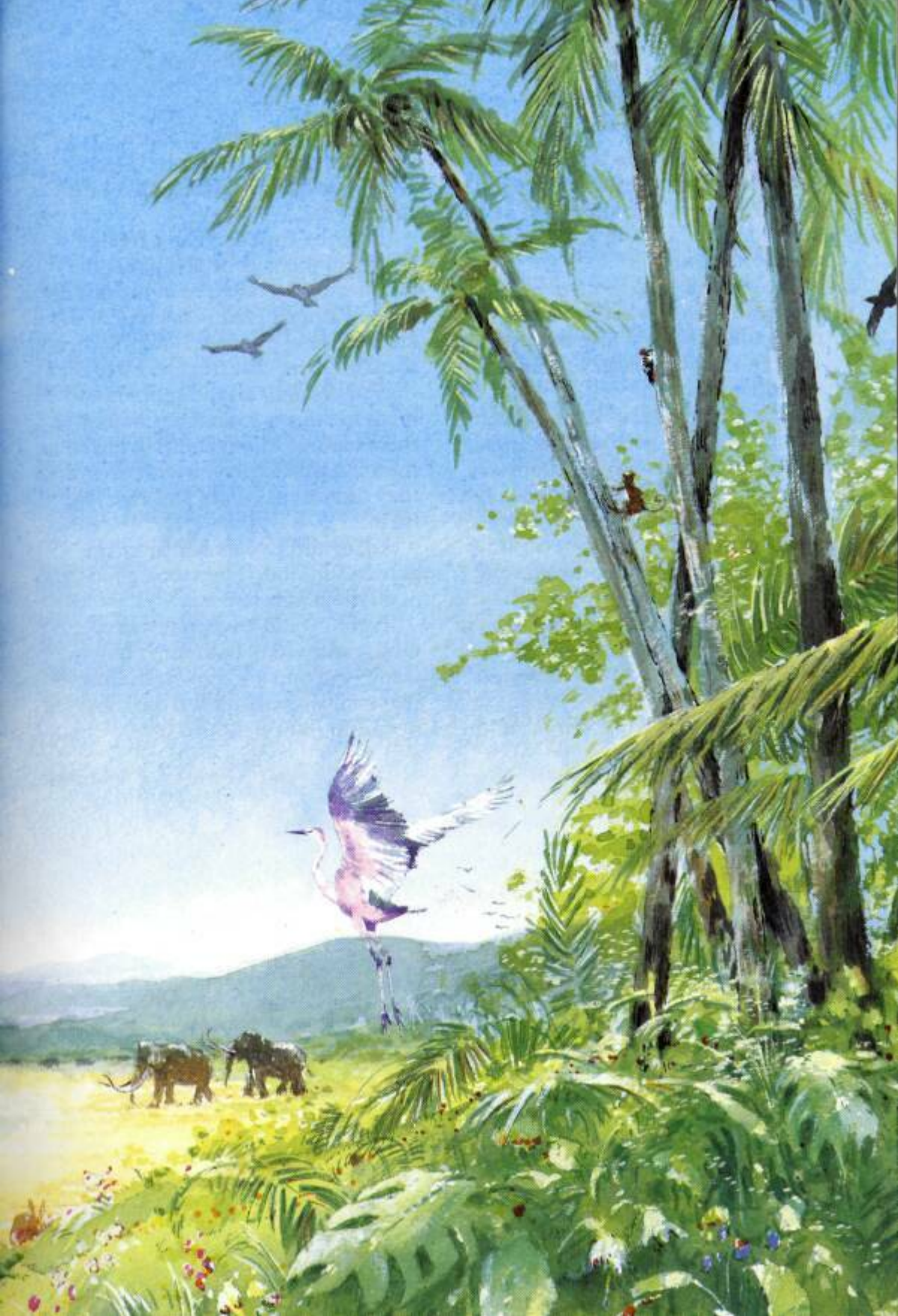
He created the stars to twinkle in the velvety darkness.

Still sky and sea were silent and empty. So God made creatures to swim and play in the ocean, from the tiniest fish to the largest whale. He made the birds, to sing sweetly as they flew among the trees. It was a beautiful world and God saw how good it was.

But the land was still empty. So God made the animals. He created small, furry creatures and huge, strong beasts as well. The woods and the forests, the fields and the plains, came alive with the animals that God had made.

God told all the fishes and birds and animals to bear young and to grow in number so that his whole world could be full and busy and content. God looked at all that he had made and said, 'It is very good.'





God Makes People

GENESIS 1-2

God looked with gladness at the vast universe and the beautiful world that he had made but he knew that he had still to make the most wonderful part of his creation.

'Now I will make human beings,' God said. 'They will have minds to think and know and love me, and I will put them in charge of this world to keep it in order.'

First God made the man, called Adam. But even with all the animals to care for and play with, Adam was lonely. So God made the woman, Eve, to be his wife, so that they could plan and talk and laugh and love together.

God blessed them both and told them to enjoy everything in the world that he had made. They were to have children to help them in the task that God had given them. But although they were in charge of the world, they must always obey God. He loved

them and knew what was best for them. They would be happy as long as they did as he told them.

God gave Adam and Eve a beautiful garden to live in. There were trees laden with ripe fruit for them to eat.

'Pick the fruit and eat it freely,' God told them, 'but do not eat the fruit from that one tree in the middle of the garden. That is the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat the fruit from that tree, you will die.'

God brought all the animals and birds to Adam, so that he could give them names. Adam and Eve talked to the animals and played with them and they did just as Adam and Eve told them.

Adam and Eve looked after the garden for God. They took good care of all the plants and trees.

Every evening, when it was cool, God came to talk to them. They would walk up and down, sharing all that had happened, until darkness fell to end another perfect day.

