

101
FAVORITE STORIES
from the Bible

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from the Bible

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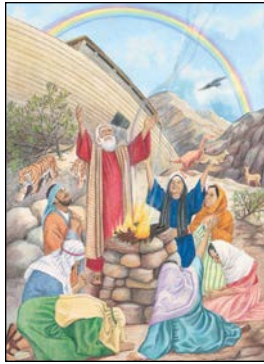
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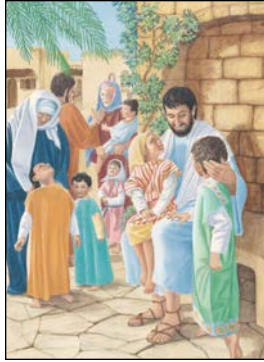
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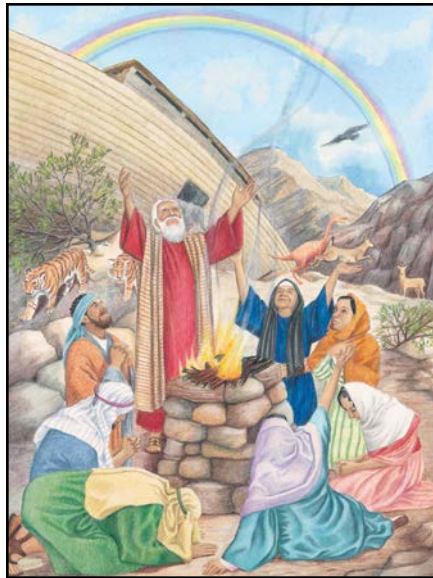


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The Old Testament



GOD'S WONDERFUL CREATION

In the Beginning

The Holy Bible begins with God. He created the beautiful heavens above, and the earth below for us to live on. There was a time when everything was dark, very dark. No birds, animals, or laughter of little children were heard.

Then a voice spoke: "Let there be light!" And suddenly there was light! God separated the light from the darkness and named them *day* and *night*. This happened the very first day.

On the second day, God started to make a beautiful world. He divided the water from the air. Then the blue sky appeared.

On the third day, God made dry land by gathering the waters into oceans, streams, and rivers. He covered the plains, hills, and mountains with grass, flowers, vines, and trees. Olives, apples, cherries, peaches, and berries grew on trees and bushes.

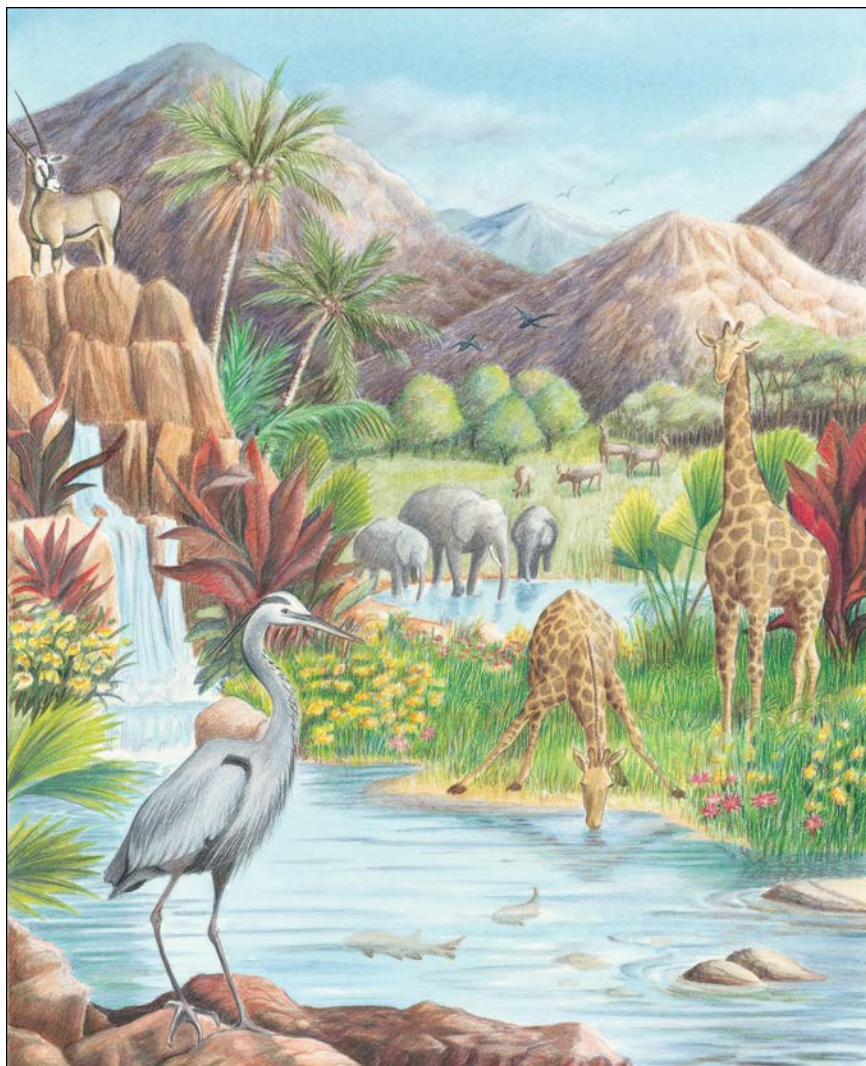
On the fourth day, God put something yellow and round in the sky. It was the sun. In the evening a glowing moon appeared, and many stars dotted the sky.

On the fifth day, there were sounds everywhere. What did God create this day? He made birds to fly in the air and fish to swim in the water. They were all sizes, shapes, and colors. Whales, goldfish, bluebirds, geese, and ostriches were only a few of the many creatures He made.

On the sixth day, cattle, creeping things, and other animals were seen. God made cows, horses, sheep, dogs, and cats, along with lions, tigers, bears, and rabbits. It was a wonderful birthday present for the very first man whom God also created that day. Do you know the name of this first man? In the next story, you will read about him.

On the seventh day, God rested. He called it a Holy Day, for He had finished all His good work.

Genesis 1; 2:1-3



God created a wonderful world.

Parents: *Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God. (Hebrews 11:3)*

- Children:**
1. Who made all things that live?
 2. Can you name some nice things that God made?
 3. How many days did it take God to create the world?

ADAM AND EVE

The First Man and the Mother of All Living

On the sixth day of creation, God's world was beautiful indeed. The fields were green, the flowers bloomed, and birds and animals roamed the forests.

But there were no people, houses, farms, or cities on the earth. No children played under the trees. The world was ready for men and women to enjoy it.

God said, "Let us make man in our likeness. He will have a soul and be master of all that is on the earth."

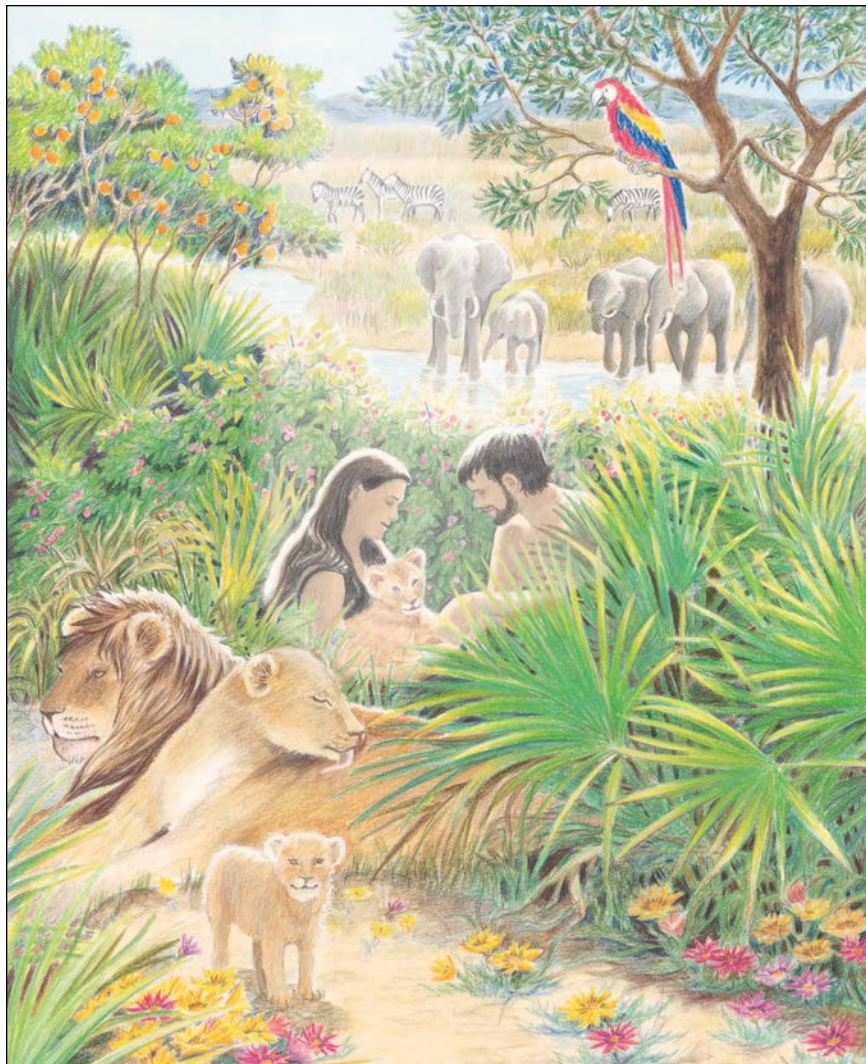
Then God took dust from the earth and formed a man. He breathed into him the breath of life, and the man became a living soul. God named this very first man *Adam*.

To give man a home, God planted a beautiful garden in Eden with a clear river flowing through it. Adam was to care for this garden. Then God brought the animals to Adam and let him name each one. Adam noticed there were two of every kind of animal.

But there was no companion for Adam in this perfect garden. God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make someone to be with Adam and to help him."

God caused Adam to fall into a deep sleep, then He took a rib from Adam's side. From the rib, God made a woman. Adam called her *Eve*. Adam and Eve loved each other. They were very happy in this beautiful garden God had given them for a home.

Genesis 1:26; 2



Adam and Eve in the beautiful Garden of Eden.

Parents: *I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.*
(Psalm 139:14)

Children:

1. Who made Adam and Eve?
2. Who named the animals that God made?
3. In what garden did Adam and Eve live?

THE FIRST SIN

Cast Out of the Garden of Eden

For a time—we do not know how long—Adam and Eve were at peace in their beautiful garden. They talked with God as a man would talk with his friend. They did whatever God told them to and did not know of anything evil.

Yet Adam and Eve needed to learn that they must always obey God's commands. God told Adam and Eve, "You may eat the fruit from all the trees in the garden except one. If you eat the fruit of that tree, you will die."

Now among the animals there was a serpent, or a snake. Satan, that evil spirit who tempts us to sin, went into the serpent to tempt the woman to sin.

The serpent said to Eve, "You will not die. God knows that if you eat of the fruit, you will become very wise and know what is good and what is evil."

Eve listened to the serpent. She looked at the fruit, thought of how good it would taste, and wondered if it would really make her wise. Ignoring God's command, she took the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to Adam, and he also ate.

That evening when Adam and Eve heard God's voice, they did not come to Him as before. Fearfully they tried to hide.

Because of their disobedience, God said to Eve, "You will suffer pain and trouble, and your husband will rule over you." To Adam, God said, "Because you listened to your wife when she told you to do wrong, you, too, must suffer by toiling and sweating among thorns and thistles." God also cursed the serpent.

Adam and Eve could not stay in their perfect garden home. God sent them out and placed angels and a flaming sword at the entrance.

Genesis 3



Adam and Eve sent out of the garden because of disobedience.

Parents: *For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.*
(Romans 5:19)

Children:

1. Who tempted Eve?
2. Why did Adam and Eve hide from God?
3. Who made Adam and Eve leave the garden?

CAIN KILLS HIS BROTHER ABEL

The First Family

After Adam and Eve left the garden of Eden, God gave them a child—the world’s first baby. They named him *Cain*. Then another baby was born, whom they named *Abel*. Cain liked to work in the fields and raise grain and fruit. Abel became a shepherd who enjoyed tending sheep.

Now that Adam and Eve were cast out of the garden, they could no longer talk with God as freely as before. When they came to God, they built an altar of stone and laid something on it as a gift to God. They burned the gift to show that it did not belong to them anymore. Now it belonged to God whom they could not see. They also prayed before the altar.

One day Cain and Abel each offered a gift on an altar. Cain brought fruit and grain, and Abel brought a lamb from his flock. The lamb Abel offered was like the Savior that God had promised: gentle, patient, and innocent. God was pleased with the worship of Abel.

But God was not pleased with Cain’s offering. Instead of being sorry for his sin, Cain became very angry. He did not ask God to forgive him.

One day when they were in the field together, Cain rose up and killed Abel! So the world’s first baby grew up to be the first murderer. He killed his own brother.

Later another son was born to Adam and Eve. They named him *Seth*, which means *substitute*. “Now God hath given me another son, since Cain killed Abel,” said Eve. Then people began to call on the name of the Lord.

Genesis 4



Cain and Abel each offer a gift upon an altar.

Parents: *God said, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth.*
(Genesis 1:28)

- Children:**
1. What kind of work did Cain like best?
 2. What did Abel sacrifice?
 3. Who became very angry and killed his brother?

NOAH—THE ARK BUILDER

History's First Boat Ride

After a long while, there were many people on the earth. Sad to say, they had become very wicked. God decided to destroy them by sending a flood.

As God looked down from heaven, He saw one good man called Noah. Because Noah was God's friend, God told him about the flood He was going to send. He commanded Noah to build a big ark, and told him exactly how to do it.

No doubt the wicked people laughed at Noah for building this great boat when there was no water for it to float on. But Noah kept right on building as God had commanded. He believed God's Word. Noah also preached to the people about God and the punishment that was coming.

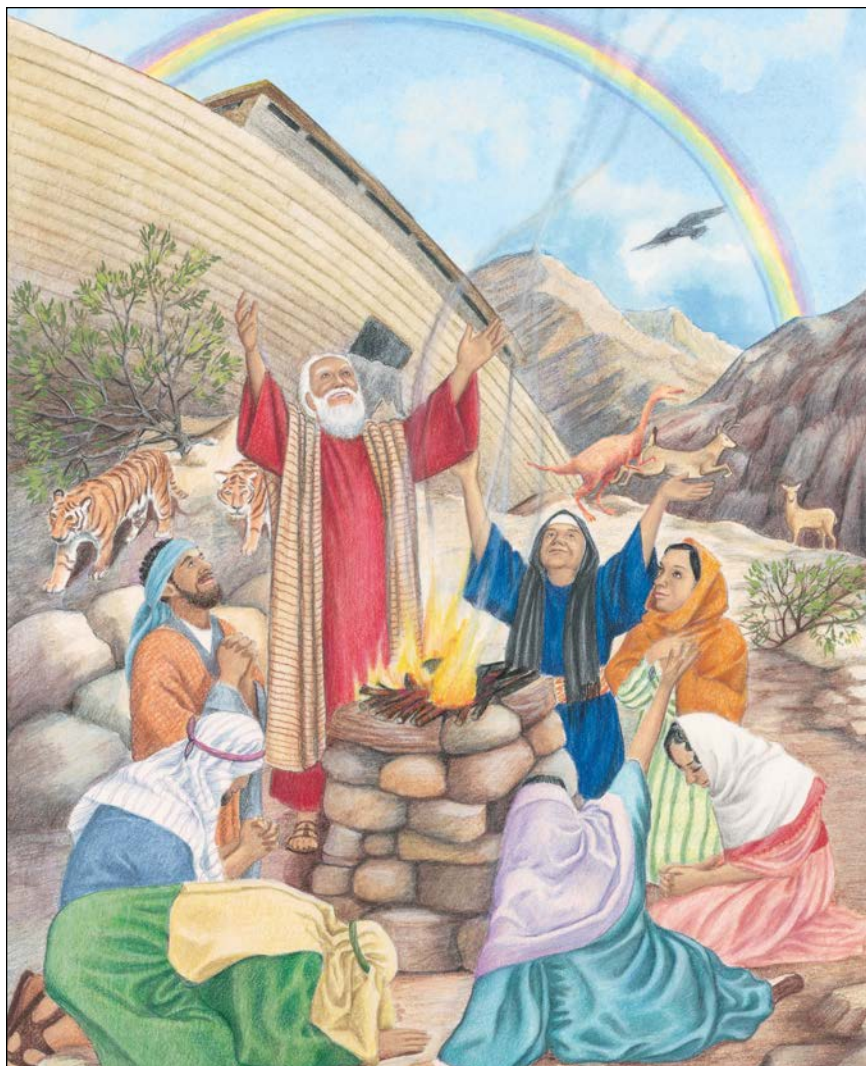
Finally the ark was finished, more than one hundred years later. God told Noah to come into the ark with his family of eight. God caused animals, birds, and creeping things to enter the ark so that some of every kind could be kept alive. When they were all safe inside, God shut the door.

After seven days, it began to rain. It rained forty days and forty nights without stopping. Rain fell as if it were poured out of great windows in the heavens. Water flooded the whole earth until there was no dry ground or breath of life left on it.

High above the earth floated the ark with Noah and his family. After many days the water began to go down, and the ark bumped onto the mountains of Ararat. One day Noah opened the window of the ark and sent out a dove. But the dove came back because it could not find a dry place to stay. A week later, Noah sent out the dove again. This time it returned with a leaf in its beak. The water must be below the trees by now! The next time he sent out the dove, it did not come back. Then Noah knew the earth had become dry again.

God called Noah and his family out of the ark. Noah was so thankful to God for saving their lives that he built an altar of worship. There God formed a beautiful rainbow in the sky. He told Noah that it was a sign of His promise never again to destroy the earth with a flood.

Genesis 6; 7; 8; 9:1-18



Noah and his family thank God for saving their lives.

Parents: *For thou art not a God that hath pleasure in wickedness: neither shall evil dwell with thee. (Psalm 5:4)*

Children:

1. Who told Noah to build an ark?
2. What was in the ark besides Noah and his family?
3. Why did God place a rainbow in the sky?

TOWER OF BABEL

The Beginning of Different Languages

The great flood that God had sent soon became a dim memory in the minds of Noah's children. Their families continued to grow until there were many people in the world. But the thoughts of their hearts were again becoming evil.

As people traveled from the east, they found some level land. At that time all the people spoke the same language. They said to each other, "Let us make bricks and bake them thoroughly. Then let us build a big city with a very high tower in it. We will make a name for ourselves so that we will never be scattered."

They began to build the city and the tower. But the Lord came down from heaven to see this thing, and it displeased Him very much.

God caused men to speak different languages which they had never spoken before. The builders could not finish their city and tower because they were not able to understand each other anymore. They stopped the work and began spreading apart into other lands. The unfinished city was named *Babel*, a word meaning *confusion*. Ever since that time, many languages are spoken on the earth.

As time went on, more and more people prayed to images of wood and stone called idols. They thought these images were gods that could hear their prayers and help them. These people did not call on the true God or know His will. They did many evil things.

But the Lord God saw a different kind of man in the city of Ur. This man, Abram, prayed to the Lord and always tried to do His will, even though wicked people lived all around him. The Lord said, "Abram, go away from this place. Leave your father's house and go to a place that I will show you. I will bless you and make you a blessing to others." Abram obeyed God, even though he did not understand.

Genesis 10; 11:1-9