



The WORLD  
**CREATED, FALLEN,  
REDEEMED,**  
and  
**RESTORED**

The Gospel Plan of God

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Illustrated by Fred Apps

## **A Note to Parents:**

Children need to understand the big picture story of the Bible. Many children come to believe that the Bible is a collection of disconnected stories that have little relation to each other—Noah and the ark, Moses and the burning bush, David and Goliath, and so on. The Bible itself does not present its teaching to us as disconnected stories, but rather tells us a unified and interconnected story that stretches from the very beginning of creation to a new heaven and a new earth.

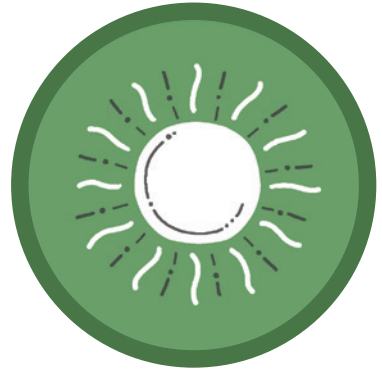
It would be pedagogically unwise to rush to Jesus and the cross when teaching children the story of the Bible, even though Jesus' work of redemption is central to Scripture's unified message. Children need to appreciate the significance of the one true God and His work of creation. They need to contemplate the pervasive impact of the fall upon the hearts and lives of men. The form of Scripture's canonical presentation of unfolding truths should impact how we present Scripture's teaching to children. Scriptural teaching to children should be systematic, and build chronologically and conceptually upon itself, precept upon precept.

Within the pages of this book we cannot give your child the full understanding he would gain from being taught the whole counsel of God, but we can acquaint your child with the four major narrative points or plot movements of the Bible—creation, fall, redemption, and restoration. This will serve as a framework on which your child can begin to build an understanding of the parts of the Bible.

### **Here are a few suggestions for you to consider as you read this book:**

- Read at your child's pace. This may require reading the book in more than one sitting, depending on your child's ability to concentrate, understand, and be engaged.
- Dialogue with your child as you read.
- Reinforce the four major themes of creation, fall, redemption, and restoration.
- You may want to pause and sing or listen to a suggested hymn or worship song. You need not sing the whole song.
- Verses requiring varying cognitive ability are used to explain each of the major themes. You may want to read all or part of the verses. It may be necessary to explain words your child does not understand.
- Consider memorizing the suggested verses.
- Pray that God will open his eyes and heart as you read the book with your child.

*May your child see the beauty and majesty of God, the reality and horror of his sin, the amazing grace of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, and the sure hope of eternal life and indestructible joy in God.*



# CREATION

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth...  
And God saw everything that he had made, and behold,  
it was very good.—*Genesis 1:1, 31a*

Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the inhabitants of  
the world stand in awe of him! For he spoke, and it came  
to be; he commanded, and it stood firm.—*Psalms 33:8-9*

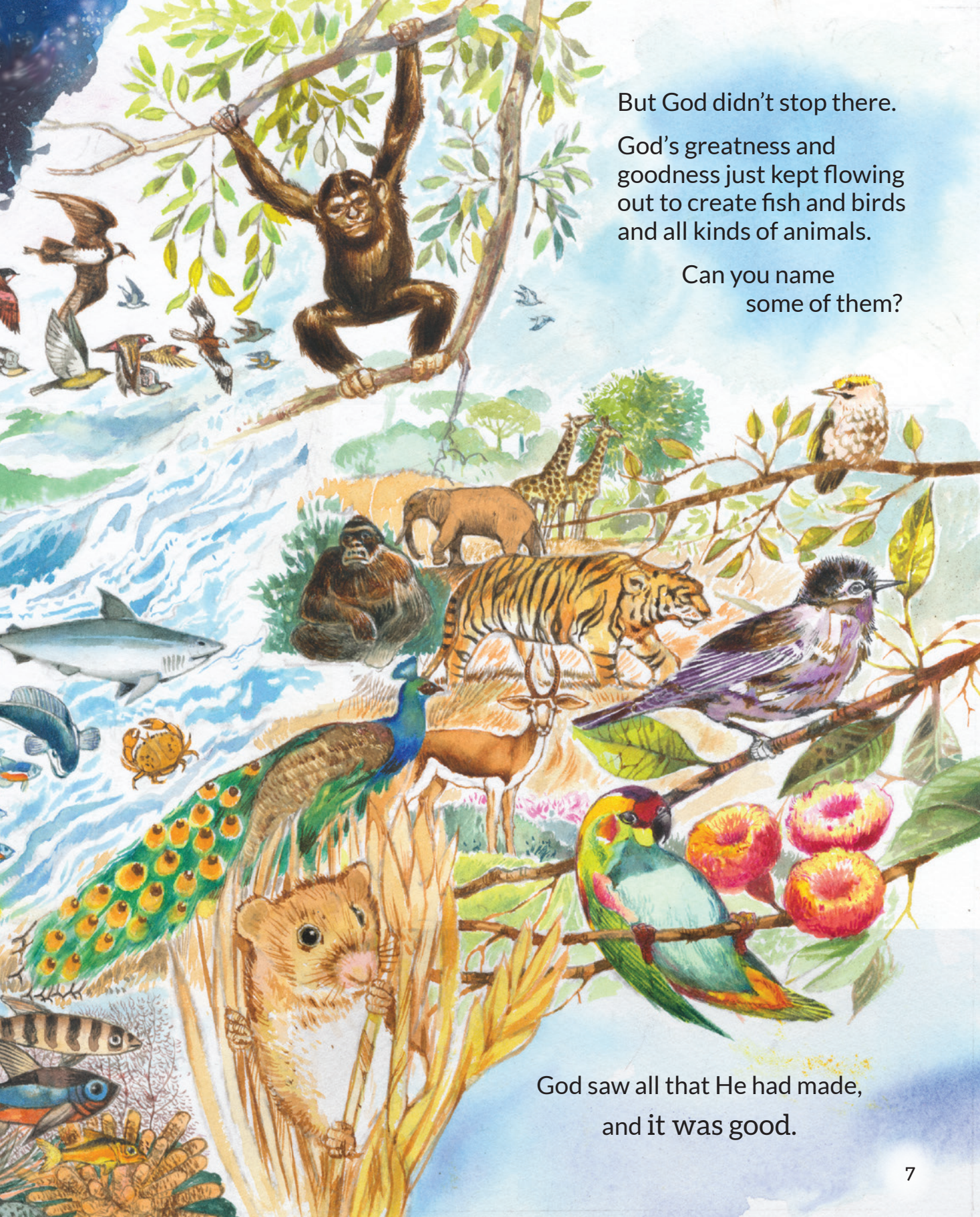


## How did this world begin?

It began with the one true God, the Ruler of all things. He just spoke with His almighty voice and made the whole world—day and night, sky and sea, land and plants. He made the sun, the moon and stars. All of it was good, and all of it shows God's greatness and goodness.







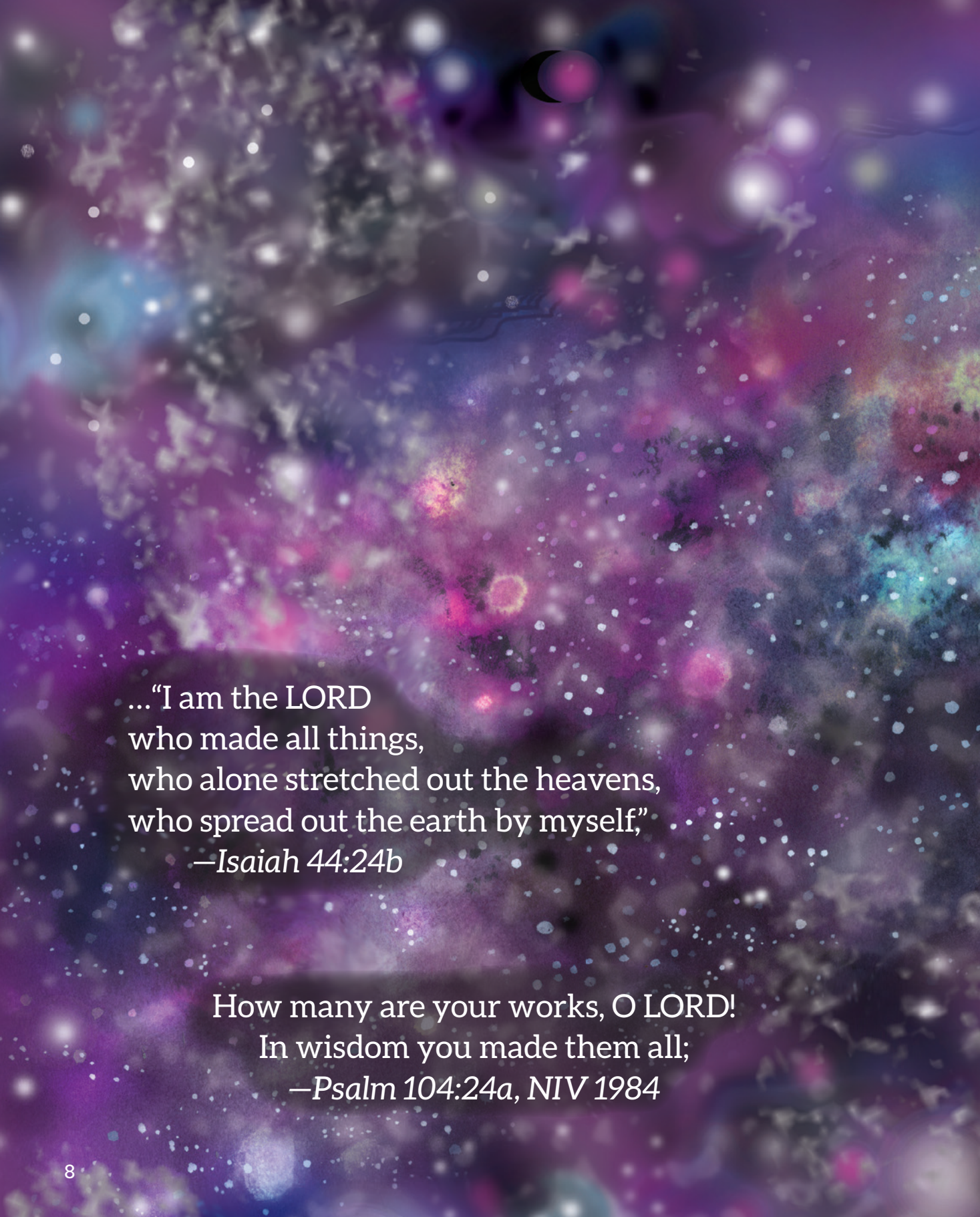
But God didn't stop there.

God's greatness and goodness just kept flowing out to create fish and birds and all kinds of animals.

Can you name some of them?

God saw all that He had made, and it was good.





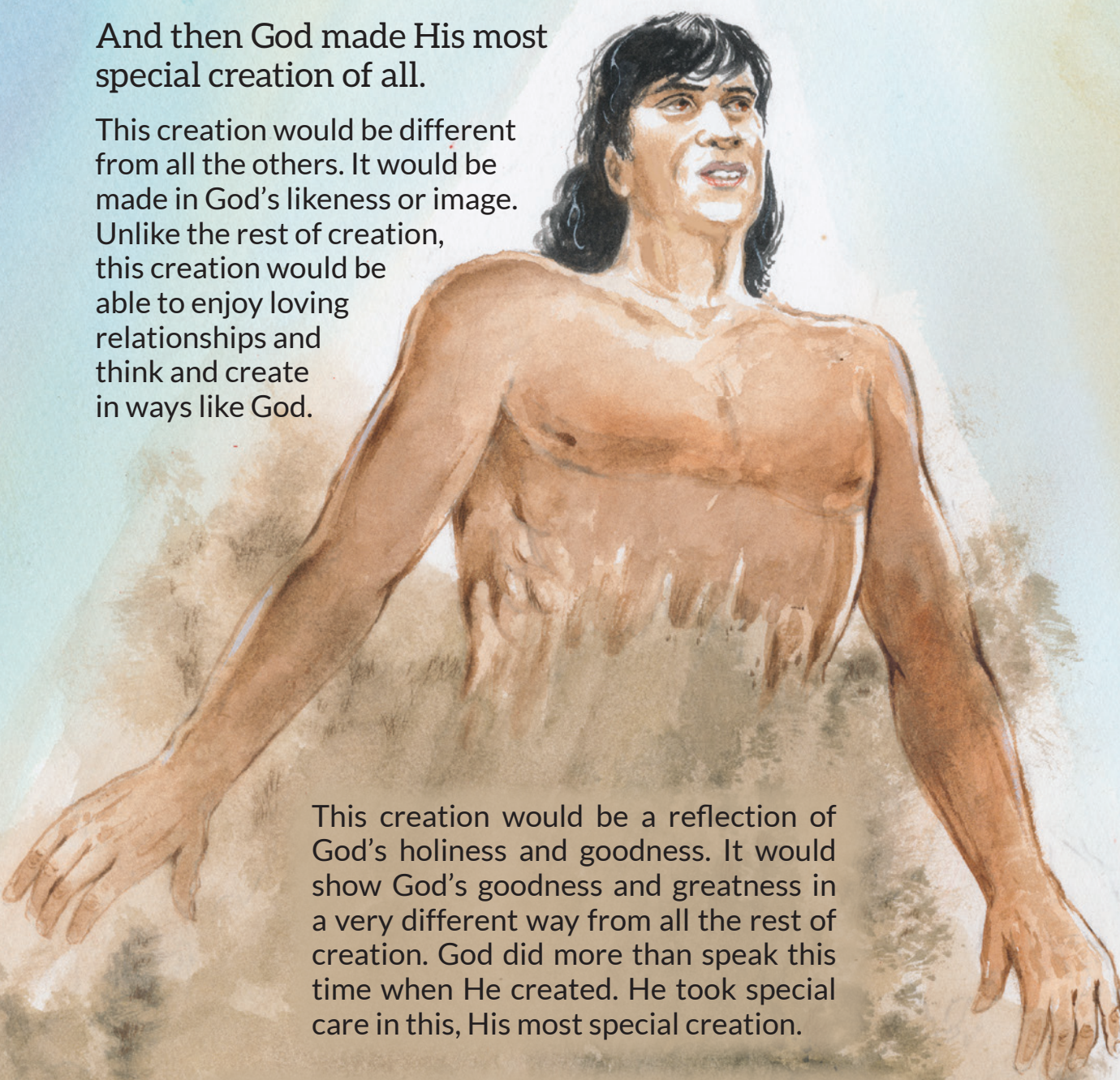
...“I am the LORD  
who made all things,  
who alone stretched out the heavens,  
who spread out the earth by myself,”  
—*Isaiah 44:24b*

How many are your works, O LORD!  
In wisdom you made them all;  
—*Psalms 104:24a, NIV 1984*



And then God made His most special creation of all.

This creation would be different from all the others. It would be made in God's likeness or image. Unlike the rest of creation, this creation would be able to enjoy loving relationships and think and create in ways like God.



This creation would be a reflection of God's holiness and goodness. It would show God's goodness and greatness in a very different way from all the rest of creation. God did more than speak this time when He created. He took special care in this, His most special creation.

...then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.—*Genesis 2:7*

...but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.—*John 20:31*

Children instinctively know that there is something wrong with the world. Things are not as they should be—there is fear, sadness, hatred, sickness, pain, and death. Why are things this way? What's wrong with the world? There is only one thing that makes sense of it all—God's truth as revealed in His Word.

The Bible is breathtaking in its breadth and depth, and yet there is an amazing simplicity to its overarching and hope-giving message, which can be explored within four basic themes: creation, fall, redemption, and restoration. From beginning to end—from Genesis to Revelation—these themes highlight the glorious work of God!

*The World Created, Fallen, Redeemed, and Restored* has been written so that children might know and embrace these life-transforming truths of the Gospel. Through the use of key Scriptures and child-friendly, compelling narrative, children will encounter the greatest realities in all the universe—and in their own lives.



**CREATION** God created all things good and created man to love, honor, trust, obey, and enjoy God most of all.



**FALL** Adam and Eve's disobedience to God brought sin, death, and all kinds of evil into the world. Most importantly, it brought separation from a right relationship with God.



**REDEMPTION** God sent Jesus to die on the cross to receive the punishment sinners deserve. Through Jesus we can receive complete forgiveness of sin and the promise of eternal life with God.



**RESTORATION** Jesus will return as victorious King to put an end to sin forever and make all things new. Those who have not trusted in Jesus will be condemned forever. But those who have trusted in Him will live joyfully forever with God.

He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.—*Revelation 21:4*

**SALLY MICHAEL** and her husband, David, are the co-founders of Truth78 (formerly Children Desiring God). Sally has authored many resources for both children and adults, including 20 curricula, 10 books, and several booklets. Her ministry has been marked by a passion for developing God-centered resources for the spiritual development of children. Sally and David live in Indianapolis and have two daughters, a son-in-law, and three grandchildren.

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