

The Illustrated Bible for Little Ones







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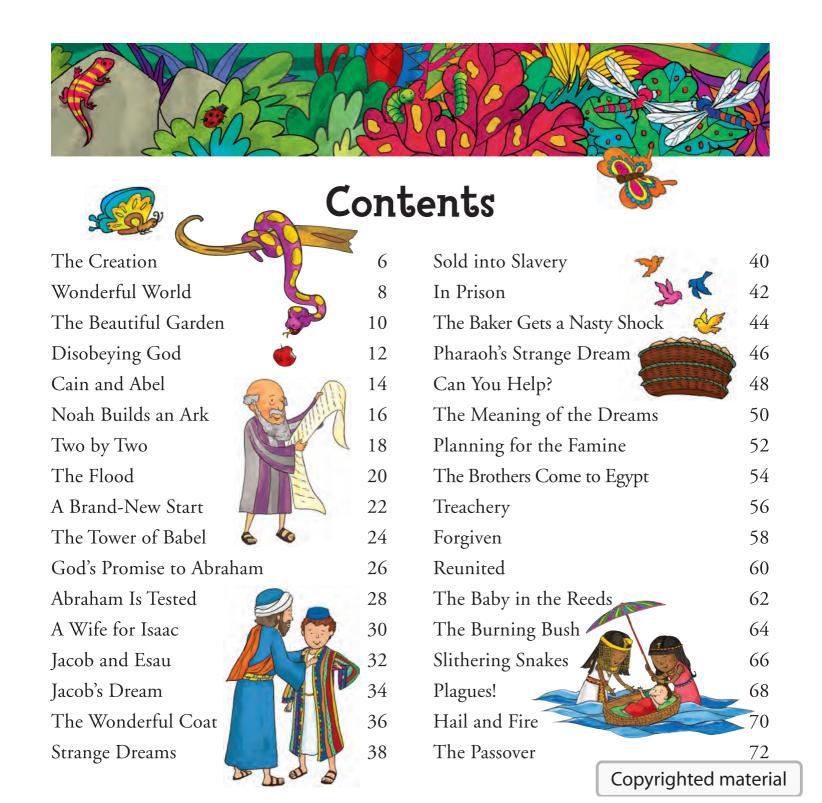
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The Creation

(Genesis 1)

In the beginning, there was nothing at all—no sunshine, no land, no animals, no people. Can you even imagine that? Absolutely nothing!

Then God created heaven and earth, but everything was still covered in darkness, so God said, "Let there be light," and there was light! God called the light day and the darkness night, and that was the very first day and the very first night.

In the days that followed, God separated the water from dry land and covered the land with beautiful plants and trees and lovely green grass. He made the sun to shine during the day and the moon and stars to light up the night sky.





Wonderful World

(Genesis 1-2)

God filled the seas with enormous whales and bright, shiny fish, leaping dolphins and wobbly jellyfish. Then he filled the skies with beautiful birds of every color imaginable. Next he made animals of all shapes and sizes—spotted cheetahs that could run like the wind, slow tortoises that carried their homes on their backs, huge elephants with long trunks, and many, many more.

Last of all God made man and woman and told them to take care of this wonderful world and all the living creatures on it.

God was pleased with all he had made and done, so on the seventh day, he rested and made that day a special day, a day to stop working and give thanks.

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The Beautiful Garden

(Genesis 2)

God made Adam, the very first man, in his own image. He created for him the beautiful Garden of Eden, a marvelous paradise filled with green grass, colorful plants, and wonderful trees. God told Adam that he might help himself to fruit from any of these trees except for one: the tree of knowledge. There were still plenty of other wonderful things for him to eat.

God brought all the animals and birds to Adam for him to name. None of the animals were like him, and Adam was lonely, so God created a woman, Eve, to be his special friend and companion. They had no clothes to wear, but that didn't bother them at all.

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Disobeying God

(Genesis 3)

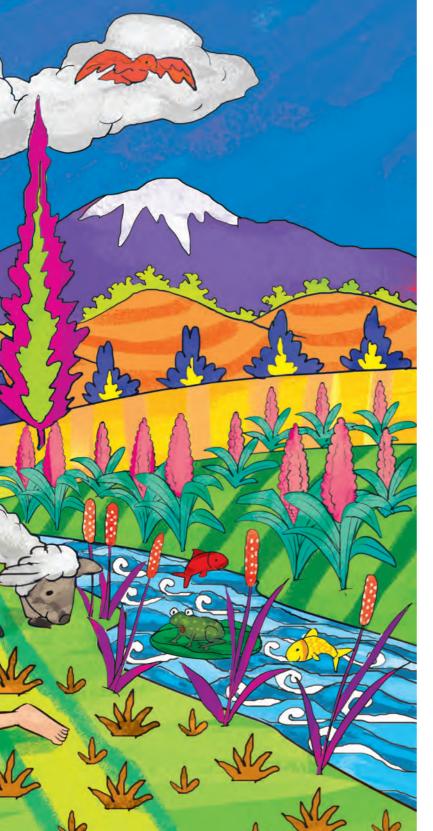
Of all the animals, the most cunning was the snake. One day the snake said to Eve, "Why don't you eat from the tree of knowledge? The fruit is delicious and won't harm you! God doesn't want you to eat it because it will make you wise like him. Take a bite!"

The fruit looked so delicious that Eve picked some and offered some to Adam too, and they both ate it. At once they realized they were naked and tried to cover themselves with leaves.

God was very angry. He cursed the snake and sent Adam and Eve away. He told them that from now on they would have to work hard to make their own food and clothes. Then he placed an angel with a flaming sword to stand guard at the entrance to the garden.

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Cain and Abel

(Genesis 4)

Adam and Eve had two sons. Cain was a farmer who worked in the fields and Abel was a shepherd. One day Cain and Abel both brought offerings to God. Abel brought the very best meat he could, and God was pleased, but he was not so pleased with the crops that Cain had brought.

Cain was so jealous of his brother that he went out with him into the fields and killed him in a fit of anger. When God asked where Abel was, Cain answered rudely, "How should I know? Am I my brother's keeper?"

But God saw Abel's blood on the ground and was angry. He punished Cain and sent him far away from his home and family.

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Noah Builds an Ark

(Genesis 6)

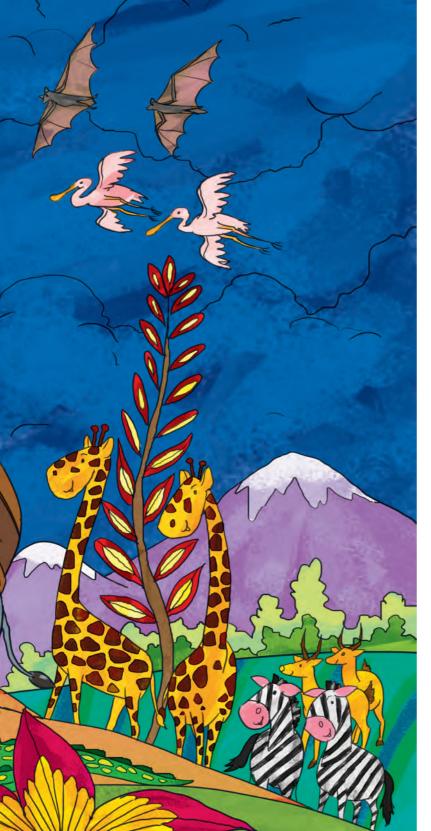
Many years passed, and soon there were lots of people in the world. They were becoming more and more wicked, and this made God very sad. He made up his mind to send a terrible flood to destroy everything he had created.

But there was one good man on earth who loved and obeyed God. His name was Noah, and he had three sons. God told Noah to build an enormous boat—an ark—so that he and his family might be saved along with two of every living creature.

People thought Noah was really silly for building a boat in the middle of the land, and they made fun of him. But he ignored them because he trusted God.

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Two by Two (Genesis 6-7)

Noah built the amazing boat out of cypress wood. It had lots of rooms inside and was three decks high. God told him exactly how it should be made and how big it should be. It took Noah and his three sons a long, long time to finish it.

When the ark was finished, Noah, his wife, his sons, and their wives loaded it with food for themselves and the animals. Then God sent the animals to the ark. two by two—one male and one female of every kind of animal and bird that lived upon the earth or flew in the skies.

Once they were all safely in, God closed the door behind them.





The Flood

(Genesis 7)

Now it began to rain. And how it rained! Water poured down from the skies and covered all the land. Every living creature was drowned. All the towns and cities were washed away. But the ark and its precious cargo floated free on a world of water.





A Brand-New Start

(Genesis 7-9)

For forty days and forty nights, it rained. Then, at last, it stopped! After a while the floodwaters began to go down. Noah sent out a dove, and when it returned with an olive leaf in its beak, Noah knew that the flood was over. The trees were growing again.

Then it was time for Noah and the animals to leave the ark. Noah was filled with gratitude because God promised him that he would never again send such a dreadful flood. God even put a beautiful rainbow in the sky to remind everyone of this promise.