

FOREWORD BY MAX LUCADO AND RANDY FRAZEE

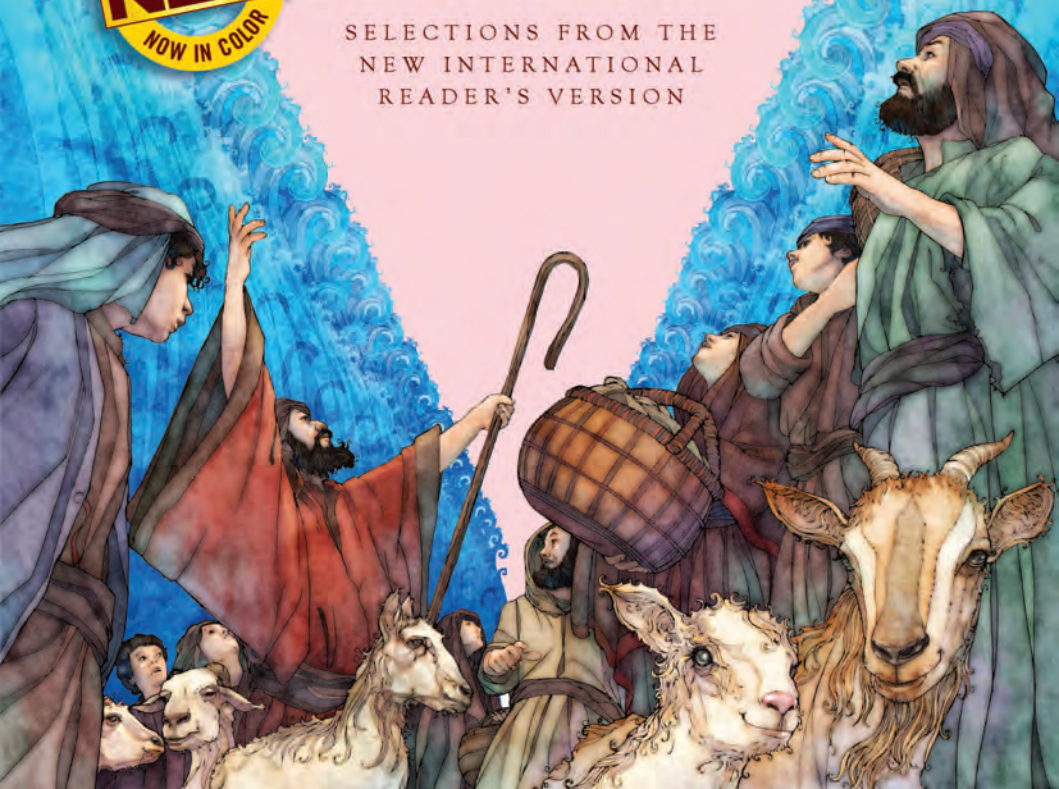


# THE STORY FOR KIDS

DISCOVER THE BIBLE  
FROM BEGINNING TO END



SELECTIONS FROM THE  
NEW INTERNATIONAL  
READER'S VERSION





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# 1

## The Beginning of Life as We Know It



In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth didn't have any shape. And it was empty. There was darkness over the surface of the waters. At that time, the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

God said, "Let there be light." And there was light. God saw that the light was good. He separated the light from the darkness. God called the light "day." He called the darkness "night." There was evening, and there was morning. It was day one.

God said, "Let there be a huge space between the waters. Let it separate water from water." And that's exactly what happened. God made the huge space between the waters. He separated the water under the space from the water above it.

God called the huge space “sky.” There was evening, and there was morning. It was day two.

God said, “Let the water under the sky be gathered into one place. Let dry ground appear.” And that’s exactly what happened. God called the dry ground “land.” He called all the water that was gathered together “seas.” And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, “Let the land produce plants. Let them produce their own seeds. And let there be trees on the land that grow fruit with seeds in it. Let each kind of plant or tree have its own kind of seeds.” And that’s exactly what happened.

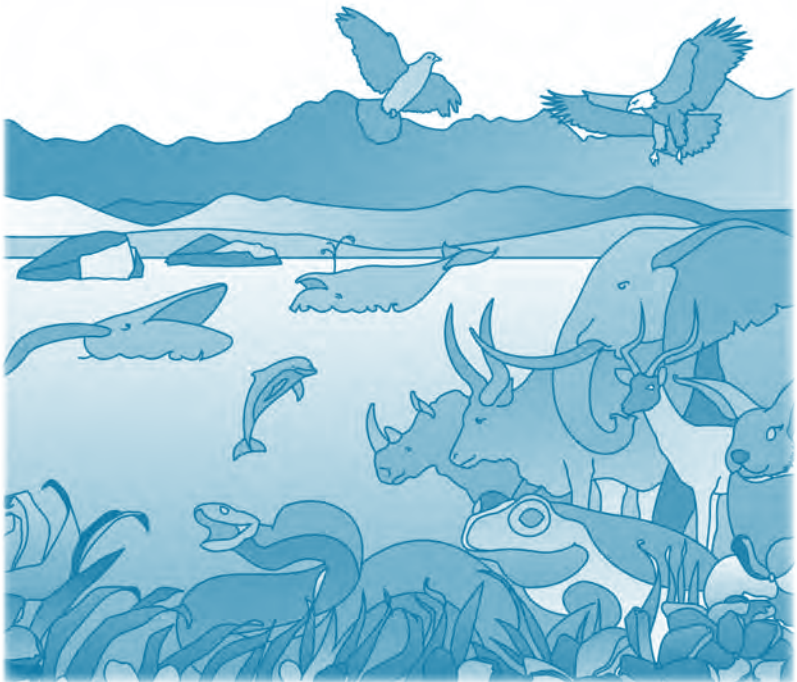
There was evening, and there was morning. It was day three.

God said, “Let there be lights in the huge space of the sky. Let them separate the day from the night. Let the lights set the times for the holy celebrations and the days and the years. Let them be lights in the huge space of the sky to give light on the earth.” And that’s exactly what happened. God made two great lights. He made the larger light to rule over the day and the smaller light to rule over the night. He also made the stars. God put the lights in the huge space of the sky to give light on the earth. He put them there to rule over the day and the night. He put them there to separate light from darkness. God saw that it was good. There was evening, and there was morning. It was day four.

God said, “Let the seas be filled with living things. Let birds fly above the earth across the huge space of the sky.”

So God created the great sea creatures. He created every kind of living thing that fills the seas and moves about in them. He created every kind of bird that flies. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them. He said, “Have little ones so that there will be many of you. Fill the water in the seas. Let there be more and more birds on the earth.” There was evening, and there was morning. It was day five.

God said, “Let the land produce every kind of living creature. Let there be livestock, and creatures that move along the ground, and wild animals.” And that’s exactly what happened. God made every kind of wild animal. He made every kind of livestock. He made every kind of creature that moves along the ground. And God saw that it was good.





Then God said, “Let us make human beings so that they are like us. Let them rule over the fish in the seas and the birds in the sky. Let them rule over the livestock and all the wild animals. And let them rule over all the creatures that move along the ground.”

So God created human beings in his own likeness.

He created them to be like himself.

He created them as male and female.

God blessed them. He said to them, “Have children so that there will be many of you. Fill the earth and bring it under your control. Rule over the fish in the seas and the birds in the sky. Rule over every living creature that moves along the ground.”

Then God said, “I am giving you every plant on the face of the whole earth that produces its own seeds. I am giving you every tree that has fruit with seeds in it. All of them will be given to you for food. I am giving every green plant as food for all the land animals and for all the birds in the sky. I am also giving the plants to all the creatures that move along the ground. I am giving them to every living thing that breathes.” And that’s exactly what happened.

God saw everything he had made. And it was very good. There was evening, and there was morning. It was day six.

So the heavens and the earth and everything in them were completed.

By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing. So on that day he rested from all his work. God blessed the seventh day and made it holy. He blessed it because on that day he rested from all the work he had done.



The LORD God put the man in the Garden of Eden. He put him there to farm its land and take care of it. The LORD God gave the man a command. He said, “You may eat fruit from any tree in the garden. But you must not eat the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you do, you will certainly die.”

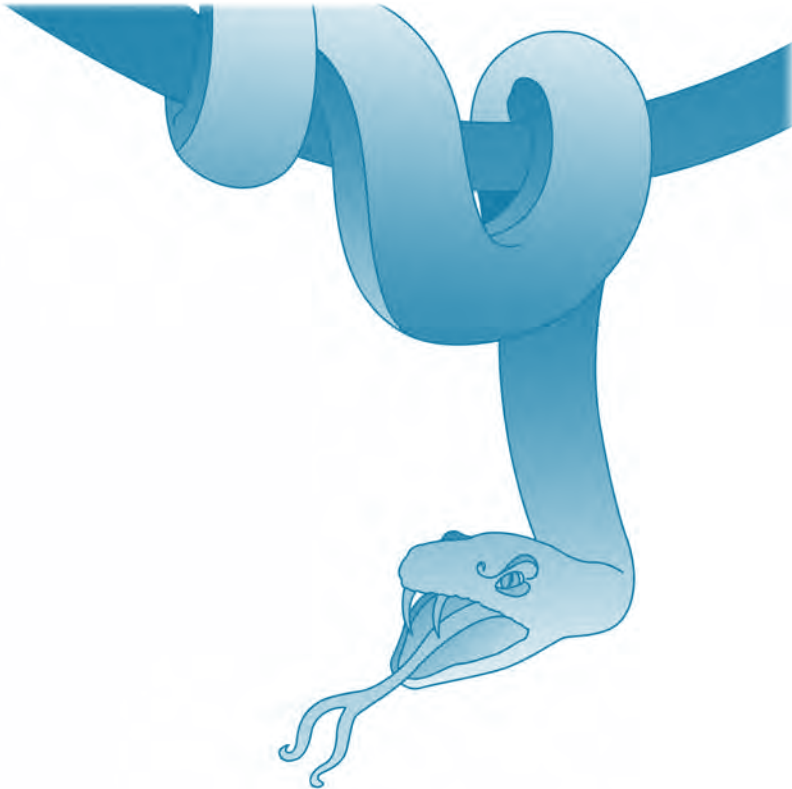
The serpent was more clever than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. The serpent said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat fruit from any tree in the garden’?”

The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden. But God did say, ‘You must not eat the

fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden. Do not even touch it. If you do, you will die.’”

“You will certainly not die,” the serpent said to the woman. “God knows that when you eat fruit from that tree, you will know things you have never known before. Like God, you will be able to tell the difference between good and evil.”

The woman saw that the tree’s fruit was good to eat and pleasing to look at. She also saw that it would make a person wise. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her. And he ate it. Then both of them knew things they had never known before. They



realized they were naked. So they sewed together fig leaves and made clothes for themselves.

Then the man and his wife heard the LORD God walking in the garden. It was during the coolest time of the day. They hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called out to the man. "Where are you?" he asked.

"I heard you in the garden," the man answered. "I was afraid, because I was naked. So I hid."

The LORD God said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten fruit from the tree I commanded you not to eat from?"

The man said, "It's the fault of the woman you put here with me. She gave me some fruit from the tree. And I ate it."

Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What have you done?"

The woman said, "The serpent tricked me. That's why I ate the fruit."

So the LORD God spoke to the serpent. He said, "Because you have done this,

"You are set apart from all livestock

and all wild animals.

I am putting a curse on you.

You will crawl on your belly.

You will eat dust

all the days of your life.

I will make you and the woman hate each other.

Your children and her children will be enemies.

Her son will crush your head.

And you will bite his heel."

The LORD God said to the woman,

“I will increase your pain when you give birth.

You will be in great pain when you have children.

You will long for your husband.

And he will rule over you.”

The LORD God said to Adam, “You listened to your wife’s suggestion. You ate fruit from the tree I warned you about. I said, ‘You must not eat its fruit.’

“So I am putting a curse on the ground because  
of what you did.

All the days of your life you will have to work  
hard.

It will be painful for you to get food from the ground.

You will eat plants from the field,  
even though the ground produces thorns and  
prickly weeds.

You will have to work hard and sweat a lot  
to produce the food you eat.

You were made out of the ground.

You will return to it when you die.

You are dust,  
and you will return to dust.”

Adam named his wife Eve. She would become the mother of every living person.

The LORD God made clothes out of animal skins for Adam and his wife to wear. The LORD God said, “Just like one of us, the man can now tell the difference between good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out and pick fruit from the

tree of life and eat it. If he does, he will live forever.” So the LORD God drove the man out of the Garden of Eden. He sent the man to farm the ground he had been made from.

*God put angels with a flaming sword at the entrance of the garden to keep Adam and Eve from eating the fruit from the tree of life.*

*As time went by, Adam and Eve had sons and daughters. Later their children had children of their own. After Adam and Eve sinned, sinning was all people could think about.*

The LORD saw how bad the sins of everyone on earth had become. They only thought about evil things. The LORD was very sad that he had made human beings on the earth. His heart was filled with pain.

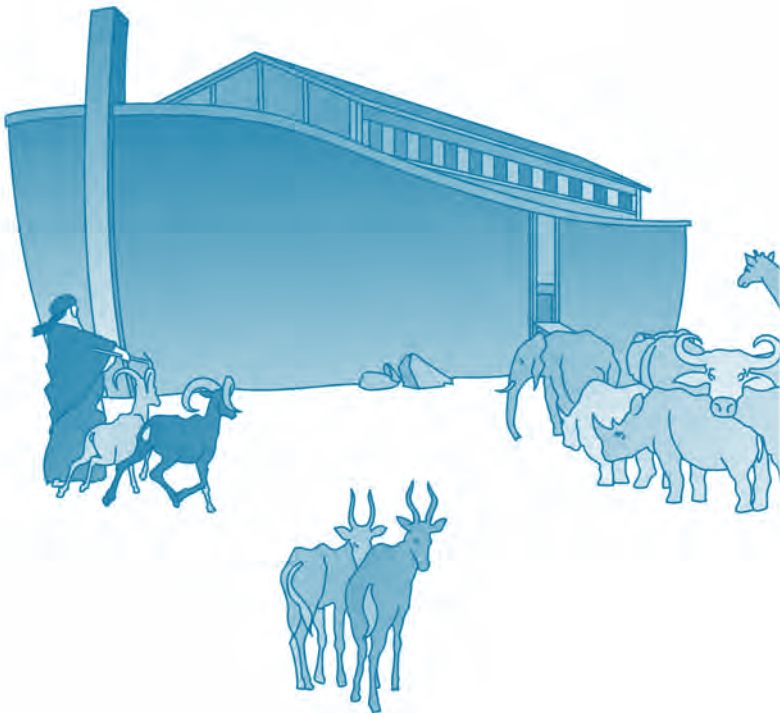
But the LORD was very pleased with Noah.  
Here is the story of Noah’s family line.

Noah was a godly man. He was without blame among the people of his time. He walked faithfully with God. Noah had three sons. Their names were Shem, Ham and Japheth.

God said to Noah ... “So make yourself an ark out of cypress wood. Make rooms in it. Cover it with tar inside and out. Here is how I want you to build it. The ark has to be 450 feet long. It has to be 75 feet wide and 45 feet high. Make a roof for it. Leave below the roof an opening all the way around that is a foot and a half high. Put a door in one side of the ark. Make lower, middle and upper decks. I am going to bring a flood on the earth. It will destroy all life under the

sky. It will destroy every living creature that breathes. Everything on earth will die. But I will make my covenant with you. You will go into the ark. Your sons and your wife and your sons' wives will enter it with you. Bring a male and a female of every living thing into the ark. They will be kept alive with you. Two of every kind of bird will come to you. Two of every kind of animal will also come to you. And so will two of every kind of creature that moves along the ground. All of them will be kept alive with you. Take every kind of food that you will need. Store it away as food for you and them."

Noah did everything just as God commanded him.



Then the LORD said to Noah, “Go into the ark with your whole family. I know that you are a godly man among the people of today.”

*Once Noah’s family and all the animals were safe inside the ark, God closed the door. Noah was 600 years old when the flood came.*

For 40 days the flood kept coming on the earth. As the waters rose higher, they lifted the ark high above the earth. The waters rose higher and higher on the earth. And the ark floated on the water. The waters rose on the earth until all the high mountains under the entire sky were covered. The waters continued to rise until they covered the mountains by more than 20 feet. Every living thing that moved on land died. The birds, the livestock and the wild animals died. All of the creatures that fill the earth also died. And so did every human being.

Every living thing on earth was wiped out. People and animals were destroyed. The creatures that move along the ground and the birds in the sky were wiped out. Everything on earth was destroyed. Only Noah and those with him in the ark were left.

The waters flooded the earth for 150 days.

But God showed concern for Noah. He also showed concern for all the wild animals and livestock that were with Noah in the ark. So God sent a wind to sweep over the earth. And the waters began to go down. The springs at the bottom of the oceans had been closed. The windows of the sky had



also been closed. And the rain had stopped falling from the sky. The water on the earth continued to go down. At the end of the 150 days the water had gone down. On the 17th day of the seventh month, the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat. The waters continued to go down until the tenth month. On the first day of that month, the tops of the mountains could be seen.

*Noah sent out a dove to see if it was safe to come out. The dove couldn't find any place to land, so Noah took it back inside. After seven days, Noah sent the dove again. When the dove came back with a fresh leaf, Noah knew that the water was going down. He waited seven more days, and he sent the dove out a third time. This time it didn't return.*

Then God said to Noah, "Come out of the ark. Bring your wife and your sons and their wives with you. Bring out every kind of living thing that is with you. Bring the birds, the animals, and all the creatures that move along the ground. Then they can multiply on the earth. They can have little ones and the number of them can increase."

So Noah came out of the ark. His sons and his wife and his sons' wives were with him. All the animals came out of the ark ...

Then Noah built an altar to honor the LORD.

Then God blessed Noah and his sons. He said to them, "Have children so that there are many of you. Fill the earth. All the land animals will be afraid of you. All the birds in the sky will be afraid of you. Every creature that moves along the

ground will be afraid of you. So will every fish in the seas. Every living thing is put under your control.”

“I am now making my covenant with you and with all your children who will be born after you.”

“The waters of a flood will never again destroy all life. A flood will never again destroy the earth.”

God continued, “My covenant is between me and you and every living creature with you. It is a covenant for all time to come. Here is the sign of the covenant I am making. I have put my rainbow in the clouds. It will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth.”



“When the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it. I will remember that my covenant will last forever. It is a covenant between me and every kind of living creature on earth.”

*When the flood ended, the only people in the world were Noah and his family. Noah’s sons had children and their children had children, so after a while there were thousands and thousands of people again.*

## Discussion Questions

1. Do you like to create things? Describe something you have made or drawn. What do you like about making or creating something?
2. Have you ever done something your mom or dad told you not to do? What happened when they found out? How did it feel when you knew they were aware of what you had done?
3. God put a rainbow in the sky as a sign of his promise to never flood the world again. Have you ever made a promise to someone? How did you show that person you were serious about keeping that promise?