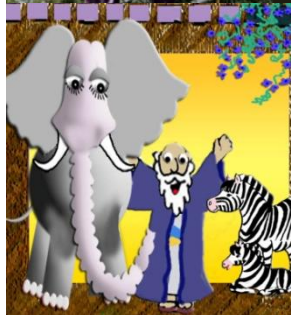
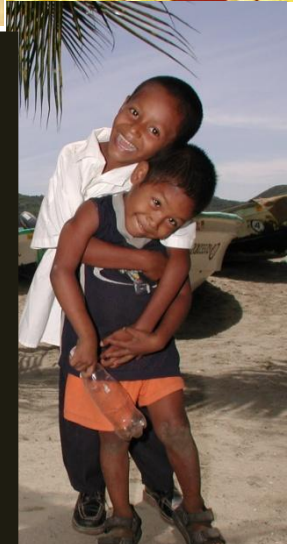




Children's Beautiful Bible Treasures



Children's Beautiful Bible Treasures

—Part 1—

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(These stories and illustrations are also included in the
"Beautiful Bible Treasures" Lessons 1-12: *Beginning to Babel.*)



God Creates the Earth



Would you like to know how the world began? God wanted to make a planet—Earth—and place on it some very special creations. You, and other people too!

But it needed to be made just right, so you and others could live on it and enjoy all the amazing things He wanted to fill it with.

God is an amazing guy—and He's got a lot of love too, more than you can even imagine!

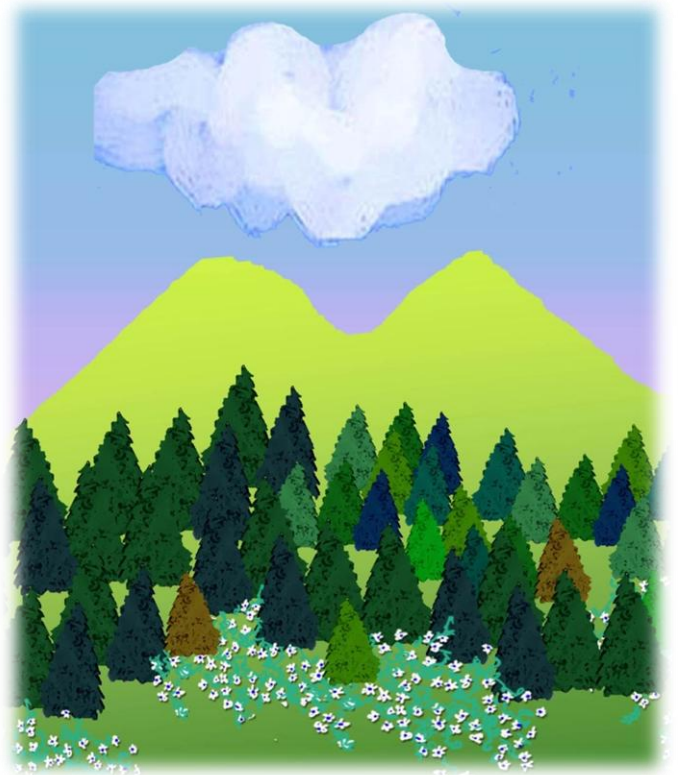
Everything He does comes from His heart of love—for a loving reason.

When He decides to make something, all it takes is for Him to give the word, and things happen.

God said, "Let there be light", and there was light!

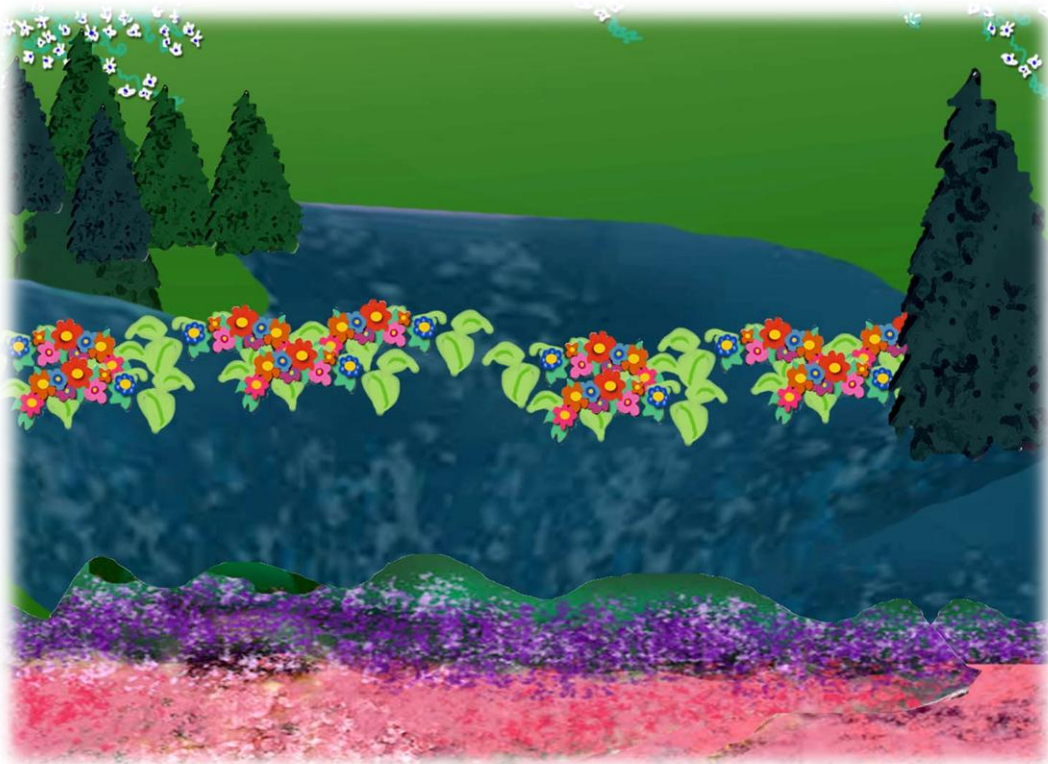
Next He made air and the sky—because we'd need that on our planet to survive.

He divided the water, and put some down below on the Earth and some high up above too.



He then decorated the whole Earth with beautiful and useful plants and trees, grass, flowers, and all sorts of things that grow, and things that you can eat.

Each plant had seeds too, so more and more would grow, and the Earth would be filled with beauty and all that was needed.





God Creates the Universe

Have you ever tried to do a project, but then found out that you had forgotten something important?

You realised there was lots more to it than just gathering a few items and getting to work on your project.

Well, God put lots of thought and care into creating the world. He didn't forget anything.

He spent the fourth day making some other things that, though not exactly part of Earth, did help to add what was needed in order for it to work properly.

God made the Sun to give light, to give warmth, and to help plants grow.

The sun also helps with the water cycle that is so important to all things living on Earth.

He made the Moon to shine and give a gentle light at night, and to help us know such things as how long a week or month is, by looking at its size and shape in the sky.

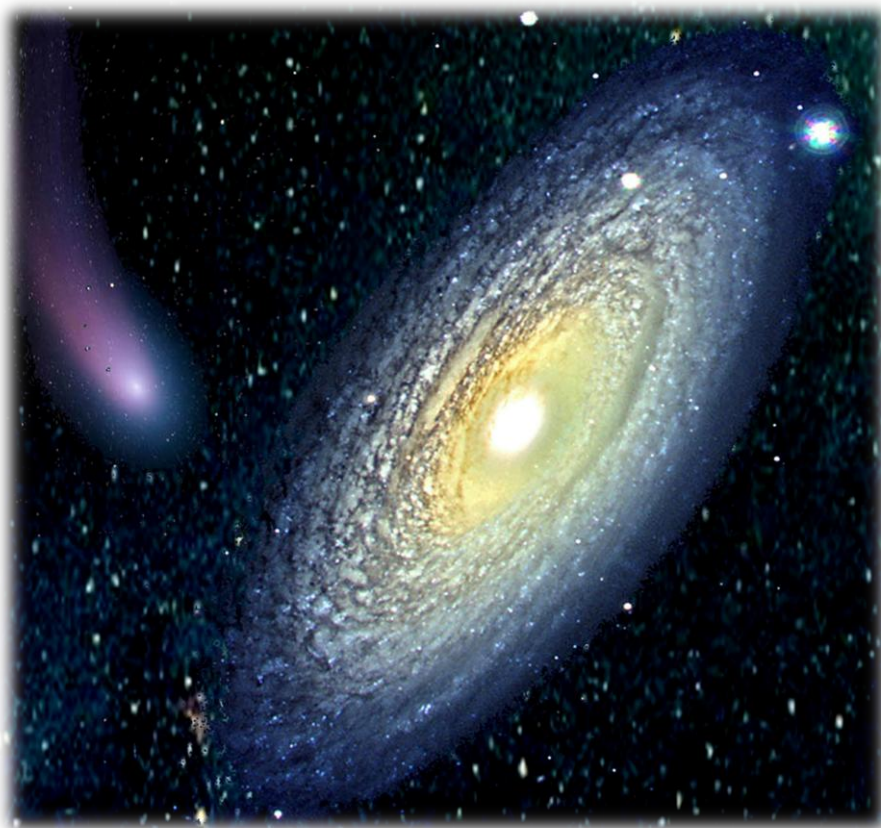
Stars and planets were also made and placed in the space surrounding Earth, in all the right places.

The stars make a beautiful, sparkly sky at night, and there is a reason why each planet orbiting the Sun has been made and placed just where it is.



Maybe one day you'll find out more about them. People are always fascinated about what is going on in space. It is an interesting study.

We only know a small amount, compared to all that there is to know about our universe, but we do know that it's enormous!





Animals Are Made

The world became a lively place, as creatures of all kinds, types, sizes and shapes were created.

God loves life—things that live, move, breathe, explore, enjoy and do what He made them for. He loves creating all sorts of things.

God is the greatest inventor there ever was or ever will be, and His ideas of new things to make are endless.

God had great fun on the fifth and sixth days of His big creation project.



At last, after all the preparation of creating a planet where humans and animals could survive, He was finally able to add the creatures to it.

First, God made the sea creatures and fish, as well as the birds of all types.

The next day land creatures were created and began to fill the Earth.



He made many types of all kinds of animals, birds, fish, and insects.

God gave them all their first instruction—to multiply, to have babies and to fill the Earth with as many creatures as possible!

God loved to watch the lively creatures and all their funny ways. Each one was unique and different, and clever in its own way.

God put those clever ideas and instincts within them so they'd know how to live on Earth.

It was now an active, lively, and noisy world, with fun and interesting sights and sounds.

Each creature had its own way of communicating and living.





The First Man on Earth

People often wonder what God looks like. We may not have seen Him in all His wonderful splendour and awesome, light-filled glory, but He did make something on Earth to look a lot like Him. You! God made mankind "in His image", to resemble Him.

As soon as planet Earth was inhabitable, and had all that it needed to support life, God made a man.

So far, the only thing God did to create the different things on Earth was to speak the words and things just came into being. He doesn't need a factory to create things.

This time, however, God did something different. He formed a man out of the dirt, the mud, the clay of the Earth that He had just made.

After man was shaped just right, God breathed life into him.

What a moment of wonder that was, to see the first person alive, thinking, exploring and moving on the planet God had made for him, and many more people were to follow.

Then God gave him a name—Adam—and He gave him a fun job to do, too. Adam was to choose what each animal and creature on Earth was to be called.



One by one they came before him and were given a name. Adam must have had a great time getting to see each and every



creature, from huge elephants to the tiniest bugs, and giving each one a name suited to it.

No matter how many fun animals and interesting creatures there were, Adam saw that he was the only person, the only one made just like him, and the only one that resembled God, his only Father.

Adam was lonely and longed for a friend, a companion, someone to talk with, who would understand what it was like to be a person on Earth. He wanted someone to love and who would love him too.



The First Woman on Earth

Everyone needs to know that they are special to someone. Even Adam needed to feel this. He wanted someone to share life's joys with.

He wanted someone who would understand his feelings, and who knew what it was like to live on Earth, and who could help him. He needed and wanted a companion.

God has so much love, and He made us to need and want it too. Love is to us like the sunshine and the moisture is to the flowers—it helps them to grow and blossom into beautiful parts of nature.

Love can help to bring beautiful and wonderful things into your life and others' lives. We need it just as much as we need other things in life.

God knew that Adam needed someone to love and to be loved by, in order to make his life complete.

Adam already had a great place to live, and all the food and water he needed.

There was no sickness or danger, all creatures were just as God had made them to be—friendly and gentle, and helping the world in their own ways.

However, Adam didn't feel complete. God knew just what he needed.



After putting Adam into a very deep sleep, God created that special somebody that Adam was missing.

When Adam woke up, he saw standing beside him a beautiful woman. He was delighted!



Adam named her "Eve", and they became close friends and companions, and could help each other.

Now he had someone to love and live with, and be loved by.



God Rests

Do you like playing? Is it fun to have a good run outside, breathing fresh air, exploring a beautiful place? Do you sometimes like just resting and doing nothing at all? Do you like having a chat with a friend?

Have you learned to have quiet time, where it's just you and Jesus talking together, getting to know Him, and learning to love Him? Are there some things that are just real fun for you that you can't do all the time, but every week or so it works out to get to do them?

That's what God wanted people to do. He set us an example. Did you know that God even rested, after all His work on creating the marvellous Earth, the sky, and all that fills it?

He took a day to step back and to enjoy the things He had made. He didn't work on that seventh day, after creating the world. People need time to do the same—to rest, to do something recreational, fun, refreshing, relaxing and enjoyable.

There's a time for work and a time to relax, and God made people to need both. He set us the first example of taking time to be refreshed after working.



To stay healthy and happy, people need more than just fun things. They need time to be refreshed in all kinds of ways. People need time to exercise, to keep themselves fit and healthy. They need time to sleep and rest, so they don't get weak and sick.

They need time to rest their eyes, and not overuse them on TV and computers. They need time to talk with Jesus and read His Word and hear what He wants to say, for their heart to be inspired and strengthened. They need time with friends and family, to feel loved and cared for.

There are many things that you can do to stay healthy and happy, but the most important is to take time to love and talk with Jesus—and that can be done no matter what else you are doing for fun and relaxation.

You can talk with Him any time of day or night. This is what will renew, strengthen, and empower you the most, as you carry on in your life and do your work—whatever you are meant to do.





God's Garden, and His Gardener

Have you ever gone on a fun picnic, but then there were some things that made it not as nice as you would have liked?

Perhaps there were bothersome flies or mosquitoes that would not leave you alone, or it began to rain just when you were starting to eat.

Or perhaps there was broken glass and trash carelessly left around the area, and thorn bushes that made things less than ideal.

None of these things were a problem for Adam and Eve, who had the privilege of living and working in God's special garden, called "The Garden of Eden".

The world's first people were placed there to care for it, and to enjoy it as well.

All was perfect. All was beautiful. They could walk without shoes and nothing hurt their feet. There were no thorns or pests, no biting bugs, or sickness.



Adam and Eve ran happily through this garden, picking fruit and berries when they got hungry, or drinking from crystal-clear refreshing waters.

God enjoyed watching these first two people that He'd made having fun in such a beautiful place.

They had lots to learn and explore, made discoveries, and had a great time there in this special garden, created and planted by God Himself.

How lovely it was. Wouldn't you have loved to walk in it too? Maybe one day God will re-create it, so we can see just how marvellous it was.





Trees and Choices

Is it hard for you to always make the right decision—especially when you've been told not to do something that actually looks like fun or as if it wouldn't make much of a difference if you did it?

Adam and Eve were given everything they needed, and more. God said they could eat from any tree in the Garden of Eden that they wanted to, as well as a special tree called the "Tree of Life".

It was a special place to be. There were no "do not enter" construction signs, or roadblocks, or books of rules with many complicated instructions to figure out, but there was one important instruction that God gave them that they had to obey.

There was a tree whose fruit would introduce them to knowing not just the good, but the bad as well. They were never to eat from it or things would get awfully difficult for them.

If they wanted things to stay pleasant and good and beautiful, they needed to do things God's way.

One sad day they disobeyed and ate the fruit from that tree. It made everyone sad—Adam, Eve, and especially God.



Because of their disobedience, God had to take away many of the blessings and extra special things that they had enjoyed on Earth, and they were given new jobs and work to do.

God still loved them very much, and was near them, but for Adam and Eve, things were going to change.

The world was to have more troubles, and work would be hard; this would keep people busy and would teach them that doing things God's way is always best.





Enoch and Methuselah

There was a man called Enoch who lived long ago. He had a most unusual experience—he never died!

Now that doesn't mean that he's still on Earth today, but he was around for more than 300 years, until one day God simply took him up to live with Him.

He vanished from one moment to the next. Amazing! And it was just because he loved taking time with God more than doing anything else.

The world in his day had become quite a bad place. It was so sad.

It wasn't just Adam and Eve who made one wrong choice in the Garden, eating the forbidden fruit.

Everyone then on Earth kept choosing things that weren't according to God's way.

There was a lot of sorrow and hurting and bad and sad things going on.

Enoch loved to take time away from it all, just to hear God talking. Then one day, God took Enoch to be with Him all the time.

Now it might seem like 300 years is a long time to live anyway, but back then people lived much longer than that! Several people lived to be over 900 years old!



Enoch's own son, Methuselah, lived for 969 years! Pretty amazing!

Things have changed now, and because of people's choices to do wrong, God has changed it so that people now live a much shorter time on Earth.

Whether you live a long time or only for a short while, the most important thing to remember is to do as Enoch did—choose God's way, take time to listen to Him, and teach others God's way too.

Then one day when it's your time to live with God, you'll be so glad you did your best to live as He wanted you to.





A Good Man for a Great Job

Have you ever been very sad because something you liked broke, or you couldn't have what you were hoping for?

Well, God felt so very sad because the nice world He made got ruined and turned ugly and unpleasant.

God found one man who was following His way—Noah. He listened to God! So God told him what was going to happen to the world.

God would bring a great flood, the biggest one there ever was, that would cover the entire planet!

God told Noah to build a very large boat; an ark. In the ark he and his family—his wife, three sons and their wives—would be safe during the flood.

God told Noah to also bring into the ark two of every type of animal and creature that lived on the land.

It wasn't easy, and it took a lot of perseverance and hard work for many years.

People didn't encourage him, but made things difficult for Noah and his family through their unkind and ungodly words and actions.

This didn't stop Noah, though.



He just kept on for over one hundred years. That's a long time to do a job and not give up!

Finally, it was all built and they and the chosen animals went safely inside, with all they would need for the journey.

God then shut the ark's door tightly, and the watery journey was soon to begin.





Rain and a Rainbow

After obeying all that God had said to do, Noah and his wife, his three sons and their wives, and a whole lot of animals and creatures of all types were safely in the ark.

They waited for the water God said would come—more water than they'd ever seen before. After seven days of waiting in the ark, the rain and flood began.

It was quite a wild ride, being in a boat while water was pouring down from above and gushing up from holes in the ground.

They were safe and dry, however, because they had obeyed, even down to the smallest details, all that God had told them to do.

They were glad then that they had been diligent and faithful, and had done a good job of what God had told them to do.

Aren't rainbows beautiful? It's always special and fun to see one. Noah and his family were the first people ever to see a rainbow.

After that long and difficult time when the flood washed over the world, things started at last to get dry enough on Earth that Noah's team and the animals could leave the ark and walk once again on the ground.

They thanked God for keeping them safely through it all,



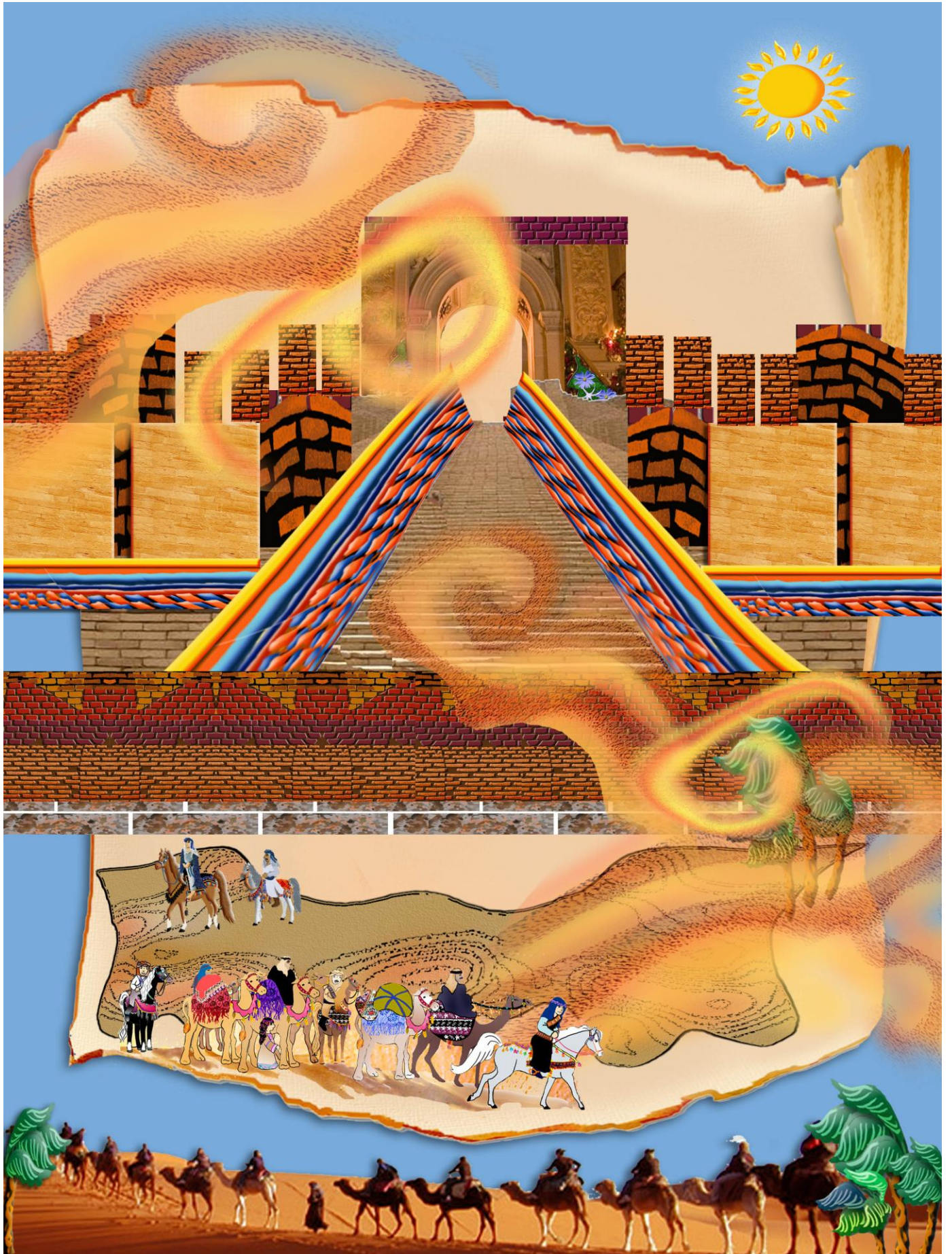
and for permitting them to live in a fresh, new world.

They celebrated with a special time of praise and prayer.

Then, as a sign of promise that God would never flood the whole world like that again, God put a beautiful rainbow in the sky. Noah and his family had never seen one before. It looked marvellous, magnificent!

They had faith that God would continue to keep them and help them as they started the big job of setting up and rebuilding on the cleaned-up world.





The Tower of Babel

Isn't it fun to watch and hear young children as they are learning to talk? Some of the words they use for things can sound so funny!

Did you know that there are thousands of languages around the world—and babies have the ability to learn whatever language their parents speak, just from hearing it around them? It's truly incredible!

Did you know there was a time when only one language was spoken in the whole world?

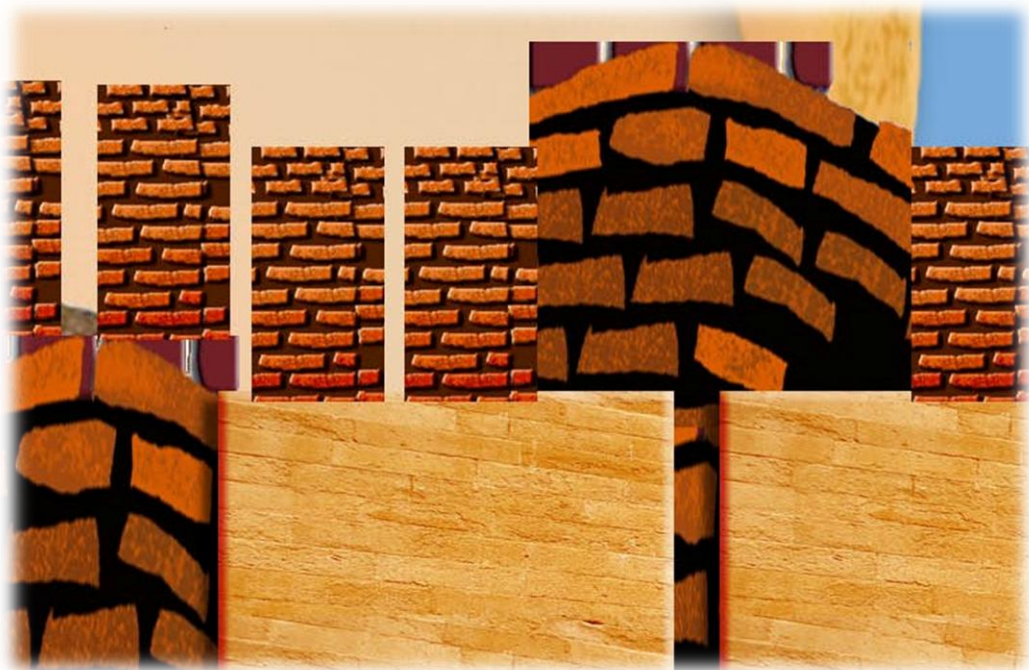
It was easy to understand things then. It was also easy for everyone to think and say and all do the same things.

One day a big important man got an idea that everyone should work together to build the world's largest tower.

He thought they could prove how very powerful and smart they all were.

They thought if they made it high enough, it would reach up to heaven and they would be as great as God.

God had other plans for people on Earth, however. He didn't want them to lift themselves up with their silly, proud ideas.



He wanted them to travel, to explore, to do new things—not to all do the same thing and stay in the same place. So He did something very amazing.

Unexpectedly, each family on Earth began to speak a new language—so new that no one else had ever heard it, and no one but their family could understand it.

That was the end of their proud plans. And it was the beginning of travel, cultures, countries, and new places and things discovered!

