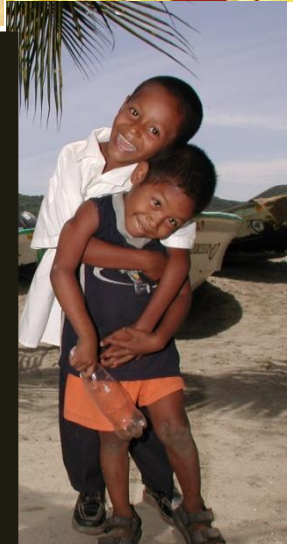


Children's Beautiful Bible Treasures



Children's Beautiful Bible Treasures

—Part 2—

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(These stories and illustrations are also included in the
“Beautiful Bible Treasures” Lessons 13-24: *Men on the Move.*)



A Man on the Move

Abraham was a man who took action and did whatever God told him to do. He had faith that everything would work out well.

His life wasn't easy as he travelled in the hot desert, and stayed in the country of Egypt for a while, and had to deal with troublesome people at times.

But he spent time with God, praying and listening to what He had to say, and this gave him peace and assurance in his heart.



Abraham believed what God said, and it gave him faith and courage through all the difficulties.

First God told him to move from where he was living and to go to a new place.

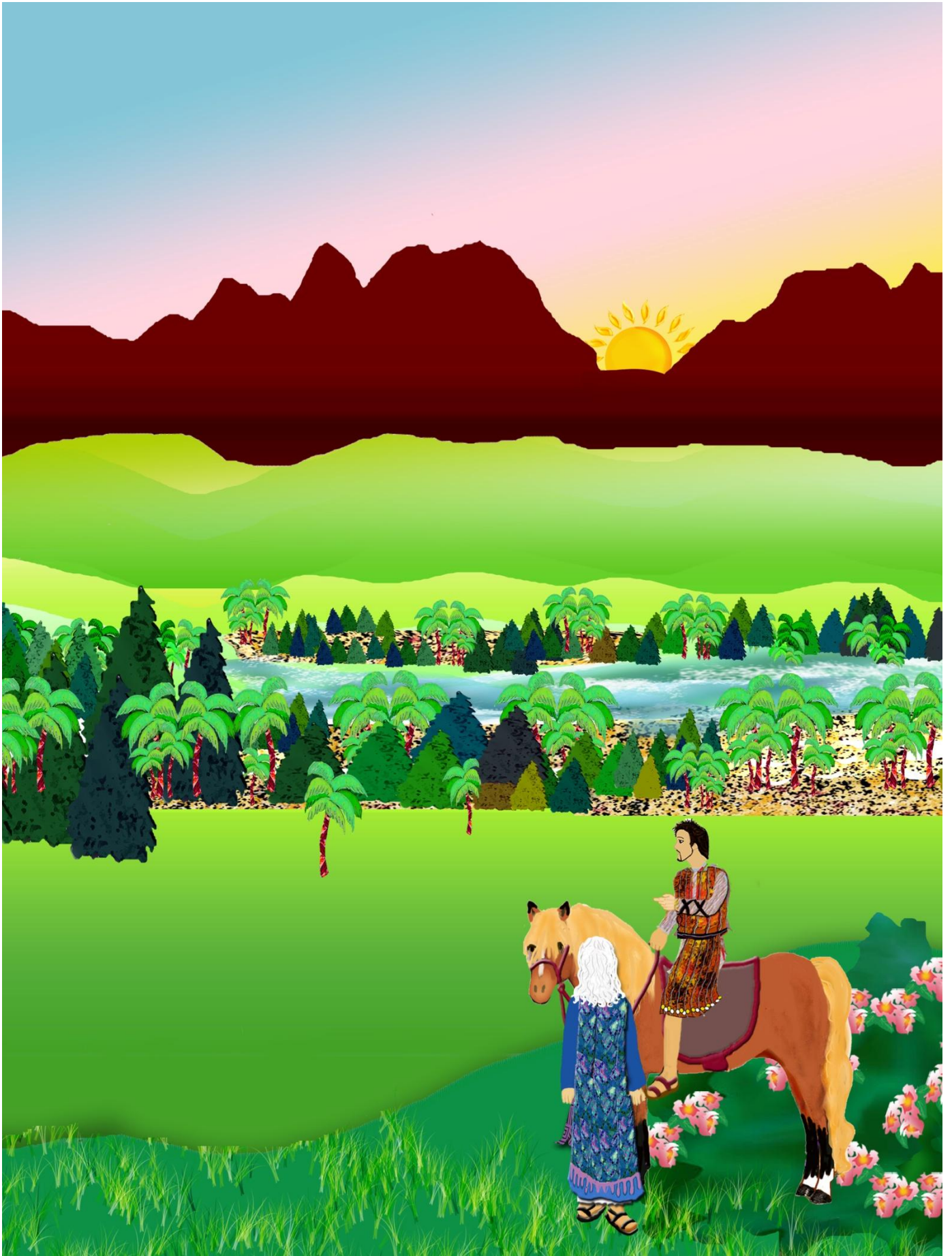
Then God promised him a child of his own, which he and his wife Sarah did not yet have. They were looking forward to having a child for a very long time.



God promised that not only would they have a son, but that eventually there would be so many great-great grandchildren, that they would be as uncountable as the stars!

Abraham and Sarah had to wait though, until it was the right time, and keep having faith.





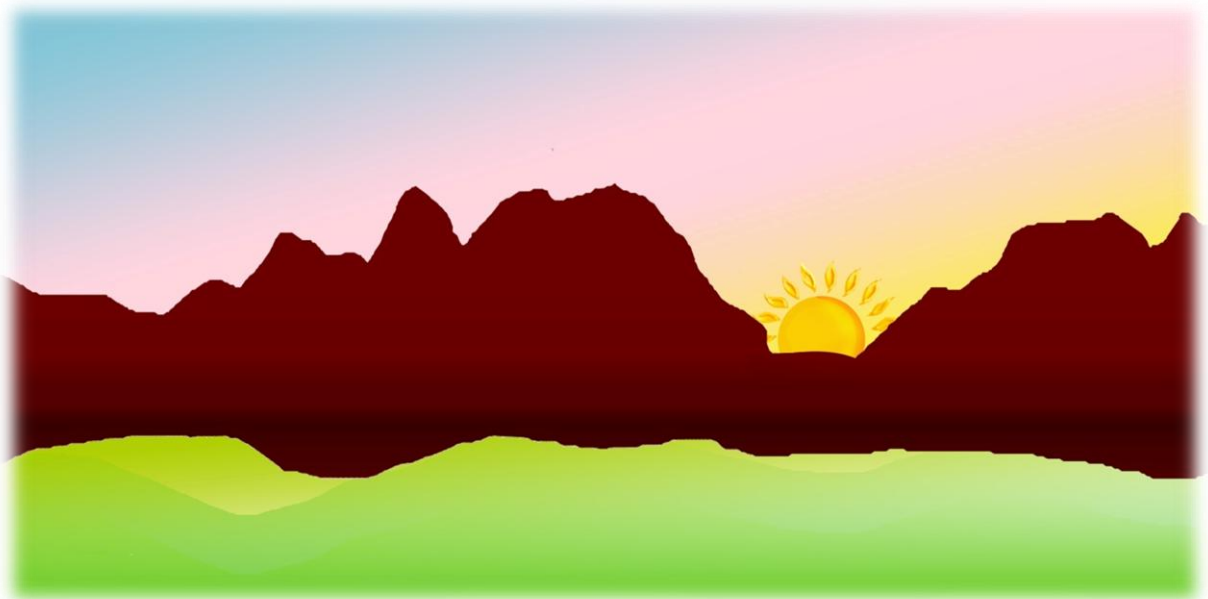
Living Peacefully

Abraham wanted to have a peaceful time while living and travelling with his very big team.

Abraham's nephew and his team were also travelling with him.

One time when there wasn't enough grass around for all the animals, it made things quarrelsome between all the herdsmen.

Abraham suggested to Lot, his nephew, that he choose whatever part of



the land he would like to go to, and Abraham and his team would then go to another place.

He kindly gave Lot the first choice.

So Lot looked around and took the best place that he could see and moved there with his own team of helpers and animals.



It was a place with plenty of water, grass and trees. Everything they needed was there.

It was good that they stopped quarrelling over the little area of dry land, and looked for other ideas and solutions.

Things were at peace again, and Abraham's journey continued.





Three Special Visitors

Abraham continued to travel, going where God led him to go. It was often hot during the day and cold at night.

Water was a challenge to find, and wells were hard work to dig.

Abraham faithfully and cheerfully did as God told him to do, and went where God led him.

One hot day, when sitting in the doorway of his tent, he was delighted to see a team of visitors approaching.

They looked more like angels than men.

Abraham knew how tired and thirsty travelling people felt.



He wanted to let them rest and be refreshed.

He ran to the three approaching men, and invited them to stay for a while, to eat and to rest.

The angelic visitors agreed to stop for awhile, and Sarah, Abraham's wife, quickly cooked and served a good meal for them.

While Sarah was in the tent she heard one of them say something that brought a smile to her face, and made her laugh a little!



The angelic visiting messenger said that she and Abraham were soon finally going to have a child!

They'd waited and waited for a child to be theirs, as God had promised, and hadn't given up hope.

How happy they were to hear that it was nearly time for it to happen.





Isaac

With great joy at last Abraham and Sarah held their precious baby! God had given them the promised child.

They named him Isaac, and he sure made them smile, laugh and feel very loved.

Abraham and Sarah knew that when God says something, it happens. Waiting for so long taught them patience, and that's a good thing to have.

Having patience, and having faith that God would care for them and do just what He promised, were great things that would help them to be very good parents to their new little boy.

They taught Isaac all they could—about God, and about the world around them, about the animals and the skills they'd learned, and how to live and survive.

They had fun together, they laughed, and they climbed mountains, explored the surrounding areas, looked at the stars, and did so many other things.

Abraham told Isaac many stories, many that you have just read about in this book.

He told stories about how the world was made, about Noah, and about the big tall tower of Babel.

Abraham told his son Isaac what God had told him, and about God's promises and instructions.



He told his son Isaac, that if he also kept following and obeying what God had said, then God's words and promises would come true for him too.

Would Isaac choose to do things God's way, the way that his father Abraham taught him?

I'm glad to say that he did! This made his parents and God very happy! —And Isaac too!





Patience, Faith and Rebekah

Isaac had to learn patience, faith, and trust in God. Faith helps you know that things will work out for the best, because you know God won't fail to keep His word and promises to you. You know that He's in control and is working all things out for the best.

Patience is waiting, no matter how long it takes, with a calm and trusting attitude. You know that eventually you'll get what is good for you, and what God wants you to have.

Patience can be shown by not getting upset easily when things don't turn out as you had hoped, or when people don't act as nicely as they should.

One wish that Isaac had to wait a long time for was to get married and have a family. Abraham wanted to make sure that just the right kind of woman was found.

Isaac would need someone who loved God and would obey Him, and who would love and care for Isaac and make a good team together with him.

Eleazar, Abraham's helper, was sent on a mission. He and a group of men travelled by camel to a certain place in the country to see if there was a woman who would like to come and live with them, and marry Isaac.

Eleazar prayed for the right one to come by, as they rested beside the well, needing water.

A kind woman called Rebekah came just then, and offered water to them and to their camels. It happened just like Eleazar had prayed.



That night while the travelling men were eating dinner with Rebekah and her family, Eleazar asked her if she would like to come home with them the very next day! —To live in a new place and to become Isaac's wife. Rebekah agreed, and travelled with them.

As soon as the team arrived, and Isaac saw her, and Rebekah saw him, they loved each other right from the start, and got married. Later on they had two children—twins—Jacob and Esau.





Isaac and the Wells

Isaac was Abraham's special son, and he learned from his father the best way to live—showing love and kindness, listening to God and obeying Him, and having patience to sometimes wait a long time for the best things to come.

One time he was very patient, and showed others the best way to be.

A deep hole needed to be dug to make a well to get water out of the ground.

There were no other streams or rivers or lakes in that area. Isaac's team needed water for their families and animals.



Then some grabby, unkind men decided they wanted to be the only ones using Isaac's well.

Oh dear! That must have been very difficult for Isaac and his family and everyone they travelled with.

They'd worked so hard to dig it, and they really needed the water.

Isaac decided to be patient and gentle. He let the other men have the well, and he and his team moved on and dug another one, and God provided plenty of water for them.



Because Isaac made the right choices, and did what God wanted him to do, God blessed him with much more than those selfish people had.

Soon the king of that country was sorry that they hadn't been nice to Isaac.

He apologised and promised to be friends. He could tell that God was helping Isaac, and he wanted to be on the right side, too—on the side of those that followed God's way and were blessed as a result.





Dream of Angels

Jacob, Isaac's son, wasn't always an honest and trustworthy man. He had to learn the hard way that being dishonest in order to get what you want doesn't bring you the best things.

Jacob wanted things to be easy, and he wanted to get all the best things too.

He not only wanted what was his, but he wasn't happy that it seemed his brother Esau would possibly get more things than he would—since Esau was born first.

Jacob did some unkind and selfish things. He convinced Esau to give him some things that were to be for the oldest boy.



At first Esau didn't seem to mind, but then Jacob kept taking even more away from him.

One day Jacob even got their father to unknowingly give the blessing and promise telling of all the good things that would come his way to Jacob, instead of to Esau.

This was too much for Esau to handle, and that's when things started to get tough for Jacob.

He had to leave home and move to another place, and live with his uncle.

On his way, when he was feeling very sad about his mistakes and didn't know what would happen next,



God gave him a wonderful dream of angels, going up and down a heavenly staircase, with God at the top of it.

Jacob was very encouraged, and promised to follow and obey God's way, even in the new and difficult situation that he was now in.

God promised that many wonderful things would happen to him and to his children, and their children as a result. God took care of Jacob as he obeyed, and he had all that he needed and even extra!





Hard Work and a Family of His Own

Finally after his long trip, Jacob found where his uncle Laban was living. He met Rachel who was bringing the sheep to the well to give them water.

Jacob helped to lift the heavy stone away so water could be drawn out.

Laban was glad to have him come and stay with them.



Jacob helped him and his daughters Rachel and Leah with the hard work of caring for the flocks of animals.

Jacob was a willing and diligent worker, and Laban was glad to let him marry both of his grown-up daughters.

Together they had 13 children in their family—12 sons and one daughter.

In return for his work with the animals, Jacob was given some of the animals for his own. God helped Jacob's sheep and cattle to be strong and plentiful.



Even though things weren't easy, and Laban wasn't an honest and trustworthy man, still God took care of Jacob, and gave him so much.

After many years God told him it was time for him and his big family and all their animals to move back to the place where he lived before. God had blessed and cared for Jacob all the time he had been away in a new place.





Being Friends Again



While Jacob travelled back to his home land, he was worried.

“What if Esau doesn't forgive me? I want to be friends again!”

Jacob did a lot of praying on that trip back home with his big team—his family, all their helpers, and all the animals.

He prayed and prayed some more, and got some good ideas from God on what to do, what would help Esau to feel better and to realise that Jacob was sorry for acting the way he did, many years before.

God sent angels to encourage Jacob as he neared the place where Esau was living, telling him it was going to be all right.

Jacob sent some of the people as well as his family on up ahead to meet Esau first, and to give him a very big gift—many goats, sheep, camels, cows and donkeys!



To Jacob's great relief, Esau was forgiving and glad to see his brother again!

They hugged and became friends again.

Jacob had learned many lessons over the years since being apart, which helped to make him into the kind of man he needed to be, for the job of being a good father to his sons, who would then have many, many children as well.

He needed to set a good example of doing things God's way—listening to God, praying, obeying Him, and being trustworthy, kind and generous.





Comparing and Coats

Joseph was a special boy—special to Jacob, because he was one of Rachel's two sons. He also had a special job to do for God. But when he was young, his older brothers had a problem.

Have you ever been sad because it seemed as if your brother, or sister, or friend, or even someone you just happened to see one day, were getting much better things than you?

It will always seem like others have things you don't. But you know, you also have things they don't.

Why? Because each one on Earth has different things happening to them at different times.

Each one learns different lessons and has different jobs to do in this world.

But for those that love God and follow His way, in spite of difficult times, He'll make sure to bring the best things their way.

Maybe not all the time, or just when they want something great, but when the time is right.

Joseph's father gave him a fancy, colourful new coat—just him. But his brothers didn't like that, or anything else that they thought Joseph was getting that seemed better than what they had.



They thought it would make things easier for them if Joseph lived in another place, so he was sent to live and work hard in Egypt.

But that only made their father very sad, and the brothers regretted it.

God had a plan for Joseph and would bring some good things his way again.

Even when things were hard for Joseph, God took good care of him and helped him to learn many new things.





Joseph in Egypt

Joseph chose to be a good, hard worker, trustworthy, and he listened to God no matter where he was.

God was pleased with this and made things go well for him as he worked as a servant.

Wherever he was, in whatever he was doing, he did his very best to work cheerfully and well, even though Joseph missed his father and family.

People trusted him and could tell that God was helping him.



Joseph was kind and thoughtful, and took time to talk with people.

One time some men had interesting dreams, and Joseph prayed and God told him the meaning of the dreams.

Then when Pharaoh had an important dream, Joseph was called to tell Pharaoh the meaning of it too.

No one knew what it meant, but God knew, and told Joseph.

The dream was about seven years of good harvests, with plenty of food and crops growing, followed by seven years of difficult times and not enough food.

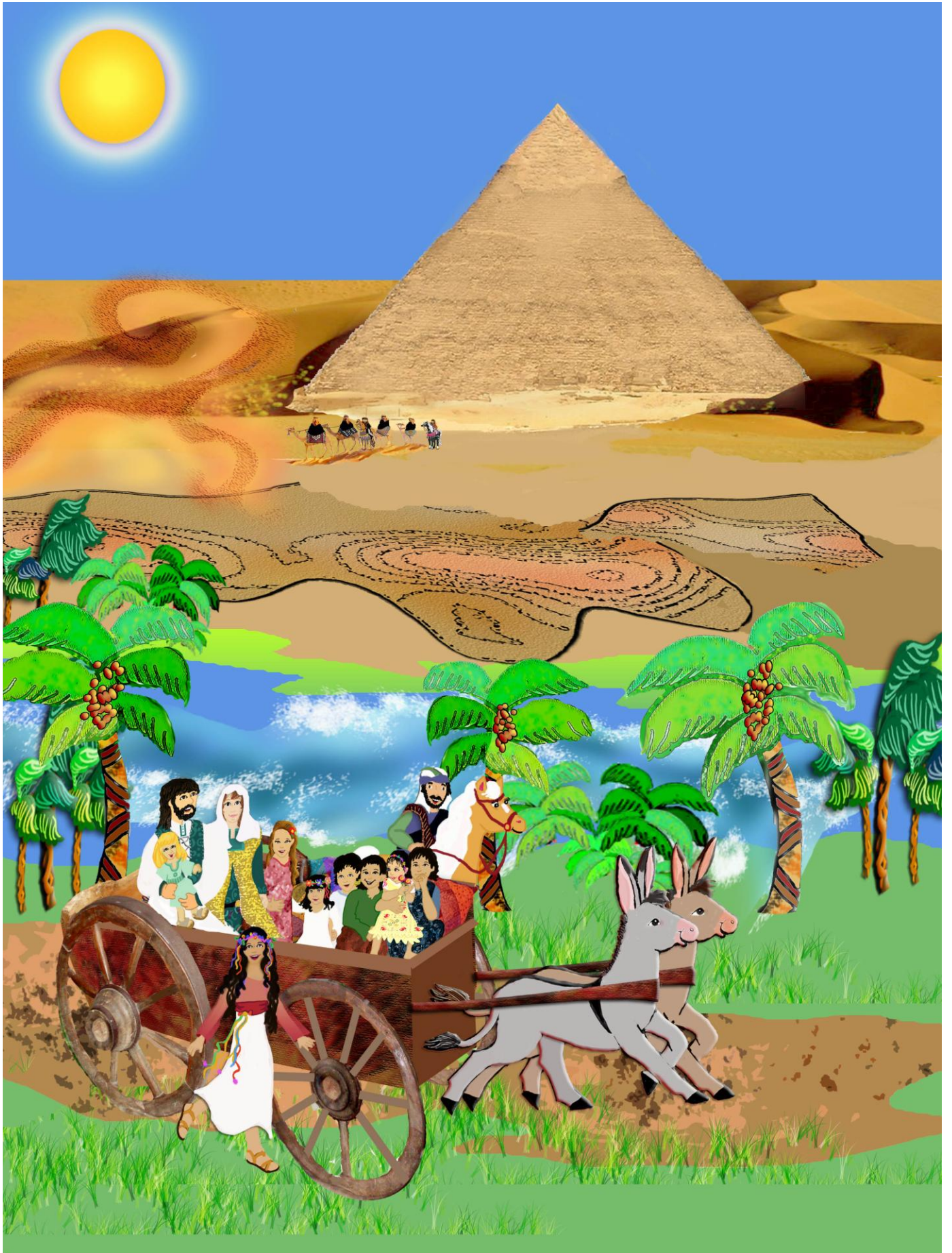


Pharaoh put Joseph in charge of collecting extra food and storing it up, so that later when the crops didn't grow, there would still be the food that was saved.

Pharaoh gave Joseph his golden ring, a necklace, fancy clothes, a chariot, a new name—Zaphnathpaaneah—and a wife!

He told all the people to obey whatever Joseph said to do.





Food in Egypt

Joseph was diligent and worked hard to store up the grain during Egypt's plentiful years. After seven years, just like God had said and told Pharaoh in a dream, there came a time of the crops not growing. But the people in Egypt had food they could buy, from the stored up grain. Good thing they had all obeyed and did what God told them to do.

It would have been easy to be lazy in the time when things were growing well and there was lots of extra food. But later on, when things were difficult, they would have regretted it.

It wasn't just in Egypt that crops hardly grew during the seven years of famine. Other places sorely lacked what they needed in the way of food too. Joseph's family—his father and brothers and their families—all started to run out of food as well. When news spread that there was food in Egypt, ten of the brothers went to buy food there.

Joseph noticed that his brothers had come, but they didn't recognize him. He looked very Egyptian in the way he dressed, and he even spoke the Egyptian language.

The brothers left to go back home without knowing that the man they bought the grain from was actually Joseph!

While on their way home, they noticed that the money they'd used to buy the food was tucked away in their bags. Joseph had done that secretly. So they got their food for free!

The next time his brothers returned to Egypt to buy food again they also brought along Benjamin,

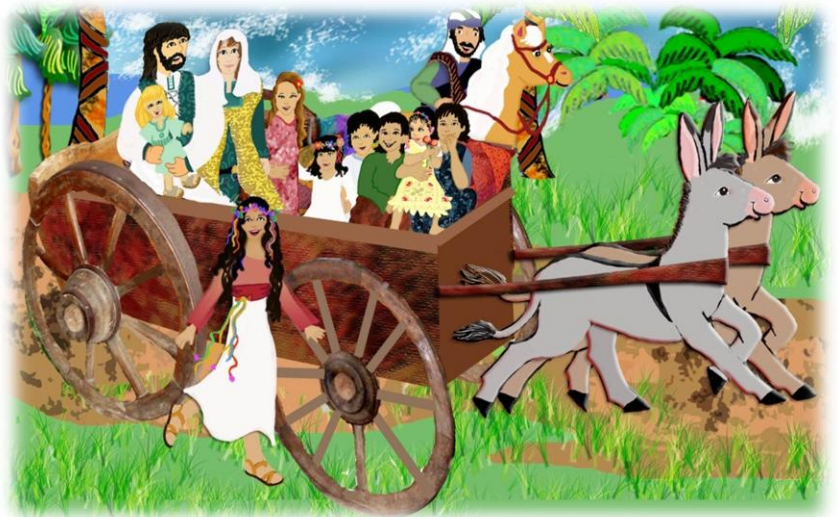
and that made Joseph very happy! Finally Joseph told his brothers who he really was. They were shocked! They thought Joseph would be upset with them, but instead he forgave them!



Joseph and Pharaoh then invited them and their families and their father to come and live in Egypt, where there was enough food.

Pharaoh sent wagons back with them to make their travel easier. At long last, when they returned, old father Jacob got to see his son Joseph again, and Joseph his father. They were so glad!

Joseph saw how all things had worked out well—even better for them all, than if he hadn't been in



Egypt. It was difficult missing his family all those years, but now they were together again, and had all the food they needed. Good things came their way in the end.

Joseph was glad he chose to keep following God's way, to listen to Him, and to be an honest, diligent worker.