



God Creates the Earth

God created the Earth and all the beautiful places in it.

First He created the light. "Let there be light," He said, and then there was light!

Next, God spoke and created the sky and air around the world. He separated the water, leaving some below on the Earth, and placing some way up above.

Then it was time for the land to be formed.

After that, God filled the world with many pretty things, like plants, fruit, food to eat, grass, trees, beaches, rocky mountains and flower-filled meadows.

It was a lovely place!



God Creates the Universe

God made some lights in the sky, so the Earth could have what it needs.

He created the Sun to shine and light up the day, and the Moon to shine at night.

The Sun helps plants to grow and keeps the Earth warm.

God also added stars and planets in the space surrounding the Earth—a whole universe!

God created and placed everything just right so that Earth would be a great place to live.



Animals Are Made

God put fish and sea creatures in the oceans and rivers, lakes and ponds.

He put birds in the sky, trees, land, and on the water's surface.

Then animals, both large and small, began to explore the new world God had made.

There were huge and heavy animals, and tiny little flying bugs. There were fast-moving creatures and some very slow animals.

Some had feathers, some had fur, some had scales, some had skin, some had shells and some had wings.

God liked them all, and they were all friendly and happy animals.



The First Man on Earth

The world was a beautiful place to be now, and ready for the first human beings. God then used some soil from the ground and did the most amazing thing.

Out of the dirt He made a man! Then He breathed life into him. The first man's name was Adam. God loved Adam!

He then gave Adam a fun job to do—to choose what each animal should be called. Adam named all the animals!

He liked his new animal friends, but he was also lonely, as he was the only person on Earth.

Adam wished for a friend, a person he could live with and talk to, and love—someone made like him.



The First Woman on Earth

Do you like friends?

Even though Adam—the first man to live on Earth—had a beautiful world filled with only good things, and had great things to see and lots of animals that were kind and friendly, Adam wanted something more.

God knew he needed a friend, a person to live with, talk to, and be a companion for him.

So after putting Adam to sleep, God prepared a special friend for him.

When Adam woke up, he saw what God had made—a woman!

Adam was very happy! He loved her and called her "Eve". She was the world's very first woman.



God Rests

God liked watching all the neat and cool things that His creation could do—the funny animals at play, the pretty sunsets, the birds in the sky and trees singing their songs.

He could see the people running and exploring a new area they had just discovered, and a bright-coloured bug finding its way across the grass.

He gazed at the colourful display in the sky at sunset, and at all the beautiful types of flowers. It was so much fun for Him. God saw all that He'd made, and said it was good!

God took time to stop and look and listen and enjoy it all. He took a day to rest. We can and should do the same—take time to rest, to talk with God, to enjoy nature, to laugh.



God's Garden, and His Gardener

The whole world was like one big, beautiful garden. It was a fantastic place to be, but God wanted to make a really special place, a garden for Adam and Eve to live in and have all that they needed.

He created a place called "The Garden of Eden" and there he put the first people He'd made. It was such a wonderful place to be. There were no thorns or harmful plants. The trees had plenty of fruit, and other types of food were growing in the garden.

Adam and Eve were perfectly safe there, and enjoyed exploring and helping to care for this garden that God had given them the job of looking after.

It was the most beautiful place that ever existed on Earth.



Trees and Choices

Even though the Garden of Eden was perfect and wonderful, and Adam and Eve were enjoying it greatly, there was something more important than just having a nice time and having everything fun: learning to obey God.

Adam and Eve learned this lesson—to do things God's way, and not listen to someone telling them the opposite.

God said they could eat from every tree in the Garden except for one, but they disobeyed, and then sad things happened. God had to take away some of their special blessings. They learned that they were the happiest when they obeyed God.

Each person on Earth has to choose what they are going to do, just like Adam and Eve had to. Will you make the right choices that will make you and others, and most of all God, happy?



Enoch and Methuselah

Does it seem to take you a long time to grow up? Each birthday seems to be a long ways away!

There was one man who lived to have nearly one thousand birthdays! His name was Methuselah. He lived to be 969 years old! Many years ago people would live much longer than they now do.

Methuselah's father was Enoch. He loved God very much, and tried to do what God wanted him to do.

Sadly, though, most people weren't doing things God's way, and it was making the world a very unpleasant place.

Enoch loved having time talking with God more than doing anything else, so one day God took Enoch up to live with Him, away from all the bad things going on in the world.



A Good Man for a Great Job

God wanted people to be happy on Earth, and to be His friends.

However, many people chose to do only the things that were wrong, and that made God sad.

He wished they would listen and obey, but they didn't. So God had to wash away all the dirt and ugly behaviour of the old world and start again.

Noah loved God and obeyed Him. God told him to build a big, strong boat, and to load it with animals and some supplies.

It was going to be a long trip. God would wash the world, but in the ark, the big boat, they would be safe and dry.



Rain and a Rainbow

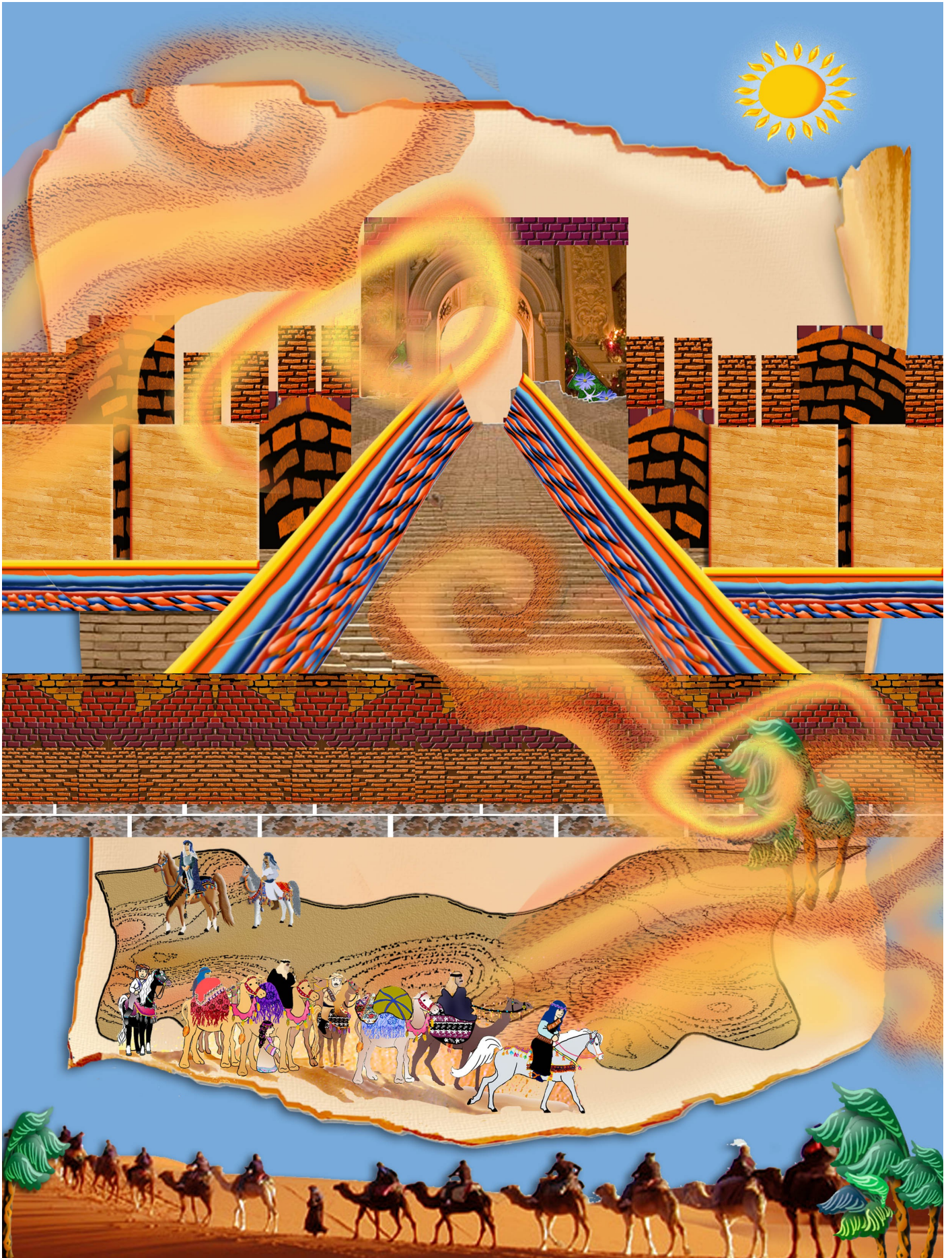
A big flood of water washed over the whole Earth. Everything was made clean again.

Noah and his family and the animals aboard the ark were safe and dry. They worked hard through the long flood caring for the animals, while rocking and bobbing in their big boat.

When at last it was dry enough on Earth, they could all go out again!

Noah and his family were so glad to be out of the ark, and glad the world was all new and nice again.

God then put a beautiful rainbow in the sky, as a promise that the great worldwide flood would never return.



The Tower of Babel

Building a very tall tower of blocks can be fun. Did you know some men once tried to build a tower of mud bricks as tall as the sky? It was silly, and it would never reach up to heaven. They were being proud.

God wanted them to stop doing it, and instead go and live in other parts of the world, to travel around, and to form smaller communities living here and there.

Too many people all together, all doing the same thing, wasn't making the world what it needed to be.

So God gave each family a new language to speak—a language no one else understood. Since no one could understand others anymore, as they could before, they had to stop building the tall tower, and instead went to explore new places on Earth and do new things.