



THE FALL and THE FLOOD

What happened to the World?

THE FALL and THE FLOOD

(Continued from “Creation Celebration” booklet.)

– The true story of how the nice world got corrupted, changed and reshaped.

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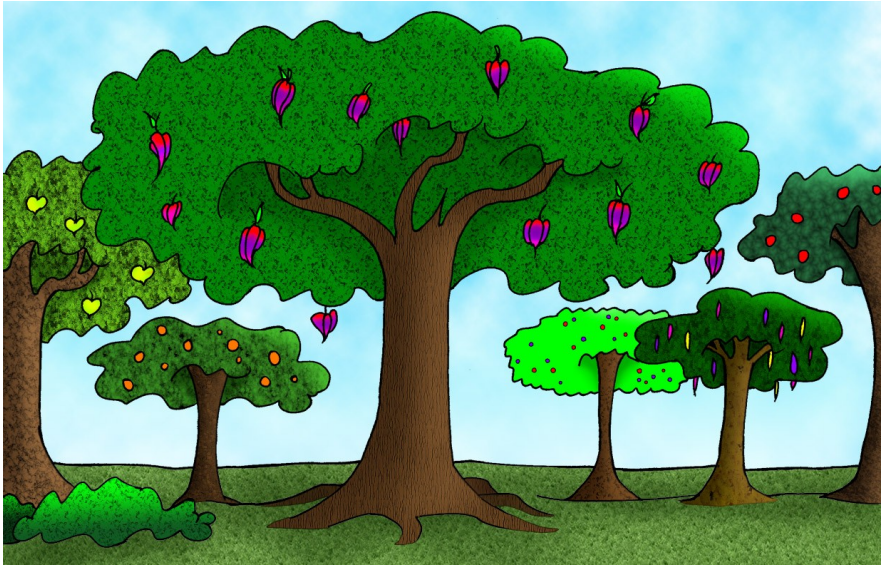
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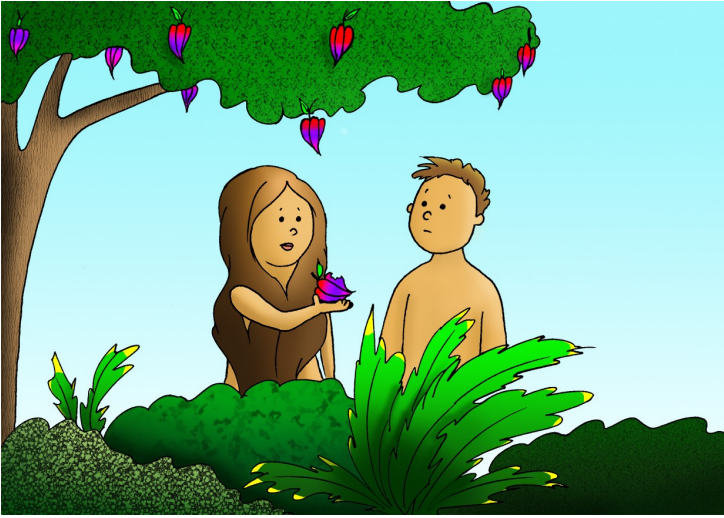
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When God first made the world He also made a beautiful and lovely garden. In His nice Garden of Eden, God placed some special trees with unusual fruit.

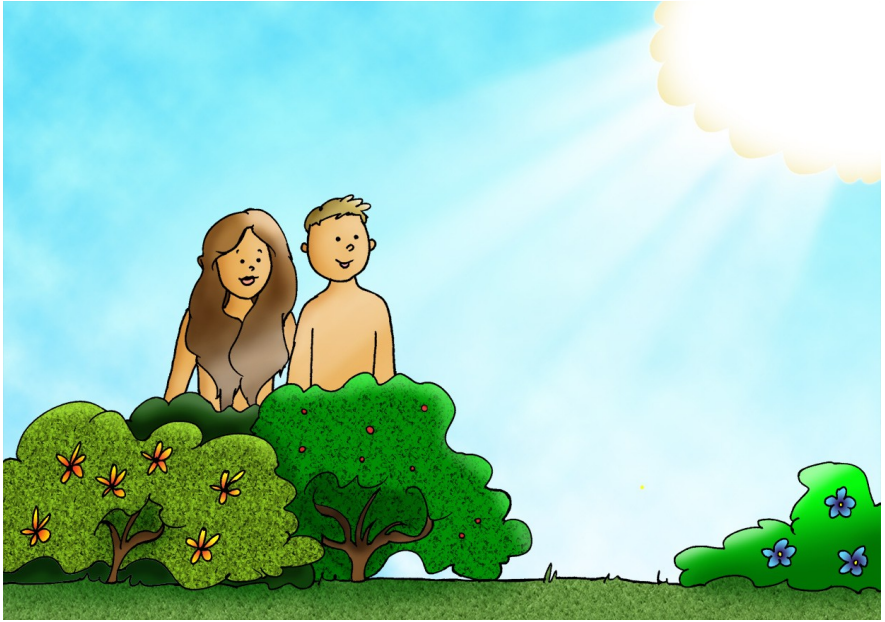
One tree gave knowledge of all kinds—good and bad; and the other “the tree of life” gave life and healing to people. The only rule given to the gardeners—Adam and Eve—was to stay away from the “tree of the knowledge of good and evil.”

As long as they obeyed this, they knew total beauty and led a happy life in that amazing place.



One day, sadly, they chose to disobey, however, and listened to the Evil One, God's Enemy who lied to them. He tempted Eve to taste the fruit that would give them more knowledge. Instead of obeying God, she ate the fruit and offered it to Adam, who ate some too.

Immediately they began to feel very different. They were sad and afraid, and knew they would get trouble. They were very sorry for disobeying God. That is when sin and evil began to be part of the nice world. How sad. Listening to the lies of God's Enemy will only ruin our happy lives.



As a result of letting the bad things into their lives—and into the lives of their descendants, Adam and Eve had to leave the Garden of Eden.

The garden with the Tree of Life was guarded by angels, and mankind would no longer have access to it, and thus could not live forever.

The world and its people would be given lots of troubles. The extra work would keep them busy so they wouldn't have as much time to do bad things.



Adam and Eve's choices in the garden resulted in a change in the world, in difficulties becoming a part of the world—things that affect people today.

Thorns, poisonous plants, sickness, sorrow, pain, ugliness, loss, and even death had entered the world. Food was now harder to come by, and required a lot of hard work to grow in gardens and farms.

People began to wear clothing, which, of course, had to be made and washed. Houses had to be built as protection and shelter. And in many other new ways, people were kept busy.

But God loved them so much, and continued to take care of them and help them as they gained experience and knowledge, invented and built things, explored and made discoveries.

Adam and Eve have not been the only ones to disobey God. People still have to decide every day what they are going to choose—the good or the bad, the beautiful or the ugly, the helpful or the harmful.



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 very, very sad. He wished they would listen and obey Him—as He knew what would make the world a better place to be, but they didn't.

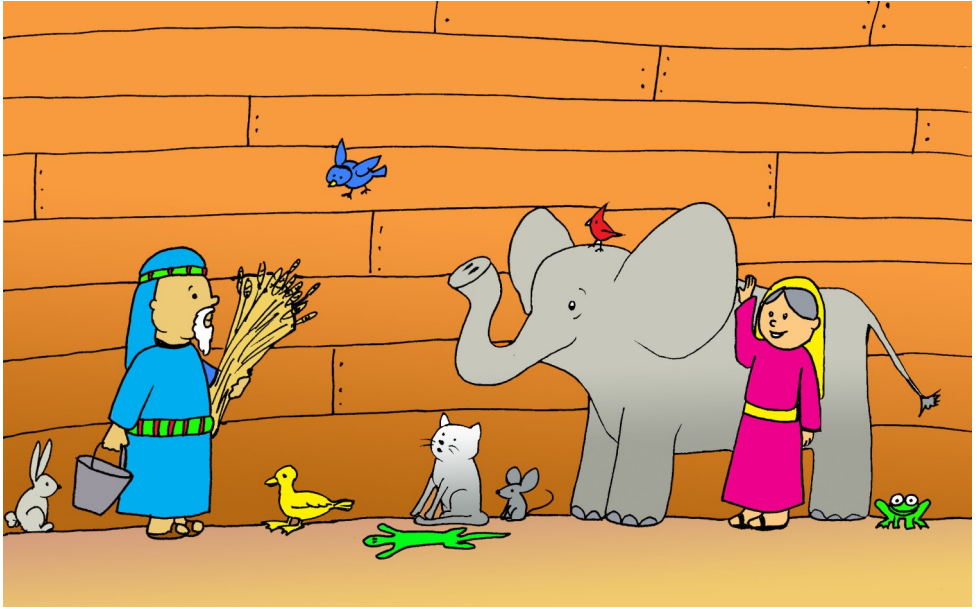
After about two thousand years since creating the world, God saw that the many people who were living on the world were only thinking thoughts of harm and bad things. He knew it would only get worse.



God chose to wash away all the old, first world along with the ugly behaviour of the people, and many of the animals too.

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

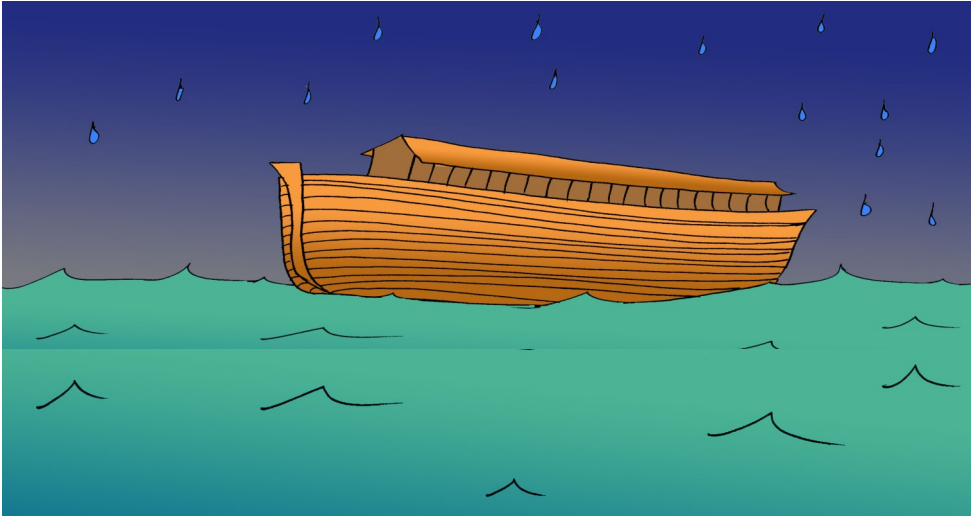
A huge flood that would cover the whole Earth was going to happen. Noah would need to prepare so his family and some animals would be saved.



God told Noah to build a very large, strong and sturdy box-like boat; an ark.

In the ark he and his family—his wife, three sons and their wives—would be safe during the flood. It wasn't easy, and it took a lot of perseverance and hard work for many years.

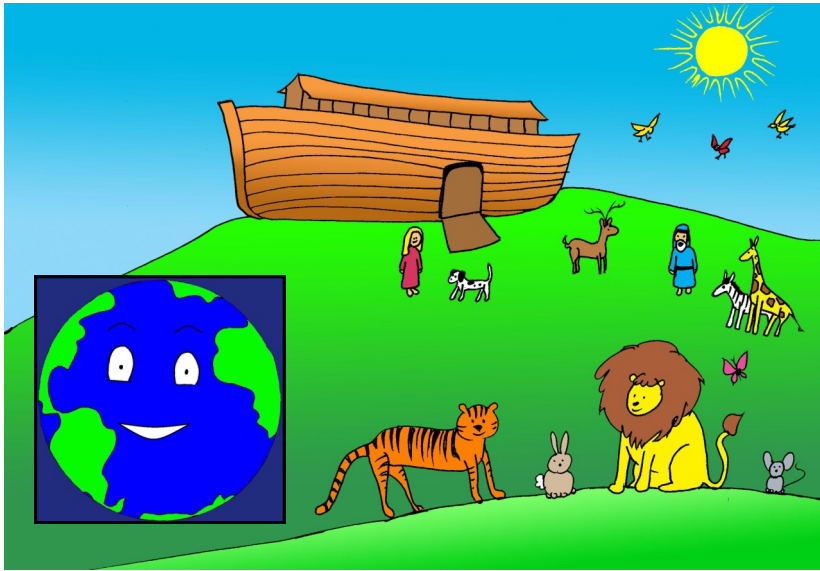
God told Noah to also bring into the ark two of every type of animal and creature that lived on the land. Many of the animals that lived in water would survive the flood.



When the time was right, and Noah's family and the chosen animals were safe in the ark, a big flood of water covered the whole Earth. Water was shooting up from the ground and coming down from the sky.

Everything from the old world was washed away. The surface of the Earth would look very different after the flood.

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



Then God cleared away the water that covered the whole Earth. Mountains were formed or made higher, and deep valleys were made to hold the deep water.

Rushing water moving around to get into its proper place of seas and oceans and lakes cut great canyons and gorges. The geography of the world was very different.

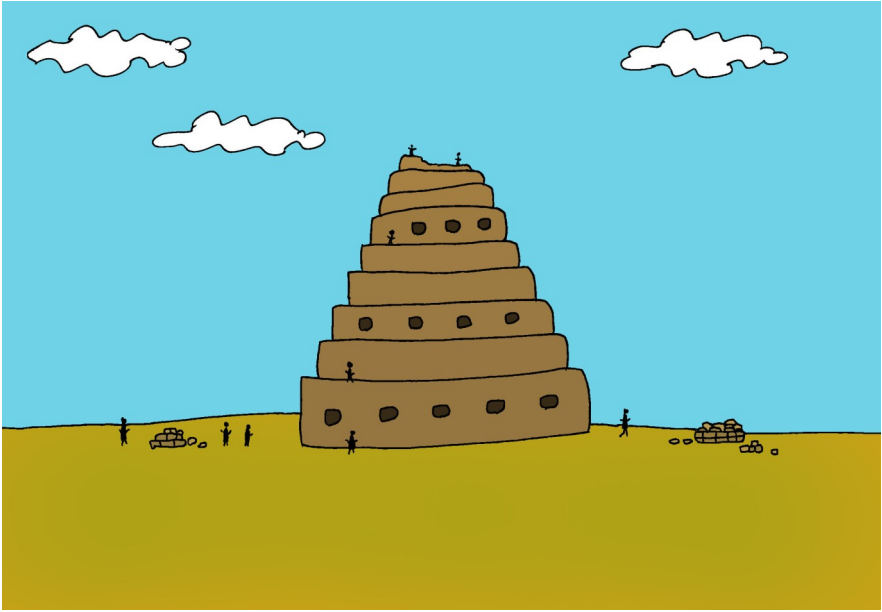
The fossils that are found today were formed during this flood, through plants and animals being quickly covered by water and sediment. Coal and oil were made then too out of the old world's trees and plants.



The ark rested on the mountains of Ararat while God cleared the water off the land. The ground then had to dry out too. Noah's family waited in the ark while new plants began to grow as well.

When at last it was dry enough on Earth, they and the eager animals could all go outside again. Noah and his family were so glad to be out of the ark, and glad the world was all new and nice again.

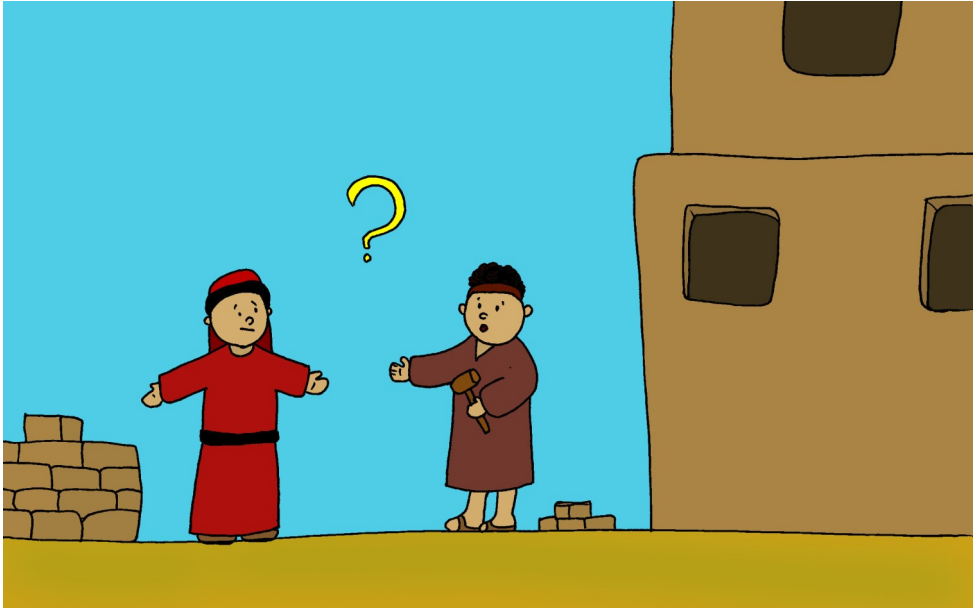
God then put a beautiful rainbow in the sky, as a promise that a great worldwide flood of water would never happen again.



Everyone that was on Earth after the flood, had descended from Noah's family and his three sons—Shem, Ham and Japheth.

Every culture on Earth can be traced back to the tribes started by the descendants of their families. Back then, everyone spoke the same language.

After awhile, when many new people had populated the world, some proud plans were made. They thought if they built a tower up to the sky they would be as great as God. They all started to work on this silly plan.



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 going to make the world what it needed to be. Proud people that were turning away from God all bunched together as a team in a city would make things in the world get worse, and fast. So God gave each family a new language to speak—a language no one else understood.



Since each family spoke a different language, workers from different families working to build the proud tower couldn't communicate with each other. Everything was very confusing—at the tower of Babel.

Since no one could understand most of the others anymore, they had to stop building the tall tower, and instead went to explore new places on Earth and do new things.

And that is how the varied languages on Earth began.



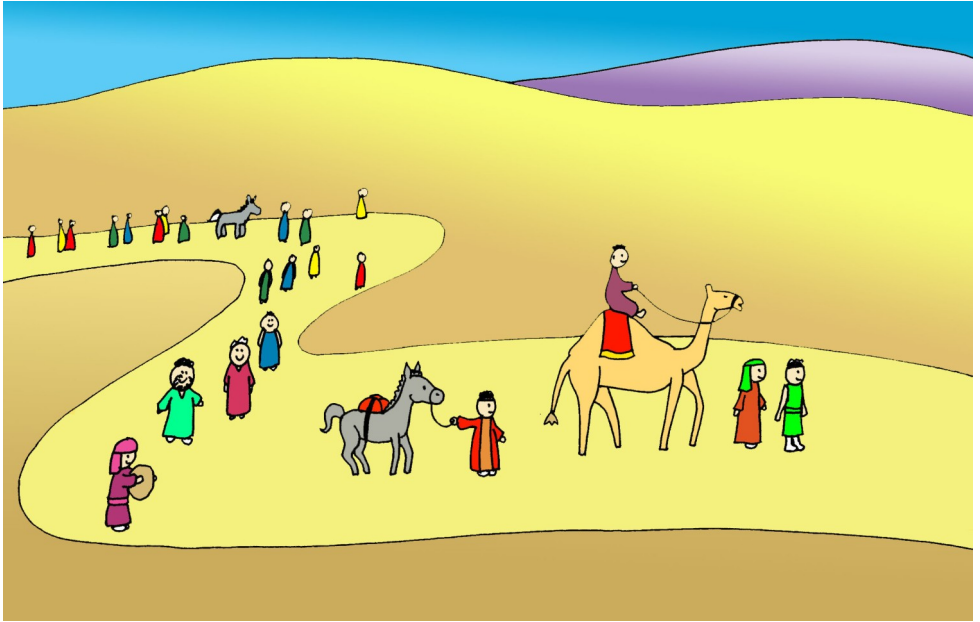
God told Abraham to travel to a new country and to visit new lands he'd never seen or been in before. God said He'd make of him a new nation; he was to start a new tribe and culture—one that loved and obeyed and respected the true God.

Abraham chose to obey. So he packed everything up and moved with his big team of helpers and all that they had. They lived in tents, as they travelled wherever God said to go. To his descendants and the nation that they set up many years later, God would send at last His Son to visit the sad world.



Abraham had a wife called Sarah, and God said that one day she would have a child. They looked forward to the day when this would happen. It took faith and patience to wait. Isaac was Abraham and Sarah's very special and long-awaited son.

They must have felt like the happiest parents in the world as they held little baby Isaac, the son God had promised to give them for so long. Through Isaac and his children's children, would the promise of a new nation begin to be fulfilled. Isaac's twin sons Esau and Jacob each had many sons, whose families started many people groups.



Jacob, whom God later called "Israel" had 12 sons. Each began large tribes of people, living and working together. They travelled to Egypt when there was a famine and stayed there until it was best that they move.

There were so many of them that Pharaoh, the king of Egypt was making things tough for them, as he was afraid they'd take over the country. Through miracles and amazing events, God helped them all to get on the move and travel to a new country.



God called Moses to be the first one to be the leader of all the people of Israel—the team that God was hoping would love and follow Him. God didn't want to destroy the whole world again, but it would be completely corrupted if He didn't get at least some people wanting to do things in His good way.

Moses told the people God's Words and instructions. God provided food and water for them as they travelled and camped on their way to their new country. God even kept their sandals from wearing out. He wanted them to be His special people.



Sadly, even *they* couldn't manage to stay only following in God's ways and often were doing the things the other ungodly people in the world were. God loved everyone and was hoping that this team would help to tell all those in the world about Him and help to make a happier and better world.

God gave them judges, kings and prophets to help them go the right way. Some of the kings were good and listened to God's Words, but many just led the people the wrong way and disrespected God's messengers. This brought many hard times.



After all God had done to try to make the world nice, or at least have some people in it be choosing the right way, there was only one thing left to be done. He would have to send His own dear Son to the world, to show us in person the ways of God. Jesus, God's Son, would come to Earth.

God spoke messages to those who were listening to Him; His prophets. These men wrote down the Words of God. One man, named Micah, received the message from God that Jesus, the Redeemer, the Saviour was going to be born in Bethlehem.

The news of God's Son one day coming to Earth gave people hope.

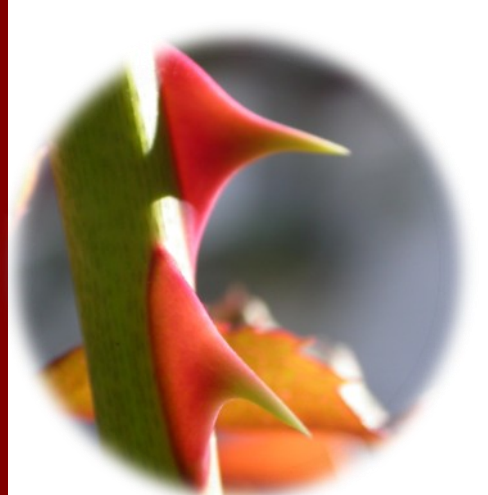


For thousands of years God kept promising salvation to the Earth—a way for things to be at peace again. Those who knew what the old scrolls said and studied God's Words, were looking forward to this great event.

God would send His Son to the World, and allow Him to take the punishment for the sins of everyone, including the first sin committed by Adam and Eve. God would then forgive us all and allow us to one day live forever with Him.

After about four thousand years since the creation of the world, the time was right, the nation was set up and all was ready for Jesus to come to Earth.

(See booklets: "A Joyous Christmas", "The First Easter" and "The Future and Forever".)



Will roses ever be free of thorns?



***Will dinosaurs
ever walk the
world again
—and this time
be friendly?***

***Can I get to
live forever?***

—Yes!

***(See the next booklets
in this series.)***

