

AMY PARKER & DOUG POWELL

THE
BIG BOOK
OF BIBLE
QUESTIONS

Answers to kids' questions about
the Bible & faith

illustrated by
ANNABEL TEMPEST

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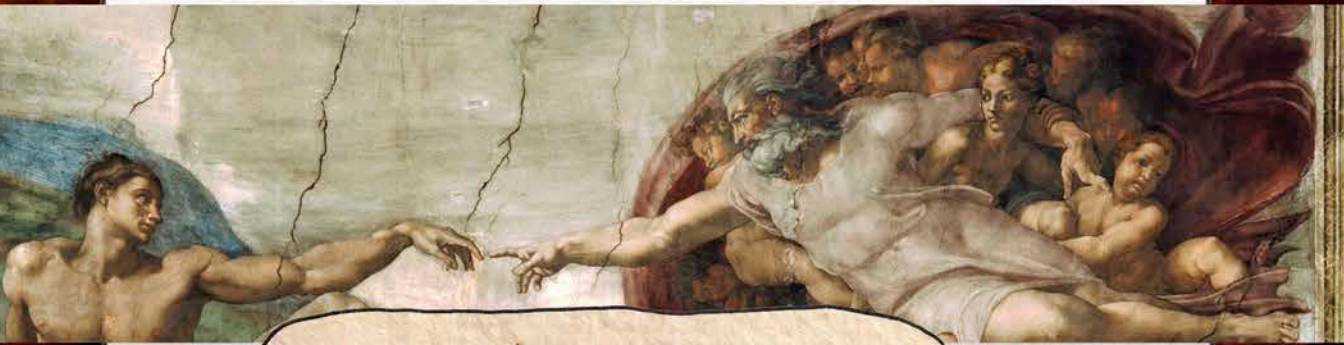
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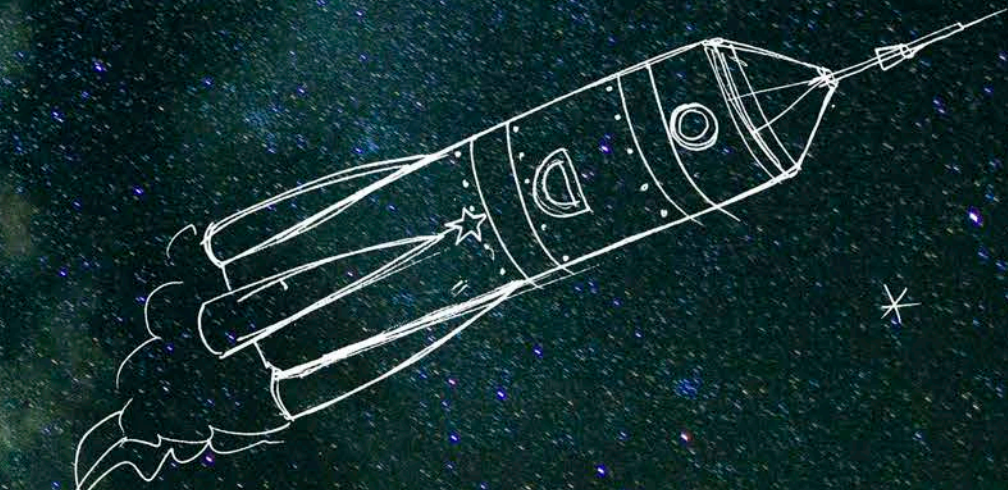
Who Made God?

No one made God! God has always been alive and always will be alive. Nobody else is like that. He was alive before anything else because he made everything in the whole universe.



Where Is God?

Sometimes people say that God lives in heaven. But really, God is *everywhere*, which is sometimes called *omnipresent*. He is in the deepest cave, he is on the bottom of the ocean, he is farther away than we can see in space, and he is everywhere in between. There is nowhere—anywhere, ever!—that we could go where God is not already there.



What Do Angels Look Like?

Angels are part of God's creation, and they live in heaven with him.

We can't see them unless God tells them to appear to us. And when we can see them, they may look different to different people. Sometimes they look just like average humans, and people don't realize that they are angels. Sometimes they look like men, but their clothes are so white or bright that it is almost blinding. When they don't appear like normal humans, they usually scare the people who see them, and the angel has to tell them not to be afraid, even when he is bringing wonderful news. Even though they sometimes appear as men, that doesn't mean they look like men in heaven.

The Bible talks about two kinds of angels (but there may be more). One kind is called a *cherub*; another is a *seraph*. We see cherubim with a flaming sword guarding Eden after Adam and Eve were sent away. The Ark of the Covenant had two cherubim on the lid, and they are described as having faces and wings. Ezekiel had a vision where he saw hands under cherubim's wings. He also said they had four faces: one of a

man, a lion, an eagle, and a cherub. Isaiah had a vision where he saw seraphim, another kind of angel. They seemed to look like men except they had six wings—two covering their faces, two covering their feet, and two to fly. Their voices shook heaven.

The apostle John describes many of the same things in the book of Revelation. It may be that this is how angels really look, but it may also be that they are so different from any-

thing we know that this was the best way to describe them so that we could understand.



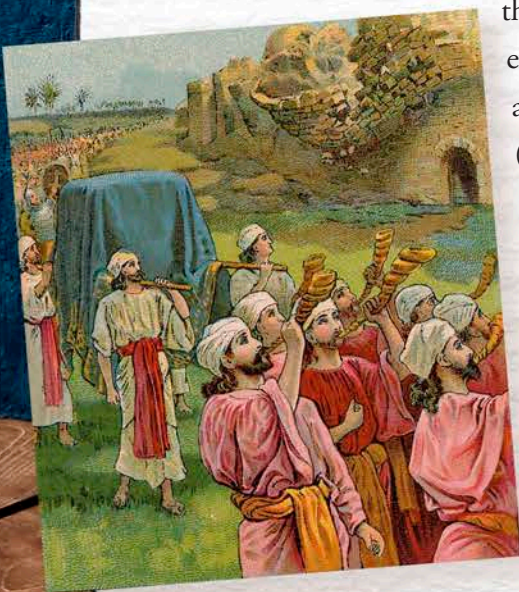
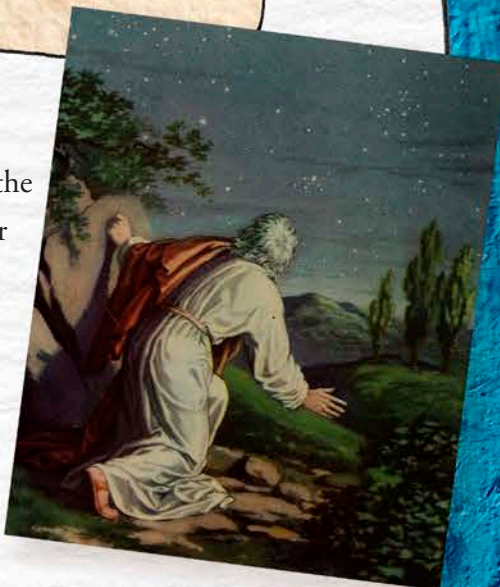
What Is Faith?

If you asked someone to try to think of other words for *faith*, what do you think the answers would be? You'd probably hear *wishing* or *hoping* or other words like that. But even though people often use *faith* in the same way, that's not what it means in the Bible.

The word that gets translated as *faith* in our Bibles means "firm persuasion and conviction." Have you ever tried to give reasons for something you believe? Faith has to have reasons behind it. Conviction is what you have when there is evidence for what you believe. So biblical faith needs evidence and reasons.

Hebrews 11 gives a great definition of faith: it is the evidence, or the proof, of the things that we can't see (like God and angels and heaven). Then the writer of Hebrews goes on to list a lot of examples of people of faith, along with the amazing things that happened because of faith. (Go read it for yourself!)

Sometimes we hear people say something like, "You just have to have faith." But you can also have faith in something that is not true. It's not enough to "just have faith." You have to have faith in what is true—in what is real—what we have reasons and evidence to believe. And we have plenty of reasons and evidence to believe in God and the Bible.



Why Do People Believe Different Things?



After Noah came out of the ark, two kinds of people spread across the earth. One kind believed in God and lived their lives in ways that pleased him. The other group did not believe in God and lived to please themselves.

Today, the people of the world can still be divided this way. But the people who do not believe in God may believe in other things. Some believe in different gods (which don't really exist). Some believe in many gods. Some believe there is no god at all.

Romans 1:20 says, "There are things about God that people cannot see—his eternal power and all the things that make him God. But since the beginning of the world those things have been easy to understand. They are made clear by what God has made" (NASB). Even though God has made

himself known to everyone, some people still choose not to believe. Maybe they want to find a way to save themselves. Maybe they do not want God's free offer of salvation. Maybe they want to earn their way into heaven; they want to deserve it. And they're all doing different things to try to please gods that

don't exist. It is very sad, but some people will believe in anything but Jesus.



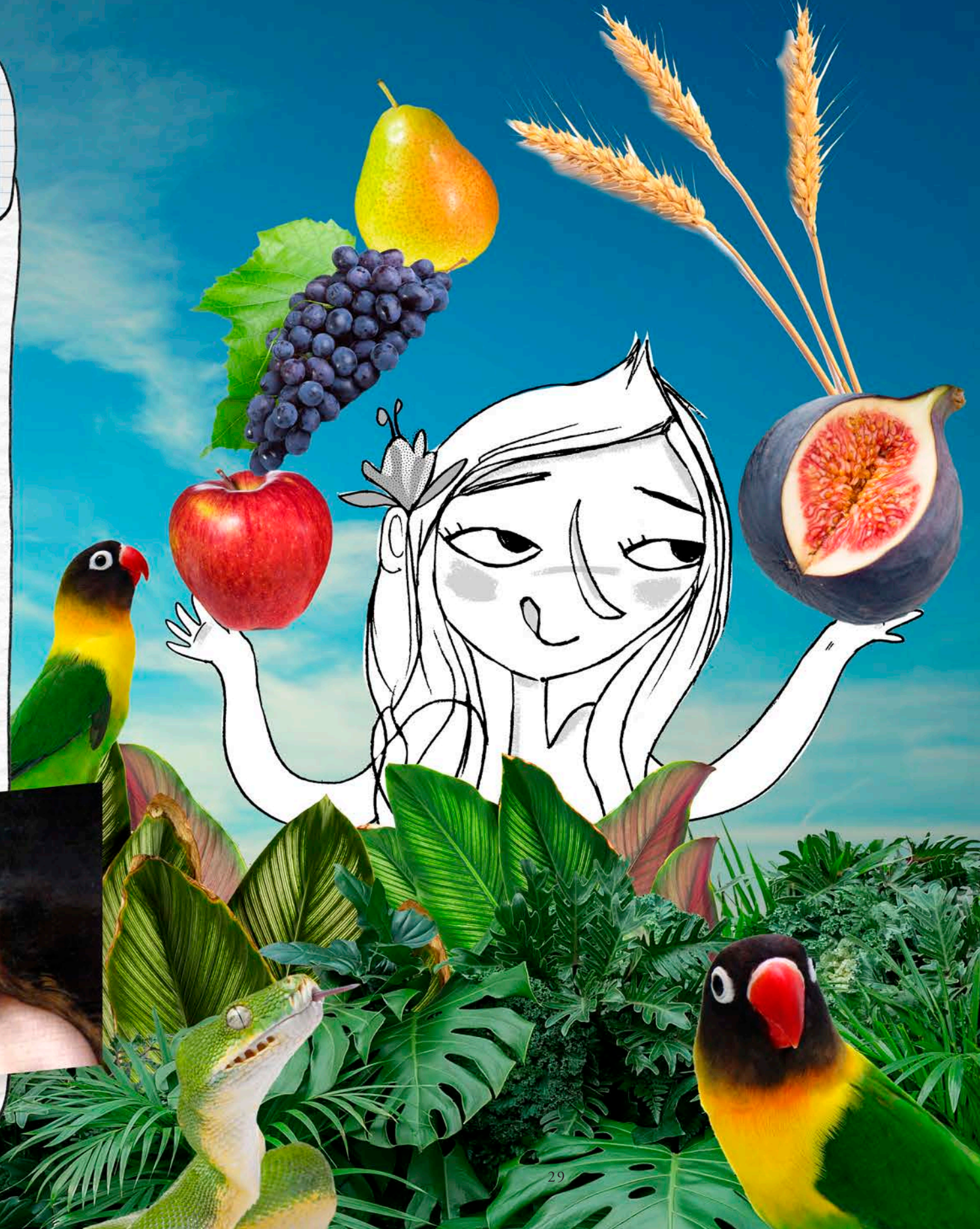
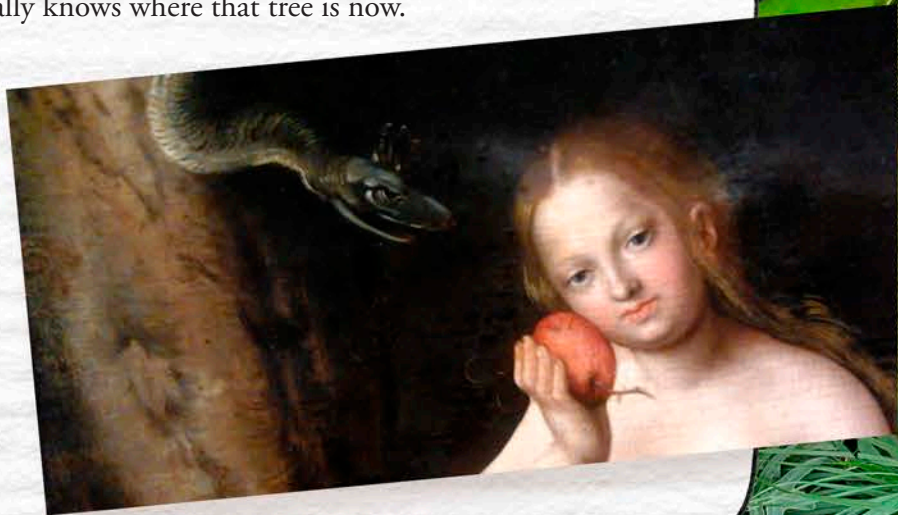
What Kind of Fruit Was on the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil?



Have you ever seen a picture of Adam and Eve disobeying God in the Garden of Eden? What kind of fruit was Eve holding? Most people picture an apple—and even some teachers in Jesus' time thought that's what it was too.

But not everyone thinks the fruit was an apple. Some teachers in Jesus' time thought it was a grape. Others thought it was a fig, which would explain why God made Adam and Eve's first clothes from a fig tree. And yet other teachers at the time of Jesus thought it was not fruit at all, but wheat!

The reason people have pictured so many different foods is because the Bible does not say what kind of food it was. It may be a common food we eat every day that came from that special tree set aside by God. Or it could be a food that we've never even seen or heard of because there was only *one* tree of the knowledge of good and evil. And no one—except God—really knows where that tree is now.



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