

THE
EPIC
BIBLE

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The Epic Bible: God's Story from Eden to Eternity

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Designed by Mark Anthony Lane II

Edited by Ellen Richard Vosburg and Deborah King

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The Epic Bible is a graphic adaptation of the Holy Bible. It closely follows the biblical text but is not a word-for-word adaptation. In a few places, scenes and conversations are included which can be inferred or imagined from the biblical text and from history.

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THE
EPIC
BIBLE

GOD'S STORY
FROM EDEN TO
ETERNITY



wander
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Tyndale House
Publishers

CREDITS

GENERAL EDITOR

Art A. Ayrís

WRITERS

Randy Alcorn, Ben Avery, Art A. Ayrís, Nate Butler, Michael Pearl

ART DIRECTORS

Kelly J. Ayrís, Doreen Button

PENCILLERS

Paul Abrams, Del Barras, Edgar Bercasio, Richard Bonk, Danny Bulanadi, Caio Cacau, Sergio Cariello, Kevin Conrad, Jim Craig, Chris Cross, Bong Dazo, Agapito De Los Santos, Lorenzo De Vera, Ivan Fernandez, Frank Fosco, Mannix Francisco, Yvel Guichet, Bob Hall, Kyle Hotz, Geof Isherwood, Jim Jimenez, Mike Lilly, Scott McDaniel, Ariel Mendel, Fabio Nahon, Franc Reyes, Cliff Richards, Mario Ruiz, Javier Saltares, Jeff Slemmons, Todd Tuttle, Sal Velutto, Kevin West

INKERS

Bob Almond, Bill Anderson, Del Barras, Charles Bevnnett, Edgar Bercasio, Danny Bulanadi, DYM, Sergio Cariello, Chris Cross, Bong Dazo, Agapito De Los Santos, Lorenzo De Vera, Marc Deering, Carlos Eduardo, Frank Fosco, Derek Fridolfs, Johnny Gerardy, Jason Gorder, Jeff Huet, Geof Isherwood, Chris Ivy, Jim Jimenez, Jason Moore, Andrew Pepoy, Rodney Ramos, Franc Reyes, Cliff Richards, Joe Rubinstein, Mario Ruiz, Javier Saltares, Jeff Slemmons

COLORISTS

Aris Aguilar, Matt Baker, Michael Bartolo, Ed Bola, Clint Cearley, Tom Chu, Joel Chua, Mickey Clausen, Andrew Crossley, Alonso Espinoza, Fabricio Guerra, Alex Guimaraes, Katrina Mae Hao, Ross Hughes, Marlon Ilagan, Emily Kanalz, Charlie Kirchoff, Zach Matheny, Mark McNabb, Sandra Molina, Ronda Pattison, Ben Prenevost, Jay David Ramos, Tom Smith, Ivan Tanio, Cyril Vincent

LETTERER

Zach Matheny

PRODUCTION DESIGN

Frank Baldevarona, Nate Butler, Zach Matheny, Ken Raney

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	VIII	MOSES SENDS SPIES INTO CANAAN	184
THE OLD TESTAMENT		JOSHUA	
GENESIS		JOSHUA BECOMES ISRAEL'S LEADER	190
GOD CREATES THE WORLD	1	RAHAB HIDES THE SPIES	194
GOD CREATES MAN AND WOMAN	12	THE ISRAELITES CROSS THE JORDAN RIVER	197
ADAM AND EVE SIN	19	THE WALLS OF JERICHO FALL	202
NOAH AND HIS FAMILY BUILD AN ARK	26	JUDGES	
THE GREAT FLOOD	37	THE ISRAELITES BATTLE THE CANAANITES	207
NOAH'S DESCENDANTS	53	EHUD RESCUES ISRAEL FROM KING EGLON	210
GOD CALLS ABRAM	54	DEBORAH JUDGES ISRAEL	214
HAGAR AND ISHMAEL	60	JAEL KILLS SISERA	224
GOD'S COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM	63	RUTH	
SARAH GIVES BIRTH TO ISAAC	65	RUTH AND NAOMI RETURN TO ISRAEL AFTER A FAMINE	229
GOD ASKS ABRAHAM FOR A SACRIFICE	66	BOAZ MEETS AND MARRIES RUTH	233
RACHEL GIVES BIRTH TO JACOB AND ESAU	72	1 AND 2 SAMUEL	
JACOB STEALS THE BIRTHRIGHT AND THE BLESSING	73	HANNAH BEGS GOD FOR A SON	245
JACOB FLEES FROM ESAU	78	GOD CALLS SAMUEL	248
JACOB RETURNS HOME WITH HIS FAMILY	84	SAMUEL ANOINTS SAUL AS KING	250
JACOB WRESTLES WITH GOD	86	SAMUEL ANOINTS DAVID AS KING	258
JOSEPH'S DREAMS OF GREATNESS	89	DAVID DEFEATS GOLIATH	261
JOSEPH'S BROTHERS SELL HIM INTO SLAVERY IN EGYPT	91	DAVID SERVES SAUL	274
JOSEPH INTERPRETS DREAMS	96	SAUL TRIES TO KILL DAVID	277
JOSEPH'S BROTHERS COME TO EGYPT	104	DAVID BECOMES KING	295
JACOB'S DEATH	124	DAVID SINS WITH BATHSHEBA	301
JOSEPH'S DEATH	128	1 KINGS AND 1 CHRONICLES	
EXODUS, NUMBERS, AND LEVITICUS		SOLOMON BECOMES KING	309
MOSES IS RESCUED FROM DEATH	129	SOLOMON ASKS FOR WISDOM	316
GOD SPEAKS TO MOSES IN A BURNING BUSH	132	SOLOMON BUILDS THE TEMPLE	318
THE TEN PLAGUES OF EGYPT	135	REHOBOAM AND JEROBOAM DIVIDE ISRAEL	326
THE PASSOVER AND THE EXODUS	160	KING AHAB PROMOTES BAAL WORSHIP	328
GOD PARTS THE RED SEA	164	ELIJAH AND THE WIDOW'S SON	330
THE 10 COMMANDMENTS	172	ELIJAH CHALLENGES KING AHAB AND THE PROPHETS OF BAAL	332
AARON MAKES A GOLDEN CALF	179		

ELIJAH FLEES FROM JEZEBEL	342
ELIJAH CALLS ELISHA	345
2 KINGS AND 2 CHRONICLES	
ELIJAH IS TAKEN INTO HEAVEN	346
NAAMAN IS HEALED FROM LEPROSY	350
JOASH BECOMES KING	354
JOASH REBUILDS THE TEMPLE	357
OTHER KINGS OF ISRAEL	360
HEZEKIAH STANDS AGAINST THE KING OF ASSYRIA	363
JOSIAH FINDS THE BOOK OF THE LAW	370
OTHER KINGS OF JUDAH	374
DANIEL	
DANIEL AND HIS FRIENDS ARE TAKEN INTO EXILE IN BABYLON	377
DANIEL AND HIS FRIENDS REFUSE THE KING'S FOOD	381
SHADRACH, MESHACH, AND ABEDNEGO ARE THROWN IN THE FIERY FURNACE	383
EZRA	
THE EXILES RETURN TO JUDAH	395
THE EXILES REBUILD THE TEMPLE	398
EZRA LEADS A SECOND WAVE OF EXILES	406
NEHEMIAH	
NEHEMIAH PRAYS FOR JERUSALEM	411
NEHEMIAH REBUILDS THE WALLS OF JERUSALEM	415
ISAIAH	
ISAIAH SEES GOD'S GLORY	423
ISAIAH PROPHEESIES ABOUT THE FUTURE OF ISRAEL	428
JEREMIAH	
GOD CALLS JEREMIAH	433
JEREMIAH PROPHEESIES ABOUT THE EXILE	436
JEREMIAH IS IMPRISONED	439
EZEKIEL	
EZEKIEL SEES HEAVEN'S THRONE ROOM	445
EZEKIEL PROPHEESIES AGAINST ISRAEL	450
EZEKIEL SEES THE FUTURE TEMPLE	454
HOSEA	
HOSEA PROPHEESIES AGAINST ISRAEL	455

HOSEA MARRIES GOMER	458
HOSEA REDEEMS GOMER AS A PICTURE OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS	464

HAGGAI

HAGGAI TELLS THE PEOPLE TO FINISH REBUILDING THE TEMPLE	471
---	-----

MALACHI

MALACHI PROPHEESIES ABOUT THE FUTURE MESSIAH	477
--	-----

BETWEEN THE TESTAMENTS

ALEXANDER THE GREAT DEFEATS PERSIA	479
THE MACCABEES RESIST SELEUCID OPPRESSION	481
THE ROMANS TAKE JERUSALEM	483

THE NEW TESTAMENT

THE GOSPELS

GABRIEL VISITS MARY	487
JOHN THE BAPTIST IS BORN	492
GABRIEL VISITS JOSEPH	496
THE BIRTH OF JESUS	499
SIMEON SEES JESUS	509
THE WISE MEN VISIT JESUS	513
HEROD KILLS THE CHILDREN	518
JOHN THE BAPTIST BAPTIZES JESUS	523
JESUS IS TEMPTED IN THE WILDERNESS	529
JESUS MEETS SIMON PETER	536
JESUS CHANGES WATER INTO WINE	538
JESUS MEETS THE WOMAN AT THE WELL	540
JESUS HEALS A MAN'S SON	543
JESUS PREACHES IN THE SYNAGOGUE	545
A GREAT CATCH OF FISH	547
JESUS HEALS ON THE SABBATH	551
JESUS CHOOSES HIS DISCIPLES	552
THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT	553
THE SOWER AND OTHER PARABLES	555
JESUS CALMS THE STORM	557
JESUS CASTS DEMONS INTO A HERD OF PIGS	559

JESUS HEALS THE BLEEDING WOMAN AND JAIROS' DAUGHTER	563	ACTS	
JESUS FEEDS THE 5,000	566	THE HOLY SPIRIT COMES AT PENTECOST	688
JESUS WALKS ON WATER	568	SAUL RAILS AGAINST CHRISTIANS	693
JESUS IS THE BREAD OF LIFE	571	STEPHEN IS STONED	699
JESUS ASKS HIS DISCIPLES, "WHO DO YOU SAY I AM?"	573	SAUL MEETS JESUS ON THE WAY TO DAMASCUS	705
JESUS' TRANSFIGURATION	574	PETER HEALS TABITHA	713
THE PARABLE OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN	577	PETER PREACHES TO CORNELIUS AND HIS FAMILY	715
JESUS VISITS MARY, MARTHA, AND LAZARUS	578	PAUL'S FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY WITH BARNABAS	719
THE PARABLE OF THE PRODIGAL SON AND OTHER PARABLES	580	THE JERUSALEM COUNCIL	724
JESUS HEALS 10 LEPERS	584	PAUL'S SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY WITH SILAS	725
JESUS DESCRIBES THE LAST DAYS	585	PAUL AND SILAS IN PHILIPPI	727
JESUS RAISES LAZARUS FROM THE DEAD	588	PAUL AND SILAS CONTINUE ON THEIR SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY	733
JESUS AND THE RICH YOUNG MAN	593	PAUL MEETS AQUILA AND PRISCILLA	736
THE PARABLE OF THE VINEYARD	596	PAUL PREACHES IN EPHESUS	738
JESUS MEETS ZACCHAEUS	598	PAUL GOES TO JERUSALEM AND IS ARRESTED	745
THE PARABLE OF THE TALENTS	602	PAUL'S SAILS FOR ROME AND IS SHIPWRECKED ON MALTA	754
THE PHARISEES PLOT AGAINST JESUS	604	PAUL CONTINUES TO ROME	763
JESUS MAKES HIS TRIUMPHAL ENTRY	605	THE EPISTLES	
JESUS CURSES THE FIG TREE	613	THE LETTER TO THE ROMANS	765
JESUS CLEANSSES THE TEMPLE	614	THE LETTER TO THE HEBREWS	777
NICODEMUS MEETS WITH JESUS	617	PETER'S FIRST LETTER	787
THE PHARISEES QUESTION JESUS	618	JOHN'S FIRST LETTER	791
MARY ANOINTS JESUS' FEET	622	PERSECUTION OF CHRISTIANS	795
JUDAS BETRAYS JESUS	624	REVELATION	
JESUS AND HIS DISCIPLES SHARE THE LAST SUPPER	625	JOHN SEES A VISION OF THINGS TO COME	799
JESUS AND HIS DISCIPLES GO TO PRAY AT THE MOUNT OF OLIVES	632	THE NEW HEAVEN AND NEW EARTH	814
JESUS IS ARRESTED	636		
PETER DENIES JESUS	641		
JUDAS REPENTS HIS CHOICE	644		
JESUS IS TRIED AND FLOGGED	645		
JESUS IS CRUCIFIED	652		
JESUS IS PLACED IN A TOMB	664		
JESUS IS RAISED FROM THE DEAD	667		
JESUS APPEARS TO MARY AND OTHER WOMEN	672		
JESUS APPEARS TO THE DISCIPLES	675		
THE DISCIPLES GO FISHING AND SEE JESUS	679		
JESUS ASCENDS TO THE FATHER	684		

INTRODUCTION

THE BIBLE IS GOD'S STORY. It is also the story of all humanity, of their actions—both good and evil. The Bible is an important book because it shows us who God is and who he created us to be. Through the Bible, we learn the true story of what God has done for his followers and what his plans are for the world now and in the future.

The Epic Bible is a graphic adaptation of the Bible that attempts to tell the story of the real and true Word of God in serialized art form. Bible references appear at the bottom of each page where there is a direct relation to a Bible verse or story, and the narration and dialogue closely follow the text of the *Holy Bible*, New Living Translation. We strongly encourage all our graphic-novel readers to read the complete Bible story for themselves. God has much to teach us!

This adaptation seeks to introduce readers to the major themes and threads of the Bible. The story begins when God creates all things by speaking them into existence, and it follows Adam and Eve's descendants as they struggle with how to repair their broken relationship with their Creator. After this, God calls Abraham and his family to be the people through whom God will save the whole world. In the story of Moses, God's people travel all the way to the land that he promised to give to their ancestors, where God reveals his law to his people to show them how to live in covenant with him.

God brings his people into the Promised Land and establishes Israel as a great nation. But, as forewarned by Moses and the prophets, disaster awaits when the people turn away from and sin against the living God. The people's disobedience and unfaithful rulers lead them into exile in Babylon. Eventually, they return home and rebuild their temple and cities. After all this comes a time of four hundred silent years before the Messiah is revealed to the people of Israel and to the world.

Finally, God comes to earth in human form to save us all, as seen in Jesus' birth, life, death, and resurrection. The risen Jesus tells his disciples to make more disciples, and as the Holy Spirit empowers the followers of Christ to spread his message across the globe, the church is born. Christ selects the apostle Paul to share the Good News with Gentiles (non-Jews). Letters from Paul and other church leaders teach us how Jesus wants his followers to live. Revelation, the final book of the Bible, reveals that the darkness and turmoil of this sinful world will be interrupted and defeated by the glorious return of Jesus Christ as he sets up his Kingdom that will never end.

We are excited about sharing this story with you in a new way! Our prayer is that God will speak to you powerfully and show you his love and faithfulness in this book.

A man with long dreadlocks and glasses is sitting in a chair, reading a large, dark book. He is wearing a blue suit jacket over a light-colored shirt. He is holding a green mug in his left hand. The background is a soft, warm glow, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. Two speech bubbles are positioned above him, containing text.

"THE
GRASS
WITHERS AND
THE FLOWERS
FADE—

BUT THE
WORD OF OUR
GOD ENDURES
FOREVER."



IT'S CALLED "THE GOOD BOOK."

"THE HOLY BOOK."

"THE BOOK OF BOOKS."

"THE BOOK OF GOD."



IT'S ONE OF THE OLDEST BOOKS IN THE WORLD.

AND YET THESE NAMES, STILL USED TODAY, SUGGEST THE BIBLE IS SOMETHING MORE THAN JUST AN ANCIENT BOOK.

IT IS THE MOST WIDELY TRANSLATED BOOK OF ALL TIME.

THE ENTIRE BIBLE HAS BEEN TRANSLATED INTO ABOUT 670 DIFFERENT LANGUAGES.

PORTIONS OF THE BIBLE HAVE BEEN TRANSLATED INTO ALMOST 3,312 LANGUAGES.

IT'S THE BESTSELLING BOOK OF ALL TIME.

IT'S ESTIMATED THAT 6 BILLION COPIES OF THE BIBLE HAVE BEEN SOLD OVER THE LAST 200 YEARS.



BUT THE BOOK ITSELF HAS LASTED LONGER THAN SOME OF THE LANGUAGES IT WAS ORIGINALLY WRITTEN IN!



NO OTHER BOOK EVEN BREAKS THE 1 BILLION MARK.



IT HAS
INSPIRED SOME
OF THE WORLD'S
GREATEST WORKS
OF ART—



—MUSIC—


HALLELUJAH!
HALLELUJAH!




—AND
LITERATURE.



AND IT
STILL INSPIRES
ARTISTS AND
WRITERS TODAY IN
OUR NEWER ART
FORMS!

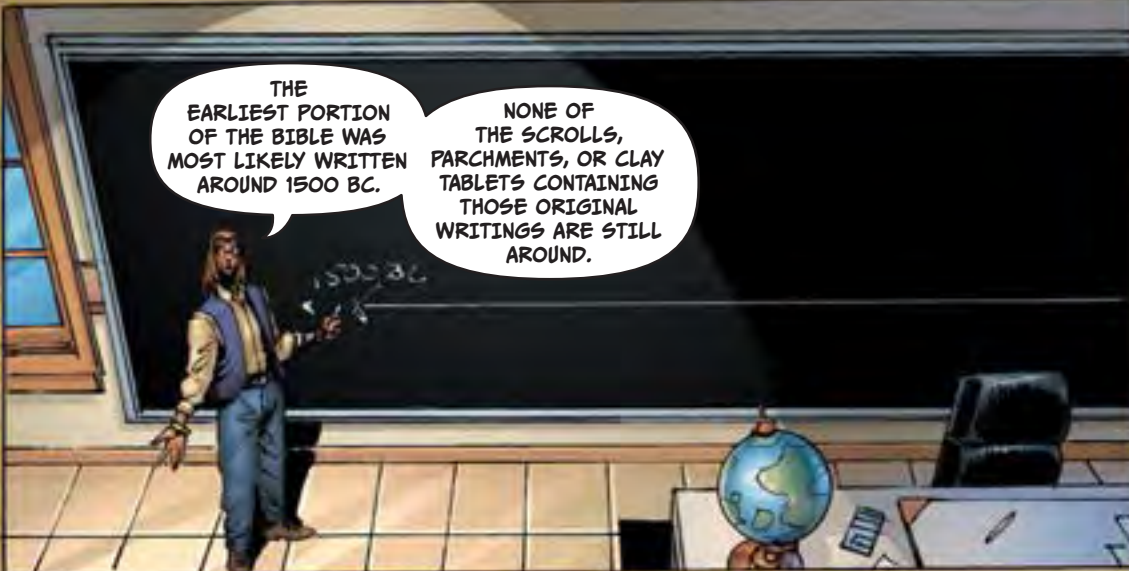


THE HISTORY OF THE BIBLE IS, IN MANY WAYS, THE HISTORY OF WESTERN LITERATURE AND LITERACY.



EVERY MAJOR ADVANCEMENT IN THE TRANSMISSION OF INFORMATION HAS BEEN QUICKLY ADOPTED BY PEOPLE INVOLVED WITH THE BIBLE.

AND A NUMBER OF ADVANCEMENTS WERE DEVELOPED SPECIFICALLY FOR THE BIBLE.



THE EARLIEST PORTION OF THE BIBLE WAS MOST LIKELY WRITTEN AROUND 1500 BC.

NONE OF THE SCROLLS, PARCHMENTS, OR CLAY TABLETS CONTAINING THOSE ORIGINAL WRITINGS ARE STILL AROUND.



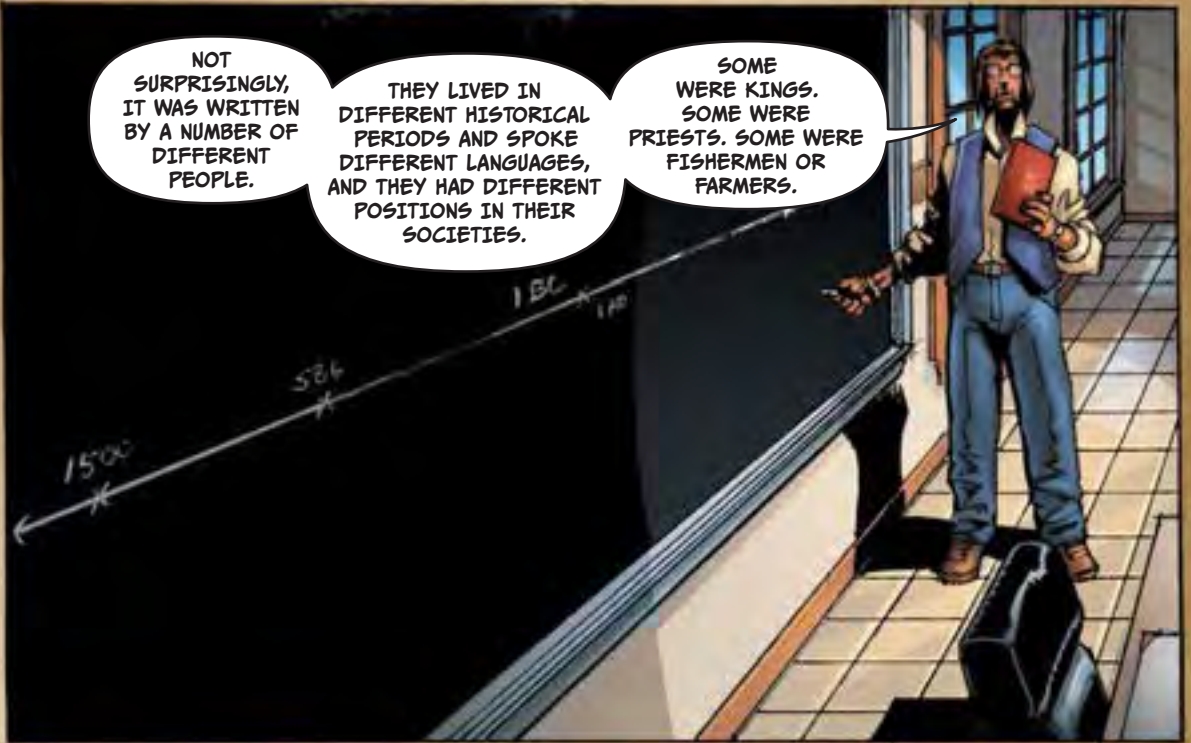
THE OLDEST OLD TESTAMENT WRITINGS WE HAVE ARE FROM ABOUT 586 BC.

THESE ARE COPIES OF COPIES OF THE ORIGINAL WRITINGS.



THE LAST PARTS OF THE BIBLE WERE WRITTEN AROUND AD 100, ABOUT 100 YEARS AFTER THE BIRTH OF CHRIST.

IT TOOK OVER 1,500 YEARS TO WRITE THE BIBLE.




NOT SURPRISINGLY, IT WAS WRITTEN BY A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT PEOPLE.

THEY LIVED IN DIFFERENT HISTORICAL PERIODS AND SPOKE DIFFERENT LANGUAGES, AND THEY HAD DIFFERENT POSITIONS IN THEIR SOCIETIES.

SOME WERE KINGS. SOME WERE PRIESTS. SOME WERE FISHERMEN OR FARMERS.



WHAT IS SURPRISING IS THAT A COLLECTION OF WRITINGS COMING FROM SUCH DIVERSITY COULD HAVE SUCH UNITY.



MILLIONS OF PEOPLE WORLDWIDE PUT THEIR FAITH IN THIS BOOK.

THEY BELIEVE ITS PAGES REVEAL THE NATURE OF GOD, THE NATURE OF MAN, AND THE NATURE OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GOD AND MAN.

OTHERS BELIEVE THIS BOOK IS FULL OF FAIRY TALES AND OLD WIVES' TALES:

MYTHS THAT ONLY FOOLS WOULD BOTHER TO BELIEVE IN.

AND SOME FALL IN BETWEEN. IT'S A GOOD BOOK, WITH SOME GOOD STORIES AND GOOD ADVICE.

MORE THAN A CURIOSITY BUT LESS THAN HOLY SCRIPTURES.

IN DETERMINING THE BIBLE'S HISTORICAL TRUTH, THERE ARE MANY QUESTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED.

THE QUESTION OF THE BIBLE'S SPIRITUAL TRUTH—


FOR EXAMPLE, IF LUKE WAS SO CAREFUL TO MAKE THE HISTORICAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL DETAILS OF HIS BOOKS ACCURATE—

WHETHER IT IS ALL THE INSPIRED WORK OF GOD OR PARTS OF IT ARE HISTORICAL OR NONE OF IT IS TRUE—


FALLS TO THE INDIVIDUAL TO DECIDE.

—WHY WOULD HE RISK LOSING CREDIBILITY BY EXAGGERATING OR LYING ABOUT THE BIOGRAPHICAL DETAILS IN HIS BOOKS?

THIS IS A QUESTION THAT ADDRESSES THE HISTORICITY OF THE BIBLE, BUT IT CANNOT BE DETERMINED THROUGH ARCHAEOLOGY.



SADLY, CONSIDERING WHAT IS AT STAKE, BOTH THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN THIS BOOK AND THOSE WHO DO NOT OFTEN MAKE THEIR DECISION WITHOUT BOTHERING TO LEARN THE FACTS.



AND THERE ARE A LOT OF FACTS, MANY MORE THAN CAN BE INCLUDED HERE.


THIS ONLY TOUCHES THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG.



BUT THERE IS A PROOF NOT YET ADDRESSED.

THE BIBLE'S OWN PROOF.

ITS WORDS POINT YOU TO SOMETHING— SOMEONE—BEYOND ITS WORDS.



BELIEVING IN THE SUPERNATURAL POWER OF THE WORDS OF THIS BOOK RESULTS IN AN ENCOUNTER WITH GOD.

IT GETS A PERSON CONNECTED TO THE OBJECT OF ITS WITNESS:

THE MESSIAH, JESUS CHRIST.

SO, NOW THAT
YOU HAVE THIS
INFORMATION, THE
QUESTION IS—

WHAT ARE YOU
GOING TO DO
WITH IT?

AND MORE
IMPORTANTLY,
SINCE YOU HAVE
THE BIBLE—

WHAT ARE YOU
GOING TO DO
WITH IT?



IN THE VERY BEGINNING—
EVEN BEFORE TIME WAS
CREATED—THERE WAS GOD.

GOD EXISTS IN THREE
PERSONS: COEQUAL
AND COETERNAL BUT
ONE IN BEING.

GOD WAS NOT LONELY—HE
COMMUNED WITH HIMSELF
IN HARMONIOUS LOVE.

THEN GOD CREATED THE
HEAVENS AND THE EARTH.



THEN GOD SAID, "LET THERE BE LIGHT," AND THERE WAS LIGHT.

AND GOD SAW THAT THE LIGHT WAS GOOD. THEN HE SEPARATED THE LIGHT FROM THE DARKNESS.


GOD CALLED THE LIGHT "DAY" AND THE DARKNESS "NIGHT." AND EVENING PASSED AND MORNING CAME, MARKING THE FIRST DAY.

THEN GOD SAID, "LET THERE BE A SPACE BETWEEN THE WATERS, TO SEPARATE THE WATERS." AND THAT IS WHAT HAPPENED.

GOD MADE THIS SPACE TO SEPARATE THE WATERS OF THE EARTH FROM THE WATERS OF THE HEAVENS. GOD CALLED THE SPACE "SKY."



AND EVENING PASSED AND
MORNING CAME, MARKING
THE SECOND DAY.



THEN GOD SAID, "LET THE WATERS BENEATH THE SKY FLOW TOGETHER INTO ONE PLACE, SO DRY GROUND MAY APPEAR."

AND THAT IS WHAT HAPPENED. GOD CALLED THE DRY GROUND "LAND" AND THE WATERS "SEAS."

AND GOD SAW THAT IT WAS GOOD.


THEN GOD SAID, "LET THE LAND SPROUT WITH VEGETATION—EVERY SORT OF SEED-BEARING PLANT, AND TREES THAT GROW SEED-BEARING FRUIT." AND THAT IS WHAT HAPPENED.



THE LAND PRODUCED VEGETATION—ALL SORTS OF SEED-BEARING PLANTS, AND TREES WITH SEED-BEARING FRUIT. THEIR SEEDS PRODUCED PLANTS AND TREES OF THE SAME KIND.

AND GOD SAW THAT IT WAS GOOD.

AND EVENING PASSED AND MORNING CAME, MARKING THE THIRD DAY.



ON DAY FOUR OF CREATION GOD
CREATED THE SUN, THE MOON,
AND THE STARS—A VAST UNIVERSE.

GOD SAID, "LET LIGHTS APPEAR
IN THE SKY TO SEPARATE THE DAY
FROM THE NIGHT. LET THEM BE SIGNS
TO MARK THE SEASONS, DAYS, AND
YEARS. LET THESE LIGHTS IN THE
SKY SHINE DOWN ON THE EARTH."

AND THAT IS WHAT HAPPENED. GOD MADE TWO
GREAT LIGHTS—THE LARGER ONE TO GOVERN
THE DAY, AND THE SMALLER ONE TO GOVERN
THE NIGHT. HE ALSO MADE THE STARS.



GOD SET THESE LIGHTS IN THE SKY TO LIGHT THE EARTH, TO GOVERN THE DAY AND NIGHT, AND TO SEPARATE THE LIGHT FROM THE DARKNESS.

AND GOD SAW THAT IT WAS GOOD.

AND EVENING PASSED AND MORNING CAME, MARKING THE FOURTH DAY.



ON DAY FIVE OF CREATION
GOD FILLED THE SEAS AND THE
SKY WITH LIVING CREATURES.

GOD SAID, "LET THE WATERS
SWARM WITH FISH AND OTHER
LIFE. LET THE SKIES BE FILLED
WITH BIRDS OF EVERY KIND."

SO GOD CREATED GREAT SEA
CREATURES AND EVERY LIVING
THING THAT SCURRIES AND
SWARMS IN THE WATER, AND EVERY
SORT OF BIRD—EACH PRODUCING
OFFSPRING OF THE SAME KIND.



AND GOD SAW THAT
IT WAS GOOD.

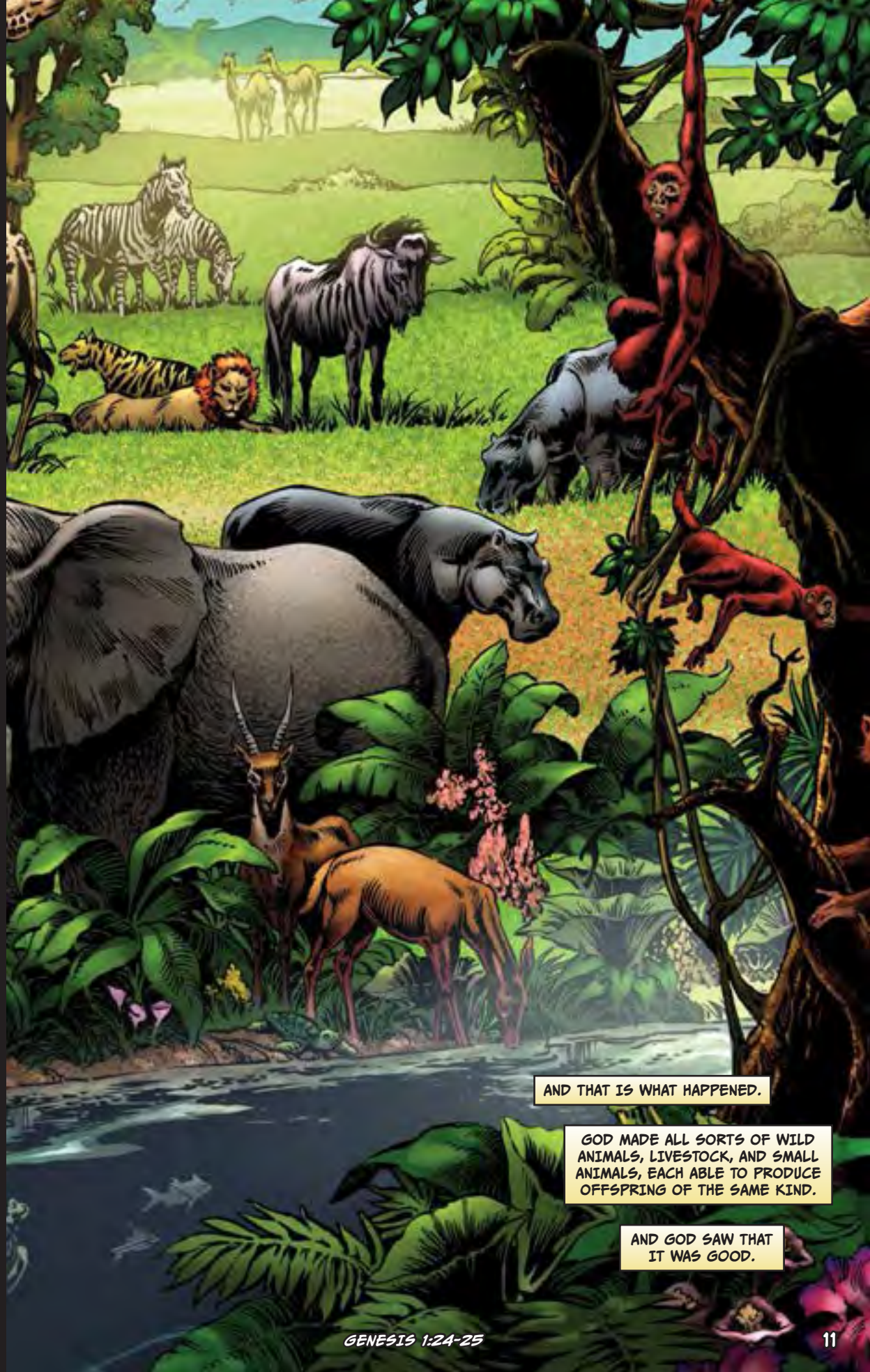
THEN GOD BLESSED THEM,
SAYING, "BE FRUITFUL AND
MULTIPLY. LET THE FISH FILL
THE SEAS, AND LET THE BIRDS
MULTIPLY ON THE EARTH."

AND EVENING PASSED
AND MORNING CAME,
MARKING THE FIFTH DAY.

ON DAY SIX OF
CREATION GOD CREATED
THE LAND ANIMALS.

GOD SAID, "LET THE EARTH PRODUCE
EVERY SORT OF ANIMAL, EACH PRODUCING
OFFSPRING OF THE SAME KIND—
LIVESTOCK, SMALL ANIMALS THAT SCURRY
ALONG THE GROUND, AND WILD ANIMALS."





AND THAT IS WHAT HAPPENED.

GOD MADE ALL SORTS OF WILD ANIMALS, LIVESTOCK, AND SMALL ANIMALS, EACH ABLE TO PRODUCE OFFSPRING OF THE SAME KIND.

AND GOD SAW THAT IT WAS GOOD.

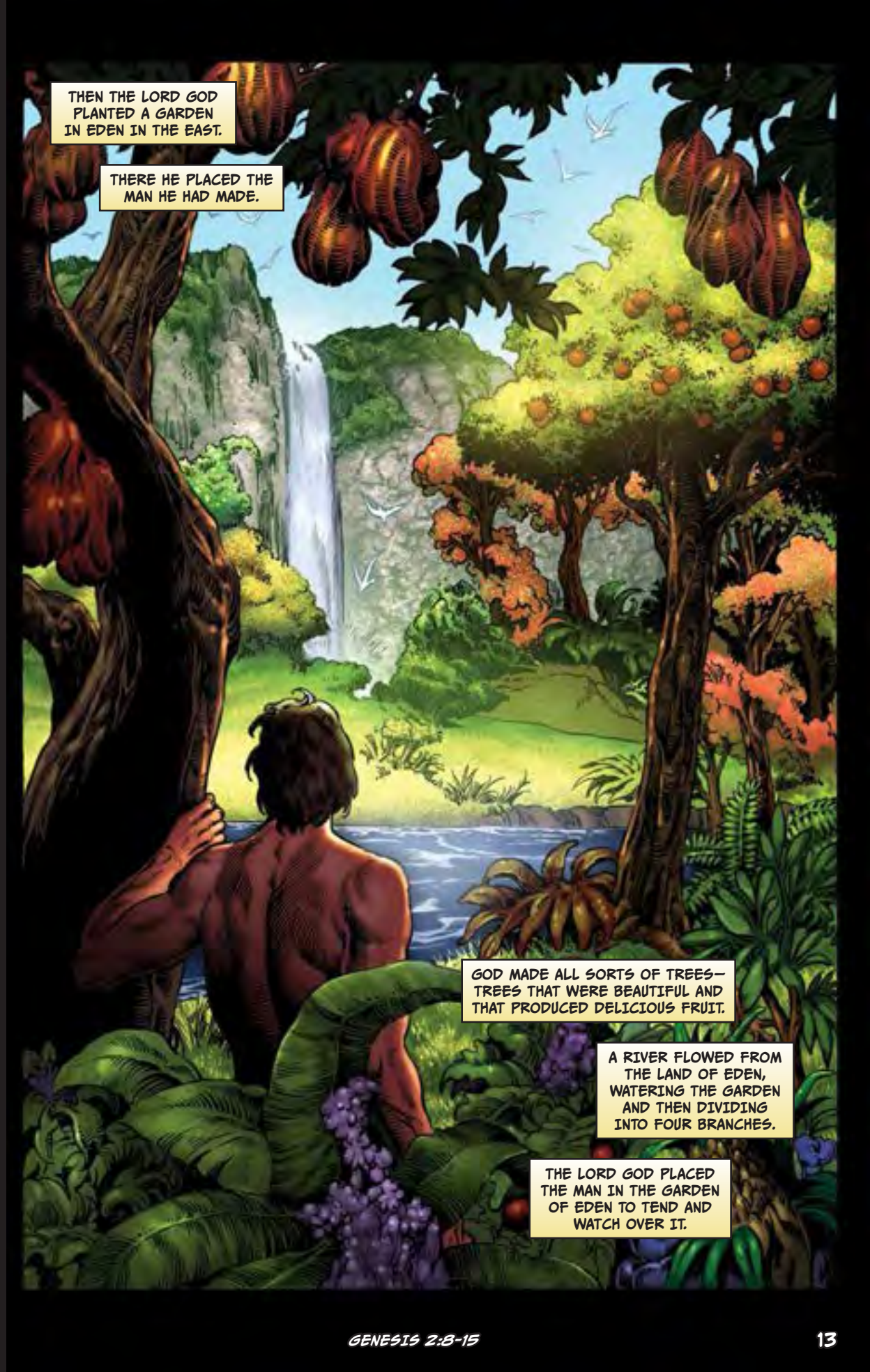
THEN GOD SAID, "LET US
MAKE HUMAN BEINGS IN OUR
IMAGE, TO BE LIKE US."



THEN THE LORD GOD FORMED THE MAN FROM
THE DUST OF THE GROUND. HE BREATHED THE
BREATH OF LIFE INTO THE MAN'S NOSTRILS,
AND THE MAN BECAME A LIVING PERSON.



THEN GOD
LOOKED OVER ALL
HE HAD MADE, AND
HE SAW THAT IT
WAS VERY GOOD!



THEN THE LORD GOD
PLANTED A GARDEN
IN EDEN IN THE EAST.

THERE HE PLACED THE
MAN HE HAD MADE.

GOD MADE ALL SORTS OF TREES—
TREES THAT WERE BEAUTIFUL AND
THAT PRODUCED DELICIOUS FRUIT.


A RIVER FLOWED FROM
THE LAND OF EDEN,
WATERING THE GARDEN
AND THEN DIVIDING
INTO FOUR BRANCHES.

THE LORD GOD PLACED
THE MAN IN THE GARDEN
OF EDEN TO TEND AND
WATCH OVER IT.

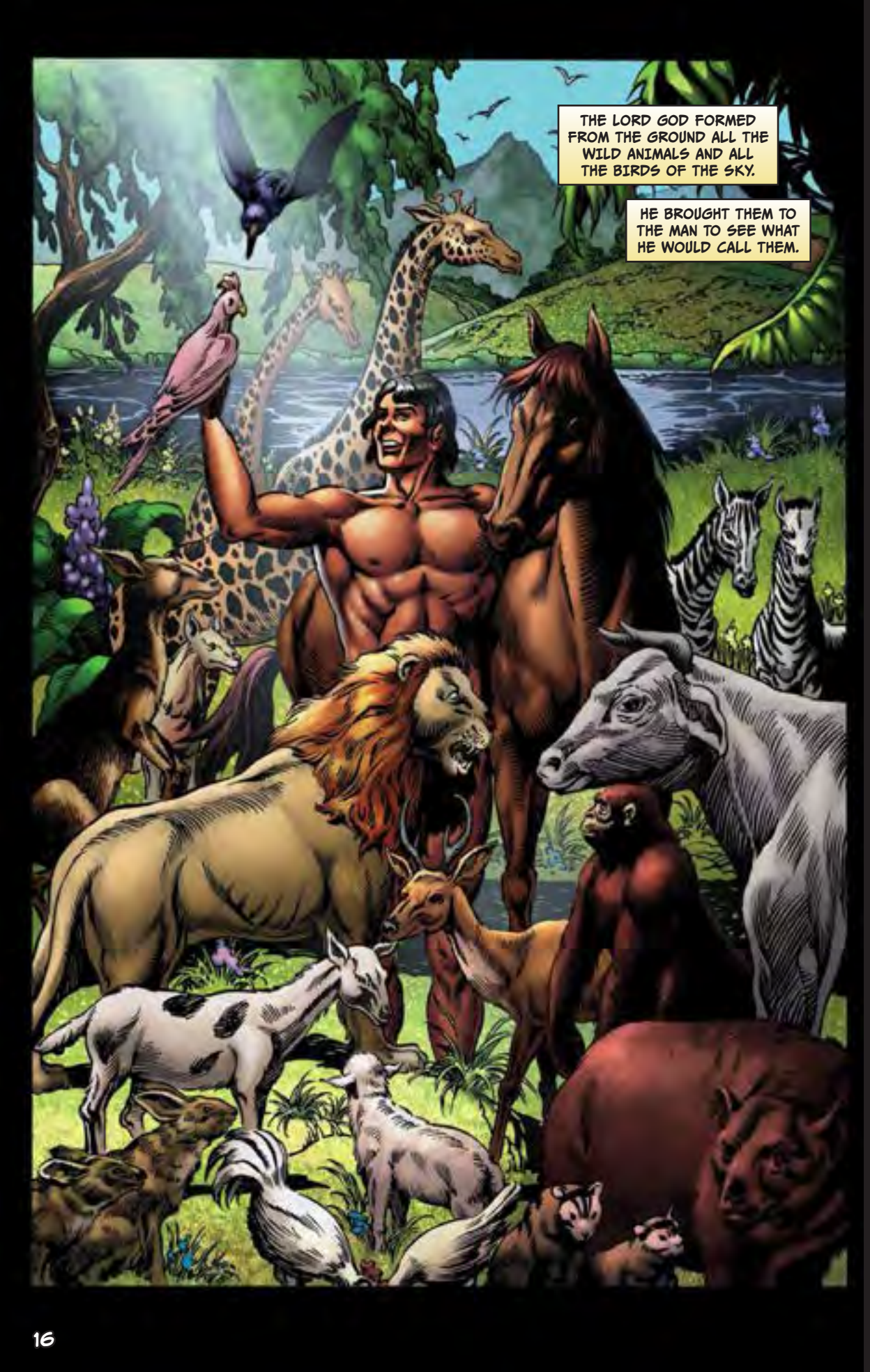
IN THE MIDDLE OF THE GARDEN
GOD PLACED THE TREE OF
LIFE AND THE TREE OF THE
KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL.

THE LORD TOLD THE MAN HE
COULD EAT FROM ANY TREE
IN THE GARDEN, EXCEPT ONE.






YOU MUST NOT EAT
FROM THE TREE OF THE
KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND
EVIL. IF YOU EAT ITS FRUIT,
YOU ARE SURE TO DIE.

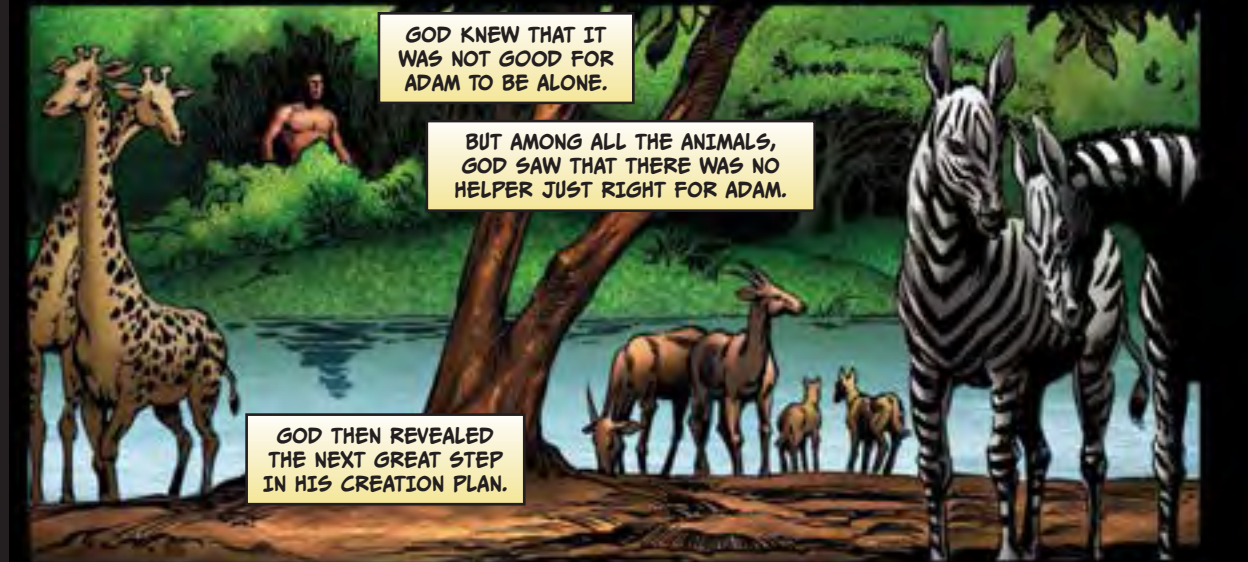


THE LORD GOD FORMED
FROM THE GROUND ALL THE
WILD ANIMALS AND ALL
THE BIRDS OF THE SKY.

HE BROUGHT THEM TO
THE MAN TO SEE WHAT
HE WOULD CALL THEM.

A muscular man with long hair, Adam, stands in a lush garden. He is reaching up towards a large tree with thick branches and vibrant green leaves. The scene is bright and colorful, with various plants and flowers visible in the background.


EVERY DAY THE
MAN, ADAM, HAD THE
OPPORTUNITY TO TALK
DIRECTLY WITH GOD
AND ENJOY CLOSE
FRIENDSHIP WITH HIM.

A scene showing a lush green landscape with a river. In the background, a man (God) is visible near a tree. In the foreground, several animals are gathered: two giraffes on the left, a zebra on the right, and a group of antelope-like animals in the center. The scene is vibrant and detailed.

GOD KNEW THAT IT
WAS NOT GOOD FOR
ADAM TO BE ALONE.

BUT AMONG ALL THE ANIMALS,
GOD SAW THAT THERE WAS NO
HELPER JUST RIGHT FOR ADAM.

GOD THEN REVEALED
THE NEXT GREAT STEP
IN HIS CREATION PLAN.

A close-up of Adam lying on his back in a dense thicket of green foliage. He appears to be in a deep sleep, with his eyes closed and a peaceful expression. The lighting is soft, highlighting his skin and the surrounding leaves.

GOD CAUSED ADAM TO
FALL INTO A DEEP SLEEP.
WHILE ADAM SLEPT, THE
LORD GOD TOOK OUT
ONE OF HIS RIBS.

THEN THE LORD GOD
MADE A WOMAN
FROM THE RIB . . .



... AND HE BROUGHT
HER TO ADAM.


ADAM EXCLAIMED,
"BONE FROM MY
BONE, AND FLESH
FROM MY FLESH!"

LATER, ADAM
CALLED HIS
WIFE EVE.



BY BRINGING HER TO THE
MAN, GOD PERFORMED THE
VERY FIRST WEDDING.

THE MAN AND HIS WIFE WERE BOTH
NAKED, BUT THEY FELT NO SHAME.



THE SERPENT WAS THE SHREWDEST OF ALL THE WILD ANIMALS THE LORD GOD HAD MADE.

ONE DAY HE ASKED THE WOMAN A QUESTION.

DID GOD REALLY SAY YOU MUST NOT EAT THE FRUIT FROM ANY OF THE TREES IN THE GARDEN?

OF COURSE WE MAY EAT FRUIT FROM THE TREES IN THE GARDEN.

IT'S ONLY THE FRUIT FROM THE TREE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE GARDEN THAT WE ARE NOT ALLOWED TO EAT. GOD SAID, "YOU MUST NOT EAT IT OR EVEN TOUCH IT; IF YOU DO, YOU WILL DIE."

THE SERPENT OFFERED A LIE AND TRIED TO GET EVE TO QUESTION GOD'S GOODNESS AND CHARACTER.

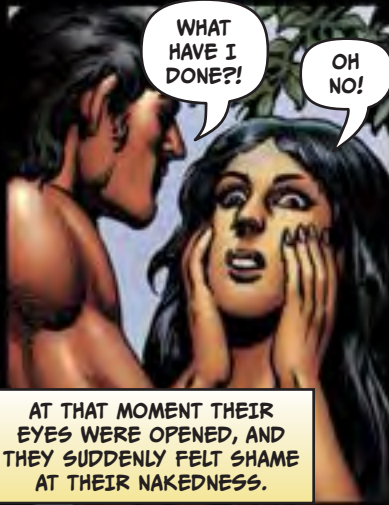
YOU WON'T DIE!

GOD KNOWS THAT YOUR EYES WILL BE OPENED AS SOON AS YOU EAT IT, AND YOU WILL BE LIKE GOD, KNOWING BOTH GOOD AND EVIL.

THE TREE IS BEAUTIFUL, AND ITS FRUIT LOOKS DELICIOUS.

PLUS, I CAN GAIN WISDOM.

SEE, I DIDN'T DIE. EAT SOME ALSO, SO YOU CAN BE WISE AS WELL.



WHAT HAVE I DONE?!

OH NO!

AT THAT MOMENT THEIR EYES WERE OPENED, AND THEY SUDDENLY FELT SHAME AT THEIR NAKEDNESS.



I'VE NEVER FELT THIS WAY BEFORE!

I FEEL NAKED AND ASHAMED.

ADAM AND EVE SEWED FIG LEAVES TOGETHER TO COVER THEMSELVES.

WHEN THE COOL EVENING BREEZES WERE BLOWING, THEY HEARD THE LORD GOD WALKING ABOUT IN THE GARDEN. SO THEY HID FROM THE LORD GOD.



WHERE ARE YOU?

I HEARD YOU WALKING IN THE GARDEN, SO I HID. I WAS AFRAID BECAUSE I WAS NAKED.

WHO TOLD YOU THAT YOU WERE NAKED?

HAVE YOU EATEN FROM THE TREE WHOSE FRUIT I COMMANDED YOU NOT TO EAT?

THE WOMAN YOU GAVE ME GAVE ME THE FRUIT, AND I ATE IT.

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?

THE SERPENT DECEIVED ME. THAT'S WHY I ATE IT.

HE LIED TO ME!

BECAUSE YOU HAVE DONE THIS, YOU ARE CURSED MORE THAN ALL ANIMALS. YOU WILL CRAWL ON YOUR BELLY, GROVELING IN THE DUST AS LONG AS YOU LIVE.

HE WILL STRIKE YOUR HEAD, AND YOU WILL STRIKE HIS HEEL.

GOD PROMISED A FUTURE BATTLE IN WHICH A DESCENDANT OF THE WOMAN WOULD DEFEAT SATAN—AND DELIVER ALL CREATION FROM THE CURSE OF SIN AND DEATH.

AND I WILL CAUSE HOSTILITY BETWEEN YOU AND THE WOMAN AND BETWEEN YOUR OFFSPRING AND HERS.






THE CURSE OF SIN WAS NOW ACTIVE AND ALIVE IN ALL OF CREATION.

I WILL SHARPEN THE PAIN OF YOUR PREGNANCY, AND IN PAIN YOU WILL GIVE BIRTH.

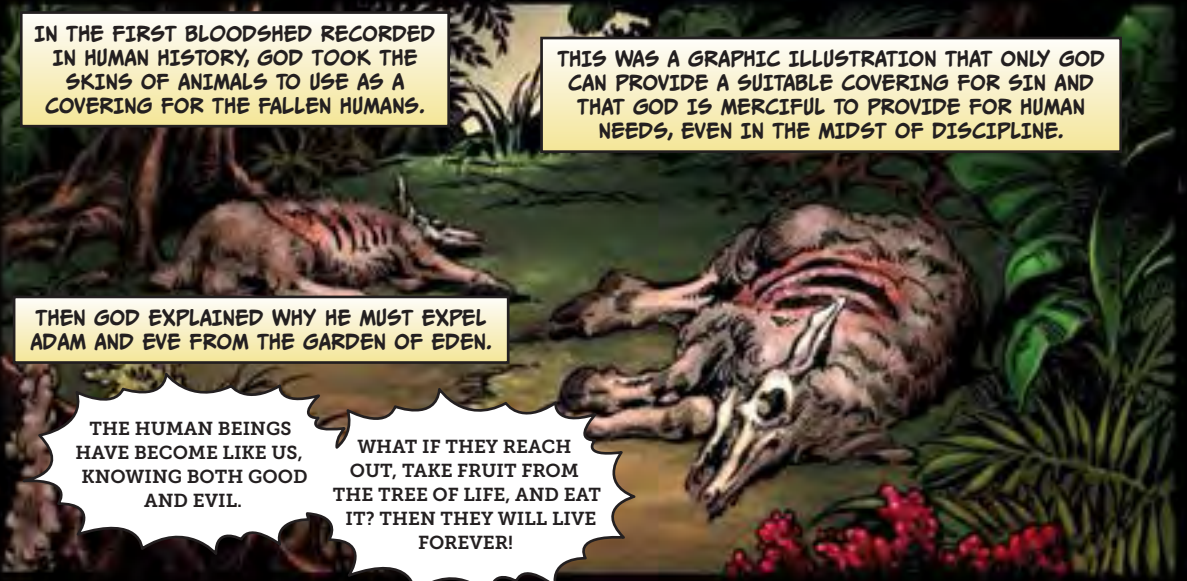
YOU WILL DESIRE TO CONTROL YOUR HUSBAND, BUT HE WILL RULE OVER YOU.



SINCE YOU LISTENED TO YOUR WIFE AND ATE FROM THE TREE WHOSE FRUIT I COMMANDED YOU NOT TO EAT, THE GROUND IS CURSED BECAUSE OF YOU. ALL YOUR LIFE YOU WILL STRUGGLE TO SCRATCH A LIVING FROM IT. IT WILL GROW THORNS AND THISTLES FOR YOU.

BY THE SWEAT OF YOUR BROW WILL YOU HAVE FOOD TO EAT UNTIL YOU RETURN TO THE GROUND FROM WHICH YOU WERE MADE.

FOR YOU CAME FROM DUST, AND TO DUST YOU WILL RETURN.



IN THE FIRST BLOODSHED RECORDED IN HUMAN HISTORY, GOD TOOK THE SKINS OF ANIMALS TO USE AS A COVERING FOR THE FALLEN HUMANS.

THIS WAS A GRAPHIC ILLUSTRATION THAT ONLY GOD CAN PROVIDE A SUITABLE COVERING FOR SIN AND THAT GOD IS MERCIFUL TO PROVIDE FOR HUMAN NEEDS, EVEN IN THE MIDST OF DISCIPLINE.

THEN GOD EXPLAINED WHY HE MUST EXPEL ADAM AND EVE FROM THE GARDEN OF EDEN.

THE HUMAN BEINGS HAVE BECOME LIKE US, KNOWING BOTH GOOD AND EVIL.

WHAT IF THEY REACH OUT, TAKE FRUIT FROM THE TREE OF LIFE, AND EAT IT? THEN THEY WILL LIVE FOREVER!

SO THE LORD GOD
BANISHED THEM FROM
THE GARDEN OF EDEN.

HE DID NOT WANT THEM
TO LIVE FOREVER IN
THEIR SINFUL STATE.

AFTER SENDING THEM OUT, THE LORD
GOD STATIONED A MIGHTY ANGEL
WITH A FLAMING SWORD TO GUARD
THE WAY TO THE TREE OF LIFE.





DISOBEDIENCE TO GOD HAD BROUGHT THE FIRST OF MANY PAINFUL CONSEQUENCES.

THIS IS THE ACCOUNT OF
NOAH AND HIS FAMILY.

AS PEOPLE BEGAN TO MULTIPLY, GOD SAW
THAT THE EARTH HAD BECOME CORRUPT
AND WAS FILLED WITH VIOLENCE.

GOD WAS SORRY HE HAD
EVER MADE HUMANS.

BUT NOAH FOUND FAVOR
WITH THE LORD.


NOAH HAD THREE SONS:
SHEM, HAM, AND JAPHETH.



QUICKLY,
BROTHERS. LET'S GET
WHAT WE NEED AND
GET HOME.



THOSE
SUPPLIES
FATHER ASKED
US TO BUY? I'VE
NEVER SEEN
SUCH A LIST!



HE'S JUST
TRYING TO PREPARE
FOR ANY EVENTUALITY.
THE WORK IS ALMOST
COMPLETE!




EXCUSE ME, FINE GENTLEMEN!

I HAVE THE MOST MARVELOUS ASSORTMENT OF MEN AND WOMEN WHO WOULD SUIT ANY OF YOUR NEEDS—

WE'RE NOT HERE FOR SLAVES.

THEY ARE FRESH! NEWLY CAPTURED WHEN OUR CHIEFTAIN—

NOT INTERESTED!



BAH! I WOULD THINK YOU'D NEED SLAVES, SONS OF NOAH!

YES, CONSIDERING THE FORTRESS YOU BUILD FOR YOUR FATHER!

PERHAPS NOAH DOESN'T FEEL HE NEEDS TO BUY SLAVES! HE JUST HAS SONS INSTEAD!



IGNORE THEM.

THEY LAUGH BECAUSE THEY DO NOT UNDERSTAND.

SHEM, I'M NOT SURE I UNDERSTAND!



STAY WITH THE LIVESTOCK, JAPHETH, WHILE WE BARGAIN WITH THE BLACKSMITH.

RIGHT.




YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'VE GOT A FEW COINS TO SPEND.

NO, MA'AM.

I MEAN, I DO, MA'AM, BUT NOT ON ...

I'M MARRIED, MA'AM.

MOST OF THE MEN I DEAL WITH ARE.



TRUST ME. JUST LEAVE YOUR HORSES AND CATTLE HERE AND COME WITH ME.

NO, I CAN'T. WE NEED THESE.

VERY WELL. YOU HAD YOUR CHANCE ...



YOU WANT BOTH COWS? SERIOUSLY?

WE STILL HAVE OTHER SUPPLIES WE NEED!

IT'S STILL THE BEST PRICE IN THE WHOLE VILLAGE, NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, AND THE BEST CRAFTSMANSHIP!

LISTEN, YOUR FATHER RAISES THE BEST CATTLE AROUND, I'LL GRANT YOU THAT.

BUT I'VE GOT FOUR WIVES AND EIGHT CHILDREN, THREE OF THEM BORN IN THE LAST YEAR—



HEY! WHAT—UGH!!!

JAPHETH!!!



WHERE IS HE?

JAPHETH!!!



JAPHETH, ARE YOU OKAY?

THE HORSES AND THE CATTLE!

WHAT HAPPENED?

THEY'RE GONE. I DON'T SEE THEM ANYWHERE.

THEY CAN'T HAVE GOTTEN VERY FAR. SHOULD WE GO AFTER THEM?

I'D DO IT IF WE HAD OUR WEAPONS, BUT OUR SWORDS WERE—

THE WOMAN ... SHE WAS RIGHT HERE ... BUT I DIDN'T GO WITH HER ...

AND THEN I GOT HIT IN THE HEAD ... FROM BEHIND ... AND ...

—ON THE HORSES. I'M SORRY.



JUST BE GLAD YOU'RE ALIVE. THEY COULD AS EASILY HAVE RUN YOUR HEART THROUGH AS CUT THE REINS.

WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO GO HOME EMPTY HANDED.

LET'S NOT GO HOME WITH AN EMPTY STOMACH AS WELL.

I HAVE A FEW COINS IN MY PURSE.



FOOD AND DRINK, OR JUST DRINK?

OUR FOOD IS—

—WITH THE HORSES. I'M SORRY.

BOTH, PLEASE.



I'M SO SORRY . . .

STOP, JAPHETH. IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT.

LOOK, EVERYONE! THE SONS OF NOAH!

THE BUILDERS OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST BOAT!



WHEN THEY ARE DONE BUILDING THE BOAT IN THE MIDDLE OF A DRY FIELD, FOR THEIR NEXT ARCHITECTURAL ACHIEVEMENT, THEY WILL BUILD A STABLE CAPABLE OF HOLDING 500 HEAD OF HORSES . . .

UNDER A LAKE!

AND THE WORLD'S TALLEST LOOKOUT TOWER . . .

IN A CAVE!



GOOD THING OUR SWORDS ARE WITH OUR HORSES . . .

NOW, HAM!

I JUST FIND IT HARD TO BELIEVE THEY'D MOCK US IF THEY KNEW JOINING US MEANS . . . WELL, THEY WON'T DIE!



IF THE PEOPLE KNEW ABOUT GOD'S ANGER TOWARD THEIR SIN—

—THEY WOULD STILL CHOOSE THEIR SIN.

HOW MANY TIMES HAS FATHER TOLD THEM? DID THEY LISTEN TO FATHER?

WHAT WOULD FATHER DO RIGHT NOW?

HEY! YOU TWO!

YOU LOOKIN' FOR TROUBLE, SONS OF NOAH?

NO. WE JUST WANT TO GIVE YOU A GIFT.



A GIFT?

A GIFT.

THE GIFT OF UNDERSTANDING! AND KNOWLEDGE!

OH?



GO ON, TELL THEM.

HAM, WHAT PURPOSE DOES THIS SERVE?

JUST TELL THEM.

FATHER HAS ALREADY TOLD THEM, AND THEY MOCKED HIM. THEY WILL MOCK ME AS WELL!



GO ON, SHEM.

FATHER WOULD DO THE SAME, WOULDN'T HE?

MAYBE THIS WILL BE THE TIME THEY FINALLY HEAR!



LISTEN TO MY STORY.

MY FATHER'S STORY.

HEED ITS WORDS, FOR THIS STORY IS YOUR STORY AS WELL.

YOU KNOW HOW GREAT MAN'S WICKEDNESS HAS BECOME SINCE THE DAYS OF THE FIRST FATHER AND MOTHER.



THEY BROUGHT SIN INTO THE WORLD WITH THEIR CHOICE TO BREAK THE ONE LAW GOD HAD GIVEN THEM.

BUT, SINCE THAT DAY, EACH OF US HAS CHOSEN TO TURN AWAY FROM GOD.



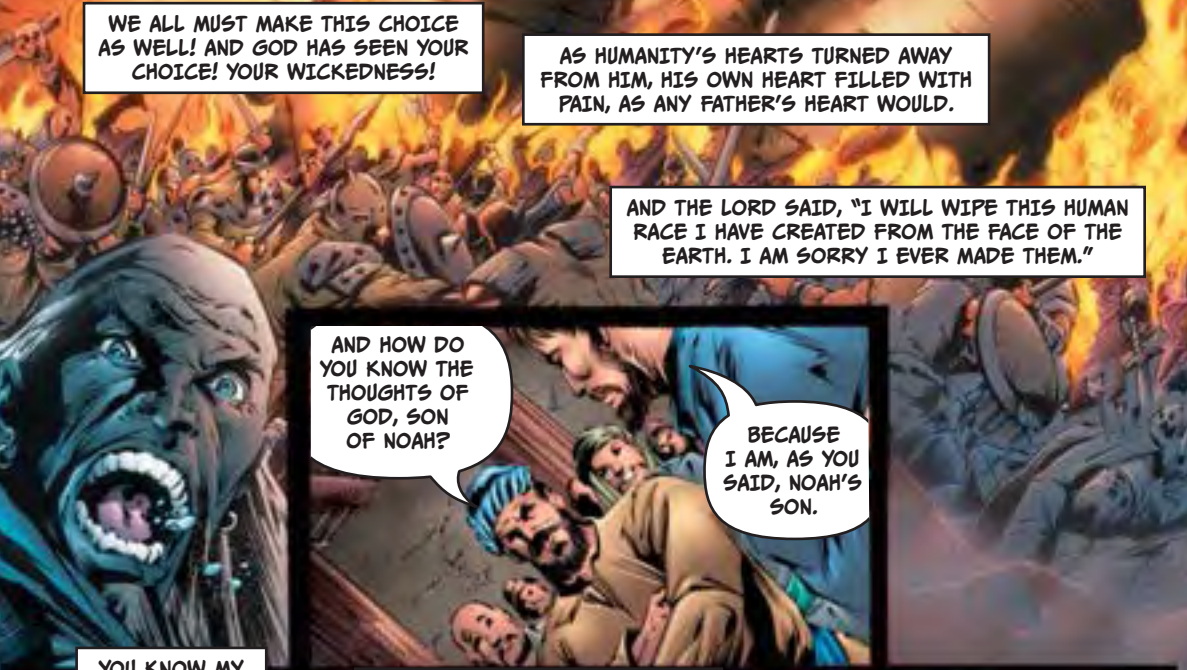
SO EACH OF US MUST CHOOSE, DO WE FOLLOW GOD AND HIS WAYS?

OR DO WE FOLLOW OUR OWN WAY?

CONSIDER THE SONS OF ADAM AND EVE AND THEIR OWN CHOICE . . .

ABEL, WHO SERVED GOD EARNESTLY AND WITH HUMILITY—

AND CAIN, WHO SERVED HIMSELF JEALOUSLY AND WITH ARROGANCE.



WE ALL MUST MAKE THIS CHOICE AS WELL! AND GOD HAS SEEN YOUR CHOICE! YOUR WICKEDNESS!

AS HUMANITY'S HEARTS TURNED AWAY FROM HIM, HIS OWN HEART FILLED WITH PAIN, AS ANY FATHER'S HEART WOULD.

AND THE LORD SAID, "I WILL WIPE THIS HUMAN RACE I HAVE CREATED FROM THE FACE OF THE EARTH. I AM SORRY I EVER MADE THEM."

AND HOW DO YOU KNOW THE THOUGHTS OF GOD, SON OF NOAH?

BECAUSE I AM, AS YOU SAID, NOAH'S SON.



YOU KNOW MY FATHER, NOAH.

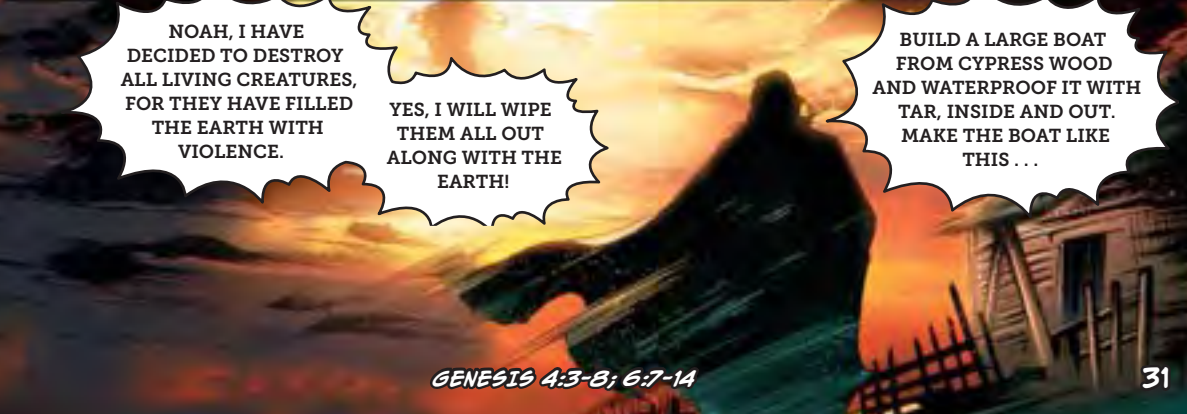
YOU KNOW HE IS A MAN BEYOND REPROACH, WHO RESPECTS PEOPLE AND FEARS GOD.

AND SO GOD KNEW HIM AS WELL.

YOU KNOW NOAH TO BE RIGHTEOUS. BLAMELESS.

SO GOD SPOKE TO MY FATHER . . .

NOT PERFECT, BUT A MAN WHO SERVES OUR CREATOR DILIGENTLY.



NOAH, I HAVE DECIDED TO DESTROY ALL LIVING CREATURES, FOR THEY HAVE FILLED THE EARTH WITH VIOLENCE.

YES, I WILL WIPE THEM ALL OUT ALONG WITH THE EARTH!

BUILD A LARGE BOAT FROM CYPRESS WOOD AND WATERPROOF IT WITH TAR, INSIDE AND OUT. MAKE THE BOAT LIKE THIS . . .

-AND HE SAID IT IS TO HAVE THREE DECKS AND A ROOF AND BE 450 FEET LONG, 75 FEET WIDE, AND 45 FEET HIGH!

AND WE'LL BE INSIDE, WHILE GOD DESTROYS THE EARTH WITH FLOODWATERS OUTSIDE?

SUCH A LARGE BOAT FOR JUST US?

OH, I HAVEN'T TOLD YOU YET ABOUT THE ANIMALS!

ANIMALS?

TWO OF EVERY KIND, TO TAKE REFUGE IN THE ARK WITH US!

NOAH! THIS ALL SOUNDS SO CRAZY! AND YET, THAT IS WHAT MAKES ME BELIEVE YOU!

I KNOW YOU ARE A REASONABLE MAN, NOT GIVEN TO DELUSIONS.

AND YOU ARE A GOOD MAN, NOT GIVEN TO LIES.

GOD MUST HAVE SPOKEN TO YOU, BECAUSE WHO ELSE IN THIS WORLD WOULD LISTEN?

AND SO NOAH DID AS GOD SAID.

THWACK!

DAYS TURNED INTO MONTHS . . .

MONTHS INTO YEARS . . .



NOAH!
NOAH! GUESS
WHAT?

YOU'RE
FINALLY GOING
TO GET SOME MORE
HELP ON THIS
PROJECT!

I TOLD YOU,
MY LOVE, WE'RE
NOT GOING TO
HIRE OR BUY
HELP!

THAT'S
NOT WHAT
I MEAN!



THEN
WHAT DO
YOU ...

OH ...

OH!!!



CRASH!

DO YOU
MEAN ...



YES,
NOAH!

YES!!!



MY BROTHERS AND
I WERE BORN TO
THIS LIFE.




WE LEARNED OF FATHER'S
MISSION AS SOON AS WE
LEARNED TO TALK.



WE TOOK PART IN HIS
VISION AS SOON AS
WE LEARNED TO WALK.


THERE WAS MUCH WE
DID NOT UNDERSTAND.

BUT THIS MUCH WE KNEW: IF
GOD TOLD OUR FATHER TO BUILD
THE BOAT AND TO SAVE OUR
FAMILY, WE WERE GOING TO DO
EVERYTHING IN OUR STRENGTH TO
HELP MAKE IT HAPPEN.



MY BROTHERS AND I FOUND WIVES, WOMEN WHO APPRECIATED MY FATHER AND HIS MISSION.

AND THE WORK WE DID, WE DID AS A FAMILY.



A FAMILY? YES! A FAMILY OF MISFITS!

YOUR WOMEN ARE WOMEN WHO COULDN'T FIND A MAN TO SUPPORT THEM ANYWHERE ELSE!

SO THE ONLY WAY YOU COULD FIND WIVES IS TO SCARE THEM INTO MARRYING YOU!

OUR WIVES WORK WITH US GLADLY, AND THEY WILL GLADLY STEP ONTO THE BOAT WHEN THE WATERS FALL!




"MARRY ME, OR DIE IN A HORRIBLE RAGING FLOOD!"

LIKE FATHER, LIKE SONS!

YOU'VE WASTED YOUR LIVES, SONS OF NOAH!

AND PERHAPS WE HAVE, TOO, BUT AT LEAST WE'RE WASTING OUR LIVES ON GOOD WOMEN, GOOD DRINK, AND GOOD TIMES!



SORRY, BROTHER, I SHOULDN'T HAVE ENCOURAGED YOU TO DO THAT.

DON'T APOLOGIZE, JAPHETH. THEY ARE WICKED, FOOLISH MEN.

THEY DO NOT WANT TO UNDERSTAND.

LET'S GO HOME, BROTHERS. YOU CAN MAKE THINGS UP TO US, JAPHETH, BY HAVING YOUR WIFE MAKE SOME OF THAT STEW SHE COOKS SO WELL.



SHEM,
WHERE ARE THE
SUPPLIES?

WE WERE
ROBBED—

IN BROAD
DAYLIGHT!

WE SHOULD
HAVE COME
WITH YOU.

ARE
YOU HURT
BADLY?

NOW,
YOU KNOW
YOU WOULDN'T
HAVE BEEN
SAFE IN THAT
TOWN!

WE'RE LUCKY
WE WERE ONLY
ROBBED!

IT WAS TERRIBLE.
THOSE PEOPLE
HAVE HEARD SO MANY
WARNINGS ABOUT WHAT
IS GOING TO HAPPEN,
BUT THEY STILL DON'T
LISTEN!


WE LOST THE
CATTLE, MOTHER, AND
COULD NOT BRING
BACK THE SUPPLIES
FATHER ASKED
FOR.

I'M JUST
RELIEVED TO
SEE YOU, MY
SONS.

YOUR
FATHER IS UP
TOP. NO DOUBT
HE COULD USE
YOUR HELP.

BE GLAD
YOU DIDN'T GO TO
THE VILLAGE NORTH OF US.
THEY WERE SLAUGHTERED BY
ONE OF THE HILL TRIBES
YESTERDAY!

I FEARED YOU
MIGHT HAVE BEEN
CAUGHT IN SOME OF
THAT.



FATHER,
WHERE DO YOU
NEED OUR HELP
TODAY?



SMASH



HELP? I
DON'T NEED YOUR
HELP!

NOT
ANYMORE!

DON'T
NEED
IT?



WE'RE
DONE!

WE'RE
DONE!



MANY, MANY YEARS PASSED AFTER THE
LORD TOLD NOAH TO BUILD THE ARK
AND STOCK IT WITH ENOUGH FOOD.

AND WHEN THE ARK WAS FINISHED,
GOD SPOKE TO NOAH ONCE MORE.

I NEVER
IMAGINED IT'D BE
FINISHED!

WHAT ARE WE
GOING TO DO
TOMORROW?

I'LL STILL
DREAM ABOUT
CUTTING WOOD
TONIGHT, I BET!

QUIET!
EVERYONE!

NOAH,
WHERE'S THE
WATER I SENT
YOU TO GET?

WHERE'S
THE WATER,
YOU ASK? HA!
IT'S COMING!

I HEARD THE VOICE OF
GOD AGAIN!

HE TOLD ME TO
TAKE YOU INTO THE
ARK.

WE'RE TO TAKE SEVEN
PAIRS OF EVERY KIND OF
CLEAN ANIMAL, MALE AND
FEMALE . . .

AND TWO OF EVERY
KIND OF UNCLEAN
ANIMAL, MALE AND
FEMALE . . .

TO ENSURE THAT
ALL LIFE WILL
SURVIVE ON THE EARTH
AFTER THE FLOOD.


SEVEN DAYS FROM NOW, HE WILL
SEND RAIN ON THE EARTH FOR
40 DAYS AND 40 NIGHTS!

HOW
ARE WE
SUPPOSED
TO ROUND UP
ALL THOSE
ANIMALS?

WILL OUR
WORK EVER
BE DONE?

SEVEN
DAYS! SEVEN
DAYS?!

AGAIN, HE TOLD ME HOW HE WILL
WIPE FROM THE EARTH ALL THE
LIVING THINGS HE HAS CREATED.



GET IN
THERE, YOU
LITTLE BALLS
OF WOOL!

BROTHERS! HOW
CAN GOD EXPECT US
TO GATHER ALL THOSE
ANIMALS, IF OUR OWN
SHEEP WON'T GO INTO
THE ARK!

WE NEVER
HAVE TROUBLE LIKE
THIS HERDING OUR
SHEEP!

WE'RE NOT
HERDING THEM,
IT'S LIKE THEY'RE
BEING HERDED
RIGHT INSIDE!

NOW LOOK, SEVEN
OF THEM, JUST
GOING INSIDE!

THAT'S
NOT ALL!

IT'S ... IT'S
NOT NATURAL
FOR ANIMALS TO
ACT LIKE THIS!

I THINK
THAT'S THE
POINT!



GENESIS 7:2-3, 8-9



WHEN NOAH WAS 600 YEARS OLD, HE WENT INTO THE BOAT WITH HIS WIFE AND HIS SONS—SHEM, HAM, AND JAPHETH—AND THEIR WIVES.



ALL THE ANIMALS ARE IN THE BOAT AT LAST. WHAT DO WE DO NOW?



WE'VE DONE EVERYTHING GOD COMMANDED—



NOW WE WAIT.



IT HAD ALL HAPPENED, JUST AS GOD SAID. TWO OF EVERY ANIMAL THAT BREATHED THE BREATH OF LIFE HAD COME . . .



... AND ON THE SEVENTH DAY ...

HOW MANY THOUSANDS OF ANIMALS ARE IN THE ARK?

I STOPPED COUNTING AROUND 20.

YOU COUNTED TO 20,000?

NO, JUST 20. THAT'S WHEN I REALIZED THIS WAS FAR BIGGER THAN I COULD IMAGINE.

LOOK AT THEM.

STILL DISBELIEVING, AREN'T THEY?

TODAY IS THE DAY!

THE DOOR IS STILL OPEN!

FOOLS!

JUST THINK OF THE STENCH YOU'LL BE LIVING WITH IN THERE!

FIVE MINUTES IN THERE, AND THE SMELL OF THE DUNG ALONE WOULD GUARANTEE NO WOMAN WOULD EVER COME NEAR ME FOR A WEEK!

AT LEAST THEN YOU'D HAVE AN EXCUSE!

OF COURSE, ACCORDING TO THEM, ENOUGH WATER TO BATHE THAT STENCH FROM YOUR BODY WILL BE FALLING SOON ENOUGH!

IS IT ... IS IT HAPPENING?

IT'S HAPPENING!

IT'S HAPPENING!

THEY JOKED ABOUT IT, BUT THE STENCH OF SIN IS ABOUT TO BE WASHED FROM THE FACE OF THE EARTH, ISN'T IT?

... THE FLOODWATERS CAME AS WELL.

GET INSIDE! GET INSIDE!

BOOM

THEN THE LORD CLOSED THE DOOR BEHIND THEM.



WHAT ... ?
IT CAN'T
BE!

NO ...
NO ...
NO!!!

NOAH SAID THIS
WOULD HAPPEN! HE
WAS RIGHTEOUS ...
WHY DIDN'T WE
BELIEVE HIM?!



WE NEED TO
GET TO HIGHER
GROUND!

WHY BOTHER?
EVERYTHING IS HAPPENING
JUST AS NOAH SAID IT
WOULD, INCLUDING ...

... THE
ANNIHILATION OF EVERY
WICKED SINNER ...



DO YOU THINK THEY WOULD
HAVE COME IF THEY HAD HEARD
GOD'S VOICE, AS FATHER DID?

THEY HEARD
GOD'S MESSAGE IN
FATHER'S WORDS, AND THEY
SAW GOD IN FATHER'S
LIFE.

I CAN'T
WATCH ...



THE NOISE ... THE
RAIN'S POUNDING IS
THUNDEROUS!

WATER IS FALLING
FROM THE SKY AND
RISING FROM THE
EARTH.

WHAT IS
IT LIKE
OUTSIDE?

IT'S
HORRIBLE.

KABOOM



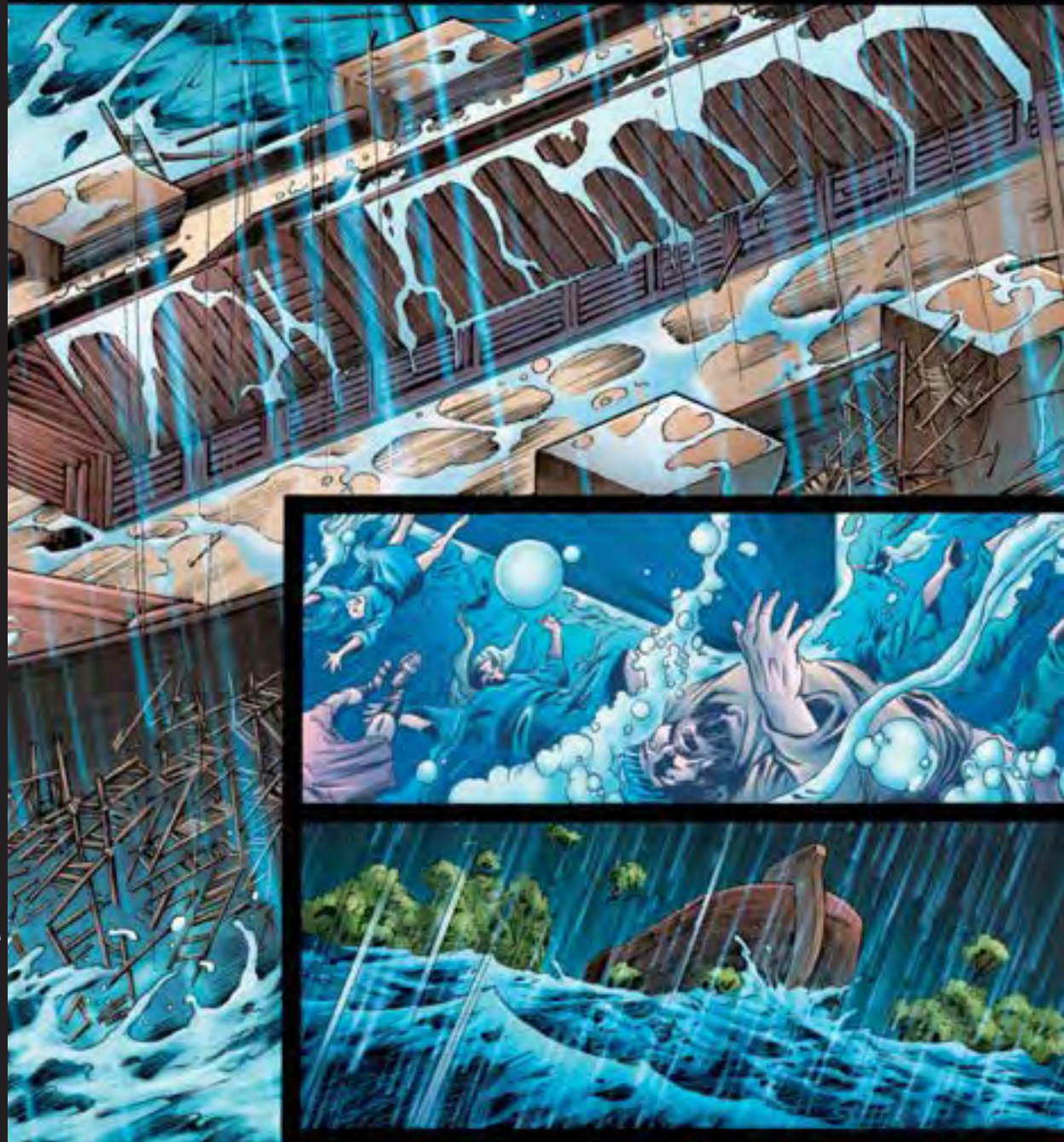
... us.

SHUT UP!
JUST SHUT UP!!!

JUST THINK, AT ANY TIME UNTIL THOSE DOORS CLOSED, WE COULD HAVE CHOSEN TO--

I SAID SHUT UP!!!

UGHN!!!





WHAT'S
THE COUNT,
JAPHETH?

IT'S
BEEN 22
DAYS.


THREE DAYS AGO,
I SAW THE TOP OF A
TREE THAT MUST HAVE
BEEN ON THE TOP OF A
HIGH MOUNTAIN.

NOW IT'S
JUST WATER AS
FAR AS YOU CAN
SEE!

HAVE
YOU STOPPED
TO CONSIDER HOW
DIFFICULT THINGS WILL
BE FOR US WHEN WE
LEAVE THIS ARK?

I DON'T
THINK IT WILL
BE ANY MORE
DIFFICULT THAN
BEFORE. WE WON'T
HAVE A BOAT TO
BUILD, AFTER
ALL.

AND NO
THREAT OF
VIOLENT
RAIDS FROM
NEIGHBORING
TRIBES AND
VILLAGES!



I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE
HOW CALM THESE ANIMALS HAVE
BEEN. I SAW A LION SLEEPING IN THE
MIDDLE OF THOSE SEVEN SHEEP WE
BROUGHT IN, AND BOTH LION AND
LAMB WERE—

HUSH!
YOU HEAR
THAT?

I DON'T
HEAR
ANYTHING.

EXACTLY!

AFTER 40 DAYS, THE
WATERS STOPPED . . .

... AND AFTER 150 DAYS ...

WE HAVE TO CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY THAT WE'RE GOING TO BE STUCK ON THIS THING FOR YEARS.

THAT MAY BE WHY GOD GAVE US SO MANY ANIMALS.

TO EAT?

I KNOW YOU'VE HAD YOUR EYE ON THOSE BIG, COLORFUL BIRDS, JAPHETH, SO DON'T SOUND SO DISGUSTED AT THE PROSPECT.

I'VE CONSIDERED THE POSSIBILITY, HAM.

NOT OF EATING THE ANIMALS, BUT THAT THIS MAY BE A LONGER VOYAGE THAN WE THOUGHT.

IT'S ALREADY FEELING LONGER THAN WE THOUGHT.

BUT GOD WOULD NOT PRESERVE US, ONLY TO STRAND US ON THIS ARK.

WE'RE NOT GOING TO RUN OUT OF FOOD.

GOD HAS CALCULATED HOW MUCH FOOD WE NEED.

I DON'T RELISH THE IDEA OF RAISING A FAMILY ON THIS BOAT, BROTHERS.

DO YOU THINK IT WILL COME TO THAT?

ALL WE'VE KNOWN IN OUR LIFETIME HAS BEEN BUILDING THIS BOAT.

MY WIFE CERTAINLY DOESN'T.

CAN YOU IMAGINE IF ALL YOU KNEW IN YOUR LIFETIME WAS THIS BOAT?

WHAT...?

AAAAAHHH!

WHOOOAAA!!!



... THE BOAT CAME TO REST ON THE MOUNTAINS OF ARARAT.

THE ARK HAD BEEN AGROUND FOR OVER 100 DAYS WHEN NOAH SENT A RAVEN.

WHY DID YOU DO THAT, FATHER?

FROM THE HEIGHTS, THE RAVEN SHOULD BE ABLE TO FIND DRY LAND. IF HE COMES BACK, WE'LL KNOW THAT THE WATERS HAVEN'T—

NO, FATHER, I MEANT, WHY DID YOU SEND ONE OF THE RAVENS? WE ONLY HAVE TWO OF THEM, AND IF SOMETHING HAPPENS TO THAT ONE . . .

AH, YES. UH, GOOD POINT.

MAYBE I'LL SEND A DOVE NEXT TIME. WE'VE GOT SEVEN OF THEM . . .

BUT THE RAVEN COULD ONLY FLY BACK AND FORTH OVER THE WATERS.

A LITTLE LATER . . .

WHY BOTHER, FATHER?

YOU ALREADY SENT THE RAVEN AND THAT DIDN'T REVEAL ANYTHING.

YES, BUT I'M CURIOUS. I WANT TO KNOW WHAT THINGS ARE LIKE OUTSIDE, BUT I DON'T DARE RISK OPENING THE DOOR!

ANOTHER WEEK . . .

DO YOU THINK THIS WILL BE THE TIME, FATHER?

ONE OF THESE DAYS, IT WILL BE. I KNOW THAT.

LOOK THERE, IT RETURNS.

YES, FATHER, IT DOES! BUT LOOK! IT CARRIES SOMETHING IN ITS BEAK!!!

AN OLIVE LEAF!

AN OLIVE LEAF!

NOAH WAITED ANOTHER WEEK, AND THEN . . .

TODAY, I HAVE A FEELING THAT THIS DOVE WILL NOT RETURN!

THAT BIRD HAS FOUND A PLACE TO REST! I KNOW IT!

WE STILL HAVE A LONG WAIT, I THINK, BEFORE WE WILL HAVE DRY ENOUGH GROUND FOR US AND THE ANIMALS, BUT—

—BUT NO MATTER HOW LONG WE WAIT NOW, IT WON'T BE AS LONG AS WE WAITED FOR THE ARK TO BE COMPLETED, FATHER!



I THINK IT'S TIME, SONS.

MORE THAN ONE YEAR AFTER THE LORD CLOSED THE DOOR OF THE ARK ...



TODAY IS THE DAY WE FIND OUT IF THE LAND IS READY FOR US!

I KNOW I'M READY FOR THE LAND!




OH, NOAH! LOOK!!!

... THE SURFACE OF THE GROUND WAS DRY.



THEN GOD SAID ...

LEAVE THE BOAT, ALL OF YOU—YOU AND YOUR WIFE, AND YOUR SONS AND THEIR WIVES.



RELEASE ALL THE ANIMALS—THE BIRDS, THE LIVESTOCK, AND THE SMALL ANIMALS THAT SCURRY ALONG THE GROUND—SO THEY CAN BE FRUITFUL AND MULTIPLY THROUGHOUT THE EARTH.





BE
FRUITFUL
AND MULTIPLY.
FILL THE

EARTH. ALL THE ANIMALS OF THE
EARTH, ALL THE BIRDS
OF THE SKY, ALL THE SMALL
ANIMALS THAT SCURRY ALONG
THE GROUND, AND ALL THE FISH
IN THE SEA WILL LOOK ON YOU
WITH FEAR AND TERROR.

I HAVE
PLACED THEM
IN YOUR POWER.

I HAVE
GIVEN THEM
TO YOU FOR
FOOD.

JUST AS I HAVE
GIVEN YOU GRAIN
AND VEGETABLES.

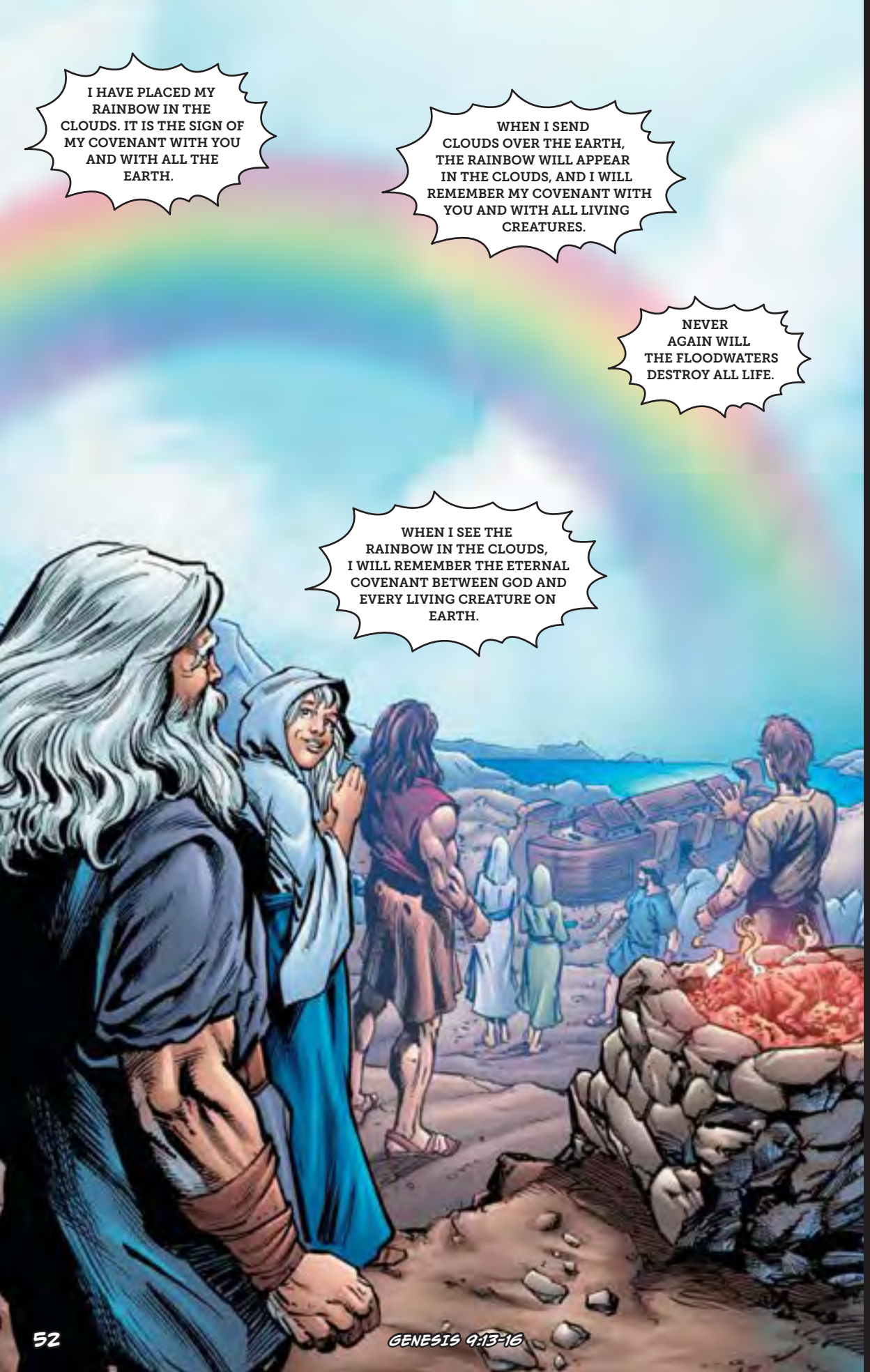
AND I WILL
REQUIRE THE
BLOOD OF ANYONE
WHO TAKES ANOTHER
PERSON'S LIFE.

IF A WILD
ANIMAL KILLS A
PERSON, IT MUST
DIE.

AND ANYONE WHO
MURDERS A FELLOW
HUMAN MUST DIE.

IF
ANYONE TAKES
A HUMAN LIFE, THAT
PERSON'S LIFE WILL ALSO BE
TAKEN BY HUMAN HANDS. FOR
GOD MADE HUMAN BEINGS
IN HIS OWN IMAGE.

NOW BE FRUITFUL
AND MULTIPLY, AND
REPOPULATE THE EARTH.



I HAVE PLACED MY
RAINBOW IN THE
CLOUDS. IT IS THE SIGN OF
MY COVENANT WITH YOU
AND WITH ALL THE
EARTH.

WHEN I SEND
CLOUDS OVER THE EARTH,
THE RAINBOW WILL APPEAR
IN THE CLOUDS, AND I WILL
REMEMBER MY COVENANT WITH
YOU AND WITH ALL LIVING
CREATURES.


NEVER
AGAIN WILL
THE FLOODWATERS
DESTROY ALL LIFE.

WHEN I SEE THE
RAINBOW IN THE CLOUDS,
I WILL REMEMBER THE ETERNAL
COVENANT BETWEEN GOD AND
EVERY LIVING CREATURE ON
EARTH.




TWO YEARS AFTER THE FLOOD,
NOAH'S SON SHEM FATHERED A
SON NAMED ARPHAXAD.

AND AFTER
ARPHAXAD, SHEM
LIVED ANOTHER
500 YEARS AND
HAD OTHER SONS
AND DAUGHTERS.




ARPHAXAD WAS
THE FATHER OF
SHELAH, WHO
WAS THE FATHER
OF EBER.



EBER FATHERED
PELEG—AND DURING THE
LIFETIME OF PELEG
GOD DIVIDED THE EARTH
INTO LANGUAGES AT THE
TOWER OF BABEL.


THE HEBREWS ARE
CONSIDERED TO BE
THE DESCENDANTS
OF EBER.



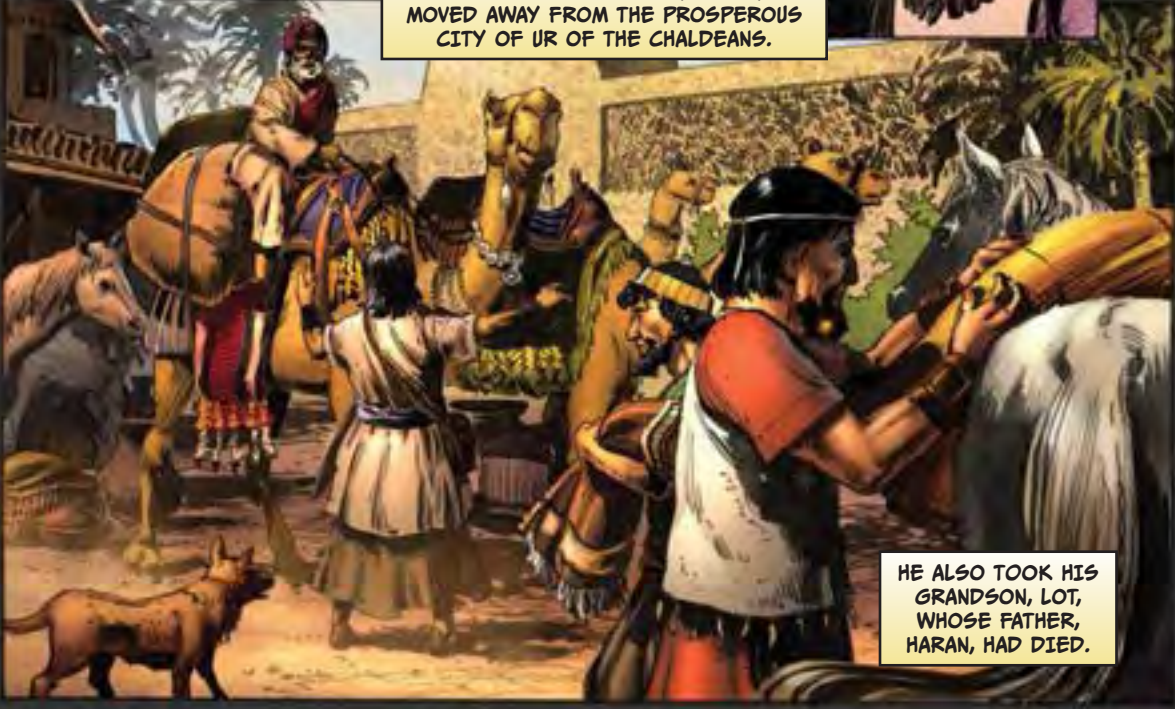
AFTER THE TOWER
OF BABEL, PELEG
FATHERED REU, WHO
WAS THE FATHER
OF SERUG, WHO
WAS THE FATHER OF
NAHOR, WHO WAS THE
FATHER OF TERAH.

A group of four men in ancient attire. The man on the left has a beard and a headband. The man in the center holds a wooden staff. The man on the right is shirtless and has a beard. A woman is partially visible on the far right.

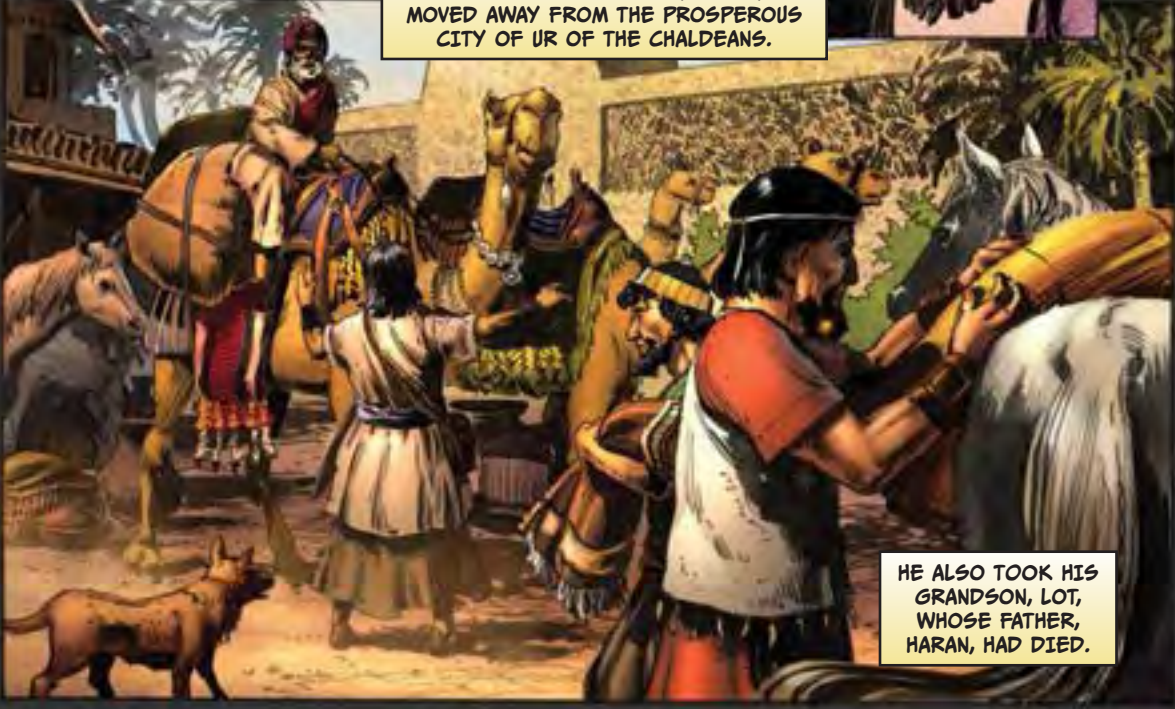
TERAH FATHERED THREE SONS—
ABRAM, NAHOR, AND HARAN.

A man in a dark tunic and a woman in a purple dress are shown in profile, facing each other. The man is holding the woman's hand. In the background, a faint image of a bearded man with a crown is visible.


ABRAM TOOK SARAI,
ONE OF HIS HALF-
SISTERS, AS HIS WIFE.

A busy scene of a caravan preparing for a journey. Several pack animals, including camels and horses, are being loaded with supplies. A man in a red tunic is in the foreground, and a dog is in the lower left. The background shows a city with stone buildings and palm trees.


ONE DAY TERAH TOOK HIS SON ABRAM
AND HIS DAUGHTER-IN-LAW, SARAI, AND
MOVED AWAY FROM THE PROSPEROUS
CITY OF UR OF THE CHALDEANS.

A man in a red tunic and a woman in a purple dress are riding horses. The man is in the foreground, and the woman is behind him. They are surrounded by other pack animals and people.

HE ALSO TOOK HIS
GRANDSON, LOT,
WHOSE FATHER,
HARAN, HAD DIED.

A wide landscape view of a river winding through a valley. The river is blue and flows from the foreground towards the background. The valley is green and fertile, with hills in the distance under a clear sky.

TERAH AND HIS FAMILY
TRAVELED NORTHWEST
ALONG THE EUFRATES
RIVER TO HARAN.

A wide landscape view of a river winding through a valley. The river is blue and flows from the foreground towards the background. The valley is green and fertile, with hills in the distance under a clear sky.

FROM THERE IT WOULD
BE EASIER TO TRAVEL
INTO CANAAN INSTEAD
OF CROSSING THE
GREAT DESERT WITH
ALL OF THEIR ANIMALS
AND POSSESSIONS.

AFTER ABRAM'S FATHER DIED IN HARAN, GOD SPOKE TO ABRAM, MAKING A COVENANT, OR AGREEMENT, WITH HIM.

LEAVE YOUR NATIVE COUNTRY, YOUR RELATIVES, AND YOUR FATHER'S FAMILY, AND GO TO THE LAND THAT I WILL SHOW YOU.

I WILL MAKE YOU INTO A GREAT NATION. I WILL BLESS YOU . . .

AND MAKE YOU FAMOUS, AND YOU WILL BE A BLESSING TO OTHERS.

GOD MADE AN INCREDIBLE PROMISE TO ABRAM AND HIS DESCENDANTS.

ALL THE FAMILIES ON EARTH WILL BE BLESSED THROUGH YOU.

I WILL BLESS THOSE WHO BLESS YOU AND CURSE THOSE WHO TREAT YOU WITH CONTEMPT.

WE MUST RELOCATE OUR CAMP—FAR AWAY.

BUT UNCLE, WE HAVE MORE HERDS THAN WE HAVE EVER HAD—AND GROWING!

YES—OUR GOD, THE MOST HIGH, HAS BLESSED US.

THE MOST HIGH HAS SPOKEN TO ME THAT HE . . . HE WILL BLESS ALL THE FAMILIES ON EARTH THROUGH ME.

BUT GOD HAS CLEARLY SPOKEN TO ME THAT WE MUST MOVE.

GOD HAS SPOKEN—HE WILL CERTAINLY SHOW US THE WAY.



SO ABRAM LEFT HARAN
AS GOD HAD TOLD HIM.



THEY SET OUT FOR
THE LAND OF CANAAN.




WHILE ABRAM WAS CAMPED BY THE
GREAT OAK OF MOREH, HE HEARD THE
VOICE OF GOD SPEAK TO HIM . . .

I WILL
GIVE THIS
LAND TO YOUR
DESCENDANTS.

MY
DESCENDANTS?

IT IS HERE THAT I HAVE HEARD
YOUR VOICE, AND IT IS HERE THAT
I WILL BUILD AN ALTAR TO YOU.



LATER, THE LORD SPOKE TO ABRAM AGAIN . . .

DO NOT BE AFRAID, ABRAM, FOR I WILL PROTECT YOU, AND YOUR REWARD WILL BE GREAT.

SOVEREIGN LORD, WHAT GOOD ARE ALL YOUR BLESSINGS WHEN I DON'T EVEN HAVE A SON?

YOU HAVE GIVEN ME NO DESCENDANTS, SO ONE OF MY SERVANTS WILL BE MY HEIR.

COME OUTSIDE.

YOUR SERVANT WILL NOT BE YOUR HEIR, FOR YOU WILL HAVE A SON OF YOUR OWN WHO WILL BE YOUR HEIR.

LOOK UP INTO THE SKY AND COUNT THE STARS IF YOU CAN.

THAT'S HOW MANY DESCENDANTS YOU WILL HAVE!

ABRAM BELIEVED THE LORD, AND THE LORD COUNTED HIM AS RIGHTEOUS.

SOVEREIGN LORD, HOW CAN I BE SURE THAT I WILL ACTUALLY POSSESS THE LAND?

BRING TO ME A HEIFER, A GOAT, AND A RAM, EACH THREE YEARS OLD, ALONG WITH A DOVE AND A YOUNG PIGEON.




BRING ME THE ANIMALS THAT I SELECTED. I NEED THEM FOR A SACRIFICE TO MY GOD.



GET AWAY!



YOU CAN BE SURE THAT YOUR DESCENDANTS WILL BE STRANGERS IN A FOREIGN LAND, WHERE THEY WILL BE OPPRESSED AS SLAVES FOR 400 YEARS.




BUT I WILL PUNISH
THE NATION THAT
ENSLAVES THEM . . .

. . . AND THEY
WILL COME
AWAY WITH GREAT
WEALTH.

AS FOR YOU,
YOU WILL DIE
IN PEACE AND BE
BURIED AT A RIPE
OLD AGE.

AFTER FOUR
GENERATIONS YOUR
DESCENDANTS WILL
RETURN HERE TO THIS
LAND, FOR THE SINS OF
THE AMORITES DO NOT
YET WARRANT THEIR
DESTRUCTION.



I MAKE A
COVENANT WITH
YOU.

I HAVE GIVEN
THIS LAND TO YOUR
DESCENDANTS, FROM
THE BORDER OF
EGYPT TO THE GREAT
EUPHRATES RIVER.



I WANT A CHILD.

AM I GOD AND ABLE TO DO THIS? WHAT YOU ASK IS IN THE HANDS OF GOD, NOT MEN.

THE LORD HAS PREVENTED ME FROM HAVING CHILDREN. GO AND SLEEP WITH MY SERVANT, HAGAR. PERHAPS I CAN HAVE CHILDREN THROUGH HER.



ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?

YES.





BRING ME THE CRUSHED MEAL FOR THE BREAD.

I WILL NOT. I HAVE TO REST SO I MAY GIVE YOUR HUSBAND A STRONG CHILD.

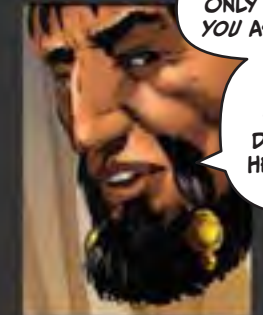


THE CHILD WILL BE MINE TO RAISE.

ONLY I CAN GIVE MASTER ABRAM WHAT HE HAS ALWAYS DESIRED.



THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT! NOW THAT HAGAR'S PREGNANT SHE TREATS ME WITH CONTEMPT.



I DID ONLY WHAT YOU ASKED.

SHE IS YOUR SERVANT. DEAL WITH HER AS YOU SEE FIT.



YOU LAZY SERVANT! PREPARE THE MEAL, OR I WILL BRING OUT A WHIP TO REMIND YOU I AM YOUR MASTER!

YOU ARE WORTHLESS! WHEN YOU HAVE GIVEN BIRTH, I WILL TAKE THE BABY AWAY, AND YOU WILL NEVER HOLD THE CHILD AGAIN.





HAGAR,
SARAI'S SERVANT,
WHERE HAVE YOU COME
FROM, AND WHERE ARE
YOU GOING?

RETURN
TO YOUR
MISTRESS,
AND SUBMIT
TO HER.

I WILL GIVE
YOU MORE
DESCENDANTS THAN
YOU CAN COUNT.

I'M RUNNING
AWAY FROM MY
MISTRESS AND HER
HARSH TREATMENT
OF ME.



YOU WILL GIVE
BIRTH TO A SON. NAME
HIM ISHMAEL, FOR THE LORD
HAS HEARD YOUR CRY OF
DISTRESS.

HE WILL
BE A WILD MAN,
AS UNTAMED AS A
WILD DONKEY! HE WILL
RAISE HIS FIST AGAINST
EVERYONE, AND EVERYONE
WILL BE AGAINST HIM.
YES, HE WILL LIVE IN
OPEN HOSTILITY
AGAINST ALL HIS
RELATIVES.


YOU
ARE THE
GOD WHO
SEES ME.

HAVE I
TRULY SEEN
THE ONE WHO
SEES ME?



CONGRATULATIONS,
MASTER ABRAM. YOU
HAVE A SON.

HIS
NAME
WILL BE
ISHMAEL.



I AM GOD
ALMIGHTY. SERVE
ME FAITHFULLY AND
LIVE A BLAMELESS
LIFE.


I WILL MAKE A
COVENANT WITH
YOU, AND I WILL GIVE
YOU COUNTLESS
DESCENDANTS.

I AM CHANGING
YOUR NAME.
YOU WILL BE CALLED
ABRAHAM,* FOR YOU WILL
BE THE FATHER OF
MANY NATIONS.


I WILL MAKE YOU
EXTREMELY FRUITFUL.
YOUR DESCENDANTS WILL
BECOME MANY NATIONS,
AND KINGS WILL BE
AMONG THEM!

I WILL CONFIRM
MY COVENANT WITH
YOU AND YOUR
DESCENDANTS.


*ABRAHAM SOUNDS LIKE A HEBREW
TERM THAT MEANS "FATHER OF MANY."



I WILL GIVE THE
ENTIRE LAND OF
CANAAN, WHERE YOU
NOW LIVE AS A FOREIGNER,
TO YOU AND YOUR
DESCENDANTS. IT WILL
BE THEIR POSSESSION
FOREVER, AND I WILL
BE THEIR GOD.




THIS IS THE COVENANT
THAT YOU AND YOUR
DESCENDANTS MUST KEEP:
EACH MALE AMONG YOU
MUST BE CIRCUMCISED,
WHETHER MEMBERS OF
YOUR FAMILY OR
SERVANTS.



REGARDING SARAI, YOUR WIFE—HER NAME WILL NO LONGER BE SARAI. FROM NOW ON HER NAME WILL BE SARAH.

AND I WILL BLESS HER AND GIVE YOU A SON FROM HER! SHE WILL BECOME THE MOTHER OF MANY NATIONS.



HOW COULD I BECOME A FATHER AT THE AGE OF 100, AND SARAH AT 90?




MAY ISHMAEL LIVE UNDER YOUR SPECIAL BLESSING!

NO—SARAH, YOUR WIFE, WILL GIVE BIRTH TO A SON FOR YOU. YOU WILL NAME HIM ISAAC, AND I WILL CONFIRM MY COVENANT WITH HIM AND HIS DESCENDANTS.

BUT MY COVENANT WILL BE CONFIRMED WITH ISAAC, WHO WILL BE BORN TO YOU AND SARAH ABOUT THIS TIME NEXT YEAR.

AS FOR ISHMAEL, I WILL BLESS HIM. HE WILL BECOME THE FATHER OF 12 PRINCES, AND I WILL MAKE HIM A GREAT NATION.



TODAY, IN OBEDIENCE TO GOD'S COMMAND, NOT ONLY ISHMAEL AND MYSELF, BUT EVERY MALE IN MY HOUSEHOLD MUST BE CIRCUMCISED—IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LORD'S COMMAND.



WAAAAHHH!

THE LORD DID FOR SARAH EXACTLY WHAT HE HAD PROMISED.



MASTER, YOU HAVE A SON.

HIS NAME WILL BE ISAAC!

GOD HAS BROUGHT ME LAUGHTER. ALL WHO HEAR ABOUT THIS WILL LAUGH WITH ME.*

*ISAAC MEANS "HE LAUGHS."



WHO WOULD HAVE SAID THAT SARAH WOULD NURSE A BABY?

GOD HAS GIVEN US WHAT HE PROMISED.



WHOEVER THOUGHT THIS WAS POSSIBLE?

THE GOD OF ABRAHAM MUST BE THE REAL GOD.

SOME TIME LATER, GOD TESTED ABRAHAM'S FAITH.

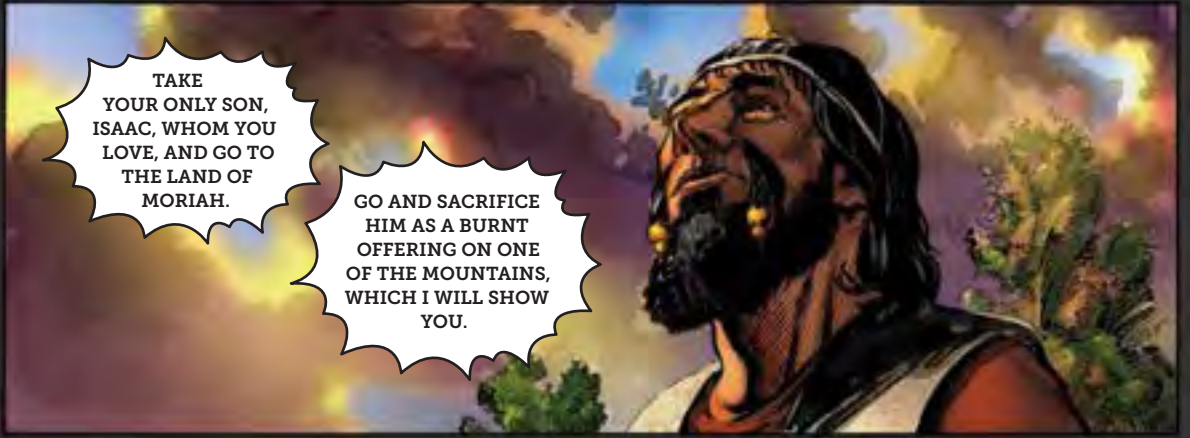
ABRAHAM!

YES,
HERE I
AM.

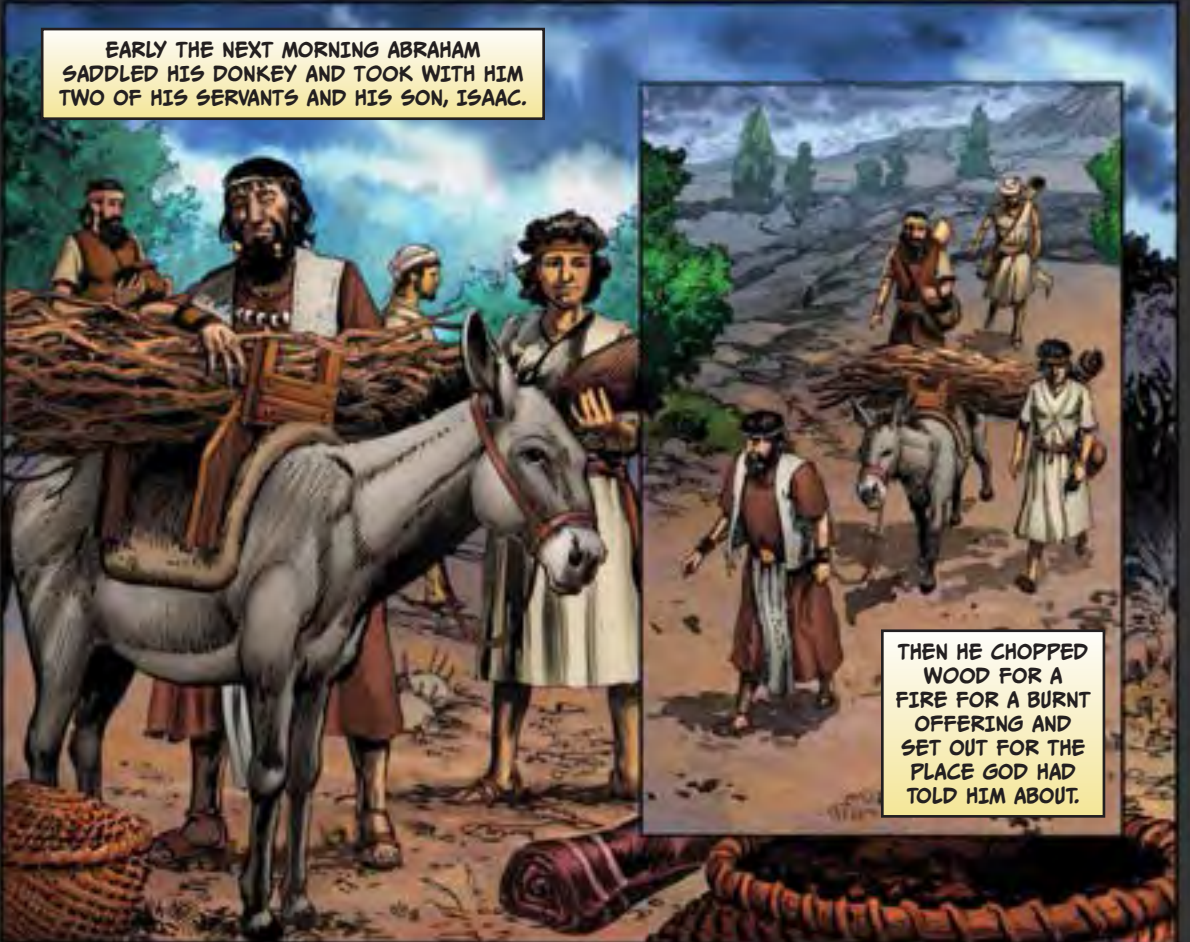


TAKE
YOUR ONLY SON,
ISAAC, WHOM YOU
LOVE, AND GO TO
THE LAND OF
MORIAH.

GO AND SACRIFICE
HIM AS A BURNT
OFFERING ON ONE
OF THE MOUNTAINS,
WHICH I WILL SHOW
YOU.



EARLY THE NEXT MORNING ABRAHAM
SADDLED HIS DONKEY AND TOOK WITH HIM
TWO OF HIS SERVANTS AND HIS SON, ISAAC.



THEN HE CHOPPED
WOOD FOR A
FIRE FOR A BURNT
OFFERING AND
SET OUT FOR THE
PLACE GOD HAD
TOLD HIM ABOUT.

ON THE THIRD DAY OF THEIR JOURNEY, ABRAHAM LOOKED UP AND SAW THE PLACE IN THE DISTANCE.



STAY HERE. THE BOY AND I WILL TRAVEL A LITTLE FARTHER.

WE WILL WORSHIP THERE AND COME RIGHT BACK.



ABRAHAM PLACED THE WOOD FOR THE OFFERING ON ISAAC . . .

. . . WHILE ABRAHAM HIMSELF CARRIED THE FIRE AND THE KNIFE.



FATHER?

WE HAVE THE FIRE AND THE WOOD, BUT WHERE IS THE SHEEP FOR THE BURNT OFFERING?

YES, MY SON?



GOD WILL PROVIDE A SHEEP FOR THE BURNT OFFERING, MY SON.

ABRAHAM BUILT
AN ALTAR.



HE ARRANGED THE
WOOD ON THE ALTAR.




HE BOUND HIS SON . . .



. . . AND LAID HIM ON THE ALTAR.





ABRAHAM PICKED UP
THE KNIFE TO KILL HIS
SON AS A SACRIFICE.

ABRAHAM!

HERE
I AM!

DON'T LAY
A HAND ON THE
BOY! FOR NOW I KNOW
THAT YOU TRULY FEAR
GOD. YOU HAVE NOT
WITHHELD FROM ME
YOUR ONLY SON.

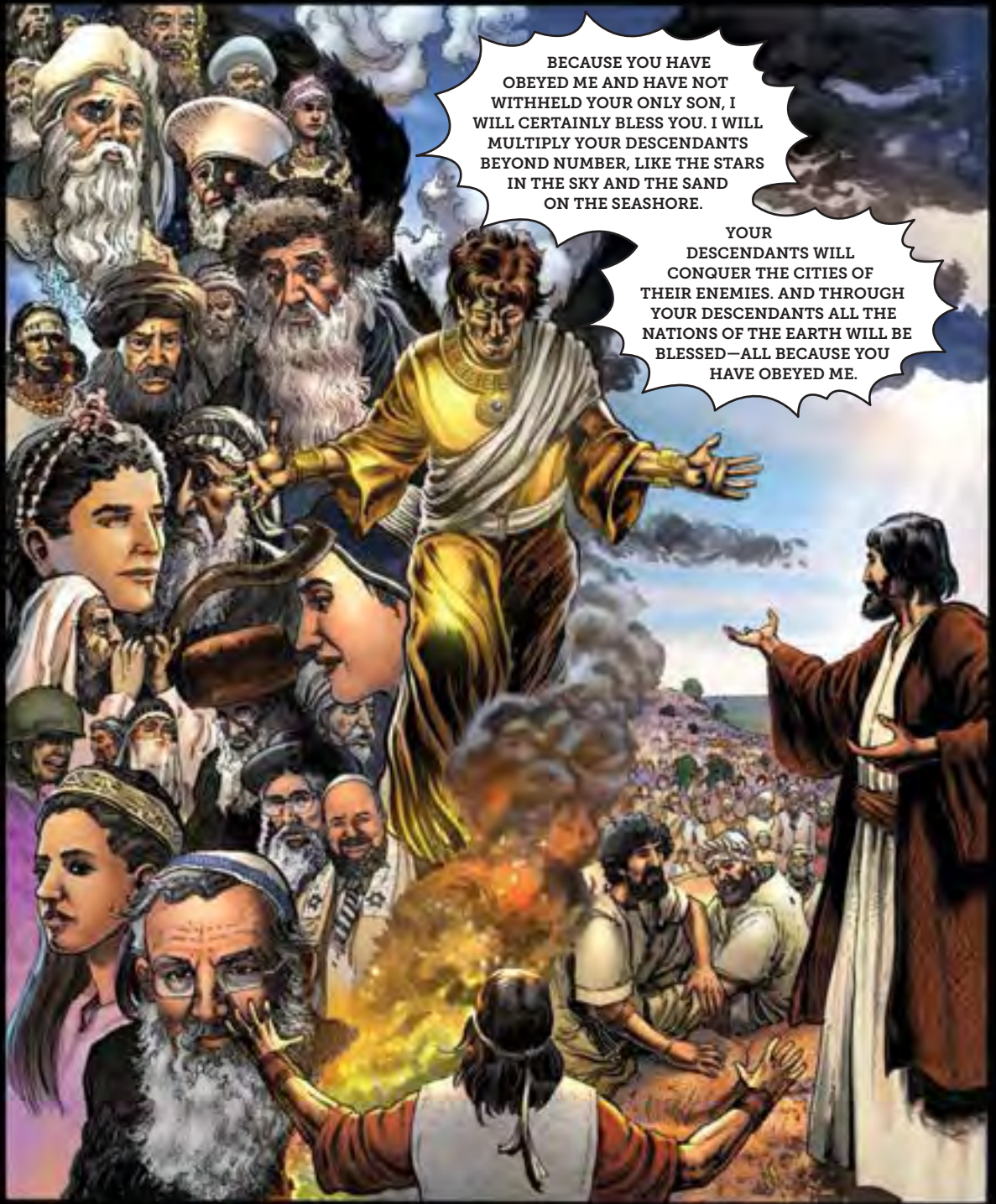


THE NAME
OF THIS PLACE
SHALL BE "THE
LORD WILL
PROVIDE."



THEN ABRAHAM LOOKED OVER
AND SAW THE SACRIFICE
THAT GOD HAD PROVIDED.





BECAUSE YOU HAVE OBEYED ME AND HAVE NOT WITHHELD YOUR ONLY SON, I WILL CERTAINLY BLESS YOU. I WILL MULTIPLY YOUR DESCENDANTS BEYOND NUMBER, LIKE THE STARS IN THE SKY AND THE SAND ON THE SEASHORE.

YOUR DESCENDANTS WILL CONQUER THE CITIES OF THEIR ENEMIES. AND THROUGH YOUR DESCENDANTS ALL THE NATIONS OF THE EARTH WILL BE BLESSED—ALL BECAUSE YOU HAVE OBEYED ME.



ABRAHAM AND ISAAC RETURNED TO THE SERVANTS AND TRAVELED BACK TO BEERSHEBA.

YEARS LATER, ISAAC MARRIED
A WOMAN NAMED REBEKAH.

REBEKAH WAS NOT ABLE TO HAVE
CHILDREN, BUT WHEN ISAAC PRAYED
FOR HER, SHE WAS ABLE TO CONCEIVE.



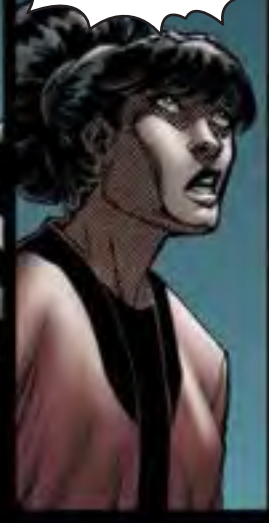
AS THE BABIES
JOSTLED WITHIN HER,
REBEKAH ASKED THE
LORD ABOUT IT.

WHY
IS THIS
HAPPENING
TO ME?



THE SONS IN
YOUR WOMB
WILL BECOME TWO
NATIONS; THE TWO
NATIONS WILL BE
RIVALS.

ONE WILL BE
STRONGER THAN
THE OTHER, AND THE
OLDER WILL SERVE THE
YOUNGER.



THERE, YOUR
FIRST SON HAS
ARRIVED—HE IS RED
AND HAIRY!

HE IS TO
BE NAMED
ESAU.*



*ESAU MAY MEAN "HAIRY," BUT HE WAS
ALSO CALLED EDOM, WHICH MEANS "RED."

HIS
BROTHER COMES
NOW—AND HE IS
GRASPING HIS
BROTHER'S HEEL!


AND HE
SHALL BE
CALLED
JACOB.*



*JACOB SOUNDS LIKE
THE HEBREW FOR "HEEL"
OR "DECEIVER."




ESAU BECAME A SKILLFUL HUNTER AND AN OUTDOORSMAN.



BUT JACOB HAD A QUIET TEMPERAMENT, PREFERRING TO STAY AT HOME.



FATHER LOVES THE WILD GAME I BRING HIM!



THOUGH ISAAC PREFERRED ESAU, REBEKAH LOVED JACOB AND HIS GENTLE SPIRIT.



I'M STARVED! GIVE ME SOME OF THAT RED STEW!




ALL RIGHT, BUT TRADE ME YOUR RIGHTS AS THE FIRSTBORN SON.

I'M DYING OF STARVATION! WHAT GOOD IS MY BIRTHRIGHT TO ME NOW?



SWEAR TO ME.

I SWEAR—NOW FEED ME.



THE BIRTHRIGHT ENTAILED GETTING A DOUBLE PORTION OF THE INHERITANCE AS WELL AS BEING THE CHIEF AND PRIEST OF THE FAMILY.

BUT ESAU FAILED TO APPRECIATE ITS VALUE AND SACREDNESS.

AFTER SOME TIME,
ISAAC CALLED TO ESAU.

I AM AN
OLD MAN NOW, AND
I DON'T KNOW WHEN I
MAY DIE.

HUNT SOME
WILD GAME FOR
ME. PREPARE MY
FAVORITE DISH, AND
BRING IT HERE FOR
ME TO EAT. I WILL
PRONOUNCE THE
BLESSING BEFORE
I DIE.



LISTEN. I OVERHEARD
YOUR FATHER TELL ESAU
TO BRING HIM SOME WILD
GAME SO HE COULD GIVE
HIM HIS BLESSING.

BRING
ME TWO FINE YOUNG
GOATS. I'LL USE THEM TO
PREPARE YOUR FATHER'S
FAVORITE DISH.


THEN YOU
CAN TAKE IT TO
HIM AND GET HIS
BLESSING.



BUT ESAU IS A
HAIRY MAN, AND MY
SKIN IS SMOOTH.

IF MY FATHER
TOUCHES ME, THEN
HE'LL CURSE ME
INSTEAD.

THEN LET THE
CURSE FALL ON ME!
JUST DO WHAT I
TELL YOU.



PUT THESE ON—
YOUR BROTHER'S BEST
CLOTHES—THEN YOU WILL
SMELL LIKE ESAU.



THESE
GOATSKINS WILL
FEEL LIKE ESAU'S
ROUGH, HAIRY
ARMS.

WITH THESE,
AND THE TASTY
MEAL, HE WILL
THINK YOU ARE ESAU
AND GIVE YOU HIS
BLESSING.




MY
FATHER?

IT'S
ESAU, YOUR
FIRSTBORN
SON. HERE IS
THE WILD GAME
SO YOU CAN
GIVE ME YOUR
BLESSING.

YES, MY
SON—WHO
ARE YOU?


COME
CLOSER SO I
CAN TOUCH YOU
AND MAKE SURE
THAT YOU ARE
ESAU.



THE VOICE IS
JACOB'S, BUT
THE HANDS ARE
ESAU'S.

ARE
YOU REALLY
ESAU?

YES, I
AM.



BRING ME
THE WILD
GAME.



COME CLOSER AND KISS ME, SON.



AH! THE SMELL OF MY SON IS LIKE THE SMELL OF THE OUTDOORS.

MAY GOD GIVE YOU ABUNDANT HARVESTS.



MAY NATIONS SERVE YOU, AND PEOPLE BOW BEFORE YOU.

ALL WHO CURSE YOU WILL BE CURSED, AND ALL WHO BLESS YOU WILL BE BLESSED.





EAT MY WILD GAME SO YOU CAN GIVE ME YOUR BLESSING.

THEN WHO JUST SERVED ME WILD GAME? I HAVE ALREADY EATEN IT!

BUT FATHER—BLESS ME, TOO!

I BLESSED HIM—THAT BLESSING MUST STAND!

WHO ARE YOU?

YOUR BROTHER TRICKED ME AND TOOK YOUR BLESSING.

YOUR SON, YOUR FIRSTBORN SON, ESAU.

NO WONDER HIS NAME MEANS "DECEIVER"!



HE HAS CHEATED ME TWICE—FIRST WITH THE BIRTHRIGHT AND NOW WITH THE BLESSING!

HAVEN'T YOU SAVED EVEN ONE BLESSING FOR ME?



YOU WILL LIVE AWAY FROM EARTH'S RICHNESS AND HEAVEN'S DEW.

YOU WILL LIVE BY YOUR SWORD AND SERVE YOUR BROTHER.

BUT WHEN YOU BREAK FREE, YOU WILL SHAKE OFF HIS YOKE.



I AM NOT SURE THAT STONE CAN SHARPEN YOUR SWORD MUCH MORE. YOU MUST BE PLANNING ON SHEDDING MUCH BLOOD.

NO— JUST THE DECEIVER JACOB'S.



BUT HE IS YOUR BROTHER!

NOT FOR LONG. HE HAS DECEIVED ME FOR THE VERY LAST TIME.



LISTEN, ESAU IS CONSOLING HIMSELF BY PLOTTING TO KILL YOU.

GET READY AND FLEE TO MY BROTHER, LABAN, IN HARAN.



LATER, IN ISAAC'S TENT . . .

I AM SICK AND TIRED OF THESE LOCAL HITTITE WOMEN.

I WOULD RATHER DIE THAN SEE JACOB MARRY ONE OF THEM.

SEND JACOB IN TO ME.




GO AT ONCE TO PADDAN-ARAM, AND MARRY ONE OF YOUR UNCLE LABAN'S DAUGHTERS.

MAY GOD ALMIGHTY BLESS YOU AND GIVE YOU MANY CHILDREN. AND MAY YOUR DESCENDANTS MULTIPLY, AND MAY YOU OWN THIS LAND.


A man with a beard and a brown jacket (Jacob) is talking to a woman in a red dress (Leah). Jacob has a large pack on his back. Leah is looking at him with a concerned expression.

IN MY FATHER'S HOUSE YOU CAN TAKE REFUGE.

MY BROTHER LABAN WILL SHOW YOU WHAT TO DO.


A man in a green robe stands in the doorway of a tent. A woman in a red dress and a man with a pack on his back are standing outside. In the foreground, the head of a horse is visible on the right side.

SO, THEY DON'T LIKE MY CANAANITE WIVES? PERHAPS I CAN MAKE UP FOR GIVING UP MY BIRTHRIGHT . . .


An older man with a white beard (Laban) is talking to a man with a pack on his back (Jacob). A woman in a red dress is standing next to Laban. They are in a rocky, desert landscape.

IN OBEDIENCE TO HIS FATHER, JACOB TRAVELED TOWARD HARAN AND HIS MOTHER'S FAMILY.


THERE HE SOUGHT REFUGE FROM HIS BROTHER ESAU AND ALSO HOPED TO FIND A SUITABLE WIFE.

A man with a red beard and a brown tunic (Esau) is talking to a woman in a blue dress (Leah). In the background, a man in a green robe and a woman in a yellow dress are walking. There are tents and a desert landscape.

JACOB FOUND A STONE TO REST HIS HEAD AGAINST AND LAY DOWN TO SLEEP.

A man is lying on the ground, resting his head against a large stone. The scene is dark, suggesting night.

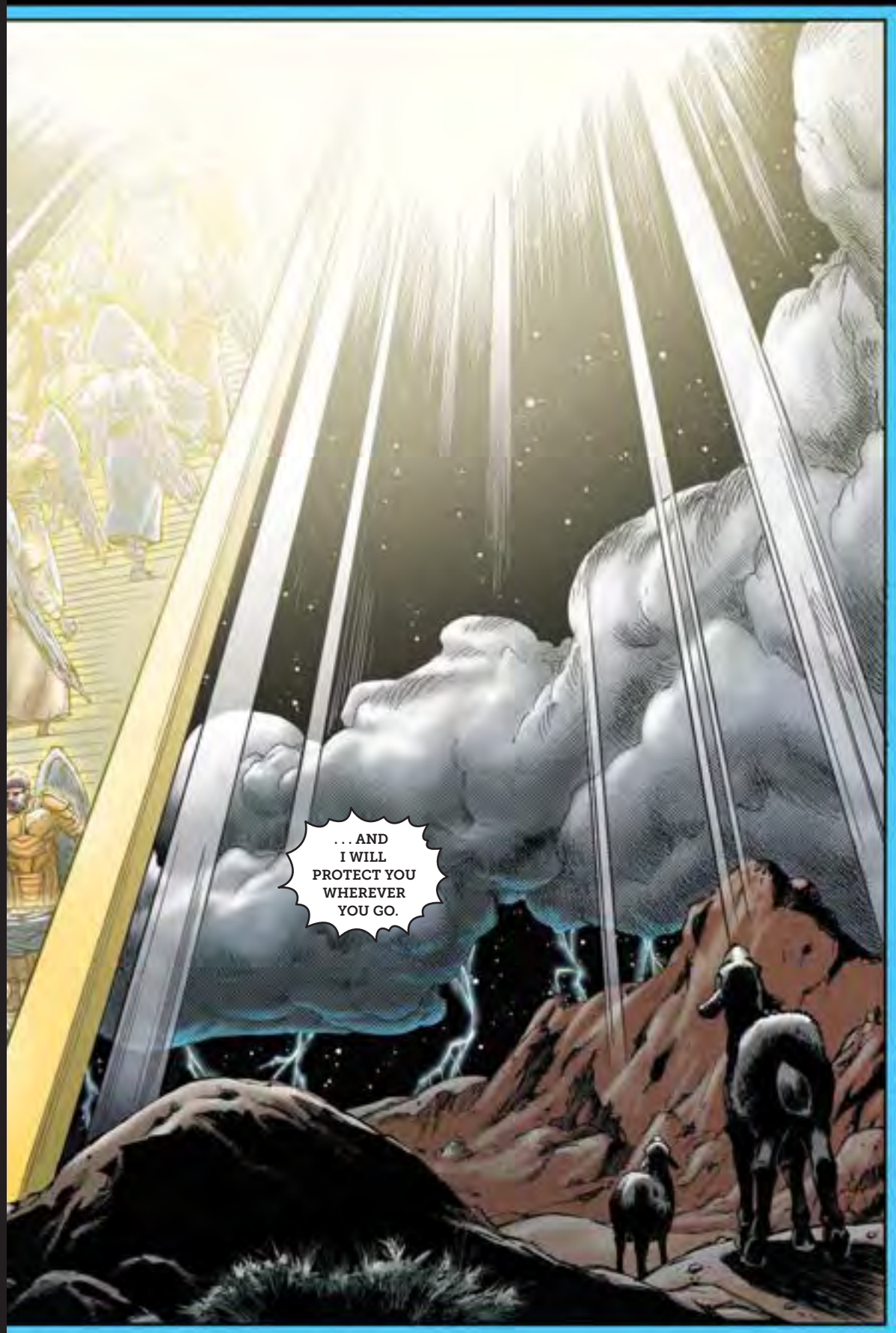
ESAU TOOK A THIRD WIFE, THIS ONE A DAUGHTER OF HIS UNCLE, ISHMAEL. HE MAY HAVE BEEN TRYING TO PERSUADE HIS PARENTS TO MAKE A NEW WILL.



I AM THE LORD, THE GOD
OF YOUR GRANDFATHER
ABRAHAM, AND THE GOD OF
YOUR FATHER, ISAAC.

YOUR
DESCENDANTS
WILL BE AS
NUMEROUS AS THE
DUST OF THE
EARTH!

ALL THE FAMILIES
OF THE EARTH WILL
BE BLESSED THROUGH
YOU AND YOUR
DESCENDANTS ...



... AND
I WILL
PROTECT YOU
WHEREVER
YOU GO.



SURELY
THE LORD IS IN
THIS PLACE—THIS
IS THE HOUSE OF
GOD—THE GATE TO
HEAVEN ITSELF!



THIS PLACE
WILL NO LONGER
BE CALLED LUZ, BUT
BETHEL—"HOUSE OF
GOD."



IF YOU WILL BE
WITH ME ON THIS
JOURNEY AND PROVIDE
ALL THAT I NEED SO
THAT I RETURN SAFELY,
THEN YOU WILL BE
MY GOD.

THIS
PILLAR WILL BE
YOUR HOUSE, AND OF
ALL THAT YOU BLESS
ME WITH I WILL
GIVE A TENTH.

PADDAN-ARAM—THE LAND OF REBEKAH'S FAMILY

FRIENDS—WHERE ARE YOU FROM?

WE ARE FROM HARAN.

THEN DO YOU KNOW LABAN—NAHOR'S GRANDSON?

YES, WE KNOW HIM.

IS HE DOING WELL?

YES, HE'S WELL.

HERE COMES HIS DAUGHTER RACHEL NOW.

I AM A RELATIVE—THE SON OF YOUR FATHER'S SISTER!

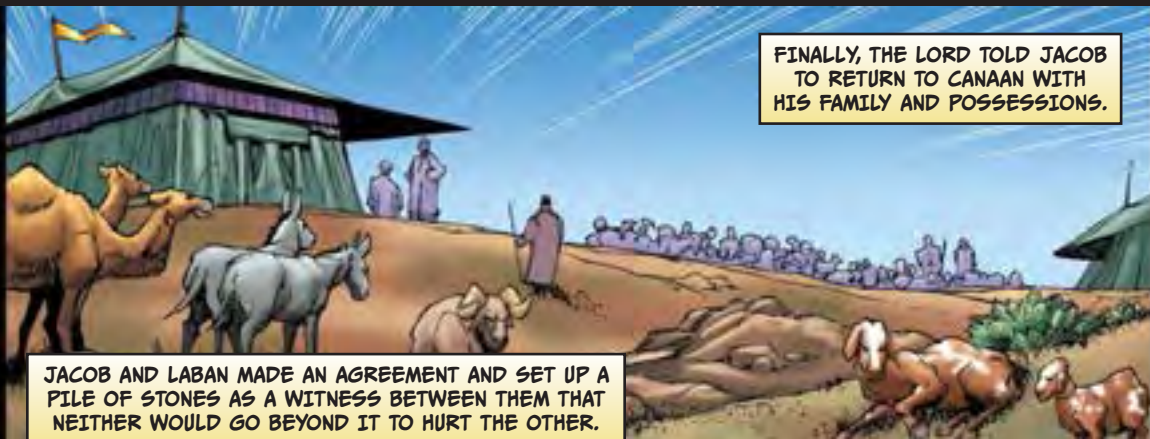
COME WITH ME! MY FATHER WILL BE OVERJOYED!

FATHER! THE SON OF YOUR SISTER REBEKAH HAS COME TO US!

A man in a brown tunic and dark pants is shown from the side, working in a field of tall, golden-brown grass. He is holding a wooden staff or tool. In the background, there are several wooden huts or tents. One woman in a light blue dress stands near a hut on the right, and another woman in a purple dress stands near a hut on the left.

JACOB SERVED LABAN FOR 14 YEARS.

DURING THOSE 14 YEARS, JACOB MARRIED LEAH AND RACHEL, LABAN'S DAUGHTERS, HAD 11 SONS AND 1 DAUGHTER, AND GATHERED MANY ANIMALS.

A wide landscape view showing a caravan of animals, including camels, donkeys, and sheep, moving across a dry, hilly terrain. In the background, a large green tent with a flag is visible. A man in a purple robe is walking in the distance. The sky is blue with some clouds.

FINALLY, THE LORD TOLD JACOB TO RETURN TO CANAAN WITH HIS FAMILY AND POSSESSIONS.

JACOB AND LABAN MADE AN AGREEMENT AND SET UP A PILE OF STONES AS A WITNESS BETWEEN THEM THAT NEITHER WOULD GO BEYOND IT TO HURT THE OTHER.


A group of people, including men, women, and children, are gathered together. A man in a purple robe is holding a child. The scene is set outdoors with a stone structure in the background.

THE NEXT MORNING LABAN KISSED EACH OF HIS GRANDCHILDREN AND DAUGHTERS GOOD-BYE.



ONE NIGHT ON HIS JOURNEY HOME, JACOB SAW THE ANGELS OF GOD.

HE WAS REMINDED THAT GOD WAS WITH HIM AND CALLED THE PLACE "TWO CAMPS."



GO AHEAD OF US. SPEAK TO MY MASTER AND BROTHER ESAU.

TELL HIM THAT I HAVE BEEN WITH OUR UNCLE LABAN AND HAVE BEEN BLESSED WITH MANY GOODS: CATTLE, DONKEYS, FLOCKS, AND SERVANTS. I HOPE HE WILL BE FRIENDLY TO ME.



A FEW DAYS LATER . . .


WE MET YOUR BROTHER, ESAU, AND HE IS ON HIS WAY TO MEET YOU NOW WITH 400 MEN!

THAT CANNOT BE GOOD. HELP ME NOW TO REORGANIZE INTO TWO GROUPS. WE WILL DIVIDE THE FLOCKS AND HERDS.



IF MY BROTHER ATTACKS ONE GROUP, MAYBE THE OTHER GROUP CAN ESCAPE.

MY GOD, REMEMBER YOU PROMISED THAT I WOULD PROSPER AND MY DESCENDANTS WOULD BE AS NUMEROUS AS THE SANDS ALONG THE SEASHORE.



TOMORROW, TAKE A HERD OF GOATS, THEN SHEEP, THEN CAMELS, THEN COWS, AND THEN DONKEYS. KEEP SOME SPACE BETWEEN YOURSELVES.

WHEN YOU COME TO ESAU, YOU ARE TO SAY, "THESE BELONG TO YOUR SERVANT JACOB AND ARE A GIFT FOR MY LORD ESAU. JACOB FOLLOWS BEHIND US."

JACOB SENT EVERYONE ACROSS THE RIVER, AND HE WAS LEFT ALONE.



ALL THAT NIGHT JACOB WRESTLED WITH A MAN.

MANY INTERPRET THIS EVENT AS A THEOPHANY, A VISIBLE MANIFESTATION OF GOD.



AT DAWN THE MAN TOUCHED JACOB'S HIP SO THE SOCKET CAME OUT OF PLACE.

LET ME GO, FOR THE DAWN IS BREAKING!


I WILL NOT LET YOU GO UNLESS YOU BLESS ME.

YOUR NAME WILL NO LONGER BE JACOB BUT ISRAEL—FOR YOU HAVE FOUGHT WITH GOD AND WITH MEN AND HAVE WON.

AND JACOB CALLED THAT PLACE PENIEL, OR "FACE OF GOD," BECAUSE HE HAD SEEN GOD FACE TO FACE AND WAS SPARED.







AND WHAT WERE ALL THE FLOCKS AND HERDS I MET AS I CAME?

THEY ARE A GIFT, MY LORD, TO ENSURE YOUR FRIENDSHIP.

MY BROTHER, I HAVE PLENTY. KEEP WHAT YOU HAVE FOR YOURSELF.

I INSIST! SEEING YOUR FACE IS LIKE SEEING THE FACE OF GOD.

PLEASE, TAKE THIS GIFT I HAVE BROUGHT YOU.

IF YOU INSIST, THEN I WILL TAKE THEM AS A GIFT FROM YOUR HANDS.

LET'S BE GOING. I WILL LEAD THE WAY.

WE CANNOT.

THE CHILDREN ARE VERY YOUNG, AND WE MUST MOVE AT A SLOW PACE BECAUSE OF THE NURSING LAMBS AND CALVES.

LET ME ASSIGN SOME OF MY MEN TO PROTECT YOU.

IT'S ENOUGH THAT YOU'VE RECEIVED ME WARMLY!

JACOB AND HIS FAMILY SETTLED IN THE LAND OF CANAAN, WHERE HIS FATHER HAD LIVED.

RACHEL HAD A SECOND SON, BENJAMIN.




RACHEL'S FIRST SON, JOSEPH, BROUGHT HIS FATHER A BAD REPORT ABOUT HIS BROTHERS AFTER TENDING THE FLOCKS WITH THEM.



BECAUSE JOSEPH HAD BEEN BORN TO HIM IN HIS OLD AGE, JACOB HAD A BEAUTIFUL ROBE MADE FOR HIM.

LOOK AT THAT, WOULD YOU? HE EVEN GETS HIS OWN SPECIAL COAT.

THERE'S NO DOUBT NOW WHICH OF US IS OUR FATHER'S FAVORITE.



SORRY, SHOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SEE YOU WITH THAT BRIGHT ROBE ON.

FATHER'S LITTLE BOY NEEDS TO TOUGHEN UP.



BUT GOD GAVE JOSEPH A DREAM.

LISTEN TO THIS DREAM. WE WERE TYING UP BUNDLES OF GRAIN. SUDDENLY MY BUNDLE STOOD UP, AND YOUR BUNDLES BOWED LOW BEFORE MINE!

YOU
THINK YOU
WILL BE OUR
KING?

DO YOU
THINK YOU WILL
REIGN OVER US?

YOU
DREAM WHILE
WE WORK.

LISTEN, I
HAD ANOTHER
DREAM I NEED
TO TELL YOU
ABOUT.

WILL
YOUR MOTHER
AND I AND
YOUR BROTHERS
ACTUALLY COME
AND BOW TO THE
GROUND BEFORE
YOU?

WE
TOLD YOU,
FATHER—ALL
DREAMS AND
NO WORK.

THIS TIME THE SUN,
MOON, AND 11 STARS
BOWED LOW BEFORE ME!

THOUGH JOSEPH'S BROTHERS
DISMISSED HIM OUT OF
JEALOUSY, JACOB WONDERED
WHAT THE DREAMS MEANT.



YOUR BROTHERS ARE PASTURING THE SHEEP AT SHECHEM. GO AND SEE HOW THEY ARE GETTING ALONG.



HERE COMES THE DREAMER!

THE MULTICOLORED PEACOCK IN PERSON.

COME ON, LET'S KILL HIM. WE CAN TELL OUR FATHER, "A WILD ANIMAL HAS EATEN HIM."



LET'S NOT KILL HIM. LET'S JUST THROW HIM INTO THIS CISTERN.

REUBEN WAS SECRETLY PLANNING TO RESCUE JOSEPH AND RETURN HIM TO HIS FATHER.



WHAT WILL WE GAIN BY KILLING OUR BROTHER? WE'D HAVE TO COVER UP THE CRIME.

LET'S SELL HIM TO THE ISHMAELITES INSTEAD!