

Key Point

God made the world in six days by the power of His Word. All of creation is God's blessing to us.

Bible Words

By [Christ] all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible. Colossians 1:16

Prayer

Dear heavenly Father, we praise You for the blessing of Your creation and all the blessings You provide every day. Help us be good stewards of Your creation, and forgive us when we aren't. We thank You especially for Your Word, the Bible, that we may know Your truth; for the Sacraments that assure us of Your forgiveness; and for the faith You give us through the Holy Spirit. Be with us this day and forever. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Catechism Connection

Apostles' Creed: First Article

Family Connection

Most parents will agree that good study skills are important. Bible study skills promote a lifetime of study of God's Word. Over the next few weeks in Sunday School, the students will learn basic Bible study skills. Ask your child about the Bible: what it is (God's Word), what *Bible* means ("book"), and how it is divided in structure (Old Testament and New Testament). As your family gathers for devotions, assist your child in looking up the texts used in this week's devotions.

Faith Words

create—God brings into existence everything out of nothing by the power of His Word.

triune—Three in one; God—the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—is a triune God.

Bible—God's inspired Word; a collection of books by many authors about God and His plan for humankind

testament—a formal agreement, or covenant, made by God

Weekly Devotions

Review the First Article and this week's Bible Words (Colossians 1:16) with each day's reading.

Sunday: Read Psalm 33:6, 9. Thank God for His Word, by which everything was created.

Monday: Read Psalm 91:1–12. Thank God that His creation includes angels, who watch over us.

Tuesday: Read Genesis 1:26–28. Praise the triune God for creating us and providing creation as a gift for us.

Wednesday: Read Ephesians 4:24. Thank God especially for His Son, Jesus, who restores us to God's image.

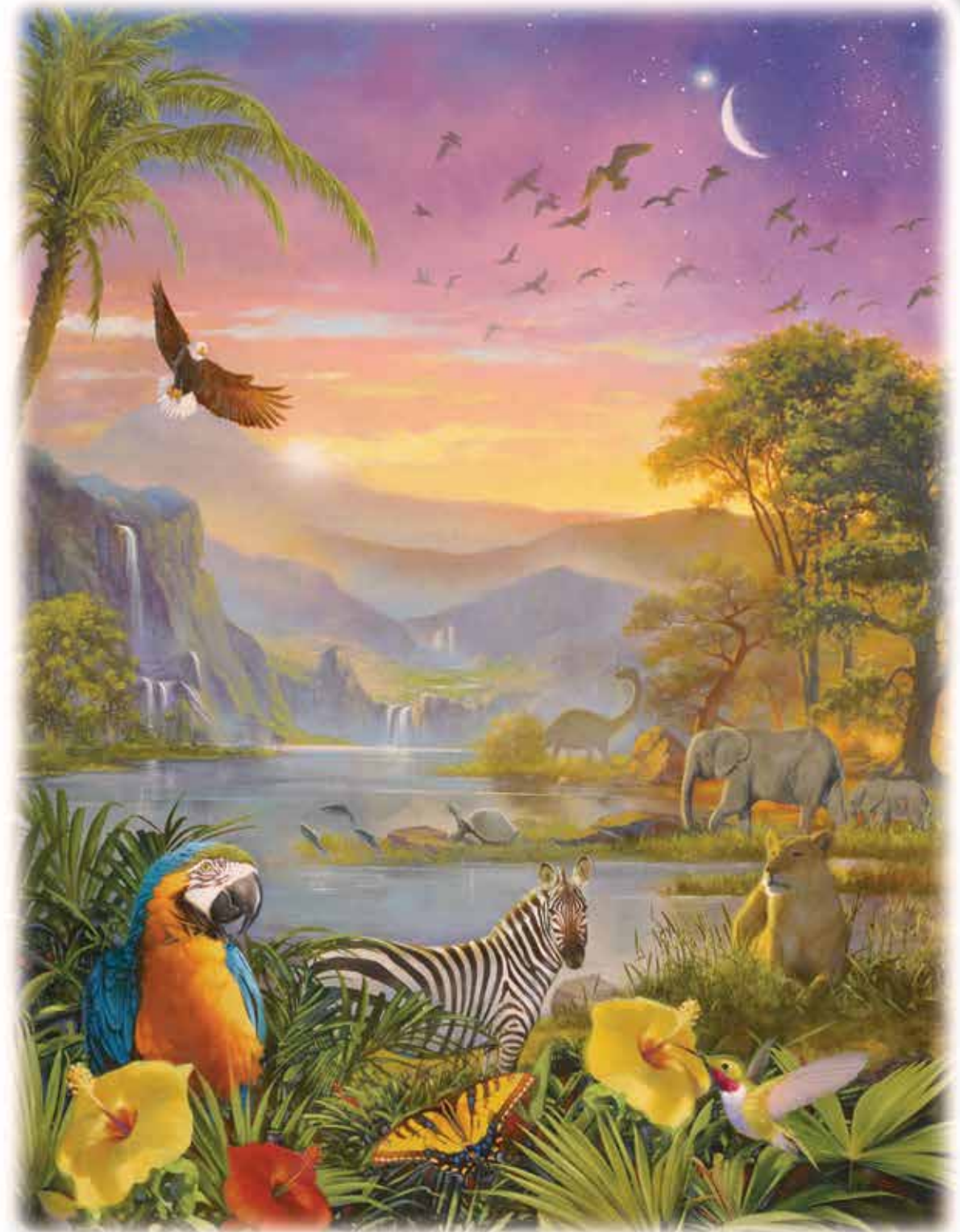
Thursday: Read Psalm 145:15–16. Thank God for providing for us, not just food, but for every need.

Friday: Read Psalm 118:1. Thank God that His love for us never ends and that He always provides for us.

Saturday: Sing or read the hymn "Thy Strong Word" (LSB 578).

God Creates the World

Genesis 1:1–2:3



Painting by Robert Papp. © CPH.

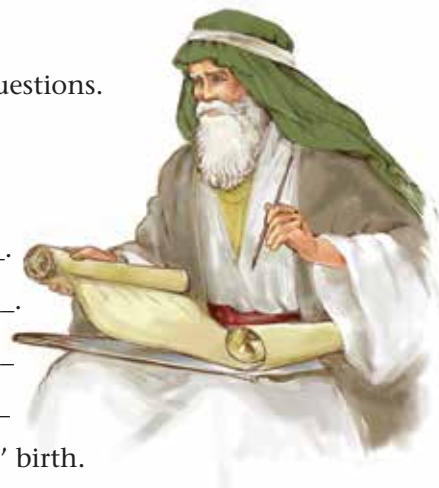
With God's Help

Circle the pictures that show good stewardship of God's blessings to us in creation.



Bible Search

Use your Bible or today's lesson to answer the following questions.



- 1. The word *Bible* means _____.
- 2. The Bible is the Word of _____.
- 3. The first book of the Old Testament is _____.
- 4. The first book of the New Testament is _____.
- 5. How many books are in the Old Testament? _____
- 6. How many books are in the New Testament? _____
- 7. The _____ Testament tells about the time before Jesus' birth.
- 8. The _____ Testament tells about the time since Jesus' birth.
- 9. _____ is the main character of the entire Bible.
- 10. Moses wrote the first five books of the Old Testament. His first book, Genesis, starts on page ____.
- 11. David wrote many psalms, including "The Lord is my shepherd" (Psalm 23:1). Psalm 1 begins on page ____.
- 12. Isaiah wrote some promises that God would save His people. He wrote, "The virgin shall conceive and bear a son" (Isaiah 7:14). Isaiah starts on page ____.
- 13. Luke tells about the life of Jesus. He wrote, "She gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths and laid Him in a manger" (Luke 2:7). Luke starts on page ____.
- 14. Paul wrote many letters to Christians. He wrote, "You have been set free from sin," (Romans 6:22). Paul's longest letter, Romans, starts on page ____.
- 15. Peter wrote two letters to Christians. He wrote, "Men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit" (2 Peter 1:21). First Peter starts on page ____.

Which Gift?

Draw a line from the description on the left to the gift it describes on the right. More than one answer is possible for some.

- Made in six days
- God's gift to us
- Is God's Word
- Provides our earthly needs
- Created by God's Word
- Many authors, all inspired by God
- We receive the Holy Spirit
- One "Author," God Himself
- Provides forgiveness of sins

- Baptism
- Holy Bible
- Creation
- Holy Communion

Key Point

God made us in His image, provides all things for our good, and makes us rulers over the earth and everything in it.

Bible Words

I praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Psalm 139:14

Prayer

Dear heavenly Father, we thank and praise You that You have created us and that You continue to provide everything we need. We know that we sin every day and deserve Your punishment. Please forgive us for Jesus' sake. Thank You for re-creating us in Your image through Word and Sacraments. Amen.

Catechism Connection

Apostles' Creed: First Article

Weekly Devotions

Sunday: Read Colossians 1:16. Read the First Article and Explanation from Luther's Small Catechism.

Monday: Pray for each member of your household by name. Thank God for creating each one special.

Tuesday: Read Genesis 2:15. Talk about the blessings God provides through employment. Thank Him.

Wednesday: Sing or read stanza 1 of "Alleluia! Let Praises Ring" (LSB 822). Thank God for sustaining creation.

Thursday: Sing or read stanza 2 of "Alleluia! Let Praises Ring." Thank God for sending Jesus as our Savior.

Friday: Sing or read stanza 3 of "Alleluia! Let Praises Ring." Pray that the Holy Spirit will strengthen your faith.

Saturday: Sing or read stanza 4 of "Alleluia! Let Praises Ring." Thank God the Father for creating us, Jesus for redeeming us, and the Holy Spirit for keeping us in faith.

Family Connection

When God placed Adam in the Garden of Eden, He gave him the responsibility of tending to the garden (Genesis 2:15). Only after the fall into sin did work become troublesome and difficult. Talk with your children about the blessing of employment as one means by which God cares for His children. Children, too, have a job. During school, they are preparing for the employment or vocation they will have as adults. No matter our age, we are in a vocation—God working through us to care for His creation. We serve the Lord by serving others.

Faith Words

image of God—without sin, perfectly knowing and gladly doing God's will

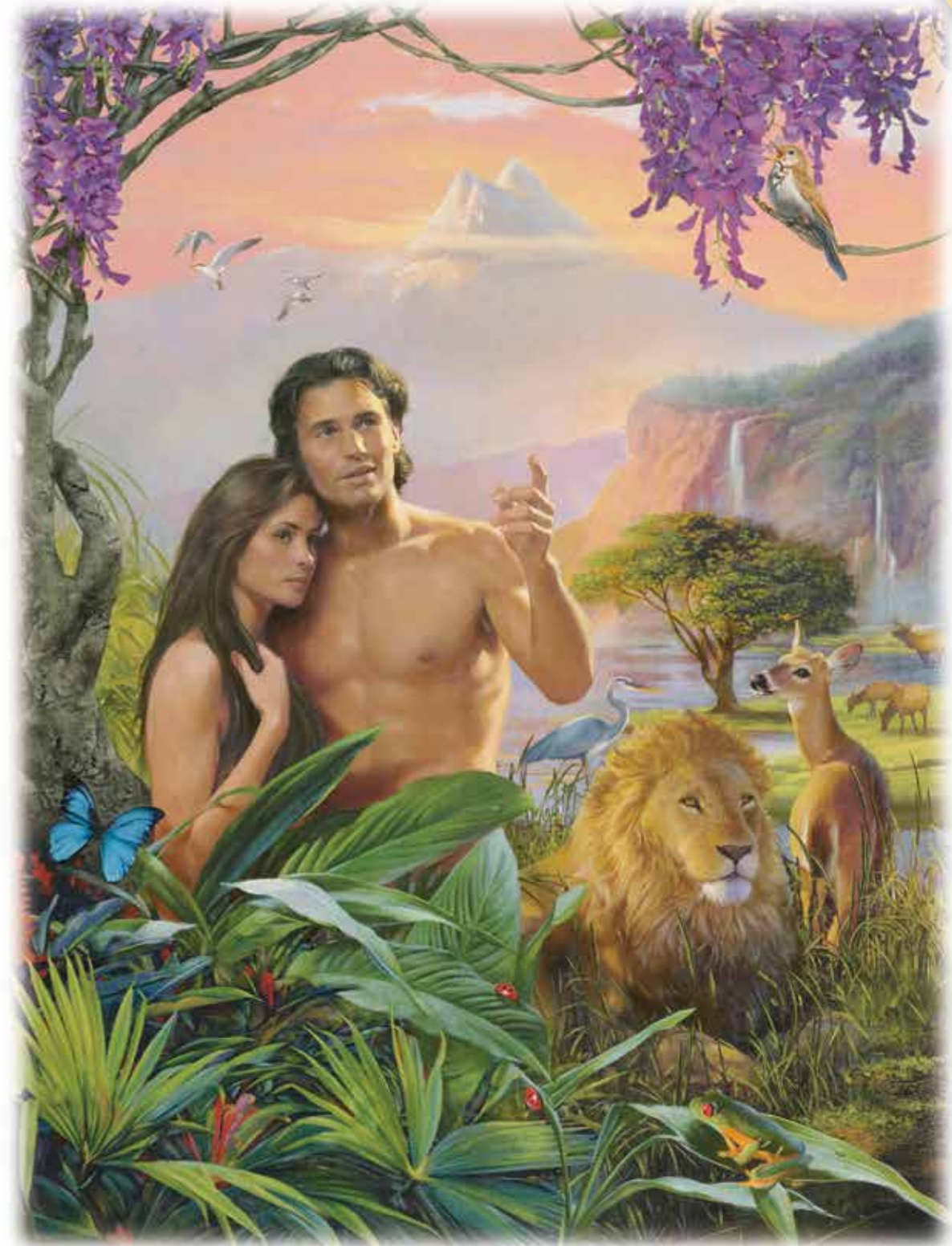
dominion—caring for; ruling over with love and concern

inspiration—God breathed the Holy Spirit into the apostles and prophets, which resulted in the writing of the Holy Scriptures

translation—a change (in speech or writing) from one language to another

God Creates Adam and Eve

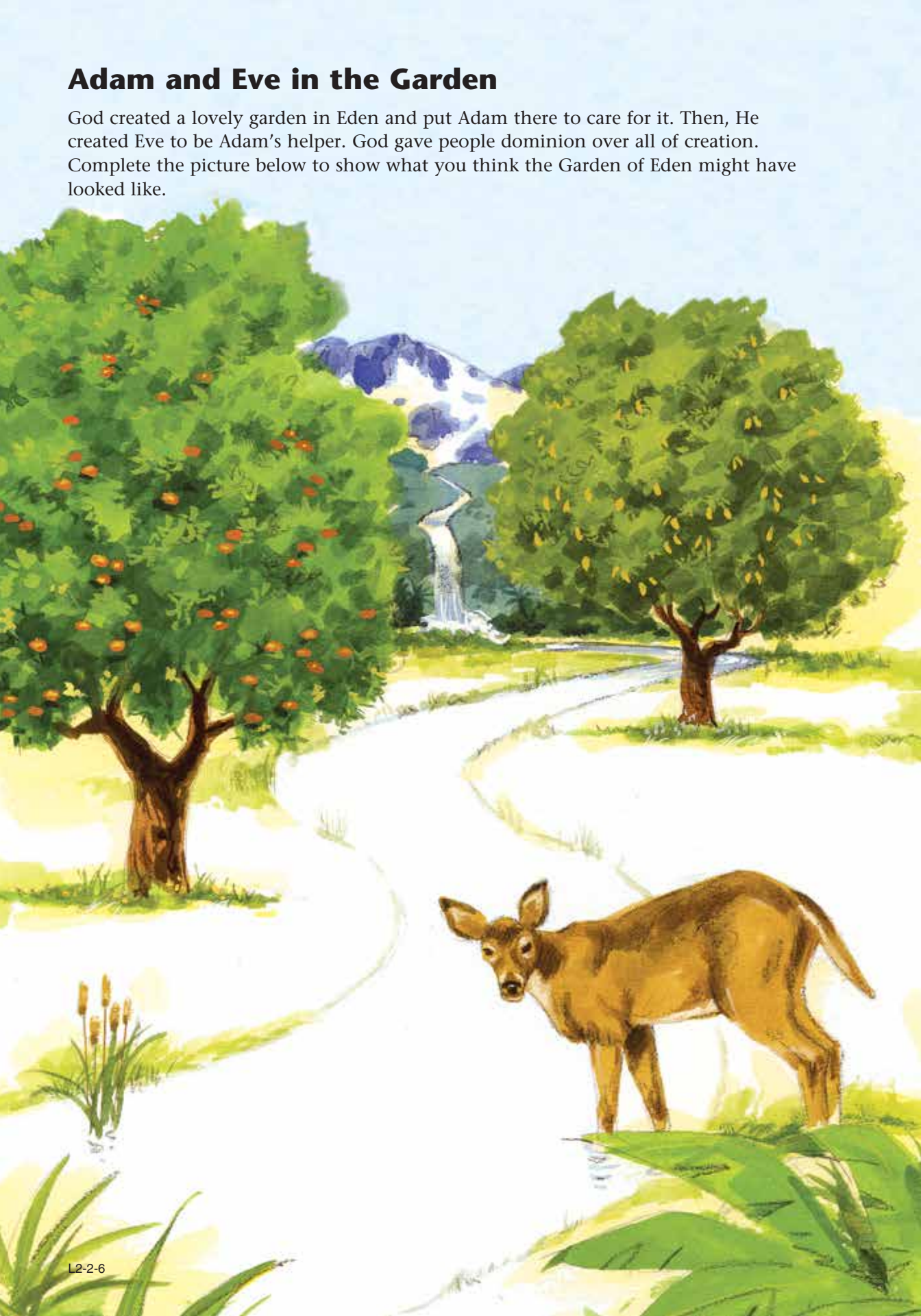
Genesis 1:26–2:25



Painting by Robert Papp. © CPH.

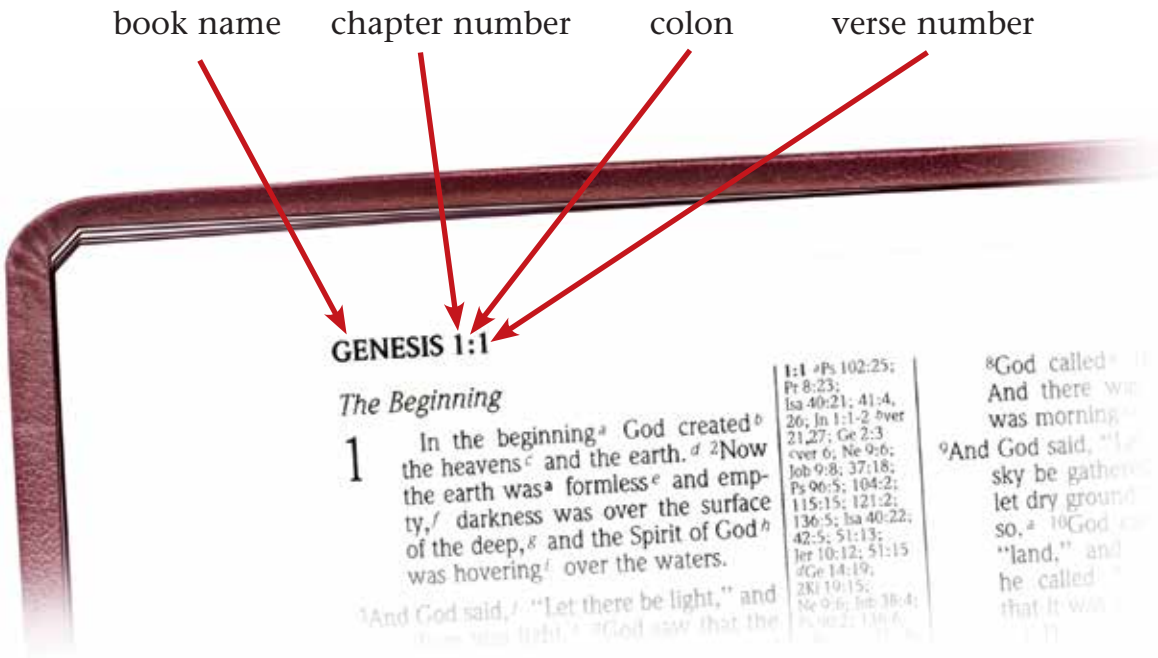
Adam and Eve in the Garden

God created a lovely garden in Eden and put Adam there to care for it. Then, He created Eve to be Adam’s helper. God gave people dominion over all of creation. Complete the picture below to show what you think the Garden of Eden might have looked like.



Find It in Scripture

Bible references are easy to understand. The Bible is divided into books. Each book is divided into chapters. Each chapter is divided into verses. A Bible reference includes the book name, the chapter number, a colon (:), and the verse number. For example, to read the reference below, one would say, “Genesis, chapter one, verse one.” Ephesians 3:14–15 is “Ephesians, chapter three, verses fourteen through fifteen.”



Now, look up the references and fill in the chart below. The first one is done for you. Use the Bible Discovery Guide Bible bookcase and your Bible bookmarks to help you. Say the reference out loud. Find the book. Then, find the chapter by number. Find the tiny numbers in the text that mark the verses. Is it OT or NT? Which section? What page in your Bible? Finally, read the verse.

	Book Name	Chapter Number	Verse Number	OT or NT	Section of Testament	Page Number
Genesis 1:1	Genesis	1	1	OT	Book of Moses	1
Acts 17:26						
Psalms 103:20–21						
Colossians 3:10						
1 Timothy 6:20–21						
Matthew 3:17						

Bible Discovery Guide

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God Creates a World and a People Old Testament 1



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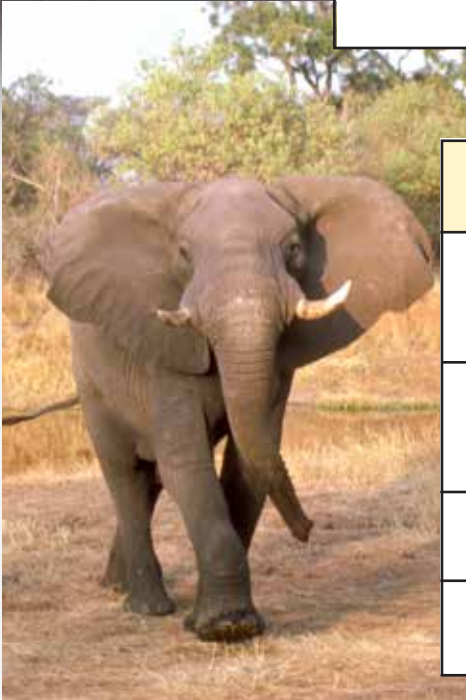
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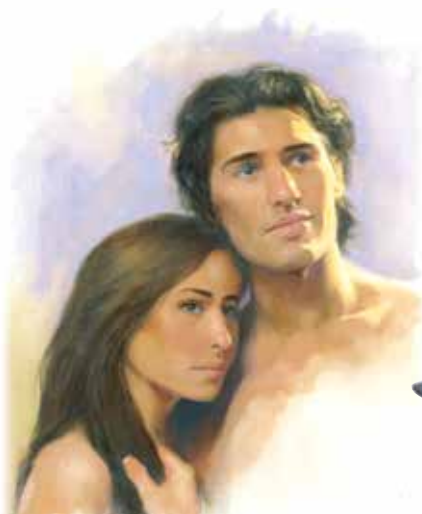
IN THE BEGINNING



ON DAY	GOD MADE	IT SAYS SO IN	AND GOD
One	Light; Day and Night	Genesis 1:3–5a	saw that it was good.
Two	Heaven	Genesis 1:6–8a	
Three	Earth and Seas; Plants	Genesis 1:9–13	saw that it was good.
Four	Sun, Moon, and Stars	Genesis 1:14–19	saw that it was good.
Five	Sea Creatures and Birds	Genesis 1:20–23	saw that it was good.
Six	Earth Creatures; Man and Woman	Genesis 1:24–25; Genesis 1:26–31	saw that it was good; saw that all He made was very good.
Seven	God Rested	Genesis 2:1–3	blessed the seventh day and made it holy.



WHAT GOD SAYS CREATION	WHAT SOME PEOPLE CLAIM EVOLUTION
God created a mature world and everything in it.	New creatures come into being through mutations (changes to cells) that happen by accident.
Man was created distinctly unique from animals and to have dominion over the earth.	Man developed from animals over a long period of time.
The earth was created "very good."	The earth is imperfect and is moving toward perfection as mutations occur.
Sin is the cause of death. God gives life.	Death is necessary for the earth to become better. Survival of the fittest.



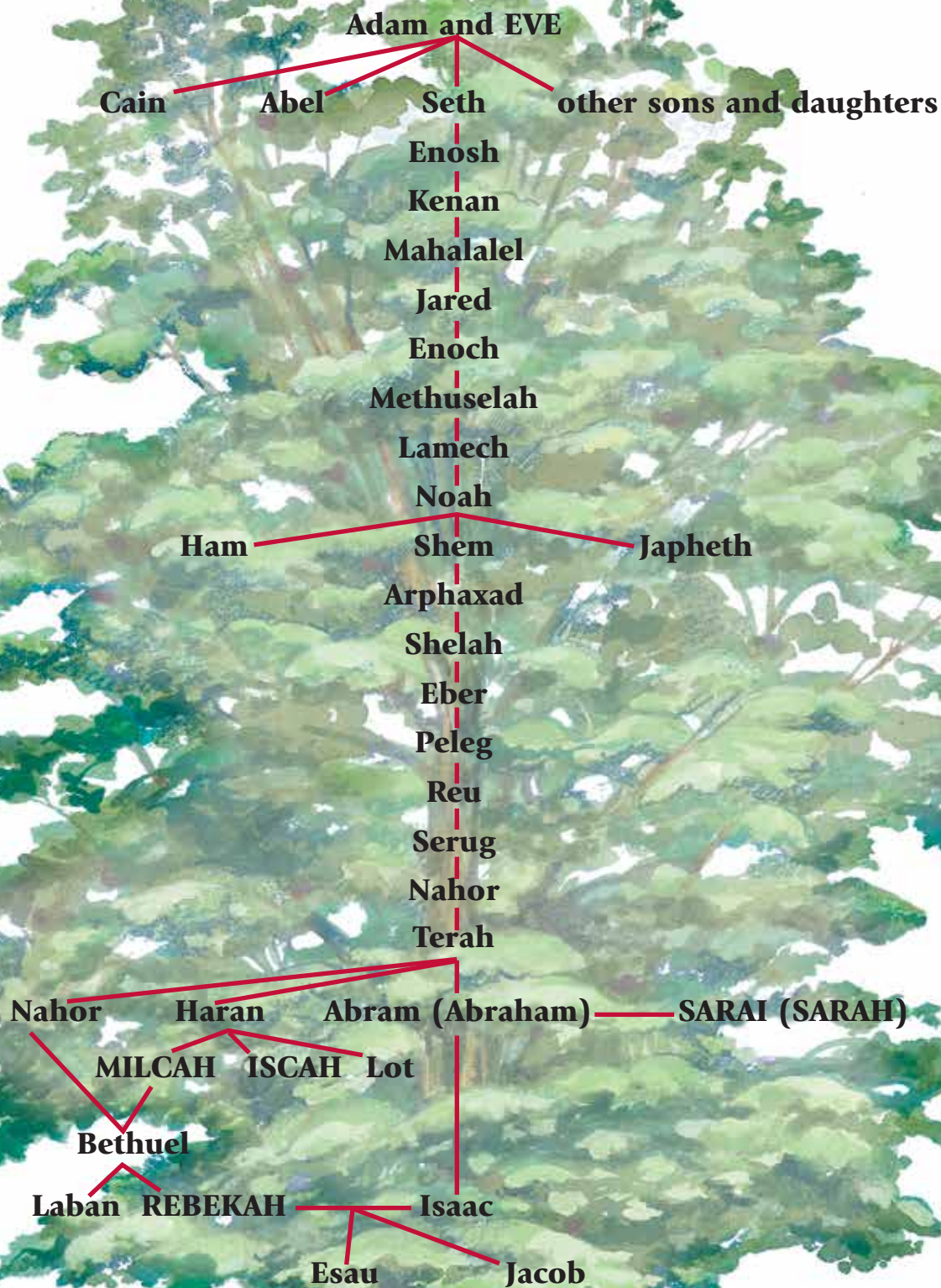
People cannot scientifically prove the theory of evolution. Still, many stubbornly insist that evolution explains how the earth came into being. By faith, Christians believe what the Word of God teaches about creation.



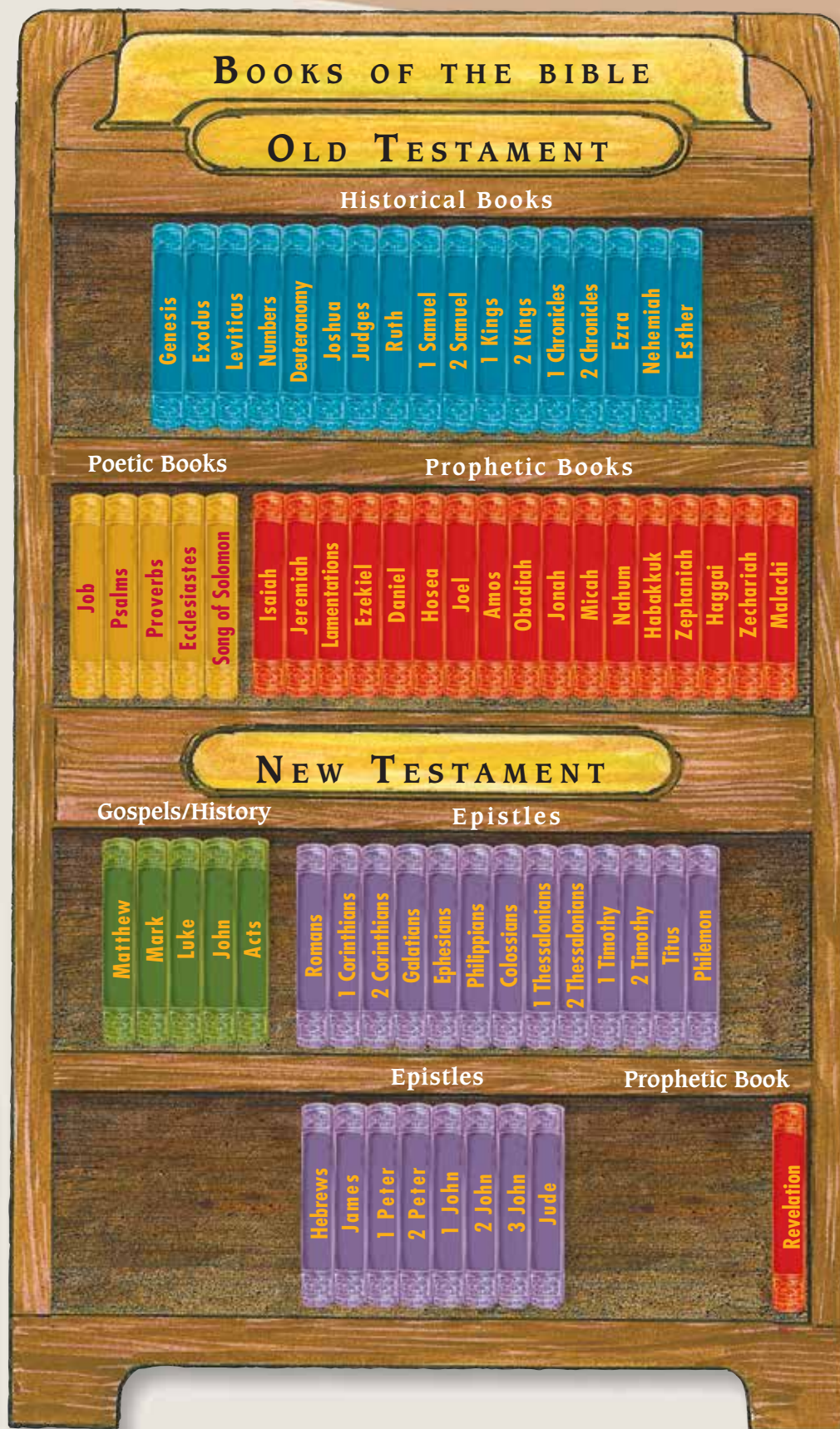
"By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible." Hebrews 11:3

"Guard the deposit entrusted to you. Avoid the irreverent babble and contradictions of what is falsely called 'knowledge,' for by professing it some have swerved from the faith."
1 Timothy 6:20–21

God's Family Tree



BOOKS OF THE BIBLE



Early clay tablet and stylus.



Yellow papyrus paper.



Thick papyrus along river's edge.

GOD'S WORD IN PRINT



Language has been written down for thousands of years. The early Babylonians wrote on clay tablets. A stylus, or chisel-shaped stick, was used to make marks in the soft clay. The clay was then dried or baked. The

Babylonians wrote literary works, letters, bills, and receipts on the tablets. Other very important information was chiseled into stone. The Israelites wrote important documents on



parchment, made from the skin of goats or sheep. The skin was scraped very thin and allowed to dry. Israelites also may have used papyrus, like the Egyptians. The inside layers of the papyrus plant stalk were laid touching each other on a wet, smooth surface. A second layer was crisscrossed on top, and then the whole piece was pressed together.

Hebrew writings on these sheets were written in ink in columns from right to left. The sheets were rolled from the edges to the center to become scrolls. The most famous ancient



scrolls are the Dead Sea Scrolls, discovered in 1947. They had been stored, or perhaps hidden, in caves near the Dead Sea. They are written in Hebrew and Aramaic and are the oldest biblical manuscripts ever discovered. More than two thousand years old, they contain parts of every book in our Bible except Esther.

The first books, as we know them, were handwritten. Because they were made one at a time, they were rare and very expensive. But in the 1430s, Johannes Gutenberg invented a printing press that would make printing cheaper and available to more people. With changeable wooden or metal letters, its basic design was used and improved into the twentieth century. In 1452, the Gutenberg Bible became the first book to be mass-produced.

God's inspired Word was first written down in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. As the Scriptures were shared with new groups of people, not everyone could understand these languages. It was necessary to translate the texts, or to rewrite the text into different languages.

The first translations were from Hebrew and Aramaic into Greek, which was a common language among first-century Christians. Later, in the fourth century AD, Latin had become a common language, and the texts were translated into Latin. The most famous of these Latin translations was the Latin Vulgate, which was used through the Middle Ages (476–1450).

By the 1300s, the common people could no longer read Latin. They had to rely on the clergy to teach them God's Word. The clergy did not always teach God's true Word. Reformers like John Wycliffe and William Tyndale translated the Bible into English in the late 1300s. Martin Luther translated the Bible into German around 1522. By 1800, there were portions of Scripture translated into sixty-six different languages. Today, portions of Scripture are translated into over twenty-three hundred languages, and the complete Bible is available in over four hundred languages.



Gutenberg press.

Lutheran Bible Translators (LBT) is an independent organization that recruits Lutherans to be missionaries. For more than fifty years, LBT missionaries have worked to translate Scripture so that people have an opportunity to read God's Word in their own language. Today, there are about seven billion people in the world. About seven million people have access to God's Word with help from LBT. Still, there are forty-five hundred languages that have no Bible translation. There is still much work to be done to share Scripture with all nations.

The Lutheran Heritage Foundation is involved in making confessional Lutheran materials available in the languages of people around the world. Hundreds of translators, reviewers, and editors help provide resources to aid in the growth of the Church. LHF produces books in eighty languages, which are used in seventy-two countries, including the United States. It also partners with other Lutheran church bodies to meet the needs of the people.



Luther's seal.

WORK BEFORE AND AFTER SIN ENTERED

Work in the Garden of Eden for Adam was a blessing. Adam tended the garden with loving hands. Work was a chance for Adam to admire and marvel at the wonderful creation God had put in his care. It was a chance to use his intelligence as he named the animals. He was able to plan his work so that he could follow God's command to subdue the earth. Work was a chance to use his physical strength and abilities to keep God's garden beautiful. Adam didn't have to work alone. God made Eve as his helper. Work provided Adam and Eve meaningful activity to fill their days.



Harvesting grain in India.

An Arab shepherd herds his sheep.



THE WORLD

After sin entered the world, work became difficult. God cursed the ground because of sin. Thorns and thistles made cultivating difficult. Growing the food necessary for his family kept Adam working very hard, sweating day after day. But hard work, though much more difficult than before, was still a blessing. Through Adam's hard work, God still provided the food that Adam's family ate. Work was an opportunity to take his mind off his sin, to keep him humble before God. Hard work gave Adam and Eve a common goal for their family.

They, along with their sons, learned farming and shepherding. Cain's work and the sacrifice he brought were just as honorable as Abel's, but Cain's heart was not right (Genesis 4:5-7). He had lost his faith and trust in God. There was no satisfaction in his work nor blessing in his sacrifice. Cain continued to build resentment toward his brother Abel.

Still today, God's thankful people approach their hard work with diligence, blessed by God to provide for themselves and their families.

