



The Classic Edition
**A CHILD'S GARDEN
of BIBLE STORIES**

By Arthur W. Gross
Illustrated by Marilyn Barr

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FOREWORD



It is important for children to know Bible stories as early as possible. The stories in this book have been adapted so children will be able to read them with fluency and enjoyment. Vocabulary and sentence lengths have been taken into account and are on the level of the young reader.

Parents and teachers of children not yet able to read will find *A Child's Garden of Bible Stories* a valuable aid. The Bible stories may be read as is or used as a basis for storytelling. Biblical accuracy has been maintained in the adaptation.

The 60 stories (28 Old Testament and 32 New Testament) provide a progressive, unified account of man in his relationship to God—man in the state of innocence, man in the state of sin, and man reclaimed through faith in the atoning sacrifice of Jesus, the Son of God.

May this book delight the hearts of many young children and awaken in them a lifelong interest in the timeless truths of the Bible.

ARTHUR W. GROSS



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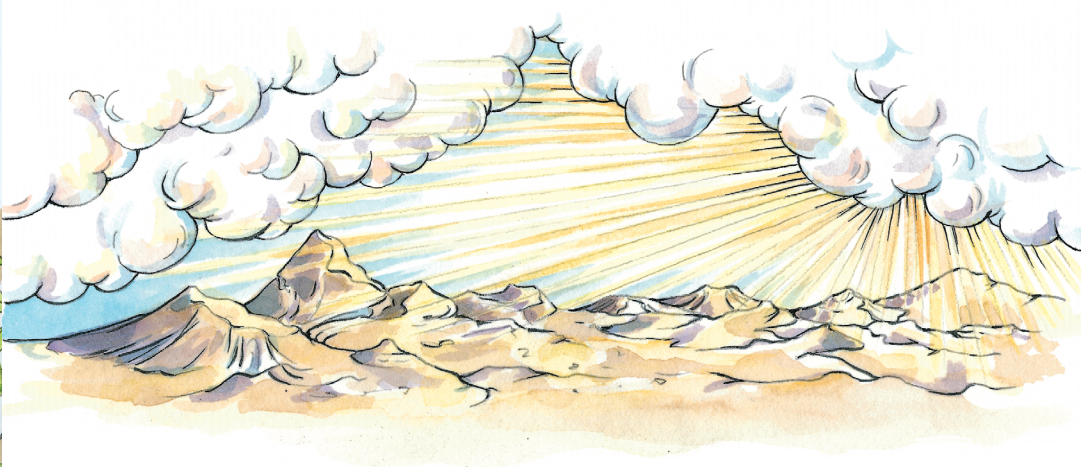




THE OLD TESTAMENT







God Makes the World

Long, long ago there was no world. There were no birds and bees, no fields and flowers, no lakes and rivers, no sun, no moon, and no stars. There were no people either. There was nothing at all. Only God was there.

Then God made the world. He made the heavens and the earth. He made all there is out of nothing. God made the world in six days. He made a part of it each day.

Whenever God made something, He just said, “Let it be made,” and it was made.

At first it was dark all around. So God said, “Let there be light.” As soon as God said this, there was light. It was as bright as day.

The next day God spoke again and made the blue sky high above us, just as we see it now.

After this God told the water to gather in certain

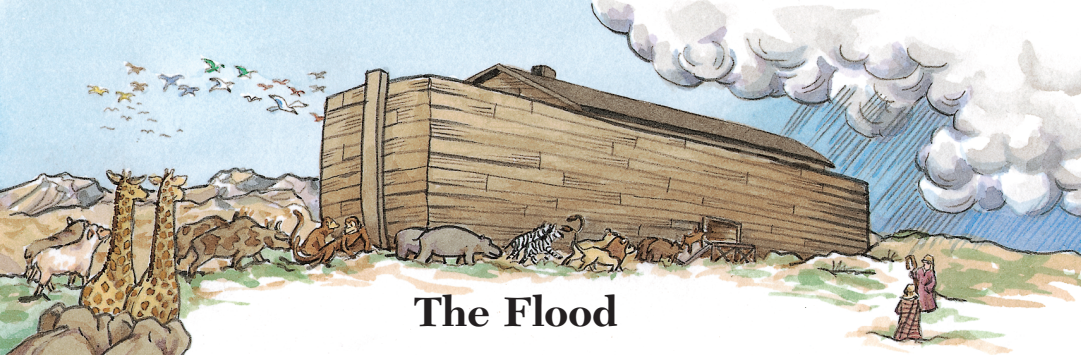
places. In this way, He made the rivers, the lakes, and the oceans. In between was the dry land.

But nothing grew on the land. There were no trees, bushes, or flowers anywhere. So God spoke and made the plants. Green grass covered the fields. Pretty flowers of many colors grew out of the ground. There were also bushes and trees of every kind. Many of the bushes had berries, and many of the trees had fruit. God gave the plants seeds so more could always grow.

God made still more. He spoke again, and at once the sky was filled with lights. He made the sun and the moon, and all the stars that twinkle at night.

The earth was beautiful now, but God made it even better. God spoke once more and made fish to swim in the waters and birds to sing in the trees. Then, on





The Flood

Many more people were born and filled the earth God had made. Some of the people loved and obeyed God. Others did not love and obey God. Soon many of the people who loved God started to sin, just like everyone else. God was very angry because of their sin. He said, “I will have to punish the people. I will send a flood to cover the earth and everyone in it.”

There was one man who stayed faithful to God. His name was Noah. God wanted to save Noah and his family. He told Noah to build a large boat called an ark. He told him to put food in the ark and to fill it with animals of every kind.

When all of the animals and everyone in Noah’s family were on board, God shut the door.

It began to rain. It rained for 40 days and 40 nights. Every day the water became deeper. At last the water was so deep that it covered all the hills. Everyone and



everything on the earth was destroyed. Only the people and the animals on the ark were safe.

After many days the water began to go away. At last the ground was dry. Then Noah and his family and all of the animals came off the ark. Noah thanked God for saving him and his family.

God put a rainbow in the sky and said, “This is a sign of My promise. Never again will I send a flood to cover the earth. Remember My promise every time you see a rainbow.”

God blessed Noah and said, “Many children will be born in your family so the earth can be filled with people again.” God’s blessing came true.

took his sling and five smooth stones. Then he went out to fight the giant.

Goliath saw that David was just a boy. He laughed and said, “Do you think I am a dog that can be beaten with sticks?”

David said, “God is on my side. He will help me.”

Then David put a stone into his sling and threw it at the giant. The stone sank into his forehead. The giant fell down. David took Goliath’s sword and cut off his head. When the Philistines saw that Goliath was dead, they ran away. Saul’s men ran after them and defeated them.



to the idol. They went to the king and said, “O king, there are three men from the land of Israel who do not obey you. They do not bow down.”

The king came to the three men and said, “If you do not pray to my god, you will be put into a hot furnace. Do you think your God can save you from the fire? Who is your God?”

“Our God is able to save us,” they answered. “But we would not pray to your idol even if our God would let us burn.”

The king was very angry. He said to his men, “Make the fire seven times hotter.” He commanded soldiers to





The New Testament





The Birth of John the Baptist

A short time before Jesus was born, there lived a priest named Zechariah. His wife's name was Elizabeth. Zechariah and Elizabeth were very old, and they had no children.

One day a wonderful thing happened. While Zechariah was at work in the temple, an angel suddenly stood before him. Zechariah was afraid.

“Do not be afraid,” said the angel. “God has heard you pray. He will give you a son. You shall call your son John. John will be great in the sight of the Lord. He will prepare people for the coming of the Lord.”

Zechariah did not believe the angel. So the angel said, “I have been sent by God. Because you did not believe



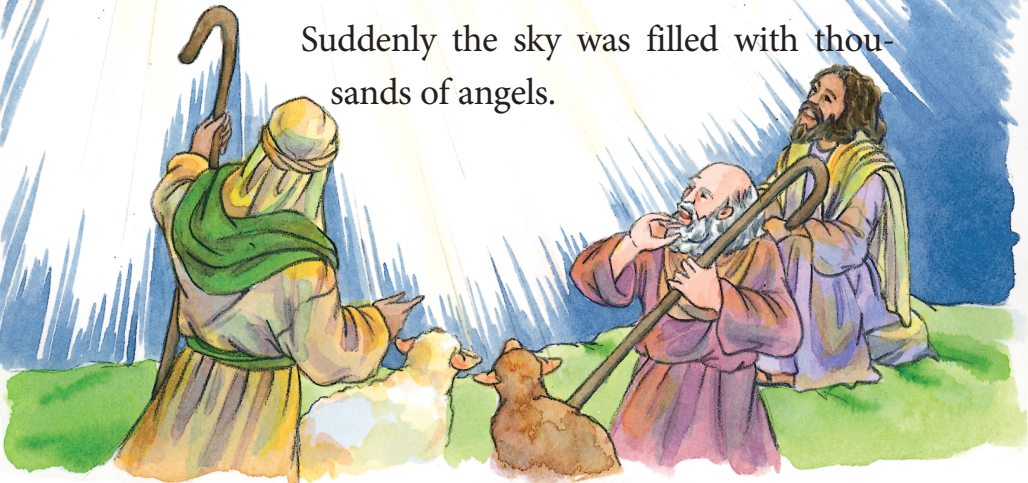
Shepherds Find the Savior

On the night when Jesus was born, shepherds were watching their sheep in a field near Bethlehem. It was quiet and dark.

Suddenly a bright light shone around them. The shepherds saw an angel in the light and were afraid.

“Do not be afraid,” said the angel. “I bring you good news. The news is for all people. Jesus the Savior is born. You will find Him in Bethlehem in a stable.”

Suddenly the sky was filled with thousands of angels.



Jesus took Peter by the hand and said, “Peter, did you suddenly think that I would let you go down?”

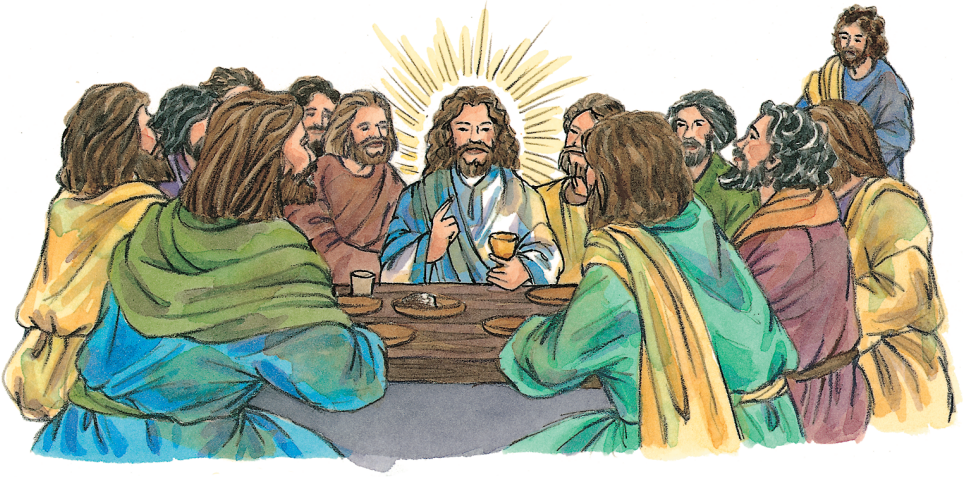
Jesus and Peter stepped into the boat. At once the wind stopped. Everyone in the boat said to Jesus, “Surely, You are the Son of God.”



They said, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest.”

There were enemies of Jesus in the crowd. They became angry when they heard the friends of Jesus honoring Him. They called a meeting and made plans to kill Jesus.





Judas Turns against Jesus

The enemies of Jesus made a friend named Judas. He was one of Jesus' disciples. One day Judas met with the enemies of Jesus.

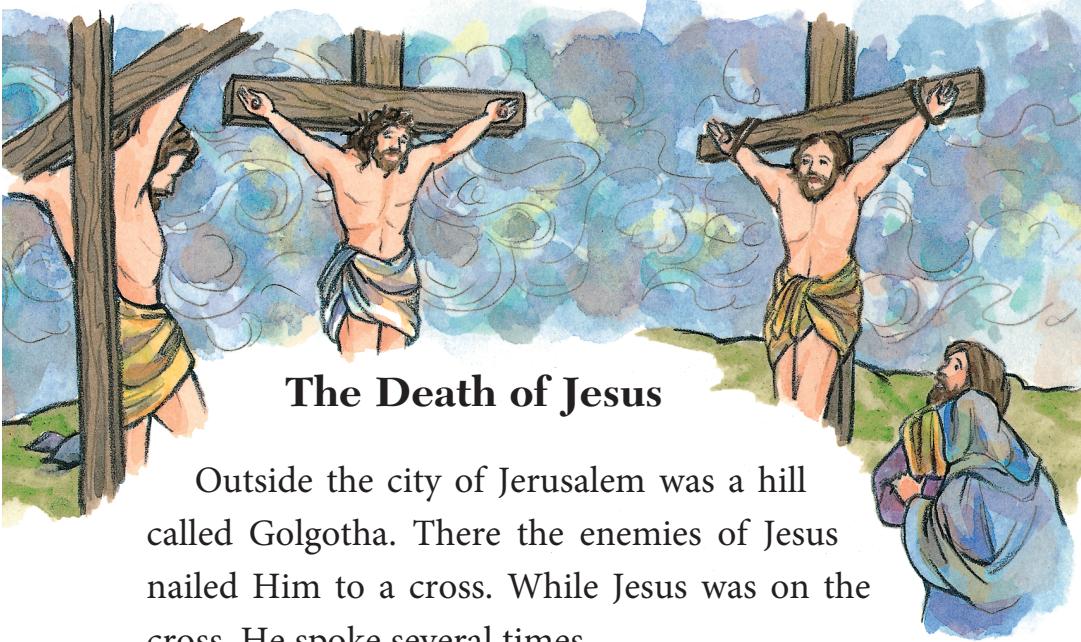
He said, "What will you give me if I tell you when and where to capture Jesus?"

"We will give you 30 pieces of silver," they answered.

Judas took the offer. He watched for a chance to capture Jesus. The time came right after Jesus and His disciples ate their last meal together.

On Thursday night, Jesus sent Peter and John to find a place for them to eat their Passover meal. They found a room and got the meal ready.

Jesus and His 12 disciples went to the room and sat



The Death of Jesus

Outside the city of Jerusalem was a hill called Golgotha. There the enemies of Jesus nailed Him to a cross. While Jesus was on the cross, He spoke several times.

He prayed for His enemies. He said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”

Two thieves were crucified with Jesus. One of them was sorry for his sins and believed in Jesus.

Jesus said to him, “Today you will be with Me in heaven.”

Jesus looked down from the cross and saw Mary, His mother. He also saw His disciple John.

He said to his mother, “John will take care of you like a son takes care of his mother.”

To John, He said, “See, this is your mother.”

Jesus was very thirsty. He said, “I thirst.” Some soldiers gave Him vinegar to drink.

Then Jesus said, “It is finished.”