

The Forever God



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Books by Harold Lerch:

Did God Really Say That? Fairfax, Virginia, Xulon Press, 2002, is about our loving Creator and his timeless commandments.

God's People, God's Plan, Fairfax, Virginia, Xulon Press, 2002, proclaims Messiah Jesus to God's Chosen People.

Two Wrongs Don't Make a Right, but Three Lefts Do, Fairfax, Virginia, Xulon Press, 2003, The wisdom of Solomon, Jesus, and others.

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We thank Mariah for her help.

Bible References

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God Was Always Here

Did you ever wonder where God came from? God was here before us. He was here forever. He is the Forever God.

How do we know? The Bible tells us so. The Bible tells us about God.

God told men a long time ago to write His words in a book called the Bible. The Bible tells us about the Forever God. The Bible tells us that God made us. The Bible tells us that God loves us.



From the Bible:

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. Genesis 1:1-2 KJV.

Before anything else existed, there was Christ, with God. He has always been alive and is himself God. John 1:1 LVB.

Creator

Did you ever wonder where you came from? How about where the sun, moon, and stars came from? How about where the dinosaurs and all the other animals came from?

The Bible tells us that God made everything. God made the sun, moon, stars, and sky. God made the oceans and land. After God made those things, He made all the things that live and breathe. He made the trees, flowers, and grass. He made the birds, fish, puppies, and kittens. God saved the best for last.

Do you know what God made last? People! He made the first man and woman. Their names were Adam and Eve. They had many children and grandchildren.



³Then God said, "Let there be light." And light appeared. ⁶And God said, "Let the vapors separate to form the sky above and the oceans below." ⁹"Let the water beneath the sky be gathered into oceans so that the dry land will emerge." And so it was. Then God named the dry land "earth," and the water "seas." ¹¹"Let the earth burst forth with every sort of grass and seed-bearing plant, and fruit trees with seeds inside the fruit, so that these seeds will produce the kinds of plants and fruits they came from." ^{14,15}Then God said, "Let bright lights appear in the sky to give light to the earth and to identify the day and the night; they shall bring about the seasons on the earth, and mark the days and years, and let them be lights to give light upon the earth." And it was so. ²⁰Then God said, "Let the waters teem with fish and other life, and let the skies be filled with birds of every kind." ²⁵God made all sorts of wild animals and cattle and reptiles. And God was pleased with what he had done. From Genesis 1 LVB.

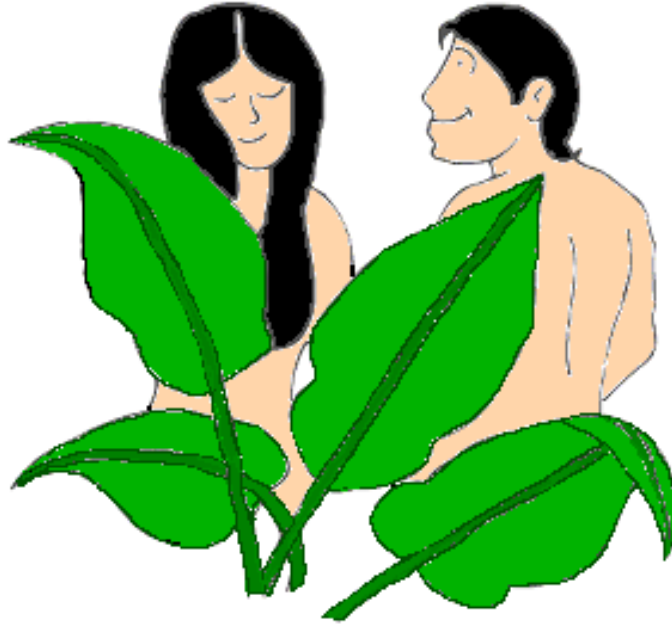
Then God said, "Let us make a man --someone like ourselves, to be the master of all life upon the earth and in the skies and in the seas." Genesis 1:26 LVB.

All Was Good

God made all things in six days. Then God said it was very good.

Adam, Eve, and the animals lived in a beautiful garden. The garden was called Eden. God gave them yummy fruits and vegetables to eat.

Did you know they did not eat meat back then? It was a perfect world. Animals did not eat meat, either. All lived in peace.



Then God looked over all that he had made, and it was excellent in every way. Genesis 1:31 LVB.

Then the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, to the east, and placed in the garden the man he had formed. The Lord God planted all sorts of beautiful trees there in the garden, trees producing the choicest of fruit. At the center of the garden he placed the Tree of Life, and also the Tree of Conscience, giving knowledge of Good and Bad. Genesis 2:8-9 LVB.

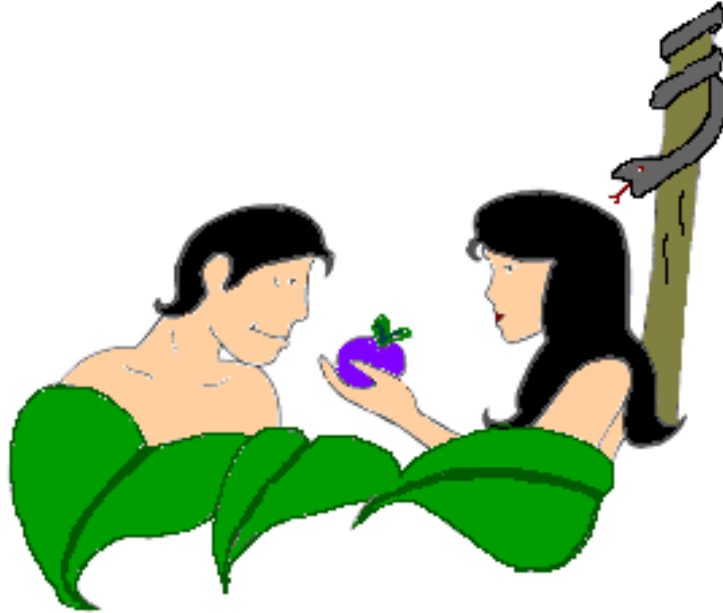
So the Lord God formed from the soil every kind of animal and bird, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever he called them, that was their name. Genesis 2:19 LVB.

Satan

God made the angels. He made them to watch over us and keep us safe.

Some of the angels did not want to help us. God made these bad angels leave heaven. One of the angels was named Lucifer. We call him Satan.

God told Adam and Eve not to eat fruit from one special tree. Satan went to the Garden of Eden. He tricked Eve into eating fruit from the special tree. Eve gave some of the fruit to Adam. He ate it, too. That made God sad.



For he orders his angels to protect you wherever you go. Psalms 91:11 LVB.

How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground—mighty though you were against the nations of the world. For you said to yourself, "I will ascend to heaven and rule the angels. I will take the highest throne. I will preside on the Mount of Assembly far away in the north. I will climb to the highest heavens and be like the Most High." But instead, you will be brought down to the pit of hell, down to its lowest depths. Isaiah 14:12-15 LVB.

Suddenly (Satan) appeared. His tail drew along behind him a third of the stars, which he plunged to the earth. From Revelation 12:3, 4 LVB.

Life After Sin

God was sad that Adam and Eve ate the fruit Satan gave them. God is sad when we do not listen to Him. When we do not listen to God that is called Sin.

Do you think God punished Adam and Eve for sinning? He made them leave the Garden of Eden. God told them that now weeds would grow. God said that they would have to work hard to get food to eat. God told them they would grow old and die.

Do you think Adam and Eve learned their lesson? Did they ever sin again?



The Lord God called to Adam, "Why are you hiding? Have you eaten fruit from the tree I warned you about?" "Yes," Adam admitted, "but it was the woman you gave me who brought me some, and I ate it." Then the Lord God asked the woman, "How could you do such a thing?" "The serpent tricked me," she replied. Then God said to the woman, "You shall bear children in intense pain and suffering. And to Adam, God said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate the fruit when I told you not to, I have placed a curse upon the soil. All your life you will struggle to extract a living from it. Condensed from Genesis 3:9-13, 16-17 LVB.

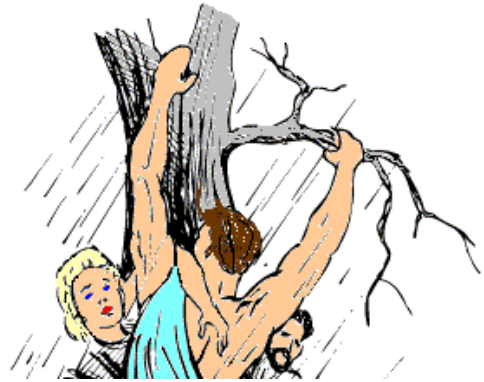
So the Lord God banished him forever from the Garden of Eden, and sent him out to farm the ground from which he had been taken. Thus God expelled him, and placed mighty angels at the east of the Garden of Eden, with a flaming sword to guard the entrance to the Tree of Life. Genesis 3:23-24 LVB.

A Big Flood

Adam and Eve had lots of children. Their children grew up and had children. Soon people lived all around the world. They knew what happened when Adam and Eve sinned. Were they good all the time to please God?

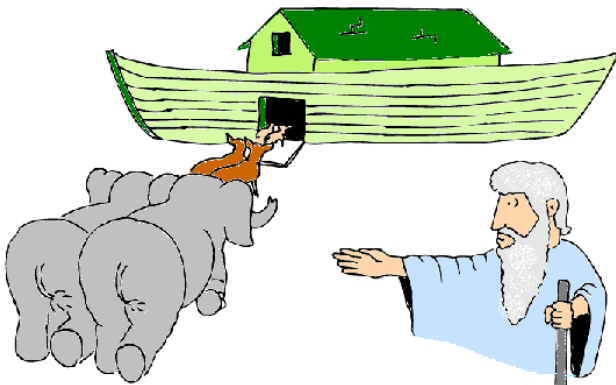
No! The people of the world did not learn their lesson. They did bad things and sinned many times. How do you think this made God feel?

God was sad when He looked down on the earth and saw all the sins of the people. He decided to make a big flood that would cover the earth. The flood would wipe out every breathing thing.



But guess what else God found. God found a man named Noah and his family. God saw that they loved Him. God made a plan to save them.

God told Noah to build a big boat. It was called an ark. God put some of every kind of animal on the ark. God told Noah to take his wife, his sons, and their wives on the ark. God saved Noah's family and some of every kind of animal by keeping them on top of the water during that big flood.



The days of Adam after he became the father of Seth were eight hundred years; and he had other sons and daughters. Genesis 5:4 LVB.

When the Lord God saw the extent of human wickedness, and that the trend and direction of men's lives were only towards evil, he was sorry he had made them. It broke his heart. And he said, "I will blot out from the face of the earth all mankind that I created. Yes, and the animals too, and the reptiles and the birds. For I am sorry I made them." Genesis 6:5-7 LVB.

But Noah was a pleasure to the Lord. Here is the story of Noah: He was the only truly righteous man living on the earth at that time. He tried always to conduct his affairs according to God's will. And he had three sons--Shem, Ham, and Japheth. Genesis 6:8-9 LVB.

Make a boat from resinous wood, sealing it with tar; and construct decks and stalls throughout the ship. Make it 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high. Construct a skylight all the way around the ship, eighteen inches below the roof; and make three decks inside the boat--a bottom, middle, and upper deck--and put a door in the side. "Look! I am going to cover the earth with a flood and destroy every living being--everything in which there is the breath of life. All will die. But I promise to keep you safe in the ship, with your wife and your sons and their wives. Bring a pair of every animal--a male and a female--into the boat with you, to keep them alive through the flood. Bring in a pair of each kind of bird and animal and reptile. Genesis 6:14-19 LVB.

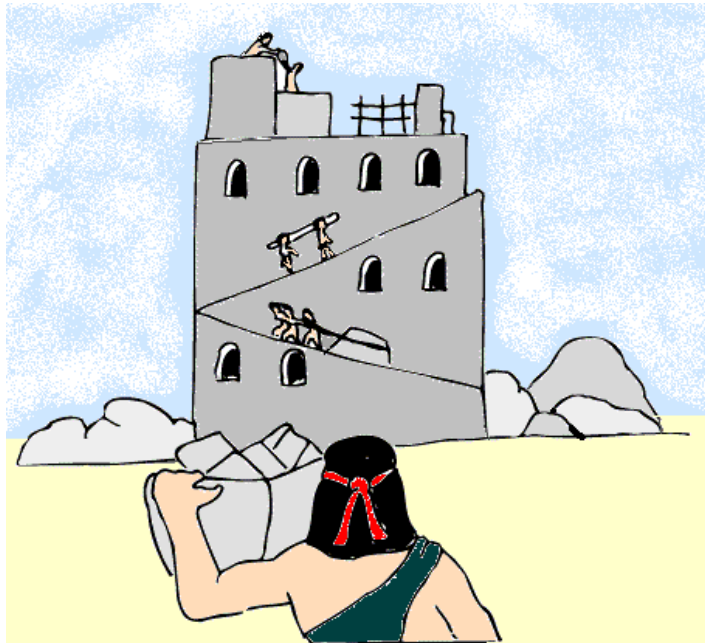
A Big Tower

After the flood, Noah and his family got off the ark. All the animals got off the ark. Noah and his family were thankful to God. They loved God and God loved them.

Noah's family had many children and grandchildren. God told the people to spread out all over the earth. Some of them built a big city with a tall building. They did this so that could stay together. They did not want to spread out. Do you think God was angry again?

Got already made Adam and Eve leave the Garden of Eden. God already made a big flood. What would He do now?

All the people in the world spoke the same language. Now God made them speak different languages. The people got mixed up and scared. They scattered all over the world.



God told Noah and his sons, "I solemnly promise you and your children and the animals you brought with you--all these birds and cattle and wild animals--that I will never again send another flood to destroy the earth. And I seal this promise with this sign: I have placed my rainbow in the clouds as a sign of my promise until the end of time, to you and to all the earth. Genesis 9:8-13 LVB.

Let us go down and give them different languages, so that they won't understand each other's words!" So, in that way, God scattered them all over the earth; and that ended the building of the city. That is why the city was called Babel (meaning "confusion"), because it was there that God confused them by giving them many languages, thus widely scattering them across the face of the earth. Genesis 11:7-9 LVB.

God's People

Noah had a great-grandson. His name was Abraham. Abraham loved God. God was kind to Abraham.

Abraham had a son named Isaac. Isaac was the father of the Jews. God loved the Jews because they loved Him. God promised to take care of them.

God promised to send someone to protect the Jews from their enemies. This someone was called the Messiah. The Messiah would also save them from their sins.

Abraham had a son named Ishmael. He is the father of all Arab nations. Arabs call Abraham the father of their nation, too.



Noah was another who trusted God. When he heard God's warning about the future, Noah believed him even though there was then no sign of a flood, and wasting no time, he built the ark and saved his family. Noah's belief in God was in direct contrast to the sin and disbelief of the rest of the world--which refused to obey--and because of his faith he became one of those whom God has accepted. Hebrews 11:7 LVB.

Abraham trusted God, and when God told him to leave home and go far away to another land which he promised to give him, Abraham obeyed. Away he went, not even knowing where he was going. And even when he reached God's promised land, he lived in tents like a mere visitor, as did Isaac and Jacob, to whom God gave the same promise. Abraham did this because he was confidently waiting for God to bring him to that strong heavenly city whose designer and builder is God. Hebrews 11:8-19 LVB.

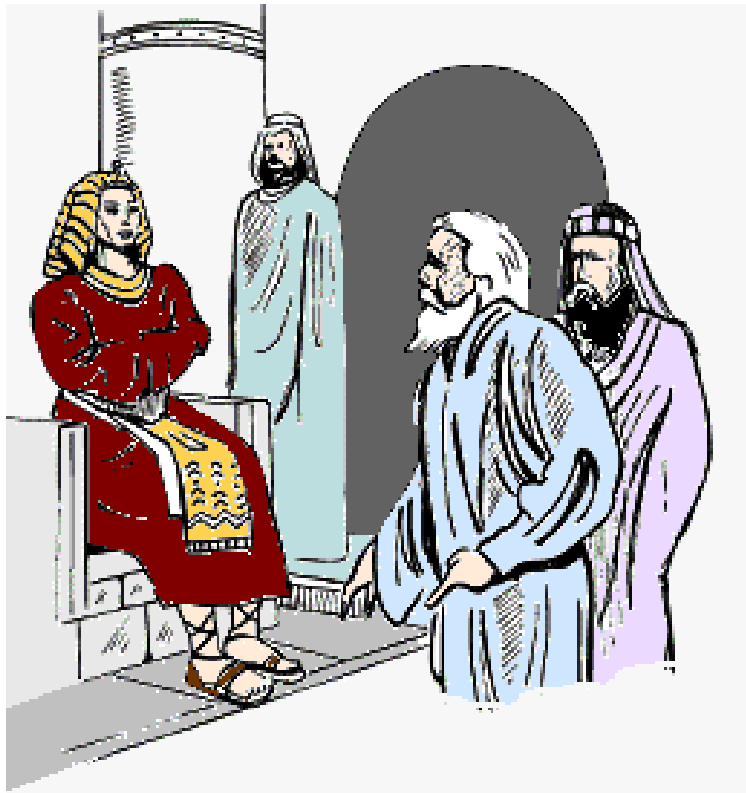
And so a whole nation came from Abraham, who was too old to have even one child--a nation with so many millions of people that, like the stars of the sky and the sand on the ocean shores, there is no way to count them. Hebrews 11:12 LVB.

And as for Ishmael, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly; and I will make him a great nation. But my covenant will I establish with Isaac, which Sarah shall bear unto thee at this set time in the next year. From Genesis 17:20-21 KJV.

Promised Land

The Jews did not always listen to God. God would punish them to teach them lessons. One way was to live as slaves in Egypt for many years. The Egyptian leader was Pharaoh. He was mean to the Jews. The Jews prayed to God to be allowed to leave Egypt.

God heard their prayers. He always hears our prayers. God answers our prayers when the time is right. God caused Pharaoh to let the Jews go. Pharaoh let them go, and then changed his mind. But God helped His people escape safely. He led them to a rich, Promised Land.



“Don't you remember (oh, never forget it!) how continually angry you made the Lord your God out in the wilderness, from the day you left Egypt until now? For all this time you have constantly rebelled against him. Deuteronomy 9:7 LVB.

It is not at all because you are such fine, upright people that the Lord will drive them out from before you! I say it again, it is only because of the wickedness of the other nations, and because of his promises to your ancestors, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, that he will do it. Deuteronomy 9:5 LVB.

Promise of Jesus

God keeps His promises. His best promise was the Messiah.

The Messiah would save us from our sins. The people used to make sacrifices to God to be forgiven of their sins. God promised that the Messiah would be our sacrifice.

People were often mean to the Jews. God promised that the Messiah would beat their enemies.

The Jews prayed that the Messiah would soon come to save them. When would he come?

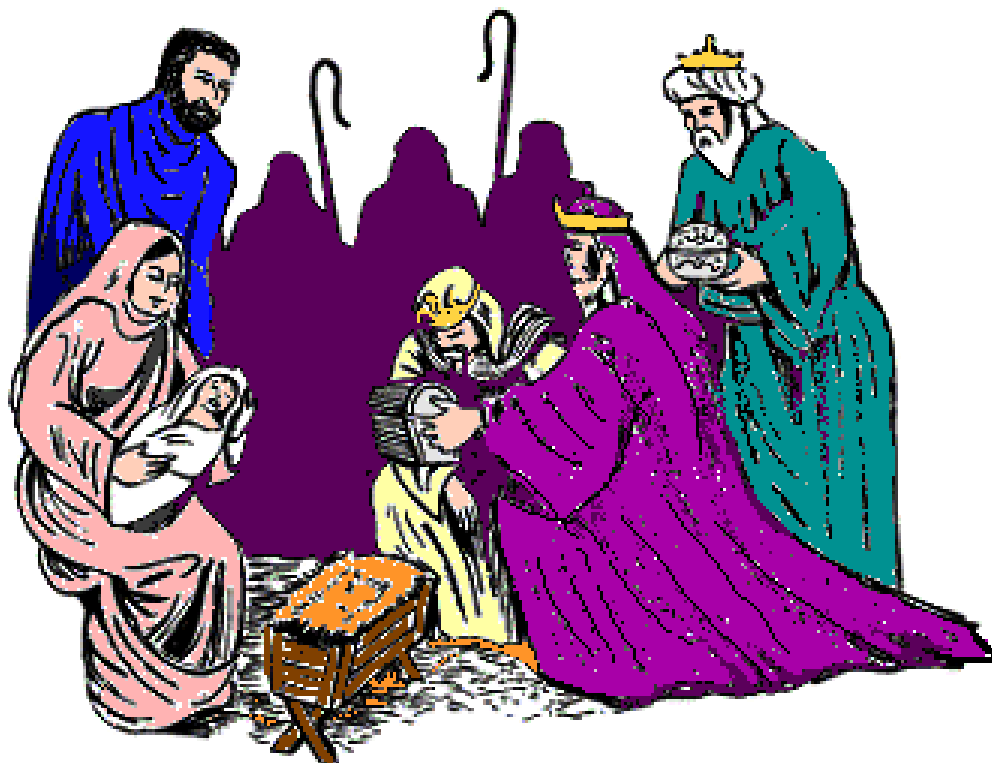


For unto us a Child is born; unto us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder. These will be his royal titles: "Wonderful," "Counselor," "The Mighty God," "The Everlasting Father," "The Prince of Peace." His ever-expanding, peaceful government will never end. He will rule with perfect fairness and justice from the throne of his father David. He will bring true justice and peace to all the nations of the world. This is going to happen because the Lord of heaven's armies has dedicated himself to do it! Isaiah 9:6-7 LVB.

God's Gift

God sent the Messiah. The Messiah was His son. His name is Jesus. Jesus came as an ordinary baby. Mary and Joseph were His parents. They loved Jesus and took good care of Him.

Jesus was born and laid in a manger. A manger is a trough for feeding animals. We call His birthday Christmas. He grew to be very smart. Jesus was special and not like other children. He was the Son of God. Jesus obeyed his parents Mary and Joseph. Most of all He loved God, His Father.



Joseph, son of David, the angel said, don't hesitate to take Mary as your wife! For the child within her has been conceived by the Holy Spirit. And she will have a Son, and you shall name him Jesus (meaning 'Savior'), for he will save his people from their sins. Matthew 1:20-21 LVB.

And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. Luke 2:7 KJV.

And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Matthew 3:16-17 KJV.

Jesus Loves Children

Jesus came to earth to save the Jews from sin. He also came to save anyone who would love Him from sin.

One day a group of children came to see Jesus. The grownups tried to chase them away. Jesus told the children to come to Him. He told the others not to send the children away. He said, "Of such is the kingdom of heaven."

Jesus loved everyone. He healed the sick. He fed the hungry. He told them how they could be saved from their sins. Jesus told the people that they should believe in Him and honor God. If so, someday they would be with Him in heaven.



Little children were brought for Jesus to lay his hands on them and pray. But the disciples scolded those who brought them. "Don't bother him," they said. But Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and don't prevent them. For of such is the Kingdom of Heaven." And he put his hands on their heads and blessed them before he left. Matthew 19:13-15 LVB.

After dark one night a Jewish religious leader named Nicodemus, a member of the sect of the Pharisees, came for an interview with Jesus. "Sir," he said, "we all know that God has sent you to teach us. Your miracles are proof enough of this." Jesus replied, "With all the earnestness I possess I tell you this: Unless you are born again, you can never get into the Kingdom of God." "Born again!" exclaimed Nicodemus. "What do you mean? For only I, the Messiah, have come to earth and will return to heaven again. And as Moses in the wilderness lifted up the bronze image of a serpent on a pole, even so I must be lifted up upon a pole, so that anyone who believes in me will have eternal life. For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son so that anyone who believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:1-4, 13-16 LVB.

Jesus Lives

Some people got angry with Jesus. They did not believe that He was the Son of God. They put Him to death by hanging Him on a cross. We call that day Good Friday.

Jesus died on the cross. His blood ran from His body. His blood ran just like the animal sacrifices people made before Him. His blood was shed to wash our sins away.

Did you ever have a pet that died? Did you bury it? When things die and we bury them, that is the end of them. It was not the end for Jesus. Jesus had promised He would rise from the dead. On the third day He did arise from the dead. We call that day Easter.



As Jesus was on the way to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside, and talked to them about what would happen to him when they arrived. "I will be betrayed to the chief priests and other Jewish leaders, and they will condemn me to die. And they will hand me over to the Roman government, and I will be mocked and crucified, and the third day I will rise to life again." Matthew 20:17-19 LVB.

For I, the Messiah, did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give my life as a ransom for many." Matthew 20:28 LVB.

The angel said, "Don't be so surprised. Aren't you looking for Jesus, the Nazarene who was crucified? He isn't here! He has come back to life! Look, that's where his body was lying. Mark 16:6 LVB.

To Live with God Forever

Jesus rose from the dead on Easter. Then He taught about God for 40 more days. He then rose through the clouds to heaven. Jesus will reign with God forever.

Jesus promised that we could one day go to heaven. He said we could be with Him and God. We could be with everyone who Jesus saved. Everyone who believes on Jesus will be saved.

Did you ever hear grownups say that the best things in life are free? Jesus will save you for free. You cannot spend money to get to heaven. You cannot get to heaven by doing good things. Jesus did it all.

You can be saved if you accept Jesus as your Savior. You can go to heaven if you accept Jesus as your Savior.

To do this, pray:

Dear God, I am sorry that I do bad things sometimes. I know that Jesus can save me from my sins. Jesus, please come into my heart and be my Savior. Please help me try to be good. I know that sometimes I might do bad things. But I know you will forgive me when I ask you to. Thank you for saving me. Amen.



Jesus told them, "You are to go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone, everywhere. Those who believe and are baptized will be saved. But those who refuse to believe will be condemned. Mark 16:15-16 LVB.

And Jesus led them out as far as to Bethany, and he lifted up his hands, and blessed them. And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven. And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy: Luke 24:50-52 KJV.

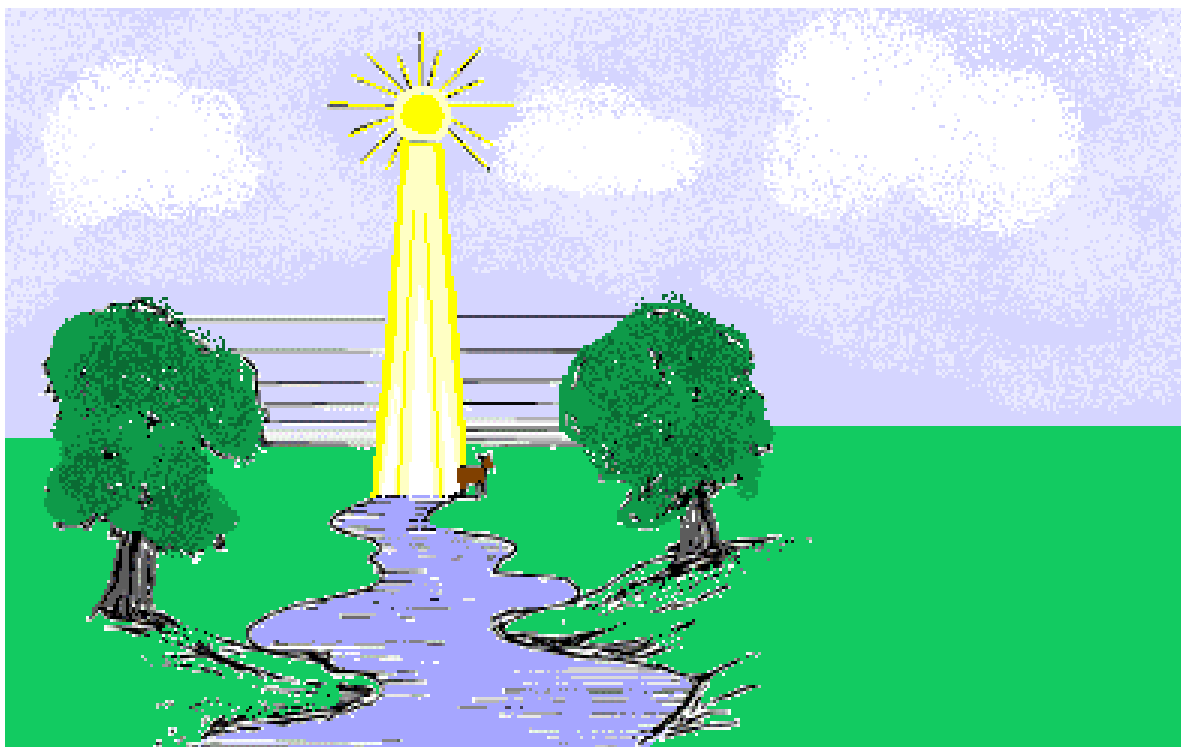
"Let not your heart be troubled. You are trusting God, now trust in me. There are many homes up there where my Father lives, and I am going to prepare them for your coming. When everything is ready, then I will come and get you, so that you can always be with me where I am. If this weren't so, I would tell you plainly. And you know where I am going and how to get there." "No, we don't," Thomas said. "We haven't any idea where you are going, so how can we know the way?" Jesus told him, "I am the Way--yes, and the Truth and the Life. No one can get to the Father except by means of me. John 14:1-6 LVB.



The End?

Most stories have an end. This one has no end. There is more after this story. Someday the Messiah will come again. Jesus will come back. He will defeat all the enemies of those who love Him.

We who love Jesus will rule with Him. We will rule with Him from heaven forever and ever. We will live with The Forever God.



Be happy about it! Be very glad! for a tremendous reward awaits you up in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted too. Matthew 5:12 LVB.

Jesus told her, "I am the one who raises the dead and gives them life again. Anyone who believes in me, even though he dies like anyone else, shall live again." John 11:25 LVB.

Believe on the Lord Jesus and you will be saved. Acts 16:31 LVB.

Because of his kindness you have been saved through trusting Christ. And even trusting is not of yourselves; it too is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good we have done, so none of us can take any credit for it. Ephesians 2:8-9 LVB.

When someone becomes a Christian he becomes a brand new person inside. He is not the same any more. A new life has begun! 2 Corinthians 5:17 LVB.