

WHO IS GOD

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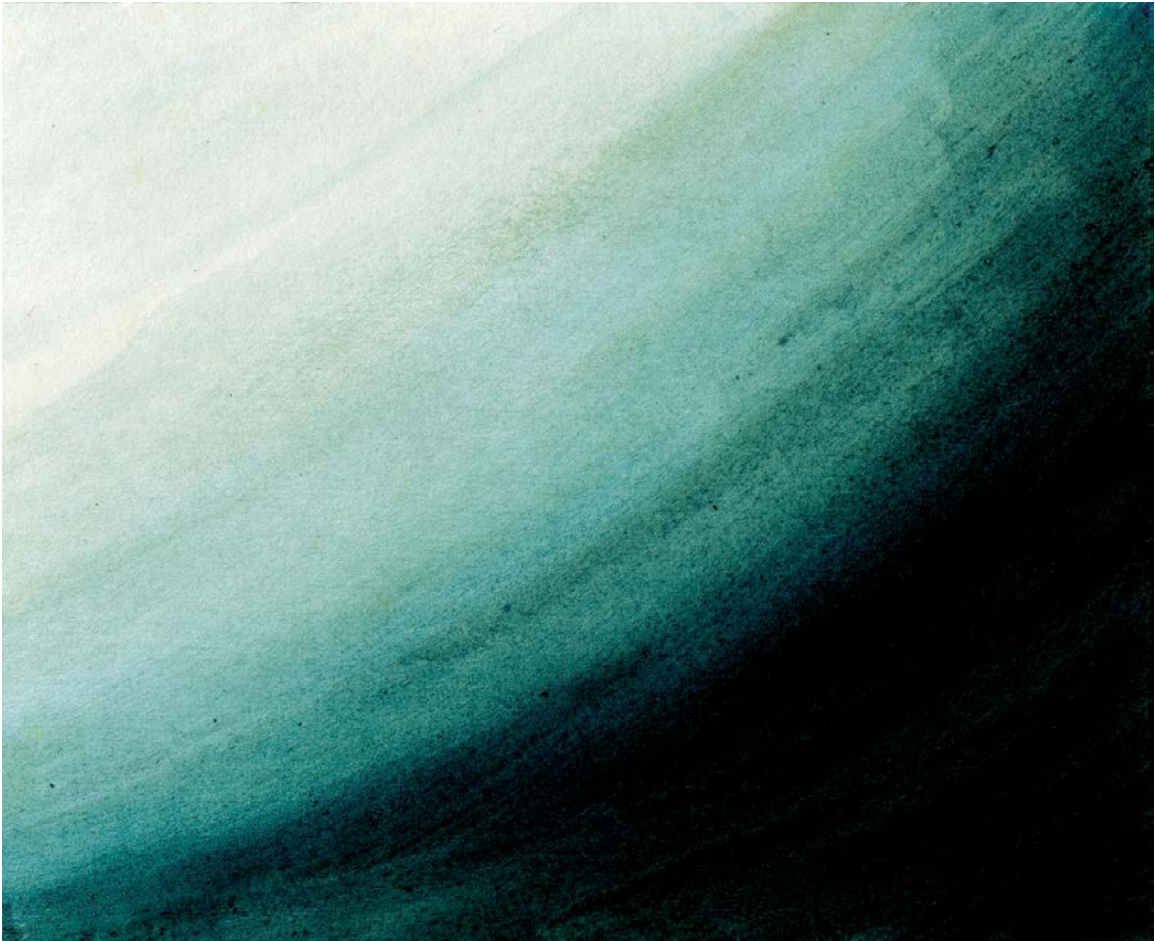
Re-told by
Wholesome Productions

Illustrations by
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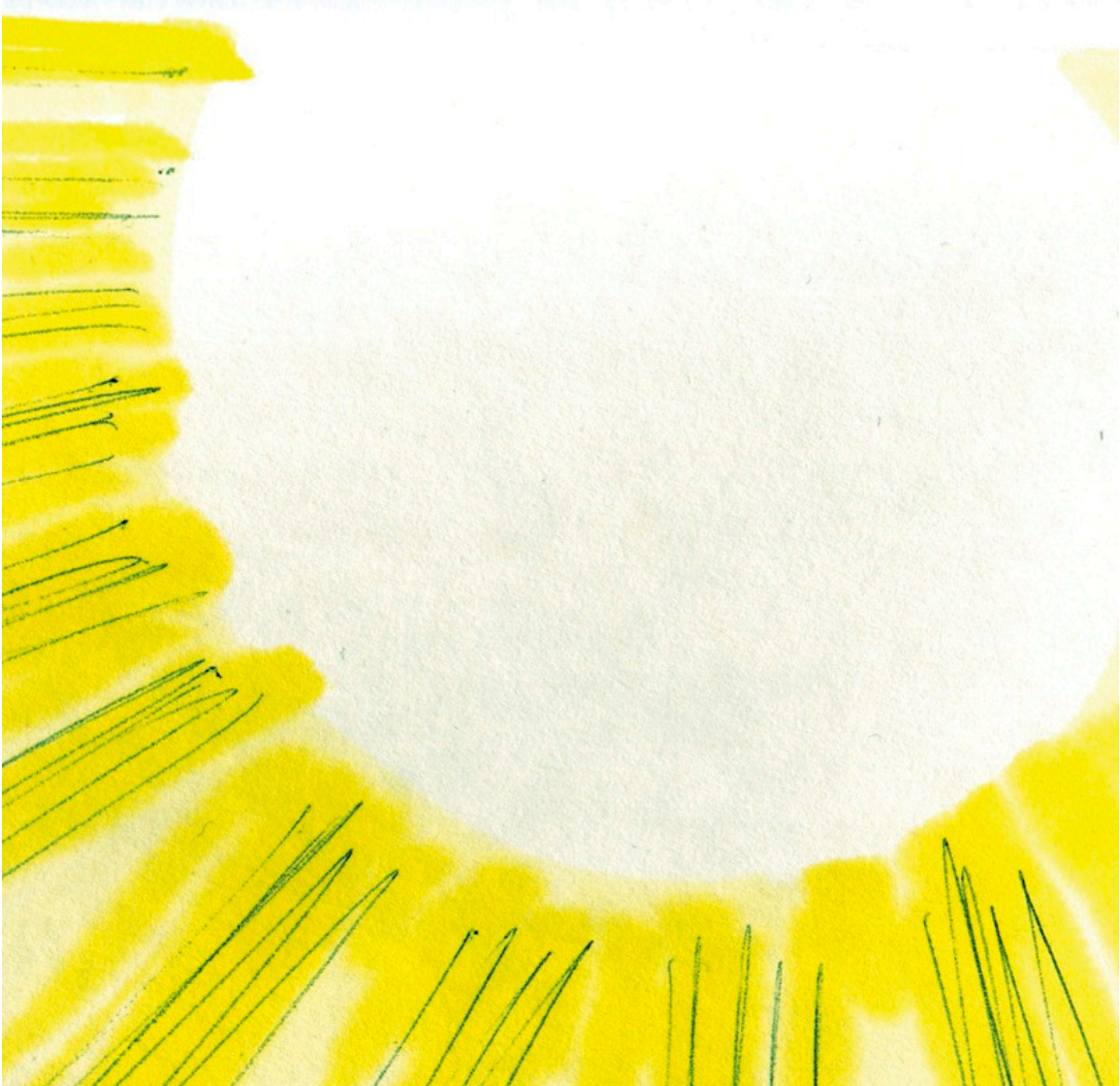
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Who is *God*? *God* is a spirit. He lives in the special spiritual world that we cannot see with our eyes nor feel with our hands. Even though you cannot see *God*, He can always see you. He even knows what you're thinking every moment of the day!



God is all-powerful (He is omnipotent). He is all-knowing (He is omniscient). And, He is everywhere at all times (He is omnipresent). Isn't that amazing?

God is always full of love and goodness. He always does what is right, and He is pure holiness.



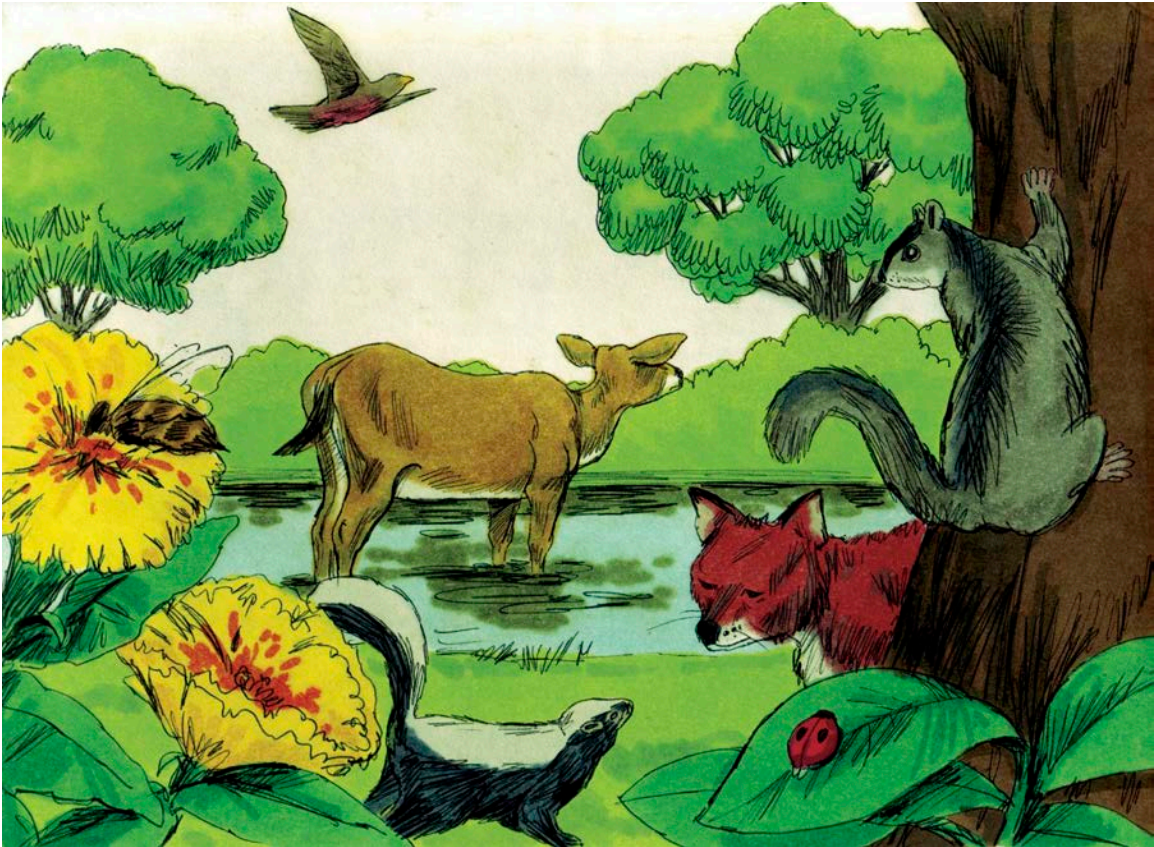
God is our Creator. He made you! And, He made your Daddy, Mommy, and everyone else you love. A long time ago in the very beginning, God also made the earth where we all live, and all the wonderful things on the earth.

God made the dry land and the sparkling blue sea. And, He made all the different plants: grass, shrubs, trees, and fruit-bearing plants. What's your favorite fruit?



God made the sun, moon, and all the stars in the sky. Wow, there are so many stars! God made the birds that fly in the sky, and all the different sea creatures - the **GIANT** whales to the tiny fish.

God made all the different animals - the ones that live in forests, in deserts, in jungles, and on the ice. And, God made every single insect. How creative God is!



Last of all, God created human beings. He made these people to be in charge over all the creatures of the earth and to eat the plant foods He had made. When God looked upon everything He made in the very beginning, He was so happy!

Now, when God made human beings, He made a man named Adam and a woman named Eve. He also made a very special place for Adam and Eve to live called the Garden of Eden. It was the most beautiful place on the whole earth!



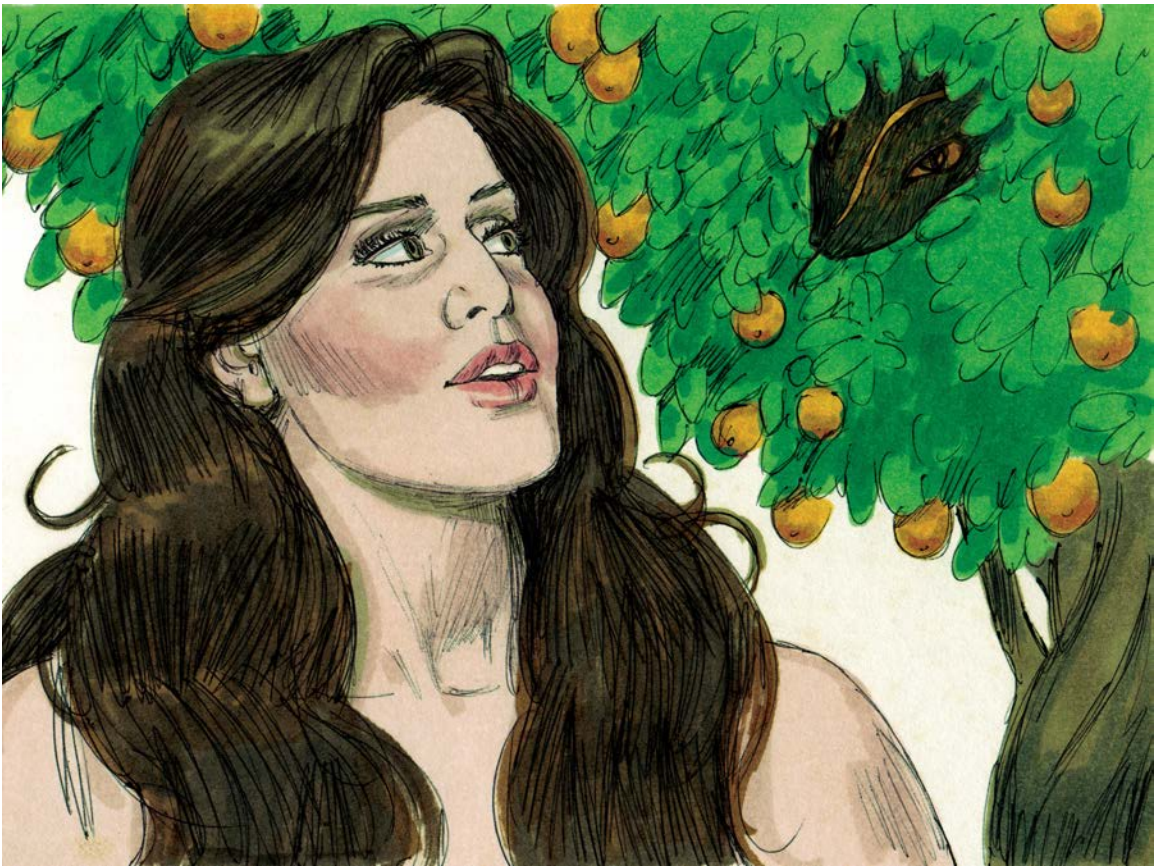
Adam and Eve became husband and wife, and God used to spend time talking with them in the Garden. Adam and Eve were special to God because He loved them like they were His very own family.

God allowed Adam and Eve to eat the delicious fruits that could be found in the Garden of Eden. One of these fruits was from the Tree of Life. This miraculous fruit gave Adam and Eve continued life so they never would die.



But, there was one very important thing Adam and Eve had to remember: God commanded them to never eat the fruit from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

One day, Satan came into the Garden. Satan is a spirit from the spiritual world who decided to rebel against God. He used to be good, but now he chooses to do evil. Satan wanted Adam and Eve to disobey God. He tricked them into believing that special things would happen if they ate the fruit from The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.



Adam and Eve should have obeyed God's commandment despite what Satan told them. But, they didn't. Eve ate some fruit from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, and then she gave some to Adam. Adam could have refused to eat the fruit, but he chose to taste some, too.

As soon as Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit, sin entered their bodies. Before, they only knew what is good and lovely. Now, it was as though their pure hearts had become stained with the evilness of sin, and their eyes were suddenly opened to know bad things as well as good things.



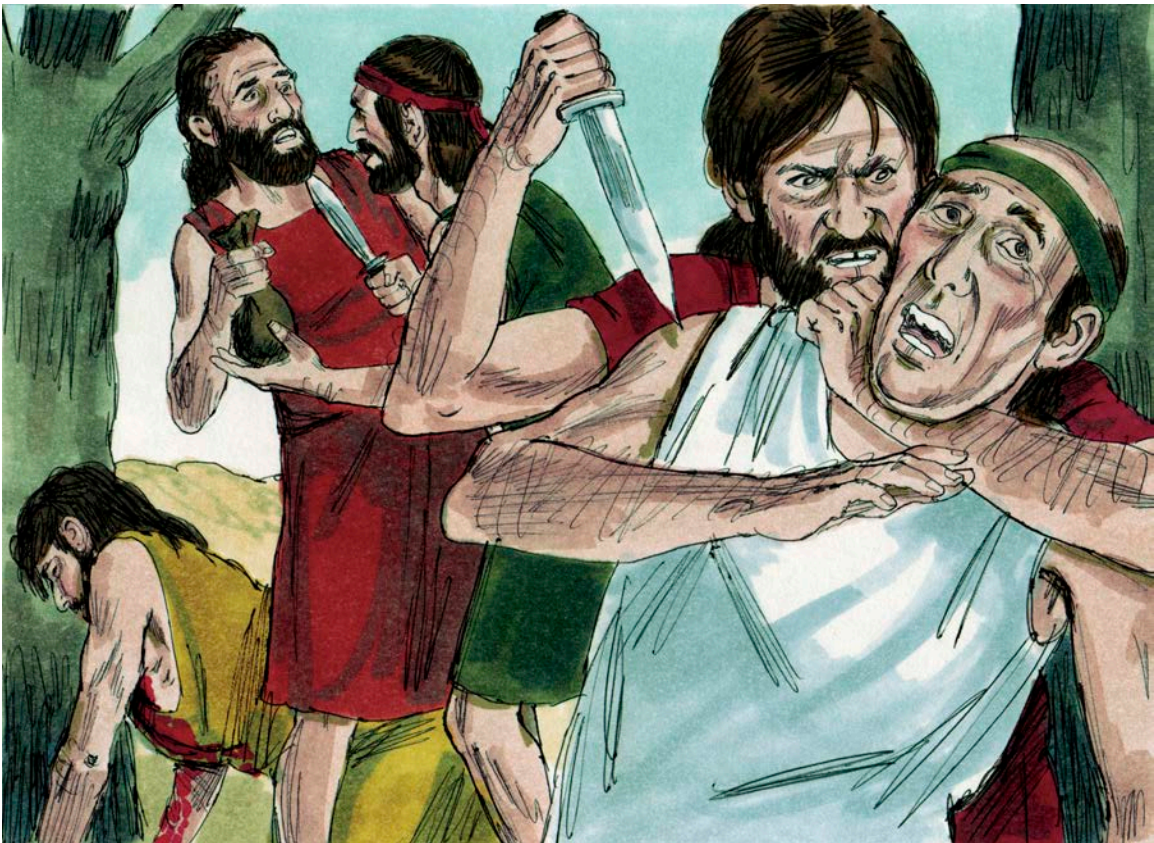
Because Adam and Eve disobeyed God, He had to send them out of their special home. God had to do this so Adam and Eve couldn't again eat the fruit from the Tree of Life. God wanted only pure and lovely things to continue to live in the Garden of Eden.

So, Adam and Eve had to go live in the lands outside of the Garden, and they never were allowed to return to their special home. This was a very sad day for them and for God.



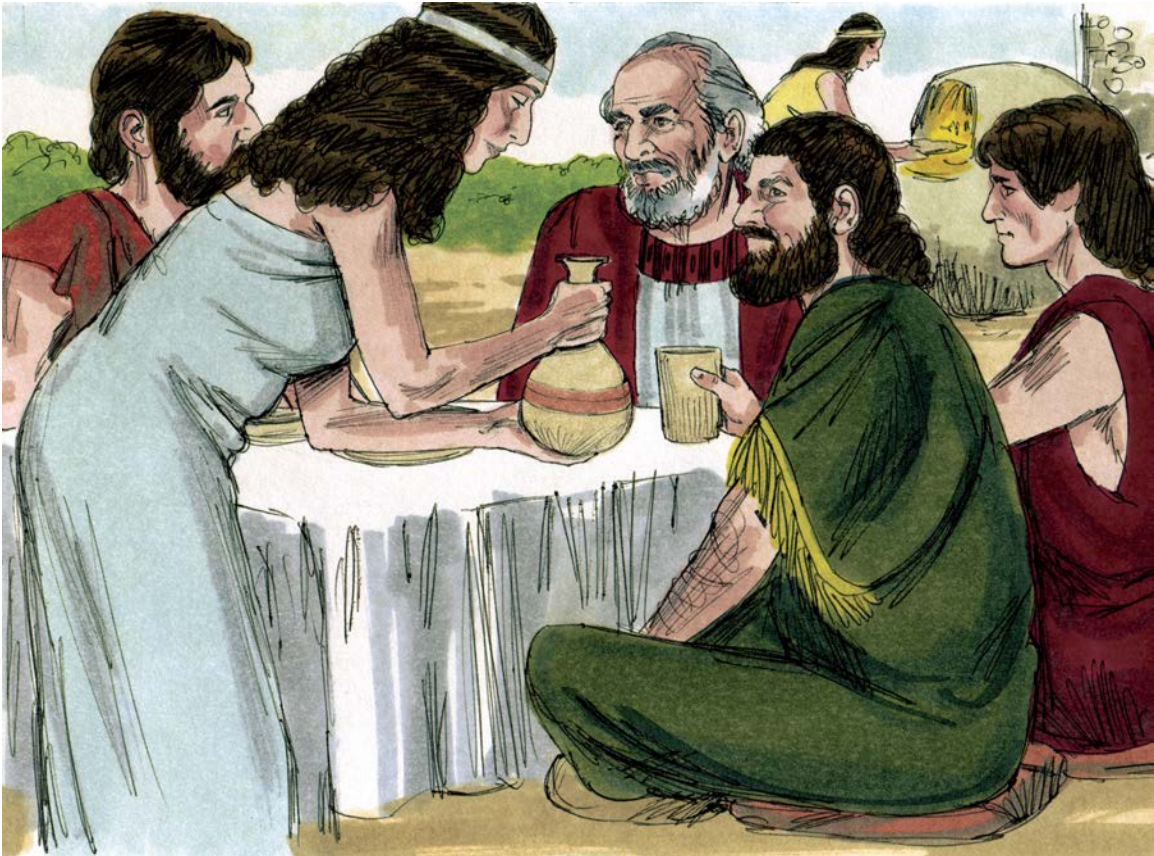
Life outside the Garden of Eden was much harder for Adam and Eve. Even so, Adam and Eve tried to remember God, and they praised God when He gave them children.

Over time, Adam and Eve's family grew very, very big. But, because Adam and Eve's hearts were stained with the evilness of sin, all of their family members had partly black hearts, too. (Their hearts weren't *really* stained and partly black in color, but that's what it felt like to them.) Adam and Eve passed on their state of sinfulness to all of their children and to their children's children, too.



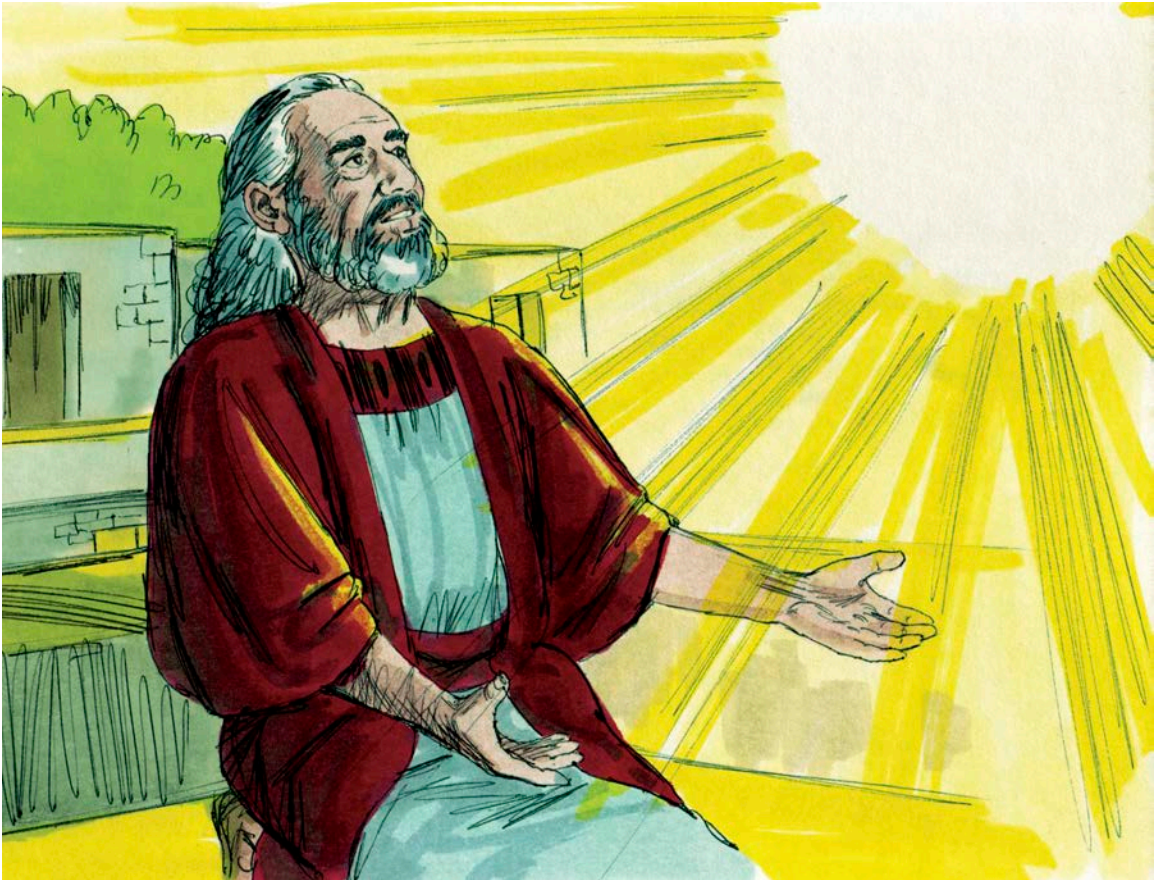
Because of sin, most of the people ended up forgetting about God, so they didn't care about what they said or how they behaved. The world became full of wickedness.

A man named Noah was one person who still loved God despite his sin-stained heart, and so did Noah's wife and children.



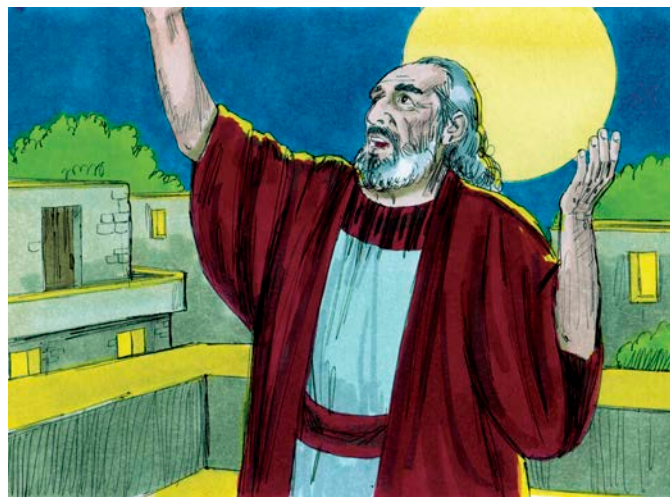
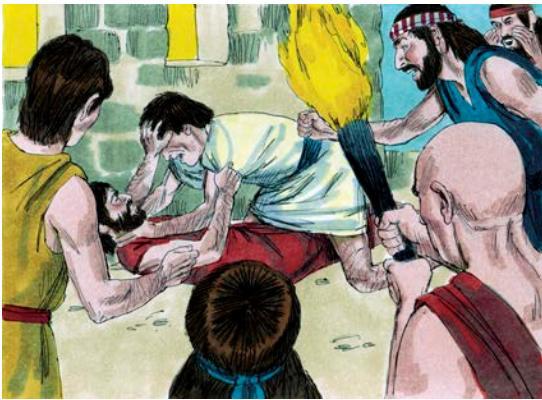
Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. Noah's sons also had wives.

Noah was a relative of Adam and Eve. Back then in those days, people lived for a very long time - for hundreds of years. And for many years, Noah's father (Lamech) and Noah's grandfather (Methusaleh) were both alive at the same time as Adam.



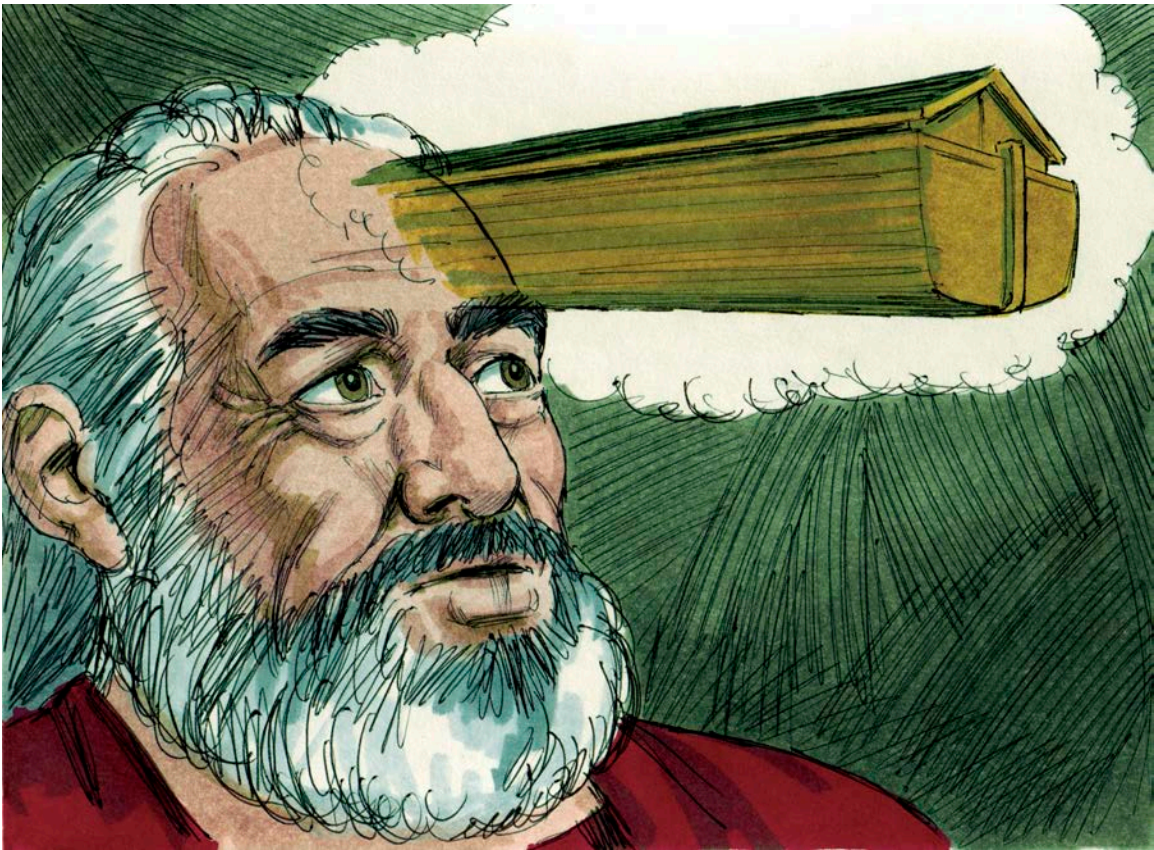
Wow, think about it! This means that Noah's Daddy probably sat at the feet of Adam and heard all the wonderful stories about creation right from Adam's own mouth. He would have learned about how God spent time with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, and also about how sin came to enter people's bodies. Surely this is how Noah came to know, love, and respect God.

Before Noah was born, Adam and Eve died. (Do you remember how the fruit from the Tree of Life in the Garden of Eden used to give Adam and Eve continued life? Well, when Adam and Eve no longer could eat this special fruit, their bodies began to slowly grow old and eventually die). In time, Noah's Daddy, grandfather, and other close relatives died, too.



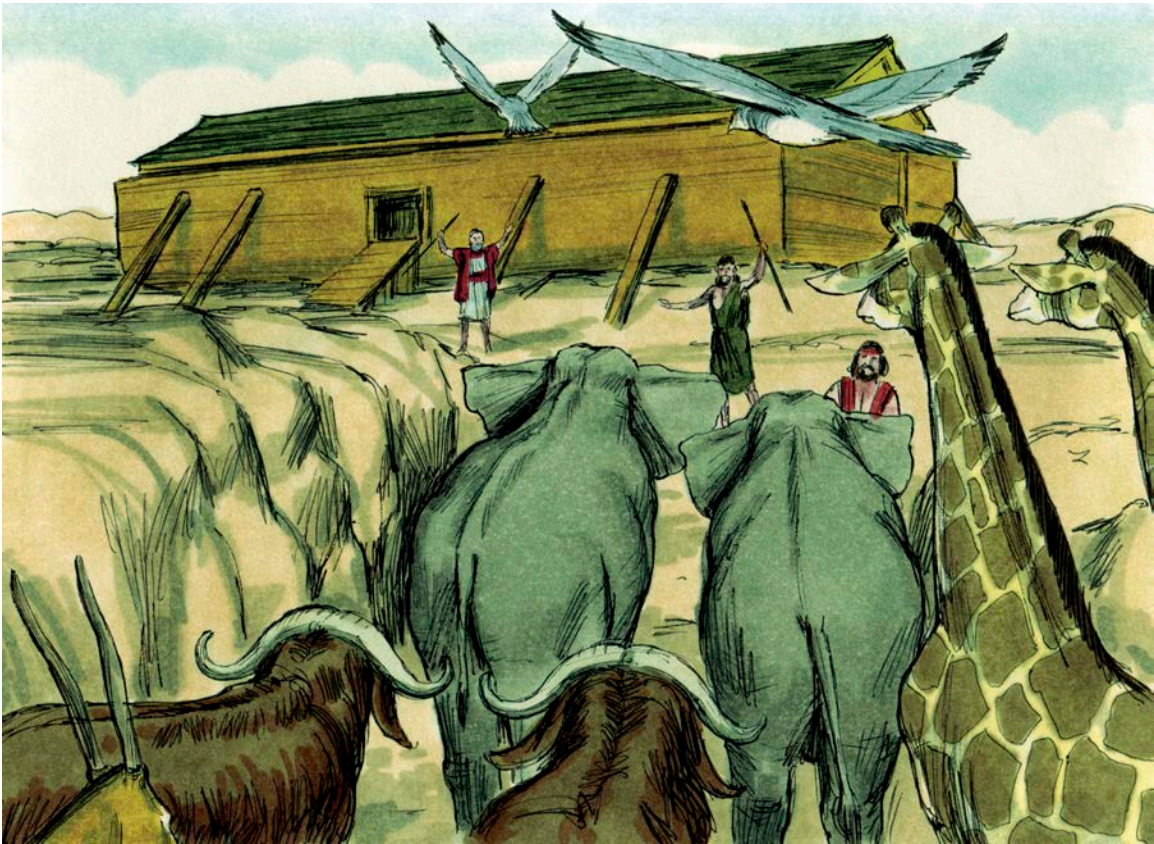
By the time Noah was five hundred years old, he and his small family were the only ones left who tried to do what is right. Everyone else was following after evil ways. This made God very sad and angry.

God didn't want the wicked ways of the people on earth to continue any more, so He decided to take away their lives by bringing a huge flood upon the lands. God warned Noah of His plans. He wanted to save Noah and his small family from the flood because they loved Him.



So, God spoke to Noah and told him to build a big boat called an ark. Noah obeyed all of God's instructions. It took many years for Noah to finish the ark.

Before God caused the flood, Noah gathered some of every kind of creature from the lands. He brought them into the ark just as God told him to.



Noah gathered seven males and seven females of each of the "clean" creatures, and two males and two females of each of the "unclean" creatures. He also gathered enough food for them all, and for his own family.

When Noah, his small family, and all the chosen creatures were safe inside the ark, God sent heavy rains upon the lands for forty days and forty nights. All the people outside of the ark were drowned.



After many months, the floodwaters finally receded and the ark came to rest upon dry ground.

Noah and his family came out of the ark along with the animals, and Noah built an altar to worship and thank God. God was pleased with this and He promised Noah that never again would He bring such a horrible flood upon the earth.



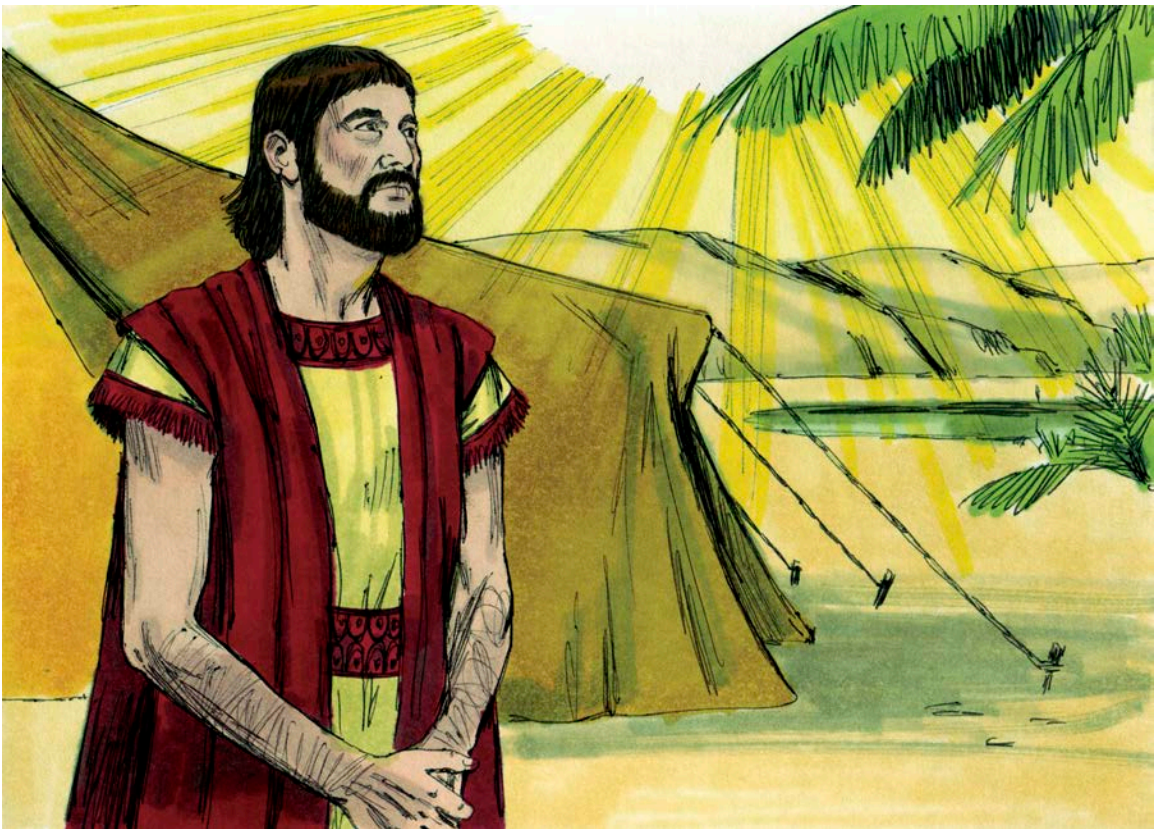
God set a colorful bow in the sky as a sign of this promise. From then on, whenever people saw a rainbow during rainy weather, they could remember God's promise and be comforted.

Just as Adam and Eve's family had grown bigger and bigger over time, so too did Noah's family. Eventually, most of Noah's descendants turned to evil ways just like most of Adam and Eve's family had. After Noah died, people forgot about God and they became very proud.



God wanted to stop the people from becoming too powerful. At that stage, everyone spoke the same language, so God mixed up the people's one language into many different languages. People became frustrated and then divided into different groups according to the language they could understand. This is how they became scattered across the lands.

Even though the people were separated into smaller groups, most of them continued to choose to do wrong things. Many, many years went by and God watched each and every one to see how they lived their lives. One day, God looked upon a man named Abram. He saw that even though Abram had sin inside his body like everyone else, he still tried his best to do what is right.



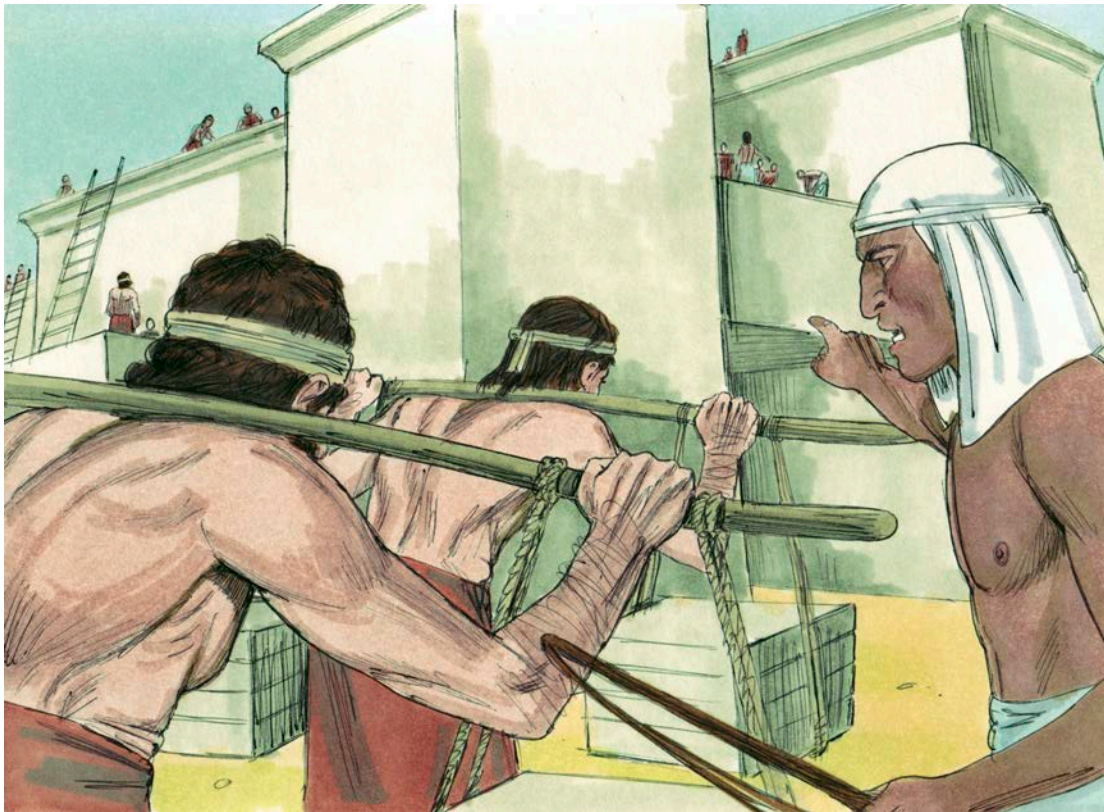
Abram became a friend of God, and God changed Abram's name to Abraham. God chose to bless Abraham above everyone else. He wanted to have a close relationship with Abraham's family. And, He wanted to do special things for them so that the other people in other lands would see and eventually want to love and follow God, too.

Abraham's family became known as the Israelites. The Israelites grew into a very big nation of people.



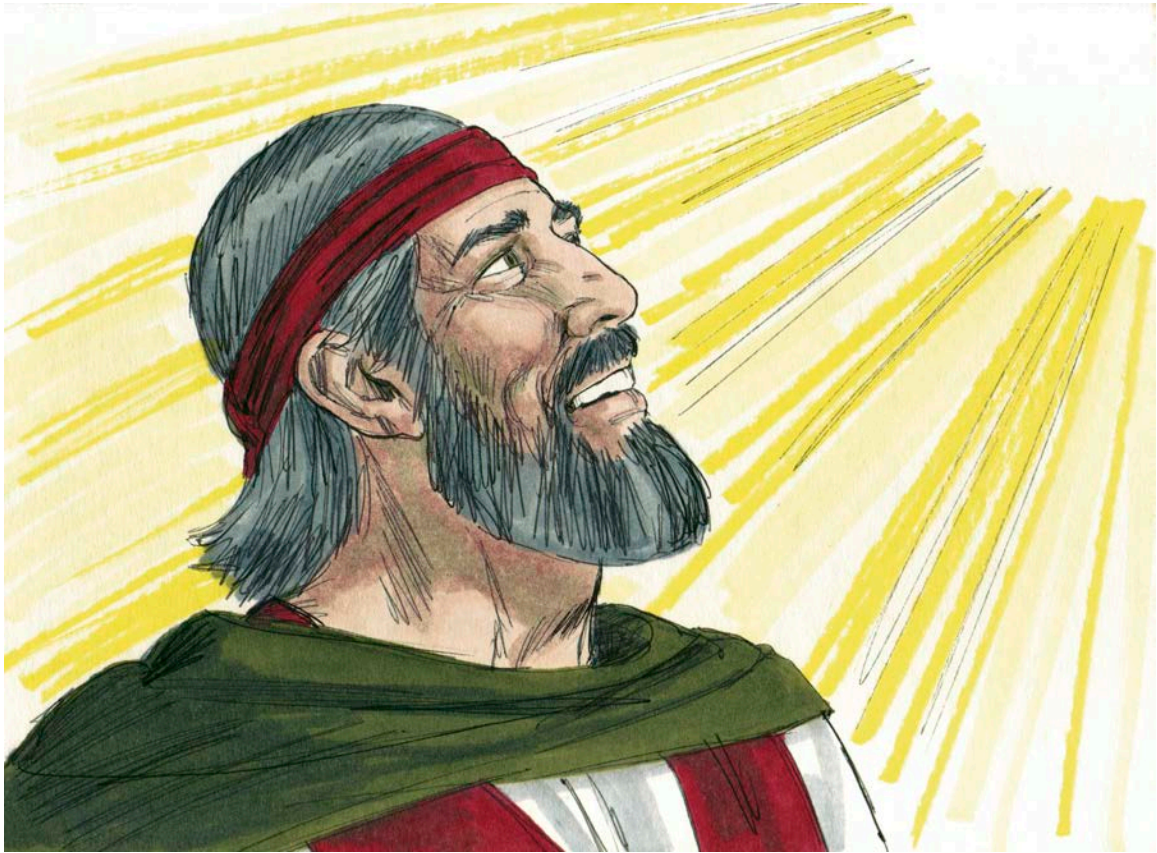
God looked upon the Israelites as though they were His precious children, and God wanted the Israelites to respect and rely on Him as though He was their dear Father.

Sometimes the Israelites obeyed God and did their best to please Him, and at other times they didn't. Sometimes the Israelites even worshipped the pretend Gods that the people of other nations made up. This was one of the worst things they could do, and it made God frustrated and angry.



When the Israelites forgot about God, God would allow difficulties to come upon them. God wanted to remind them that they should do what is right. At one stage, God caused the Israelites to become slaves in the land of Egypt.

But after more than four hundred years, God sent a man named Moses to help free them.



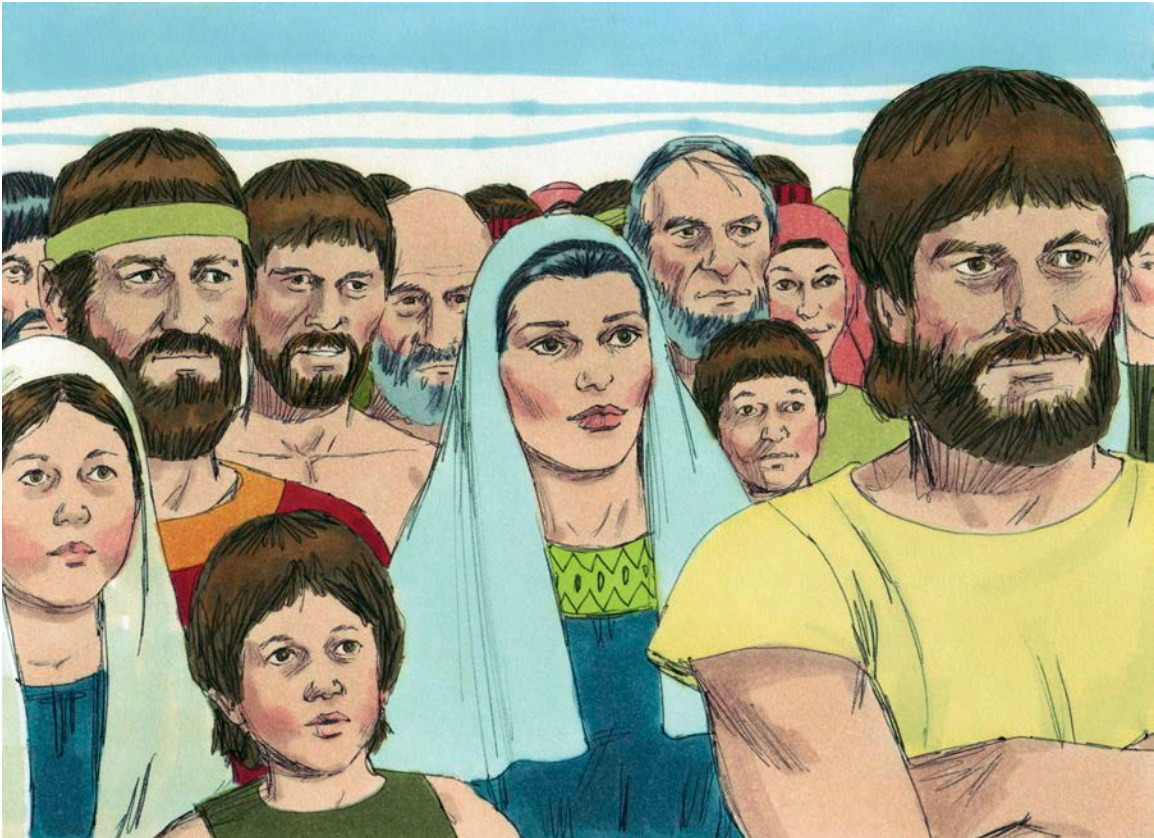
God promised to bring the Israelites to a wonderful land that they could make their special home *if* they decided to truly love God again and obey Him.

God gave Moses a list of rules to teach the people to follow. The rules were called the Ten Commandments. There were also the Levitical Laws. All of these rules and laws guided the people to do what is good and right.



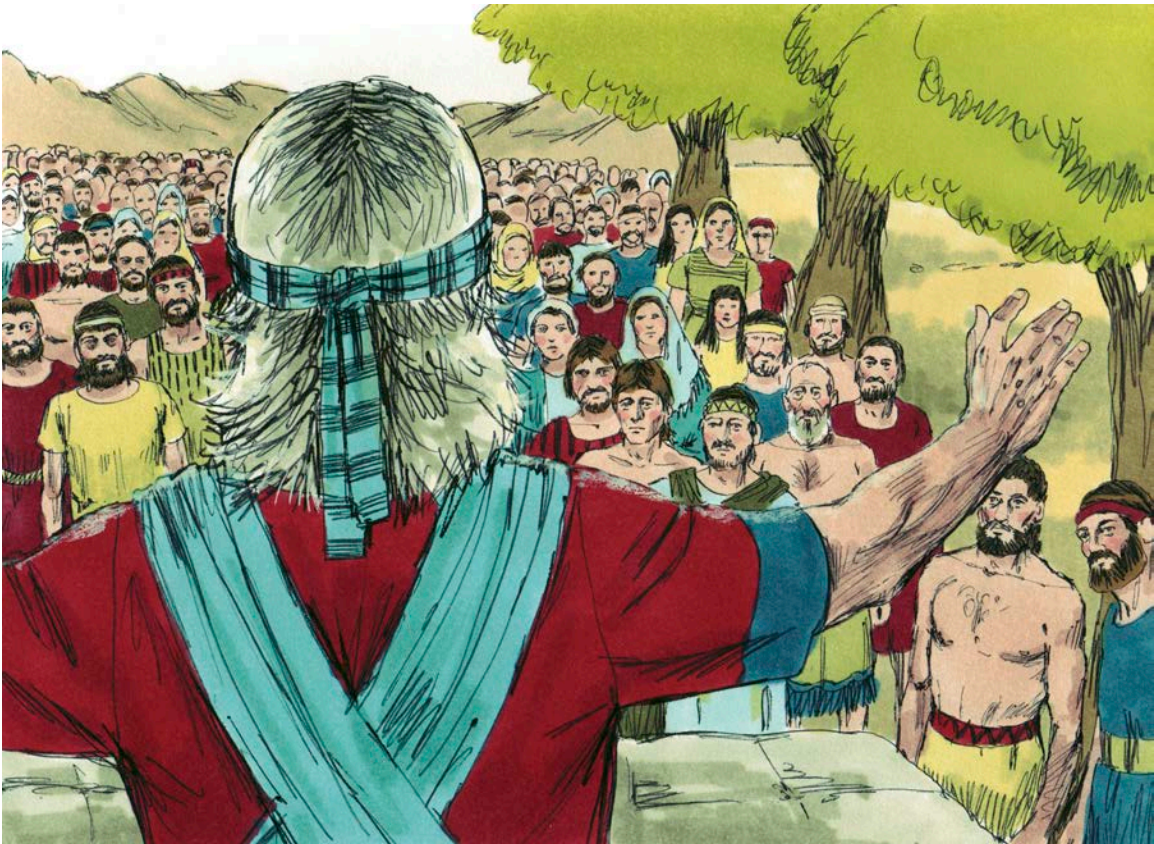
Also, the Israelites had to regularly sacrifice animals on an altar so that God would keep forgiving them of their wrongdoings. The shed blood of the animals was like a payment for the people's sins.

As long as the Israelites obeyed God's instructions, God blessed their lives abundantly. But when the Israelites turned away from what God wanted them to do, their lives became hard.



Many of the Israelites didn't make it into the wonderful land that God promised them because they were disobedient. Even the people that did get to live in the Promised Land eventually became disobedient, too. This was because of the sin inside of them that continually tempted them to do the wrong thing.

However, there were some people who did their best to resist evil. They chose to worship God and to serve Him only.



God made some of these people into prophets who spread very important messages from God to the people in various lands.

Some of these prophets told the people the most important message of all, that one day God would send His very own Son, Christ the Messiah, to this earth. Messiah means, "anointed one" or "chosen one."



They said God planned to do this so He could save people from their state of sinfulness that began way back in the time of Adam and Eve. God's own Son would be the people's Savior.

Eventually, the prophets' message about the Messiah came true. But, Christ didn't suddenly appear on this earth. Instead, God made Him to be born into this world as a baby, and He was named Jesus.



Jesus' mother was named Mary. Mary's husband was Joseph, but Joseph wasn't Jesus' Daddy. Instead, God used His miraculous powers to make Jesus begin growing inside Mary's belly before Mary was even married to Joseph. Isn't that amazing?

Jesus was born in a little town called Bethlehem, but He grew up in Nazareth. He had a cousin named John who was also born about the same time as Jesus.



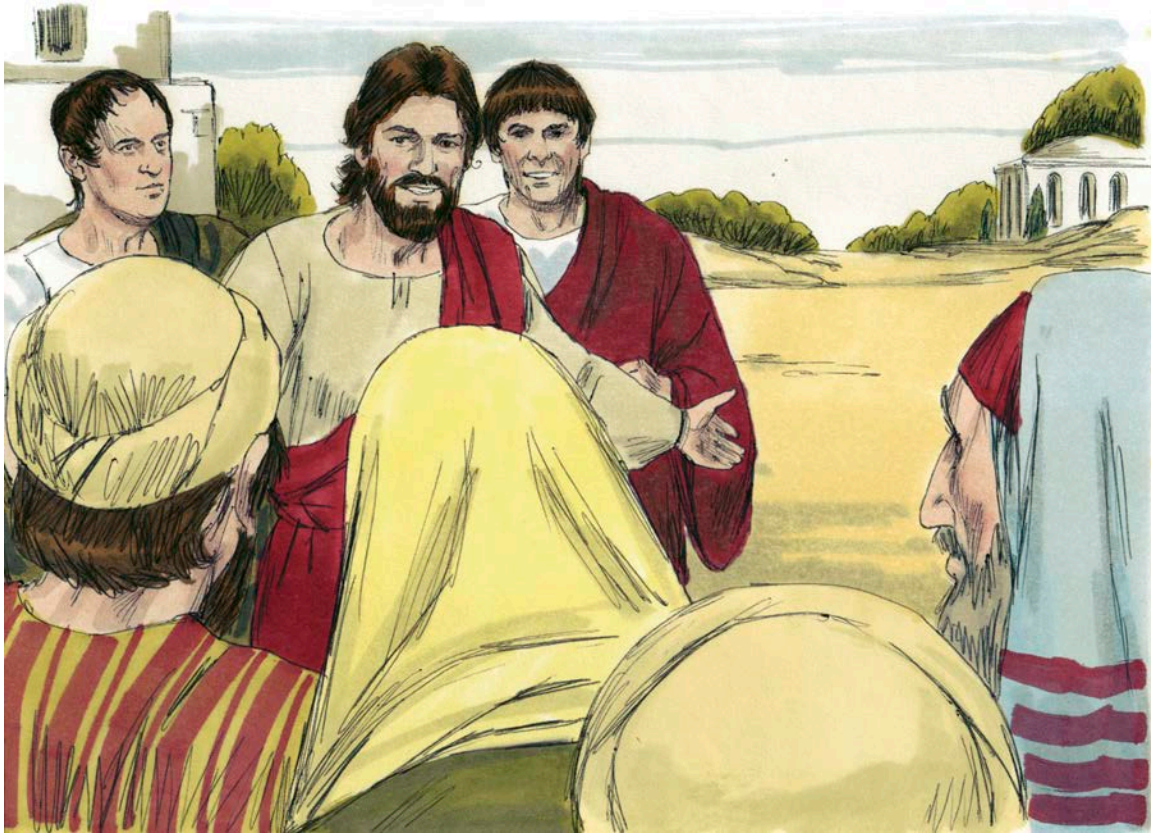
John was a prophet of God. When John became a man, he began to tell as many people as he could that they should repent in order to prepare for what Jesus would soon tell them.

To repent means to recognize that evil sin lives inside of you, and to feel sorry for all your wrongdoings. John baptized the people who were repentant. This means their whole bodies were quickly dunked (or buried) under water.



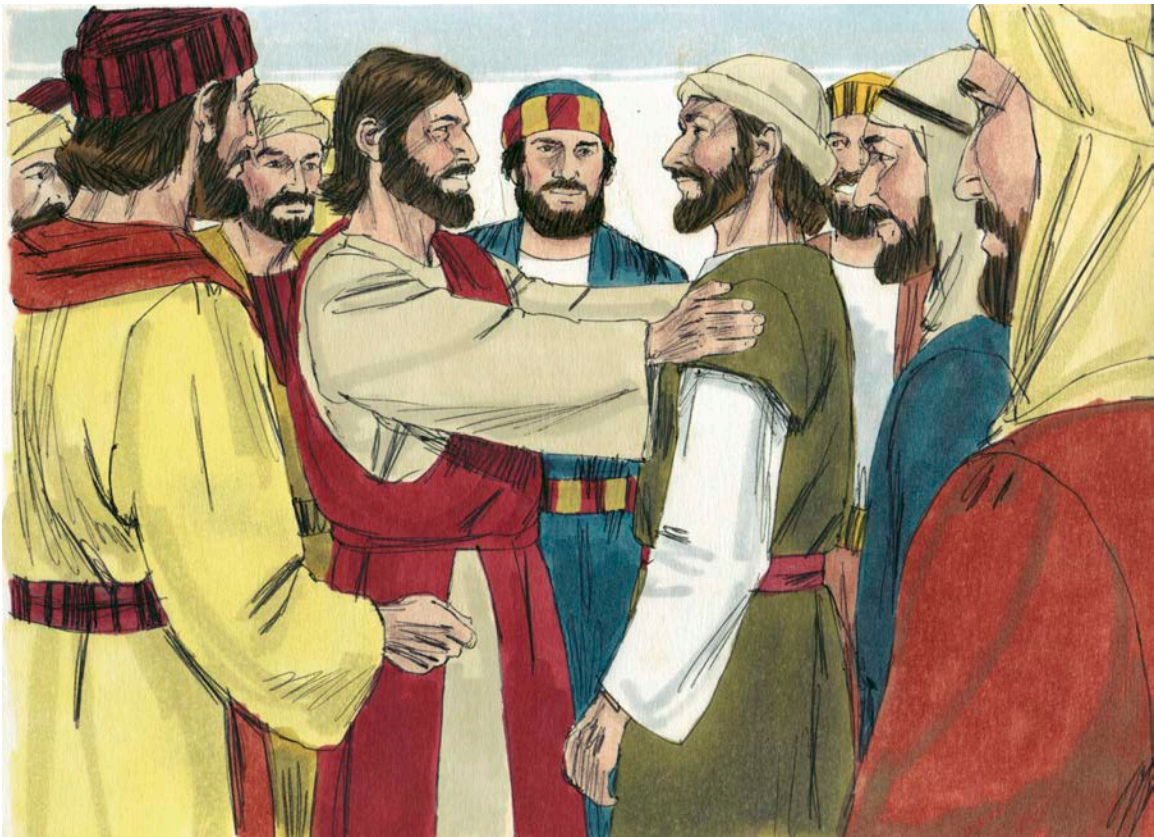
By being baptized, the people showed God they wanted their sins to be forgiven, and that they wanted to do what is good and right from then on. John became known as John the Baptist.

When Jesus was thirty years old, He began to tell the Israelites many important things. He told them about God the Father and His spiritual kingdom, and He also told the people how to live their lives according to God's ways.



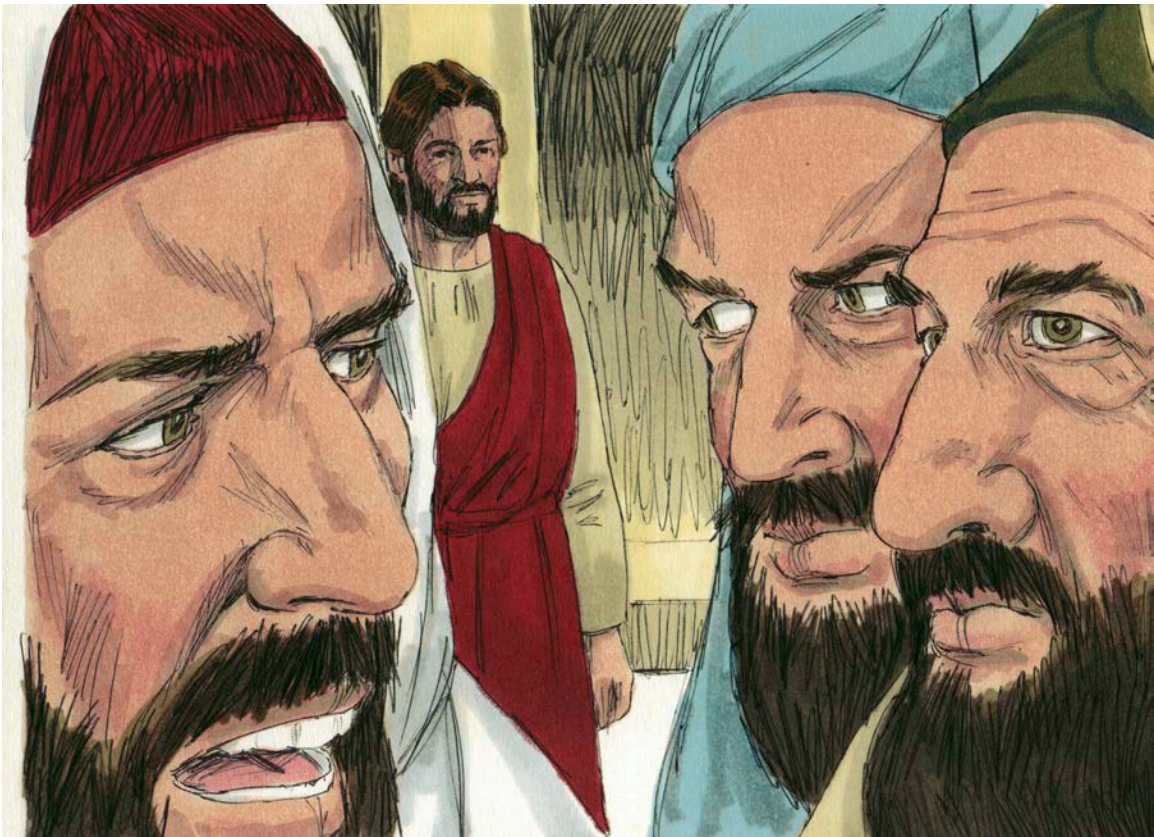
Jesus told the Israelites they needed to repair their relationship with God and that they needed Jesus in order to be able to do this. As proof of His power and authority from God, Jesus performed many amazing miracles like healing the sick and bringing dead people back to life!

Jesus chose twelve men as special helpers to follow Him wherever He went. Jesus chose these men so they would tell lots of others about what they had learned from Jesus. This would help other people to know the love of God, too.



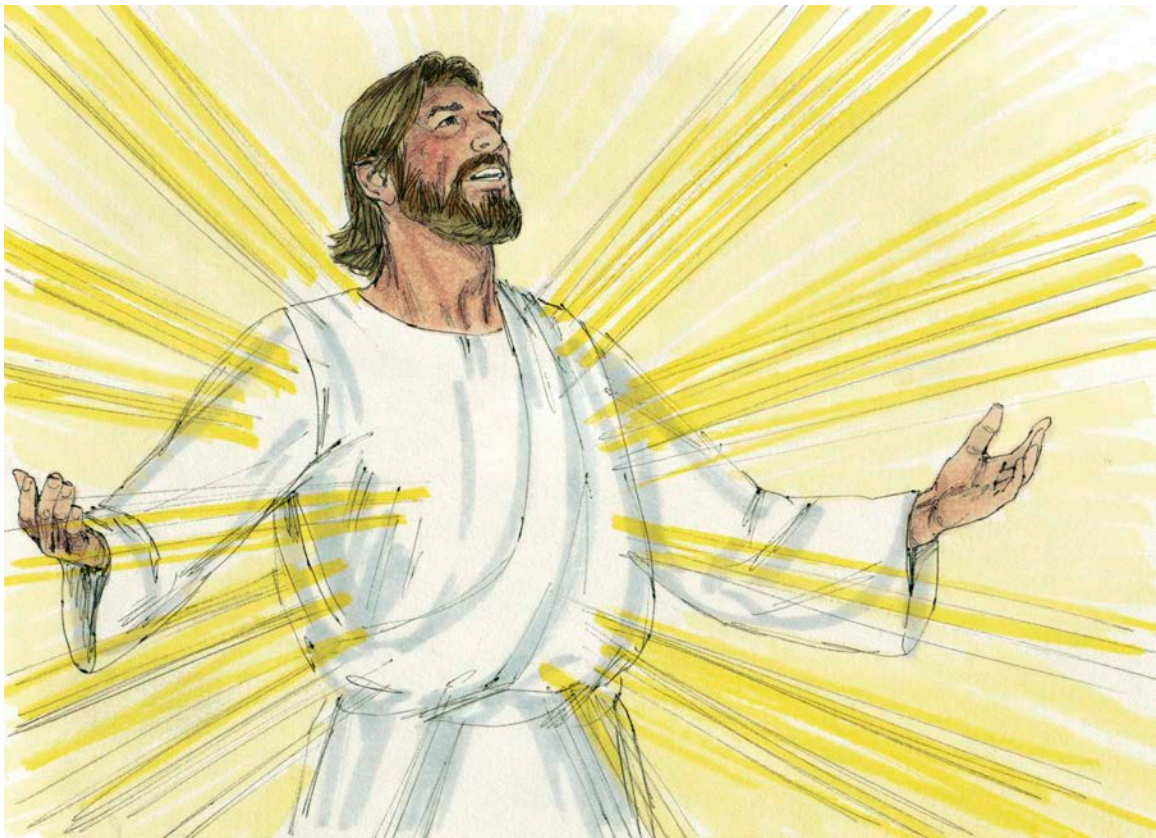
The twelve followers were known as the disciples of Jesus.

Some people liked what Jesus and His disciples had to say. These people were humble. But, most people decided to reject Jesus and His disciples. These people were proud. Jesus' messages made them feel uncomfortable about their wrongdoings and the proud people didn't like that.



Some people even *pretended* to be good by showing others that they still obeyed the laws of Moses. (Do you remember Moses and the rules he taught the people?) But deep in their hearts, these people really wanted to please themselves and not God.

After being with His disciples for about three years, Jesus told them He would soon leave them. But, He told them not to worry because God the Father would send the Holy Spirit to come live inside their bodies.



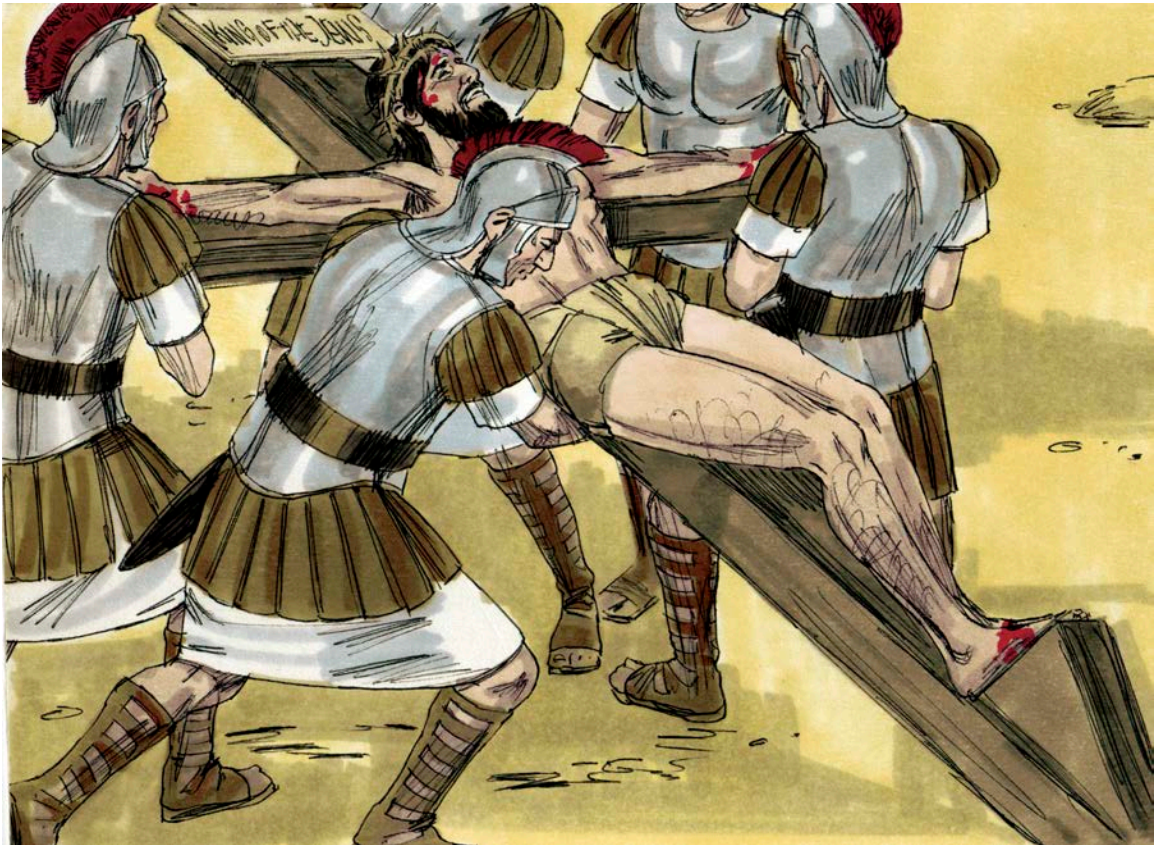
Jesus said that being baptized in water and being filled with the power of the Holy Spirit was necessary to be able to live forever in God's special kingdom. The disciples didn't really know what all this meant, but it gave them comfort.

Jesus also told His disciples that the people who rejected Him would soon kill Him. The disciples were shocked. Of course, they didn't want this to happen, but it didn't matter what *they* wanted. It was part of God's merciful plan to save the people of this world from sin.



Do you remember how the Israelites had to keep sacrificing animals so that God would forgive them of their wrongdoings? Well, God planned it so that people wouldn't have to do this anymore. God chose His precious Son to be the one last perfect sacrifice to pay for the sins of all mankind.

The people who rejected Jesus soon captured Him. They nailed Him to a wooden cross to die even though Jesus had *never done a single thing wrong*. Even though this was a terribly painful experience, Jesus didn't hate these people for crucifying Him because He knew the sin in their hearts had tempted them to do it.



Jesus knew He was going to be killed. Being nailed to a cross is a humiliating and agonizing way to die. Despite this, Jesus obeyed God's will for Him, and Jesus never resisted nor complained.

Does this make you feel sad? Jesus' death was a very sorrowful thing. He was the Son of God. He was perfect, pure, and holy.



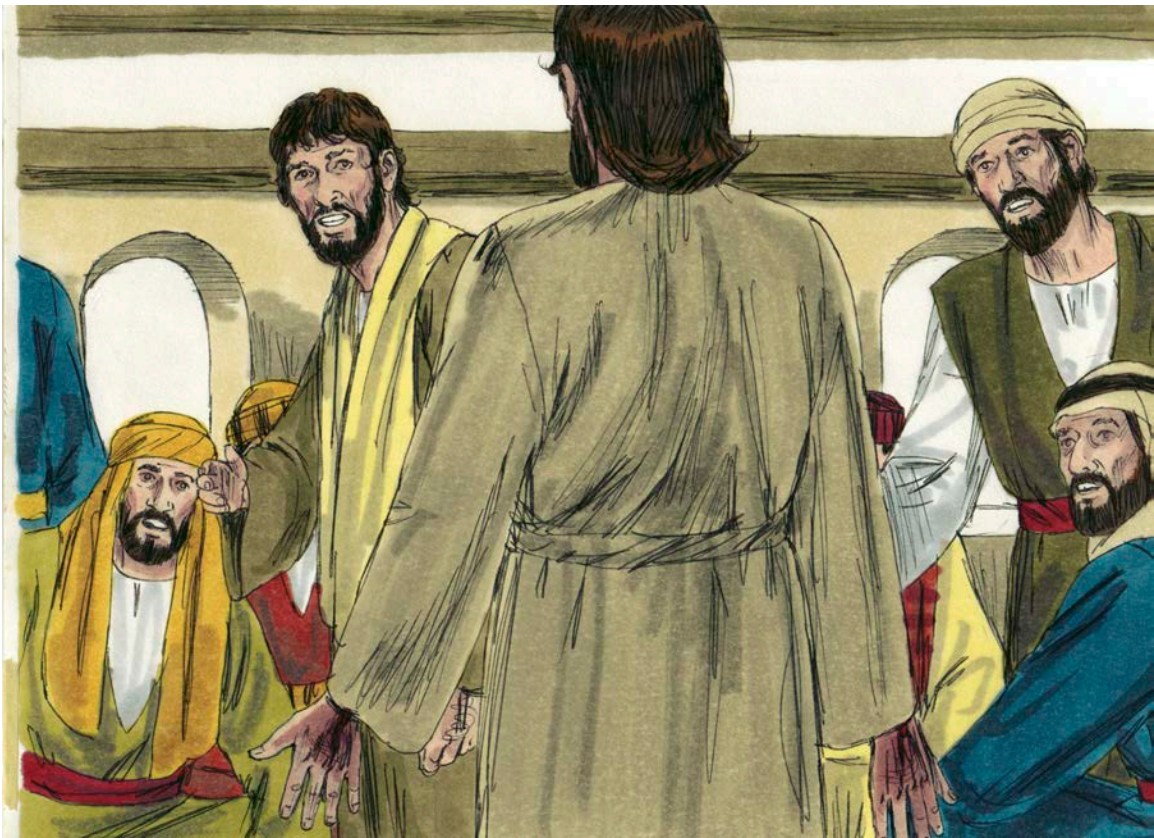
It *is* sad to think that most people turned away from Jesus simply because they didn't like hearing what He had to say. They should have felt unhappy about the evil sin that kind of stained their hearts. They should have been so excited to hear that Jesus was offering them a way to reunite with God their Creator. Instead, most people despised Jesus and even openly mocked him.

After Jesus died, He was buried in a tomb.



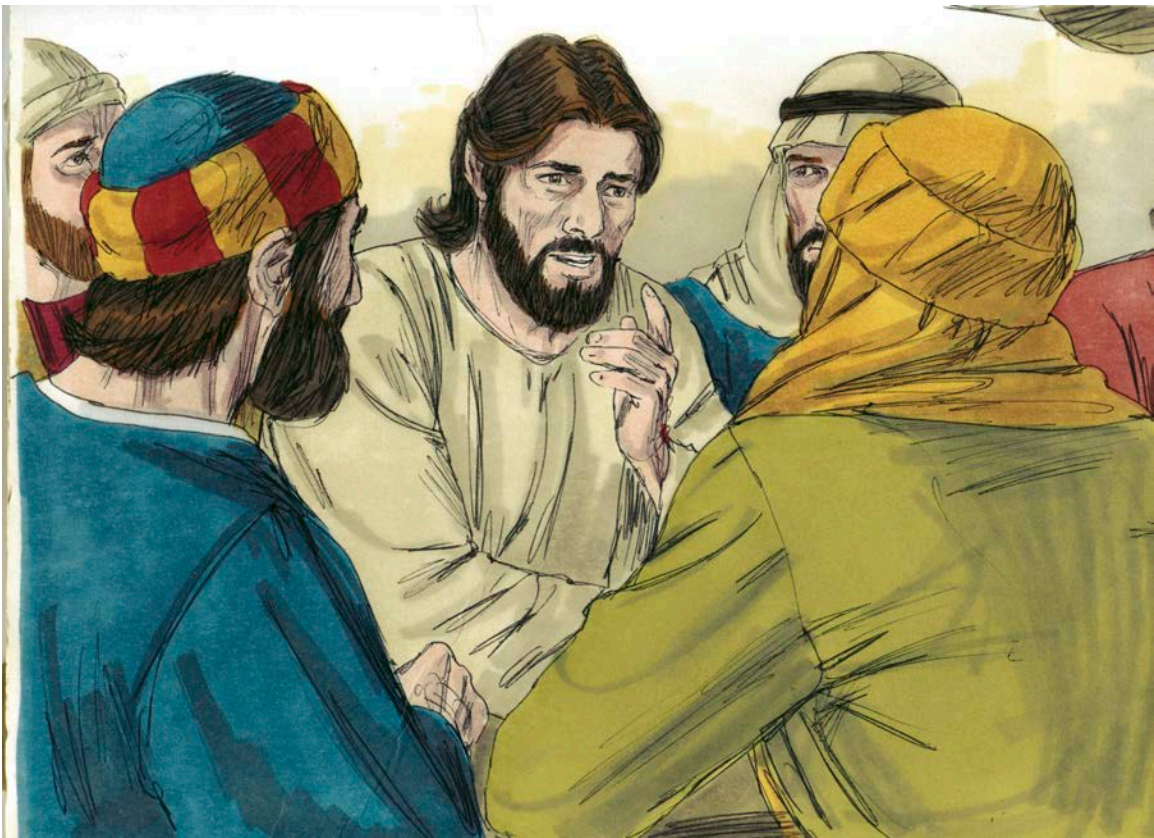
The followers of Jesus were devastated to see Jesus killed. For a little while they were all confused about how Jesus could still save them from sin. They didn't understand God's plan.

Then, a wonderful thing happened. Three days after Jesus' body was placed in the tomb, God made Jesus alive again. Yes, He was brought back to life!



When Jesus' followers found out, they were amazed and overjoyed. They again had hope that Jesus *would* be their Savior.

Jesus stayed another forty days on earth to spend some more time with His disciples. He commanded all His followers to go and wait in the city of Jerusalem until He filled them with the power of the Holy Spirit (the *holy* Spirit of God).



Jesus said that He would one day come back to bring them into the Kingdom of God, but in the meantime He had to leave this Earth so that He could send the Holy Spirit in His stead.

After this, God the Father took Jesus to be with Him in the special spiritual world that we cannot see.



Then, the people who had loved Jesus obeyed His instructions and traveled to the city of Jerusalem even though they didn't fully understand everything Jesus had told them. Every day in Jerusalem they all gathered together to worship God.

Ten days later, the Holy Spirit came to live inside the people who had loved Jesus as they worshiped together. As soon as these followers were filled with the Spirit, they began to pray to God in languages they couldn't understand. This was called speaking in tongues (or speaking in other tongues).



From that day forth, the Spirit-filled people could pray in tongues whenever they wanted. It was a miraculous way of talking to God, to worship and praise Him, and to seek God's help.

The Holy Spirit was more powerful than the followers could ever have imagined. The Spirit was their comforter, guide, helper, teacher, and gave them strength to do amazing things. They could even heal people from all kinds of sicknesses, just like Jesus!



When the followers chose to use the power of the Holy Spirit, they were able to resist the sin inside of them and they were able to do what is good and right instead. How wonderful! They wanted to use the Holy Spirit all the time!

The followers of Jesus were so thankful. They were also excited because now they understood God's plan:



#1 God had sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to be sacrificed as the final payment for people's sins.

#2 God wanted all followers to get baptized in water in the name of Jesus as their Savior, so that their wrongdoings would be washed away.

#3 The Holy Spirit was God's gift that He allowed Jesus to give to the people that obeyed Him.

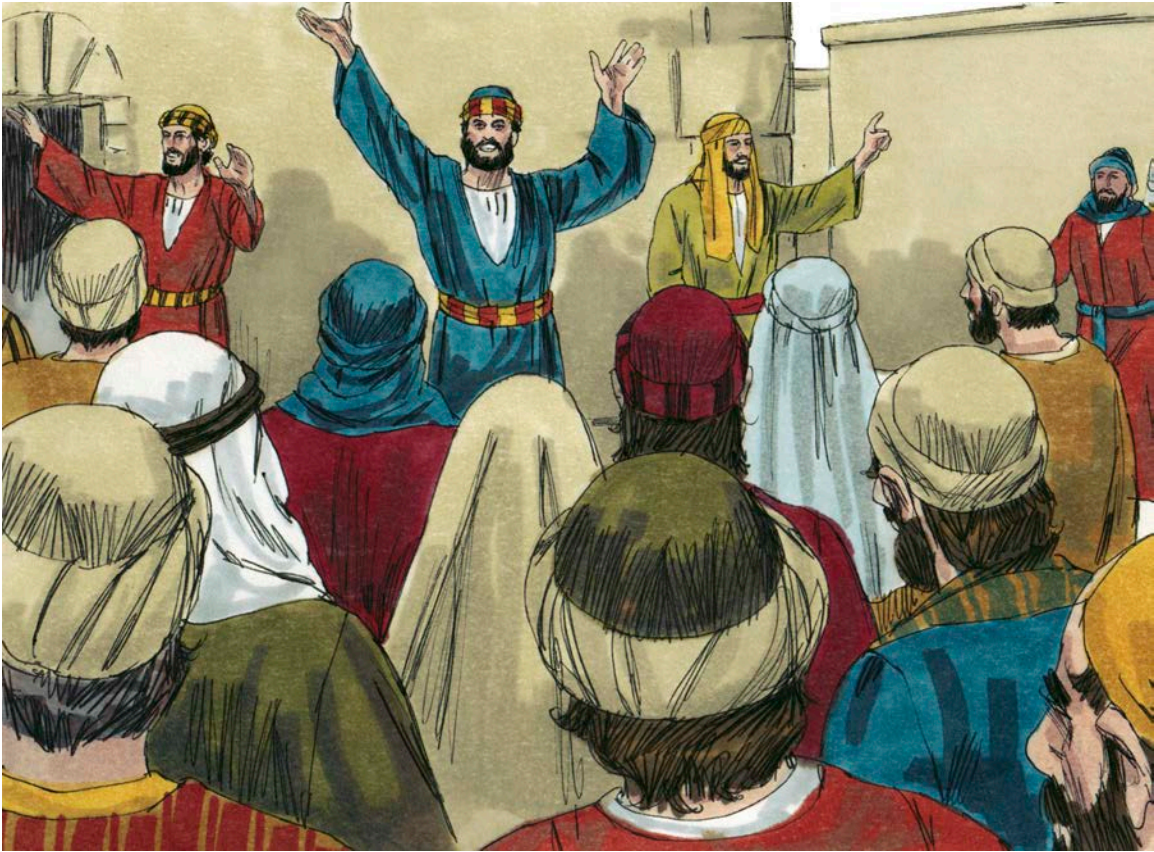
Jesus' followers even discovered that the promise of the Holy Spirit was for everyone in the future who did the same thing as them.



No longer did people need the written rules and laws back from the time of Moses to help them do what is right. Instead, Jesus' death upon the cross made way for the Holy Spirit to come and make them *stronger* than the sin in their hearts!

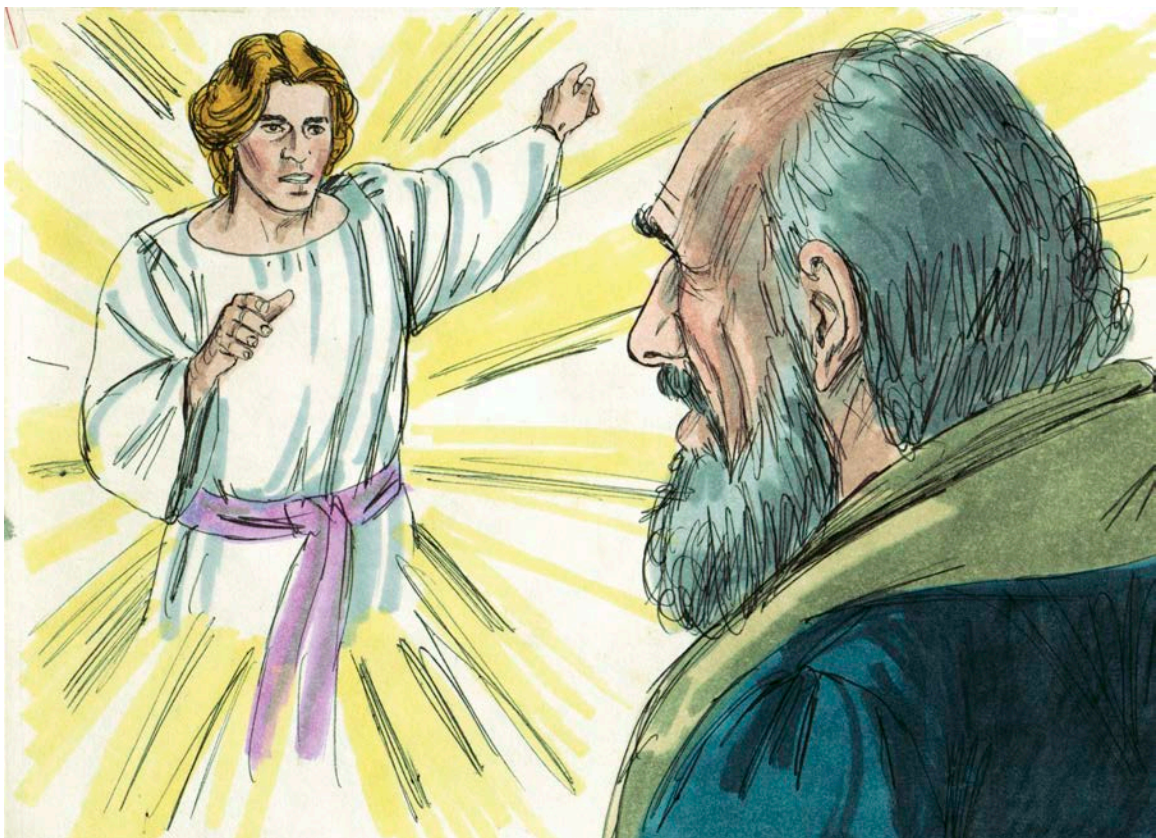
Mankind now had the opportunity to rely on the power of the Holy Spirit to guide them in life and to give them the strength they needed in order to do, say, and think good things.

The Spirit-filled people were so excited about what they now understood that they began to tell as many people as they could about Jesus, including people who were not Israelites.



They told them they needed to repent and turn to Jesus, be baptized in water, and ask for the wonderful gift of the Holy Spirit.

Spirit-filled people soon became known as Christians because they were followers of Jesus Christ. God called them the Body of Christ. The more that Christians prayed and used the power of the Holy Spirit, the more they began to understand about God and His will for them, and the more they began to understand about the future.



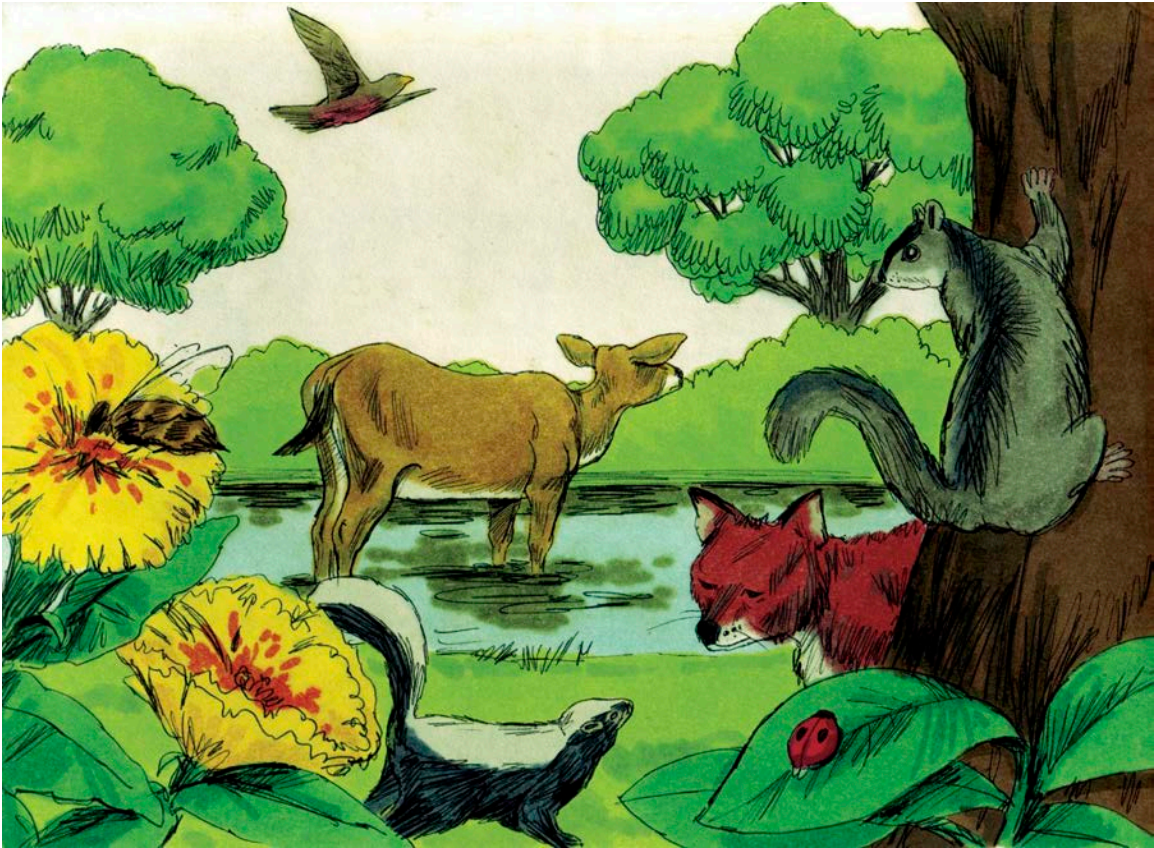
God gave special visions to one of the twelve disciples whose name was John. John saw many amazing things including what the future home of Jesus and His people will be like. There they will all live together forever and ever.

John shared his visions with the other Christians. Everyone was so excited. Now they didn't need to wonder what would happen to them when they died.



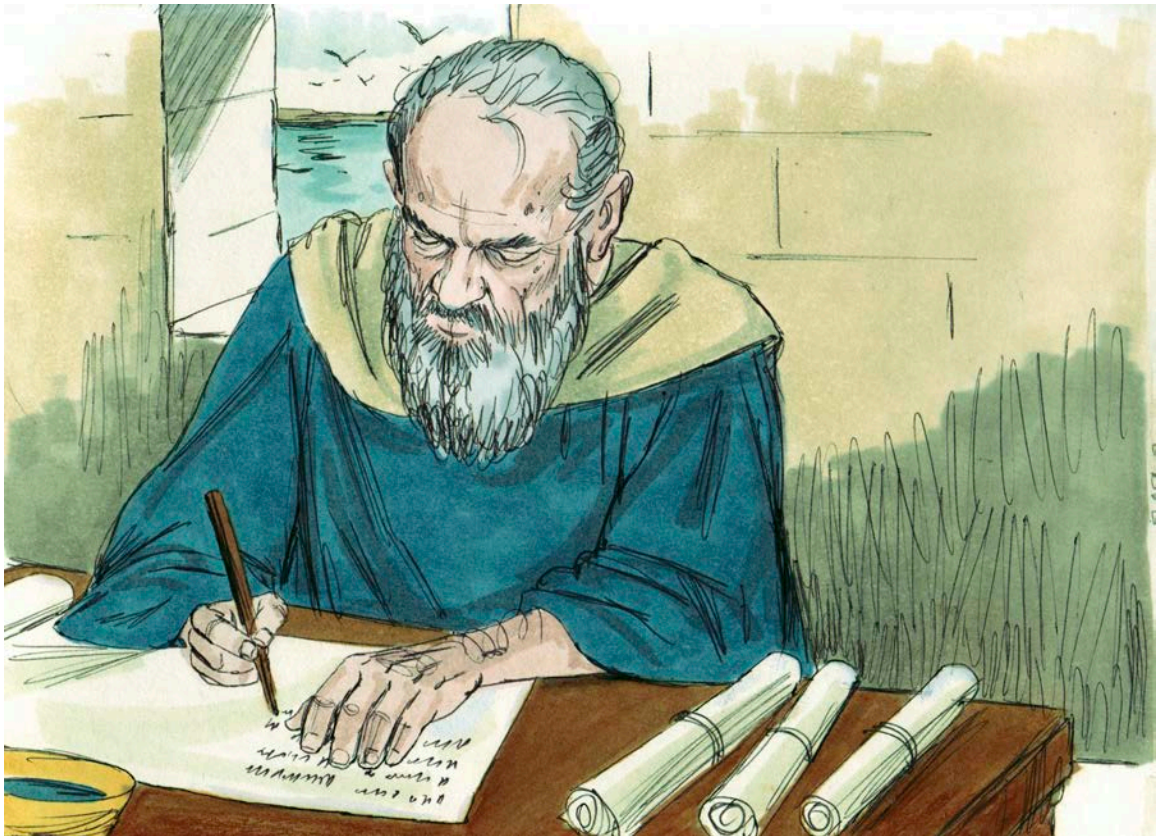
They now understood: they will be woken up from their sleep inside their graves and they will somehow get to enter into the special spiritual world to be with Jesus. And, the Christians that are alive when Jesus returns will get to enter in, too!

God also showed the Christians that there is an important reason *why* He wants them to go with Jesus when He comes back. God wants the Christians to be Jesus' special helpers.



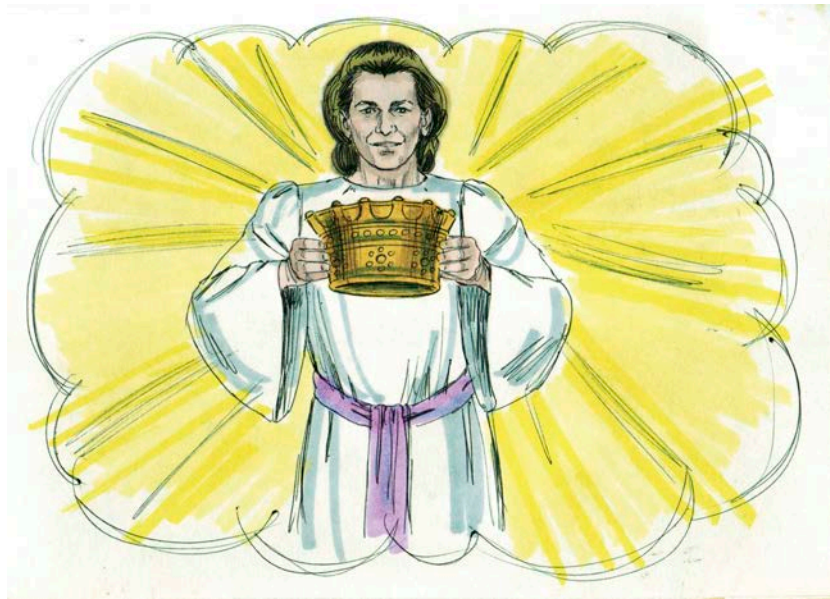
You see, life on earth won't end when Jesus returns. Instead, God will use Jesus and the Body of Christ (the Christians) to somehow bring things back to a state of goodness where all things will be pure and lovely just like they were in the Garden of Eden before Adam and Eve chose to disobey God.

God actually moved upon some of the Christians to write about their experiences and about what God revealed to them.



In time, these writings were gathered together with writings from before the days of Jesus. This group of records is known today as the Holy Bible.

Much time has passed since the Christians first began to share all their wonderful news. And over the years, many people around the world have become part of the Body of Christ through repentance toward God, water baptism in the name of Jesus, and the infilling of the Holy Spirit.



While these people are waiting for Jesus to come back for them, God is blessing their lives upon this earth in so many ways. And, they continue to be excited to tell others about the love of God. They know the Kingdom of God will be more glorious and more beautiful than they could ever possibly imagine, and they want everyone to be able to share in it.

THE END

