

CHILD'S BIBLE HISTORY

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By the

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FIRST PART

HISTORY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

1. The Creation of the World

IN THE beginning God created heaven and earth. But the earth was dark and empty. And God said: "Let there be light." And there was light. This was the first day.

On the second day God said: "Let there be a firmament." And it was so done. God called the firmament Heaven.

2. On the third day God said: "Let the waters of the Earth be gathered together in one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so done. God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering of the waters He called Sea.

God said again: "Let the earth bring forth grass, herbs and fruit trees." And it was so done. The earth was covered with grass, and herbs, and trees yielding fruit.

3. On the fourth day God said: "Let there be lights in the firmament." And it was so done. God created the sun, the moon and the stars, to rule the day and the night, and to divide the light from the darkness.

On the fifth day God said: "Let there be fishes in the water and birds in the air." And God created the fishes and the birds, according to their kinds.

4. On the sixth day God said: "Let the earth bring



THE CREATION OF THE WORLD

forth cattle and beasts of every kind." And it was so done. And God created the beasts and the cattle, and every creature that creeps on the earth. Lastly, God created man.

On the seventh day God rested, and He blessed that day and made it holy.

QUESTIONS

1. What did God create in the beginning? How was the earth? What, did God say and create on the first day? On the second?
2. What did God say and create on the third day? What did God say again?
3. 4. What did God say and create on the fourth, the fifth and the sixth days? What did God do on the seventh day?

2. The Creation and the Fall of the Angels

BESIDES the visible world, God created also an invisible world, namely, the angels of Heaven. At first they were all good and happy.

2. But many angels became proud, and would no longer be obedient to God. Then Michael and the other good angels fought against the wicked spirits. The bad angels were conquered, and cast from Heaven down to Hell. The leader of the fallen angels was Lucifer. He is also called Satan or the Devil.

3. God rewarded the good angels by giving them eternal happiness.

QUESTIONS

1. What did God create besides the visible world? 2. Who fought against the bad angels? 3. How did God reward the good angels?

3. The Creation of the First Man—Paradise

WHEN God created man, He formed a human body of the slime of the earth, breathed into his face the breath of life, and man became a living being. God called him Adam, which means, man taken from the earth.

2. The Lord made, expressly for man, a beautiful garden, called Paradise. There were in it all sorts of trees, and all kinds of delicious fruits. God placed Adam in this garden, and said to him: "Of every tree of Paradise thou mayest eat. But thou shalt not eat of the tree which is in the midst of the garden. For if thou eatest of it, thou shalt die the death."

3. As yet Adam was the only man. Therefore, God caused Adam to fall into a deep sleep, and then took one of his ribs and formed of it a woman. When Adam awoke, God brought the woman to him. Adam was pleased, and called the woman Eve, which means Mother of the Living.

4. Adam and Eve lived quite happily in Paradise. They were perfect and just, and knew nothing of wickedness.

QUESTIONS

1. How did God form the body of the first man? 2. Where did God place Adam? Of what tree was Adam forbidden to eat? 3. In what manner was Eve created? 4. How did Adam and Eve live in Paradise?

4. The Fall of Our First Parents

THE devil looked with envy on the happiness of Adam and Eve. To deceive them, he made use of the serpent. The serpent said to Eve: "Why has God commanded you not to eat of every tree of Paradise?"

2. Eve answered: "We do eat of the trees of the garden. But God has commanded us not to eat of the tree which stands in the midst of Paradise, lest we die."

3. The serpent replied: "No, surely you shall not die if you eat of it. On the contrary, your eyes shall be opened, and you shall be like God." Eve gave way to pride, she looked at the fruit, and saw that it was beautiful and good. She took and ate of it. Then she gave to Adam, and he also did eat. Thus was the first sin committed.

4. Now their eyes were opened, and they saw that they were naked. Filled with shame, they began to sew

together fig leaves to cover their nakedness. But soon they heard the voice of God, and they hid themselves among the trees of the garden. Then God called and said: "Adam, where art thou?"

5. Adam answered: "I am afraid, for I am naked, and have hidden myself."

God said: "Who told thee that thou art naked: but that thou hast eaten of the forbidden fruit?"

Adam answered: "The woman gave me of it, and I did eat."

Then the Lord asked the woman: "Why hast thou done this?"

She replied: "The serpent deceived me, and I did eat."

QUESTIONS

1. Of whom did the devil make use to deceive our first parents?
2. What did Eve reply?
3. What did Eve do when the serpent said that their eyes would be opened?
4. Why did they hide, when God came to call them?
5. What did God say to Adam and Eve, and what did they answer?

5. The Punishment of Our First Parents—The Promise of a Saviour

THEN the Lord said to the serpent: "Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed among all the beasts of the earth. I will put enmity between thee and the woman, thy seed and her seed. She shall crush thy head." This refers to the Saviour.

2. To Eve he said: "Thou shalt have great sorrow with thy children, and thou shalt be under the control of thy husband."

3. To Adam the Lord said: "Cursed be the earth in



THE FALL OF OUR FIRST PARENTS

thy work. Thorns and thistles shall it bring forth to thee. In the sweat of thy face thou shalt eat thy bread, till thou shalt return to the earth, out of which thou wast taken: For dust thou art, and unto dust thou shalt return."

4. Then God made garments of skins for Adam and his wife. Hereupon he drove them out of Paradise.

QUESTIONS

1. How did God curse the serpent? 2. How did God punish Eve? 3. What did He say to Adam? 4. What garments did God make for Adam and Eve?

6. Cain and Abel

ADAM and Eve had two sons. The elder was called Cain, the younger Abel. Cain became a husbandman, Abel a shepherd. Abel was just; but Cain was wicked.

2. One day they offered a sacrifice to God. Cain offered the fruits of the earth, Abel sacrificed the firstlings of his flock. God looked with pleasure on Abel and on his gifts; but upon Cain and his offerings He looked not. Then Cain grew very angry, and his countenance became dark and sullen.

3. The Lord said to Cain: "Why art thou angry? And why is thy countenance fallen? If thou do well, thou shalt be rewarded; but if thou do ill, punishment



DEATH OF ABEL

shall forthwith be present at the door: Keep away from sin."

4. Cain, however, did not hearken to the Lord. One day he said to his brother: "Come, let us go forth into the fields." And when they were there, Cain rose up against his brother Abel, and slew him.

5. The Lord asked Cain: "Where is thy brother Abel?" Cain answered: "I know not; am I my brother's keeper?"

God said to him: "What hast thou done? The voice of thy brother's blood crieth to Me from the earth. Therefore, cursed shalt thou be upon the earth. When thou shalt till it, it shall not yield to thee its fruit. A fugitive and a vagabond shalt thou be upon the earth."

6. Thereupon Cain went out from the face of the Lord, and dwelt as a fugitive on the earth.

QUESTIONS

1. How were the two sons of Adam and Eve called? 2. What did they offer to God one day? 3. What did the Lord say to Cain who was angry? 4. How did Cain kill Abel? 5. What did the Lord say to Cain, and how did He punish him? 6. How did Cain dwell upon the earth?

7. The Building of the Ark

ADAM and Eve had many sons and daughters. The number of men increased continually. But sin and crime kept on multiplying in the same manner.

God said: "I will destroy man from the face of the earth."

2. In the midst of that wicked generation there was one just and virtuous man, called Noe. God said to him: "Make thee an ark of timber planks, and pitch it

within and without, Thou shalt make a window in the ark, and a door in its side. Behold! I will send heavy rains upon the earth. All things that are on the earth shall perish. But thou and thy family shall go into the ark. Take with thee a pair of every sort of beasts, and food for thee and the beasts."

3. Noe did all things as God had commanded. He spent a hundred years in building the ark, and never ceased to preach penance to the people.

4. But they heeded not the warning; they ate, and drank, and held great feasts.

QUESTIONS

1. What was multiplied on earth as the number of men increased? 2. Who was Noe? What did God tell him to do? 3. How many years did Noe spend in building the ark? 4. Did the people heed his warning?

8. The Deluge

THE Lord spoke to Noe: "Go into the ark. I shall send rain for 40 days and 40 nights. All living creatures shall be destroyed from the face of the earth."

2. Noe went into the ark. With him went his wife, his three sons and the wives of his sons, and the beasts. The Lord himself shut the ark from the outside.

3. Then the great fountains of the deep were broken up, and the flood-gates of heaven were opened, and the rain fell upon the earth for 40 days and 40 nights. The waters continued to increase, and lifted the ark from the earth. The flood rose 15 cubits above the highest mountains. But the ark floated upon the surging waters.



THE DELUGE

4. Thus was destroyed every creature that lived on the earth, from man to beast, from the bird in the air to the worm under the earth. Noe alone was spared, and those that were with him in the ark.

QUESTIONS

1. What did the Lord say to Noe?
2. Who went with Noe into the ark?
3. What happened during 40 days and 40 nights?
4. What was thus destroyed, and who alone remained?

9. Noe's Offering—The Rainbow

THE waters remained one hundred and fifty days on the earth. Then God sent a warm wind on the earth. The waters abated by little and little, and the



NOE'S OFFERING

ark rested on a high mountain in Armenia.

2. When the earth was completely dry, God said to Noe: "Go out of the ark with thy family, and with all the beasts."

3. Noe did so, taking with him his family and all the beasts. Filled with gratitude, he built an altar and offered a sacrifice to the Lord. God was pleased with the sacrifice. He made a rainbow in the sky, and said: "Never again will I destroy mankind by a flood. The rainbow in the clouds shall be the sign of my covenant with the earth."

QUESTIONS

1. What did God send after one hundred and fifty days?
2. What happened when the earth was completely dry?
3. What did Noe offer on leaving the ark? What did God do and say?

10. The Call of Abraham

THE descendants of Noe soon multiplied. But as they grew in numbers so they increased in wickedness. Men no longer adored the one true God, but instead of their Creator, they worshiped living creatures, and even lifeless pictures.

2. At that time there lived in the land of Chaldea a virtuous man, called Abraham. It was to him that God said: "Go forth out of thy own country to the land which I will show thee. I will make thee the father of a great nation, and I will bless thee."

3. Abraham believed God, and set out for Chanaan. There the Lord appeared to him a second time and said: "Behold! I will give this land to thee and to thy posterity."

4. Thenceforth Chanaan was called the Promised Land, because God had promised it to Abraham and to his descendants.

5. Afterwards the Lord appeared again to Abraham, and said: "I will make a covenant with thee: I will be with thee and with thy posterity. But ye shall obey Me. I am your Lord and Master. This is the sign of My covenant with you: Among you very male child shall be circumcised on the eighth day after his birth."

6. Abraham was then 99 years old, and had no children. God said to him: "After a year Sara, thy wife, shall have a son."

QUESTIONS

1. What did the descendants of Noe adore instead of the one true God? 2. What did God say to Abraham? 3. What did Abraham do? 4. How was Chanaan henceforth called?

5. What covenant did the Lord make with Abraham? 6. What did God promise to Abraham when he was 99 years old?

11. The Sacrifice of Abraham

SARA gave birth to a child as the Lord had promised. Abraham, who was then a hundred years old, called his son Isaac, and circumcised him on the eighth day.

2. When the boy was grown, God tried Abraham. One night the Lord said to him: "Abraham, take thy only begotten son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and go to Mount Moria, and there sacrifice him to Me for a holocaust."

3. Early in the morning Abraham arose, and cut the wood for the sacrifice. The wood he laid upon the shoulders of Isaac; he himself carried fire and a sword.

As they went along, Isaac said: "My father?"

Abraham answered: "What wilt thou, my son?"

Isaac exclaimed: "Behold! Here is fire and wood, but where is the victim for the holocaust?"

Abraham replied: "God will provide Himself a victim, my son."

4. Thus they went on together. On the top of the mount Abraham erected an altar, placed the wood upon it, bound his son and laid him on the wood. Then Abraham put forth his hand, and took the sword to sacrifice his son. But lo! an angel from Heaven cried out to him, saying: "Lay not thy hand upon the boy. For now I know thou fearest God, and hast not spared thy only begotten son, for My sake."

5. Then Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw a ram sticking fast by the horns in the briers. He took the



ABRAHAM'S SACRIFICE

ram and offered him for a holocaust, instead of his son.

6. The angel of the Lord spoke again to Abraham: "Thus speaketh the Lord: Because thou hast done this thing, and hast not spared thy only begotten son, I will bless thee and multiply thy seeds as the stars of heaven, and as the sand that is by the seashore. And in thy seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed." The last words refer to the Saviour.

7. Abraham then returned home with his son, Isaac, carrying the wood, is a figure of Christ, carrying His Cross.

QUESTIONS

1. How old was Abraham when Isaac was born? 2. What did God say to Abraham when Isaac was grown up? 3. What did Abraham do? What did Isaac ask? 4. What did Abraham erect

when they came to the mountain? What did the angel cry out? 5. What was sticking in the briers? 6. What did the angel of the Lord speak again? 7. Of whom was Isaac a figure?

12. Joseph Is Hated by His Brothers

NOW, after these things, it came to pass that Isaac also had a son, whom he called Jacob. But Jacob had twelve sons, and he loved Joseph above all the others, because he was young and very good. And Jacob made him a beautiful coat of divers colors. One day the brothers of Joseph were all tending their flocks, and some of them committed a most wicked crime. Joseph was very sorry, and told his father what had happened. On this account his brothers hated him, and would not speak to him kindly.

2. It also happened that Joseph had a wonderful dream. He said to his brothers: "Hear my dream: I thought we were binding sheaves in the field. My sheaf arose and stood upright; your sheaves, however, standing around, bowed down before my sheaf."

3. Whereupon his brothers exclaimed: "Shalt thou be our king?" And they hated him more than ever.

QUESTIONS

1. Who was the son of Isaac? Why was Joseph hated by his brothers? 2. What did Joseph dream about his sheaf and the sheaves of his brothers? 3. What did his brothers exclaim?

13. Joseph Is Sold by His Brothers

ONE day the sons of Jacob had gone with their flocks to Sichem. Jacob said to Joseph: "Go and



JOSEPH SOLD BY HIS BROTHERS

see, if all be well with thy brothers and the cattle." Joseph obeyed, and went to see them.

2. When his brothers saw him afar off, they exclaimed: "Here comes the dreamer; let us kill him, and say that some wild beast has devoured him."

3. As soon as Joseph drew near to his brothers, they stripped him of his coat of divers colors, and cast him into an old pit. Then they sat down to eat. Meanwhile they beheld merchants passing by, with camels carrying spices, balm and myrrh into Egypt.

4. Juda then said to his brothers: "What does it profit us to kill our brother? It is better that he be sold to these merchants, and that our hands be not defiled; for he is our brother."

5. The others agreed, drew Joseph out of the pit, and sold him for twenty pieces of silver. Joseph wept and besought his brothers, but in vain. The merchants led him away with them to Egypt.

6. Jacob knew not what had become of his son. He cried: "A wild beast hath devoured Joseph." He mourned a long time, and would not be comforted.

Joseph, sold by his brothers, is a figure of Christ, sold by Judas.

QUESTIONS

1. What did Jacob one day say to Joseph? 2. What did the brothers say when they saw Joseph coming? 3. What did they do to him? 4. What did Judas say? 5. For how much did they sell Joseph? 6. What did Jacob cry out?

14. Joseph in the House of Putiphar

ON arriving in Egypt the merchants sold Joseph to Putiphar, the captain of the Royal Guard. The Lord was with Joseph, and blessed him in all his undertakings. And Putiphar loved Joseph, and gave him charge over all his household.

2. Now the wife of Putiphar was very wicked. She urged Joseph to commit a most grievous crime. He, however, would not consent, and said: "How can I commit so great a sin against my God!"

3. On a certain day the woman took hold of the skirt of his cloak, and tried to keep him. But Joseph left the cloak in her hand, and fled. Thereupon the woman grew very angry. She showed the mantle to her husband, and said: "Joseph came to me, and tried to do me harm. But when I called aloud, he left his garment in my hand and fled."

4. Putiphar believed his wife. He became very angry, and cast Joseph into prison.

QUESTIONS

1. To whom was Joseph sold in Egypt? 2. What did the wife of Putiphar urge Joseph to commit? 3. What did she do on a certain day? What did she say to her husband? 4. Why was Joseph cast into prison?

15. Joseph in Prison

EVEN in prison, God was with Joseph, and caused him to find favor in the sight of the keeper of the jail, who gave Joseph charge of all the other captives. Then it came to pass, that the chief butler and the chief baker of King Pharaoh were cast into the dungeon.

2. One morning Joseph perceived that these two men were very sad. He asked them: "Why are you so sad?" They answered: "We have dreamed a dream last night, and we have nobody to explain it to us." Joseph said to them: "Does not the interpretation come from God? Tell me what ye have dreamed."

3. The chief butler first told his dream. Joseph answered: "After three days the king will restore thee to thy former place. Remember me then, and ask the king to take me out of this prison, for I am innocent."

4. Then the chief baker related his dream. Joseph said to him: "After three days the king will take thy head from thee, and hang thee on a cross."

5. The third day came. It was the birthday of Pharaoh. Then the king remembered his chief butler and his chief baker. The former was restored to his place, the latter he caused to be hanged on a gibbet.

The chief butler rejoiced in his good fortune; but he thought no more of Joseph.

QUESTIONS

1. How did Joseph find favor with the keeper of the prison?
2. Why were the chief baker and the chief butler sad?
3. What did Joseph tell the chief butler?
4. What did he say to the chief baker? What happened on the third day?

16. The Exaltation of Joseph

AFTER two years Pharaoh had a dream. He thought he stood by the river Nile. And up came out of the water seven kine, very beautiful and fat, and they fed in marshy places. After them came also seven other kine, that were ill-favored and lean, and they devoured the fat ones. Then the king awoke. He slept again, and dreamed another dream. Seven ears of corn grew up, on one stalk, and the ears were full and fair. After these sprang up seven other ears, thin and blighted, which devoured all the beauty of the former.

2. Thereupon Pharaoh awoke again. When morning was come, he sent for all the wise men of Egypt, and related to them his dreams. But no one was able to interpret them.

3. Then the chief butler remembered Joseph, and said: "There is in prison a youth, who on one occasion interpreted dreams for me and for the chief baker, and all came to pass in due time." The king sent for Joseph and related to him his two dreams.

4. Joseph said: "The seven beautiful kine, and the seven full ears are seven years of plenty. But the seven lean cows and the seven blighted ears are seven years