

CLASSIC BIBLE STORYBOOK

BY KENNETH N. TAYLOR

ILLUSTRATIONS BY RICHARD AND FRANCES HOOK

Kenneth N. Taylor

Frances & Richard Hook



Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. Carol Stream, Illinois

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Classic Bible Storybook

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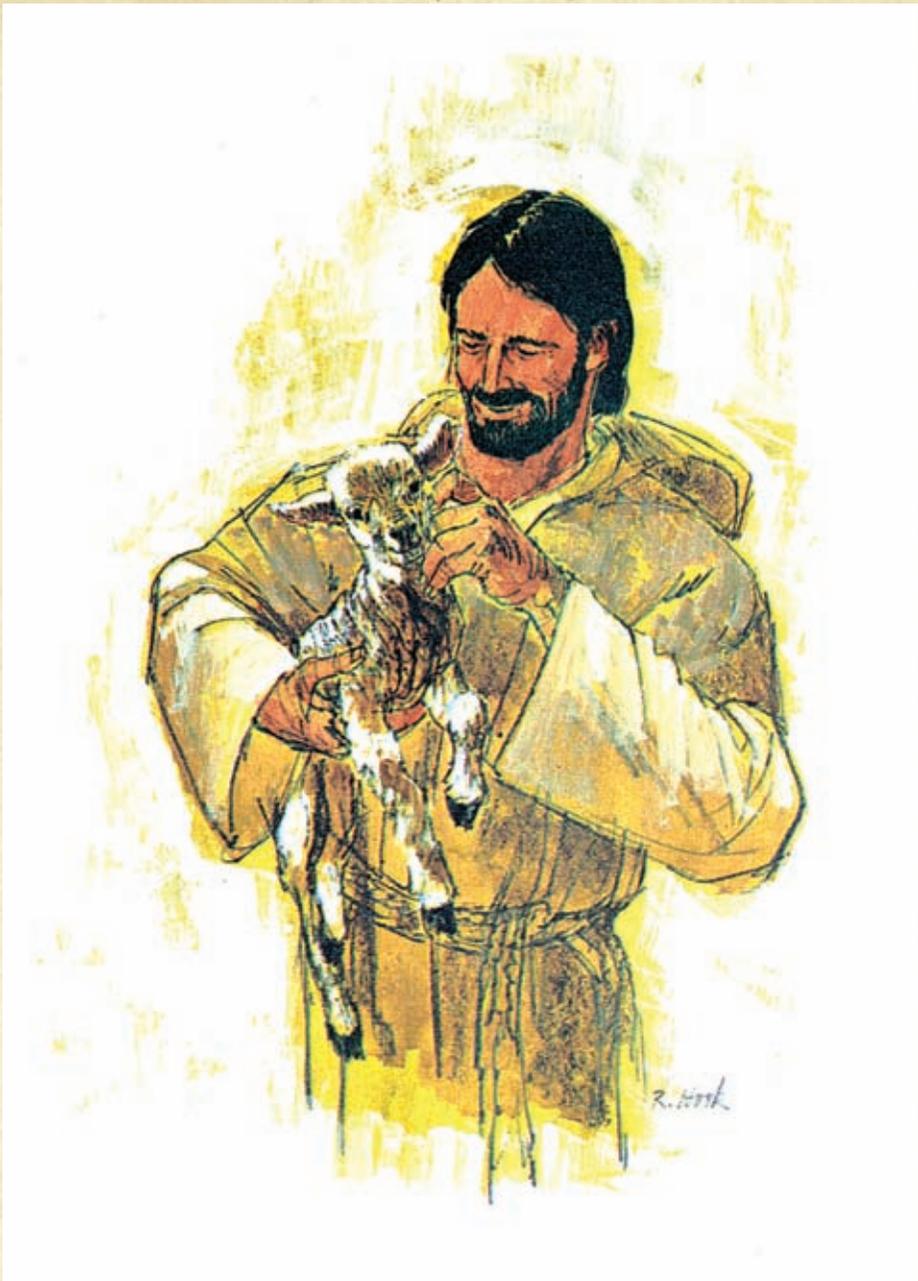
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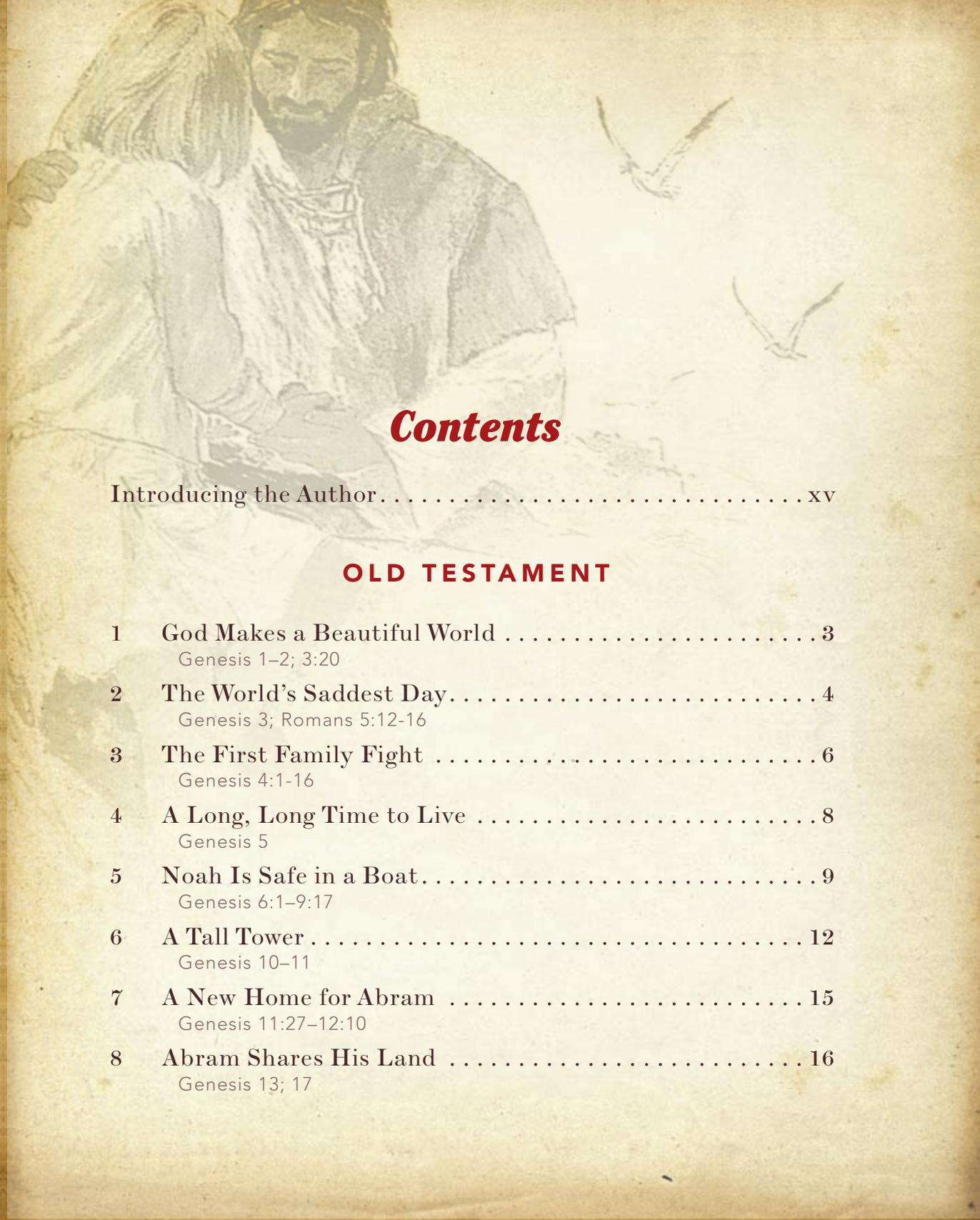
BY

ON



"I am the good shepherd. I know my sheep, and they know me."

(From Story 89)



Contents

Introducing the Author xv

OLD TESTAMENT

1	God Makes a Beautiful World	3
	Genesis 1–2; 3:20	
2	The World’s Saddest Day	4
	Genesis 3; Romans 5:12-16	
3	The First Family Fight	6
	Genesis 4:1-16	
4	A Long, Long Time to Live	8
	Genesis 5	
5	Noah Is Safe in a Boat	9
	Genesis 6:1–9:17	
6	A Tall Tower	12
	Genesis 10–11	
7	A New Home for Abram	15
	Genesis 11:27–12:10	
8	Abram Shares His Land	16
	Genesis 13; 17	

9	God Visits and Isaac Is Born	18
	Genesis 17:1–18:15; 21:1-7	
10	A Wife for Isaac	19
	Genesis 23–24	
11	Esau’s Mistake	22
	Genesis 25:19-34	
12	Is It Jacob or Esau?	24
	Genesis 27:1–28:5	
13	A Stairway to Heaven	27
	Genesis 28:5, 10-22	
14	Jacob Works Hard and Gets Married	28
	Genesis 29:1–31:16	
15	Jacob’s Secret Escape	31
	Genesis 31:17–33:17	
16	Joseph’s Coat	32
	Genesis 35; 37:1-4	
17	Joseph’s Dreams	34
	Genesis 37:5-36	
18	Joseph Becomes an Important Man	37
	Genesis 39–41	
19	Joseph’s Older Brothers Come to Egypt.	38
	Genesis 42:1-35	
20	A Big Surprise	40
	Genesis 42:36–46:34	
21	A Princess Finds a Baby	43
	Exodus 1:1–2:10	
22	A Voice in a Burning Bush.	44
	Exodus 2:11–4:20	
23	Terrible Troubles	45
	Exodus 4:29-31; 7–10	
24	The Worst Trouble of All	48
	Exodus 11–12; 1 Corinthians 5:7-8	

25	A Pillar of Cloud and Fire	50
	Exodus 13:17–15:21	
26	Food from Heaven	52
	Exodus 16	
27	The Ten Commandments	54
	Exodus 19–20; 24; Deuteronomy 5; Matthew 5:21-22	
28	A Special House for God	57
	Exodus 25–28	
29	A Gold Calf	58
	Exodus 31:18–34:35	
30	Workers Build the Tabernacle	61
	Exodus 35–40; Leviticus 16; Hebrews 7	
31	Three Holidays	63
	Leviticus 23	
32	Moses Doesn't Believe God	65
	Numbers 20:1-13	
33	Balaam's Donkey Speaks!	67
	Numbers 22–24	
34	The Promised Land	69
	Deuteronomy 31; 34; Joshua 1:1–5:12	
35	Jericho's Walls Fall Down	71
	Joshua 5:13–6:27	
36	Gideon and His Wool	74
	Judges 2–4; 6–8	
37	Samson, the Strong Man	77
	Judges 13; 16:4-14	
38	Samson Tells a Secret	79
	Judges 16:5-6, 15-31	
39	A Beautiful Love Story	81
	Ruth	
40	Job Goes Through Sad Times	84
	Job 1–19	

41	God Speaks to Job	86
	Job 20-42	
42	Jonah and the Giant Fish	87
	Jonah	
43	Samuel Hears a Voice	90
	1 Samuel 1-3	
44	The People Want a King	93
	1 Samuel 7-10	
45	A New King	96
	1 Samuel 15-16; 17:34-36	
46	David Kills a Giant	99
	1 Samuel 17	
47	David's Best Friend	101
	1 Samuel 18:1-16; 19:1-10; 20	
48	David Steals the King's Spear	104
	1 Samuel 23:13; 24:8-17; 26-27	
49	David Becomes the King	107
	1 Samuel 31; 2 Samuel 1-2; 4-5	
50	God's Beautiful Temple	108
	2 Samuel 7; 1 Kings 3; 5-7; 1 Chronicles 22; 2 Chronicles 1:1-5:6	
51	Two Kings and Two Kingdoms	111
	1 Kings 11:41-12:20; 2 Chronicles 10-11	
52	Food for Elijah	113
	1 Kings 15-18	
53	A Chariot Ride to Heaven	117
	1 Kings 19; 2 Kings 2	
54	Elisha Helps a Rich Woman	118
	2 Kings 4:8-37	
55	A Little Girl Helps Naaman	120
	2 Kings 5:1-17	
56	Four Men Find Food for a City	123
	2 Kings 6:24-7:16; 17	

57	A Little Boy Becomes a King	127
	2 Kings 11-12; 2 Chronicles 22-24	
58	King Ahaz Closes the Temple	128
	2 Kings 16; 2 Chronicles 28-29	
59	The Savior Will Come!	131
	2 Kings 20; 2 Chronicles 32:24-33; Isaiah 53; Micah 1; 5-6	
60	King Josiah and the Lost Book	132
	Deuteronomy 31:9-13; 2 Kings 22:1-23:3; 2 Chronicles 34	
61	Jeremiah Writes a Message from God	134
	2 Kings 24:1-6, 18-20; 25:1-2; 2 Chronicles 36:4-21; Jeremiah 15; 21; 27; 29; 36	
62	Jerusalem Burns	137
	2 Kings 25; Jeremiah 37-39; 52	
63	Dead Bones Come to Life	140
	Ezekiel 37	
64	Three Men in a Fire	142
	Daniel 1-3	
65	Daniel in the Lions' Den	145
	Daniel 6; 9	
66	Many Jews Return to Judah	147
	Ezra 1-3; Isaiah 44:21-45:13	
67	Queen Esther Talks to the King	150
	Esther	
68	A Time to Remember	153
	Ezra 7-8; Nehemiah	

NEW TESTAMENT

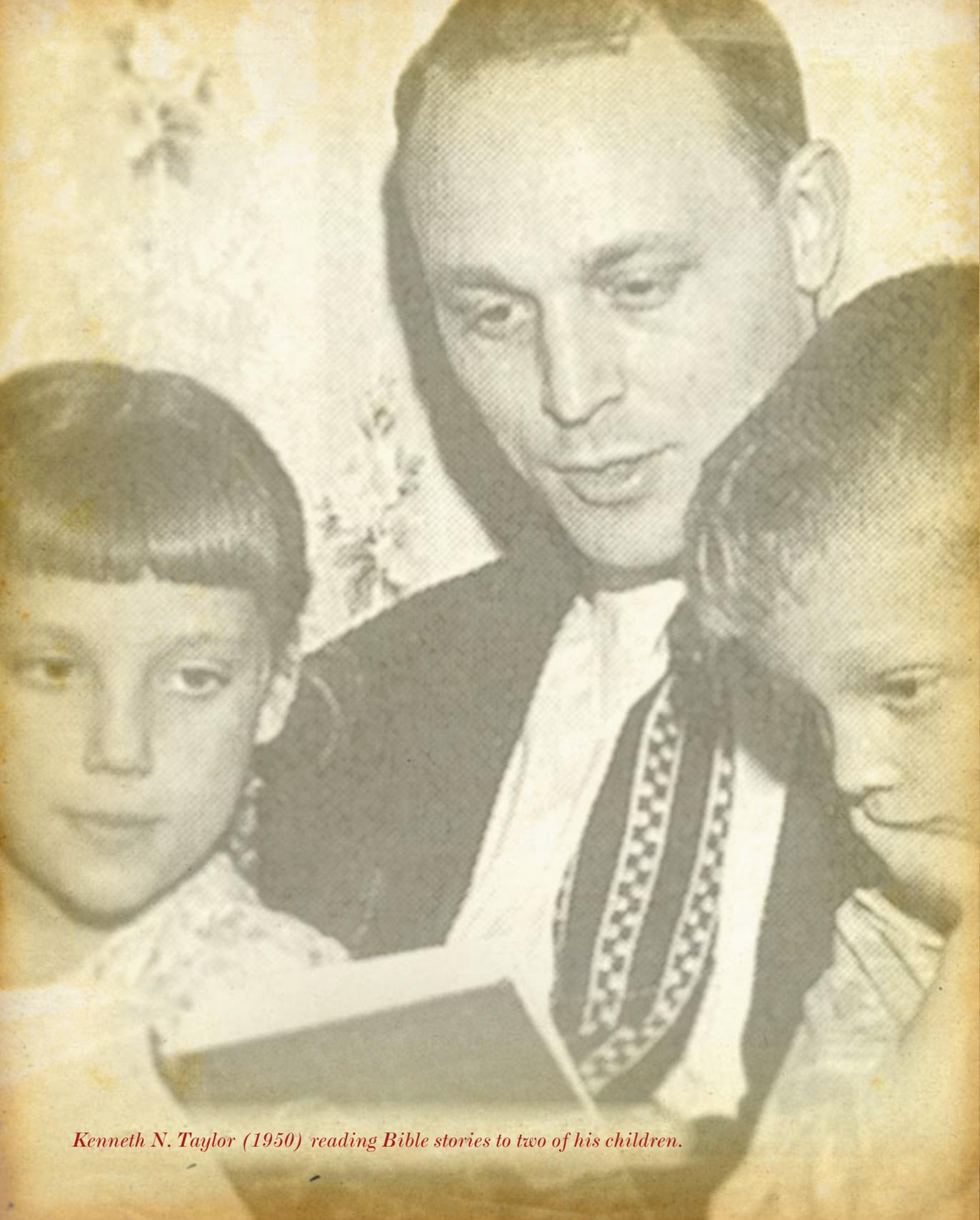
69	Three Visits from an Angel	159
	Matthew 1; Mark 1:1-3; Luke 1	
70	John the Baptist Is Born	161
	Luke 1:39-80	

71	Jesus, God's Son, Is Born	162
	Luke 2:1-21	
72	Simeon and Anna See Jesus	165
	Luke 2:22-38	
73	Wise Men Visit a Little King	166
	Matthew 2	
74	Jesus Grows Up	169
	Luke 2:39-52	
75	Jesus Is Baptized	170
	Matthew 3; Mark 1:4-15	
76	A Wedding	173
	John 2:1-12	
77	A Night Visit	174
	John 3:1-21	
78	Jesus Helps a Woman	177
	John 4:1-42	
79	Jesus Helps a Father	178
	John 4:43-54	
80	Finding Fish	181
	Matthew 4:18-22; Mark 1:16-20; Luke 5:1-11	
81	Finding People and Working Hard	183
	Matthew 12:9-15; Mark 1:16-2:12; 3:1-19; Luke 5:1-11, 17-26; 6:6-13	
82	Jesus Teaches from a Hill	185
	Matthew 5-7; Luke 6:20-49	
83	A Farmer's Seeds and God's Words	188
	Matthew 13:1-23; Mark 4:1-20; Luke 8:1-15	
84	A Storm on a Lake	191
	Matthew 8:23-27; Mark 4:35-41; Luke 8:22-25	
85	A Woman and a Girl Meet Jesus	192
	Matthew 9:18-26; Mark 5:21-43; Luke 8:40-56	
86	Dinner for a Crowd	194
	Matthew 10; 14:13-21; Mark 6:6-13, 30-44; Luke 9:1-6, 10-17; John 6:1-16	

87	The Good Samaritan	196
	Luke 10:25-37	
88	Mary Listens to Jesus	199
	Luke 10:38-42	
89	Jesus, the Good Shepherd	201
	Luke 15:3-7; John 10:1-30	
90	A Young Man Runs Away	202
	Luke 15:1-2, 11-32	
91	Jesus and Lazarus	205
	John 10:39-11:45	
92	Jesus Heals Ten Lepers	207
	Luke 17:11-19	
93	Children Love Jesus	208
	Matthew 19:13-15; Mark 10:13-16; Luke 18:15-17	
94	Zacchaeus Finds a Friend	210
	Luke 18:31-34; 19:1-10	
95	Bartimaeus Wants to See	212
	Mark 10:46-52; Luke 18:35-43	
96	Jesus Eats Supper in Bethany	213
	John 12:1-11	
97	Jesus Rides a Colt	215
	Matthew 21:1-17; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:28-40; John 12:12-19	
98	Fixing Supper and Washing Feet	216
	Matthew 26:17-19; Mark 14:12-16; Luke 22:7-30; John 13:1-17	
99	Eating the Last Supper	218
	Matthew 26:20-35; Mark 14:17-31; Luke 22:14-34; John 13:18-38; 17	
100	Jesus Prays in a Garden	221
	Matthew 26:36-46; Mark 14:32-42; Luke 22:39-46	
101	Jesus Is Taken Away	223
	Matthew 26:47-58, 69-75; Mark 14:43-54, 66-72; Luke 22:47-62; John 18:1-18, 25-27	

102	A Crown of Thorns	224
	Matthew 26:59-68; 27:11-31; Mark 14:55-65; 15:1-20; Luke 22:63-23:25; John 18:28-19:16	
103	The Cross	226
	Matthew 27:32-54; Mark 15:21-39; Luke 23:26-47; John 19:17-30	
104	Jesus Comes Back to Life	229
	Matthew 27:57-28:15; Mark 15:42-16:10; Luke 23:50-24:12; John 19:31-20:18	
105	Two Friends Walk to Emmaus	232
	Mark 16:12-14; Luke 24:13-43; John 20:19-23	
106	Thomas Believes	234
	John 20:24-29	
107	Breakfast with Jesus	236
	John 21:1-17	
108	Jesus Returns to Heaven	237
	Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 16:15-20; Luke 24:44-53; Acts 1:1-2:41; 1 Corinthians 15:3-8	
109	Philip Has Good News for a Man from Ethiopia	240
	Acts 6:1-7; 8:4-8, 26-40	
110	A Light from Heaven Makes Saul Blind	242
	Acts 8:3; 9:1-9	
111	Saul Can See Again	244
	Acts 9:10-28	
112	The Good News Is for Everyone	245
	Acts 9:32-10:48	
113	An Angel Gets Peter Out of Jail	249
	Acts 12:1-17	
114	Saul Becomes Paul, the Missionary	250
	Acts 11:20-26; 13-14; 15:36-16:5	
115	An Earthquake Shakes a Jail	252
	Acts 16:12, 16-40	
116	Paul Goes Back to Jerusalem	255
	Acts 20:13-23:11	

117 Paul's Nephew Saves His Life	257
Acts 23:12-25:12	
118 Shipwrecked but Safe	260
Acts 27; 28:11-14	
119 Dressed like Soldiers for God	263
Acts 28:16; Ephesians 4:1, 17-32; 5:21-6:4; 6:10-18; Philippians 4:4-7; Colossians 3:16-17	
120 A Letter That Wasn't Signed.	265
Hebrews 9-13	
121 John's Wonderful Vision of Heaven.	268
Revelation 1:9-20; 4; 14; 21-22	



Kenneth N. Taylor (1950) reading Bible stories to two of his children.

Introducing the Author

Kenneth N. Taylor
1917–2005

Kenneth N. Taylor is best known as the writer of *The Living Bible*, a paraphrase he wrote so that his own children could better grasp Scripture's message. This paraphrase was later revised by a group of biblical scholars to become the New Living Translation.

It was always Dr. Taylor's desire to make Bible truths easily understandable to everyone—both adults and children. Ken Taylor's first claim to fame, though, was as a writer of children's books. Ken and his wife, Margaret, had ten children and twenty-eight grandchildren. (The number of great-grandchildren continues to grow!) So Ken Taylor personally told many children about God. His early manuscripts were ready for publication only when they passed the scrutiny of his ten young critics!

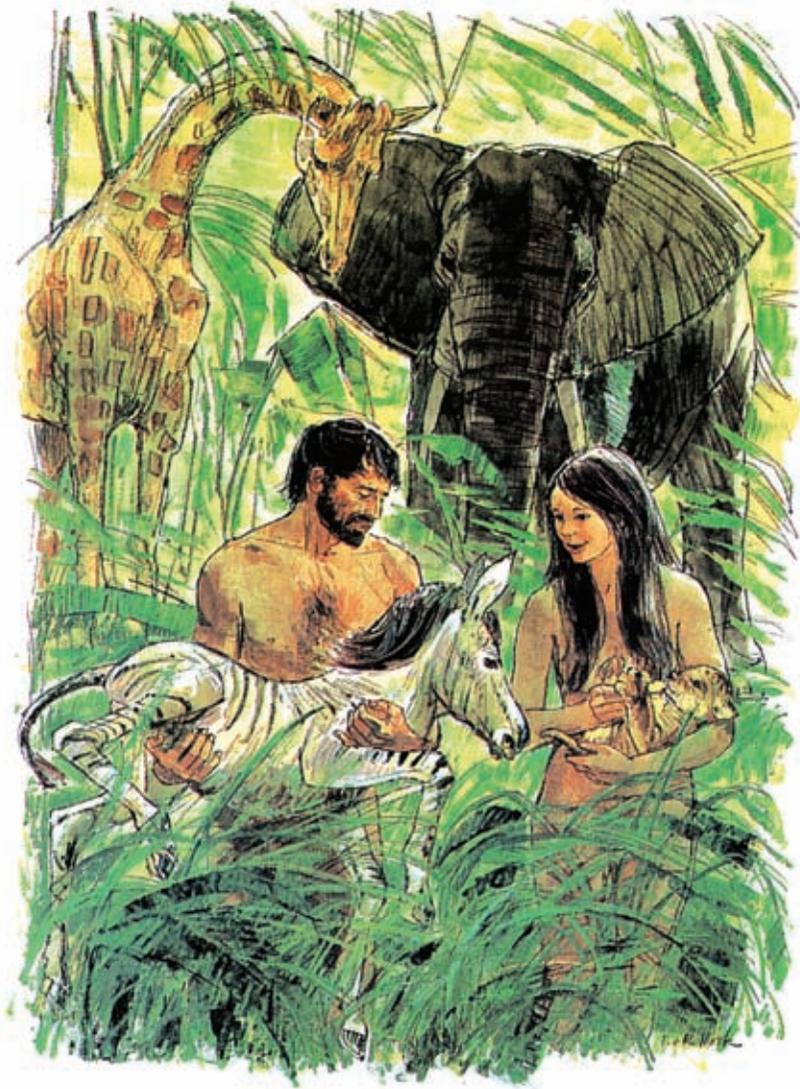
Dr. Taylor's children's books, which have been read to three generations of children around the world, include *The Bible in Pictures for Little Eyes* (Moody Press), *Devotions for the Children's Hour* (Moody Press), *Taylor's Bible Story Book* (Tyndale House), *The Living Bible Story Book* (Tyndale House), and *Big Thoughts for Little People* (Tyndale House). Some of his more recent books include *My First Bible in Pictures* (Tyndale House), *I Can Learn about God* (Tyndale House), *A Child's First Bible* (Tyndale House), *The Book for Children* (Tyndale House), and *Family-Time Bible in Pictures* (Tyndale House).

Dr. Taylor believed that it was important for the illustrations in his books to make the words come to life. Just as the words were to be easy for children to understand, so were the illustrations. He especially appreciated Richard and Frances Hook for their realistic, accurate portrayal of biblical scenes along with sweet pictures of children. Their illustrations, along with Dr. Taylor's stories, can easily form the basis for many lively family discussions about the Bible.



OLD TESTAMENT





Adam and Eve lived in the beautiful garden God made.

STORY 1

God Makes a Beautiful World

GENESIS 1 - 2 ; 3 : 2 0

Long, long ago—before anyone can remember—God made the world. At first it was lonely and dark.

Then God made the light. He said, “Let there be light,” and light came. God was pleased with it. He called the light “day.” And he called the darkness “night.” God did these things on the first day of Creation.

Then God made the space above the earth. He called it “sky.” God did this on the second day of Creation.

Next God said that the waters covering the earth should become oceans and lakes, and dry land should appear. God also made grass grow, and bushes and trees. All this was on the third day of Creation.

On the fourth day God let the sun shine in the daytime, and the moon and stars at night.

On the fifth day God made large sea animals and little fish. And he made birds, like ducks and geese, to fly over the water and swim in it. He made other birds, like eagles, robins, pigeons, and wrens, to fly over the land and live in the woods and fields.

On the sixth day of Creation God made animals that walk on land. He made wild elephants, lions, tigers, and bears. He made tame rabbits, horses, cows, and sheep. And he made little insects, such as ants and bees.

Then God made someone very special. He took some dust from the ground and formed it into a man’s body. God gave life to the body, and the man began to breathe. God named the man Adam.

The Lord God planted the beautiful Garden of Eden as a home for Adam. In it God planted trees full of delicious fruit. God told Adam he could eat any fruit except the fruit from one tree. That was the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If Adam obeyed God, he could live forever. But if Adam took even one bite from that tree’s fruit, God said he would die someday.

Adam was lonely, for he was the only person in all the world. So God decided to make another person who would live with Adam and help him. God put Adam to sleep. Then God took one of Adam's ribs and made a woman from it. When God brought the woman to Adam, she became his wife. And Adam named her Eve.

God looked at all he had made in six days, and he was very pleased.

On the seventh day, God rested. It was a quiet day, different from all the others—a holy day of rest.

Look at the picture on page 2 and name some things that God created.

How did God make Adam?

What did God tell Adam he could do?

What did Adam need to do so he could live forever?

How did God make Eve?

STORY 2

The World's Saddest Day

GENESIS 3; ROMANS 5:12-16

Satan is a wicked spirit. He tries to make people do things that are wrong. He came to Eve in the Garden of Eden. He was in the shape of a serpent.

Satan asked Eve, "Did God really tell you not to eat the fruit of any of the trees in the Garden?"

"We may eat any of it except from one tree," she replied. "We are not to eat the fruit of the tree in the middle of the Garden. God said that if we do, we will start growing old and die."

"That's not true!" Satan told her. "It won't hurt you at all! Really, it's good and will make you wise."



Adam and Eve were afraid of God and tried to hide.

Eve should have gone away and should not have listened to Satan. But instead, she went over and looked at the tree. The fruit looked good! So she ate some fruit. She gave some to Adam, and he ate it too. Then they were afraid of God and tried to hide.

God was angry. He told the serpent, “You will have to crawl in the dust all your life.”

God told the woman, “You will have pain when your children are born.”

God told Adam, “You will have to work hard to get food to eat. And someday you will die. Your body will become dust again.”

But God still loved Adam and Eve. So he made clothes for them before he sent them out of the beautiful garden. He also promised to send a Savior. That Savior was God’s Son, Jesus, who came years later to die for everyone’s sins. (Perhaps you already know that after Jesus died, he came back to life. Now he lives in heaven with God the Father.)

All of us do bad things. We sin, just like Adam and Eve did. But God forgives us if we ask him to, because Jesus died to take away our sins.

Did Adam and Eve obey God or Satan?

How did God punish Adam and Eve?

When God was angry, how did he still show his love?

When we do bad things, what can we ask God to do?

STORY 3

The First Family Fight

GENESIS 4:1-16

After God sent Adam and Eve out of the Garden, he gave them two sons. Cain became a farmer, planting crops. Abel was a shepherd with a flock of sheep.

The two brothers both sinned—they did things that were wrong. But Abel pleased God. So we know he was sorry about his sins. One day Abel offered his best lamb as a gift to God. He put the lamb on an altar made of stones. This gift was called a sacrifice. By giving God his best lamb, Abel showed God that he loved him.

God was pleased that Abel worshiped him like this.

One day God would send his Son, Jesus, into the world. Jesus would become a very special kind of sacrifice. He would die to save us from having to take the blame for our sins. Then he would come back to life.

Abel's brother, Cain, did not please God. He did not turn from his sins. The offering he brought was from his garden, but he did not bring the best things from his garden.

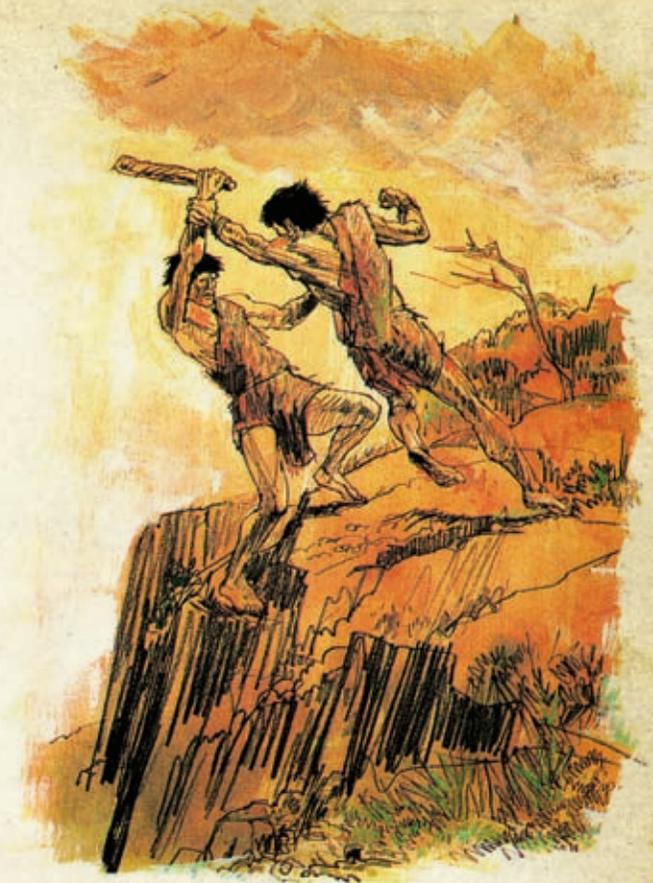
When Cain learned that God had accepted Abel's sacrifice but not his, he was angry with God. But God said that if Cain would worship him in the right way, he would accept Cain's gift.

Cain, who was still angry with God, took his anger out on Abel. One day in a field, Cain killed Abel.

God called to Cain, "Where is Abel, your brother?"

"How should I know?" Cain answered. "Am I supposed to look after my brother?"

But God had seen what Cain had done. So God said Cain would always have to wander from place to place. He would have to keep looking for



Cain took his anger out on Abel.

places where crops would grow. Cain was afraid that people would try to hurt him. But God still loved Cain and said he would never let that happen.

What gift did Abel give God?

What did Cain offer to God?

Before he would accept Cain's gift, what did God want Cain to do?

What terrible thing is Cain getting ready to do in the picture on page 7?

Afterward, what did God say would happen to Cain? What would not happen?

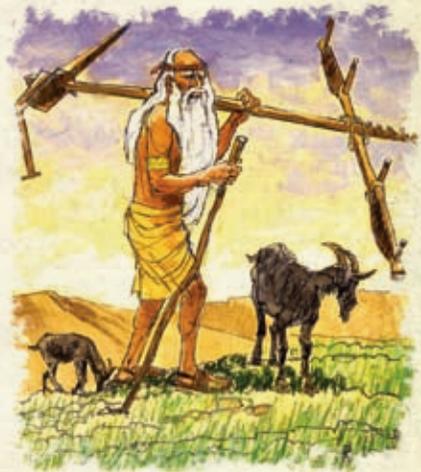
STORY 4

A Long, Long Time to Live

GENESIS 5

Cain and Abel's father and mother, Adam and Eve, lived for many years after the fight between their first two sons. When Adam was 930 years old, he died. His body became dust again. That's what God had said would happen because Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden.

Before Adam and Eve died, they had many children. The children grew up and had children too. Then those children grew up and had children, until there were many, many people in the world.



Methuselah lived longer than anyone else has lived.

One of those people was Enoch. He walked with God. That means he loved God and thought about God all the time. It was as if he and God walked together like friends. Enoch listened to what God said and always tried to please and obey him. When Enoch was 365 years old, God did a wonderful thing for him. God took Enoch right up to heaven! So he didn't die like other men. God just took Enoch away to live with him.

Enoch had a son named Methuselah, who lived to be 969 years old. Methuselah is known as the oldest man who ever lived.

What special thing happened to Enoch?

Who was the oldest man who ever lived?

How old was he when he died?

STORY 5

Noah Is Safe in a Boat

GENESIS 6 : 1 - 9 : 17

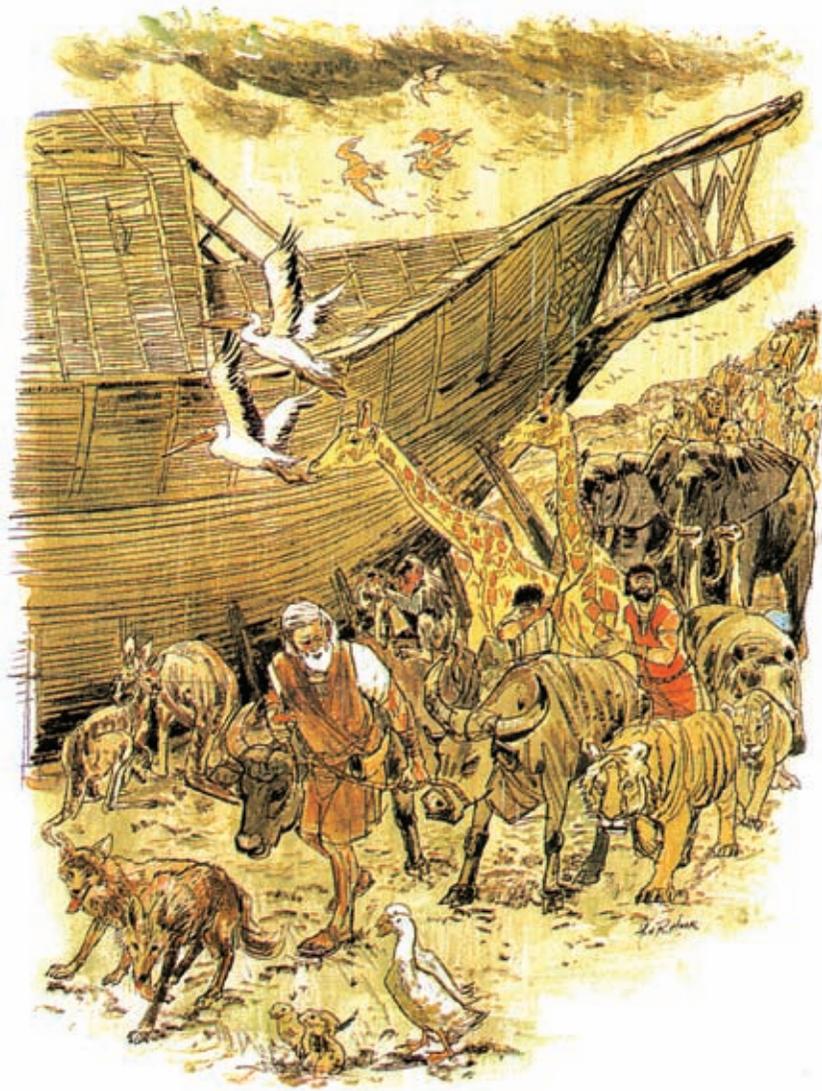
As the years went by, the world became very wicked. People didn't even try to obey God. So God said he would send a flood to drown all living things.

But one good man named Noah loved God and always wanted to please him. God loved Noah too, and told him about the flood so he could get ready for it.

God told Noah, "I want you to build a huge boat." God said to make it as high as a three-story house, with many large rooms. It was to have a long window all around it and a big door on the side.

It took Noah more than one hundred years to build the boat. But as you know, at that time people lived much longer than they do now.

When the boat was finished, God told Noah to bring his wife, his three sons, and each son's wife into the boat. God also said to bring fathers and



God took care of Noah, his family, and all the animals.

mothers for each kind of bird, animal, and insect. God said that in one week he would send a rain that would last forty days and forty nights. A flood would come, and everyone outside the boat would be drowned.

When all were safely inside, God closed the door.

Seven days later it began to rain. The rain poured down for forty days and forty nights, just as God had said it would. The creeks, the rivers, and the great oceans all began to rise, and water covered the land. Higher and higher the water rose, with the boat floating on it.

What about the people who wouldn't obey God? Now it was too late for them to get into the boat.

But God took care of Noah and all those who were with him. Finally the rain stopped, and the water began to go down again.

After Noah had been in the boat for 150 days—almost half a year—the boat rested on top of Mount Ararat. Two and a half months later, the flood had gone down even more.

Finally the ground was dry. So God told Noah and his family to come out of the boat. He said to let out all the animals and insects and birds, too.

Then Noah built an altar. He gave animals and birds to the Lord God to thank God for saving him and his family from the Flood.

God promised that he would never send another flood to drown all living things. As proof, he gave Noah a sign—a beautiful rainbow in the sky. Whenever he saw it, Noah would remember God's promise not to send a flood like that again. When we see a rainbow, we can remember God's promise too.

Why did God send the Flood?

What people did Noah bring onto the boat?

What else did Noah bring onto the boat?

How long did it rain?

What can you think about when you see a rainbow?
