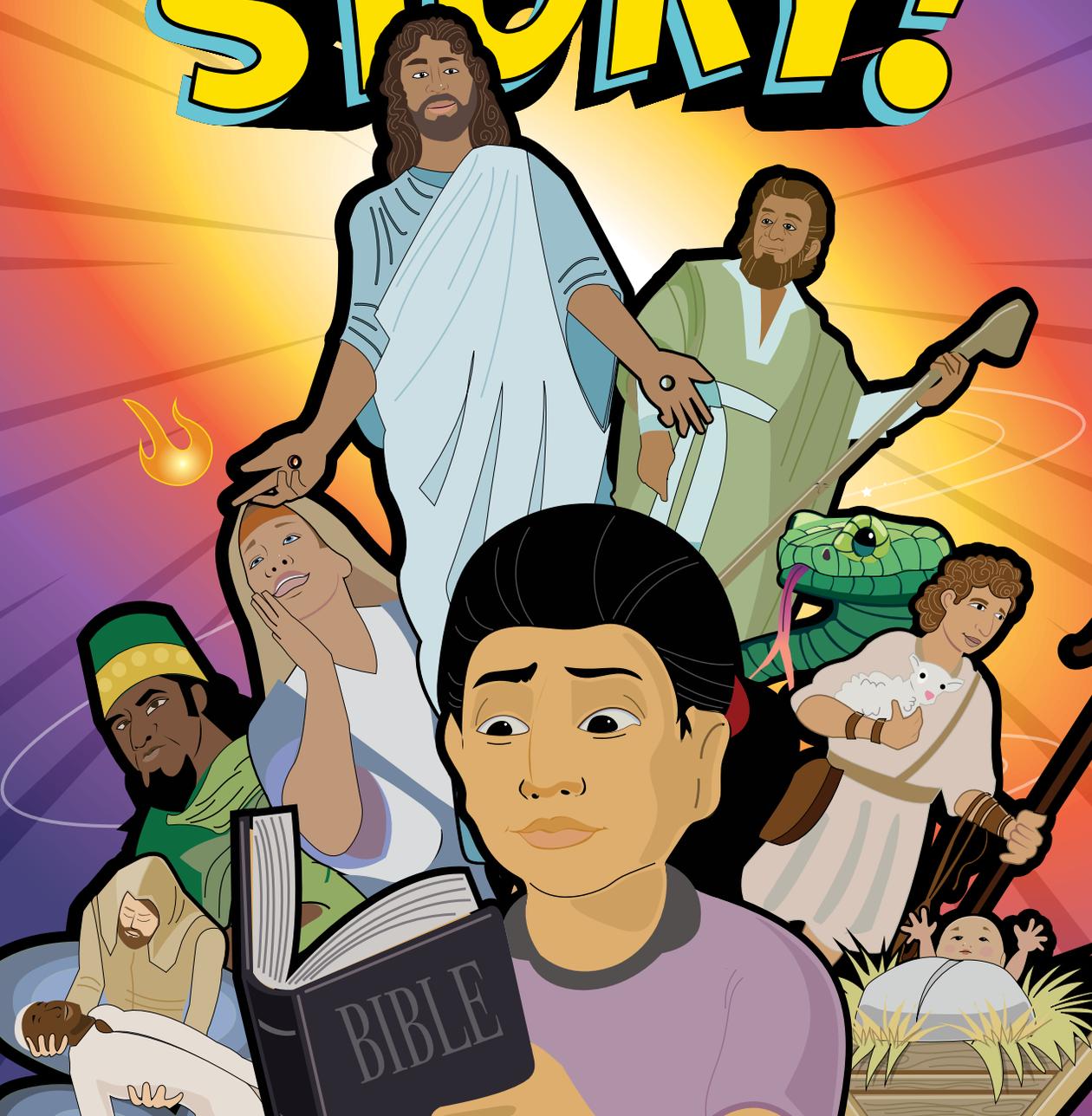


A RESCUE PLAN UNDERWAY!

THE BIBLE: GOD'S BIG STORY!



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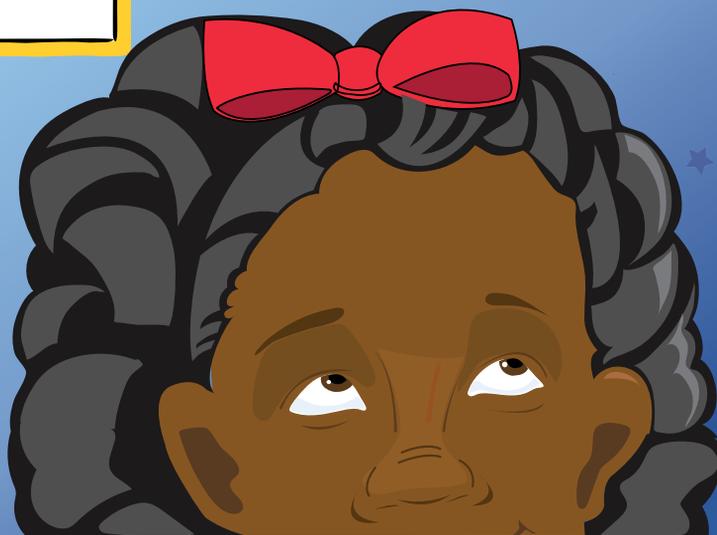
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A RESCUE PLAN UNDERWAY!

DO YOU KNOW WHO GOD IS?

IT CAN BE HARD TO GET TO KNOW SOMEONE YOU CAN'T SEE, RIGHT?



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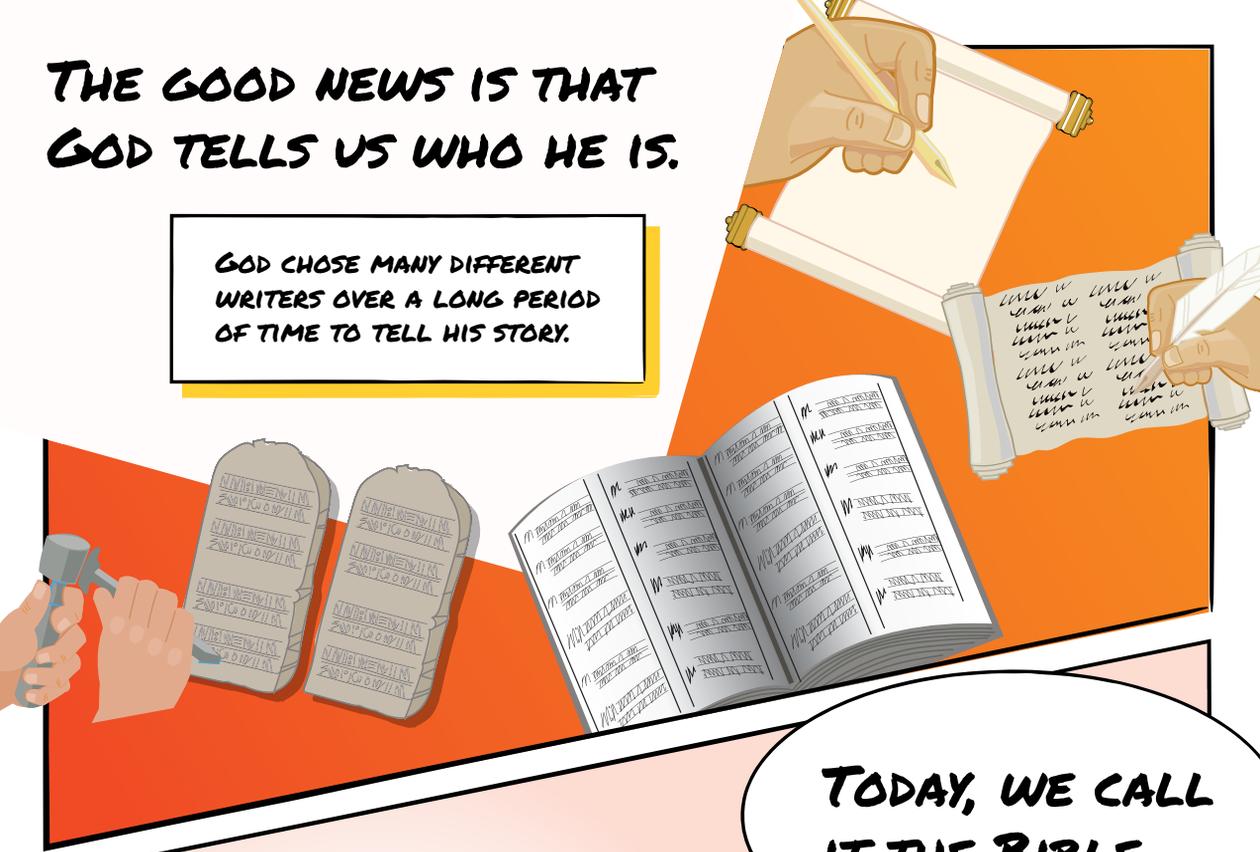
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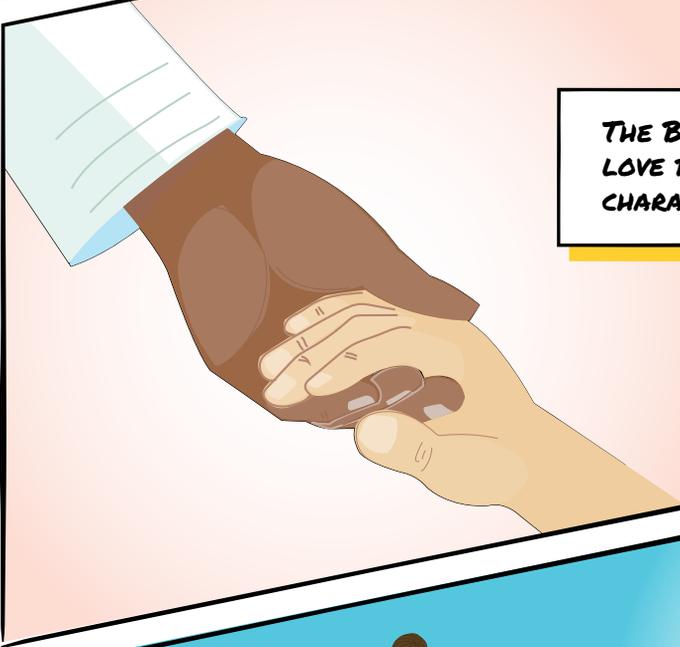
THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT GOD TELLS US WHO HE IS.

GOD CHOSE MANY DIFFERENT WRITERS OVER A LONG PERIOD OF TIME TO TELL HIS STORY.



TODAY, WE CALL IT THE BIBLE.

THE BIBLE IS A STORY OF DEEP LOVE BETWEEN THE TWO MAIN CHARACTERS: GOD AND HIS PEOPLE.



GOD'S PEOPLE AREN'T PERFECT. IN FACT, THEY OFTEN TURN AWAY FROM GOD.

BUT GOD KEEPS TAKING THEM BACK, BECAUSE HE LOVES THEM SO VERY MUCH.



**DID YOU KNOW THAT YOU ARE
PART OF GOD'S STORY TOO?
WE ARE ALL GOD'S PEOPLE.**



**START YOUR JOURNEY THROUGH
THE BIBLE NOW AND FIND YOUR
PLACE IN GOD'S BIG STORY!**



**GOD'S BIG STORY
HAS SIX MAIN PARTS.**

1
**GOD CREATES
EVERYTHING**

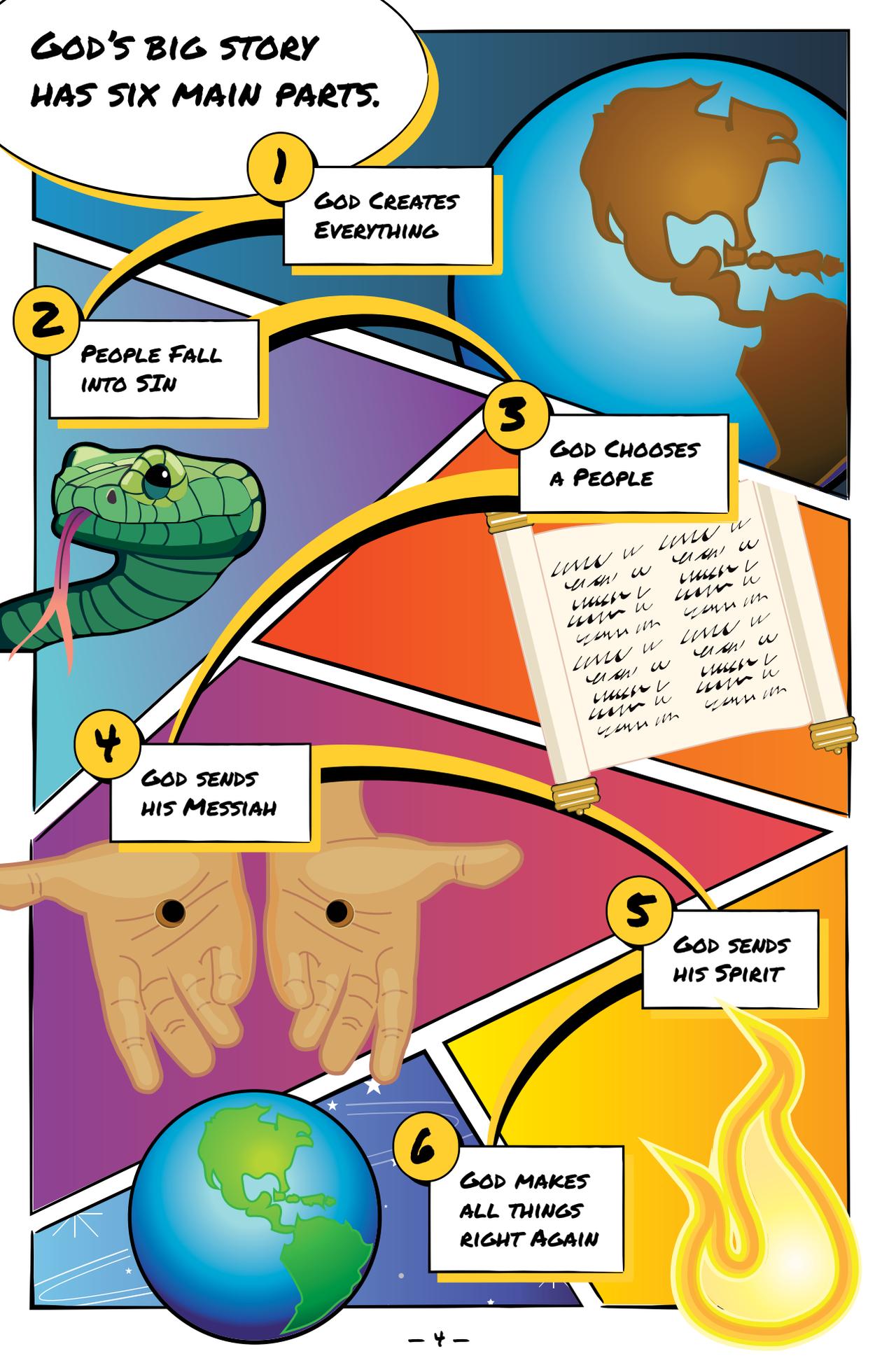
2
**PEOPLE FALL
INTO SIN**

3
**GOD CHOOSES
A PEOPLE**

4
**GOD SENDS
HIS MESSIAH**

5
**GOD SENDS
HIS SPIRIT**

6
**GOD MAKES
ALL THINGS
RIGHT AGAIN**



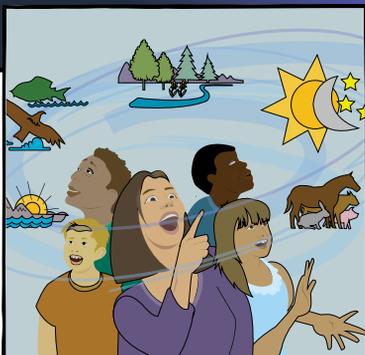


GOD CREATES EVERYTHING

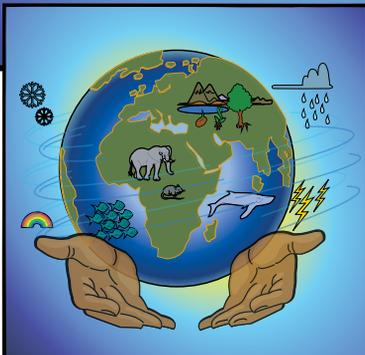
WHO IS GOD? THE BIBLE BEGINS WITH GOD, THE CREATOR OF THE UNIVERSE.



"IN THE BEGINNING, GOD CREATED THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH" (GEN. 1:1).



GOD CREATED THE WHOLE WORLD, DAY AND NIGHT, LAND AND SEA, BIRDS AND FISH, PLANTS AND ANIMALS.



THE WHOLE UNIVERSE BELONGS TO GOD, AND HE IS ACTIVELY INVOLVED WITH EVERYTHING YOU SEE, BIG AND SMALL.



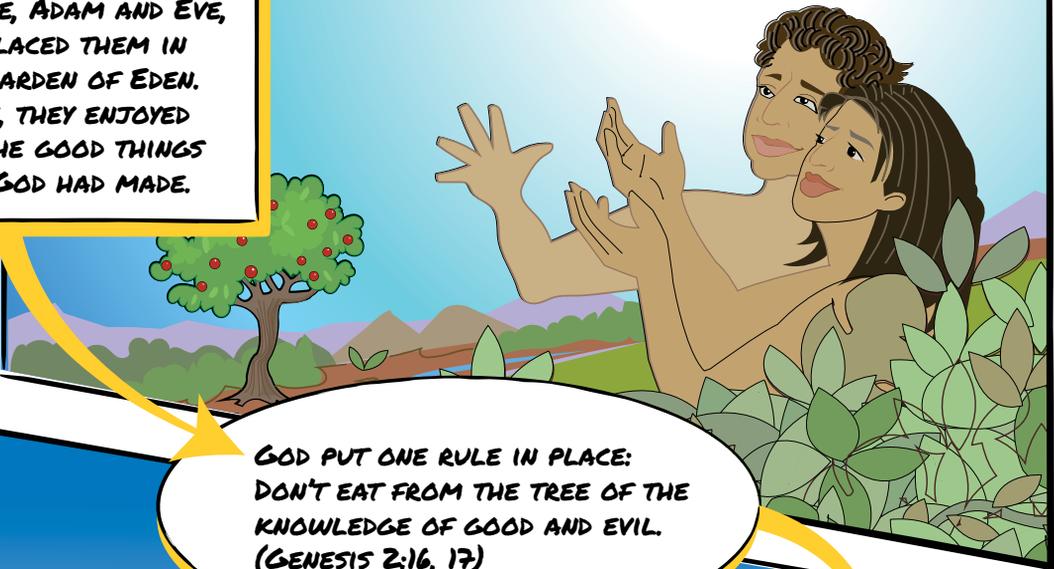
GOD HAS NO LIMITS, NO BEGINNING AND NO END. HE HAS ALWAYS BEEN AND ALWAYS WILL BE.

AND YET HE KNOWS YOUR NAME, AND YOU CAN TALK TO HIM EACH DAY.

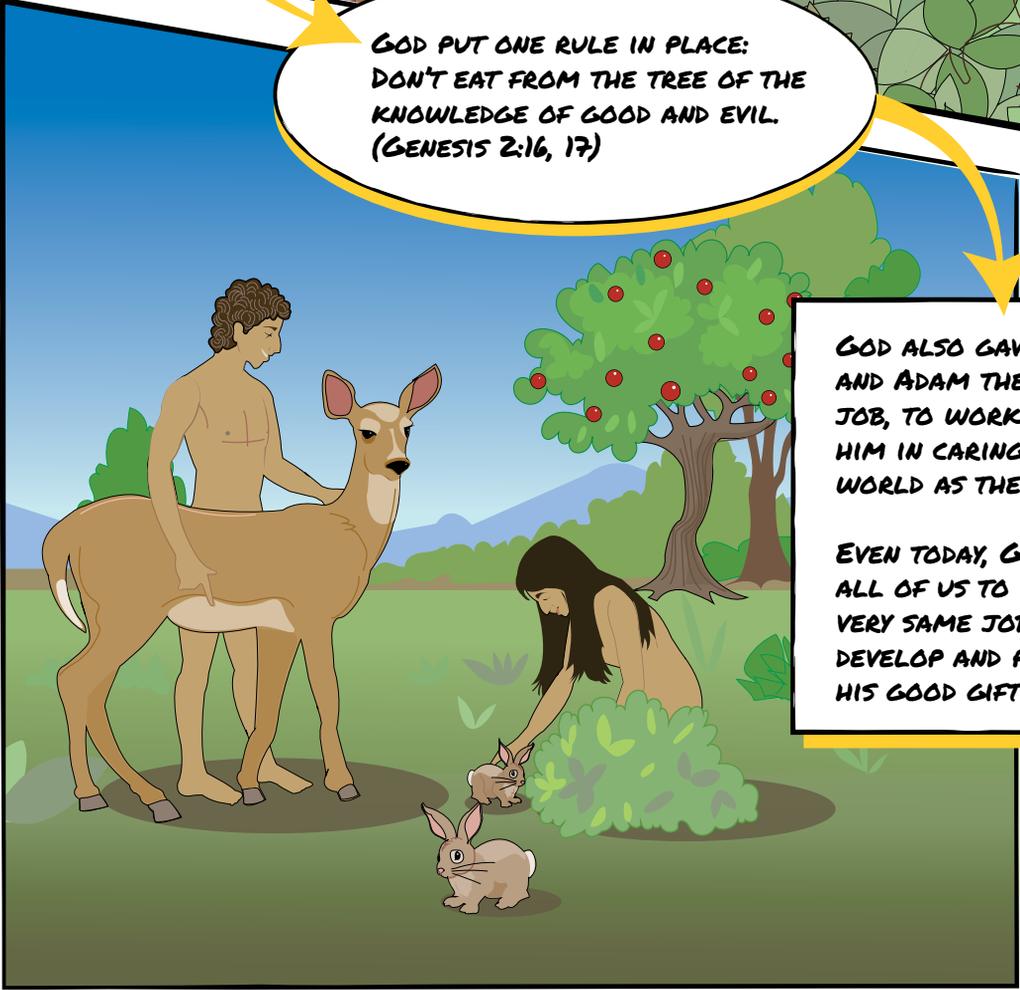


WHO ARE GOD'S PEOPLE?

GOD CREATED THE FIRST PEOPLE, ADAM AND EVE, AND PLACED THEM IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN. THERE, THEY ENJOYED ALL THE GOOD THINGS THAT GOD HAD MADE.



GOD PUT ONE RULE IN PLACE: DON'T EAT FROM THE TREE OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL. (GENESIS 2:16, 17)

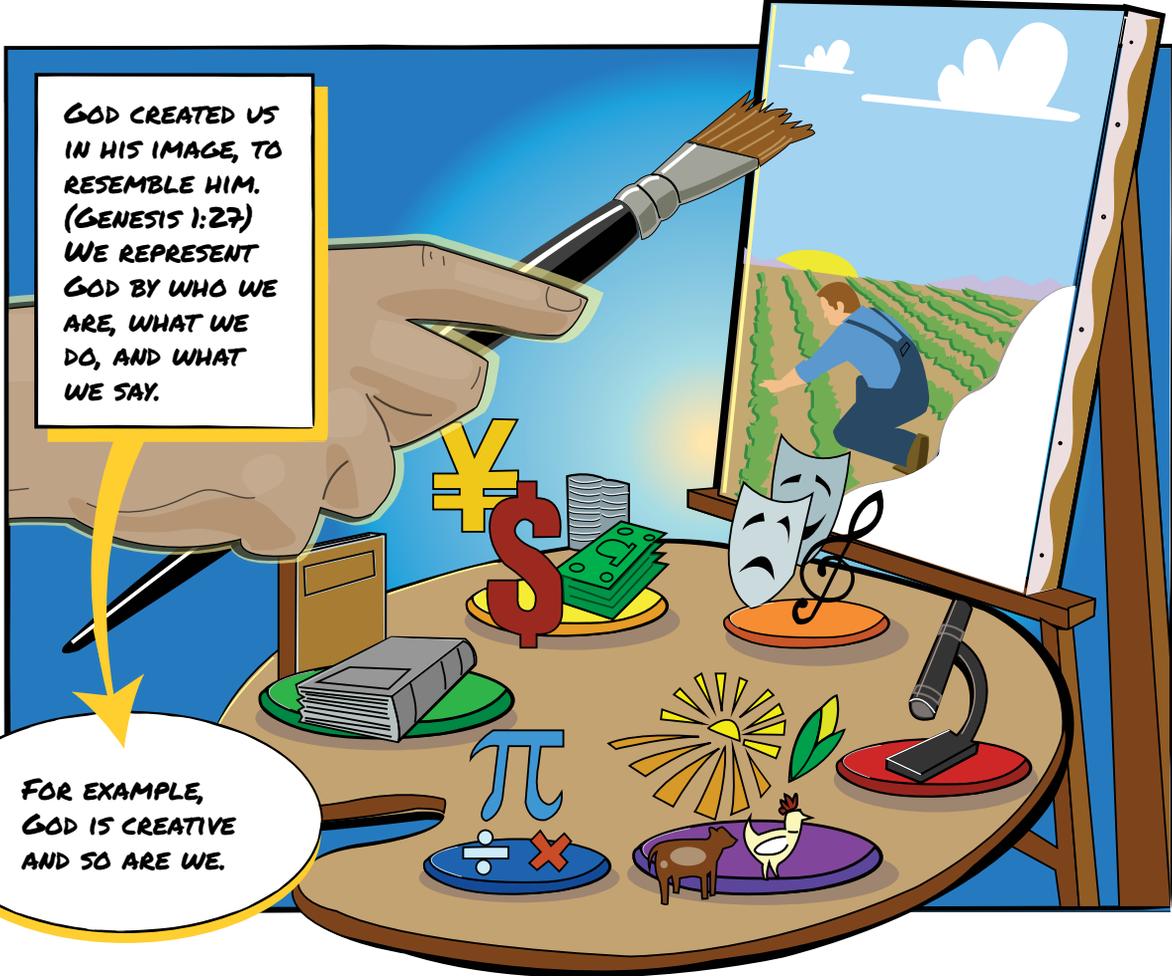


GOD ALSO GAVE EVE AND ADAM THE BEST JOB, TO WORK WITH HIM IN CARING FOR THE WORLD AS THEIR HOME.

EVEN TODAY, GOD CALLS ALL OF US TO DO THAT VERY SAME JOB: TO DEVELOP AND PROTECT HIS GOOD GIFTS.

**GOD CREATED US
IN HIS IMAGE, TO
RESEMBLE HIM.
(GENESIS 1:27)
WE REPRESENT
GOD BY WHO WE
ARE, WHAT WE
DO, AND WHAT
WE SAY.**

**FOR EXAMPLE,
GOD IS CREATIVE
AND SO ARE WE.**



**PEOPLE ARE GOD'S VERY
FAVORITE CREATION AND
HE CREATED EACH ONE
OF US TO BE UNIQUE.
WE ARE CREATED FOR
GOD, AND EACH ONE OF
US IS SPECIAL, CREATED
IN GOD'S OWN IMAGE.**





PEOPLE FALL INTO SIN

WHAT WENT WRONG



IN THE BEGINNING, GOD MADE EVERYTHING PERFECT.

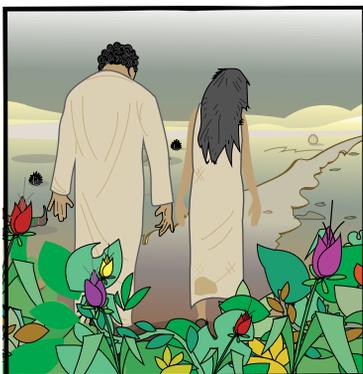


BUT TODAY, LIFE IS NOT PERFECT. SO, WHAT HAPPENED? WHAT CHANGED?

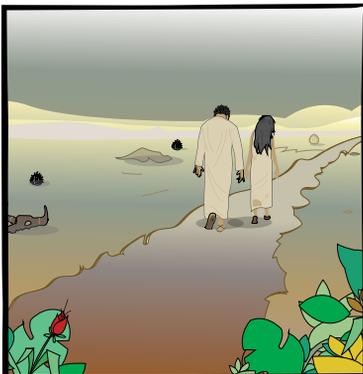


IN THE GARDEN, SATAN, THE ENEMY OF GOD, TOOK THE FORM OF A SNAKE. HE CAME TO ADAM AND EVE AND TEMPTED THEM TO DISOBEY GOD.

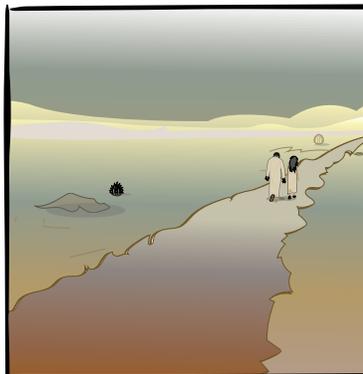
HE TOLD THEM IF THEY ATE FROM THE TREE OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL, THEY WOULD BECOME LIKE GOD. AND THEY DID IT.



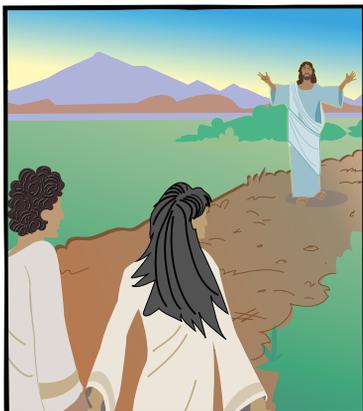
ADAM AND EVE'S SIN CHANGED ALL OF CREATION—IT SPOILED THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD AND WITH EACH OTHER.



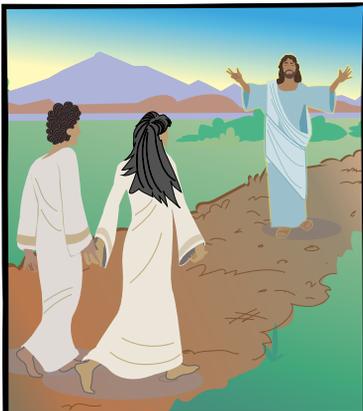
GOD SENT ADAM AND EVE OUT OF EDEN. OUTSIDE OF EDEN, THEIR WORK WOULD BE MORE DIFFICULT.



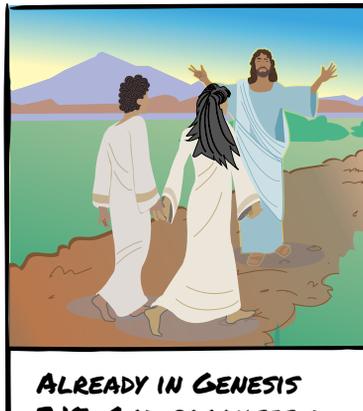
ONE DAY THEY WOULD NOW EVEN DIE. TODAY, WE TOO LIVE IN A WORLD BROKEN BY SIN.



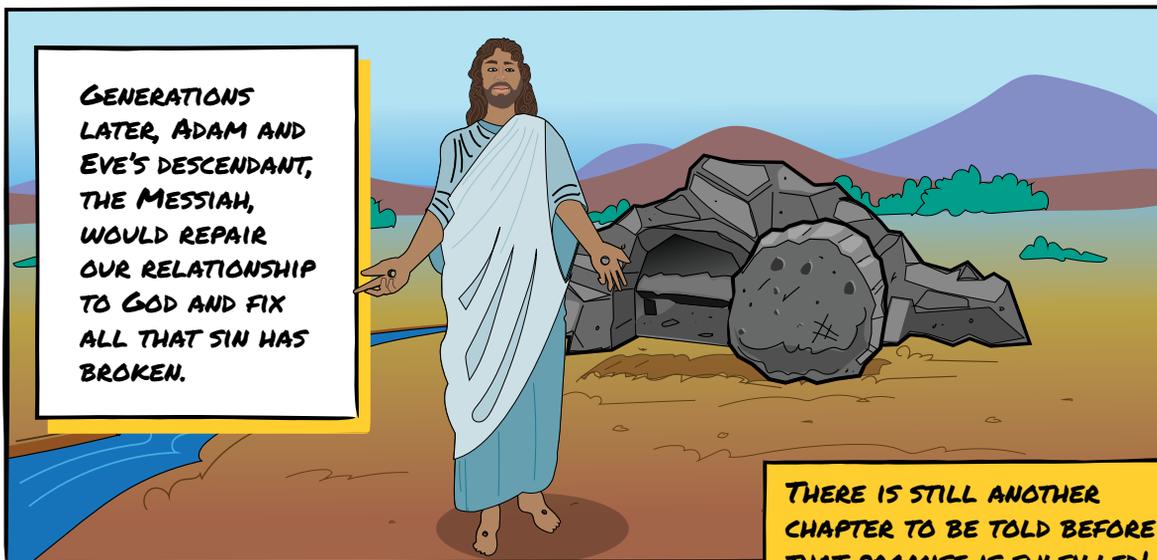
THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT THE STORY DOESN'T END HERE.



GOD CREATED A RESCUE PLAN TO SAVE US, BECAUSE WE COULDN'T SAVE OURSELVES.



ALREADY IN GENESIS 3:15, GOD PROMISES A MESSIAH, A RESCUER, WHO WOULD CRUSH THE HEAD OF THE SNAKE, SATAN, AND DEFEAT SIN.



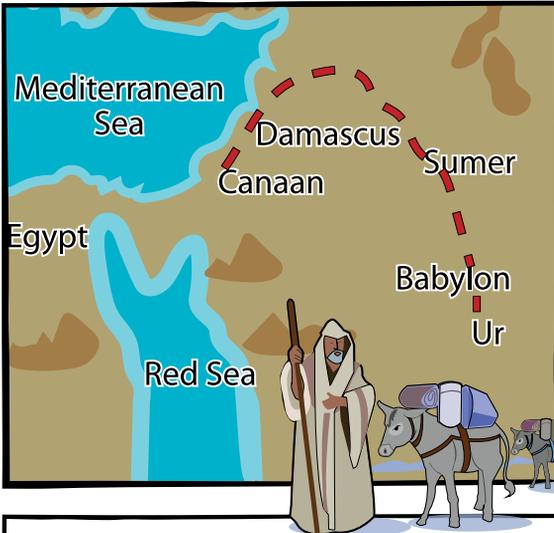
GENERATIONS LATER, ADAM AND EVE'S DESCENDANT, THE MESSIAH, WOULD REPAIR OUR RELATIONSHIP TO GOD AND FIX ALL THAT SIN HAS BROKEN.

THERE IS STILL ANOTHER CHAPTER TO BE TOLD BEFORE THAT PROMISE IS FULFILLED!

GOD CHOOSES A PEOPLE

HOW DID THINGS GO AFTER THE GARDEN OF EDEN?

ADAM AND EVE AND THEIR CHILDREN DID NOT STOP REFLECTING GOD'S IMAGE, BUT THEY DID MAKE LOTS OF MISTAKES, HURTING GOD AND EACH OTHER.



TO SET HIS RESCUE PLAN IN MOTION, GOD CHOSE A MAN NAMED ABRAHAM. GOD CALLED HIM TO JOURNEY TO A NEW LAND, GOD'S PROMISED LAND. (GENESIS 12)



GOD THEN MADE A COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM. GOD PROMISED TO GIVE ABRAHAM THE LAND HE WAS IN AND TOLD HIM HIS FAMILY WOULD BLESS ALL THE PEOPLE OF WORLD.

ABRAHAM WAS NOT THE MESSIAH, BUT ONE OF HIS DESCENDANTS WOULD BE.

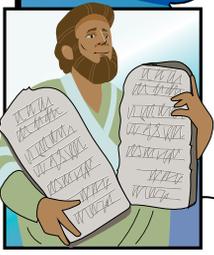
GENERATIONS LATER, ABRAHAM'S DESCENDANTS LEFT THE PROMISED LAND AND MOVED TO EGYPT. AFTER MANY YEARS, THE EGYPTIAN LEADERS FORCED THEM TO LABOR AS SLAVES.

GOD HEARD THE SUFFERING OF HIS PEOPLE. HE SENT MOSES TO LEAD HIS PEOPLE OUT OF SLAVERY.



GOD ALSO GAVE MOSES THE 10 COMMANDMENTS, RULES FOR HOW GOD'S PEOPLE SHOULD LIVE. (EXODUS 20:1-18)

WAS MOSES THE PROMISED MESSIAH? NO, BUT HE WOULD LEAD GOD'S PEOPLE BACK TO THE LAND PROMISED TO ABRAHAM.

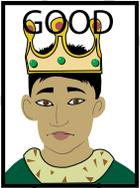


AFTER GOD'S PEOPLE RETURNED TO THE PROMISED LAND, GOD CHOSE A YOUNG BOY NAMED DAVID TO GROW INTO A GREAT KING AND WARRIOR TO LEAD THE NATION OF ISRAEL.

WAS HE THE MESSIAH? NO, BUT DAVID'S DESCENDANT WOULD BE THE MESSIAH! AND THROUGH THE MESSIAH, DAVID'S KINGDOM WOULD LAST FOREVER.

AFTER DAVID, THERE WAS A LONG PERIOD OF KINGS IN ISRAEL.

SOME WERE GOD'S SERVANTS AND FOLLOWED GOD'S LAWS, BUT OTHER KINGS DID ONLY WHAT THEY WANTED AND LED THE PEOPLE AWAY FROM GOD.



Joash



Ahab



Manasseh



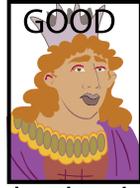
Rehoboam



Asa



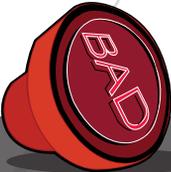
Hezekiah



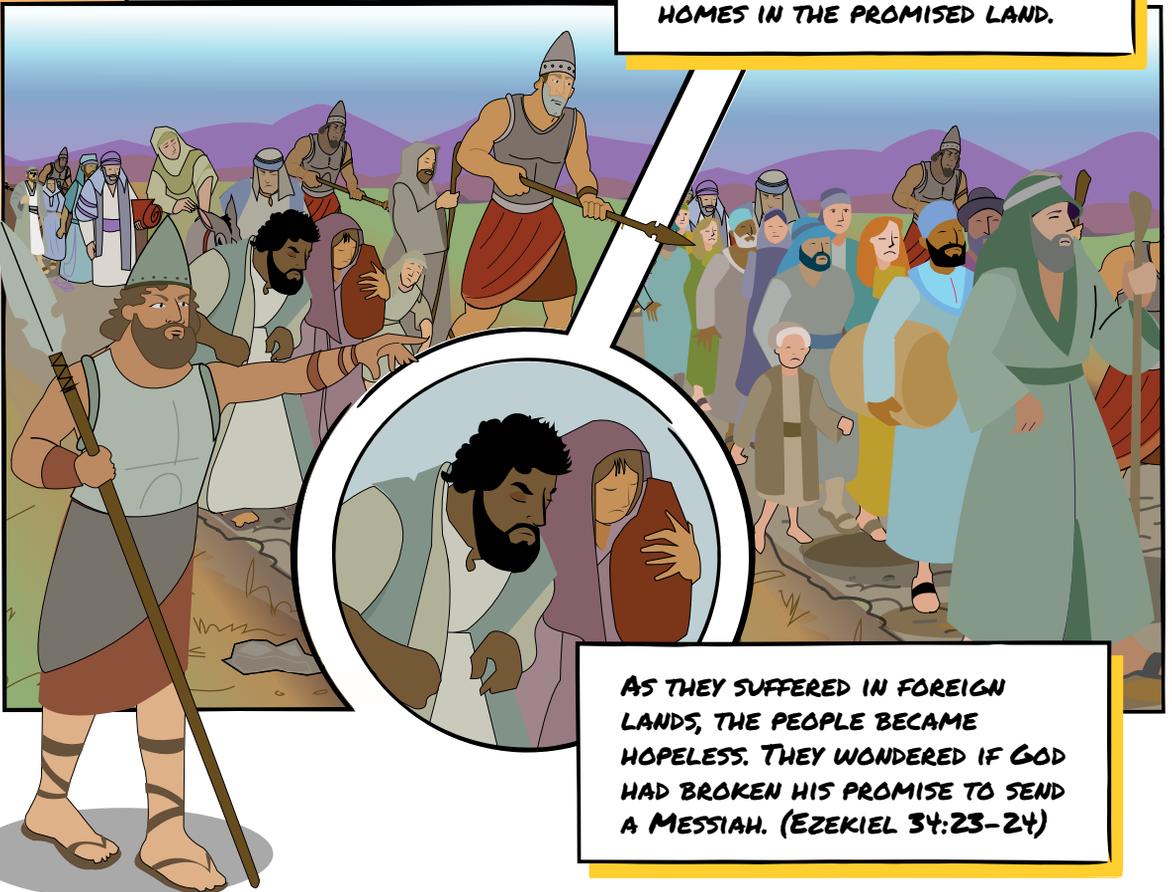
Jehoshaphat



Zimri



SOON, EMPIRES FROM FAR AWAY TOOK OVER ISRAEL. THEY FORCED MANY ISRAELITES TO LEAVE THEIR HOMES IN THE PROMISED LAND.



AS THEY SUFFERED IN FOREIGN LANDS, THE PEOPLE BECAME HOPELESS. THEY WONDERED IF GOD HAD BROKEN HIS PROMISE TO SEND A MESSIAH. (EZEKIEL 34:23-24)

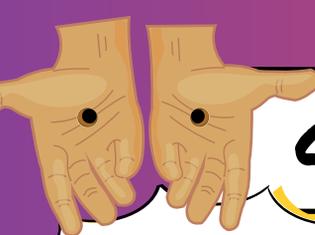
**BUT GOD CONTINUED
TO LOVE HIS PEOPLE
BY SENDING PROPHETS.**

**PREACHERS LIKE ISAIAH,
JEREMIAH, AND EZEKIEL
TOLD THE PEOPLE THEY
WERE IN THIS MESS
BECAUSE THEY HAD TURNED
AWAY FROM GOD.**



**THROUGH THE PROPHETS, GOD TOLD
THE PEOPLE THAT HE WOULD BRING
THEM BACK TO THE PROMISED LAND
AND FINALLY SEND THE MESSIAH
THEY WERE WAITING FOR!**





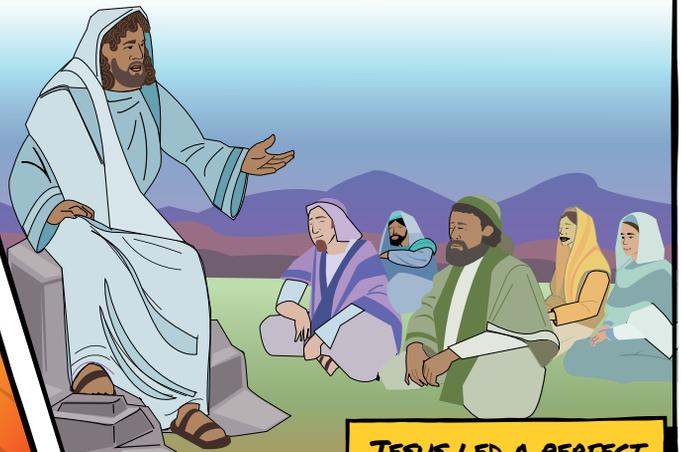
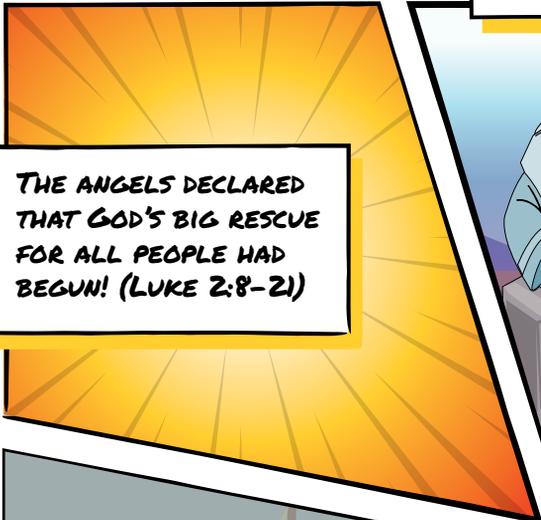
GOD SENDS HIS MESSIAH

GOD CAME TO EARTH AS A TINY BABY, JESUS OF NAZARETH. JESUS WAS THE MESSIAH THAT GOD HAD PROMISED FROM THE BEGINNING. (LUKE 2:1-7)



BOTH POOR SHEPHERDS AND RICH WISE MEN FROM FAR AWAY CAME TO SEE BABY JESUS.

THE ANGELS DECLARED THAT GOD'S BIG RESCUE FOR ALL PEOPLE HAD BEGUN! (LUKE 2:8-21)



JESUS LED A PERFECT AND SINLESS LIFE.

HE TAUGHT THAT GOD LOVED ALL PEOPLE AND WANTED EVERYONE TO BE INCLUDED IN HIS KINGDOM.



EVEN THE WIND AND WAVES OBEYED HIM. (MATTHEW 8:23-27)

**JESUS ALSO DID POWERFUL
MIRACLES TO HEAL PEOPLE.**

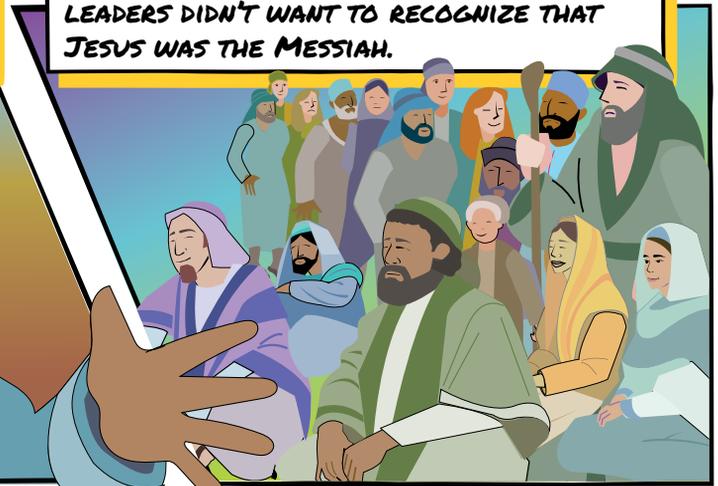


**SOME PEOPLE BEGAN TO
RECOGNIZE THAT JESUS
WAS THE MESSIAH THAT
HAD BEEN PROMISED SO
MANY YEARS BEFORE.
(MARK 5: 37-43)**

**JESUS CHALLENGED MANY OF THE
INCORRECT TEACHINGS OF THE
RELIGIOUS LEADERS OF HIS DAY.**



**THE CROWDS LOVED JESUS, BUT THE PRIDEFUL
LEADERS DIDN'T WANT TO RECOGNIZE THAT
JESUS WAS THE MESSIAH.**

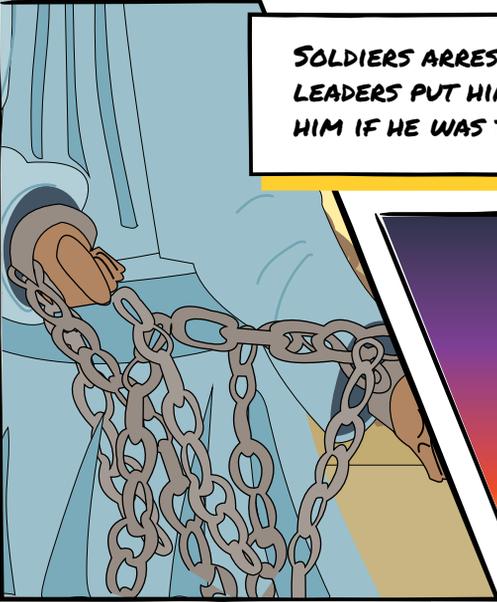


**THEY WERE ANGRY
ENOUGH TO KILL JESUS.**



**JUDAS, ONE OF JESUS' FOLLOWERS,
BETRAYED JESUS AND MADE A DEAL
WITH THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS. THEY
GAVE JUDAS MONEY TO LEAD THEM
TO JESUS.**





SOLDIERS ARRESTED JESUS. THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS PUT HIM ON TRIAL AND ASKED HIM IF HE WAS THE MESSIAH AND GOD.

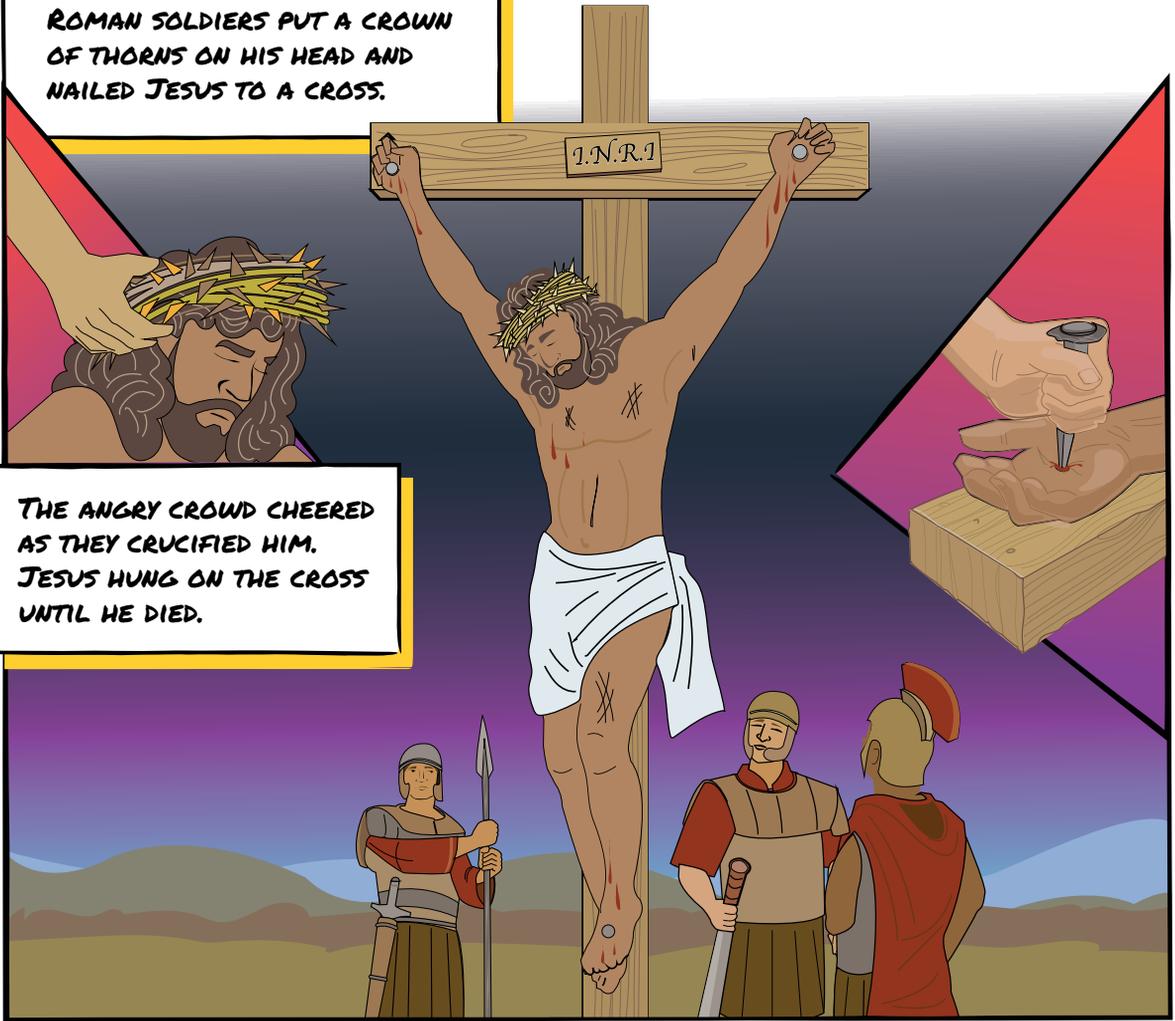


JESUS COULD NOT DENY WHO HE WAS. THIS MADE THE LEADERS ANGRY. NO ONE WAS ALLOWED TO CALL THEMSELVES GOD!



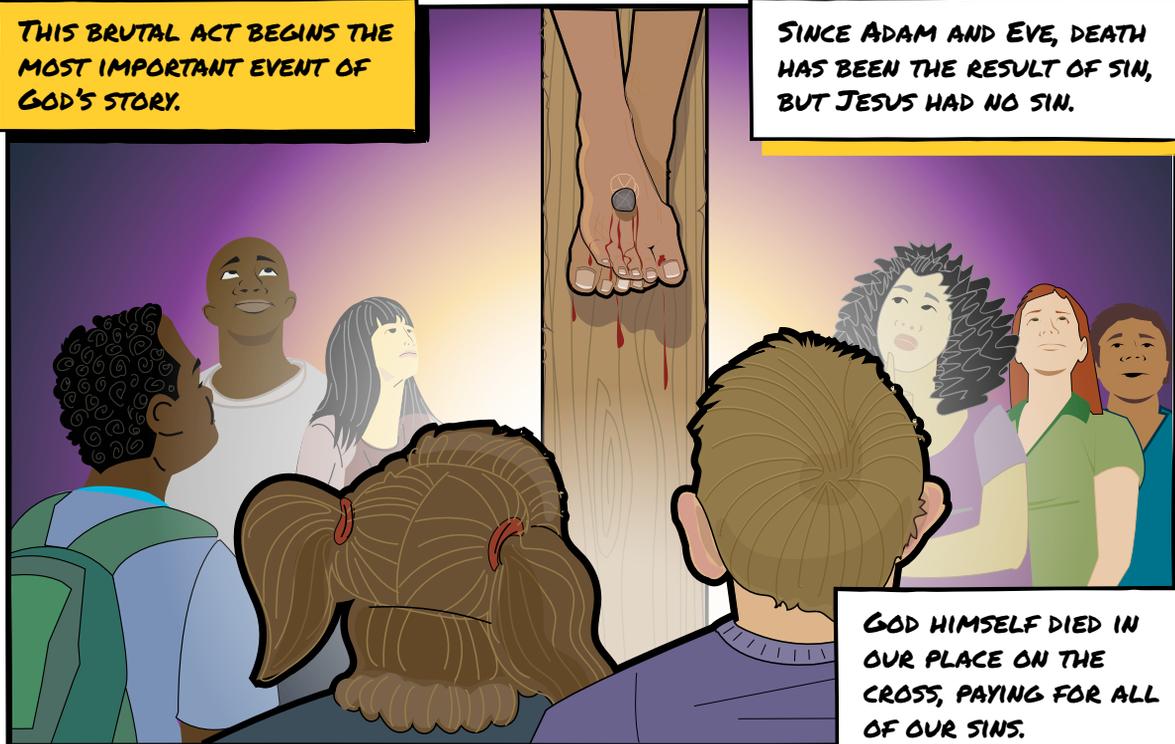
THEY TURNED JESUS OVER TO THE ROMAN AUTHORITIES TO BE KILLED.

ROMAN SOLDIERS PUT A CROWN OF THORNS ON HIS HEAD AND NAILED JESUS TO A CROSS.



THE ANGRY CROWD CHEERED AS THEY CRUCIFIED HIM. JESUS HUNG ON THE CROSS UNTIL HE DIED.

THIS BRUTAL ACT BEGINS THE MOST IMPORTANT EVENT OF GOD'S STORY.

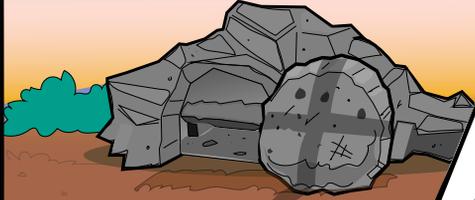


SINCE ADAM AND EVE, DEATH HAS BEEN THE RESULT OF SIN, BUT JESUS HAD NO SIN.

GOD HIMSELF DIED IN OUR PLACE ON THE CROSS, PAYING FOR ALL OF OUR SINS.

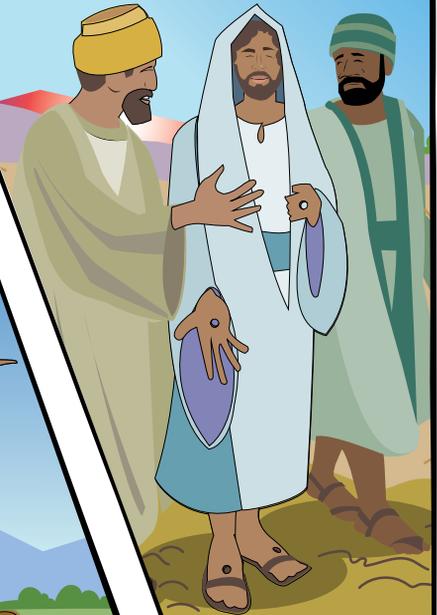
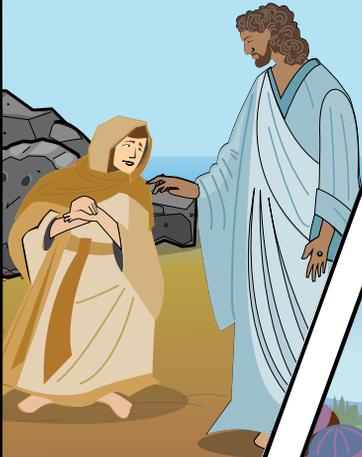
THREE DAYS AFTER JESUS DIED, GOD BROUGHT HIM BACK TO LIFE! JESUS WON. HE CONQUERED NOT ONLY SIN BUT ALSO DEATH.

JESUS CRUSHED SATAN'S HEAD ONCE AND FOR ALL! JUST LIKE GOD PROMISED IN GENESIS 3:15.



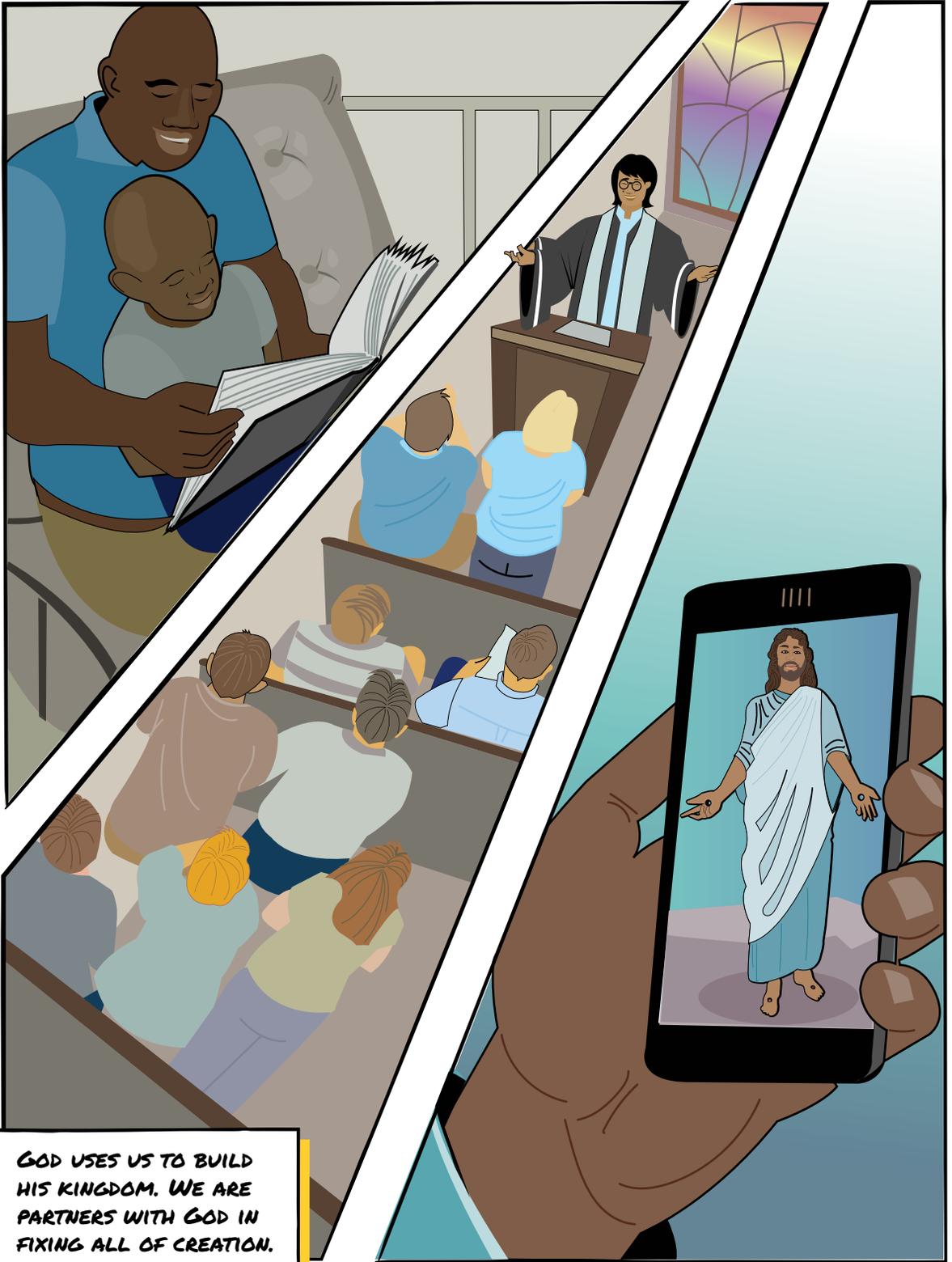
THROUGH JESUS, OUR SINS ARE FORGIVEN AND WE RECEIVE NEW LIFE. WE CAN RECONNECT WITH GOD, ONE ANOTHER, AND RESTORE HIS WORLD. (JOHN 3:16)

JESUS STAYED A SHORT TIME WITH HIS FOLLOWERS AND THEN WENT UP INTO HEAVEN.



JESUS TOLD THEM TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS OF GOD'S MESSIAH WITH ALL PEOPLE AND TO BUILD GOD'S KINGDOM ALL OVER THE WORLD. (MATTHEW 28:16-20)

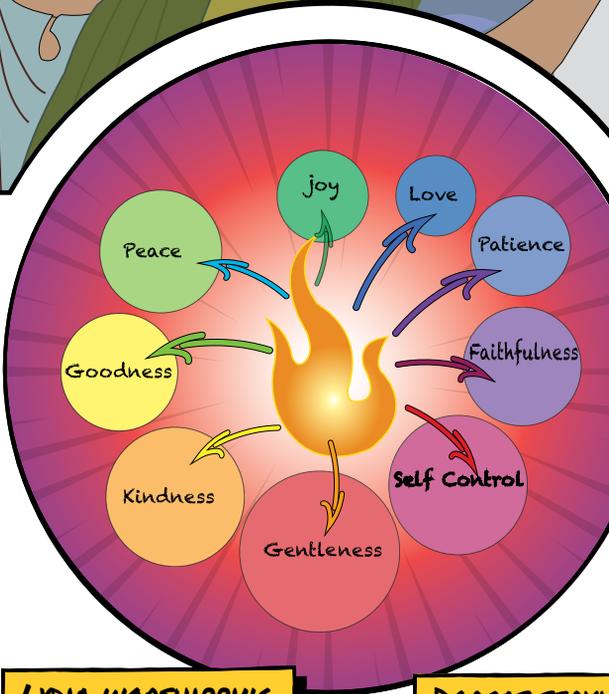
TODAY, GOD CALLS US TO TELL HIS STORY!



GOD USES US TO BUILD HIS KINGDOM. WE ARE PARTNERS WITH GOD IN FIXING ALL OF CREATION.

AND GOD'S GOT A PLAN TO HELP US...

GOD SENDS HIS SPIRIT



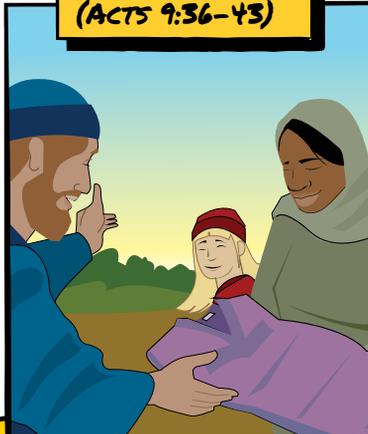
AFTER JESUS RETURNED TO HEAVEN, GOD SENT THE HOLY SPIRIT TO GUIDE THE FOLLOWERS OF JESUS AND INVITE OTHERS TO JOIN GOD'S PEOPLE (ACTS 2:1-13).

THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT (GALATIANS 5: 22-23) HELP US REFLECT GOD'S IMAGE EVERY DAY AND SPREAD THE STORY OF GOD'S RESCUE PLAN TO THE WORLD.

**LYDIA WORSHIPPING
(ACTS 16)**

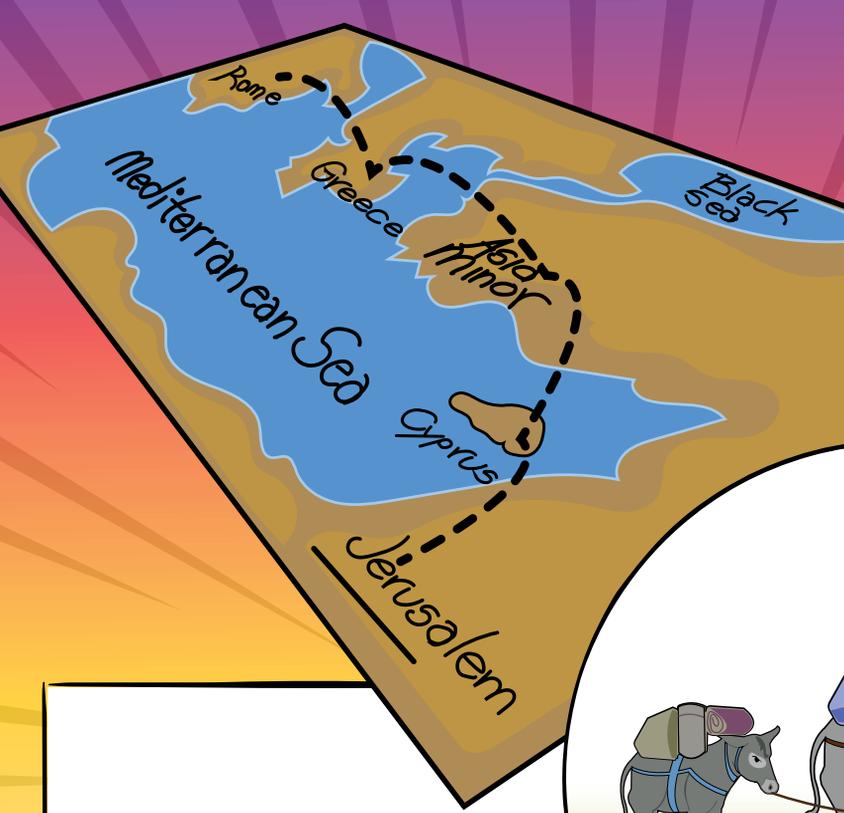


**DORCAS SERVING
(ACTS 9:36-43)**

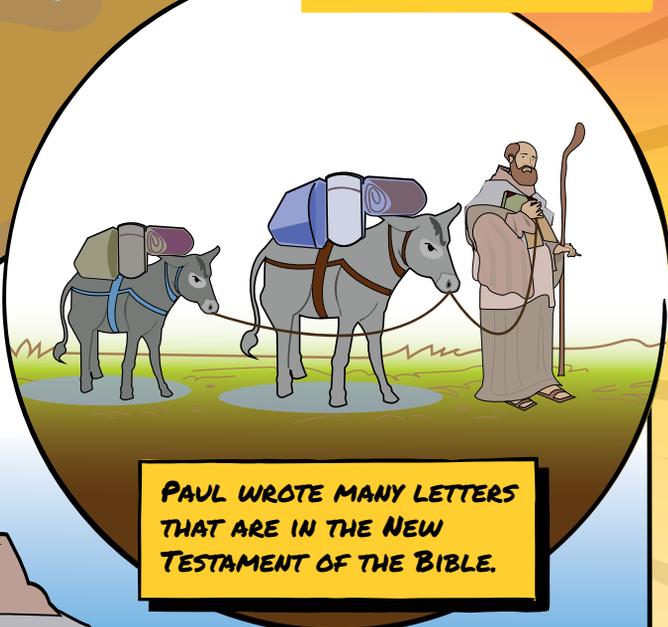


**PHILIP BAPTIZING
(ACTS 8)**





WITH THE HELP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, EARLY MISSIONARIES, LIKE PAUL, SPREAD GOD'S STORY THROUGHOUT THE ROMAN EMPIRE, STARTING CHURCHES WHEREVER HE WENT.



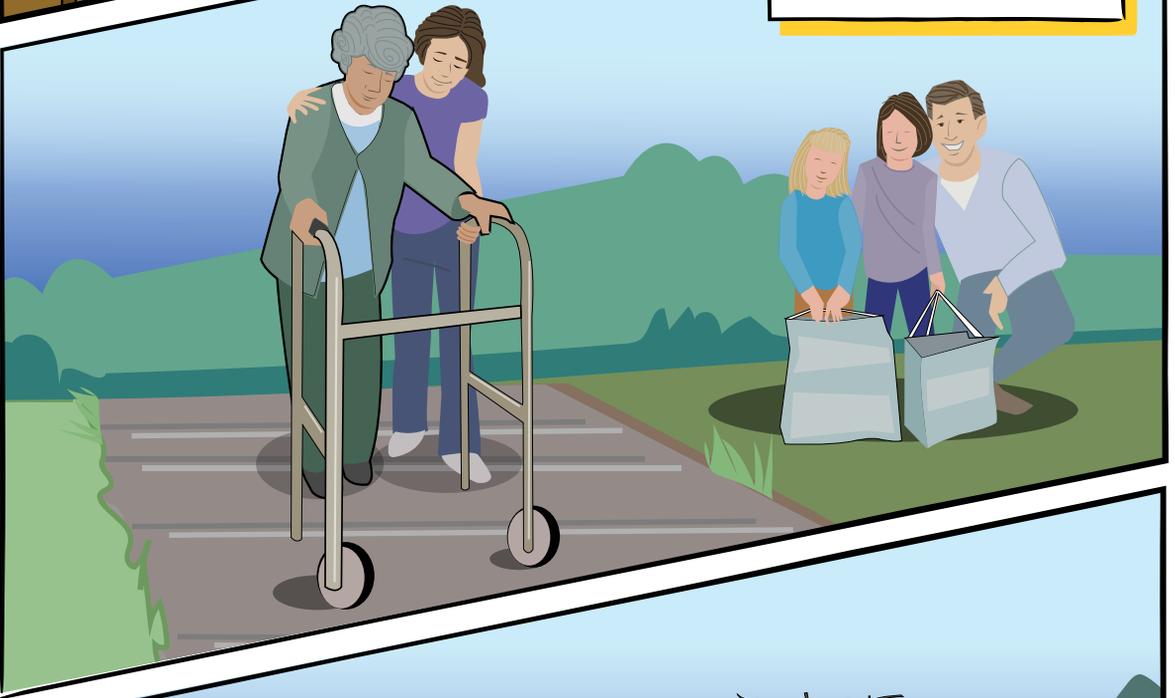
PAUL WROTE MANY LETTERS THAT ARE IN THE NEW TESTAMENT OF THE BIBLE.



FOR TWO THOUSAND YEARS, CHRISTIANS
HAVE WORSHIPPED GOD,



CARED FOR EACH OTHER,



AND CARED FOR ALL OF CREATION,



ALL WHILE SHARING THE GOOD
NEWS OF JESUS. THIS IS THE
ROLE OF THE CHURCH.

HERE'S
WHERE
YOU AND I
COME IN.

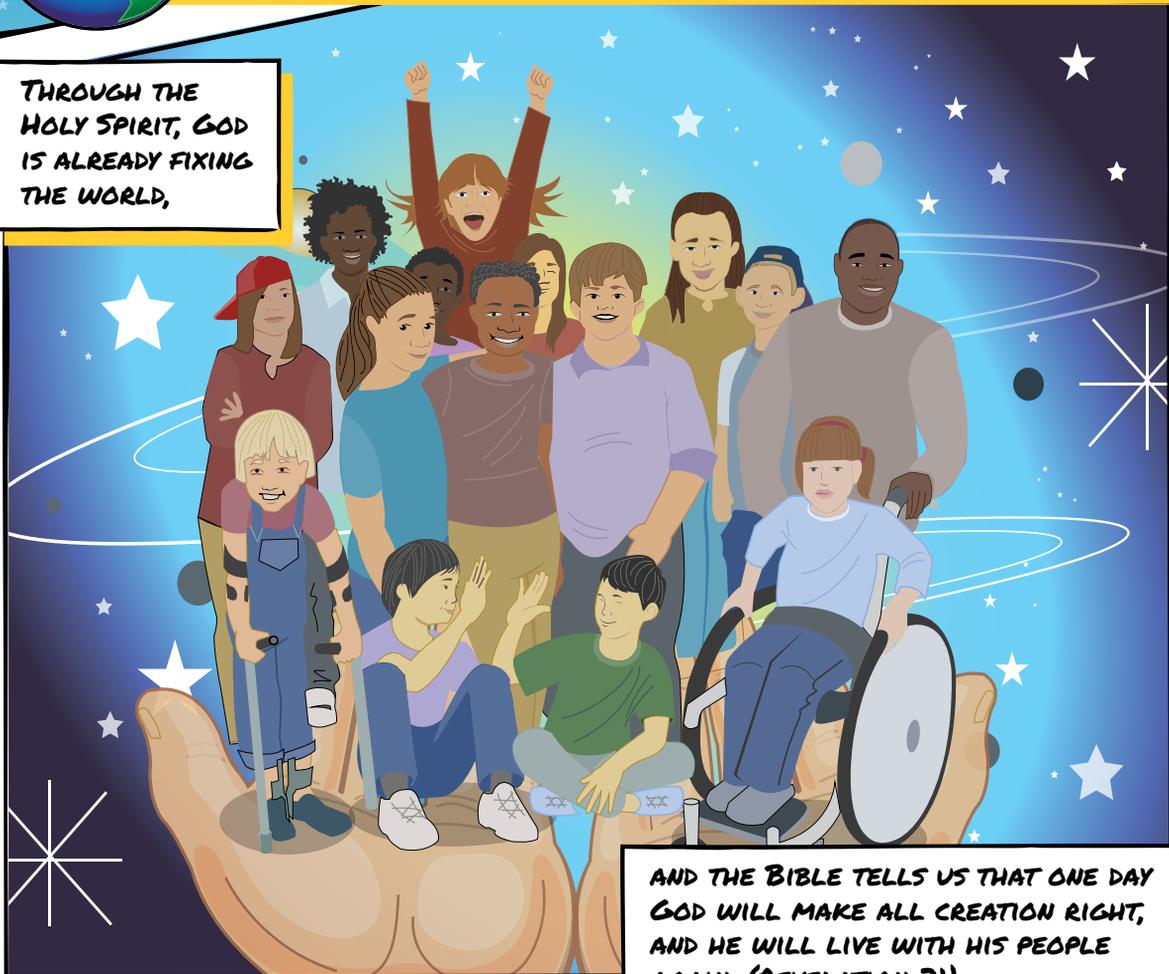
GOD HAS ASKED LOTS OF
PEOPLE BEFORE US TO HELP
OUT, AND NOW IT'S OUR TURN
TO BE PART OF GOD'S STORY.



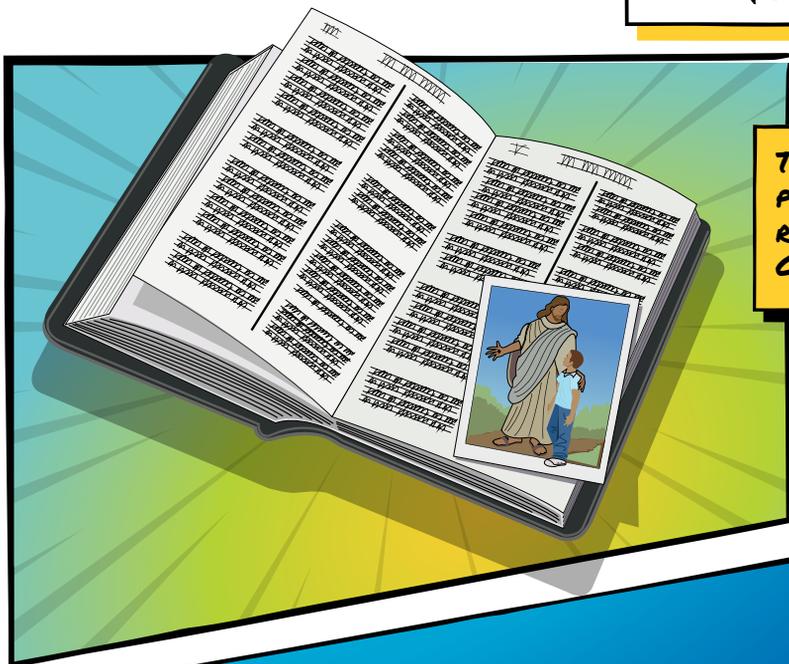


GOD MAKES ALL THINGS RIGHT AGAIN

THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT, GOD IS ALREADY FIXING THE WORLD,



AND THE BIBLE TELLS US THAT ONE DAY GOD WILL MAKE ALL CREATION RIGHT, AND HE WILL LIVE WITH HIS PEOPLE AGAIN. (REVELATION 21).



THE BIBLE ENDS WITH A PROMISE THAT JESUS WILL RETURN AND ESTABLISH GOD'S KINGDOM ON EARTH.

"NOW GOD MAKES HIS HOME WITH PEOPLE. HE WILL LIVE WITH THEM. THEY WILL BE HIS PEOPLE. AND GOD HIMSELF WILL BE WITH THEM AND BE THEIR GOD. HE WILL WIPE AWAY EVERY TEAR FROM THEIR EYES. THERE WILL BE NO MORE DEATH OR SADNESS. THERE WILL BE NO MORE CRYING OR PAIN. THINGS ARE NO LONGER THE WAY THEY USED TO BE" (REV. 21:3-4 NIRV).

TO THIS WE SAY
"AMEN, COME,
LORD JESUS!"



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