

## CONTENTS

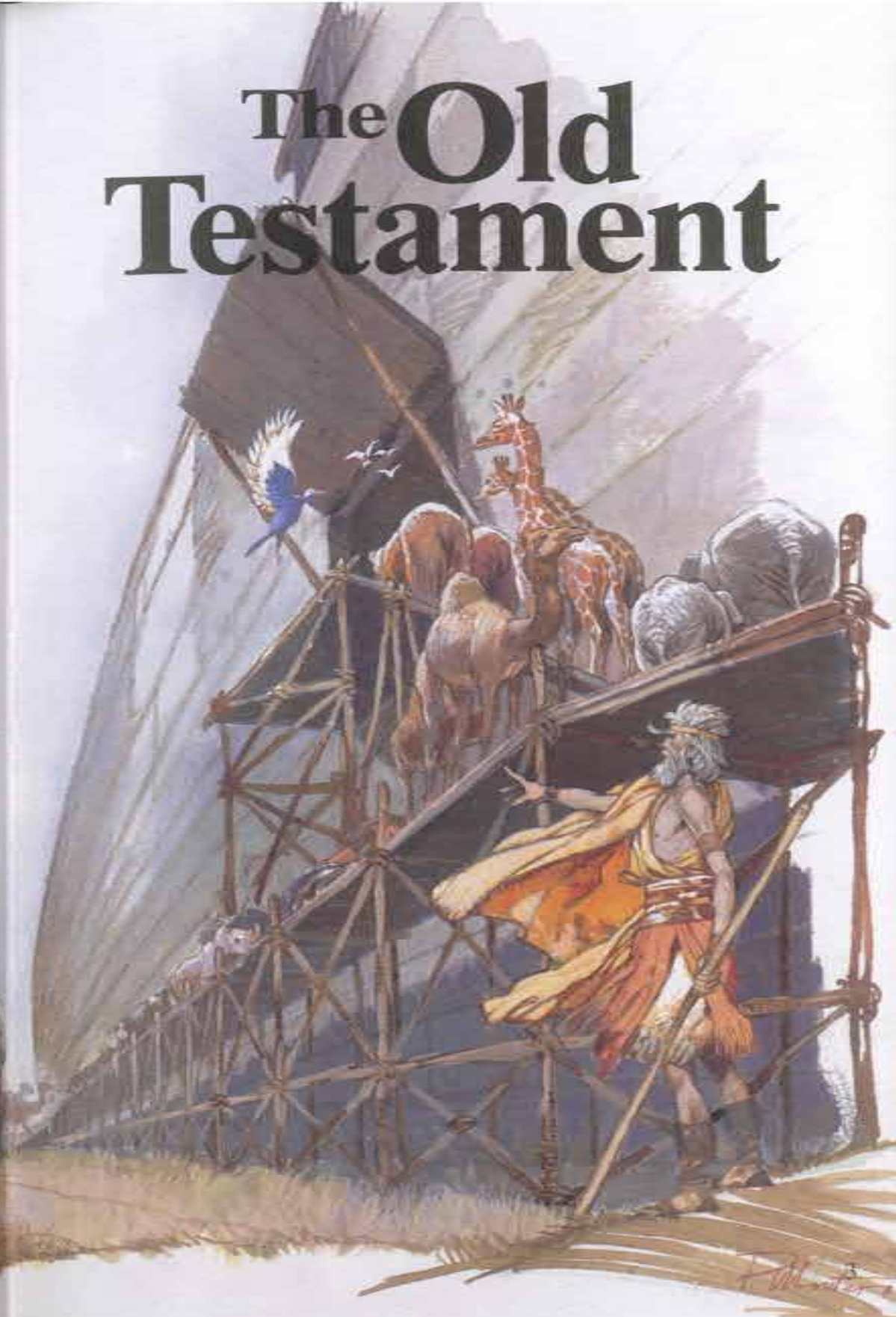
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# The Old Testament



## God Makes Everything

*Genesis 1:1-19*

A long time ago there was nothing but darkness. It is hard to picture just nothing, but that is all there was . . . except for God.

So God made light. That way there could be day and night, instead of only darkness.

Then God made the earth and divided parts of it into oceans and seas and other parts into big pieces of land. God made all the plants and trees and made them grow on the land.

In the sky God made the stars and planets. He made the sun and moon so there would always be a day after every night.

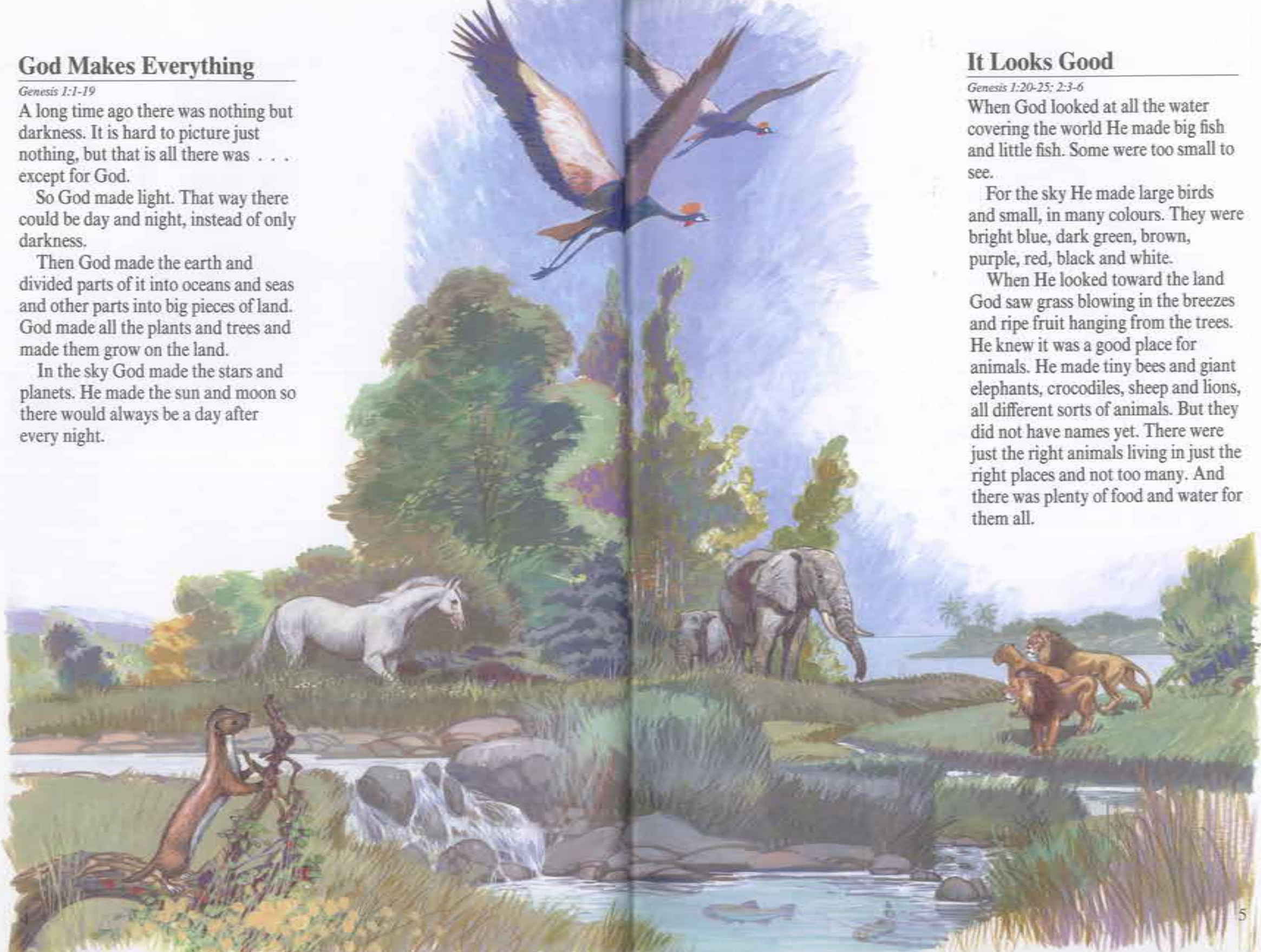
## It Looks Good

*Genesis 1:20-25; 2:3-6*

When God looked at all the water covering the world He made big fish and little fish. Some were too small to see.

For the sky He made large birds and small, in many colours. They were bright blue, dark green, brown, purple, red, black and white.

When He looked toward the land God saw grass blowing in the breezes and ripe fruit hanging from the trees. He knew it was a good place for animals. He made tiny bees and giant elephants, crocodiles, sheep and lions, all different sorts of animals. But they did not have names yet. There were just the right animals living in just the right places and not too many. And there was plenty of food and water for them all.





## Everything Is Lost

*Samuel 29:1-30:31*

The fierce Philistines were going to attack Israel. Among the leaders was King Achish of Gath. This king had been protecting David while he ran away from Saul. Achish asked David and his men to march with him. He wanted David to fight against his own people, the Israelites.

When the Philistine generals heard this, they said, "No, we don't want David with us during this battle. What if he decides to change sides?"

So Achish sent David and his men back to their families. David went home to Ziklag. That is where he had been living for over a year. In Ziklag, he made a terrible discovery.

The town was in flames! While David and his men had been gone, the Amalekites had raided the area! All their families had been taken prisoner!

David rallied his men. Six hundred followed him. Two hundred, who were too tired, remained behind.

All that day they tracked the Amalekites. Just as it grew dark, David and his men attacked. They fought long and hard through the night and into the next day. Women and children ran in all directions. Finally, David and his men won the battle. Only four hundred Amalekites escaped alive. And that only happened because they had camels.

## David Loses Saul and Jonathan

*1 Samuel 31:1-13; 2 Samuel 1:1-27; 1 Chronicles 10:1-14*

David returned home to Ziklag. There he heard news of the great battle between Saul's Israelites and the Philistines. This was the battle the Philistine generals had not allowed David to join in.

"It was a terrible battle," the messenger told David. "The Philistines pressed hard after Saul and his sons. They killed his three sons, including Jonathan...."

David cried out, "Oh, no! Not my brother Jonathan!"

The messenger went on. "The king was surrounded. He had no choice. Saul fell on his own sword, killing himself."

At this, David and his men moaned and wept. They did not eat for the whole day. The king anointed by God was dead! It was a dark day for Israel!