



The story God wrote

The Bible is God's story—a true story of His love for us. It is a story with real people that lived in cities and towns, some of which are still around today. It is a story that began thousands of years ago and carries on into the future. And so the story includes you, and within the story you will find some personal notes from God to you. Although God used different people to write the story, every word is true and comes from Him.

This is how God's story begins.

The OLD TESTAMENT

	<p>In the beginning, before there was time, God decided to create a beautiful place called earth. He decorated the earth with trees and plants and grass. God also put the sun, moon and stars in the sky and He created animals of every kind to live on the earth He had made.</p>	Genesis 1:1-31
	<p>Then God said, "Let us make man in our image." So God created man (people) to be just like Him with a spirit inside that can have a close friendship with Him.</p>	Genesis 1:26-27 Genesis 2:15-25 John 4:24
Adam and Eve	<p>He put the first man and woman in a beautiful garden called Eden and allowed them to enjoy fruit from all of the trees, except one tree—the tree right in the middle of the garden. God told them not to eat of that tree. If they did, they would die!</p>	Genesis 2:8-9 Genesis 2:15-16
	<p>Now the devil—who had been an angel in heaven—was thrown down to earth because he rebelled against God.</p>	Isaiah 14:12-15 Genesis 3:1-19
	<p>The devil hates anything that is good, so he came to Eve as an ordinary serpent and tempted her to eat from the tree in the middle of the garden. "Nothing will happen to you," the devil lied.</p>	
	<p>Eve listened to the devil and took of the fruit. Then she ate it. She gave some to Adam, and he ate it too. From that very moment,</p>	

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sin entered the world; and sin brought with it sickness, pain and death.

Romans 5:12

God punished Adam and Eve for their disobedience and sent them out of the Garden of Eden. Life for them would never be the same again. It would never be perfect.

Cain and Abel

Adam and Eve had children and, as time went by, the number of people on earth grew. But sadly, as the people became more and more, and spread on earth, so did their sin. People started doing very wicked things. It got so bad that, as God looked at His creation, He was sorry that He had made man. The Lord wanted to have a special closeness with the people He created, but now, sin had destroyed the pure life He had breathed into Adam. Nothing pure and good could ever come from the hearts of such wicked people. So God planned to destroy the world and put an end to the growing ugliness of sin.

Genesis 4

Genesis 6:9 - 7:24

Noah

But there was one man, Noah, who did right in the eyes of the Lord. He was a good man who believed in God. God wanted to keep Noah and his family safe, so He told him to build a huge boat, called an ark. After many years, when the ark was finally built, God brought pairs of every kind of animal to the ark, and they went inside. Then Noah and his family went in too, and God shut the door. It started to rain; and it rained nonstop

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for forty days, until the flood waters covered the highest mountains.

After a long time, the water started going down, and after many months the ark came to rest on a mountain. When the water had dried up, Noah and his family and all the animals came out of the ark and were now free to live on a clean, sinless world.

Genesis 8:1-20

Shem, Ham
Japheth

Over time, Noah's sons Shem, Ham and Japheth had children of their own and grandchildren and great-grandchildren. And the children became tribes and nations. But because the heart of man has always been sinful, people started doing bad things again.

Genesis 10

Abraham

But there was one man who was faithful to God. His name was Abram. Because of his faith, God promised to make his children a great nation—a nation that would be God's very own people! God changed Abram's name to Abraham, and when he was very old, his wife Sarah had a son, and they called him Isaac.

Genesis 12:1-3

Isaac

Isaac grew up and married Rebecca. They had two sons whom they name Jacob and Esau. Jacob longed for God to bless him, and although he tricked his father and his twin brother, God saw the longing in his heart and blessed him in a special way.

Genesis 24

Jacob, Esau

Genesis 25:19-34

Genesis 27

Jacob married Rachel. He also had other wives, and together they had twelve sons.

Genesis 28 - 30

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Joseph

Joseph, the second youngest of the sons, was sold by his jealous brothers to some traders and taken as a slave to Egypt.

Genesis 37

There, Joseph became the faithful servant of an official in Pharaoh's army. However, God had planned that after many years he would be the top leader of Egypt under Pharaoh the king.

Genesis 39

Joseph's brothers:

Reuben

Simeon

Levi

Judah

Dan

Naphtali

Gad

Asher

Issachar

Zebulun

Benjamin

There was a famine at that time, and because food was scarce in Canaan, Joseph's brothers went to Egypt to buy food. Now Joseph, who had been put in charge of all the stored-up food, recognized his brothers, but he was kind to them. He gave them food and he also told them to go fetch their father and settle in Egypt. So Jacob and his eleven sons moved from Canaan to Egypt, and Pharaoh gave them land to farm.

Genesis 42

God had changed Jacob's name to Israel, so all the children after him became known as Israelites. There in Egypt, God blessed his twelve sons with big families and they became the twelve tribes of Israel.

Genesis 46

Genesis 32:28

Exodus 1:6-14

After many years there was a new king in Egypt. The Egyptians didn't like the Israelites and were worried that they would become so many and so strong that they'd take over their country. So the Egyptians made the Israelites work very hard as slaves. For four hundred years they were treated harshly, and they prayed that God would save them.

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Moses	God heard their prayers and raised up a leader, Moses, to rescue His people.	Exodus 2
Pharaoh	But Pharaoh would not let the people go because his heart was hard. So God sent ten plagues—like sickness and pests—on the Egyptians. The last plague was death. God protected all those who believed and were obedient to Him, but the oldest son in all the other families died. Only then did Pharaoh let the Israelites go.	Exodus 3:7-10
	So the Israelites set off for the land God had promised to Abraham, and Canaan would soon be known as the Promised Land. As they traveled through the desert, God led them with a moving cloud during the day and a pillar of fire at night. The Lord could have led the Israelites the shortest way, but then they would have had to pass through an enemy nation and fight them. God didn't want them to become afraid and go back to Egypt, so He led them towards the Red Sea.	Exodus 7 - 11
	In the meantime, Pharaoh had changed his mind about letting the Israelites go. So he and his army chased after them. But God miraculously open a wide path through the Red Sea for the Israelites to walk through. As the Egyptian army chased after them, the walls of water on either side came crashing down on them drowning Pharaoh and his whole army. With the sea closed again behind the Israelites, they could no longer return the same way to Egypt.	Exodus 12:31-42
		Exodus 13:17-18
		Exodus 14

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Moses

Although, at first, the Israelites were grateful that God had rescued them from the Egyptians, they soon started complaining about all sorts of things. But God was patient with them and gave them food and water. He let special food flakes, called manna, fall from the sky every night. In the morning they would gather up the manna, which they could bake or boil. This is how God fed them for forty years.

Exodus 15:1-21
Exodus 15:22-27
Exodus 16:2-8

On their journey, the Israelites camped at a mountain called Sinai. There God gave His people rules to live by—the Ten Commandments. These are laws that teach God’s people to honor Him, and to respect people.

Exodus 20:1-17

Even though God had rescued the Israelites from Egypt, they wanted a God they could see. So while Moses was meeting with God on the mountain, they collected everyone’s gold and made a golden calf. Then they bowed down and worshiped the idol. God was very angry and punished the people for their sin.

Exodus 32

God would speak to Moses like a friend, but the people didn’t have a close friendship with God. So God told Moses to build a very special place where He could come down to be with His people. It was a big tent that could be taken down and put up again as they moved from place to place. The Tent, called the Tabernacle, was a very holy place. Only priests could serve in the

Exodus 33:11
Exodus 25:1-9
Exodus 26
Exodus 35:4-29
Exodus 40:34-38

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Moses

Tabernacle and offer sacrifices, and the Lord's presence and glory would come down on the Tabernacle in the form of a cloud.

Exodus 40:34

When they got near to Canaan, a place called Kadesh, Moses sent twelve spies into the land. After forty days, when the spies came back and told them that the people in Canaan were powerful, and their cities well-protected, the Israelites became discouraged and didn't believe that God could help them conquer the land. In fact, they wanted to go all the way back to Egypt. Because of their unbelieving hearts, God kept them in the desert for forty years, so that only their children would enter the Promised Land.

Numbers 13

Numbers 14:28-35

Joshua

After the forty years, Moses died and Joshua became the new leader. Joshua led the Israelites into the Promised Land and helped them conquer many cities, like the city of Jericho. God told them to drive out the people from the land because the people who lived in Canaan were evil and worshiped idols.

Numbers 27:18-23

Deuteronomy 31:1-8

Joshua 1:1-9

Joshua 6

Numbers 33:51-53

Deuteronomy 6:10-19

Deborah
Gideon
Samson

Judges were chosen by the tribes to make sure that everyone was treated fairly. Some judges like Gideon, became brave, respected leaders that led the Israelites into battle and protected the weak tribes when they were attacked. However, other judges, like Samson, didn't do such a great job.

Judges 2:16, 18

Judges 6

Judges 7

Judges 13

Judges 13 - 16

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Samuel Saul	<p>Though it took many years, God helped the Israelites drive out the heathen people from the Promised Land, and eventually there was peace. But the Israelites started to turn away from God, and they worshiped the man-made gods of the heathen nations around them. They also wanted a king like the other nations had—a human king instead of God their heavenly King. And so God told Samuel (the last judge) to let the people choose a king. And they chose Saul as their king.</p>	1 Samuel 8:1-18 1 Samuel 10:17-25
David	<p>But Saul did not obey God and do what is right, and so God chose someone who would honor Him—David a shepherd. As a boy, David’s fearless faith and love for the Lord got him to take on a giant, Goliath, who had dared to challenge God and the army of Israel. David killed Goliath with a sling and a stone, and King Saul made him a leader in his army. David won many battles and became so popular that Saul was jealous of him and wanted to kill him. So David and his band of followers fled to the desert of Judah where Saul and his army tried to track him down. Some of David’s psalms are about his deep feelings and prayers while Saul was trying to kill him.</p> <p>Eventually Saul died in battle and David became king. David was a good king, although not perfect. He did something that was very wrong , which caused a lot</p>	1 Samuel 15:1-23 1 Samuel 16:1-13 1 Samuel 17 1 Samuel 18:1-16 Psalm 25 2 Samuel 5:1-10 1 Chronicles 11:1-9 2 Samuel 11

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	of problems in his family. After forty years, David's son Solomon became king.	1 Kings 2:1-12
Solomon	Solomon built a Temple in Jerusalem where people could come and worship God and bring their offerings. It was a time of peace for the Israelites, and Solomon became the wisest and the wealthiest king.	1 Kings 6
Rehoboam Jeroboam	After Solomon died, the nation of Israel was divided. Solomon's son Rehoboam became king of Judah in the South while Jeroboam became king of Israel in the North.	1 Kings 11:41-43
Elijah, Elisha	The people of Israel and Judah did not follow God's ways and chose to worship the gods of the heathen nations. God sent many prophets, like Elijah, Elisha and Amos to warn the people of what would happen to them if they turned away from God. But the hearts of God's people grew cold toward Him and they no longer followed His ways.	1 Kings 17:1-6 1 Kings 19:19-21
Prophets:		
Isaiah		
Jeremiah		
Ezekiel		
Hosea, Joel	Then God allowed the king of Babylon to attack and conquer them. The Babylonians destroyed the Temple and took many Israelites back to Babylon as slaves.	2 Kings 17 2 Kings 25:1-21
Amos		
Obadiah		
Jonah, Micah		
Nahum		
Habakkuk	Among those captured were Daniel and his friends. They loved God and were loyal to Him, even when bad people planned to kill them because of their faith. Daniel was thrown into a den of lions, and his friends were thrown into a fiery furnace. But God protected them and saved them.	Daniel 1:1-20 Daniel 3 Daniel 6
Zephaniah		
Daniel		

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Ezra
Nehemiah

During this time, the Persians conquered Babylon. After seventy years, God worked in the heart of the king of Persia. The king showed favor to God's people (now called Jews). He allowed those who wanted to go back to Judah to do so. Many did. They rebuilt the Temple, and Nehemiah helped them rebuild the wall around Jerusalem.

2 Chronicles 36:22-23

Ezra 1

Ezra 3:1-6

Nehemiah 1 - 6

Esther

Meanwhile, back in Persia, there was a certain man who disliked God's people so much that he thought up a way to get rid of them. He persuaded the king to sign an instruction to kill every Jew. But God used Queen Esther, an orphan from Judah, to help the king realize that he had been tricked. So the king signed another law that allowed the Jews to protect themselves.

Esther 2

Esther 3:8-10

Esther 5 - 9

Prophets:

Haggai
Zechariah
Malachi

God had wanted the Promised Land to be a place where all His people would be blessed and worship Him. But they stubbornly went their own way instead of following God's way, and they were more interested in becoming rich than caring for the needs of others. And so, for four hundred years, God no longer spoke to them through the prophets, as He had done before.