

## Jesus, the Fisher of Men, Women, and Children

More than 2000 years ago, Jesus was given as a Son by the Holy Spirit to a virgin named Mary. The Holy Spirit placed baby Jesus in her womb at the time that she was to be married to Joseph. The Lord sent an angel to Joseph, telling him that he should still marry Mary. He did. Mary and Joseph raised Jesus up, and He become the Savior of the world. In His young adult days, Jesus was a carpenter, making furniture with His father. However, when He became 30 years old, He began His ministry to the world. He became a Teacher, Healer, and Rabbi. Jesus made the blind to see again. He made the deaf to hear. He also healed every other kind of illness. There was nothing He could not do.

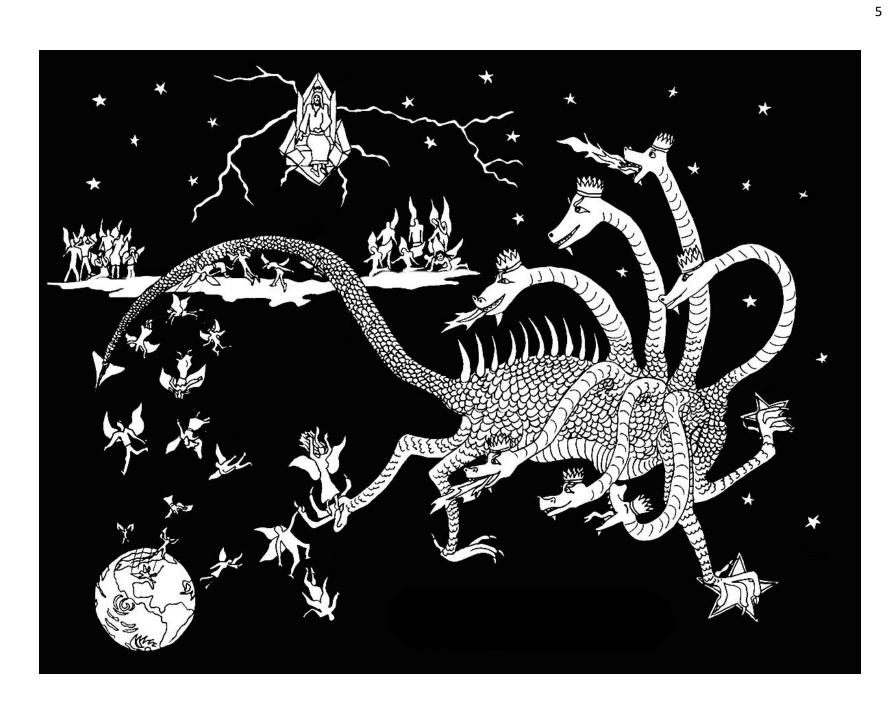
This book is full of stories from the Bible. It has heroes of faith. But most importantly, it tells the story of how sin began, and spread lawlessness through the world. Then it tells how Jesus saved the world from sin. The rest of the story is our future: Jesus will come back again for those that love Him. He will then set up His kingdom and re-create the world into a better place, with no more death, pain, or sorrow. He is a true Savior!



#### The Fall of Lucifer and His Angels- Revelation 12:4

The story begins long, long ago. The Lord God made the heavens and the Earth. There were no people yet, only angels. The Universe was perfect and love reigned throughout.

But then, Lucifer, a beautiful angel had a most sinful and lawless thought: "I think things would be better if all the angels worshipped me instead of God." Lucifer started to talk to other angels and told them they were not really happy. He told them he had a better way. One-third of the angels followed Lucifer. Then a fight broke out among all the angels. There was war in heaven! God stepped in and threw lightning at Lucifer and his angels. With a big crash and thunder, they fell out of heaven to Earth. God calls Lucifer a dragon. His new name is Satan. He is our enemy who causes problems on our poor planet every day.



#### The Garden of Eden: Humans Created by God- Genesis 1&2:

God decided to create plants, animals, a moon, a sun, and finally human beings on the planet Earth. He put the first two people, Adam and Eve, into a beautiful garden called Eden. The only rule was that they must not eat of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Adam and Eve obeyed God until Satan made his appearance as a fancy-looking snake, and told the first lie: "If you eat of this tree, you will not die. You will be like gods, knowing good and evil." This sounded pretty good to Eve, so she took of the fruit of the knowledge of good and evil. Then she gave Adam a bite. The Lord knew right away that they decided to follow Satan rather than Himself. The Lord sent them both out of the garden. Now they had to take care of themselves. As for that snake, he was changed by God into a belly-down crawling thing, and no one ever trusted him again!

Adam and Eve lived for quite a while after that, but life was hard. God wanted to save the people He created from death. He had a plan of how He could bring those willing to follow Him to everlasting life! There is a way, but we must learn to obey God and not Satan. Only then can the Universe be a happy place again! So here we all are on Earth, and every single one of us may choose to do good or evil. The Lord is watching to see what we will do and whether we will choose to obey Him or Satan. It is a great test for each of us!



# Genesis Chapters 6, 7, and 8-The Great Flood That Noah's Family Survived:

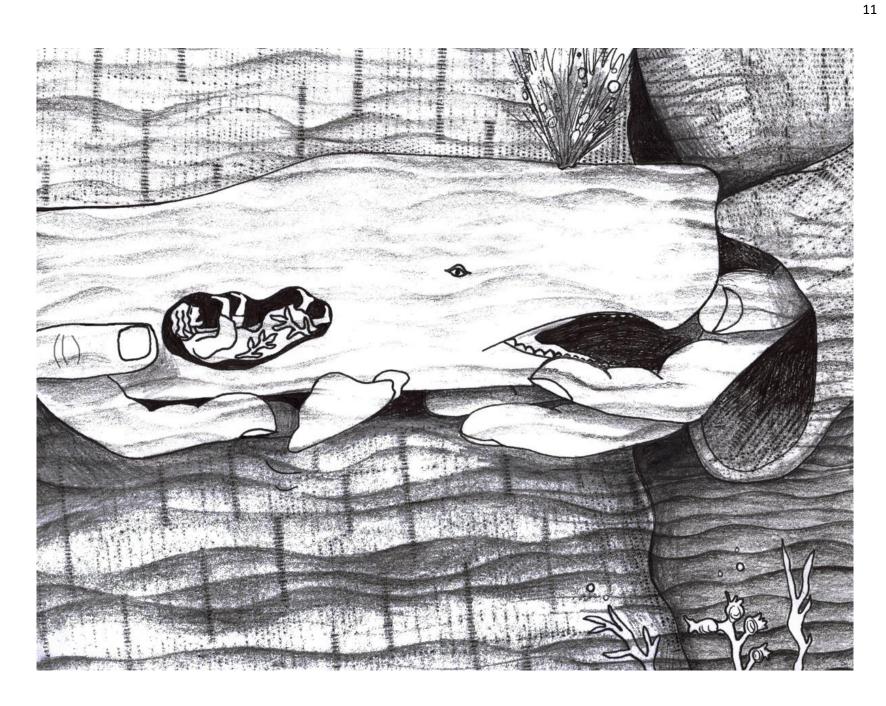
Adam and Eve had sons and daughters. Many years later, the Earth was filled with people, but the people were doing all the wrong things. God was very unhappy to see this. God decided that He would start over by destroying all the Earth and its people, except for Noah and his family. Noah was a righteous man who loved God, and he followed God's directions to build an ark, which is a giant boat. God commanded the animals to go into the ark—and they did! Noah's family also went in.

The Great Flood came and changed the Earth forever. Ever since then, the Earth has been more ocean than land. Noah landed his ark safely upon a mountain in a country called Turkey. We are all descendants of Noah and his family!



### Jonah Swallowed by God's "Big Fish"! - The Book of Jonah:

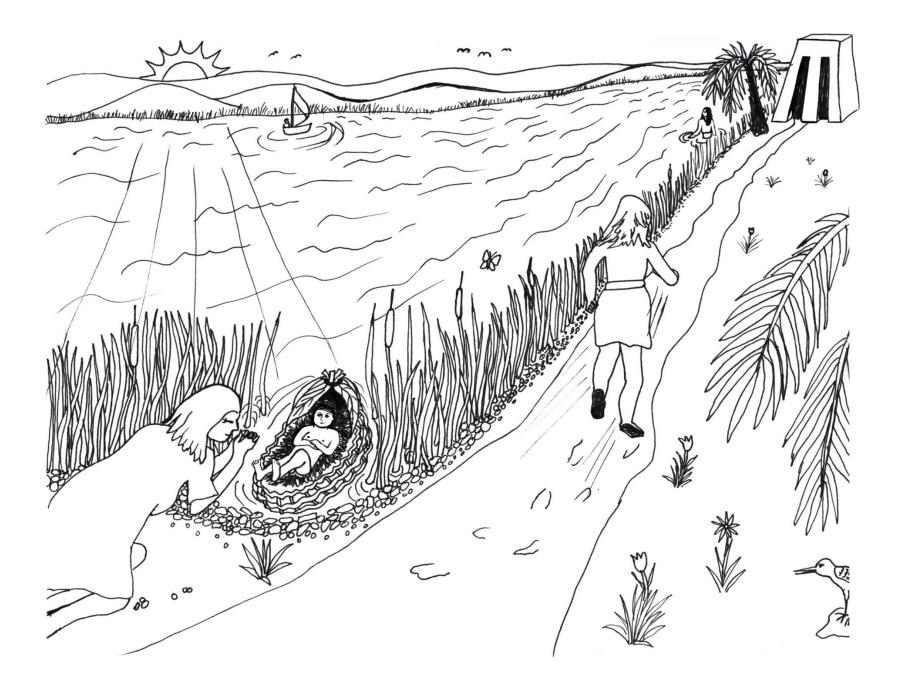
After the flood, things became bad again. There were cities that did not want to worship God. Instead, they made up their own gods, like a fairy tale that they decided to believe in. One city like this was called Nineveh. God called Jonah to go there and tell that city to stop with the fairy tales and worship God! Jonah didn't want to go because the people of Nineveh were his people's arch enemies! He tried to run from God by getting on a boat headed far from that wicked city. God brought a nasty storm! Jonah was thrown overboard and was swallowed by a "big fish!" Ugh! It was a terrible thing to be in the tummy of the fish! Seaweed wrapped around Jonah's head. It was dark in there too! After some time in the belly, Jonah prayed to God, "Get me out of this fish! I'll do anything you want! I'll even go to Nineveh!!" God then commanded the fish to burp up Jonah right onto the shore of Nineveh. The people saw Jonah coming from the fish. They were fish god worshippers and thought that the fish god sent him! They listened to every word Jonah said, and they changed their wicked ways. The city was saved!



## **Baby Moses Saved From Death- Exodus 2:**

Years later, God's people, the Israelites, were in slavery in Egypt. The Egyptians were afraid that the Israelites would outnumber them, so they took away all the baby boys from their mothers. All the baby girls were allowed to live. When baby Moses was born, his mother hid him. Then she sent him in a basket down the Nile River. The daughter of Pharaoh was bathing far down the river and saw the basket. She loved the baby! She thought her river god sent him to her. She decided to raise him as her son. Moses grew up living in the Egyptian palace!

Later, Moses would grow up and become a brave man who freed his people from slavery in Egypt. Moses went to the desert mountain, Mount Sinai, and talked with God all the time, for real! Later, Moses was God's messenger who brought his people the Ten Commandments written on stone by God's finger!



## Moses and the Parting of the Red Sea- Exodus 14:21

This is the story of how Moses freed his Israelite people. Moses led them out of Egypt through the desert. The Egyptian armies were chasing the Israelites. Pharaoh was very angry after God's ten plagues had destroyed most of Egypt's farms and houses. Pharaoh's son also died during the Passover in the tenth plague. There were many others who died also.

When the Israelites reached the Red Sea, they all thought they were doomed to die at the hand of the Egyptians. But Moses had faith and prayed. When Moses stretched his arms out, the Lord parted the Red Sea. The Israelites walked across the way that had opened for them. The Egyptians followed. As soon as every Israelite was safe on shore, the Lord let go of the waters, and every Egyptian soldier on the path was drowned! For the Israelites, this was the beginning of freedom and a long walk with God!



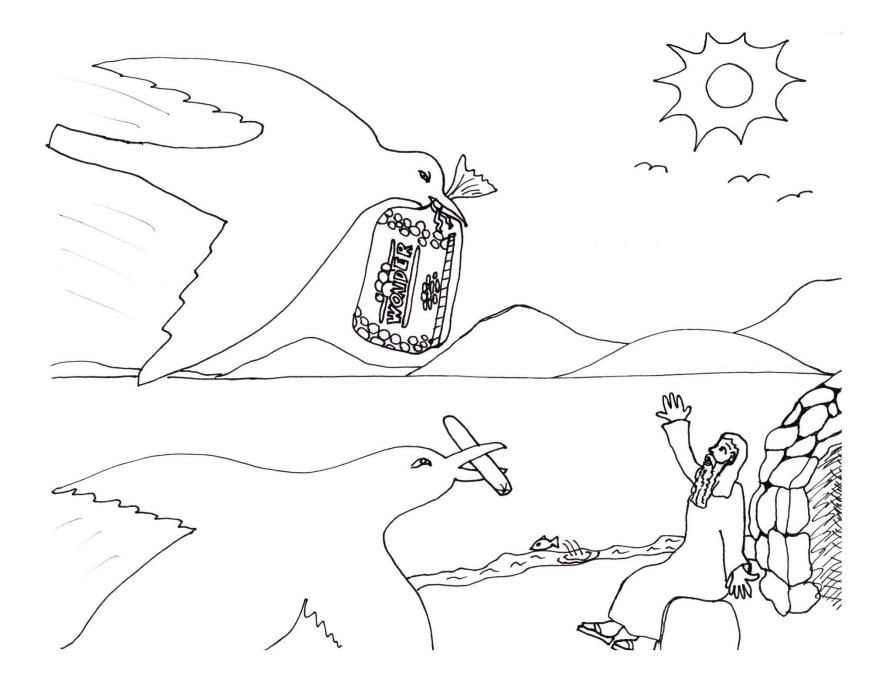
# The Golden Mercy Seat of God

After crossing the Red Sea, the Israelites began a great journey! They were in a desert where God fed them and gave them water for many years. During this time, they began to get to know the God who had freed them. God spoke to Moses and gave him many laws, including the Ten Commandments. He also asked Moses to build a special holy tent that would have a golden mercy seat for God to sit upon. The mercy seat was also called the "Ark of the Covenant," because the Ten Commandments were kept inside the box under the seat. These commandments were an agreement, or covenant, between God and mankind. After the tent was built, Moses spoke with God face-to-face, as God sat on the mercy seat between the two golden angels. The glory of God was great!: When Moses came out of the tent, his face was shining so brightly that the Israelites asked him to wear a veil to cover his face! That's intense holiness!



# The Miracle of the Helpful Raven Birds-1 Kings 17:

Eventually, the Israelites reached Israel once again. This was the Promised Land. But the kings of Israel were not always good kings. King Ahab married a very wicked woman named Jezebel. She was an enemy of God and His people. She had many priests to a pagan god named Baal. The great prophet, Elijah, had all these priests killed. Jezebel was furious and vowed to kill Elijah. But Elijah escaped into the wilderness, safe from the wicked Queen Jezebel. The Lord provided for him there: God's ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning, and bread and meat in the evening. Elijah drank from the brook that flowed through the land. He stayed in the wilderness for some time, until it was safe to go back home.



#### Daniel Sent to the Lion's Den!- Daniel 6:22:

After a time, God was upset about all the evil kings of Israel. Another nation took over Israel. Daniel was an Israelite governor helping the Persian King Darius, but he was not the only governor. The other advisors and governors were jealous of Daniel because the king liked him the most. They tricked the king into sending Daniel into the lion's den. They hoped the lions would eat Daniel. But they didn't know that God would save Daniel by sending an angel to shut the mouths of the lions!

The king was very worried about Daniel all night. By the time the sun rose the next morning, the king took away the stone covering the ceiling entrance to the den. Now, when he called for Daniel, he heard him answer from amidst the lions, "They have not hurt me!" The king had Daniel taken out of the den. Then the king ordered that the other wicked governors and advisors be cast into the den! As each one was lowered down on a rope, the lions broke all their bones and devoured them before they even reached the floor!



#### Jesus Is Called the Lion of the Tribe of Judah! -Revelation 5:5:

Jesus is called a Lion because what animal is mightier than a lion? It is one of the strongest animals on Earth. The male has a mane, which is long fur surrounding its face. It gives the lion a majestic appearance (He looks like a king). He is truly "King of the jungle"! His roar can be heard from far away. Don't mess with a lion!!

Long ago, the Jewish race began when Jacob had twelve sons. Judah was the oldest of these twelve sons. Each son of Jacob had sons and daughters who were called their "tribe" or family.

Genesis 49:10 says that the tribe of Judah would give rise to kings. This came true! Judah's great-great...grandson would be a king: the famous King David who killed Goliath the giant when he was just a boy! And King David's great-great...grandson would be Jesus! King Jesus will rule the Universe forever in peace and love after His second coming (the Advent of his return)!



#### **Jesus Gives Us Rest**

#### Matthew 11:28-29:

Jesus said, "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.... learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." Jesus helped people in many, many ways. He taught them and He healed the many illnesses they had. When Jesus said, "Be opened!" the ears of the deaf were opened, and the deaf person could then hear. When He said, "Receive your sight!" the blind person was able to see! Crowds of people followed Jesus from town to town. He healed them all. He taught them all to stay away from sin, so they could go to heaven someday. It is a very restful feeling to know that you are loved by God, and will go to heaven to be with Him someday. Most of all, Jesus taught people how to love each other.

#### The Love of Jesus-1 John 4:7-9:

Jesus's follower, John, said; "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for **GOD IS LOVE.**"

God sent Jesus to Earth to live among us. This way, the love of God was made clear, that God sent His only Son into the world, so that we may receive eternal life through Him. He is our Savior!



# Jesus Is Coming Again!

# We Will Be With Jesus & Our Loved Ones Whom We Lost to Death - 1 Thessalonians 4:

This is the future event of when Jesus will come back in the clouds. He will come back for us! This is called the Advent: "The Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout..." and with a trumpet sound. "Then the dead in Christ shall rise first. We which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air. And so shall we always be with the Lord" forever!

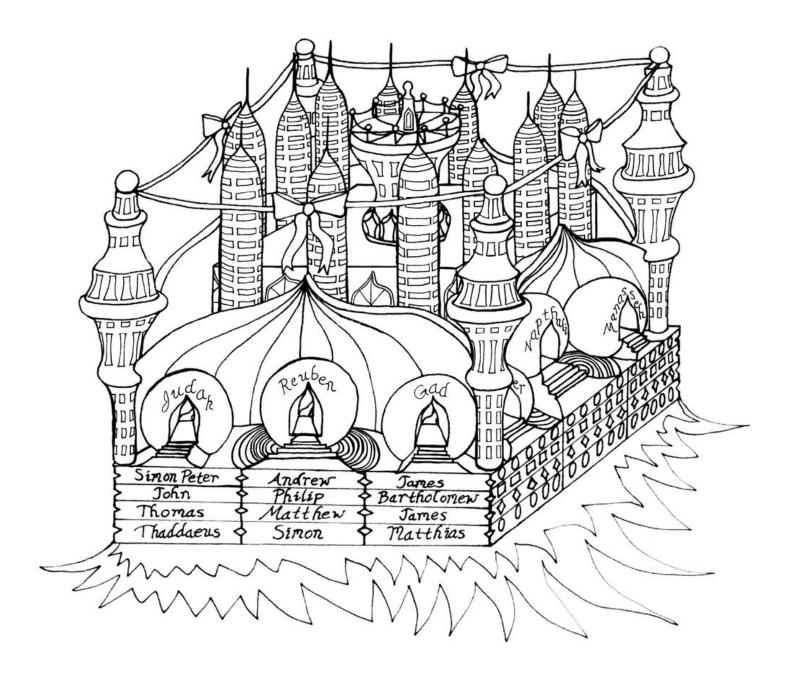
Jesus promised that He had mansions for us all to live in, and that He would return for us.

After He rose from the dead, He said, "I go to prepare a place for you."



## The New Jerusalem: Revelation 21

The New Jerusalem city is the place that Jesus is now preparing for us. At first, after Jesus comes again, we will live in this city for 1000 years. It will be a huge city with 12 foundations that it sits upon. On these foundations the names of the 12 apostles will be written. The name Matthias will be written among the apostles' names. (He had become the 12<sup>th</sup> apostle after Judas died.) There will be 12 gates, with each gate made of one giant pearl! On the gates are written the names of the 12 tribes of Israel. God the Father, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and all the saved people will live with us in this great city. We will have a thousand years to ask God questions about what happened during our lives on Earth. We will also learn why every person who ever lived was saved or not saved. There, in the courts of God, we will shed our very last tears, for all the sadness we and others felt during the time that sin and suffering were in our world.



#### We Will Be In the New Heavens and the New Earth With Jesus Forever!

After the 1000 years, the city of New Jerusalem will land on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem, Israel! Sin will be destroyed forever. Then, at the Lord's command, the Earth will be instantly re-created into a true paradise. God will set up His throne and live with us there. Sin will never rise up again. It will be a thing of the past.

#### Revelation 21:3-5:

"...[God] will dwell with...His people, and God Himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And He that sat upon the throne said, 'Behold! I make all things new."

#### **Isaiah 11:7:**

"The wolf...shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid [young goat]; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together...the lion shall eat straw like the ox."



# The New Kingdom! – Revelation 5:9-10:

Because Jesus died to save us, His saved people will sing a new song, to Him: "You are worthy...and have made us KINGS AND PRIESTS to our God."

#### Revelation 11:15:

"The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of His Christ; and He shall reign for ever and ever."

#### Revelation 2:10 & Revelation 15:2:

As children of the king, all the saved people will receive the crown of life. We will also each receive a harp and will know how to play it beautifully!



### Who Was Jesus?

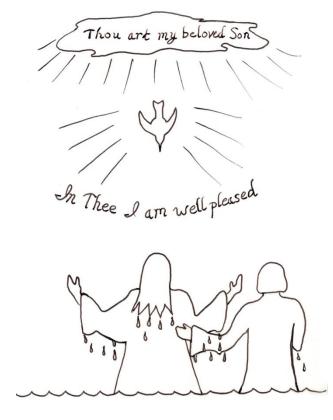
Jesus was 100% man and 100% God. He died and rose from the dead. He now sits at the right hand of the Father in Heaven. God is different from people. He is three Beings in One:

The Father,
The Son (Jesus),
and the Holy Spirit

Think of an egg: It has a shell, yolk, and white; but it is one egg. God is like that. Because He is Three Beings in One, He is able to be everywhere in the Universe at once, able to know everything that can be known, and able to do anything He wants. He is all-powerful!

In Luke 3:21-22, the Three Beings were in the same place at the same time! It happened during the baptism of Jesus:

"When all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized; and while He prayed, the heaven was opened. And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, 'You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased."



The Holy Spirit is a *Person* Who is everywhere in the Universe at once. He holds the Universe together and keeps our hearts beating. He knows our thoughts, and He watches over us all the time. He hears and talks with us when we are in prayer. We can speak to Him silently with our thoughts or out loud. He can help us when we are in trouble. He does miracles for us at times of need. He is our best Friend, and at any time we can talk to Him the same way we talk to another person. We never need to repeat what we say to Him because He

always heard us the first time! He wants to be with you always. You can invite Him into your life each morning in prayer. This prayer will keep you connected to Him and help you to do the right things throughout the day. Ask for His blessing in everything that you do!

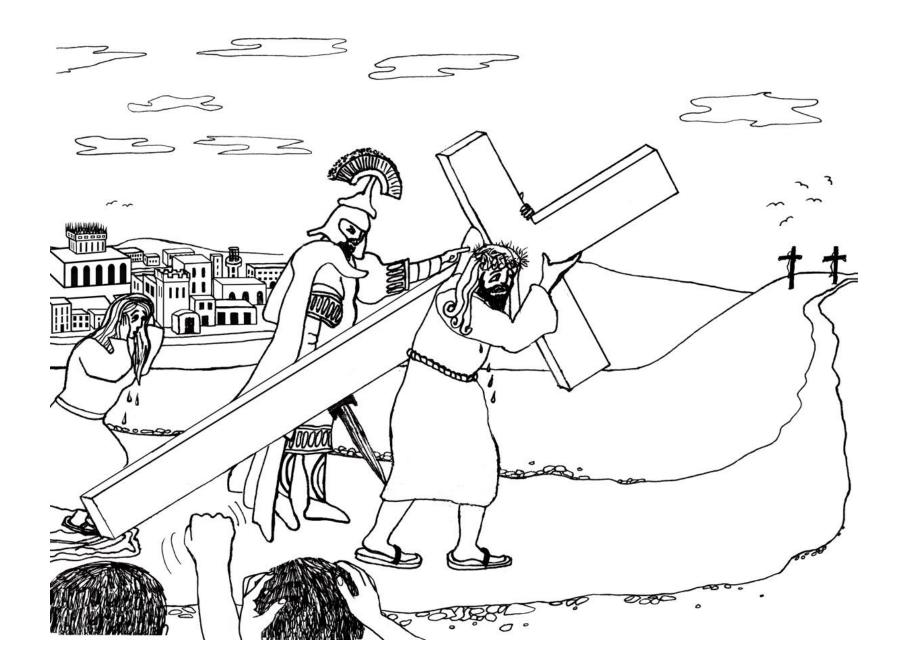
#### Why Did Jesus Die on the Cross?

This was His mission: He came to Earth to save all people. Ever since Adam and Eve sinned (disobeyed God's command), lawlessness has reigned upon the Earth. This brought death, pain and suffering. Sin (which means lawlessness) is a disease, of sorts, that has caused many bad things to happen. The solution to sin is to obey God by our own free choice. God wants to fix things so that there is no more sin, and He will!

Jesus was not quite what people expected the Savior to be. He was indeed God, the Creator of everything! But few people knew this. Many times, people did not understand what He was trying to teach them. Also, the people in power, the leaders of Israel, were afraid that Jesus would take their power away and become King over Israel. But Jesus did not come to become a king over Israel. He came to take away the sins of the whole world, so that all people would have a chance to go to heaven. The leaders of Israel put Jesus to death on a cross. Little did they know that Jesus's pain and death was actually God's plan! You see, Jesus took the punishment for our sins, so that we could be forgiven and saved. He knew that if He took the punishment for our sins, we could eventually go to heaven and the Universe could be restored to paradise.

On the cross, Jesus asked God to forgive the leaders of Israel. He said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do."

This showed the world and the angels that God truly is love. Jesus died in sorrow, but that is not the end of the story. The world was shaken when Jesus came back to life!



#### When Jesus Came Back to Life!

Early Sunday morning, there was an earthquake, and an angel came and rolled away the stone from the door of Jesus's cave, where He was buried. There were many soldiers there who were supposed to make sure Jesus stayed in the tomb. The leaders of Israel sent them there because they were afraid that anything could happen. But when the soldiers saw the angel, they fell flat down and could do nothing to stop the holy angel. The angel sat down upon the stone door. A great holy light lit up the cave and Jesus shook off the grave clothes! He folded them neatly and came out of the cave at once! Jesus overcame death and Satan on that day! Later, He saw all His friends and family. He preached and healed many people for forty days. Then He went up into the clouds while all the disciples were watching. Jesus went to heaven to sit at the right hand of the Father. He now rules the Universe from heaven. He looks forward to the day when He will come back to Earth for all His people. Amen! God bless you for reading this story!



#### **How Can I Be Saved?**

To be saved, we must accept what Jesus did on the cross for us. We must believe that He died and rose from the grave for us, in order to free us from sin. Jesus asked us to: "Love the Lord with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind." Agree to serve Him and worship Him. Only then can we know that we are saved. This is the beginning of a great journey!

The journey is living to become like Christ. We begin to act like true Christians. We ask God to forgive all our sins. We try to live without sin. When we feel like we want to sin, we pray and ask the Holy Spirit to help us. He helps us. Sometimes we do the wrong thing by accident, or we may have a moment where we make a bad choice without asking God for His help. As soon as we realize we have done wrong, we ask the Lord for forgiveness. We pray we will do better next time. The Lord forgives us. All Christians go through these things, but they always keep trying to be like Christ. This is how God wants us to live, until we can be perfect before Him.

We are saved by the grace of God, only because of what Jesus did on the cross. He earned "forever together in paradise" for all of us! This is a **FREE GIFT** from God! After Jesus died on the cross, Jesus rose from the dead. Then He went up to heaven. He proved His power over death. So we know that He will be coming back to Earth to raise our loved ones who have died! It will be a great family get-together! And we will forever be with the Lord. *Forever!* 



# **Your Choice:**

Wouldn't you love to be there in heaven with Jesus and family and friends? Decide now to be on Jesus's side. Give yourself to Him. Accept Jesus's death that He died in your place. Believe that God forgives your sins. That's all you have to do. Come to Jesus as you are. Allow the Holy Spirit to be your Guide. Allow Jesus to be your Savior. Allow the Father to be your loving and merciful Father. God loves you and wants you. He is waiting for you to make your choice.

## Pray this prayer to be saved:

"Jesus, I want to be in Your kingdom. I believe You died for me, and I accept Your death on the cross as the payment for my sin. Cleanse me of my sin and help me to be a Christian. I promise to follow You in all my ways. Fill me with Your love. Amen!

# Welcome to the Family of God!

