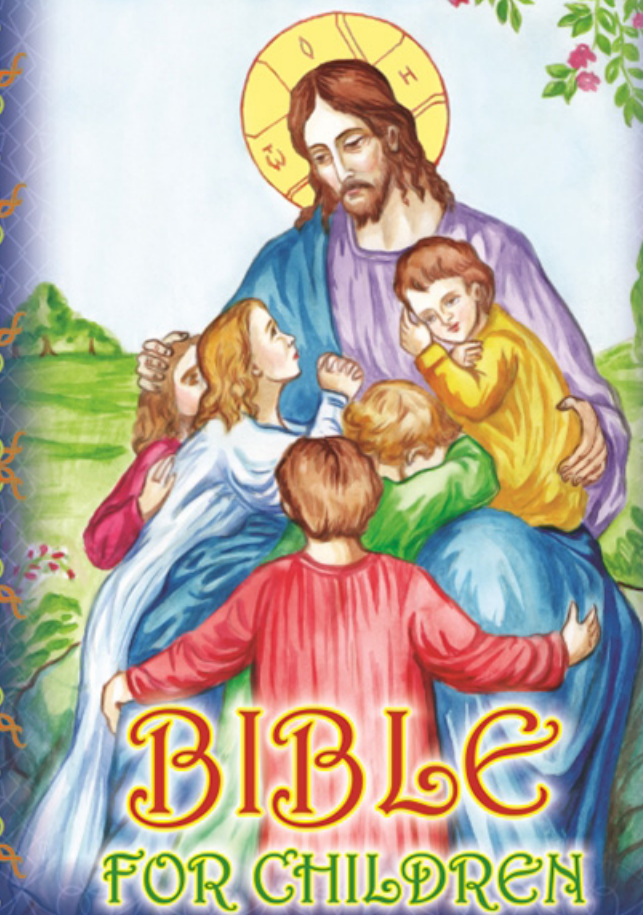




BIBLE

FOR CHILDREN



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Brief summary by Vladimir Chugunov

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THE OLD TESTAMENT

THE CREATION

This is really hard to imagine to-day, my dear, but there were times when nothing existed. The earth was formless and void, and God's Spirit moved above waters.

And the Lord said, "Let there be light", and the light appeared. And it was beautiful in the eyes of God. And he separated the light from the darkness and called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning — the first day.

And the Lord said, "Let there be a vault between the waters, and let this vault separate water from water". And it became so. The Lord called the vault "sky." And this was majestically beautiful in the eyes of God. And there was evening, and there was morning — the second day.

And the Lord said, "Let the water that is under the sky be gathered in one place, and let the ground appear". And it became so. And the Lord called the ground "land" and the waters be called "seas", and he ordered the land to produce vegetation, cereals and fruit trees. And all of it was amazingly beautiful. And there was evening, and there was morning — the third day.

And the Lord said, "Let there be lights on the sky vault to separate the day from the night". And so the sun, the moon and stars appeared in their full splendour and beauty. And there was evening, and there was morning — the fourth day.

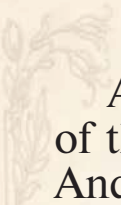
And the Lord said, "Let the water produce living creatures ". And so the water was filled with fish, and numerous birds and reptiles appeared. And there was evening, and there was morning — the fifth day.

And the Lord said, "Let the land produce living creatures". And so animals, livestock and reptiles appeared.

The world was filled with a joyful noise of birds, movements of animals and livestock.



And then the Lord said: “Let us create a man in our image, so that he may rule over all the vegetation and the animal world”.

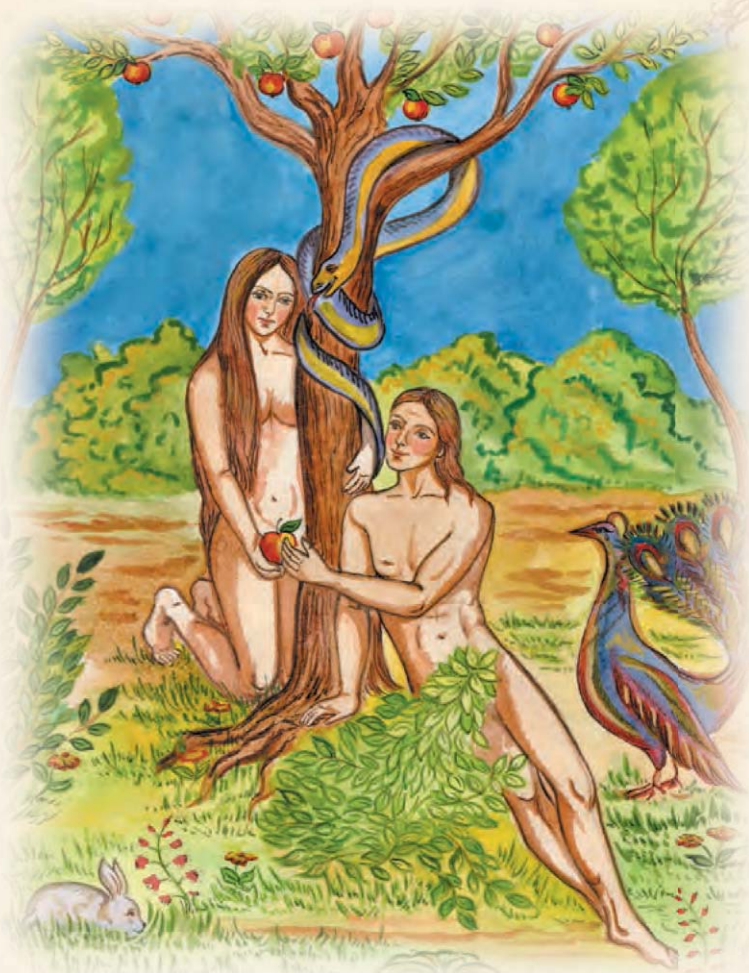


And God created a man out of the dust of the ground and breathed life into him. And, thus, Adam became immortal. And the Lord planted Garden of Eden and led Adam there, he told him to cultivate this garden and to take care of it.

Adam was free to eat from any tree except for the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Keeping of this commandment guaranteed him eternal life.

When Adam gave names to all the living things, the animals and birds began to serve him willingly, granting his every request with joy. And everything was good, but Adam had nobody to talk to, he had no helper who would be like him. Then the Lord caused the man to fall asleep, took one of his ribs out, and then closed up the place with flesh. He used this rib to create a helper for Adam. Thus, the woman appeared. Both Adam and his wife were naked, and they felt no shame. And there was evening, and there was morning — the sixth day.

And when the created world was finished, the Lord rested.



THE FIRST SIN

Before the visible world the Lord created the invisible one which the Lord populated by angels. God created angels as kind and faithful. But one

of them became proud of his greatness and decided to withdraw from God. He started to instigate other angels and seduced many of them by maligning the Lord. Then archangel Michael rebelled against them with all of his heavenly army. And there was a war in heaven, and the maligner fell. He was cast down with his stinking army, and since then they are called devils or demons.

And when the Devil saw Adam and Eve's celestial bliss, he shadowed with envy even more and decided to take it away from them through deceit. For this purpose he turned into a serpent, crawled up the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and asked the woman, "Is it true that the Lord told you not to eat from any tree in the garden?" The woman got confused and said that it was not so, and that they were permitted to eat from any tree except for the one on which the serpent was hanging. "The Lord didn't permit us to eat the fruits from this tree, otherwise, we'll die", she said. The Devil argued, "No, you will not die. You will be like gods that know good and evil". The woman believed him and looked at

the fruit already without fear. She took the fruit, ate of it and gave it to Adam. He ate of it too. And they both became ashamed, for they realized that they were naked, and they made coverings out of fig leaves for themselves.

Torn with remorse, they hid behind the trees, as they heard the voice of God who was walking in the garden. To make Adam repent, the Lord called Adam, "Adam, is that you?" Adam responded, "I heard Your voice, but I was scared to come forward, because I am naked". "How did you know that? Haven't you eaten the fruit I forbade you to eat?" "Did you eat from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" Instead of confessing his sin, Adam decided to shift the blame on God himself, "The wife you created gave me the fruit, and I ate of it". Then the Lord asked the woman: "Why have you done this?" And she blamed the serpent. Then the Lord cursed the serpent and said to the woman, "You will give birth to your children in severe pains. As a punishment for disobeying your Lord, you shall be subordinated to your husband, and he will rule over you". And he



said to Adam, “Because you listened to your wife and ate the forbidden fruit, the earth shall be cursed.

From now on it shall produce weeds, and you will cultivate it and eat your

bread by the sweat of your brow until you return to the ground from which you were taken.” Then Adam gave his wife a name — Eve which means “life”, since she was to become the mother of the whole mankind. And the Lord made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, which symbolized that through their sin they became like speechless animals. And he banished them from paradise, and he placed a cherubim with a flaming sword to guard the way to the tree of life.

CAIN AND ABEL

Since that time Adam and Eve’s life became hard. The beasts stopped obeying them. They had two sons, Cain and Abel. When they grew up, Cain worked the soil, and Abel became a shepherd.

Once the brothers decided to make sacrifice to the Lord and made fires. Cain put grains in the fire, and Abel put a lamb. However, Abel made a sacrifice with love, and Cain — without love. The smoke from Abel’s sacrifice went up and pleased the Lord, while the smoke



from Cain's sacrifice drifted low over the ground. And Cain became jealous and killed his brother. Willing to incline Cain towards repentance, the Lord asked him, "Where is your brother Abel?" "Am I my brother's keeper?" Abel answered.



Then the Lord withdrew from Cain, and Cain became sullen and fled from the parents' house. Seeing the parents' grief, God comforted them by giving them mild-tempered Seth. They also had other children, many children and grandchildren. Cain also had children, but they were all as evil and envious as their father.

THE FLOOD

Adam lived nine hundred and thirty years. His descendants inhabited the earth. But the more they lived, the further they were from God and the more evil they did. Finally, there was only one righteous man on earth — Noah.

The Lord told him to build an ark (a large ship) far from the sea. Noah was building it for seventy years, trying to convince people to repent. But they only laughed at him.

When the ark was ready, the Lord told Noah to go into the ship with his whole family, his sons Shem, Ham, Japheth and their wives. Noah also brought one pair of every kind of unclean animal, male and female, and seven pairs of every kind of clean animal with him, and locked the door of the ark.

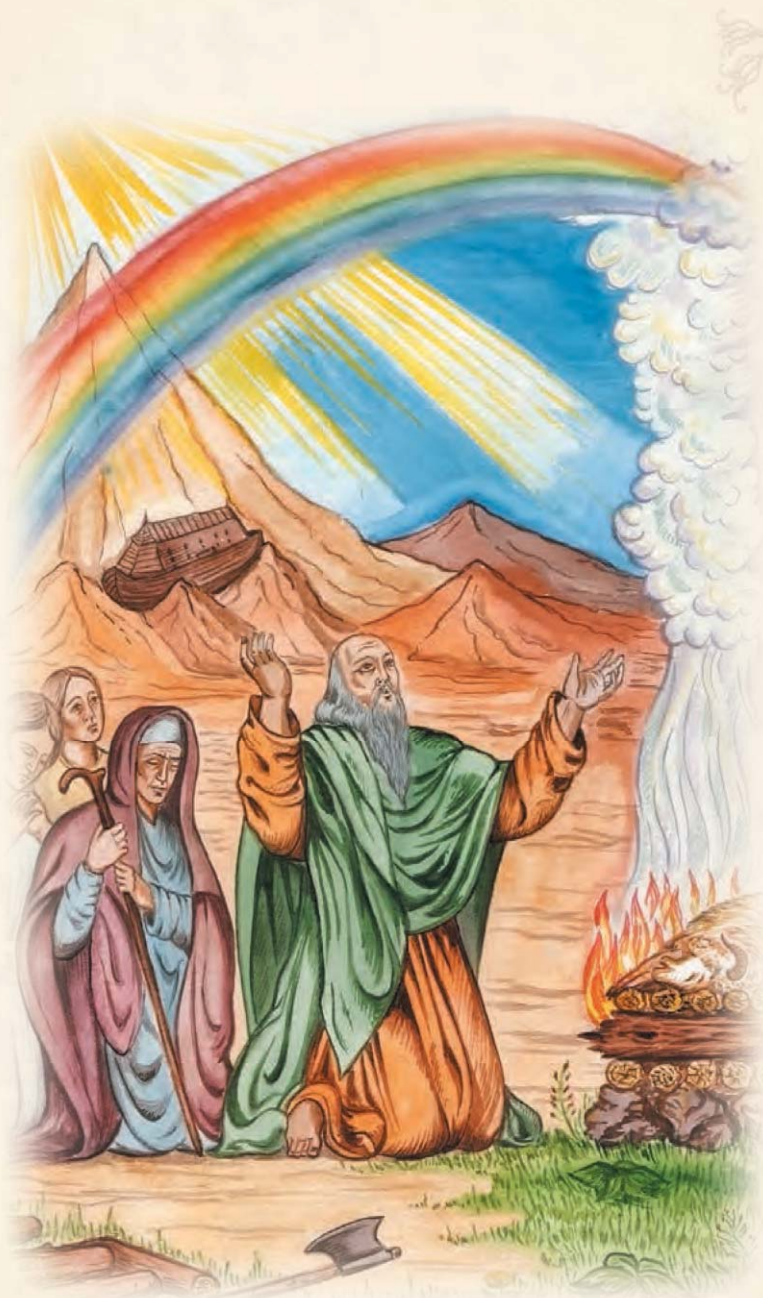
And there was a heavy rainfall for forty days and forty nights. The earth and mountains disappeared beneath the water. For one hundred and fifty days the Earth was like a huge ocean. All the living things died.



NOAH'S SACRIFICE

When the Lord remembered Noah, he sent the winds over the earth. The chasms got closed, the rains stopped, the water went down, and after one hundred and fifty days the ark stopped on the mountains of Ararat. The mountain peaks showed. Forty days later Noah opened the window and let a raven out, and after a while the raven returned to the ark. Seven days later Noah let the dove out, and the dove returned in the evening with an olive twig with green leaves in its beak. Noah waited other seven days and sent forth the dove, and it didn't come back to him anymore.

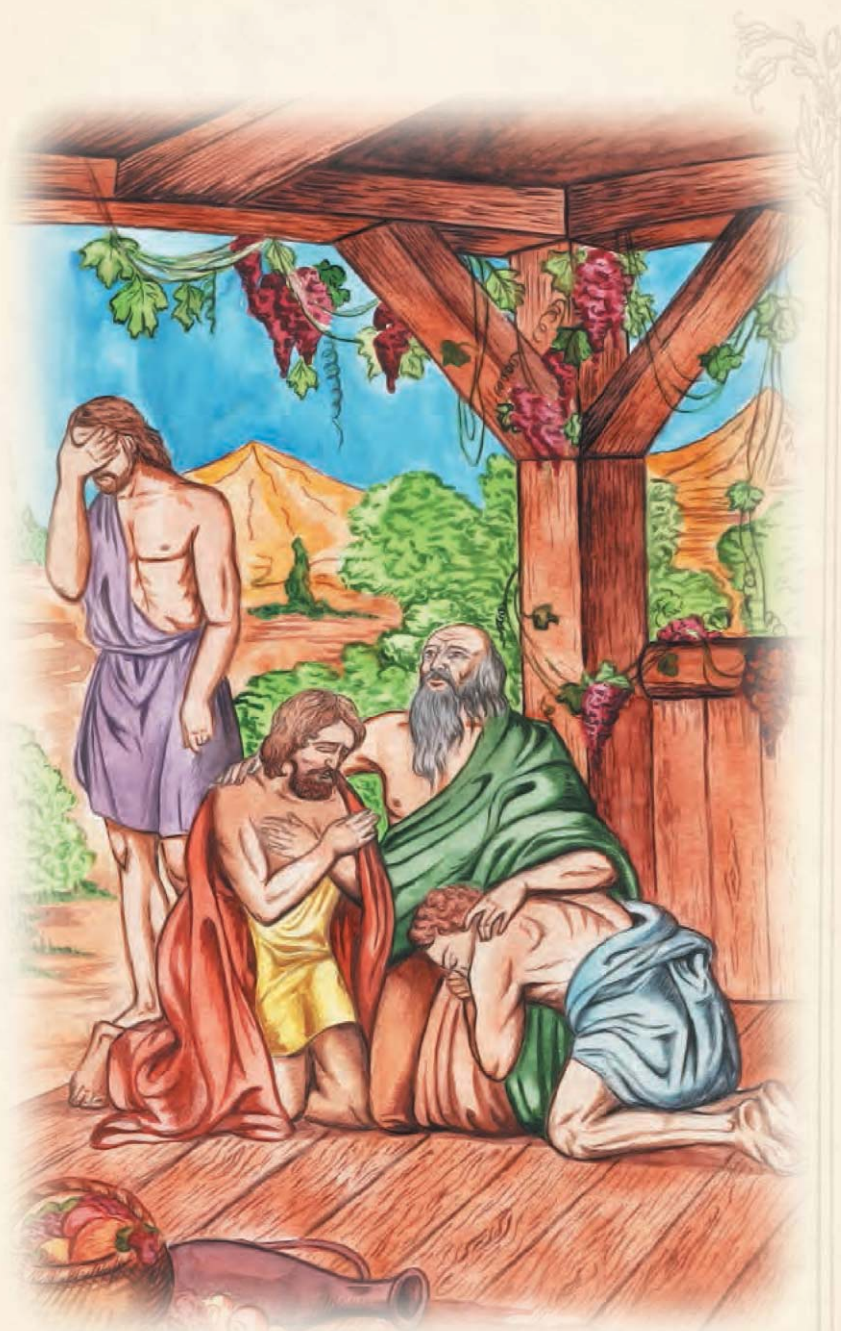
Then God said to Noah and to every creature inside to come out of the ark. Noah built an altar and made sacrifice to the Lord. And the Lord accepted his offering and blessed Noah and his children and, in the sign that there would be no flood in the future, he placed a rainbow in the sky.



HEM, HAM, JAPHETH

Noah's family began to work the earth, planted grapes, bred herds. Once Noah happened to drink more grape juice than usual. He became drunk and lay inside his tent without clothes. Ham saw this, ran to his brothers and told them, laughing, "Have a look at the father, look what became of him!" The brothers took a blanket, entered the tent, moving backwards and not looking at the father, and covered him. When Noah found out what Ham had done, he got angry. "For what you've done neither you, nor your children will know happiness. Your son shall be your brothers' slave," he said. Shem and Japheth got Noah's blessing and lived prosperously under their parents' blessings.

Noah lived 950 years, since then no one lived that long.



THE TOWER OF BABEL

At first, all Noah's descendants spoke a common language. Once an insane thought came to their minds: to glorify themselves by building a tower that would reach the sky. All tribes, except for that of Eber, participated in this construction. They were all overwhelmed by pride. And they succeeded in this task considerably, but the Lord ruined their plans in a wonderful way. He confused their language, so that they were unable to understand each other and, eventually, parted their ways. Since then the Earth was populated by tribes speaking different languages. And the Tower collapsed as time passed. The city where the tower stood was later called Babel.



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