

40 OLD TESTAMENT BIBLE STORIES

ANDY ROBB



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MIRACLE MAKER

It's one thing to create something if you've got the stuff to make it with, but imagine making a clay pot without any clay or baking a cake without any ingredients. That would be weird, wouldn't it? It would also be impossible – but not for someone like God.

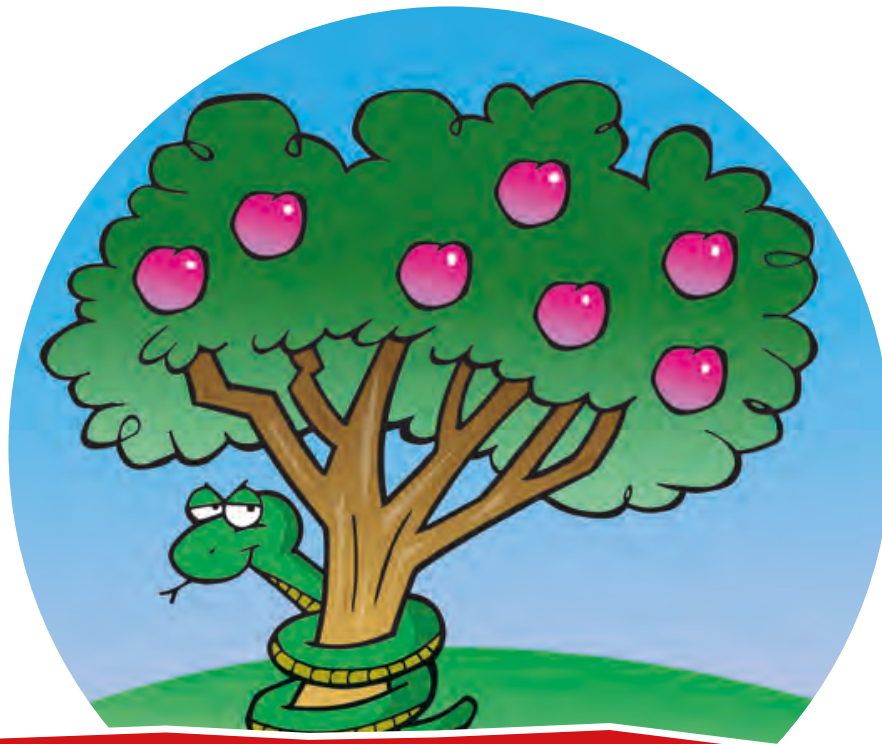
When God made the universe (including planet Earth and everything on it), guess what He had to make it with? You're right! Nothing. Zilch! The Bible says that before the universe was made there was just God. That was it. Nothing else, just Him.

For starters, at the very beginning it was pitch black. If people had been around (which they weren't) they wouldn't have been able to see their hands in front of their faces. So how did God create light? Simple. He commanded it to come into being. In fact, that's how everything was created – by God telling it to exist.

When God made the world, it was completely covered in water until He made the water separate to make way for some nice dry land. God filled the earth with all sorts of plants and animals. He put the sun in just the right place in outer space so nothing gets either fried or frozen and He even made the moon to be the most amazing night-light. How considerate is that?!



You're probably thinking that it must have taken God yonks to make everything, but think again! Head for Bible book Genesis, chapter 2 and verses 1 to 3.



GARDEN GATE GUARD


I don't know if you've got a garden or not but most garden owners have some sort of gate to stop people walking in and trampling all over their nice, pretty flower beds or nicking the produce from their vegetable patch. But did you know that the world's very first people (Adam and Eve) had a garden? Yep, they did. Just in case you run away with the idea that it had a neat lawn and a stone path leading up to a shed then let me put you straight.

Their garden was the most wonderful, exotic paradise you could ever imagine and four rivers flowed out from it in different directions. Slap-bang in the middle of the garden stood a couple of rather important trees that had been put there by God. Well, actually God had put all the trees there

(because He had made the world) but these particular trees were there for a special reason. One of the trees gave life and God had given Adam and Eve the thumbs-up to eat its fruit. The other tree gave the power to know the difference between right and wrong but this one was well and truly off-limits. Take a munch from the fruit of this tree and they were doomed to die. Why spoil things by disobeying God? It was a no-brainer... or so you'd have thought.

Just when everything in the garden was looking rosy, along came someone to put a spanner in the works. It was none other than God's enemy (the devil) masquerading as a sneaky serpent. He'd come to trick the perfect pair into throwing their good life away in a moment of madness. The serpent quickly persuaded them that they'd maybe got the story wrong and that they wouldn't really die if they snacked on some of the forbidden fruit. What could possibly be the harm in just a teensy nibble of the juicy fruit?

So that's exactly what Adam and Eve did. No prizes for guessing that they were rumbled by God. He knew full well that they'd disobeyed Him and now it was time for the consequences. Did God make them mow the lawn or pick up all the leaves as a punishment? Nope, far worse.



Want to find out how this sorry tale ends? Head for Bible book Genesis, chapter 3 and verses 22 to 24.



RAINBOW REMINDER

Way back in the mists of time there was a whopping big flood that just about destroyed everything on the planet.

Here's what happened.

When God created human beings, He was pleased with the way they'd turned out, but it didn't take long for our distant ancestors to turn their backs on Him and to go their own wicked way. This upset God big time.

There was one guy though who hadn't gone the way of all the others. His name was Noah and he lived a life that pleased God – so much so that God decided that, although He was going to wipe everyone else off the face of the earth because of their wickedness, Noah and his family would be spared. That was a bit jammy for them, wasn't it? Bet they were grateful for a godly dad!

God told Noah to build a huge box-shaped boat (called an ark), big enough not only to hold his family, but also two of every kind of animal that roamed the earth and soared in the skies. When God's worldwide flood came everyone on the ark would be safe.

Sure enough what God promised came to pass and a mahoosive flood (the like of which had never happened before) engulfed the entire planet, destroying every land-based creature that wasn't afloat on Noah's ark.

When the flood waters eventually subsided and the ark had come to rest, Noah and his family went out to survey the damage. They were the only survivors and, along with their animal passengers, it was up to them to set about re-populating the world.

But hang on a minute. Supposing the same thing happened again and Noah's descendants also did the dirty on God? Would God bring another flood?

He'd already made His mind up on the matter.

The Bible says that God promised Noah that the world would never again suffer a destructive flood like they'd just lived through. Yes, there might be local floods because that's what storms do, but never a worldwide one to wipe away wickedness.

To prove that He was going to be true to His Word, God said that He was going to give people a sign.



**To find out what the sign was,
look up Bible book Genesis,
chapter 9 and verses 12
through to 17.**