

THE BARNABAS  
PAGE A DAY  
BIBLE

Rhona Davies  
Illustrated by Marcin Piwowarski



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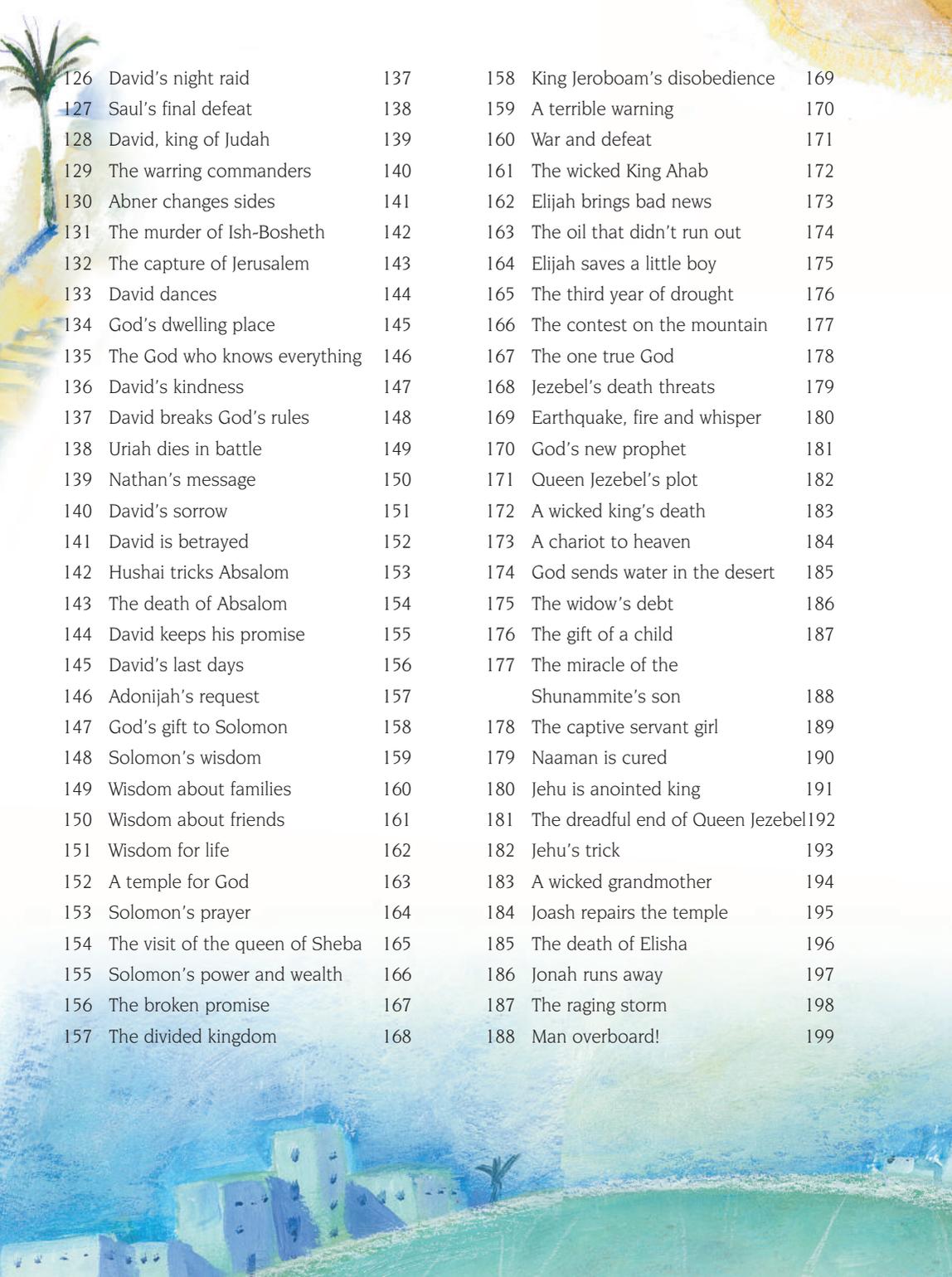


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# THE OLD TESTAMENT



# 1 IN THE BEGINNING

In the beginning there was nothing. It was dark and empty and shapeless.

'Let there be light!' God said. As soon as he had said the words, light came into existence. God saw that the light was good. God divided the light, so that there was day and there was night.

God made the sky and separated it from the waters below.

God made the seas and created dry land.

'Let the land produce plants and trees full of seeds and fruits,' God said. Then every variety of green and leafy vegetation filled the land, from tall redwood trees to olives and oranges, acorns and chestnuts. God saw that all he had made was good.

'Let there be lights in the sky to mark night and day, times and seasons, months and years,' God said. So the golden sun shone in the day and the silvery moon beamed in the night sky. God saw that all he had made was good.

'Let the waters be filled with living creatures and the skies with birds. Let them multiply and increase in number.' Then there were dolphins and sea horses, eagles, owls, robins and wrens, buzzing bees and beautiful butterflies.

'Let the land be filled with creatures,' God said. So there were sheep, goats, elephants, giraffe, lions, tigers and graceful gazelles.

God looked at what he had made and saw that it was good.

Then God made man and woman. He put them in charge of his creation, to care for it and cultivate it for food. God loved the people he had made and he saw that everything he had made was very good. Then God rested.



## 2 THE PERFECT WORLD



God gave Adam and Eve a beautiful garden to live in. It was full of plants and trees with fruit they could eat. The garden was watered by a river that ran through it, and Adam and Eve tended the garden and worked in it.

Adam and Eve were good company for each other. They shared the work and they lived happily together. Adam gave names to all the creatures that God had made.

God told them that they could eat anything that grew in the garden except the fruit of one tree in the middle of the garden, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

# 3 RIGHT AND WRONG

One of the creatures in the garden was a snake.

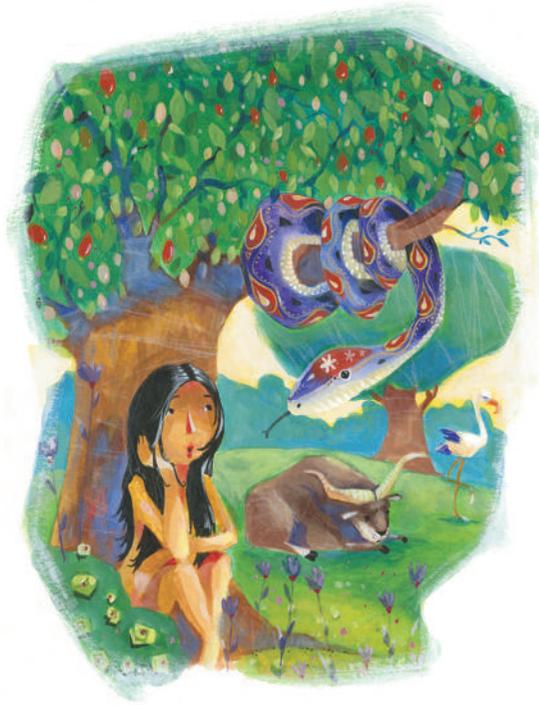
He came to Eve and tempted her.

'Did God really tell you not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?' he asked.

'God told us we can eat from every tree, except the tree in the middle of the garden,' said Eve. 'If we eat from that tree, we will die.'

'You will not die...' said the snake. 'God does not want you to eat from that tree because if you do, you will know good and evil just as God does.'

Eve looked at the tree. She saw how lovely its fruit looked and thought about what the snake had said. She took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave it to Adam and he ate some too.



As soon as they had eaten, Adam and Eve knew what they had done. They realised why God had told them not to eat the fruit. Now they had disobeyed God and it was too late to put things right. They felt guilty and ashamed and when they heard God coming in the garden, they found trees to hide among so he would not see them.



## 4 ADAM AND EVE ARE SENT AWAY

God called out to Adam.

'Where are you?'

'I was afraid, so I hid,' replied Adam.

'Have you then eaten from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil?' God asked.

'It wasn't my fault,' said Adam. 'The woman gave it to me to eat.'

'What have you done?' God asked Eve.

'It wasn't my fault,' said Eve. 'The snake tricked me and I ate the fruit.'

God was very sad. He turned to the snake and told it that it would crawl on its belly from that time on. He turned to Eve and told her that she would have pain as she gave birth to her children. He told Adam that thorns and thistles would choke the plants he grew.

Then God banished Adam and Eve from the garden he had given them. They had chosen to disobey him. They now knew the difference between what was right and what was wrong. They would know suffering and death; they could not be God's friends any more.

## 5 CAIN AND ABEL

After a time Eve gave birth to two sons, Cain and Abel.

Both boys grew up to be farmers. They knew how much they depended on God to give them sun and rain for the harvests and to help their animals give birth to healthy lambs and kids. Cain planted seeds and grew crops while Abel kept the sheep and goats.

One day, Cain brought some of his crops as a gift to God, to thank him for the harvest. Abel also brought a gift of the first of his newborn lambs. God saw not only the gift that was brought but the two brothers. He knew that Abel had brought his gift out of faith, because he loved God. God also knew that Cain had brought his gift because he thought he had to, not because he cared about God. God was pleased with Abel, but he was disappointed with Cain. And Cain knew it.

'Why are you angry, Cain?' asked God. 'Do what is right and you will be accepted. Beware of your bad temper. Don't let it control you or it may destroy you.'

Cain knew that God was right, but he wouldn't listen. He could think of nothing except having revenge on his brother.

Cain asked Abel to go out into the field with him; he planned to wait for the right moment and kill him there.

Later God asked Cain where his brother was.

'How should I know?' lied Cain. 'Is it my job to look after him?'

'I warned you about your anger,' said God. 'Now your brother's death is on your conscience. You will know what it is to feel guilt for your wrongdoing.'

God was good to Adam and Eve. He gave them another son, Seth, because Cain had killed his brother, and then other sons and daughters.

# 6 NOAH'S ARK

Many years passed and the land became full of people. Few remembered who God was. They did as they pleased. They took what they wanted from others. They spoiled the world that God had made and thought only of themselves. God knew that the world had become an evil place, full of greed, hatred and violence. He decided to wash it clean and start all over again.

There was one man who remembered God. His name was Noah. Noah had a wife and three sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth.

'Noah!' God said one day. 'I am going to end all the evil there is in the world. I want you to build an ark—a huge boat that will float on the flood waters that I will send to wash the earth clean. I will tell you exactly how to build it so that you and your family and two of every kind of creature will be safe inside the ark.'

God told Noah how to build the ark. He told him how long it was to be, how many decks it should have, and where to put the door. God told Noah to coat the ark with pitch to keep the water out, and to fill it with supplies of food.

Noah set about building the ark. He began to make the huge boat miles from any sea. It took him many years of his life; and the people around him watched and thought he was mad.

