

★ THE ★
STORY
★ OF ALL ★
STORIES

DEDICATION

For Toby, Becket, and Ellie, in
thanksgiving for the gift of getting
to journey with you through
The Story of All Stories.

—ESC

+ + + + + + + + + +

THIS BIBLE BELONGS TO:

The word of God is living
and active, sharper than
any two-edged sword.

HEBREWS 4:12





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**A STORY BIBLE FOR
YOUNG CATHOLICS**



EMILY STIMPSON CHAPMAN
ILLUSTRATED BY DIANA RENZINA

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How to Use This Book

The book you hold in your hands is an invitation to enter into the most important tale in all of history. Each chapter tells a story drawn from Holy Scripture. At the end of each chapter is a quote from one of the voices of the Church: saints, Church Fathers, popes, theologians, or Scripture itself. These quotes were carefully chosen to show how the Church interprets the great story of God's love for us and how each story leads us to the central figure of the Gospel: Jesus Christ.

Storytellers often use a device called “foreshadowing,” the method of using an event in the plot to point forward to something that will happen later in the story. As the Author of all history, God uses the events of the Old Testament to point to what will take place in the New Testament. Illustrations and details that help reveal these connections follow each chapter of this book. You will notice that certain images return again and again. Moments like the Annunciation, when Mary says yes to God's plan; the Nativity, when Jesus is born into the world; the Crucifixion, when Jesus saves the world through His sacrificial love; and the Resurrection, when He conquers death, are foreshadowed in the Old Testament again and again.

When we read stories from the Bible as part of one great Story, we start to see what the Church calls “typology” in the Old and New Testaments. Old Testament figures like Isaac (who carried the wood for the sacrifice on his back) become “types” that are fully revealed in the Gospels through Jesus Christ (who carried the Cross on His back to sacrifice Himself for the whole world). In this way, the Old Testament and the New Testament illuminate each other and help us to understand God's story.

The Old Testament “prefigures” or points to the events of the New Testament, but there is another layer of Scripture that reaches directly to us. Like Abraham, God calls us on a journey of faith; like the disciples on the stormy sea, we cry out for Jesus’ help. We join in Christ’s Crucifixion in the sacrament of Baptism and we receive His Body and Blood in the sacrament of the Eucharist. Through the Resurrection, we are invited to eternal life. God’s great Story takes place not only in the past but also in the present, in every moment—and He calls us beyond the present to eternity.

KEY QUOTES

Discover how Scripture, Church Fathers, theologians, and saints throughout Church history connect these stories to Christ.

“Just as those who looked with bodily eyes at the serpent that Moses fastened on the pole lived bodily, so too, those who look with spiritual eyes at the body of Jesus nailed and suspended on the Cross and believe in Him will live spiritually.”

ST. EPHREM THE SYRIAN | 306–373



KEY POINTS / KEY CONNECTIONS

Explore key points of each story and connections between the Old Testament and the New Testament. These connections shed more light on the story and how it fits into the big picture of the Story of All Stories.

Introduction



In this world, there are many stories. There are more stories than you could ever count—billions upon billions of them, some lovely, some terrible, some wonderful, some that would make you cry for a hundred years. But every story that has ever been told or will ever be told is a part of another story. That story is the One Great Story, the Story of All Stories, the most beautiful, most fantastic, most mysterious story ever told.

You are holding that story in your hands, right now, as you read these words.

The Bible isn't just another story. It is *the* story—the story that makes sense of all other stories. It is the story about God and us. Most of all, it is the story about how very much He loves us. The people it talks about lived a long time ago. But as you will see, most aren't that different from you and me. Sometimes they find it easy to love God and do what God asks them to do. Other times

they don't. They struggle. They question. They doubt. They fight with one another and make foolish choices again and again. Yet through it all, God keeps loving them.

In the first part of the Bible, which is called the Old Testament, God slowly reveals more and more of His heart to the world, teaching one particular people, bit by bit, who He is. Then, in the second part of the Bible, the New Testament, God reveals Himself in a whole new way—a full and complete way—by becoming a man and living among us. When He does that, He also reveals who we are and who we are made to be.

But we're getting ahead of ourselves. There is a lot you need to know before you meet the Man who is God. There are mighty battles and great miracles, kingdoms that rise and kingdoms that fall, long journeys to strange lands, mysterious prophecies, deadly plagues, an exodus and an exile, and so much more.

So let's begin that story now, in the place where all good stories start: in the beginning.



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THE OLD TESTAMENT

+ + + + + + + + + +

In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God. He was
in the beginning with God. All
things came into being through
Him, and without Him not one
thing came into being. What
has come into being in Him was
life, and the life was the light of
all people. The light shines in
the darkness, and the darkness
did not overcome it.

JOHN 1:1-5



Creation



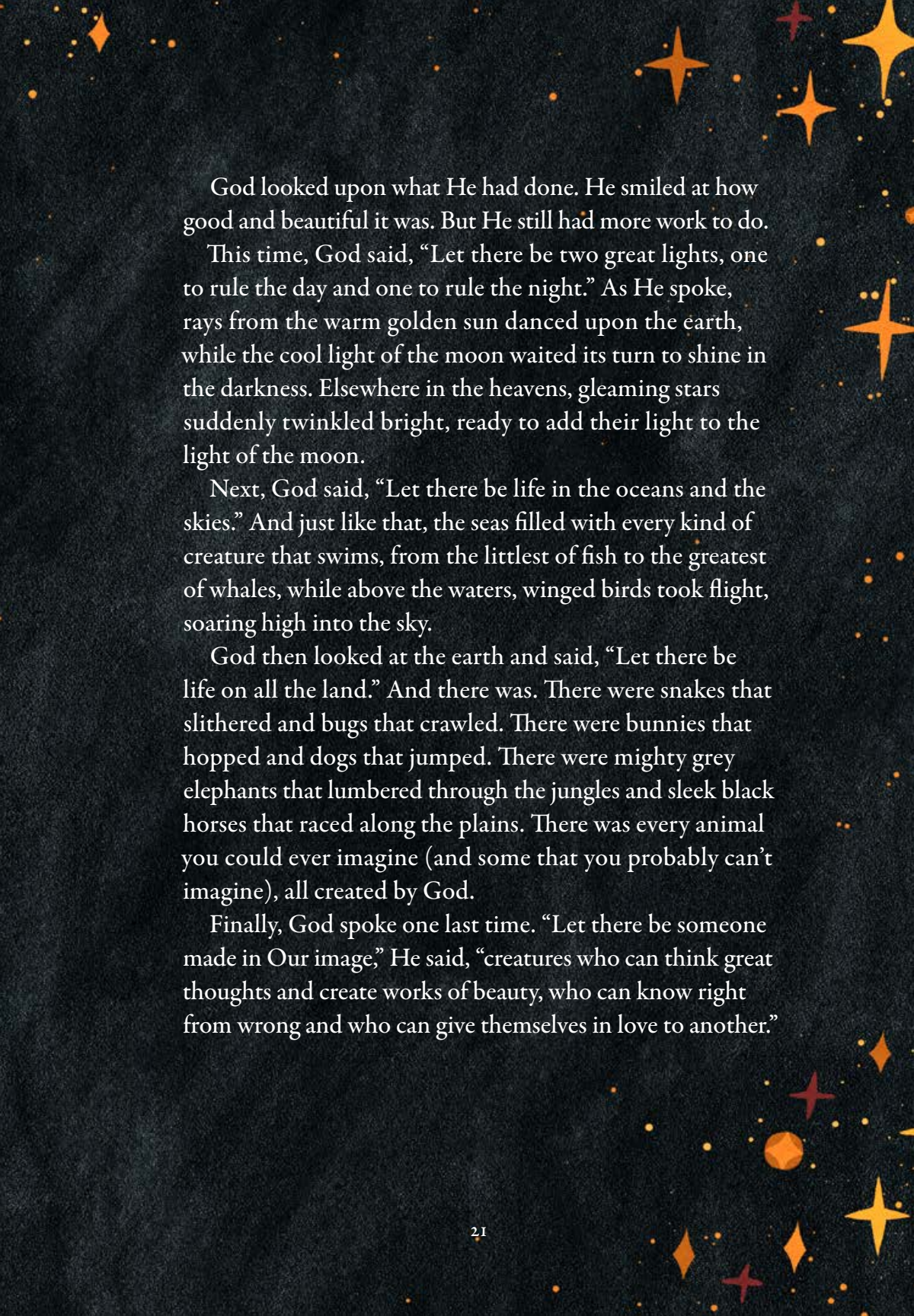
Most of the world's best stories begin with the same four words: "Once upon a time." But the One Great Story can't begin that way, for in the beginning there was no time. In the beginning there was nothing—no sun, no moon, no earth, no sky, no wind, no sound. There was only God. He was there in the beginning, when all was dark. And He knew when the moment came for darkness to end.

In that moment, God spoke into the darkness, saying, "Let there be light." And at His word, with one spark of brightness, time began.

Then, God spoke again. This time, He said, "Let the heavens take shape." And again, at His word, great galaxies appeared, dark and deep, stretching on and on toward infinity.



When God spoke for a third time, He spoke earth, our home, into being. “Let there be a world filled with vast oceans,” He said. “Let rivers run through the dry land, and let lakes and creeks bubble up to make green things grow. Let trees shoot toward the sky, and let all the earth be covered with plants that are good to eat and flowers of every color and shape.”



God looked upon what He had done. He smiled at how good and beautiful it was. But He still had more work to do.

This time, God said, “Let there be two great lights, one to rule the day and one to rule the night.” As He spoke, rays from the warm golden sun danced upon the earth, while the cool light of the moon waited its turn to shine in the darkness. Elsewhere in the heavens, gleaming stars suddenly twinkled bright, ready to add their light to the light of the moon.

Next, God said, “Let there be life in the oceans and the skies.” And just like that, the seas filled with every kind of creature that swims, from the littlest of fish to the greatest of whales, while above the waters, winged birds took flight, soaring high into the sky.

God then looked at the earth and said, “Let there be life on all the land.” And there was. There were snakes that slithered and bugs that crawled. There were bunnies that hopped and dogs that jumped. There were mighty grey elephants that lumbered through the jungles and sleek black horses that raced along the plains. There was every animal you could ever imagine (and some that you probably can’t imagine), all created by God.

Finally, God spoke one last time. “Let there be someone made in Our image,” He said, “creatures who can think great thoughts and create works of beauty, who can know right from wrong and who can give themselves in love to another.”

And so God made Adam and Eve, a man and a woman, in His image and likeness. He made Adam from the dust of the earth, and He made Eve from a rib taken from Adam's side.

He then gave them a home, a garden paradise called Eden. "Be fruitful and multiply," He told the two. "Bring children into this world and make a home of this earth,



filling it with people and beauty and order. Care for every living thing, and protect this garden. Keep it safe.”

With those words, Creation was almost complete. A whole universe had been born, with every part of it starting as a thought in the mind of God. He made it all. He loved it all.

“It is very, very good,” He said.

And with that, on the seventh and last day of Creation, God completed His work and rested.



“At the beginning of the human race, the woman was made of a rib taken from the side of the man while he slept. For it was fitting that even then Christ and His Church should be foreshadowed in this event. For Adam’s sleep prefigured the death of Christ—whose side, as He hung lifeless upon the Cross, was pierced by a spear. From Christ’s side flowed blood and water, and these we know to be the sacraments by which the Church is built up.”

ST. AUGUSTINE | 354–430



KEY POINT

While Adam was asleep, God created Eve from a rib taken from his side. Their sin would affect all generations, drawing us away from God.

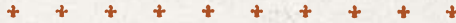


KEY CONNECTION

While Christ was asleep, His side was pierced by a spear. Through His death, humanity was brought back to God. Jesus is called the “New Adam.”



The Fall

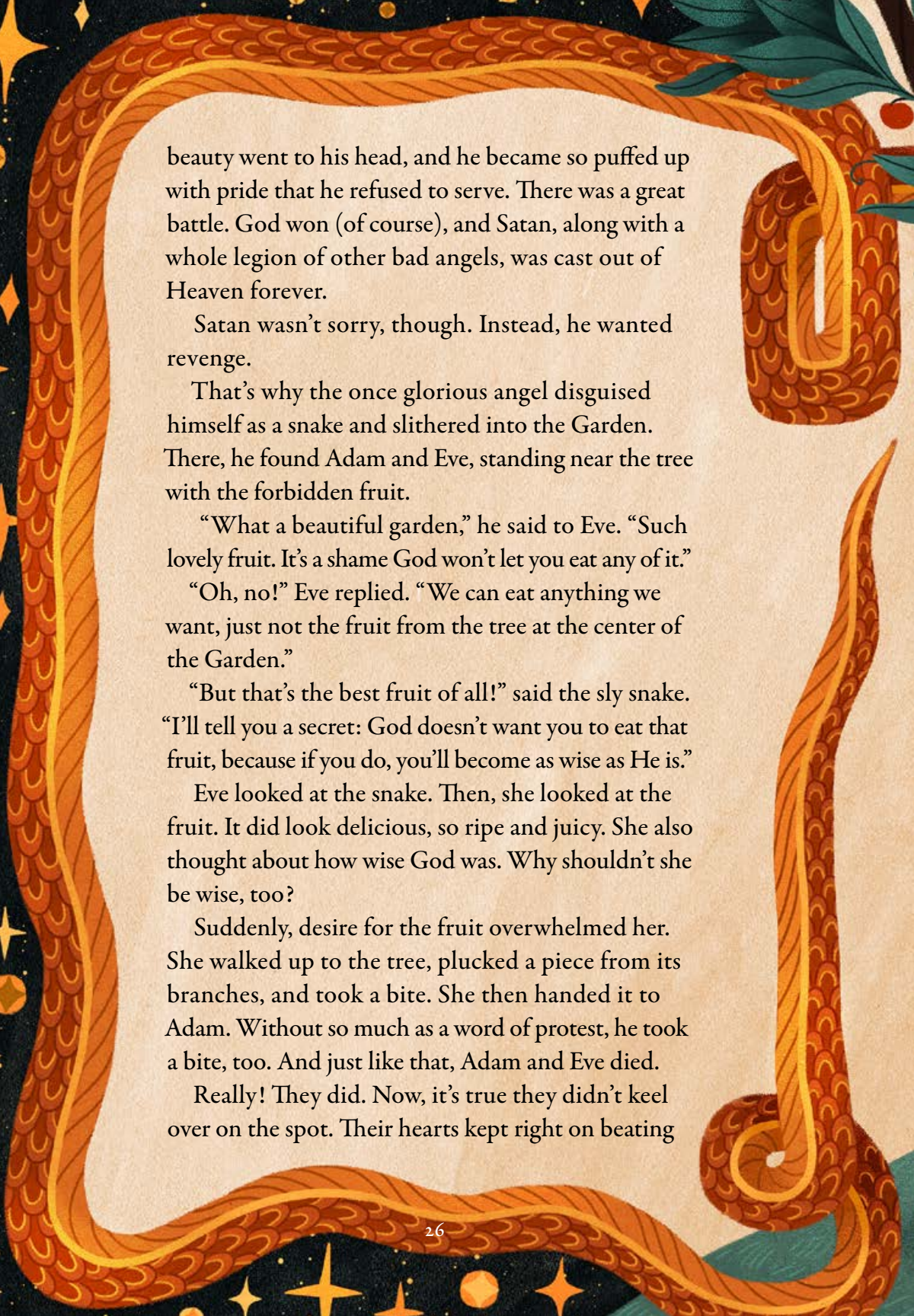


Adam and Eve should have lived happily ever after. They had each other, a beautiful home in paradise, and most of all their friendship with God, who walked in the Garden with them every evening and who had breathed His very own life into them.

God was a true Father to Adam and Eve and gave them everything they needed. In return, He asked only one thing: that they never eat the fruit from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. If they did, God explained, they would die.

Adam and Eve obeyed, and all was well . . . until Satan arrived.

Satan was an angel who had served God in Heaven. He had been the most beautiful of all the angels. But then his



beauty went to his head, and he became so puffed up with pride that he refused to serve. There was a great battle. God won (of course), and Satan, along with a whole legion of other bad angels, was cast out of Heaven forever.

Satan wasn't sorry, though. Instead, he wanted revenge.

That's why the once glorious angel disguised himself as a snake and slithered into the Garden. There, he found Adam and Eve, standing near the tree with the forbidden fruit.

"What a beautiful garden," he said to Eve. "Such lovely fruit. It's a shame God won't let you eat any of it."

"Oh, no!" Eve replied. "We can eat anything we want, just not the fruit from the tree at the center of the Garden."

"But that's the best fruit of all!" said the sly snake. "I'll tell you a secret: God doesn't want you to eat that fruit, because if you do, you'll become as wise as He is."

Eve looked at the snake. Then, she looked at the fruit. It did look delicious, so ripe and juicy. She also thought about how wise God was. Why shouldn't she be wise, too?

Suddenly, desire for the fruit overwhelmed her. She walked up to the tree, plucked a piece from its branches, and took a bite. She then handed it to Adam. Without so much as a word of protest, he took a bite, too. And just like that, Adam and Eve died.

Really! They did. Now, it's true they didn't keel over on the spot. Their hearts kept right on beating