



good  
NEWSBIBLE

children's

RAINBOW

edition

**W**elcome to this sampler of our new Good News Bible – Children’s Rainbow Edition! Working in partnership with our good friends at RE:Quest, we have created a Bible that is accessible, informative and engaging for children.

Using feedback from parents, teachers and (most importantly) children, this new Bible will support a child’s learning, using fun interactions to encourage questions, spark creativity and promote understanding.

This sampler is just a taste of some of the improvements we have made to a Bible that was already one of the UK’s favourites.

Some of the new features are:



- Two-colour throughout – helping to break up the text, highlight key information and improve the visual appeal
- 16 beautiful new colour illustrations, chosen by children
- Key Words list, helping to unpack and provide context for some of the main theological concepts found in the Bible

- Highlighted reading trail that takes the reader through the overarching story of the Bible
- Full-page introductions to each book of the Bible
- 36 pages of new helps, including information on Christian festivals, explanations of the three persons of the Trinity, and a list of ‘Emotions in the Bible’

Unassuming and informative, whilst colourful and fun, the new Good News Bible – Children’s Rainbow Edition is perfect for anyone looking to provide a child with their first full-text Bible.

# WHAT IS THE BIBLE ?

The Bible is the special, holy book of Christianity. It is actually a collection of lots of different books, which were written by different people over a really long period of time. These different books, all put together, make up the Bible.

Christians believe that the Bible is inspired by God, which means that the things it says are things that God wants people to know and understand. They believe that reading the Bible can help them to know God better.

THE BIBLE IS SPLIT INTO TWO PARTS:

1 First, the **OLD TESTAMENT** is the story of a nation of people called the Israelites, who God chose to be his special people. It includes the story of creation and the stories of Noah, Moses, Joseph and Jonah.

2 The **NEW TESTAMENT** then tells the story of the life of Jesus Christ and his first followers (who became known as Christians). It tells us how these first followers tried to love others in the way that Jesus had taught them and to let others know about who Jesus was. The worldwide religion called Christianity continues to try to do the same today.

**THE LAW:** The first five books tell the story of how the world began and how one group of people, the Israelites, were chosen by God to be his people. This was all part of God's rescue plan. These books also include the laws that God gave the Israelites to help them live well.

## OLD TESTAMENT

**HISTORY:** These books continue the story of the Israelites, telling how the people settled in the promised land. The Israelites forgot about God and were defeated by their enemies. But God always stayed faithful to them.



**WISDOM:** These books contain good advice for daily life, as well as poems, songs and prayers to be used in worship to God.

**PROPHETS:** The prophets were people who brought messages from God to the Israelites. Their messages included promises of a special leader who would be sent by God to rescue his people.

**HISTORY:** The book of Acts is about the first Christians. It tells how, with the help of the Holy Spirit, they spread the good news about Jesus and started new churches.

**REVELATION:** The book of Revelation is full of imagery and symbolism. It brings a message of warning and hope for the whole world.

## NEW TESTAMENT

**THE GOSPELS:** These are the first four books of the New Testament, which record the life and teachings of Jesus – the special leader and rescuer promised by God.

**LETTERS:** These are letters written to Christians in the first churches to give them help and guidance on how to follow Jesus.

# HOW TO READ THE BIBLE

When you first sit down to read the Bible, it can be hard to fully understand what is going on. It can be difficult to know where to start, what it all means and why it matters.

To help with this, on page ix you'll find an example page of this Bible with notes that tell you what all of the different numbers and words mean.

The books are split up into chapters (shown by the big numbers) and verses (the very small numbers). When you see a Bible 'reference', like this – Mark 2.3 – it means you have to look for the book of Mark, chapter 2, and verse 3.

All the way through this Bible, you will find extra things to do and think about. They will help you read the Bible and understand it better.



There are extra facts, which give you a bit more knowledge about what you're reading.



You'll find questions, to help you stop and think about what the Bible says and what it might mean for you.



Sometimes you'll be given other bits of the Bible to read, to find out how they fit together in the big story.



You can also get active and creative, with things to do and make.

# THE HISTORY BOOKS:

## THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL

The first 17 books of the Bible tell the long story of the Israelites. They were a group of people who were chosen by God to set an example to the rest of the world about how to live in the way that God wants people to live. Sometimes the Israelites are known as 'the chosen people', 'the people of God', or 'the people of Israel'.

God made agreements with the Israelites that are known as 'covenants'. God promised that the Israelites would be a great nation and would live in a land he promised them, and that he would bless them (protect them and do good things for them). In return, the Israelites promised that they would only worship God, and that they would follow God's laws.

This meant that the Israelites needed to live very differently from all the other people around them. That wasn't easy. Often the Israelites either forgot or didn't bother to follow God's laws. Sometimes they even ignored him deliberately and worshipped other gods. The history books of the Bible tell the story of the Israelites from their first ancestor, Abraham, through all sorts of difficulties and problems, but also some exciting adventures.

### KEY WORDS

**COVENANT:**  
see page 1247

**ISRAELITES:**  
see page 1249

**PROMISED LAND:**  
see page 1252

# GENESIS

'Genesis' means 'beginning' in Greek, and the book of Genesis tells ancient stories about the beginnings of the universe and the beginnings of human life.

At the beginning of the book, God creates the world and everything in it, including the first humans. Everything is perfect, but things soon start to go wrong. The humans begin to ignore God and try to do things their way, thinking that they know best.

## THE ISRAELITES

Many years go by. Then, starting with just one man, Abraham, God chooses a family who will be his chosen people. God makes a special type of agreement known as a 'covenant' with Abraham. God promises that Abraham will have many descendants and live in a promised land.

From chapter 12 onwards, Genesis tells the story of the family of Abraham. Use this family tree to help you to keep track of who's who as you read.

By the end of the book, Abraham's great-grandson Joseph is the second-in-command to the king of Egypt, and the rest of God's chosen people, now known as the Israelites, are living with him there.

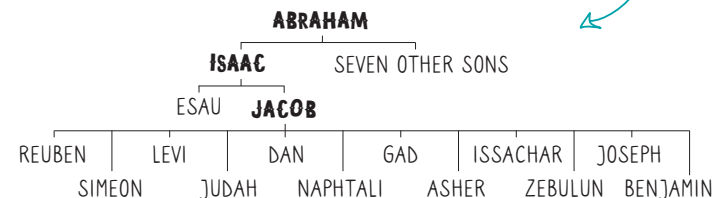
### KEY WORDS

**COVENANT:**  
see page 1247

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see page 1249

## BIG STORY OF THE BIBLE READING TRAIL

You have four trail markers to tick off in this book! Take a look at the reading trail on pages 11 and 12.



Bela son of Beor from Dinhabah  
 Jobab son of Zerah from Bozrah  
 Husham from the region of Teman  
 Hadad son of Bedad from Avith  
 (he defeated the Midianites in a  
 battle in the country of Moab)  
 Samlah from Masrekah  
 Shaul from Rehoboth-on-the-River  
 Baal Hanan son of Achbor  
 Hadad from Pau (his wife was  
 Mehetabel, the daughter of  
 Matred and granddaughter of  
 Mezahab).

**40-43** Esau was the ancestor of the following Edomite tribes: Timna, Alvah, Jetheth, Oholibamah, Elah, Pinon, Kenaz, Teman, Mibzar, Magdiel, and Iram. The area where each of these tribes lived was known by the name of the tribe.

**Joseph and his Brothers**

**37** <sup>1</sup>Jacob continued to live in the land of Canaan, where his father had lived, <sup>2</sup>and this is the story of Jacob's family.

Joseph, a young man of seventeen, took care of the sheep and goats with his brothers, the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's concubines. He brought bad reports to his father about what his brothers were doing.

<sup>3</sup>Jacob loved Joseph more than all his other sons, because he had been born to him when he was old. He made a long robe with full sleeves for him. <sup>4</sup>When his brothers saw that their father loved Joseph more than he loved them, they hated their brother so much that they would not speak to him in a friendly manner.

<sup>5</sup>One night Joseph had a dream, and when he told his brothers about it, they hated him even more. <sup>6</sup>He said, "Listen to the dream I had. <sup>7</sup>We were all in the field tying up sheaves of wheat, when my sheaf got up and stood up straight. Yours formed a circle round mine and bowed down to it."

<sup>8</sup>"Do you think you are going to be a king and rule over us?" his brothers asked. So they hated him even more because of his dreams and because of what he said about them.

<sup>9</sup>Then Joseph had another dream and said to his brothers, "I had another dream, in which I saw the sun, the moon, and eleven stars bowing down to me."

<sup>10</sup>He also told the dream to his father, and his father scolded him: "What kind of a dream is that? Do you think that your mother, your brothers, and I are going to come and bow down to you?" <sup>11</sup>Joseph's brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept thinking about the whole matter.



God speaks to  
**JOSEPH** in a dream.

Years later, God speaks  
 in a **DREAM** to  
 someone else called  
**JOSEPH**. His dream  
 is about the  
 birth of Jesus.

You can read about it  
 in **Matthew 1.18-25**.

**Joseph is Sold and Taken to Egypt**

<sup>12</sup>One day when Joseph's brothers had gone to Shechem to take care of their father's flock, <sup>13</sup>Jacob said to Joseph, "I want you to go to Shechem, where your brothers are taking care of the flock."

Joseph answered, "I am ready."  
<sup>14</sup>His father said, "Go and see if your brothers are safe and if the flock is all right; then come back and tell me." So his father sent him on his way from the Valley of Hebron.

Joseph arrived at Shechem <sup>15</sup>and was wandering about in the country when a man saw him and asked him, "What are you looking for?"

<sup>16</sup>"I am looking for my brothers, who are taking care of their flock," he answered. "Can you tell me where they are?"

<sup>17</sup>The man said, "They have already left. I heard them say that they were going to Dothan." So Joseph went after his brothers and found them at Dothan.

<sup>18</sup>They saw him in the distance, and before he reached them, they plotted against him and decided to kill him. <sup>19</sup>They said to one another, "Here comes that dreamer. <sup>20</sup>Come on now, let's kill him and throw his body into one of the dry wells. We can say that a wild animal killed him. Then we will see what becomes of his dreams."

<sup>21</sup>Reuben heard them and tried to save Joseph. "Let's not kill him," he said. <sup>22</sup>"Just throw him into this well in the wilderness, but don't hurt him." He said this, planning to save him from them and send him back to his father. <sup>23</sup>When Joseph came up to his brothers, they ripped off his long robe with full sleeves. <sup>24</sup>Then they took him and threw him into the well, which was dry.

<sup>25</sup>While they were eating, they suddenly saw a group of Ishmaelites travelling from Gilead to Egypt. Their camels were loaded with spices and resins. <sup>26</sup>Judah said to his brothers, "What will we gain by killing our brother and covering up the murder? <sup>27</sup>Let's sell him to these Ishmaelites. Then we won't have to hurt him; after all, he is our brother, our own flesh and blood." His brothers agreed, <sup>28</sup>and when some Midianite traders came by, the brothers pulled Joseph out of the well and sold him for twenty pieces of silver to the Ishmaelites, who took him to Egypt.

<sup>29</sup>When Reuben came back to the well and found that Joseph was not there, he tore his clothes in sorrow. <sup>30</sup>He returned to his brothers and said, "The boy is not there! What am I going to do?"

<sup>31</sup>Then they killed a goat and dipped Joseph's robe in its blood. <sup>32</sup>They took the robe to their father and said, "We found this. Does it belong to your son?"

<sup>33</sup>He recognized it and said, "Yes, it is his! Some wild animal has killed him. My son Joseph has been torn to pieces!" <sup>34</sup>Jacob tore his clothes in sorrow and put on sackcloth. He mourned for his son a long time. <sup>35</sup>All his sons and daughters came to comfort him, but he refused to be comforted and said, "I will go down to the world of the dead still mourning for my son." So he continued to mourn for his son Joseph.

<sup>36</sup>Meanwhile, in Egypt, the Midianites had sold Joseph to Potiphar, one of the king's officers, who was the captain of the palace guard.



Make a **STORYBOARD**  
 to tell the story  
 in chapter 37.

Make sure you include  
**JOSEPH'S COAT,**  
**HIS DREAMS,**  
 and what his brothers did.



**Judah and Tamar**

**38** <sup>1</sup>About that time Judah left his brothers and went to stay with a man named Hirah, who was from the town of Adullam. <sup>2</sup>There Judah met a young Canaanite woman whose father was named Shua. He married her, <sup>3</sup>and she bore him a son, whom he named Er. <sup>4</sup>She became pregnant again and bore another son and named him Onan. <sup>5</sup>Again she had a son and named him Shelah. Judah was at Achzib when the boy was born.

<sup>6</sup>For his first son Er, Judah got a wife whose name was Tamar. <sup>7</sup>Er's conduct was evil, and it displeased the LORD, so the LORD killed him. <sup>8</sup>Then Judah said to Er's brother Onan, "Go and sleep with your brother's widow. Fulfil your obligation to her as her husband's brother, so that your brother may have descendants." <sup>9</sup>But Onan knew that the children would not belong to him, so whenever he had intercourse with his brother's widow, he let the semen spill on the ground, so that there would be no children for his brother. <sup>10</sup>What he did displeased the LORD, and the LORD killed him also. <sup>11</sup>Then Judah said to his daughter-in-law Tamar, "Return to your father's house and remain a widow until my son with the



royal seal and put it on Joseph's finger. He put a fine linen robe on him, and placed a gold chain round his neck. <sup>43</sup> He gave him the second royal chariot to ride in, and his guard of honour went ahead of him and cried out, "Make way! Make way!" And so Joseph was appointed governor over all Egypt. <sup>44</sup> The king said to him, "I am the king — and no one in all Egypt shall so much as lift a hand or a foot without your permission." <sup>45-46</sup> He gave Joseph the Egyptian name Zaphenath Paneah, and he gave him a wife, Asenath, the daughter of Potiphara, a priest in the city of Heliopolis.

Joseph was thirty years old when he began to serve the king of Egypt. He left the king's court and travelled all over the land. <sup>47</sup> During the seven years of plenty the land produced abundant crops, <sup>48</sup> all of which Joseph collected and stored in the cities. In each city he stored the food from the fields around it. <sup>49</sup> There was so much corn that Joseph stopped measuring it — it was like the sand of the sea.



**JOSEPH** ended up in a position of power because he had **TRUSTED** God.

**WHO DO YOU TRUST?**  
What makes it easier to trust someone?  
~~~~~

<sup>50</sup> Before the years of famine came, Joseph had two sons by Asenath. <sup>51</sup> He said, "God has made me forget all my sufferings and all my father's family"; so he named his first son Manasseh. <sup>52</sup> He also said, "God has given me children in the land of my trouble"; so he named his second son Ephraim.

<sup>53</sup> The seven years of plenty that the land of Egypt had enjoyed came to an end, <sup>54</sup> and the seven years of famine began, just as Joseph had said. There was famine in every other country, but there was food throughout Egypt. <sup>55</sup> When the Egyptians began to be hungry, they cried out to the king for food. So he ordered them to go to Joseph and do what he told them. <sup>56</sup> The famine grew worse and spread over the whole country, so Joseph opened all the storehouses and sold corn to the Egyptians. <sup>57</sup> People came to Egypt from all over the world to buy corn from Joseph, because the famine was severe everywhere.

**Joseph's Brothers Go to Egypt to Buy Corn**

**42** <sup>1</sup> When Jacob learnt that there was corn in Egypt, he said to his sons, "Why don't you do something? <sup>2</sup> I hear that there is corn in Egypt; go there and buy some to keep us from starving to death." <sup>3</sup> So Joseph's ten half-brothers went to buy corn in Egypt, <sup>4</sup> but Jacob did not send Joseph's full-brother Benjamin with them, because he was afraid that something might happen to him.

<sup>5</sup> The sons of Jacob came with others to buy corn, because there was famine in the land of Canaan. <sup>6</sup> Joseph, as governor of the land of Egypt, was selling corn to people from all over the world. So Joseph's brothers came and bowed down before him with their faces to the ground. <sup>7</sup> When Joseph saw his brothers, he recognized them, but he acted as if he did not know them. He asked them harshly, "Where do you come from?"

"We have come from Canaan to buy food," they answered.

<sup>8</sup> Although Joseph recognized his brothers, they did not recognize him. <sup>9</sup> He remembered the dreams he had dreamt about them and said, "You are spies; you have come to find out where our country is weak."

<sup>10</sup> "No, sir," they answered. "We have come as your slaves, to buy food. <sup>11</sup> We are all brothers. We are not spies, sir, we are honest men."

<sup>12</sup> Joseph said to them, "No! You have come to find out where our country is weak."



Noah's ark: go to page 25 and read the story in Genesis 6.9—9.17.

# CHRISTMAS AND ADVENT

Christmas – it's all about presents, parties and mince pies, isn't it?

Well ... not quite. Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus (the 'nativity'), so it's a very important festival for Christians. Christmas Day is 25 December, and the time leading up to it is called Advent.

Advent starts on the Sunday four weeks and a bit before Christmas Day. If you have an Advent calendar, though, there will always be 24 doors on it, from 1 December to 24 December. After Christmas, 6 January is known as Epiphany, when Christians celebrate the visit of the wise men to Jesus.

If you've taken part in a nativity play at school, perhaps you dressed up as a sheep, a shepherd, an angel or even a

wise man. Two of the Gospels in the Bible, Matthew and Luke, tell the story of Jesus' birth. Joseph and Mary travelled to Bethlehem and were forced to shelter in a room where animals were kept. Mary gave birth there to Jesus, the promised saviour. The shepherds, angels and wise men are in the Gospel stories too.

So, for Christians there is much more to Christmas than just getting presents and going to parties. It celebrates the time when the saviour that people had been waiting for, for thousands of years, was finally born. Christmas is all about God being with us through Jesus!

## KEY WORDS

Here are some of the most important words and ideas that you'll read in the Bible or hear about in your RE lessons. You can find out more about these words by looking up the Bible verses that go with the definition.

### APOSTLE

This word means 'someone who is sent'. The 12 closest disciples of Jesus are known as apostles because they were sent out to preach about him. A later disciple, called Paul, is also known as an apostle. You can read about them in Mark 3.13-14 and Galatians 2.7-8.

TURN TO PAGES  
XX AND XX

### ASCENSION

Jesus' return to heaven after his resurrection. You can read the story of Jesus being taken up to heaven in Luke 24.50-53.

TURN TO PAGE  
XX

## EVER WONDERED WHAT THE BIBLE IS ALL ABOUT?

Well, the Good News Bible – Children's Rainbow Edition is just for you.

Inside the complete Bible, you'll find:

- questions and activities for every book of the Bible
- beautiful colour illustrations
- the Bible's 'big story' reading trail
- explanations of 'big topics' in the Bible
- a list of key words with definitions

What are you waiting for? Dive in!

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Crossing the Red Sea: go to page 83 and read the story in Exodus 14.



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