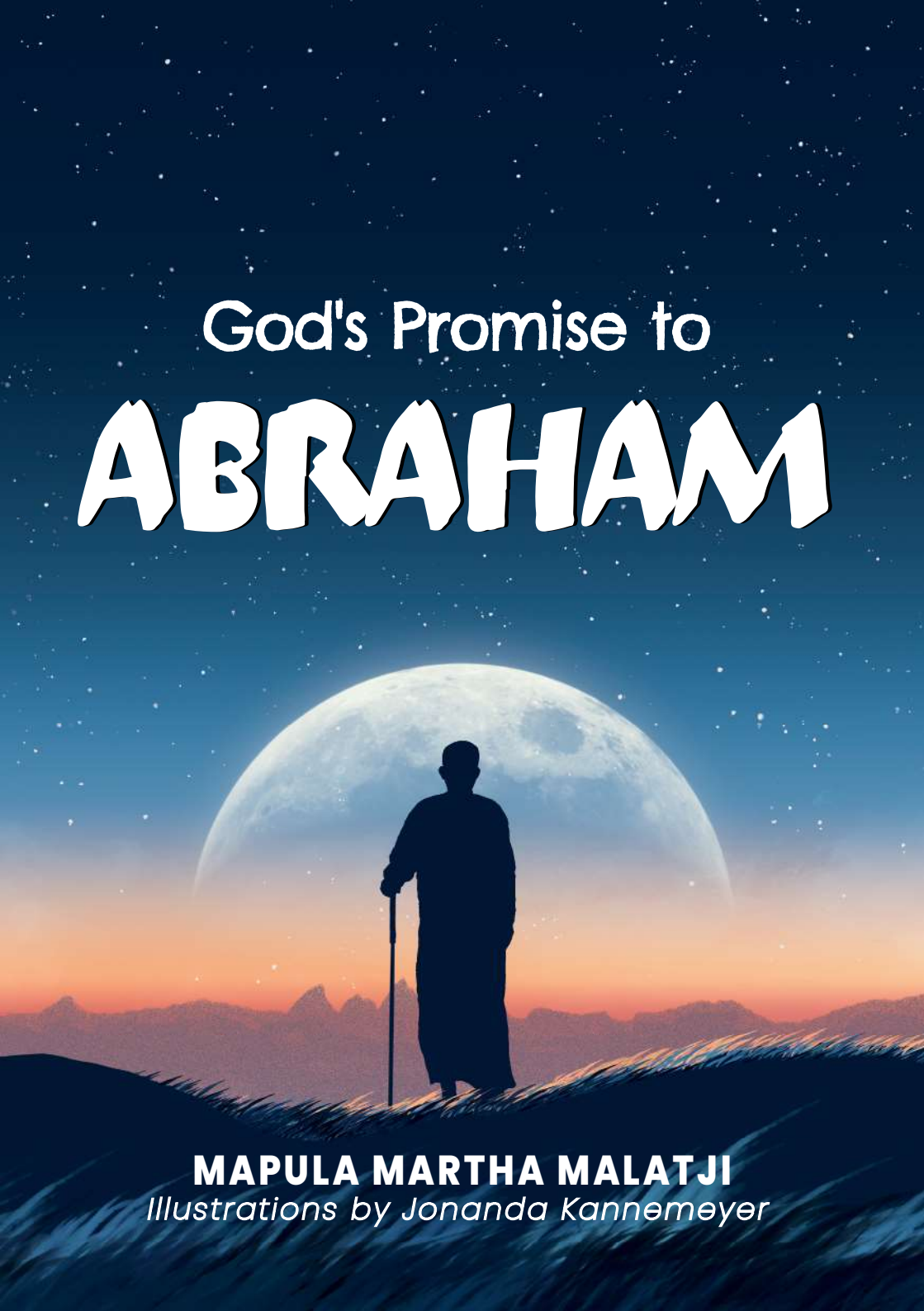
God's Promise to ABRAHAM



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Illustrations by Jonanda Kannemeyer

GOD'S PROMISE TO ABRAHAM

© 2023 One Heart
First Edition 2023
Printed in South Africa
ISBN: 9781776467235

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Typesetter and Layout: Imprint Publishing

OLD TESTAMENT BIBLE STORY

GENESIS 15, 17
20-21, 24-25

God's Promise to ABRAHAM

Long ago, in a land called Canaan, there lived a kind man named Abram. He and his wife Sarah were very old and had no children.

When Abram was 99 years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, “I am God Almighty; walk before me faithfully and be blameless. Then I will make a promise between Me and you and I will greatly increase your numbers.”

God continued, “I will bless you greatly, and I will multiply your seed greatly like the stars.” Abram believed the Lord, so God called Abram righteous.

Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, "This is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. No longer will you be called Abram. Your name will be Abraham, for I will make many nations from you, and kings will come from you. I will establish my promise between Me and you and your generations after you. I will give you the land of Canaan, and I will be your God and the God of your people."

Abraham was amazed and said, "But Lord, I am very old, and Sarah is too. How can this be?"

God said, "I will bless you and Sarah with a son, and you shall name him Isaac. He will be the beginning of the great nation that I promised."

Abraham and Sarah couldn't believe their ears. Sarah even laughed at the idea. Then the Lord asked Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh? Does she doubt that she can have a child in her old age? I am the Lord! There is nothing too difficult for me."

God continued, "As a sign of my promise, you and all your descendants must be circumcised. This will be a special mark of our promise."

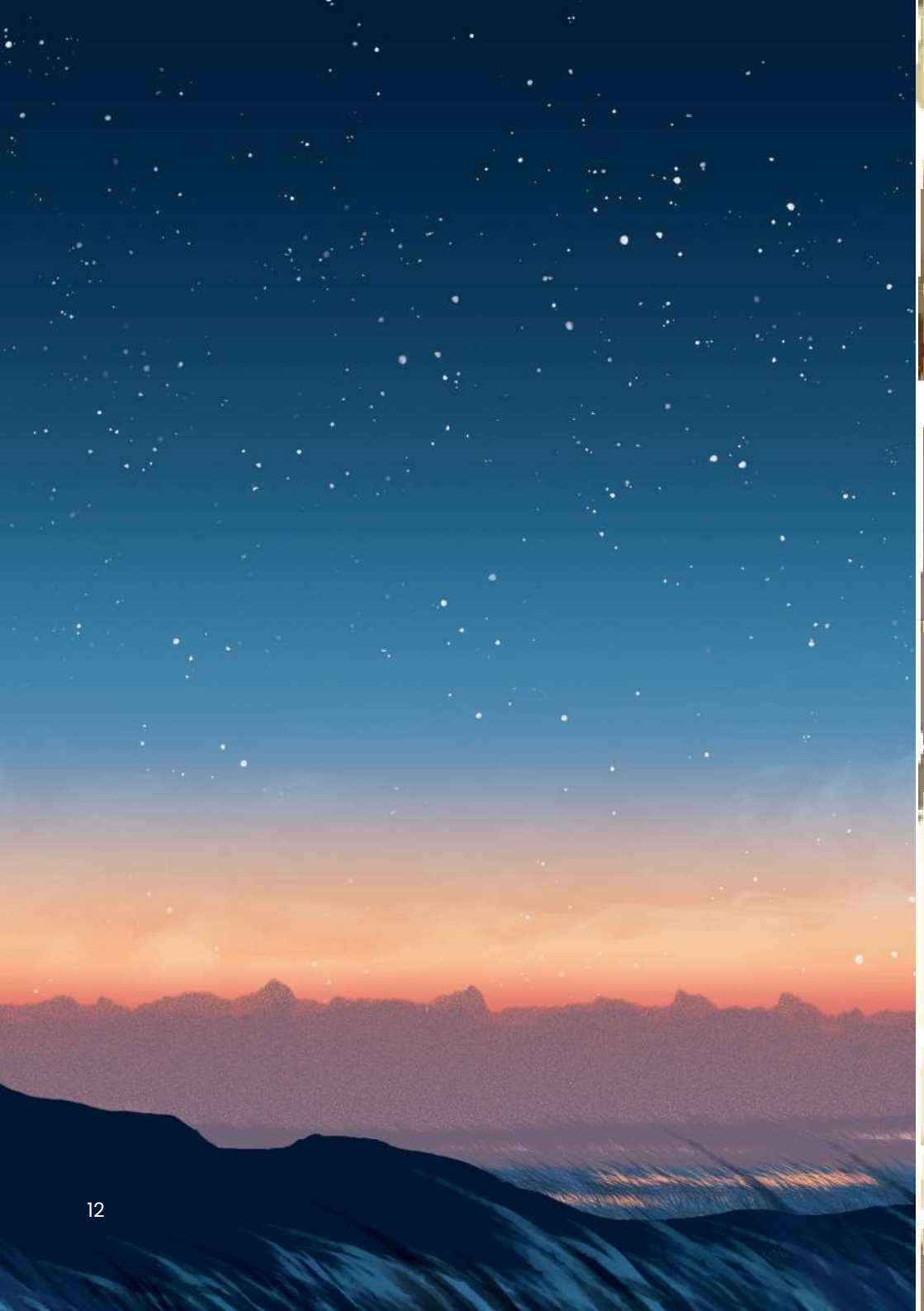
Abraham obeyed God's command and had himself and all the men in his household circumcised, sealing their promise with God. It was a way to show their faith and trust in the Lord.

Time passed, and just as God had promised, Sarah gave birth to a baby boy, and they named him Isaac. They were very thankful and they knew that God's promise had come true. They were overjoyed to hold their son and see the beginning of the great nation God had promised.

Isaac grew up strong and healthy, and he brought even more joy to Abraham and Sarah. They watched their son with love and thanked God for the incredible gift He had given.

As time went on, God's promise continued to be fulfilled. Isaac had children, and they had children, and the family grew and grew.

Generations passed, and Abraham's descendants multiplied, just as God had said. They became a mighty nation, known as the Israelites, and God watched over them as He promised.



Prayer

Dear Lord, help me to have faith and patience like Abraham and Sarah, so we can see the wonderful things You can do.

Questions

1. Who is described as a kind man in the story?
2. How old was he when God appeared to him?
3. Who gave Isaac a name?
4. How did God's promise to Abraham come to pass in the life of Isaac?

Hello Seboni!

It was the custom of the Meloding dwellers to go and carry firewood so that they could light a fire, cook, and keep warm in the cold. In order to do this, they cut down trees non-stop. They hoped that the trees would sprout when it rained.

A white-bearded old man named Seboni disagreed with this method of cutting down trees. He wanted the people to use dry cow dung to light a fire instead. When his wife Salamina went out with other women, she would collect cow dung while the other women cut down trees.

Over time, the rain stopped falling during the rainy season. This continued for many years, and the land ended up turning into a desert. The residents began to panic. They went to Seboni and said, “Give us the cow dung of your cattle so we can cook.” He answered them, “I have faith. It will rain, and you will till the ground.”

They wondered why the old man was confident, because he had also struggled to farm because of the lack of rain. But Seboni continued to give the people milk and sheep and cattle, and they ate.

Now the sheep and cattle also needed grass to graze. The old man's wealth also decreased. But in his heart it was written, “I have faith. It will rain, and you will till the ground.”

An eagle used to come to old Seboni's yard to hunt small animals. That's when Seboni realized eagle could fly very high. The eagle had a mouth like a spear.

The eagle heard the old man cry, “I have faith, it will rain, and you will till the ground.” The eagle flew up into the clouds. With its mouth, it pierced the clouds, and there was only one drop of rain on each yard, but on the old man's house the rain poured down.

When Seboni started ploughing, the villagers came to ask him for rain. He taught them to say, “I have faith. It will rain, and you will till the ground.” The rain filled their buckets, their dams, and they watered their yards and crops. They thanked God for answering their prayers.

Prayer

Father God, teach us to have faith and to trust in You.

We praise You, Lord, and we rejoice in You alone.

Questions

1. What was the culture of the dwellers of Meloding?

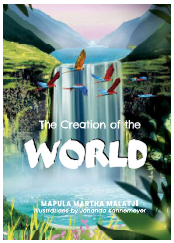
2. Do you agree with their culture? Why?

3. How do we know that Seboni was old?

4. Say the words which Seboni said every time.

5. What flew very high to prick the rain clouds?

God's Promise to Abraham *is one of 20 books featuring 10 Old Testament (OT) and 10 New Testament (NT) stories, each with a practical reflection story based on the Bible story.*



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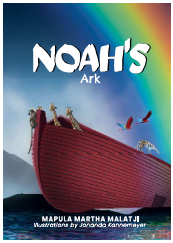

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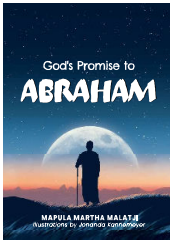

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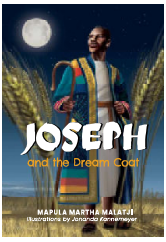

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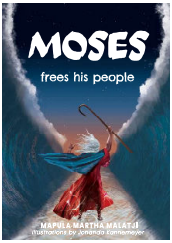

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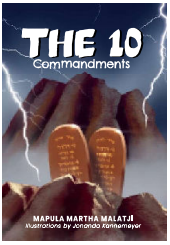

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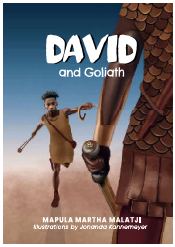

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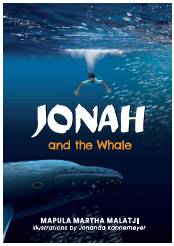

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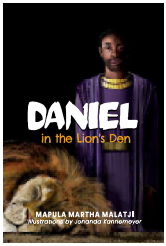

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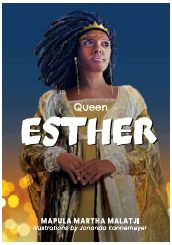

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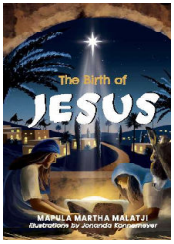

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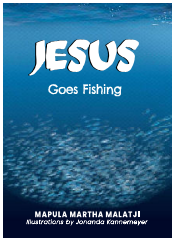

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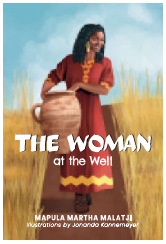

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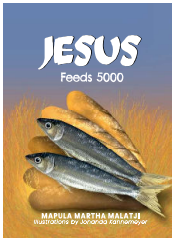

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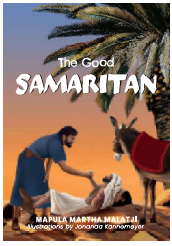

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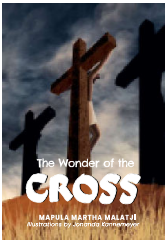
NT Book_7

NT Book_8



NT Book_9

NT Book_10

God's Promise to Abraham

In this story, we are taught that good things will happen if we pray and if we are patient. We are also taught that God keeps His word and will make things happen in His time.

Hello Seboni!

In this story, we learn that good rain is lovely and life-giving. Cutting down trees deprives animals and birds of their homes and it can turn land into a desert. Like old Seboni, we are also taught to have strong faith.

9781776467235
English