The Coming of the HOLY SPIRIT

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THE COMING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

© 2023 One Heart
First Edition 2023
Printed in South Africa
ISBN: 9781776475537

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Typesetter and Layout: Imprint Publishing

NEW TESTAMENT BIBLE STORY

ACTS 1 and 2

The Coming of the HOLY SPIRIT

After Jesus was falsely accused and sent to his death, He rose from the dead. After this, He visited his followers. While staying with them, He told them to wait for the promise of God.

He said, “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem and to the end of the earth.” After He said this, as they were looking on, Jesus was lifted up, and a cloud took Him out of their sight.

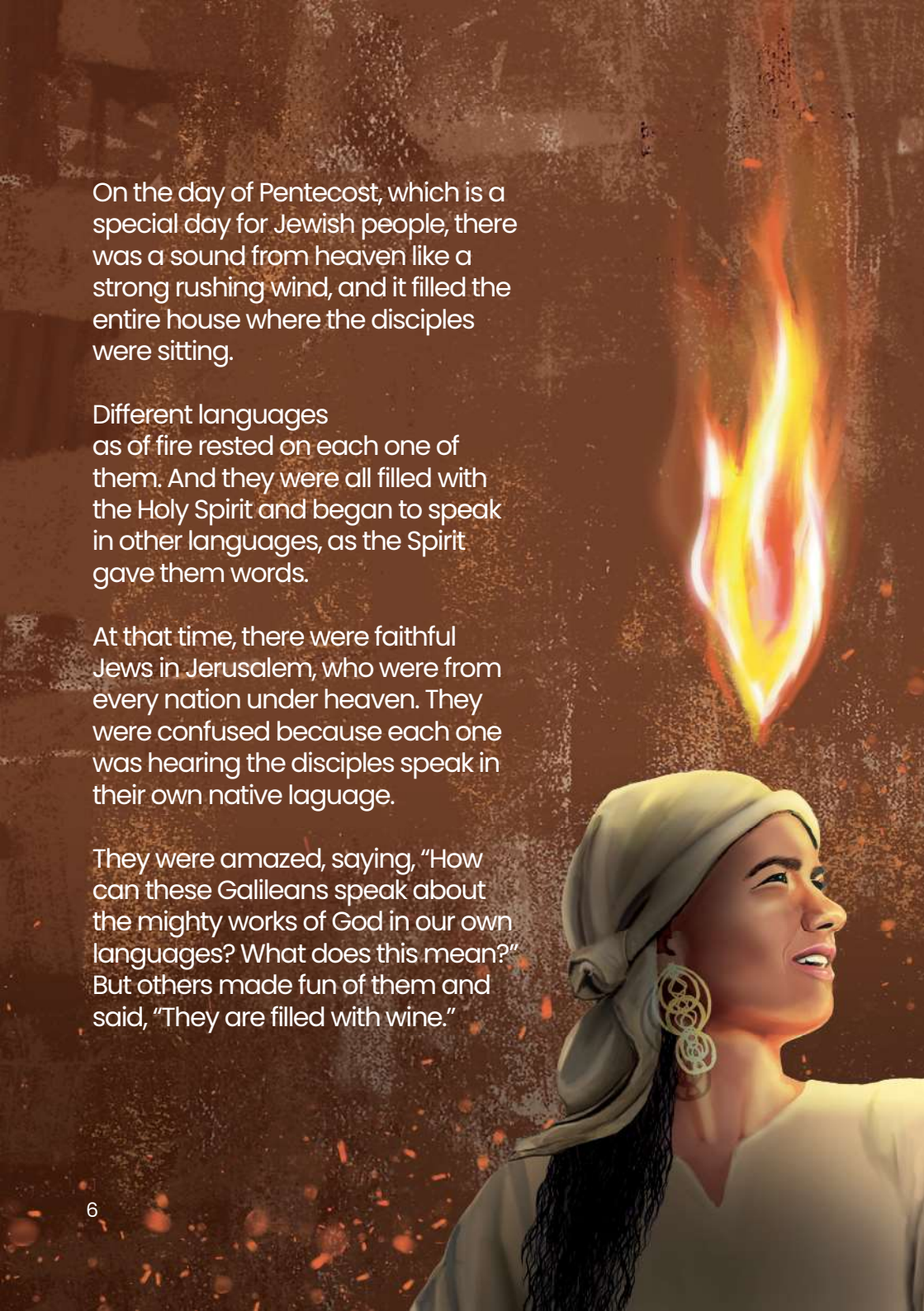
While Jesus’ followers were looking into heaven, two men stood by them in white robes, and they said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw Him go into heaven.” After this, Jesus’ followers returned to Jerusalem.

On the day of Pentecost, which is a special day for Jewish people, there was a sound from heaven like a strong rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where the disciples were sitting.

Different languages
as of fire rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them words.

At that time, there were faithful Jews in Jerusalem, who were from every nation under heaven. They were confused because each one was hearing the disciples speak in their own native laguage.

They were amazed, saying, "How can these Galileans speak about the mighty works of God in our own languages? What does this mean?" But others made fun of them and said, "They are filled with wine."



Peter, who was standing with Jesus' followers, said: "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, hear my words. These people are not drunk. What is happening was already spoken by the prophet Joel:

'And in the last days, God declares, I will pour out My Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams. On My male and female servants I will pour out My Spirit, and they shall prophesy. And I will show wonders in the heavens above and on the earth below. And everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.'"

Then Peter said, "Know for certain that God has made Jesus both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified."

When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart, and they said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “What shall we do?”

Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For this promise is for you and for your children and for everyone that the Lord calls to Himself.”

So that day about three thousand people were baptised and accepted Jesus as their saviour.

Prayer

Father God, help us to enjoy your Spirit while we are still on earth. Grant us peace in our hearts, bodies and minds in the Name of Jesus Christ.

Questions

1. What happened when the followers finished listening to Jesus?
2. What did Jesus promise his followers?
3. Why were people from other nations amazed?
4. How many people were baptised and received Jesus as their saviour?
5. Are you willing to accept the Holy Spirit? Why?

The Peacock

Once there were four men who put peacock feathers in their hats when they dressed up. The feathers were red, yellow, green and white. The four men were very proud. They lived in the village of Nthulana where they were invited to all of the parties, but they could not sing or dance.

Everyone understood that these were not just plain feathers, and they also knew the feathers had been plucked from a special peacock. But the four men did not know that the peacock feathers had a voice and a meaning.

One day at the fifth-grade achievement party, the men took off their hats and placed them on the table, because it was not polite for men to wear hats inside. Some boys snuck in and plucked the feathers from the hats and ran away with them. The boys took the feathers and went around inviting people to come to church on Sunday where their chief, Masombuka, would be preaching. Chief Masombuka was a believer, unlike other chiefs. As a result, he was amazing.

People were curious about the feathers, so they decided to go to church, even the non-believers. Other non-believing chiefs also decided to go. Even the four men who lost their feathers also decided to go and ask God to show them where their feathers went.

Sunday arrived. While they were praying, the Peacock appeared to fetch its stolen feathers, but no one could see it. It started to raise its tail, and shook it to spread its colourful wings, then the wind blew strongly. From above fell red grapes, yellow bananas, green pears and other types of fruit.

When the people started to pick up the fruit, they heard chief Masombuka preaching in the colourful language of the Peacock. Others, including the feather-stealing boys, began to speak in different colourful languages. While the other chiefs were confused and asked each other what was happening, Masomuka explained to them that God was speaking to them all, to enter the true path by eating the fruits of the Holy Spirit. Many accepted this invitation and were filled with the fruits of the Spirit.

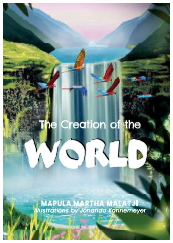
Prayer

God the Father, we ask that You pour Your Spirit into our hearts. Teach us also not to waste time when You speak to us through leaders who are sent by You.

Questions

1. What made the four men look so well-dressed?
2. Are the fruits in the story suitable for eating?
3. How were people invited to come to church?
4. Would you say the Peacock did well in the church? Why and how?
5. How was chief Masombuka different from the other chiefs?

The Coming of the Holy Spirit *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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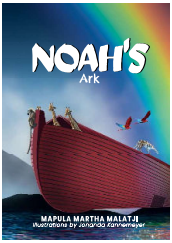

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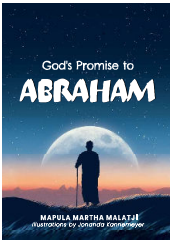

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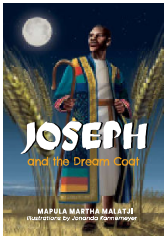

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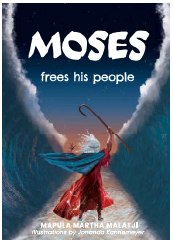

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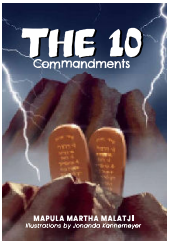

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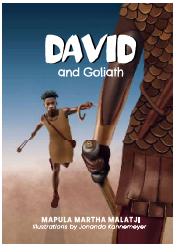

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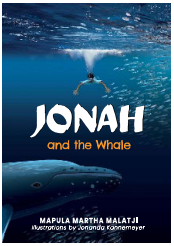

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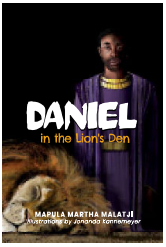

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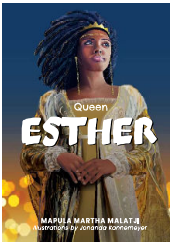

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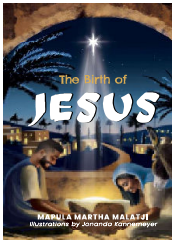

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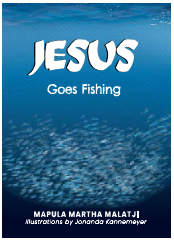

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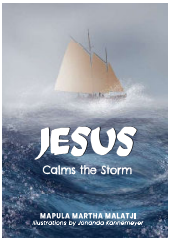

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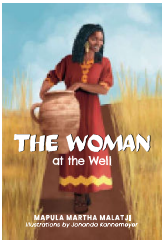

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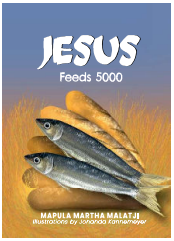

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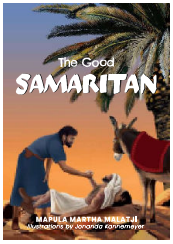

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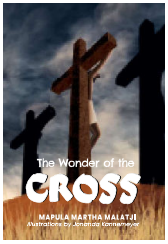
NT Book_7

NT Book_8



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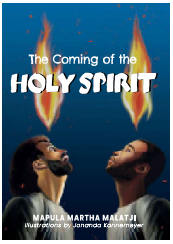

NT Book_10

The Coming of the Holy Spirit

This story teaches us about the importance of the day of Pentecost. We are reminded that the Holy Spirit will always be our helper in the forgiveness of sins.

The Peacock

In this story, we learn that God can even use birds and animals as messengers of His will. We also learn that if chief Masombuka can be saved, many other chiefs can be saved as well.

9781776475537
English