

*In the beginning
God created the
heavens and the
earth.*

GENESIS 1:1

THE BEGINNING OF ALL CREATION

BEFORE THE BEGINNING of time, there were no tall trees, majestic mountains or starry sky. Only God was there. He tells us what happened in his true book, the Bible.

God created, that is, made out of nothing, the heaven and the earth. But the world had no form and it was empty. Suddenly God said, “*Let there be light!*” and there was light. You see, God has all power. Using only his almighty word he created all that is found in heaven and on earth.

God created everything in six days. That’s right, it did not take him millions of years. God’s Word, the Bible, confirms the six days of creation when we read, “*There was evening, there was morning—the first day.*” God’s Word states the same for the second, third, and on through all six days. Each day God spoke, “*Let there be,*” and by his almighty word there came into being—light, sky, dry land, oceans and rivers, green plants and trees, sun, moon, and stars, fish, livestock and wild animals. There was definite order in all that God did and made.

But the best of all visible creatures was specially created on the sixth day. It was man. It was woman. Man and woman are special for many reasons. Adam, the first man, was formed out of the dust of the ground by God himself. And the first woman, Eve, was made by God from a rib of Adam. Indeed, they were specially made.

Man was also special because he was created in the image of God. That does not mean that man looked like God. Man cannot look like God because God is a spirit. God does not have flesh and bones that human beings have. To be made in God’s image means that man and woman at creation were perfect like God. They were without sin and with a perfect knowledge of God. In fact when God finished all of his creative acts, he said that they all were “*very good.*”

In addition to his body, God gave man and woman a living soul. Only to mankind did God give both a body and a soul. No other visible creature has such a soul.

Beside being specially made and created in the image of God, man was given rule over all the earth and what is in it. He was to take care of the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, over livestock, the earth and all the creatures that move on the earth. What a tremendous responsibility God had given to mankind.

But today, because of sin, everything is changed! We do not always take care of God's creation as we should.

We abuse the beautiful world God created. We pollute the air with dark smoke and fumes. We dirty the rivers with waste water. We scatter trash in our cities and in the countryside. We kill wildlife and cut down trees without replacing them.

We have not been good caretakers of God's creation as we should have been. Our world is NOT the beautiful creation as God made it.

Nor are we responsible caretakers of our own bodies. We abuse our bodies when we eat, drink, or smoke to excess. We destroy our bodies when we use drugs. We are not the perfect creatures that God created.

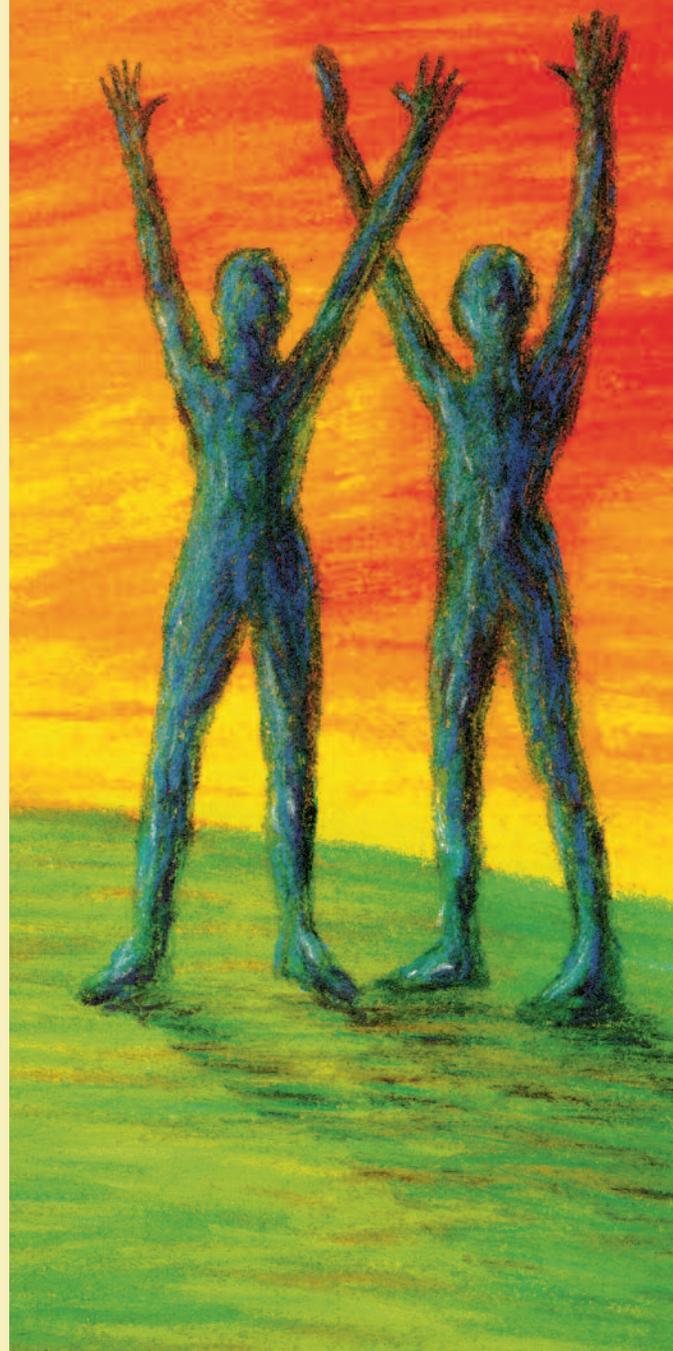
Instead of abusing our bodies and the world, we should be thankful to God. We should thank him for our health. We should take good care of our bodies. We should praise God because we have been fearfully and wonderfully made. No other creature can think as we do. No other creature can use its hands as we do. No other creature has a soul as we have.

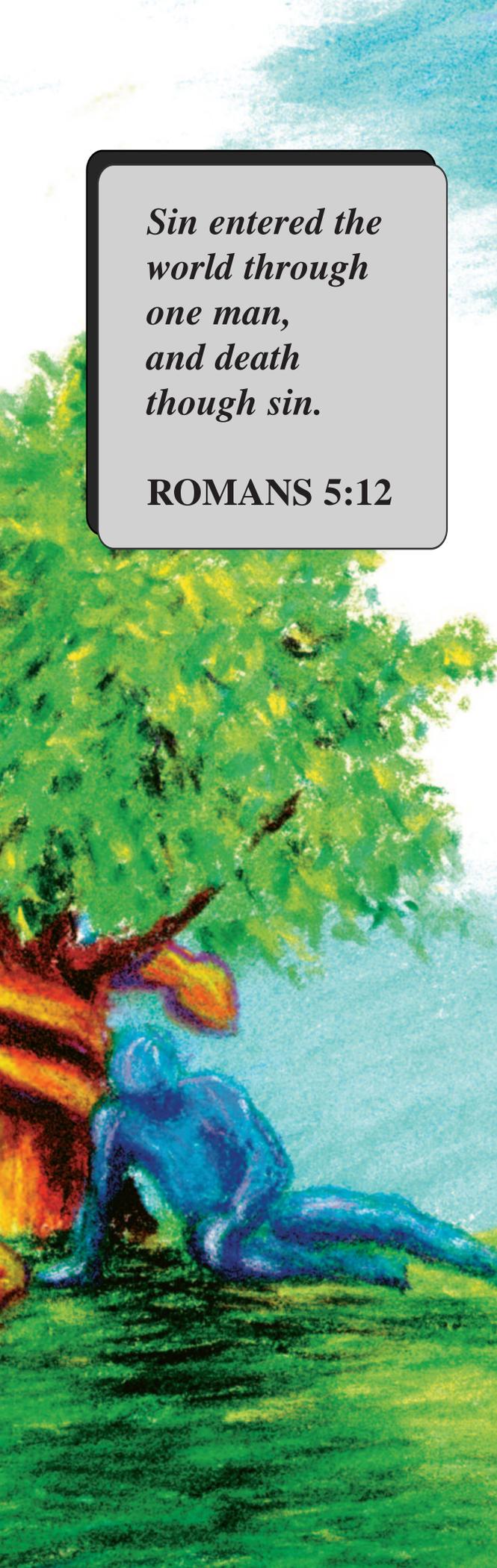
Life is a gift of God. Through faith in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, we one day will return to God who gave us life. May we then raise our voices in praise to God saying, "*O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good!*"

**FOR FURTHER STUDY, READ GENESIS
CHAPTERS ONE AND TWO IN
YOUR BIBLE.**

*God created man
in his image.
Male and female
he created them.*

GENESIS 1:27





Sin entered the world through one man, and death though sin.

ROMANS 5:12

THE PROMISE IS MADE

WHEN GOD CREATED man and woman, he gave them unique qualities and a definite role in life. They were to complement each other in a wonderful way. They were to form a family. But Adam was led into sin by Eve who was tempted by the devil. Terrible consequences fell upon the world and mankind as a result. Let us learn how this all happened.

After God created the world, he placed our first parents into a beautiful garden. It is known as the Garden of Eden. It must have been a very wonderful place. All kinds of trees pleasing to the eye and good for food grew there. A flowing river, giving water to man, to animals and to plants, ran through the garden. Adam and Eve were happy. Work was not a drudgery, but a joy.

However, God gave Adam one command. He told him he should not eat the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil found in the middle of the garden. God said that Adam would surely die if he ate some of its fruit.

An angel who became sinful, called Satan, then enters upon the scene. Satan questions Eve. He causes her to doubt God's statements. He even lies. Satan tempts her saying, "*You will not surely die. God knows that when you eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you will be like God.*" Well, Eve saw that the fruit on the forbidden tree was good to eat. So she ate some. Then she gave some of the fruit to Adam. And he also ate. They had disobeyed a simple command of God. They had sinned. They had brought the condemnation of God on themselves and the world they lived in. They immediately died spiritually and at a later time they died physically.

The consequences of the fall into sin of Adam and Eve were evident and are with each of us today.

You and I no longer possess the image of God. We are no longer sinless but we are sinful. We no longer know God perfectly.

God knew what had happened. He put Adam and Eve out of the garden as punishment. He told Adam that now he would have to work hard. Toil would be painful. And it is today, isn't it? Thorns and thistles would grow in Adam's fields. And they do today, don't they? He said to Adam that his body would return to the dust from which it was made. And our body does the same when we die, doesn't it? God told Eve that she would bear children painfully. And that is so, isn't it? He told her that her husband would rule over her. And that is the way it is today.

But God is not only a just and righteous God. He is also a merciful and forgiving God. He gave to Adam and Eve, and to all us sinners, a wonderful, blessed promise. He promised to send a Savior. He said that the Savior would crush the head, that is, the power of Satan. In the process, however, the Savior would be hurt. That Savior, promised so long ago, is none other than Jesus Christ, the Son of God. By suffering, dying and rising again from the dead, he frees mankind from the guilt of sin, the fear of death, and the power of Satan.

You and I are in need of that Savior. When we are born in this world, we are sinful human beings. We inherit that condition of sinfulness from our first parents Adam and Eve. Then in our everyday lives, we actually commit many other sins. We fail to keep God's commandments. When we lie, steal, curse, have evil desires, hurt our neighbor, make other things more important than God, we sin. We have sinful thoughts. We speak sinful words. We commit sinful deeds. As a result you and I deserve eternal death in hell. Hell is a place of eternal torment.

Our comfort is to know that God kept the promise to send a Savior. We learn about that Savior in the Bible.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT MAN'S FALL INTO SIN, READ GENESIS CHAPTER THREE IN YOUR BIBLE.

*I will put enmity
between you and
the woman, and
between your
offspring
and hers.*

GENESIS 3:15

