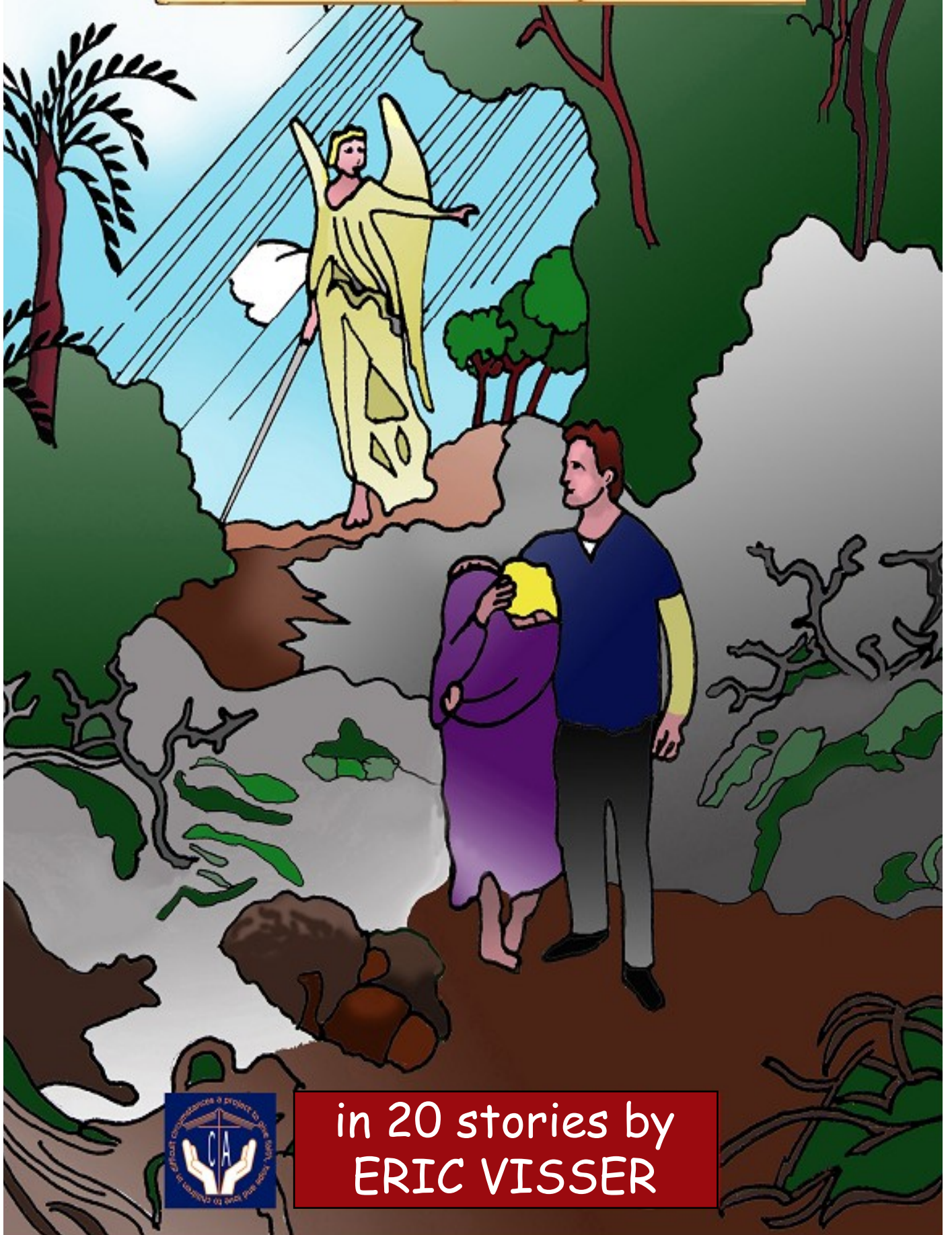


COLOUR BIBLE



in 20 stories by
ERIC VISSER

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in 20 stories by
ERIC VISSER
20 updated
engravings of
Gustave Dore
(colourings)

For you

A long time ago, a baby was born. God promised it. Finally the baby came. The people in this world did not talk to God. They forgot Him. Many bad things happened in their lives. But God loves people. He likes to help them. This makes them happy again. The baby will show what God is like. This child would become a man. This man had to change attitudes. He would change lives.

The people needed to see God again. The story of that baby is the story most often told in the whole world. This story is 2000 years old. Do you know the name of that child? It is Jesus!

God loved the people, He could have sent an angel. God sent a baby. Children are very special in God's heart! You are special in God's heart. He loves you!! God wishes to be your Father. He wishes to be very close to you. Jesus brought us back to God. God wants you to show God to others.

Pastor John Pasterkamp, Holland

CONTENTS

Title Page - - - - -
How it started - - - - -
Contents - - - - -

STORIES FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

1. How it started (creation and sin) - - - - -
2. Return to God (the construction of Babel's tower) - - - - -
3. An old promise (the promise to Abraham again) - - - - -
4. The promise passed on (Isaac blesses Jacob) - - - - -
5. A child saved (Moses in the thatched basket) - - - - -
6. God chooses a people (God gives the ten commandments, the law) - - - - -
7. The evil king (Saul tries to kill David) - - - - -
8. Saved (David and Michal) - - - - -
9. The forgotten promise (famine in Samaria) - - - - -
10. God abides his word (Daniel in Babel) - - - - -

STORIES FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

11. The promise fulfilled (the birth of Jesus) - - - - -
12. This is my son (Jesus is baptized) - - - - -
13. Stronger than satan (the temptation in the desert) - - - - -
14. No more disease (Jesus heals the ill, the sick) - - - - -
15. No more death (the little daughter of Jäirus) - - - - -
16. Everything is beautiful again (Jesus and the adulterous woman) - - - - -
17. The promised murdered (Jesus brought before Pilate) - - - - -
18. The promise buried (taken of the cross) - - - - -
19. Satan is beaten (the travellers to Emmaus) - - - - -
20. Back to God (Ascension Day) - - - - -
Credits - - - - -
Painting "The New World" (Eric Visser) - - - - -

How it started

It was a long time ago. God had just made Adam and Eve. The earth was nice. The people, (there were only two), were happy. They never quarreled. No one was ill or died. They never thought something bad. Adam and Eve just did not know what bad was. It was fantastic. Their home was Paradise. Every evening, God came along. He talked, he chatted. God told them how he made it all. It was paradise on earth.

But satan came. He is very bad. He is fond of lying. He hates beautiful things. He disguised as a snake. The snake told Eve to be disobedient to God. She listened. Later, Adam listened too. Then, the world was not beautiful anymore. People fought instantly. Just listen.

Like always, God came along. but He did not see anybody. God called out. The people were scared. 'What has happened?' God asked. 'Oh God, it's all Eve's fault,' Adam said. 'Wrong,' cried Eve angrily. 'That ugly snake did it.' God knew it. His beautiful world was destroyed. He was sad. 'Now you have to leave. You cannot live here any longer. There will not be a nice and good place anywhere. You will also get sick. You will get old. You will die. But listen: In the future, a baby boy will come. He will be stronger than that ugly satan. This baby defeats satan. Then people can return to God.'



Return to God

Adam and Eve left paradise. They got a son. Then they got another one. Perhaps they thought: 'Could this be the child that God has promised?' But every time that mean satan was stronger. It always ended in disaster. The children of Adam and Eve were disobedient too...

Adam said: 'It is not one of our children. It will be a child of one of our children or perhaps one of the children of our grandchildren.' Adam and Eve died. God had said they would. Later on the children of those children were old, they said: 'You know what, we will build a city and a very high tower.' When the people had been building for a long time, God went to see them busy. He saw them sweat and toil. All for nothing. 'You know what, I will make them stop.' He had only just said it when suddenly everyone was talking in another language. One of the builders asked: 'Give me those stones.' But the man next to him gave a hammer. 'No stupid.....I told you to give those stones.' cried the man. His friend shook his shoulders. He did not understand. He walked away. 'I will not go on building like this', he thought. He went on to live somewhere else. Everyone ran away and the construction of the tower of Babel stopped. The people learned that this is not the way to go to God.



An old promise

People tried to built the tower of Babel. But God confused their language and they were scattered all over the earth. Many, many years passed by. Then there was a man who dreamed. He dreamed that God told him he had to move from his own country. He had to go to a foreign land, far away. And so he did. His name was Abraham. Together with his wife Sara, he went. God also promised he would become a father. Would that really happen? They took the sheep with them, as well as the camels. And also their family could join them. Now they lived in that distant land for a while. No child was ever born. Could he be wrong? Abraham doubted.

One day, Abraham was surprised to see three men in front of his tent. Strange men! What were they doing here? 'God wants me to be friendly to them', he thought. He invited them in his tent. 'Please take a seat gentlemen, I will fetch something to eat', he said. Quickly, he called a servant who had to prepare everything. But what is going on? These men asked for his wife Sara. How did they know that his wife is called Sara? And how did they know Abraham had a dream and that in that dream God said, they would receive a child?

Suddenly, he knew. These men were not like others. The only one who could know this was God. Listen to what God said to Abraham: 'Your wife will get a baby. This will be in a year.' Sara, who had heard this, was laughing. 'How could that be?' she said. 'I'm too old now and I have already waited so long. I can't believe it.'

'Be quiet', Abraham said. 'It is God. This will certainly happen.'



The promise passed on

God will do as promised. When Abraham already was a hundred years old, his wife Sara got a baby. It was a boy. They called him Isaac. When Isaac was a man, he married Rebecca. She was related to him. Her father was an uncle to Isaac. Abraham liked that very much. God had promised the child to be born in his family. This child will defeat that ugly satan. He thought it good for Isaac to marry his niece. Isaac and Rebecca got children. They were two boys. They were twins. Esau was the oldest, Jacob was the youngest. Esau was very strong, Jacob was not so strong. Esau was cool. He hunted, while Jacob stayed at home. He looked after the sheep. But God had said that the children of Jacob would receive the promised child. Isaac thought: Esau is the oldest son, he must have the blessing. He is so strong. But Rebecca knew what God had said. When Isaac was very old, he wanted to pass God's promise on to his oldest son. He wanted to give Esau the blessing. Rebecca whispered in Jacob's ear: 'Come quickly, prepare something nice and put on your brother's clothes. Then pretend to be Esau, then your dad will bless you.' Will Jacob get the blessing? Listen: When Jacob came to his blind father, Isaac asked: 'Esau, is that you?' 'Yes father', Jacob said. And so he, instead of his brother, got that very important blessing. When Esau later heard what had happened, he became very angry. Jacob thought: 'It will be wise to get away.' He fled to his uncle Laban, but he took the promise of God with him.



A child saved

'Miriam', mama called. 'What is it?' Miriam asked. 'Come here. Look, I have a basket for your brother. I have constructed it to float.' 'Why have you done this?' Miriam asked.

'The Farao wants to kill all baby boys. He is afraid that our people (the Israelites) will be a great people.' But Miriam still kept asking. 'Why did you make that basket?' 'Because we will save your brother.' 'How will we do that?' Miriam looked in surprise at her mama. 'We will lay your brother in the basket and we will bring it to the river. There we are going to hide it among the reeds. When some-one finds the baby, no one will know that it is a child of our people and therefore it will not be killed.' 'But then we shall lose our brother,' cried Miriam. 'I know,' said her mama sadly. 'But if you hide yourself at the riverside till the basket is found, we will know where he is and we will not really lose him.'

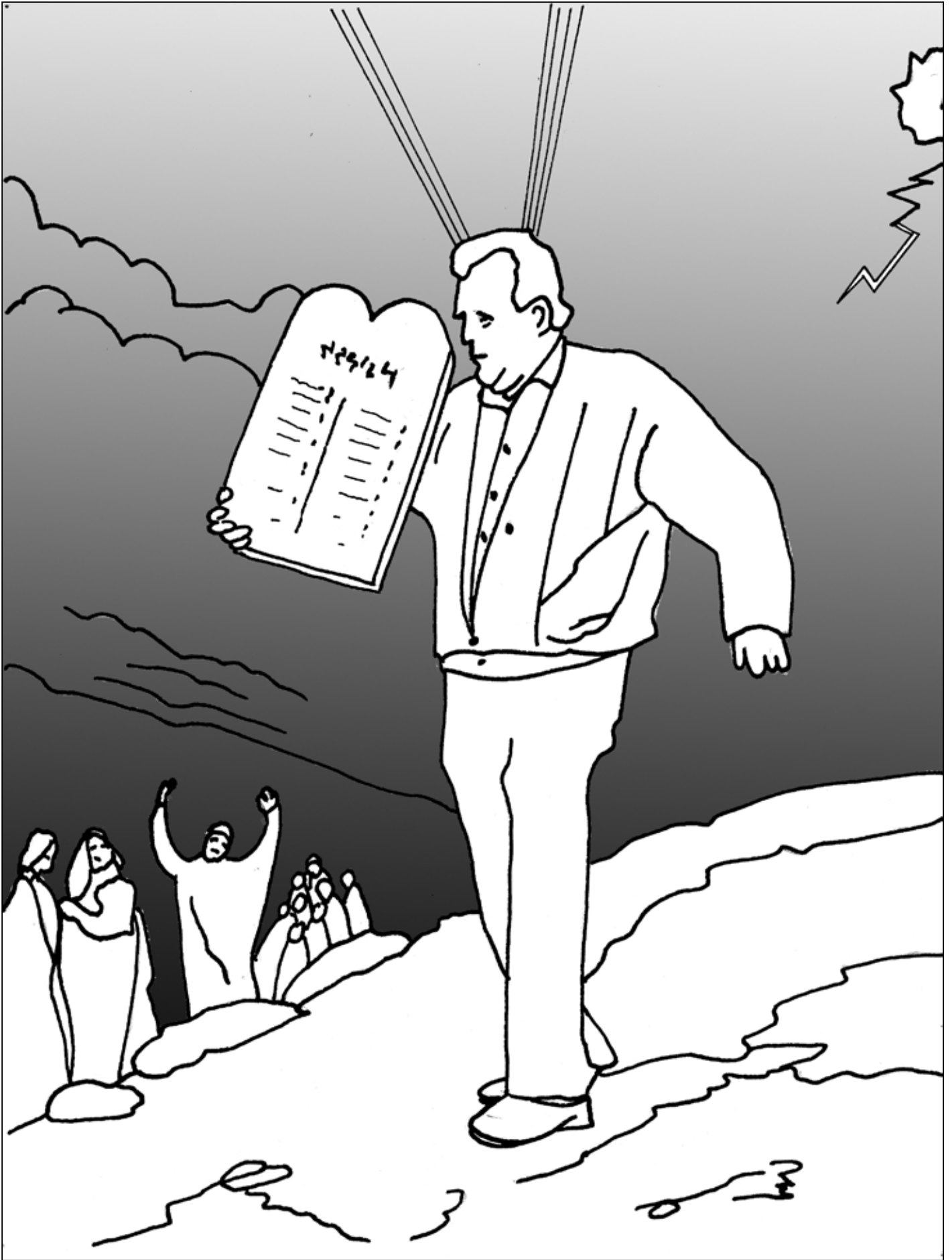
'Pssh...listen,' said the princess. She was bathing in the river. Suddenly she heard a baby. They searched and saw the basket. 'Take it quickly.' A maid-servant quickly took the basket and gave it to her. 'What a sweet baby, I will bring him home.' said the princess. 'But that is impossible', another maid-servant said. 'A baby needs to drink with his mother', she said. Miriam came out of the reeds. 'Oh, but I know someone who can ensure that', Miriam said. 'Do you?' asked the princess. 'Go, then hurry, because this baby is very hungry.' Miriam quickly ran home and told everything to her mom. And so the baby came back to his mother. When the child had been home a few years, they brought it to the princess. The princess gave the little child the name of Moses. That means 'the water saved him.' This is what God (with the help of Miriam) had done. Why? Just listen.



God chooses a people

Much later Moses was a grown-up man. He did not live with the Israelites. God had said that he had to go back to the palace. 'Why?' Moses had asked. 'Because I once promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob that their children will live in the Promised Land I have designated to them. Now they live in Egypt. Egypt is far away from Israel. The Farao (the king) of Egypt is very cruel. He uses your people as slaves. I want to be their king. I want to bring them to Israel, the Promised Land, for I promised it to them. And, you Moses, shall tell them.' Moses was afraid that no one would believe him. 'Do not be afraid', God said. 'Do you really think, I cannot make them listen to you?' If God says something, it will happen. The people remembered the stories of the past. The stories about the promised baby. Stories about how this child would be from their own people, born in their own country. Many people longed to go to the Promised Land. They were slaves now and the evil Farao only wanted to listen to satan (who did everything to stop the promise of God). But God punished Farao till he let the people go. And now they were on their way to the Promised Land. God said to Moses that He Himself was their king and that he would give them his laws. Therefore, God wanted Moses to write down his laws. Moses got two flat stones and carved everything God said, with a chisel in those stones. when the people would keep God's laws, everything would be fine. but if they would not do so, things would go wrong.

Time went by. Sometimes the people of Israel were disobedient to God and then things went wrong. God knew better than anyone else that one day there would be someone who would not be disobedient. And then all would be GOOD.



The evil king

Now it was many years later. The people had lived in the Promised Land for a long time. But they forgot about God. God was their king, but they wanted to have a king like people in other country's. They forgot that some kings did bad things. 'It does not matter to us,' they said. God said they could have a king. This king should lead them. It should be a king according to God's will. But, once they had a king, he just did it his own way. He wanted to be the boss and thought that God had to do what he said. So God chose someone else. God chose a man who would know who the real king was. Someone who wanted to do what God said to him. Who was that person? It was David. He actually was only a child, a shepherd boy. God had said that he would become king. And young David said: 'If I should lead the people the way God wishes me to do, I'd better first practice as a shepherd with his sheep. And so David went back to his flock. Saul was a selfish king, who only wanted to listen to himself. He soon discovered that David did exactly what God wanted. Everything he did, worked out well. If there were enemies who wanted to make war, David drove them away. Whichever command Saul gave him, David ensured that it was fulfilled. He even did more than the king asked. Everyone was happy and was safe.

If the promised baby will ever be born, he will be a descendant of David. The only one that was not happy with this, was satan. He did not want this to happen. Saul was used by satan. He whispered in the king's ear. David had to be killed. Saul did not listen to God. He did as satan ordered him to do. One morning, when David played on his harp, Saul suddenly threw a spear at him. But fortunately, he missed. Would someone be able to stop the promise of God? Surely not that rebellious king.



Saved

David came home and said: 'Michal, Michal, your dad is trying to murder me.' After the wicked king Saul threw his spear at David, he quickly ran away. In the dark of the night David ran home. His wife heard how the king had tried to murder her husband. Michal was the daughter of Saul. She had been so in love with David. He was her hero. He had beaten all the enemies of the people. No matter how strong the enemy was, David had always won. Every young woman wanted to get married to such a man. Michal did! She outsmarted all the other girls. She married David. But now she had a big problem. Her father's servants stood in front of the door. If David would come out, they would take him. They would bring him to the king. What could she do? But Michal was smart. 'Come quickly,' she said to David and brought him to the window. She quickly tied some sheets and let him slide down. When he was gone, She took the statue from her bedroom, covered the head with goat's hair and put it under the blankets, in David's bed. She was just ready when there was a knock at the door. 'We are here to get David', said the servants. Mikal answered: That's not possible, he is ill; take a look yourself.' Saul was very angry when the servants told him that David was ill. Of course Saul discovered that Michal had deceived him. He asked why Mikal did this. She said that she had to. Otherwise David would have killed her. She looked sad. The clever Michal deceived her father again. That cruel satan got entangled in his own tricks. David fled and the promise of God was safe. And satan? What did he do? He did not give up.



The forgotten promise

After King David had gone, other kings came. Some were just like him. They listened to God. Others were like Saul. They only listened to themselves and did what they wanted. Thus the people forgot what was good for them. And the promised baby..? Since then, they did not think about it at all. No, they would be able to look after themselves: 'We do not need God.' But if you think like this, war is on the way. It will end badly. Just listen.

One day enemies came. Their armies were around the city. Nobody could go in or out. Even the corn to bake bread and also milk could not be imported to the city. The people were hungry, very hungry. The king was clueless. 'What should I do,' he thought. He became angry and mad at God and thought: 'It's all the fault of Elisha, the man who constantly says that we have to do God's will. You know what, I will kill him. I do not have to listen to him anymore,' the king thought. 'Then I will have fun and I can do what I want. Just as he was about to do it, the prophet Elisha said this to him: 'Listen, tomorrow at this time there will be plenty of food.' "That's nonsense,' the captain of the king said. 'I do not understand how this could happen,' he said. 'Then you will not eat from that plenty,' the prophet said. That night God let the soldiers around the city assume to hear a sound like a very strong army. They were scared and ran away very quickly. They left everything behind. Even the stew-pan with food on the fire. At that time the sun rose and there was plenty to eat. Not for the captain, he was found dead at the gate. He was trampled. The people had forgotten the promise completely. But God saved his people.



God abides his word

'I've tried everything, but everything failed,' satan thought. God saved the people of starvation. I tried to kill all baby boys, but I failed; Miriam was too smart. I tried to kill David and I failed, Michal did not obey me. And then that annoying Elisha, I almost had him beheaded. What do I still have to do to ensure that the child is not born? 'I know something,' he suddenly cried. What would he do?? What do you think?

The mighty king of Babylon had come and conquered the country. All people were taken into exile. They had to live in a foreign country with other laws and other habits. Everyone just had to live like the people of Babel. They had to eat the same food and speak the same language. People even got another name. Oh, they were doing alright. The king provided for his subjects. They were not short of anything. Perhaps the king thought: 'As soon as they are like us, nobody will know who their God was. I am the boss of the whole world.' Therefore the king said: 'No one should pray to God anymore. Forget about it. If you have any questions, you shall ask me.' The evil plan was almost successful. Almost no one knew who God was. Just Daniel did know who God was. If he wanted or needed something, he would ask God. And one day, he prayed and said: 'Forgive us, Lord, we have been so wrong. But save your people and bring us back to the promised land.' Satan was furious. Again he was not successful. Not everyone had forgotten God. For three weeks satan fought back, but when Daniel was praying, God sent an angel who said: 'The people can return because the baby will come soon.'



The promise fulfilled

'Mary' What was that? She looked around terrified. Someone had called her. 'Do not worry Mary. God has sent me to tell you something very beautiful.' Mary curiously looked to the angel who suddenly stood in her room. 'At last it is time. The child, so many people have been waiting for, will be born. He will be called Jesus, and you shall be his mother.' Mary was amazed to hear the angel. 'But, there is a problem, I am just engaged,' she replied. But the angel said: 'That is no problem..., God himself will be his father.' 'I will do according to his will.' Mary was cheerful but it seemed wiser to keep quiet. Just Joseph, her fiancé, was to know. It had not been easy in recent months. The people had said nasty things. Some even wanted to kill her. It is bad having a child and not even be married. 'Shame on you Mary,' they said. Only Joseph, her darling, had understood. He protected her against all the people. And now, they were in a stable. They had made a journey to the city of David, Bethlehem, because his family came from this city. This was what the emperor wanted. When she left Nazareth Mary thought: 'Strange, even the emperor helps the promise to be. The prophet Micah has already said it years ago: the child will be born in Bethlehem. It was quiet and peaceful when the baby came. Only the stars watched and of course God did. It was as if he had thousands of eyes pointed at the long-awaited baby. But now it was crowded. There were shepherds who had been informed by singing angels. Mary understood only half, because they talked with excitement and all at the same time. Mary was tired. Hopefully the shepherds would leave. She longed to be alone with Joseph and Jesus. With tears, she looked up and perhaps gently said: 'Look God, here is your son.'



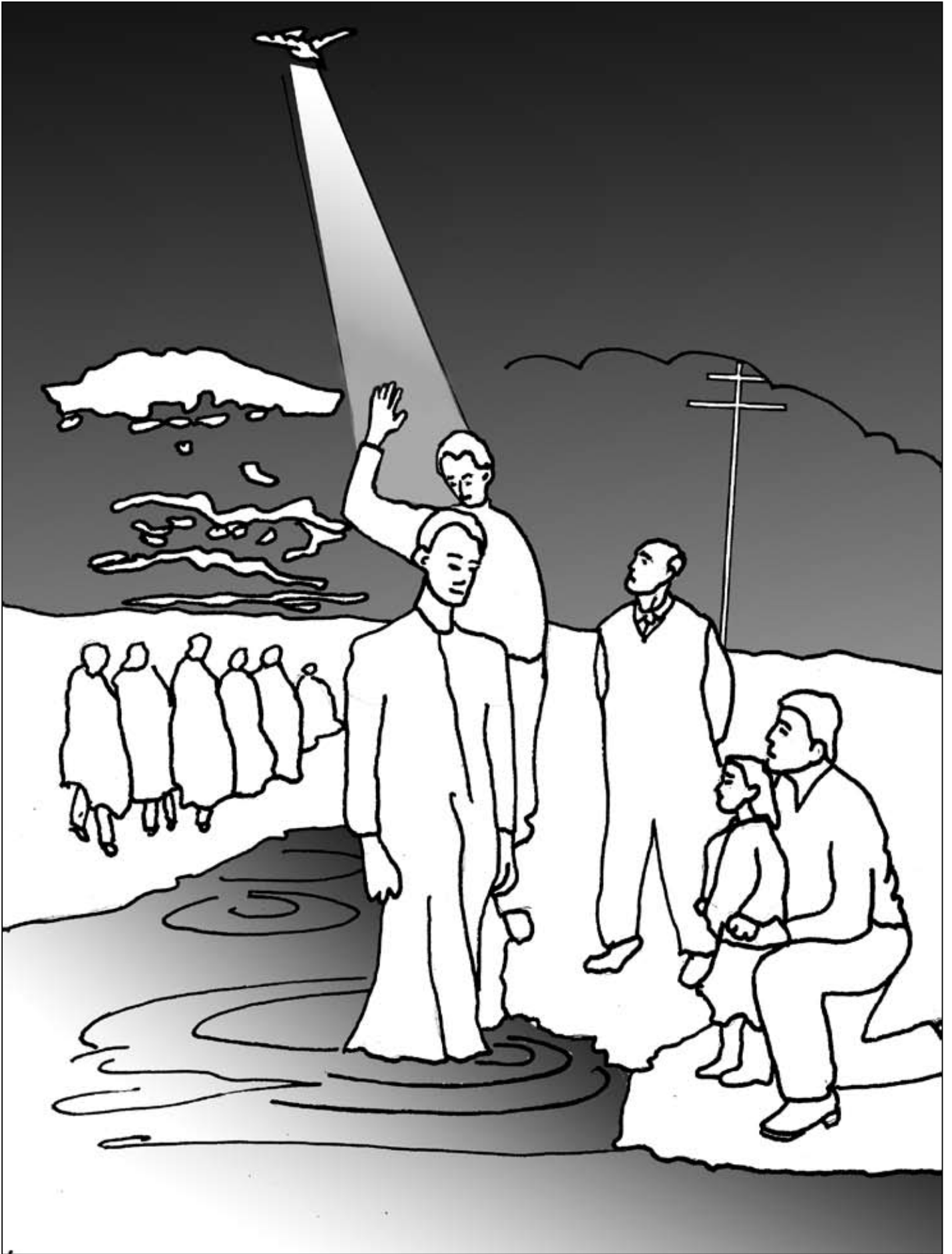
This is my son

'Jesus, will you come and play outside?' The children from the area came to the house of Joseph and Mary. A little later Jesus came out, and together they ran through the street. What did they do? Perhaps play hide and seek. Maybe they climbed in a tree. Maybe they went and built a hut, but I do not know. What I do know is that Jesus was never fighting. He never pulled girls' hair or said ugly things. He simply would not. And, he did not understand why other children did. Each time when there was a fight, he thought: 'If only I could make them stop.' What he liked most was reading. The stories of the past, he just could not get enough of them. Adam and Eve, Abraham, David. It was as if he had read it before. 'Mom,' he asked one day, 'How is it that I already know? Why does it feel like I have been there myself?' Mary was startled. She told of the angel and that God was his father.

Now Jesus was already twelve years old and like every year, they would go to the temple for a few days.

A few years later Jesus had grown and was a young man. God said to Him: 'You can stop them. You can ensure that the people will never fight again.' 'How?' He asked. 'Just do whatever I say to you,' was the answer that God gave. That day Jesus went to the River Jordan. There were people bathing. But not only bathing, they were baptised by John the Baptist. And in this way they received forgiveness from God; they were cleansed from all the wrong things they had done. Jesus also went there to be baptised. He, who had never fought, who had never said something ugly or pulled a girl's hair secretly, he should be baptised too. This because of all the wrong things that you and I do. Miraculous!

When Jesus came out of the water, the heavens opened and God said: 'Look, this is my son.'



Stronger than satan

'God has said that the baby would be stronger than me. Well we'll see,' satan said. 'I was smart enough to tempt Adam to be disobedient. I will succeed with Jesus as well. You bet.'

Hidden behind some rocks, he glared at Jesus who walked through the desert. He wanted to tempt Jesus. The first two times he had not succeeded. But that was just the start. He asked whether Jesus wanted to do a job for him. If he did, Jesus would have listened to him and would have done what he, satan, had said. Fortunately, Jesus did not do it. 'Have a look.' Satan appeared from behind his boulder and sat on the edge of an abyss. Jesus was beside him and in the depths all cities and countries of the world were displayed. Beautiful fountains and richly decorated buildings, beautiful countryside with grazing cows, flower-covered hills and high majestic mountains. One after the other was shown by satan. 'It is all mine,' he grinned. 'I am the boss and the people over there, all obey me. They steal and murder the children and bully and fight each other.' 'You said it,' said Jesus. 'Yes,' satan continued. 'You want them to stop their wrongdoing, don't You? I can help you, because I am the boss and the people do what I want. If you again ask politely, you can be the boss here. Then the people do what you want.' He pulled his most friendly smile and looked expectantly to Jesus. 'You know very well that no one may ask you anything. Everything we need we will only ask from God.' answered Jesus. 'Go away, I never want to see you again.' When satan heard this, He became silent and he went away. He knew he had lost (again).



No more disease

Following his encounter with satan, Jesus returned home. Perhaps He was tired and longing for peace and a good bed. But once home he found no rest. It was as if someone said to him that he had to go away. But where to? Hadn't God said: 'Do what I say'? In obedience, Jesus went away. He now lived in Kapernaum and he felt quite at home. The people were nice to him and when he told stories from the Bible they were quiet. Everyone listened very carefully. They had never heard the stories so clearly. It was as if God Himself spoke to them. One day Jesus came back to tell stories when suddenly someone began to scream. He cried that he was scared and that Jesus had better go away. Everyone looked up, some very angry. Jesus was just telling something beautiful and now this. But Jesus was not angry. He immediately recognized the voice. It was that mean satan again. It was not the man who had said that, but satan inside the man. So Jesus said, just as in the desert, 'Shut up and go away, satan.' And also this time satan was quiet and went away. He knew he had lost again. And that man? He was entirely peaceful. He had not been as quiet as this in years. The people who had seen it, told everybody that Jesus had healed somebody with an evil spirit. Peter, one of the disciples, was there too, and he thought: 'a chance...' He took Jesus to the house of his mother-in-law. She was very ill and had high fever. When Jesus came there, he also sent the disease away. And once again, satan, who is the cause of any disease, fled. Once that happened, nothing could stop Him. From all sides people brought their ill people to Jesus. And Jesus laid his hands on them and healed them all.



No more death

When people had to leave Paradise, God said: 'Because you are not able to live near me, you will also get ill and later, when you're old, you will die.' We know this only too well. Unfortunately, not only old people die. Sometimes children and even babies are ill and can die. Do not think that this is normal. God has not made people to die. That is why He promised the baby. Just listen to what that child did. One day a man came to Jesus. His name was Jāirus. He knelt before Jesus and begged: 'Would you come to my house , because my daughter of twelve years is very ill and she is dying. Please lay your hands on her so that she will get well.' Jesus went with him, but half-way servants came and said: 'Jesus does not have to come because your daughter already died.' But Jesus just walked on. He just acted as if nothing happened. When they were near the house of Jāirus, it was very crowded. Everyone was crying and tried to comfort the father and mother. But Jesus said: 'Why are you crying? The girl is not dead. She is just sleeping.' The people laughed at Jesus and thought: 'This man is crazy. We know when someone really is dead.' But what those people did not know was that the boss of death, satan, had to do what Jesus said. Jesus was not crazy. He knew exactly that if you ask Him for help, you cannot die anymore. Then you go to sleep until He awakes you. Jesus, in the house of Jairus, sent everyone away and when he and a few disciples and her parents were with the girl, he took her by the hand and said: 'Talita cumi.' That means: 'Girl get up.' And the girl got up and was well immediately.

He will call you like that too. Then you get up and you may be with Him.



Everything is beautiful again

Everyone was pleased with Jesus, except the leaders of the people. It was like in the time of King Saul. They wanted to be the boss and not listen to God.

You know what they said to each other: 'If Jesus would do something the people do not like, no one will listen to him anymore. Then we will be the boss.' So they devised a cruel plan. One day when Jesus was in the temple, they brought a woman to him who had done something very bad. They asked: 'What do we do with her. The law of Moses states that such a woman should be put to death. What do you think about that?' But secretly they thought: 'If Jesus says that she must die, all people who pity her will be terribly angry. And if he says: 'Let her go,' then he breaks the law of God. Then they will no longer believe that Jesus is the promised child.' But Jesus knew their wicked thoughts. He said nothing. He just bent over and wrote in the sand. The leaders were afraid. They asked again: 'Come on, say it.' Then He stood up and said: 'Who of you has never done anything wrong, should throw the first stone.' Full of shame they went away one by one, because all had done something wrong. The woman remained. And what did Jesus do? He told the woman: 'I will do nothing to you. Go home and do not do anything wrong again.' When the people had to leave the paradise, God had also said: 'Now you have to go away, otherwise there will no longer be a place that is really nice and good. 'Only if you kneel at Jesus' feet, He will forgive the wrong things you have done. This will wash you clean from all wrong.



The promise murdered

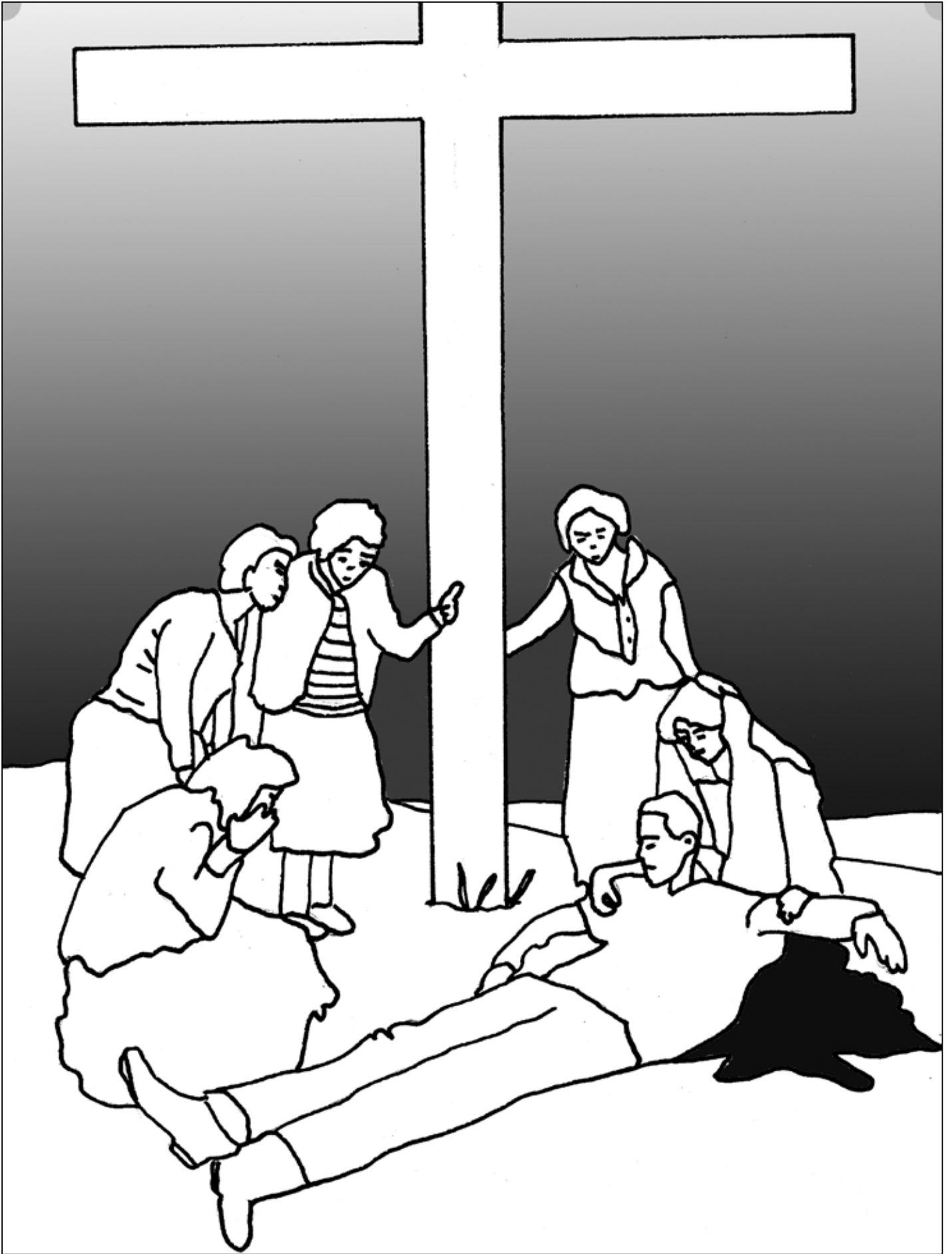
The leaders of the people were not happy. Especially when Jesus raised a person from the dead who had been buried for four days. They thought: 'Soon no one will listen to us anymore. Who knows, people may fight about leadership. No, it would be better if that troublemaker should die. From that moment on they were looking for a chance to kill Jesus. That chance came when one disciple said to them: 'I will inform you about the place where he is, because Jesus is not my friend anymore.' Soldiers caught Jesus and brought Him to their leader. There they started to spit at Him and hit Him. But Jesus said nothing. Therefore the leader asked: 'Say Jesus, are you, by any means, the promised child?' Jesus looked at him and said: 'Yes, that's me.' 'You see,' that leader cried, 'that troublemaker should die.' Then they brought Jesus to the highest court of the country. 'He has done many bad things,' they cried. But the court found nothing wrong with Jesus and they wanted to let Him go. 'No, He is really guilty,' they cried. The court tried again. They had Jesus beaten and thought: 'Now they will have compassion.' But they called: 'Crucify Him!' Then, the judge gave up and said: 'Take him with you.' They brought Jesus to a mountain. Over there they nailed His hands and his feet to a cross. They mocked him and said: 'If you are really the promised child, then get off.' But again he recognized that voice. It was satan. For the last time he tried to let Him be disobedient. But Jesus did not listen to him. Once, people had listened to Him and therefore had to leave God. But he would be obedient, even if it cost his life. He had to suffer awfully and he bled to death slowly. Just before he died he cried out: 'It is finished.' Then the child was dead.



The promise buried

Something very strange had happened. At midday, it became dark. A few hours later suddenly the earth shook. The people told that the curtain of the temple was torn in two pieces. From top to bottom. 'Like it was opened by God himself,' they said. But what was even more crazy, the graves were opened and some of the dead were raised. They just walked in the city. It was unbelievable. The day they crucified Jesus, everyone in Jerusalem had seen such things. First there was a lot of screaming in front of the palace court, and later they dragged Him through the streets of the city. He had to carry his own cross, that poor man. He did not deserve that. What did he actually do? He had cured the ill and He even had raised dead people. Yes, he addressed the leaders of the country because He hates liars and false teachers. He had said that those people imposed laws they themselves did not keep. Well that was true. Everyone disliked them, but you could better not say that in public. Oh yes, he had overturned the tables of moneychangers in the temple. That was not a smart thing to do, but to crucify someone for that reason? No, that is wrong. Is it true that Jesus was the promised child? The curtain, the earthquake and the dead?

They went to see how he was doing. When they had arrived on the mountain, they saw how a soldier knelt respectfully before the cross. 'That Jesus was God's son!' he murmured. What did it mean? They saw how his friends hurried to remove Him from the cross. They wrapped Him in cloths and brought him to a grave. In the dark they went home. They were very, very sad. Now really everything was over and there was no child anymore ..!



Satan is beaten

It was already evening. Two men walked home sadly. They were talking together. How different things had been just few days ago. There had been a party. Everyone wore his best clothes and went to his family. And when they arrived in Jerusalem, there was a parade. Jesus sat on a donkey and everyone cried: 'Hooray, long live the new king.' The people had said: 'This is the promised child.' and: 'Now everything will be different.' It would just be like in the time of King David. They would be a mighty nation and all enemies would flee. But how different it ended. The leaders of the people had captured Jesus. Jesus, who had healed the sick and even raised people from the dead, he had been arrested. Their hope that everything would be good again was murdered. Sadly they followed their way and said to each other: 'No, now it will never be good again.'

'Why those sad stories?' asked a stranger who walked next to them. They looked surprised at the man. Who could ask such a stupid question. 'You do not know what happened? Everybody's talking about. They murdered the promised child. We had waited for so long. We hoped that He would be our king,' replied one of the men. 'But now there are women who went to the grave and said that the tomb was empty. They also saw angels, who said that He lives,' the other replied. 'Oh, you are dumb,' the stranger reacted. Had not Jesus said that he had to die and then would arise from the grave? He explained it from the Bible. The promised child had to die in order to defeat satan. While they were talking, they entered their house. 'Come in,' the men said politely. 'You must be hungry. Join us for supper.' Then the stranger took the bread. But what was that? What did they see there? Those hands? Is that really Jesus? Yes, Jesus was raised from the dead and he is alive!



Back to God

'Jesus lives and we have spoken to him,' the men shouted when they quickly went to the disciples. They cried: 'Jesus is alive.' 'I too have seen him and he knew my name,' said Mary Magdalene, when she came back from the empty tomb. 'Jesus lives and he has eaten with us,' the disciples said.

Jesus had risen from the grave in which his disciples had laid Him. He was alive again and stayed with them for forty days. He talked about the good news and that the promised child had really defeated satan. They should tell it to all people. Everyone should know it, until the farthest corner of this world, Jesus said. And then he took his disciples on a mountaintop. There he told them: 'I will now be with God again, but I will send someone who will take my place to be with you, who will give you comfort and help you to tell the people the good news. That person is the Holy Spirit, who will come from God himself. You must go back to Jerusalem now and wait there for a few days, till the Holy Spirit comes.' Then he blessed them, spreading His arms and then he slowly went up. His disciples saw him, until he disappeared behind a cloud. Jesus had gone back to God.

No end

This story has no end, because still every day the same Holy Spirit tells us how this child brings people back to God.

Just

Dear children,

If you have pain or if you are angry or lonely. When you stamp with your foot because it really is not fair. Then close your eyes and pray: 'Dear child, come in my heart.' Tell him all about your pain. Then he will comfort you and will always be with you.

Eric Visser





"The New World"- acryl-Eric Visser