

THE TRUE KING

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There are lots of books that tell stories about kings and kingdoms, princes and princesses.

But there's just one problem with all of these stories: they aren't true. They are nice stories, but they are not true stories.

There is one book, however, that tells a grand story about a king and a kingdom, that is the truest story ever told. This is the story of the True King who rules over his people in perfect goodness in a kingdom that will last forever.

This is the story of the Bible. This story doesn't begin with "once upon a time." Instead, it begins at the very beginning of time.

"In the beginning, God created
the heavens and the earth"

Genesis 1:1





The Bible begins by telling us that God is the Great King over his kingdom. His kingdom is the heavens and earth that he created from nothing. At the heart of his kingdom was once a beautiful garden called Eden where Adam and Eve lived, enjoying the goodness of the Great King.

Adam and Eve were told to have many children and extend the edges of Eden, so that all of the wilderness outside Eden would become a fruitful garden filled with glad subjects of the Great King.

The Great King planted all kinds of trees in Eden from which Adam and Eve could eat. But there was one tree from which they could not eat. It was called the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If they ate fruit from this forbidden tree, they would die.

Everything about life in the garden kingdom was good... perfectly good... until...





A rival kingdom invaded Eden. A lying serpent told Eve that what the Great King said about the forbidden tree wasn't true. He said Adam and Eve could be king and queen in their own kingdom. When Eve looked at the fruit of the forbidden tree she thought it looked good and would make her wise.

So she took some of the fruit and ate it, and gave some to Adam too. It seemed simple, but it was an act of rebellion and rejection of the rule of the Great King. When they ate from the forbidden tree, everything changed. And when they heard the Great King walking in the garden, instead of running to him, they hid from him.

The Great King cursed the serpent and the ground, and the impact of that curse was felt throughout the kingdom. The Great King also told Adam and Eve that things that once made them happy would become hard. Instead of enjoying life that would never end in the garden, they would one day die and be buried in the dust of the earth.



But it wasn't only the curse Adam and Eve heard that day. The Great King also made a promise of grace. He promised that one day a baby would be born who would be the True King. The serpent would bring him great harm, but the True King would overcome, crush the serpent's head, and put an end to the serpent's evil.

The Great King declared war on the power of sin and death. Ever since then, two opposing forces have been at war in the world: the kingdom of the Great King and the kingdom of the evil serpent.

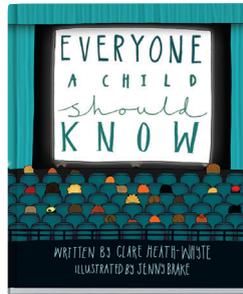
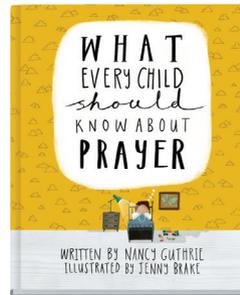
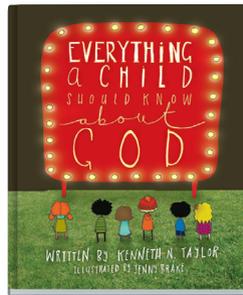
Because they disobeyed God, Adam and Eve were forced out of the kingdom of Eden into the wilderness of the world. But the Great King was not content for his people to live far away from him and his blessing. He began working out his plan to bring his people back into his kingdom.





There was a man named Abraham who was living in a place called Ur, far away from God's land. God, the Great King, came to him and made incredible undeserved promises.

God promised Abraham that he would be the father of a family that would grow to become a great nation, a royal people. God promised that he would give his people a land where they would live under his loving rule and enjoy his blessing. God promised that all of the families of the earth would be blessed through Abraham's family.



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