

IN THE BEGINNING, GOD CREATED THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH.

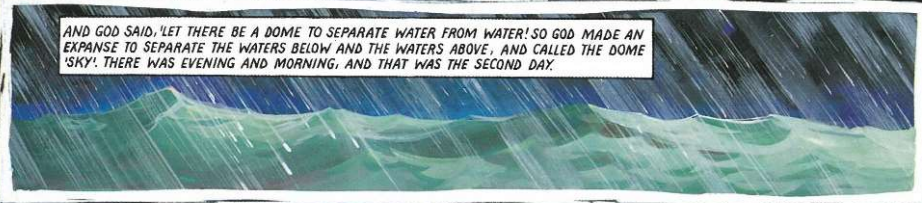
GOD SAID, 'LET THERE BE LIGHT!'

AND THERE WAS LIGHT.

GOD SAW THAT THE LIGHT WAS GOOD, AND SEPARATED THE LIGHT FROM THE DARKNESS. GOD CALLED THE LIGHT 'DAY' AND THE DARKNESS 'NIGHT'. MORNING AND EVENING WERE CREATED, AND THAT WAS THE FIRST DAY.



AND GOD SAID, 'LET THERE BE A DOME TO SEPARATE WATER FROM WATER! SO GOD MADE AN EXPANSE TO SEPARATE THE WATERS BELOW AND THE WATERS ABOVE, AND CALLED THE DOME 'SKY'. THERE WAS EVENING AND MORNING, AND THAT WAS THE SECOND DAY.



AND GOD SAID, 'LET THE WATER UNDER THE SKY GATHER TOGETHER IN ONE PLACE AND LET DRY GROUND APPEAR.' GOD CALLED THE DRY GROUND 'LAND' AND THE WATER 'SEA'.

AND GOD SAW THAT IT WAS GOOD.



THEN GOD SAID, 'LET THE LAND PRODUCE PLANT LIFE: GRASSES, HERBS, SEED-BEARING PLANTS, FRUIT-BEARING TREES, PLANTS OF EVERY KIND.' AND GOD SAW THAT IT WAS GOOD.



THERE WAS EVENING AND MORNING, AND THAT WAS THE THIRD DAY.

AND GOD SAID, 'LET THERE BE LIGHTS IN THE SKY TO SEPARATE DAY FROM NIGHT, AND TO SERVE AS SIGNS MARKING THE SEASONS, DAYS AND YEARS.'

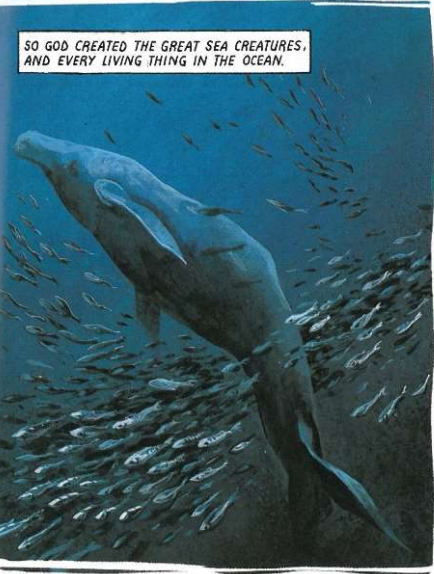
SO GOD MADE TWO GREAT LIGHTS, ONE TO SHINE BY DAY, AND ONE TO SHINE BY NIGHT.

HE ALSO MADE THE STARS.

AND GOD SAW THAT IT WAS GOOD. THERE WAS EVENING AND MORNING, AND THAT WAS THE FOURTH DAY.



AND GOD SAID, 'LET THE OCEANS TEEM WITH LIFE, AND LET BIRDS FLY IN THE SKIES.'



SO GOD CREATED THE GREAT SEA CREATURES, AND EVERY LIVING THING IN THE OCEAN.

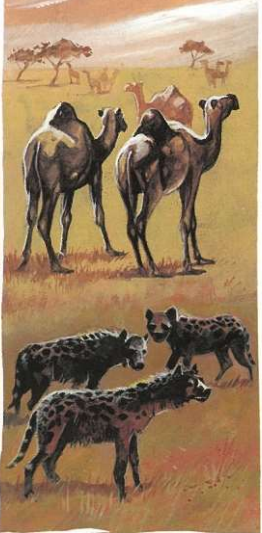


AND GOD WAS PLEASED WITH WHAT HE SAW, AND SAW THAT IT WAS GOOD.

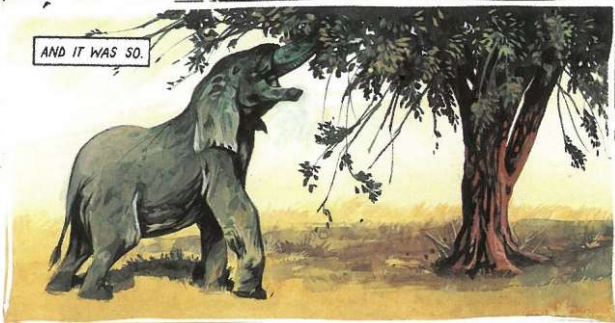


GOD BLESSED THEM AND SAID, 'BE FRUITFUL AND INCREASE TO FILL THE SEAS AND SKIES.' THERE WAS EVENING AND MORNING, AND THAT WAS THE FIFTH DAY.

AND GOD SAID, 'LET THE LAND PRODUCE LIVING CREATURES, ALL KINDS OF ANIMALS: CATTLE AND CREATURES OF THE WILD.'



AND IT WAS SO.



GOD SAW THAT IT WAS GOOD.



AND GOD SAID, 'LET US MAKE HUMAN BEINGS IN OUR IMAGE TO HAVE CHARGE OVER ALL CREATURES ON THE EARTH, IN THE SKIES AND IN THE OCEANS.'



SO GOD CREATED HUMAN BEINGS IN HIS OWN IMAGE.



MALE AND FEMALE HE CREATED THEM.



GOD BLESSED THEM AND SAID, 'BE FRUITFUL AND INCREASE ON THE EARTH. FILL THE EARTH AND TAKE CHARGE OF EVERY LIVING CREATURE.'

'I GIVE YOU ALL SEED-BEARING PLANTS AND EVERY KIND OF FRUIT TO EAT AS FOOD. EVERY GREEN PLANT I GIVE TO EAT.' AND SO IT WAS.

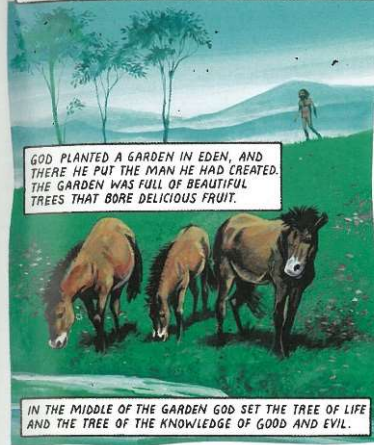
GOD SAW THE WHOLE OF CREATION. IT WAS VERY GOOD. THERE WAS EVENING AND MORNING. AND THAT WAS THE SIXTH DAY.

SO GOD'S WORK OF CREATION WAS COMPLETE AND ON THE SEVENTH DAY GOD RESTED. SO GOD BLESSED THE SEVENTH DAY AND MADE IT HOLY.



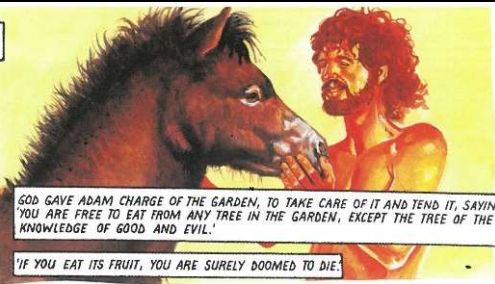
THAT IS THE ACCOUNT OF THE UNIVERSE, AND OF HOW THE HEAVENS AND EARTH WERE CREATED.

WHEN GOD MADE THE EARTH, HE MADE A MAN - 'ADAM' - FROM THE DUST OF THE DRY GROUND, BREATHING LIFE INTO HIM.



GOD PLANTED A GARDEN IN EDEN, AND THERE HE PUT THE MAN HE HAD CREATED. THE GARDEN WAS FULL OF BEAUTIFUL TREES THAT BORE DELICIOUS FRUIT.

IN THE MIDDLE OF THE GARDEN GOD SET THE TREE OF LIFE AND THE TREE OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL.



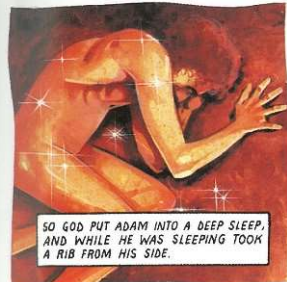
GOD GAVE ADAM CHARGE OF THE GARDEN, TO TAKE CARE OF IT AND TEND IT, SAYING, 'YOU ARE FREE TO EAT FROM ANY TREE IN THE GARDEN, EXCEPT THE TREE OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL.'

'IF YOU EAT ITS FRUIT, YOU ARE SURELY DOOMED TO DIE.'



GOD BROUGHT ALL THE BIRDS AND ANIMALS TO ADAM TO GIVE THEM THEIR NAMES.

THEN GOD SAID, 'IT'S NOT GOOD FOR ADAM TO BE ALONE. HE NEEDS A FITTING PARTNER TOO.'



SO GOD PUT ADAM INTO A DEEP SLEEP, AND WHILE HE WAS SLEEPING TOOK A RIB FROM HIS SIDE.



WITH THE RIB GOD MADE A WOMAN.



WHEN HE WOKE AND SAW WHAT GOD HAD DONE, ADAM SAID:

AT LAST I ONE OF MY OWN KIND.

BONE TAKEN FROM MY BONE, FLESH FROM MY FLESH. I WILL CALL YOU 'WOMAN' BECAUSE YOU WERE TAKEN OUT OF MAN.



THE MAN AND WOMAN WERE BOTH NAKED, BUT HAD NO FEELING OF SHAME.

A RIVER FLOWED FROM EDEN TO WATER THE GARDEN. FROM THERE IT BRANCHED INTO FOUR STREAMS.

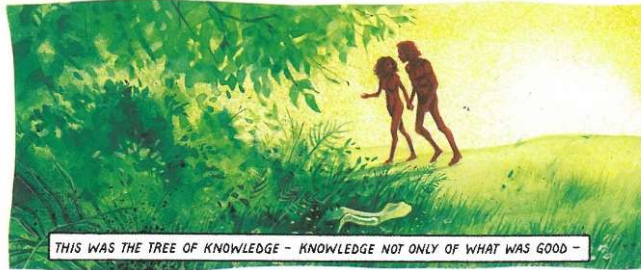
THE MAN AND THE WOMAN CULTIVATED THE GARDEN, AND CARED FOR ALL THE ANIMALS.



IN THE CENTRE OF THE GARDEN WERE THE TWO SPECIAL TREES GOD HAD PLANTED. THE FIRST WAS CALLED THE TREE OF LIFE.



THE SECOND WAS THE TREE GOD HAD WARNED THEM OF - THE TREE WHOSE FRUIT WOULD CAUSE THEIR DEATHS IF THEY ATE IT.



THIS WAS THE TREE OF KNOWLEDGE - KNOWLEDGE NOT ONLY OF WHAT WAS GOOD -



BUT ALSO OF EVIL...



NOW, THE SERPENT WAS THE MOST CUNNING OF ALL THE CREATURES GOD HAD MADE, AND HE SPOKE TO THE WOMAN, SAYING:



IS IT REALLY TRUE THAT GOD HAS FORBIDDEN YOU TO EAT THE FRUIT OF ANY TREE ?



I WAS SURPRISED BY YOUR QUESTION.

OH, I'M SORRY, I STARTLED YOU.



HOW INTERESTING.

YOU SSEE, THAT'S JUST NOT TRUE. YOU WON'T DIE.

GOD HASS LIED TO YOU !

GOD TOLD US WE CAN EAT THE FRUIT OF ANY TREE, EXCEPT THE ONE THAT GROWS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE GARDEN. IF WE EAT ITS FRUIT OR EVEN TOUCH IT WE ARE SURELY DOOMED TO DIE !



GOD DOESN'T WANT YOU TO EAT FROM THE TREE BECAUSE THEN YOU'LL KNOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL.

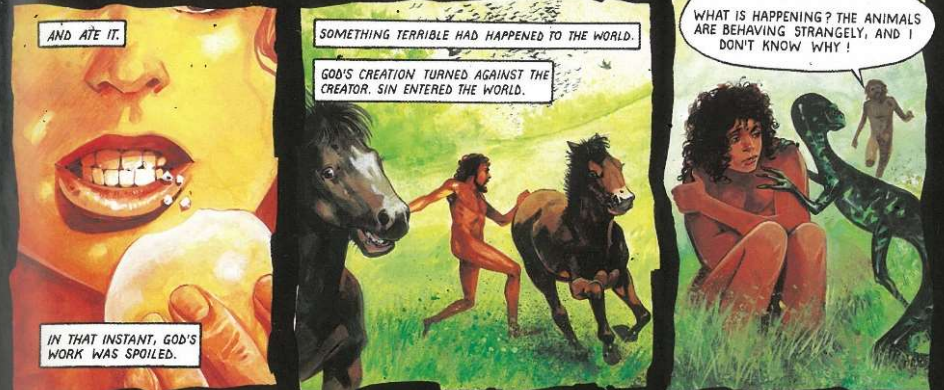
THEN THE WOMAN LOOKED AT THE TREE. SHE SAW HOW DELICIOUS THE FRUIT WAS. SHE THOUGHT HOW WONDERFUL IT WOULD BE TO KNOW ALL THAT GOD KNOWS.

IT'S ALL RIGHT. GO ON -

AND SO THE WOMAN REACHED OUT HER HAND...

- DO IT!

SHE TOOK THE FRUIT FROM THE TREE...



AND ATE IT.

SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAD HAPPENED TO THE WORLD.

GOD'S CREATION TURNED AGAINST THE CREATOR. SIN ENTERED THE WORLD.

WHAT IS HAPPENING? THE ANIMALS ARE BEHAVING STRANGELY, AND I DON'T KNOW WHY!

IN THAT INSTANT, GOD'S WORK WAS SPOILED.

I ATE THE FRUIT OF THE TREE OF KNOWLEDGE.

BUT GOD SAID WE WOULD DIE IF WE ATE IT! IF WE EVEN TOUCHED IT!

YET SHE LIVES. GOD LIED TO YOU BOTH!

SO ADAM TOOK THE FRUIT.

AND ATE.

AND THEN HE KNEW.

THE SNAKE HAD DECEIVED THEM!



ADAM AND EVE KNEW EVIL FOR THE FIRST TIME. AND THEY FLED IN TERROR.



NAKED, THEY NOW KNEW SHAME - AND SEWED FIG LEAVES TOGETHER TO COVER THEMSELVES.



LATER THAT DAY THEY HEARD THE SOUND OF GOD WALKING IN THE GARDEN IN THE COOL OF THE EVENING. ASHAMED AND IN FEAR, THEY HID FROM GOD AMONG THE TREES.

GOD CALLED OUT:

ADAM! WHERE ARE YOU ?



WHY ARE YOU HIDING FROM ME ?



WHEN I HEARD YOU, I WAS AFRAID BECAUSE I WAS NAKED; SO I HID.

WHO TOLD YOU YOU WERE NAKED ?

HAVE YOU EATEN FRUIT FROM THE FORBIDDEN TREE ?

HAVE YOU ?



IT'S NOT MY FAULT! THIS WOMAN YOU PUT HERE WITH ME - SHE TOLD ME TO DO IT!

ME? IT WASN'T MY FAULT! THE SERPENT TRICKED ME INTO EATING IT!

BUT TO THE WOMAN, GOD SAID:

BECAUSE OF WHAT YOU'VE DONE, YOU WILL KNOW PAIN IN CHILDBIRTH. YET YOU WILL STILL DESIRE YOUR HUSBAND, THOUGH HE WILL BE YOUR MASTER.

AND TO THE MAN, GOD SAID:

THE WHOLE EARTH IS CURSED BECAUSE YOU HAVE TURNED AGAINST ME.

THE GROUND WILL PRODUCE THISTLES AND THORNS, AND YOUR WORK WILL BE SWEAT AND LABOUR ALL YOUR DAYS, UNTIL YOU RETURN TO THE DUST YOU WERE MADE FROM.



NOW THAT THE MAN AND THE WOMAN KNOW GOOD AND EVIL, THEY MUST LEAVE THE GARDEN LEST THEY STEAL FROM THE TREE OF LIFE AND LIVE FOR EVER.

AS FOR THE SERPENT, GOD PUT HIM UNDER A CURSE. HE MUST CRAWL ON HIS BELLY IN THE DIRT. HE WOULD BITE AT THE HEELS OF HUMANITY. HE WOULD BE HATED, HUNTED DOWN AND KILLED.

SO GOD BANISHED THE MAN AND THE WOMAN FROM HIS PRESENCE IN THE GARDEN. FOR LIGHT AND GOODNESS CANNOT COEXIST WITH DARKNESS AND EVIL.



AN ANGEL WITH A FLAMING SWORD WAS SET TO GUARD THE ENTRANCE, BARRING THE WAY TO THE TREE OF LIFE FOR EVER.



THEN ADAM NAMED HIS WIFE 'EVE', WHICH MEANS 'LIVING', BECAUSE SHE WOULD BE THE MOTHER OF THE HUMAN RACE.



BEFORE THEY LEFT, GOD MADE GARMENTS OF ANIMAL SKIN FOR ADAM AND EVE TO WEAR.

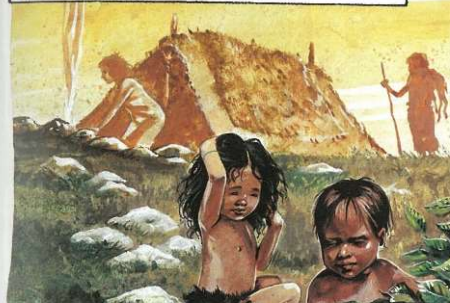
THEIR LIFE FROM NOW ON WOULD BE EXACTLY AS GOD SAID: A STRUGGLE TO SURVIVE IN A WORLD TURNED HOSTILE AND DANGEROUS.

THEY WOULD KNOW TOIL AND PAIN UNTIL THE DAY THEY DIED AND THEY RETURNED TO THE DUST THEY WERE MADE FROM.



THE WORLD THEY KNEW NOW WAS A HARD, COLD PLACE COMPARED WITH THE BEAUTY OF EDEN.

ADAM AND EVE SLEPT TOGETHER. EVE BECAME PREGNANT AND GAVE BIRTH TO A SON, CALLED CAIN.



LATER SHE HAD ANOTHER SON, ABEL.



CAIN GREW UP TO WORK THE SOIL; ABEL BECAME A SHEPHERD.

IN TIME, CAIN BROUGHT SOME OF HIS HARVEST AS AN OFFERING TO GOD. ABEL BROUGHT THE BEST LAMB OF HIS FLOCK.



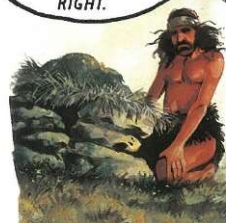
GOD WAS PLEASED WITH ABEL'S OFFERING, BUT NOT WITH CAIN'S. ABEL WAS A GOOD MAN, A MAN OF FAITH, BUT GOD COULD SEE THE DARKNESS IN CAIN'S HEART.

AND SO GOD SAID:

CAIN WAS FURIOUS.

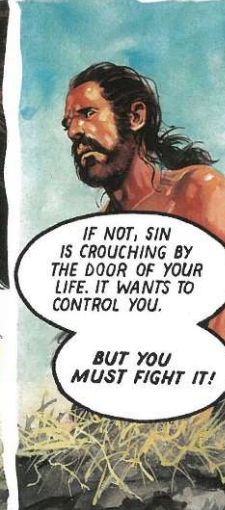


WHY SO ANGRY, CAIN? NO NEED TO SCOWL IF YOU HAVE DONE RIGHT.



IF NOT, SIN IS CROUCHING BY THE DOOR OF YOUR LIFE. IT WANTS TO CONTROL YOU.

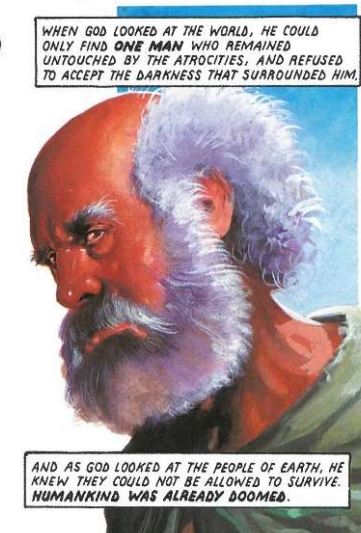
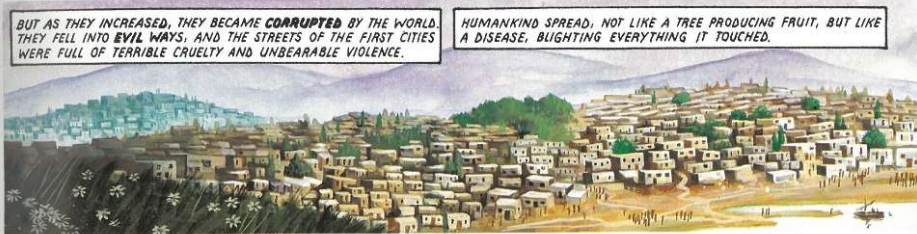
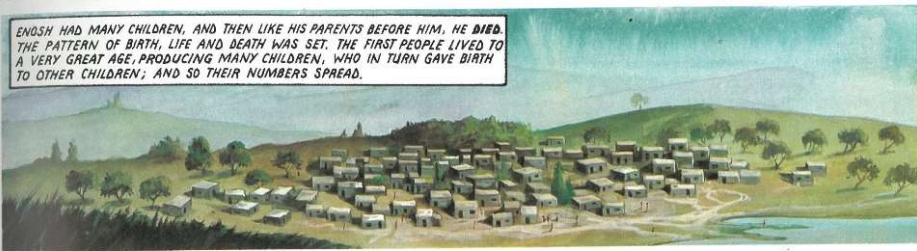
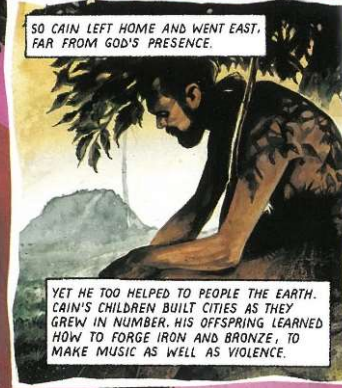
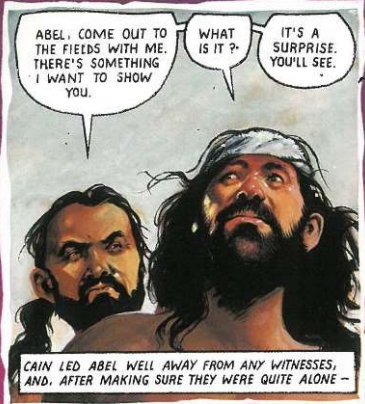
BUT YOU MUST FIGHT IT!



BUT CAIN REFUSED TO LISTEN TO GOD. HE BURNED WITH RAGE.



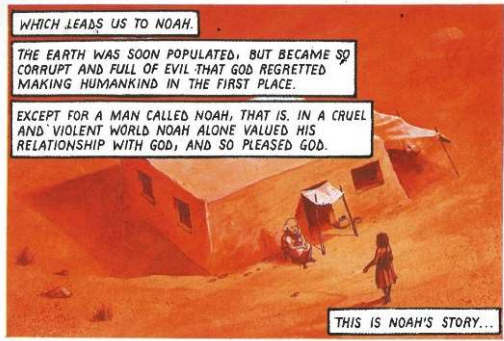
ALLOWING HIS ANGER TO RULE HIM, HE PLOTTED AGAINST HIS BROTHER...



WHICH LEADS US TO NOAH.

THE EARTH WAS SOON POPULATED, BUT BECAME SO CORRUPT AND FULL OF EVIL THAT GOD REGRETTED MAKING HUMANKIND IN THE FIRST PLACE.

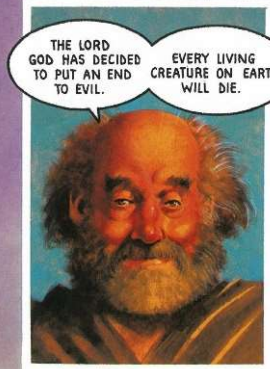
EXCEPT FOR A MAN CALLED NOAH, THAT IS. IN A CRUEL AND VIOLENT WORLD NOAH ALONE VALUED HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD, AND SO PLEASSED GOD.



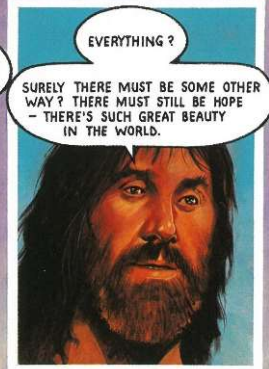
THIS IS NOAH'S STORY...



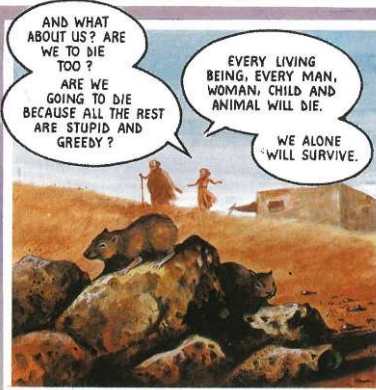
YOU SENT FOR ME FATHER? YOU HAVE NEWS?
I'VE SPOKEN WITH GOD! STRANGE DAYS LIE AHEAD FOR US, AND WE MUST PREPARE FOR THEM.
SOMETHING TERRIBLE IS GOING TO HAPPEN.



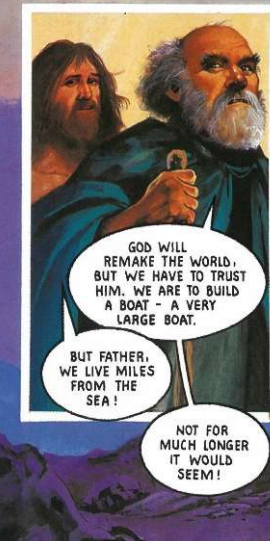
THE LORD GOD HAS DECIDED TO PUT AN END TO EVIL. EVERY LIVING CREATURE ON EARTH WILL DIE.



EVERYTHING?
SURELY THERE MUST BE SOME OTHER WAY? THERE MUST STILL BE HOPE - THERE'S SUCH GREAT BEAUTY IN THE WORLD.



AND WHAT ABOUT US? ARE WE TO DIE TOO?
ARE WE GOING TO DIE BECAUSE ALL THE REST ARE STUPID AND GREEDY?
EVERY LIVING BEING, EVERY MAN, WOMAN, CHILD AND ANIMAL WILL DIE.
WE ALONE WILL SURVIVE.



GOD WILL REMAKE THE WORLD, BUT WE HAVE TO TRUST HIM. WE ARE TO BUILD A BOAT - A VERY LARGE BOAT.
BUT FATHER, WE LIVE MILES FROM THE SEA!
NOT FOR MUCH LONGER IT WOULD SEEM!



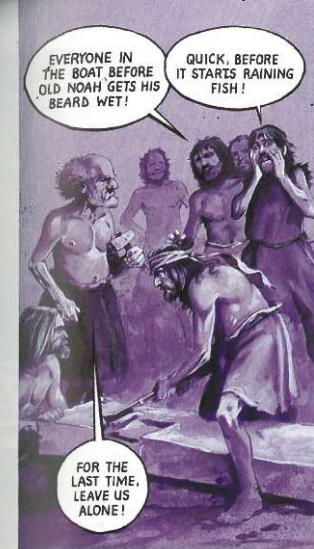
AND SO THEY BEGAN THE GREAT WORK - A MASSIVE BOAT RESTING ON DRY GROUND BENEATH THE BURNING SUN.

IT WAS HIS FAITH THAT MADE HIM DO THIS. NOAH HAD NO WAY OF PREDICTING THE FUTURE. INSTEAD HE TOOK GOD SERIOUSLY, EVEN WHEN TOLD TO UNDERTAKE SUCH AN ENORMOUS TASK.

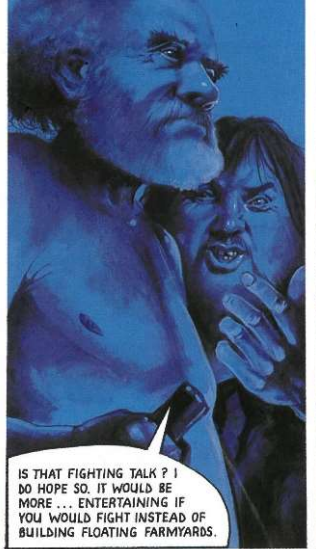
ALL OF WHICH MUST HAVE SEEMED VERY ODD INDEED TO THE PEOPLE NEARBY.



LOOK OUT! THE TIDE'S COMING IN!



EVERYONE IN THE BOAT, BEFORE OLD NOAH GETS HIS BEARD WET!
QUICK, BEFORE IT STARTS RAINING FISH!
FOR THE LAST TIME, LEAVE US ALONE!



IS THAT FIGHTING TALK? I DO HOPE SO. IT WOULD BE MORE ENTERTAINING IF YOU WOULD FIGHT INSTEAD OF BUILDING FLOATING FARMYARDS.



BAH! HIS GOD'S WARPED HIS BRAIN. IF HE TOLD HIM TO BALANCE GOATS ON HIS NOSE HE'D DO IT.
EITHER THAT OR TIE PADDLES TO THEIR LEGS!
BUT NOAH DID AS GOD HAD TOLD HIM.



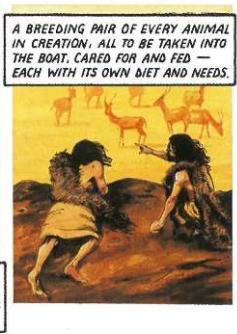
450 FEET LONG, 75 FEET WIDE AND THREE STOREYS HIGH, THE BOAT WAS EVENTUALLY FINISHED.

WATERPROOF AND WITH A LOADING RAMP TO TAKE THE HEAVIEST LIVING CREATURES, IT HAD NO KEEL, NO SAILS NOR RUDDER - THIS WASN'T A SHIP BUILT FOR A VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY.

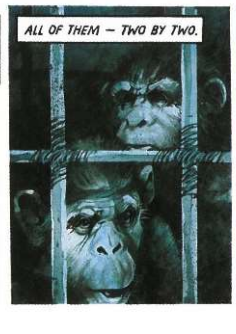
THIS WAS A LIFEBOAT.



BUT EVEN WITH THE BOAT COMPLETED, THE WORK WAS FAR FROM OVER FOR NOAH AND HIS FAMILY.



A BREEDING PAIR OF EVERY ANIMAL IN CREATION, ALL TO BE TAKEN INTO THE BOAT, CARED FOR AND FED - EACH WITH ITS OWN DIET AND NEEDS.



ALL OF THEM - TWO BY TWO.



THEY CALLED THE BOAT 'THE ARK', MEANING 'CHEST' OR 'BOX', FOR IT CONTAINED THE FUTURE OF ALL LIFE ON EARTH.

THE GATHERING AND STOCKING OF PROVISIONS FOR A LONG STAY WAS A TASK IN ITSELF. ESPECIALLY CONSIDERING THE NEEDS OF THEIR CARGO -

THE ARK FINISHED, THE SKIES BECAME HEAVY AND STRANGE...



IS THIS THE TIME, FATHER?
I THINK SO. ARE THE ANIMALS SECURE IN THEIR STALLS?
YES FATHER.

THEN IT'S BEST WE GO BELOW. WE WILL BE SAFE ENOUGH - GOD WILL SEE TO IT THAT THE DOORS REMAIN SEALED.



SEE? THE RAINS BEGIN. QUICKLY, LET'S GO BELOW.



ON THAT DAY THE RAINS BEGAN.



THE RIVERS BURST THEIR BANKS, AND THE SEAS ROSE.

GOD LOOKED AT THE WORLD AND SAW THAT THE PEOPLE WERE UTTERLY CORRUPT. THEIR HEARTS AND MINDS WERE FULL OF WICKEDNESS, VIOLENCE AND EVIL.



GOD, WHO BREATHED LIFE INTO A STERILE WORLD, REGRETTED MAKING ANY OF THEM.

SO THE WATERS ROSE ABOVE THEIR FIELDS, THEIR CITIES AND THEIR HISTORIES.

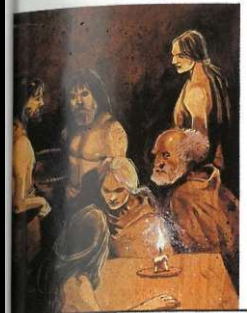
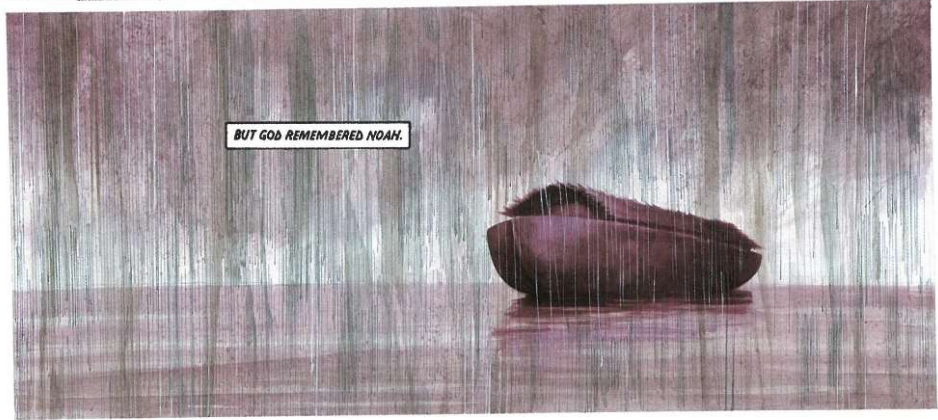


THEIR MEMORIES PERISHED WITH THEM, UNTIL THE STAIN OF LIFE WAS WASHED FROM THE EARTH COMPLETELY.



EVEN THE HIGHEST MOUNTAINS WERE COVERED, AND APART FROM THE RAIN THERE WAS SILENCE ON EARTH AGAIN.

BUT GOD REMEMBERED NOAH.



ONLY NOAH, AND THOSE WITH HIM IN THE ARK WERE SAVED. NOAH HAD THREE SONS; THEY AND THEIR FAMILIES WOULD CONTINUE THE HUMAN RACE.



AND THE ANIMALS WOULD BREED AGAIN.



THIS WAS GOD'S PLAN, NOT NOAH'S. GOD KNEW THEIR NEEDS AND HOW BEST TO CARE FOR THEM.



AFTER ALL, THEY WERE THE WORK OF THE SAME CREATOR.

THE RAINS FELL LIKE NO RAIN BEFORE OR SINCE, SWALLOWING CITIES, TOWNS AND MOUNTAINS.



FOR FORTY DAYS -



AND FORTY NIGHTS.



AND THEN, ALMOST AS SUDDENLY AS IT BEGAN -

IT STOPPED.



ABOUT TIME TOO!



IT'S OVER! HAVE ONE OF THE BOYS BRING A RAVEN UP FROM THE CARRION BIRDS SECTION - LET'S SEE IF THE WATERS ARE SHRINKING YET.



THE RAVEN FLEW AROUND THE ARK, BUT IT DID NOT STRAY FAR - MEANING THAT LAND HAD NOT YET APPEARED.



THEN NOAH RELEASED A DOVE. AT FIRST IT RETURNED AS THERE WAS NOWHERE FOR IT TO REST.



HE WAITED, AND THEN SENT THE BIRD OUT AGAIN.



IT WAS LATE IN THE EVENING WHEN IT RETURNED.

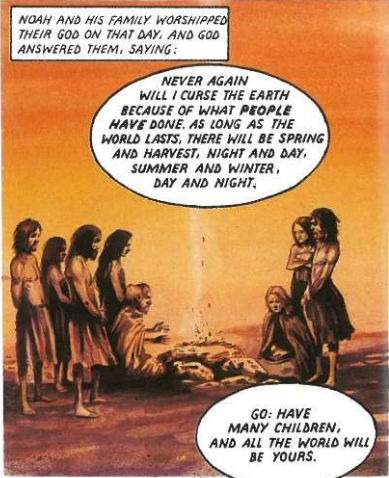
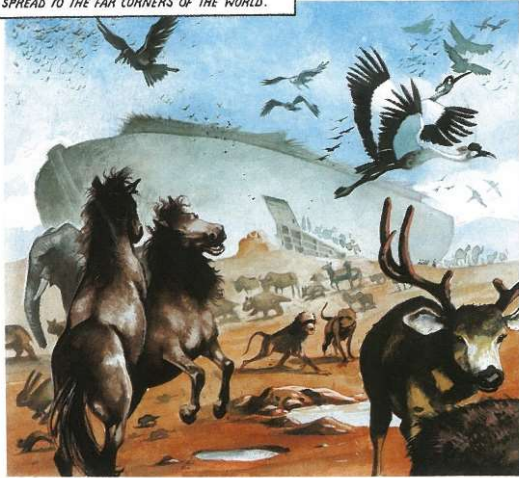


IN ITS BEAK IT CARRIED A FRESH OLIVE BRANCH, THE FIRST GREENERY THE CREW HAD SEEN SINCE THEIR VOYAGE BEGAN. THE WATERS HAD BEGUN TO REcede.



THEIR TIME TOGETHER ON THE ARK WAS ALMOST OVER.

FREE AT LAST THE ANIMALS EXPLODED OUTWARDS IN A DAZZLING BLAZE OF FUR AND FEATHERS. ALL SHAPES AND SIZES, COLOURS AND SOUNDS, THEY SPREAD TO THE FAR CORNERS OF THE WORLD.



NOAH AND HIS FAMILY WORSHIPPED THEIR GOD ON THAT DAY, AND GOD ANSWERED THEM, SAYING:

NEVER AGAIN WILL I CURSE THE EARTH BECAUSE OF WHAT PEOPLE HAVE DONE. AS LONG AS THE WORLD LASTS, THERE WILL BE SPRING AND HARVEST, NIGHT AND DAY, SUMMER AND WINTER, DAY AND NIGHT.

GO: HAVE MANY CHILDREN, AND ALL THE WORLD WILL BE YOURS.



THEN GOD AND NOAH MADE AN AGREEMENT, A FORMAL COVENANT.

NEVER AGAIN WOULD GOD SEND A FLOOD TO DESTROY THE EARTH, AND AS A SIGN HE SET THE RAINBOW IN THE SKY SO THAT ALL LIVING CREATURES COULD SEE GOD'S PROMISE.

NOAH'S SONS AND FAMILIES MOVED OUT INTO THE WORLD WITH GOD'S BLESSING, AND AS THEY MULTIPLIED THEY BUILT CITIES.

