

**Wild
and
Wacky**



BIBLE



ADVENTURES

for Kids



Sandy Silverthorne



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WILD AND WACKY BIBLE ADVENTURES FOR KIDS

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To my beautiful Vicki, whose encouragement
and laughter bless my life beyond measure;
to Christy, whose humor and grace are such gifts to so many,
and to the great kids I have the privilege
to speak to and share with.
You're the best!

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Welcome to *Wild and Wacky Bible Adventures for Kids!*

What if...

What if Gideon competed on a game show? What if John the Baptist sat in as a morning radio personality? Or what if Joshua's fight against Jericho inspired a video game? The Bible introduces us to some remarkable real-life people and amazing but true stories—giants who challenge God's people, everyday folks who become unlikely heroes, and one Guy who even controls the weather! We read about floods and battles and betrayals and people getting healed. It's all so exciting and real, you might feel like doing what Zacchaeus did—climbing up a tree so you can get a good look at Jesus.

This book presents some favorite Bible stories in modern settings and with some techno-gadgets and accessories you and I enjoy today. For example, nobody had a GPS in Moses' time. But what if he miraculously got his hands on one? Would that have helped him get to the Promised Land any sooner? And when David, the little shepherd boy from Bethlehem, fought the giant Goliath, TV cameras weren't there to broadcast the big event to the world. But what if a sports network had televised this incredible underdog success story? Would that be something worth playing on our TiVos over and over for our friends? Of course it would! See how fun it is to journey through the Bible with a time twist?

The stories in this book ask the question, what if? What if a weather network reported on Noah's flood? Or Joseph and his brothers appeared on a daytime talk show? Or Nehemiah rebuilt the Jerusalem wall on *Nehemiah's Extreme Makeover, Jerusalem Edition*? Our retellings of these stories will give you a laugh, and they will also give you a new perspective of what was really going on long ago. We hope you'll enjoy reading and discovering the lessons God wants all of us to learn.

Would you like to make this book even more fun? Get out your Bible and double-check to make sure just what really *did* happen in each of these accounts. To make that easier, the Scripture references are listed in the Get Real section following every story. So get ready to see what would have happened if...



What if an animal network filmed an episode in the Garden of Eden?

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Think of it. He made everything—oceans, mountains, rivers, stars, planets, flowers, and every single animal. God made Adam and his wife, Eve, and placed them in the most beautiful spot on earth, the Garden of Eden.

One day, God gave Adam an assignment—to take care of the garden and tend the animals. He even let Adam come up with a name for each critter. But what if an animal network filmed a documentary in the Garden of Eden before Adam had a chance to name all the creatures? It might have looked something like this...

NARRATOR: The Garden of Eden—an incredible wonderland of waterfalls, lush green forests, deep clear pools, and emerald rolling hills. Everywhere you look, you see God’s fingerprints, including thousands of beautiful plants and all kinds of animals living together in an oasis of splendid beauty. This is the beautiful spot where God chose to begin life on our planet.





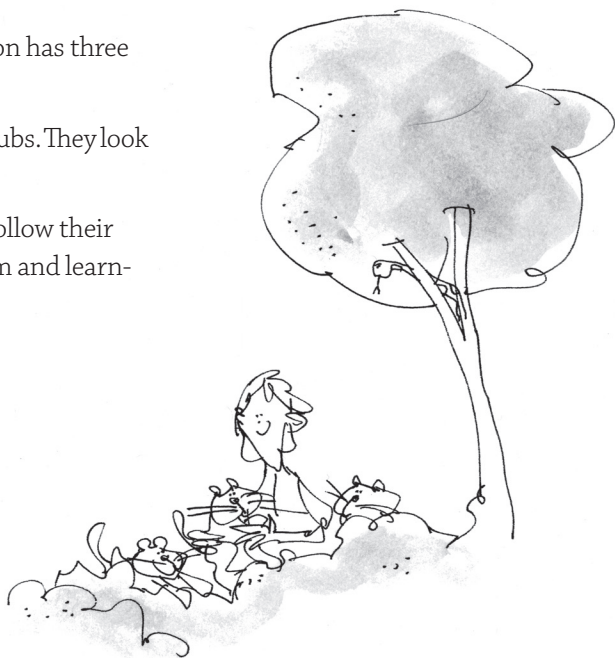
NARRATOR: One majestic, four-footed creature surveys the landscape. This beautiful specimen silently pads through the underbrush. It truly is the king of beasts. In every way he lives up to his name of...uh, I'm not sure. What is his name? What do you call him, Adam?

ADAM: Hmmmm. Haven't seen him before. Why don't we call him a lion? Yeah, that's good. Lion—I like the sound of that.

NARRATOR: This lion has three delightful little...?

ADAM: Cubs. Yeah, cubs. They look like cubs.

NARRATOR: They follow their father, imitating him and learning from him.





NARRATOR: Across the river is a...group?

ADAM: No, a *herd*...let's say herd.

NARRATOR: Okay, a herd of...

ADAM: Oh, I don't know...salamanders? No, not salamanders. How about giraffes? That sounds pretty good. And they are a bit funny looking! Yes—call them giraffes.



NARRATOR: And here we see a *baby* giraffe.



NARRATOR: The giraffes lead their baby to the watering hole, where many other species gather and drink freely. Joining them are...

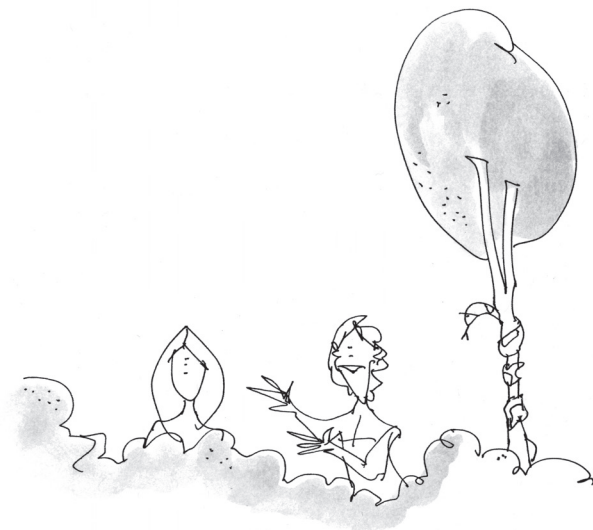
ADAM: Oh, wow. Let's see...a cheetah, gazelles, elephants, hyenas, and the Empire State Building. No, that doesn't sound right. Uh, a zebra. Yeah, that's better. Zebra. And a couple of hippos. Yeah, hippos. I really should write this down. *Whew*. This naming game is fast paced.

NARRATOR: The first man...

ADAM: Adam. You can call me Adam. That I *do* know. God called me that.

NARRATOR: ...is learning how to take care of the garden and tend to the animals. It's a challenging task.

ADAM: Oh, but I don't do it alone. Here's my beautiful wife. I call her Beatrice.



NARRATOR: Apparently Adam doesn't have this naming thing down quite yet. From the Garden of Eden, for the Animal Network, thank you for watching.

Get Real!

Check out Genesis 2:8-24 at the beginning of your Bible to see what really happened with God, Adam, Eve, and the garden. Believe it or not, God really did give Adam the responsibility of naming all the animal species. Whew, what a job!

What if a weather network reported on Noah's flood?

Early in the world's history, God got so sad about all the evil taking place that He decided to flood the whole earth and start over. But one man, whose name was Noah, loved God and always obeyed Him, so God gave him a way to keep people and the animals safe during the flood. God asked Noah to build a big boat so that Noah, his family, and two of every kind of animal could be rescued.

Noah obeyed the Lord and built the boat—and then it started raining. It rained for 40 days and 40 nights. Water even started gushing out from the inside the earth! The whole world was covered with water for more than a year, but Noah and his crew were safe and secure inside the ark.

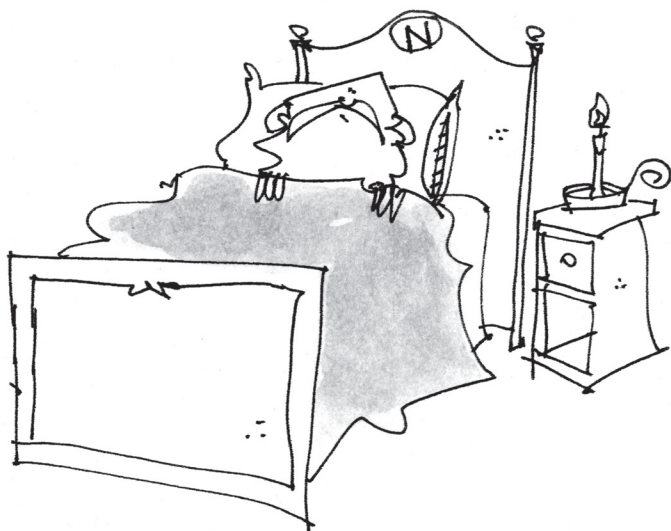
What would this story sound like on a weather TV network?

TONYA THE WEATHER LADY: So once again, we'll have several dry days throughout the Great Plains and all the way to the coast. And that's your forecast. Now in our next story, what would you do if God gave you a special assignment—when you were 600 years old? And what might that assignment be? To give to the poor? To help

the elderly and orphans? But what if your assignment was to build a *yacht*? Well, our own Brad Cumulous is out in the field with a man who got that very assignment. Brad?

BRAD: Thanks, Tonya. A lot of people would say that boating is one of their favorite pastimes, but the man you're about to meet takes it a step further. Six-hundred-year-old Noah woke up one morning and heard a lot more than an alarm clock...





NOAH: As soon as I woke up that day, God spoke to me and told me He wanted to get a new start on planet Earth, so He was going to flood the whole thing. Well, I tell you, that kind of scared me. But then God said, “Noah, I’ve taken a liking to you. You’re a good man who always follows Me, so I’ll tell you what. If you build a big boat and take your family on board, you’ll be saved.”

“That’s great, Lord,” I said.

But then God added, “There is one small catch.”

“What’s that?” I asked.

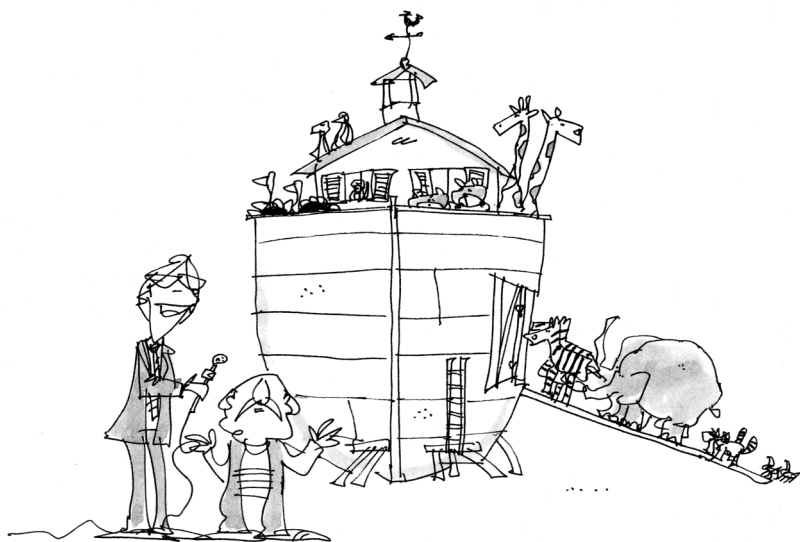
“I need you to take two of every kind of animal in the world on board with you.”

So that’s what I did.

God told me exactly how big to make the boat and what kind of supplies to take on board. He's really thoughtful that way. So now all I have to do is wait for the rain.

BRAD: So tell me, Noah, how will you tell when the water has dried up? Are you going to tune in to our channel for updates? We're 24/7, you know."

NOAH: Actually, Brad, I think I'll just let a dove out the window. When she comes back with an olive branch in her mouth, I'll know the tops of the trees are showing above the water and things are drying up.



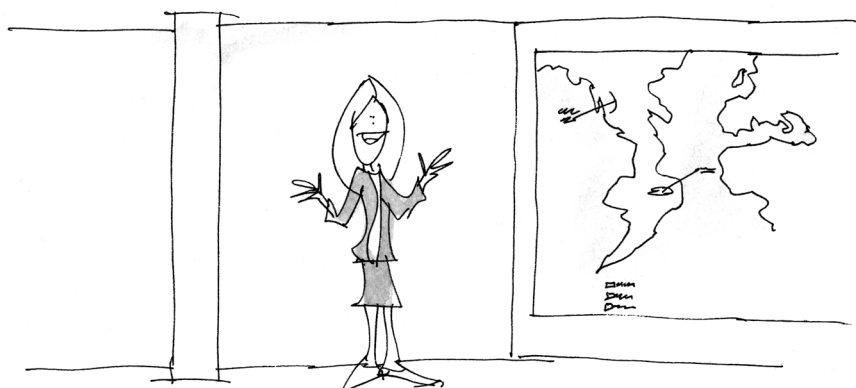
BRAD: Dove, trees...interesting.

BRAD: Well, as you can see, Tonya, Noah is keeping up his end of the bargain. He's got just about every type of animal on the...what do you call it? A ship? A boat?

NOAH: I call it an ark.

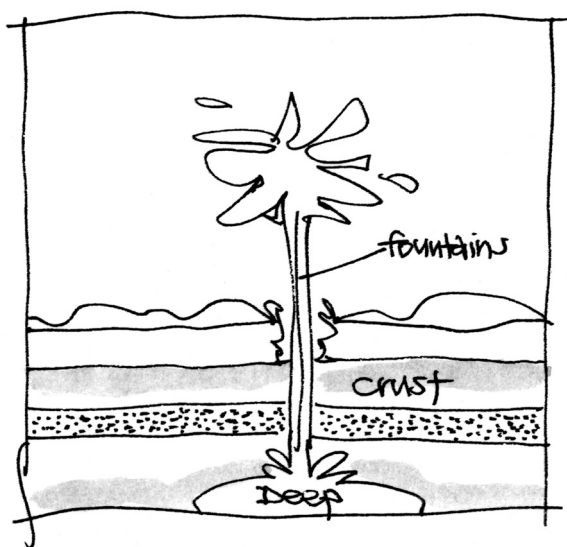
BRAD: Okay. Well, Tonya, what do you think? Is there rain in Noah's forecast?

TONYA: I'll say, Brad. Let's take a look at the satellite pictures. You can see we've got a low ridge coming in over the Euphrates Valley that's going to bring a storm front into the Babel basin. And it looks like it's going to be a doozy, with thunderstorms expected for the next several days. A storm watch has been issued for the area as well as a small craft advisory for the entire region.



Now, looking at the extended forecast...we can expect these conditions for the next 40 days and 40 nights.

rain	rain	rain	rain	rain	rain	rain	rain	rain	rain
rain	rain	rain	rain	rain	rain	rain	rain	rain	rain
rain	rain	rain	rain	rain	rain	rain	showers	rain	rain
rain	rain	rain	rain	rain	rain	rain	rain	rain	rain

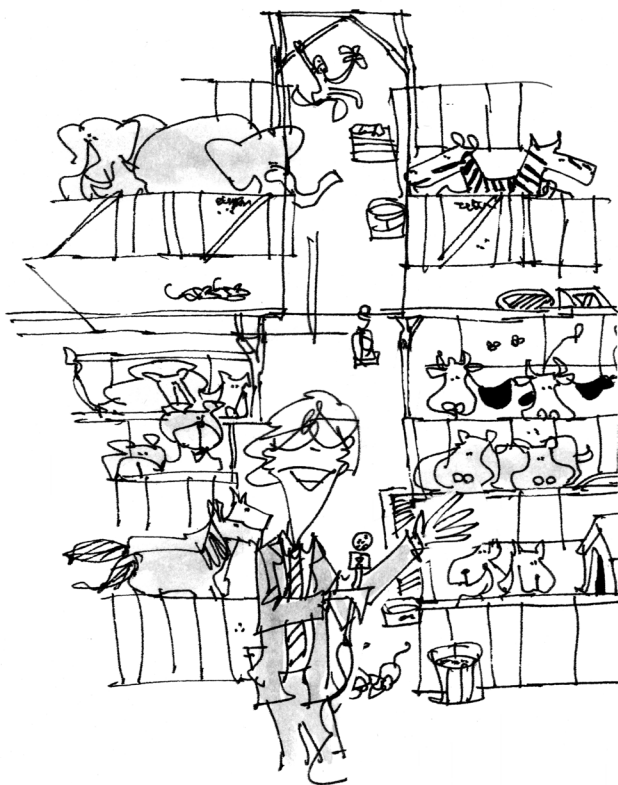


And Brad, here's something you don't see every day. Apparently the fountains of the deep are going to break up, bringing flooding to the outlying areas. Now, viewers, let's take a look at the weather where you live...

ANNOUNCER: Expect rain showers for an extended period with temperatures in the mid fifties to lower sixties and flooding to continue throughout the week.

TONYA: So if I were you, Brad, I'd get on that boat with Noah and the animals, where you can stay afloat.

BRAD: I'm way ahead of you, Tonya. It looks like the big door on the ark is closing, and we're off on our sea adventure. From the region of Ur of the Chaldeans, this is Brad Cumulous reporting for the Weather Network.



Get Real!

Noah's amazing story is recorded in Genesis 6–8. Grab your rain gear and check it out! Noah, his family, and the animals spent more than a year inside the ark before they came out and started a new life on earth. What would it have been like to be the only family on earth?