

What is this book all about?

The purpose of this book is to explain the most important stories in the Holy Bible. Whether you believe them or not is up to you. My responsibility is to make the stories as clear as possible.

I wrote this book using EasyEnglish, which means all ages can benefit from it. If English is a difficult language for you to read, this book will be helpful. Words that are in *italics* are located in the glossary on page 78. On pages 74 to 77 are sections from the Bible that you can also read as they connect to the stories.

After you read this book, you may want to know more about the Bible. On page 80 is a list of books that you can purchase. You can also read them free on our website. These books are not EasyEnglish, but they have more information in them. You can also listen to the same content on CD or watch it on DVD. See page 80 for contact information.

What is EasyEnglish?

EasyEnglish has limits on vocabulary. The sentences must not be complex. The spelling and grammar follow fixed rules. The purpose is to make the book easy to read and simple to understand.

Thanks

I would like to thank Wycliffe Associates UK for their part in this book and for creating the EasyEnglish standards. Beth Wiens has also worked long hours in translating the text. She was a big help in many ways. I would like to thank her and the GoodSeed team for their help from beginning to end.

WHAT ARE CHRISTMAS & EASTER ALL ABOUT?

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What are Christmas and Easter all about?

We find the answer to this question in only one book—a big book called 'The Holy Bible'.

The word *Bible* is an ancient word, which means 'book'.

The word *holy* means 'one-of-a-kind'.

When we talk about the Holy Bible, we are talking about a special, one-of-a-kind book. There are no other books like the Bible. It is holy.

The Bible talks about many gods, but it only calls one of these gods 'holy'. This God is different from all other gods. He is very special. He is one-of-a-kind.

People have names like Bill, Suzan, Ravi, and Nishika. In the same way, this special God has a name. His name is *Yahweh*.

Because Yahweh is such a special God, people in the past stopped using his name. Instead, they called him *Lord*. This is what you call someone who is important—someone who has authority. Although the Lord Yahweh is a great God, he still wants to be friends with ordinary people. He wants us to know all about him.

That is the reason God gave us the Bible. It is an important letter from Yahweh, which he wrote to all of us.

Yahweh wrote the letter many years ago. Yet, what it has to say is just as important today as when he wrote it. We all need to know what the Bible says to us. As we read this special letter, we discover what Christmas and Easter are all about.

The first pages in the Bible tell us that Yahweh was never born and he will never die. Yahweh had no beginning and has no end. This God has always existed and will always be. This is just one thing that makes him so special—one-of-a-kind.

The Bible says that, in the beginning, there was only God. There were no plants, animals or people. There was no earth, moon or sun. There were no other gods. Nothing!

In the beginning, only the Lord Yahweh existed.

The Bible says that God made all the things we can see and all the things we cannot see.

One of the first things Yahweh did was to make angels. We cannot see angels, just as we cannot see God. Both angels and God are what we call *spirits*. They are like people, but they do not have bodies of skin and bone.

Although the angels are spirits, they are not gods. They are not the same as Yahweh. God made angels to be his special servants. They were to do whatever Yahweh asked.

All the angels watched and sang as God made the world.



The Bible says that when God *created* the world, he did it in an extraordinary way. When we make things, we need pencils and paper. Sometimes we use wood, nails and glue.

However, the Bible says that when Yahweh made the world, he did not use any tools at all. God just spoke—and there it was!

God said, 'Let there be light!' Just like that, light appeared in the darkness.

Yahweh made everything we see merely by speaking words with his mouth. God has so much power—he can do anything! He is one-of-a-kind! He is holy.

The Bible tells us that God made the sun, moon and stars. He placed them in the sky right where he wanted them. God could do that because he is everywhere.

It is good to know that God is everywhere. He is with you, your family and friends all at the same time. This is true no matter how far away they go, or where they live.

Because Yahweh is everywhere at the same time, he even knows the thoughts we think. He knows and understands all things. We can never hide from God.

When we look at what Yahweh created, we see just how big and great the Lord God is.

The Bible says that God made the world in six days. Only the Lord Yahweh could do that.

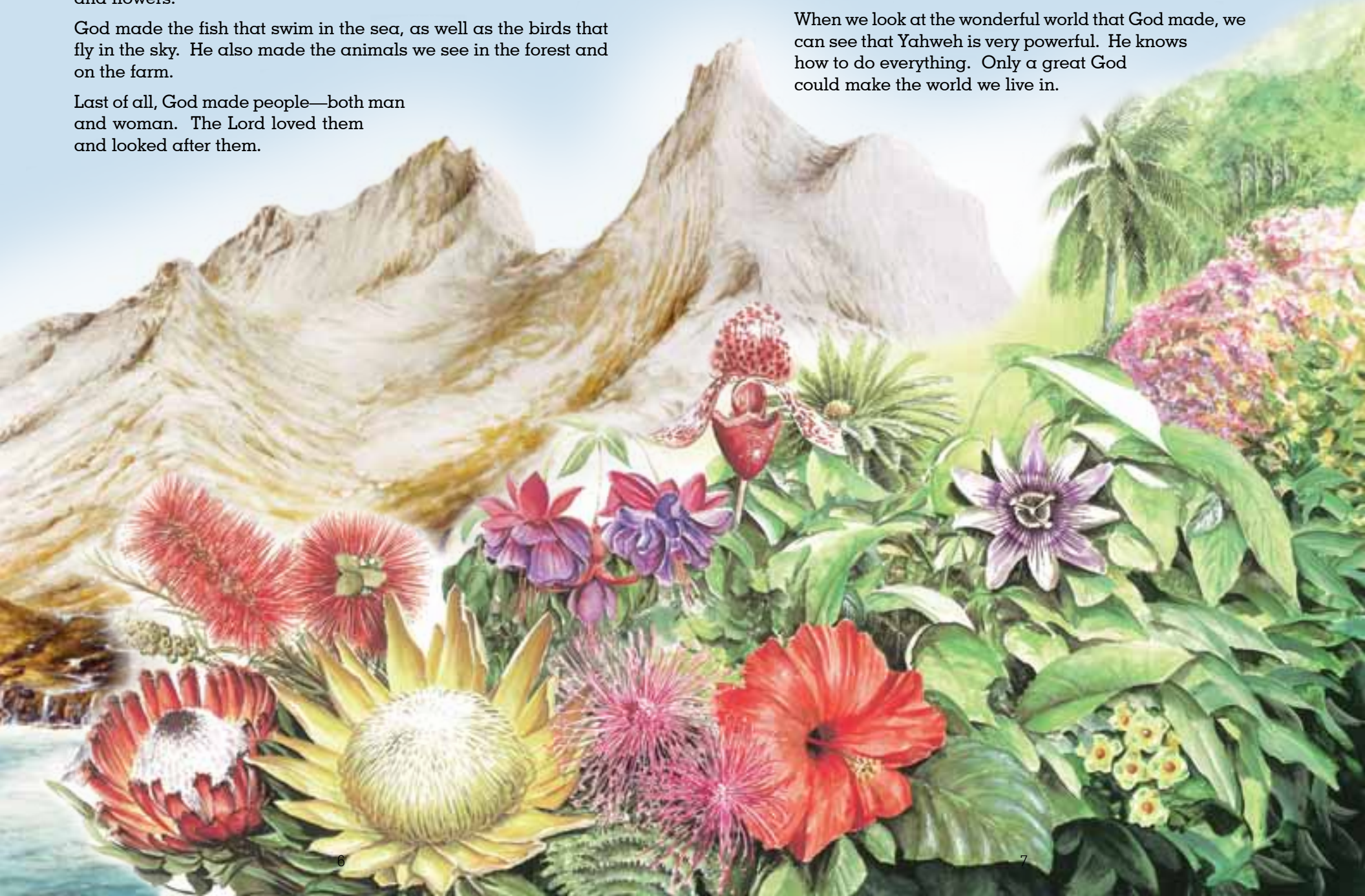
He made the food we eat, the air we breathe and the water we drink.
He made the rivers, seas and mountains. God made all the trees
and flowers.

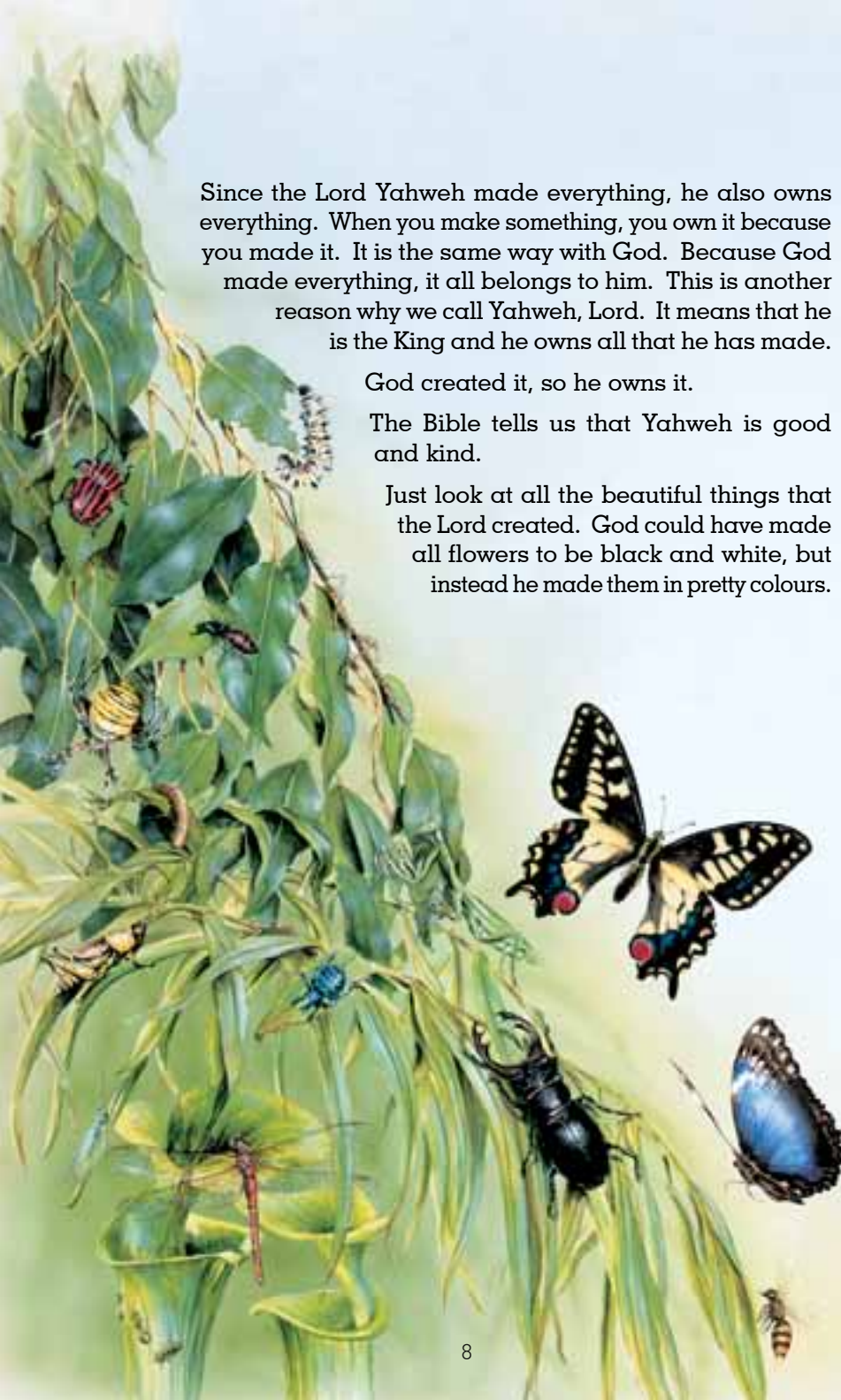
God made the fish that swim in the sea, as well as the birds that
fly in the sky. He also made the animals we see in the forest and
on the farm.

Last of all, God made people—both man
and woman. The Lord loved them
and looked after them.

He made a perfect garden. God filled it with all kinds of trees,
flowers and tame animals. He did this especially for them.
God wanted people to enjoy all that he had made.

When we look at the wonderful world that God made, we
can see that Yahweh is very powerful. He knows
how to do everything. Only a great God
could make the world we live in.





Since the Lord Yahweh made everything, he also owns everything. When you make something, you own it because you made it. It is the same way with God. Because God made everything, it all belongs to him. This is another reason why we call Yahweh, Lord. It means that he is the King and he owns all that he has made.

God created it, so he owns it.

The Bible tells us that Yahweh is good and kind.

Just look at all the beautiful things that the Lord created. God could have made all flowers to be black and white, but instead he made them in pretty colours.



God could have made all food to taste awful. Instead, he made it good to eat and it smells great. He made all kinds of fruits and flowers, insects and animals, colours and sounds—just so we could enjoy them. Yahweh did this because he cares for us. The Bible says that God loves us.

The Bible also tells us that Yahweh likes things done in a right way.

Think how confusing it would be if the sun set one afternoon and did not rise again for three days. That is why God made rules. He made a rule for the sun—it was to rise in the morning and go down in the evening. It was to do that every day without changing. God made rules for everything he created, so that the world would work in the right way.

God made rules for people too. Sometimes we do not like rules. However, just stop and think for a moment what the world would be like without them. Driving your car would be dangerous if there were no stop signs. With no rules telling us what side of the road to drive on, everyone would be confused. Without rules, our lives would be very difficult.

The Lord God made rules because he knows what is best for us. He knows that when we do things in a right way, we are happy and safe. This is just another way that Yahweh shows his love for us.

The Bible says that when God made the world, everything was perfect—there was nothing wrong with it. It was good in every way. The Lord Yahweh created a perfect world, because that is the way he is. He never does anything wrong. He is perfect.





God's home is also perfect. We call it *Heaven*. The Bible tells us that Heaven is very beautiful. It is like an enormous park with trees and a river. Right in the middle of this park, is a beautiful, safe city. This city is so wonderful, God even made the streets out of gold.

In Heaven, there is no illness, pain or death. There are no weeds or poisonous plants. In Heaven nothing is ever broken or wears out. No bad or unkind people live there and everyone is always happy. Heaven is full of beautiful music. The animals are tame and friendly. You never have to sleep in Heaven, because there is no darkness or night. It is always day.

Heaven is a perfect place where perfect people and perfect angels live with a perfect God. Heaven is so wonderful, it is hard to describe.