

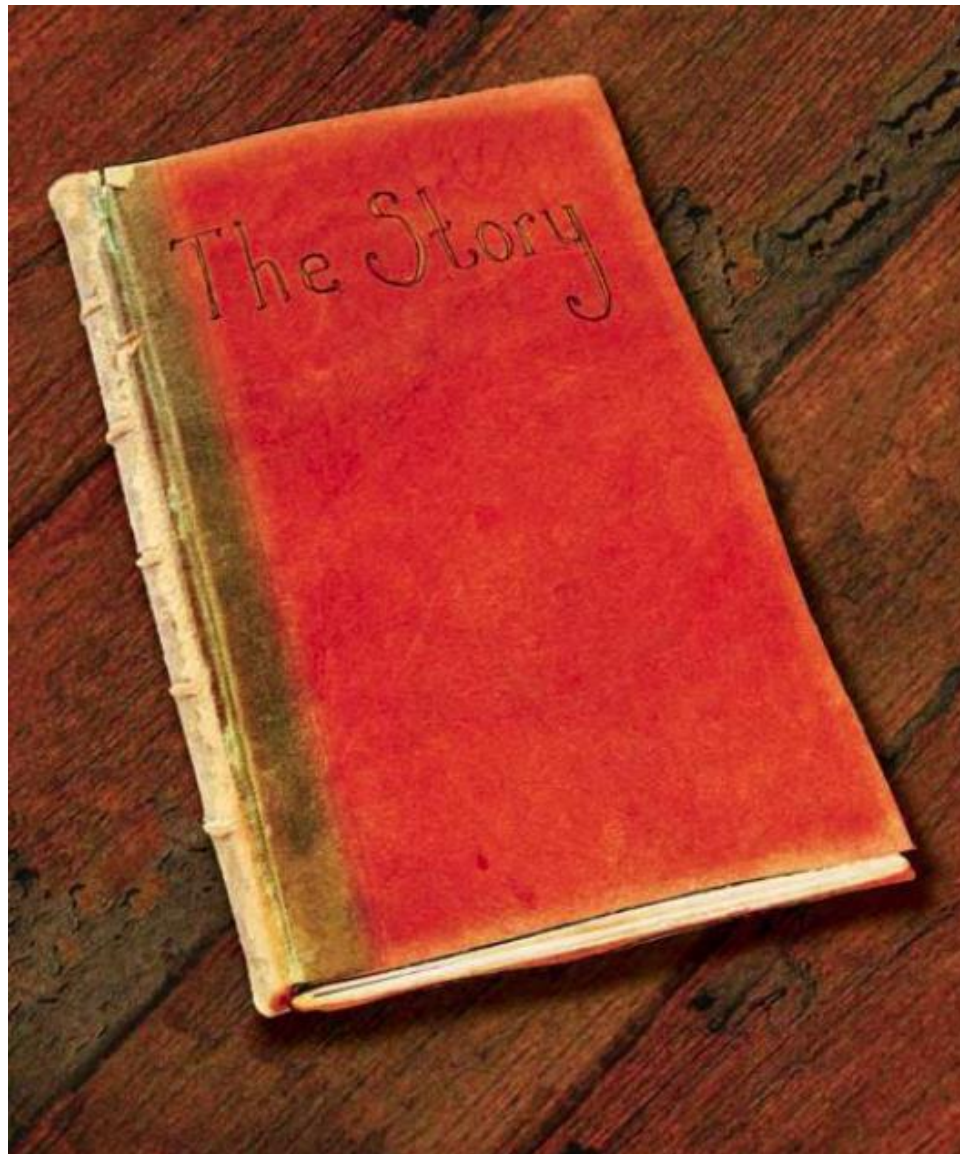
# Introduction



Now, some people think the Bible is a book of rules, telling you what you should and shouldn't do. The Bible certainly does have some rules in it. They show you how life works best. But the Bible isn't mainly about you and what you should be doing. It's about God and what he has done.



Other people think the Bible is a book of heroes, showing you people you should copy. The Bible does have some heroes in it, but (as you'll soon find out) most of the people in the Bible aren't heroes at all. They make some big mistakes (sometimes on purpose). They get afraid and run away. At times they are downright mean.



No, the Bible isn't a book of rules, or a book of heroes. The Bible is most of all a Story. It's an adventure story about a young Hero who comes from a far country to win back his lost treasure. It's a love story about a brave Prince who leaves his palace, his throne — everything — to rescue the one he loves. It's like the most wonderful of fairy' tales that has come true in real life!

You see, the best thing about this Story is — it's true.

There are lots of stories in the Bible, but all the stories are telling one Big Story. The Story of how God loves his children and comes to rescue them

It takes the whole Bible to tell this Story. And at the center of the Story there is a baby. Every Story in the Bible whispers his name. He is like the missing piece in a puzzle — the piece that makes all the other pieces fit together. and suddenly you can see a beautiful picture. And this is no ordinary bab This is the Child upon whom everything would depend. This is the Child who would one dar — but wait. Our Story starts where all good stories start. Right at the very beginning...



# The beginning: a perfect home

*The Song of Creation, from Genesis 1 – 2*

IN THE BEGINNING, there was nothing.

Nothing to hear. Nothing to feel. Nothing to see.

Only emptiness. And darkness. And . . . nothing but nothing.

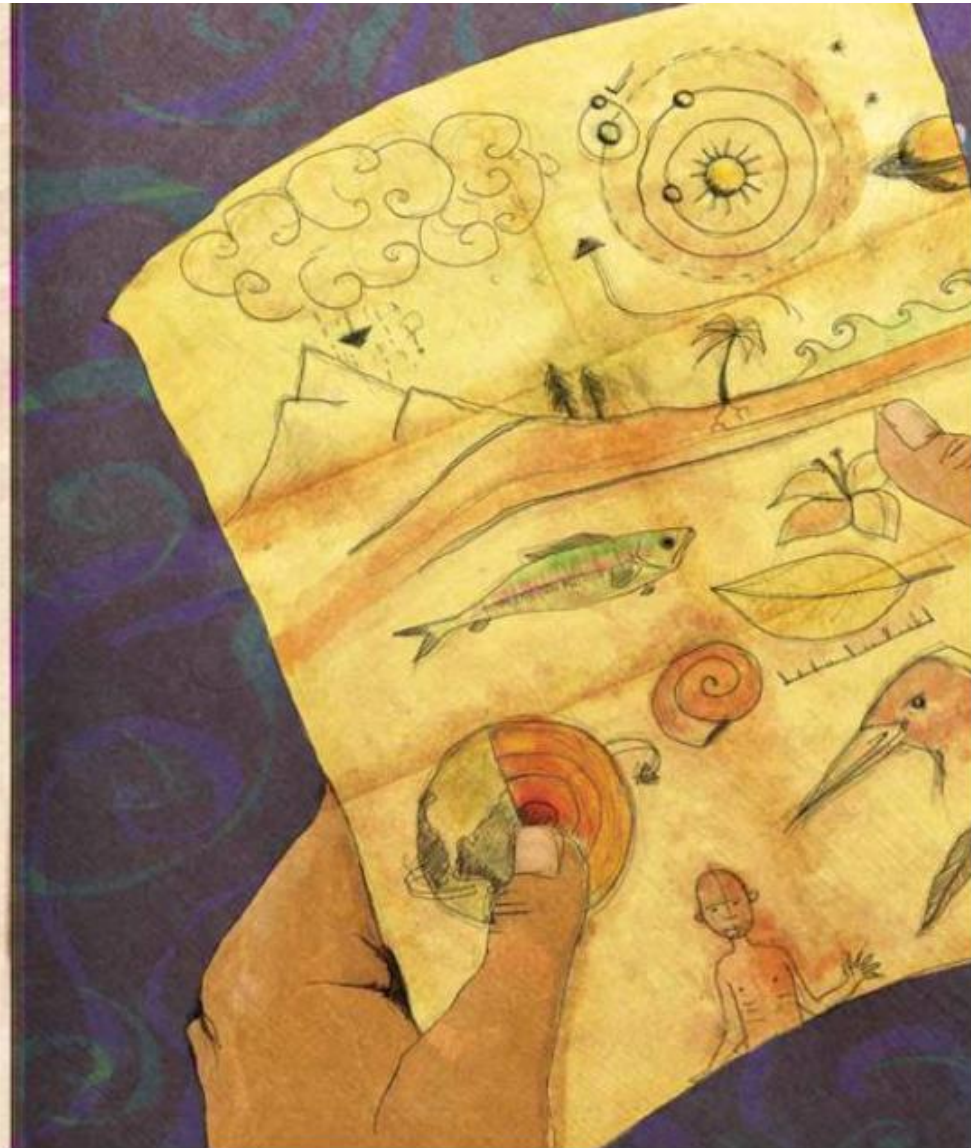
But God was there. And God had a wonderful Plan.

“I’ll take this emptiness,” God said, “and I’ll fill it up!

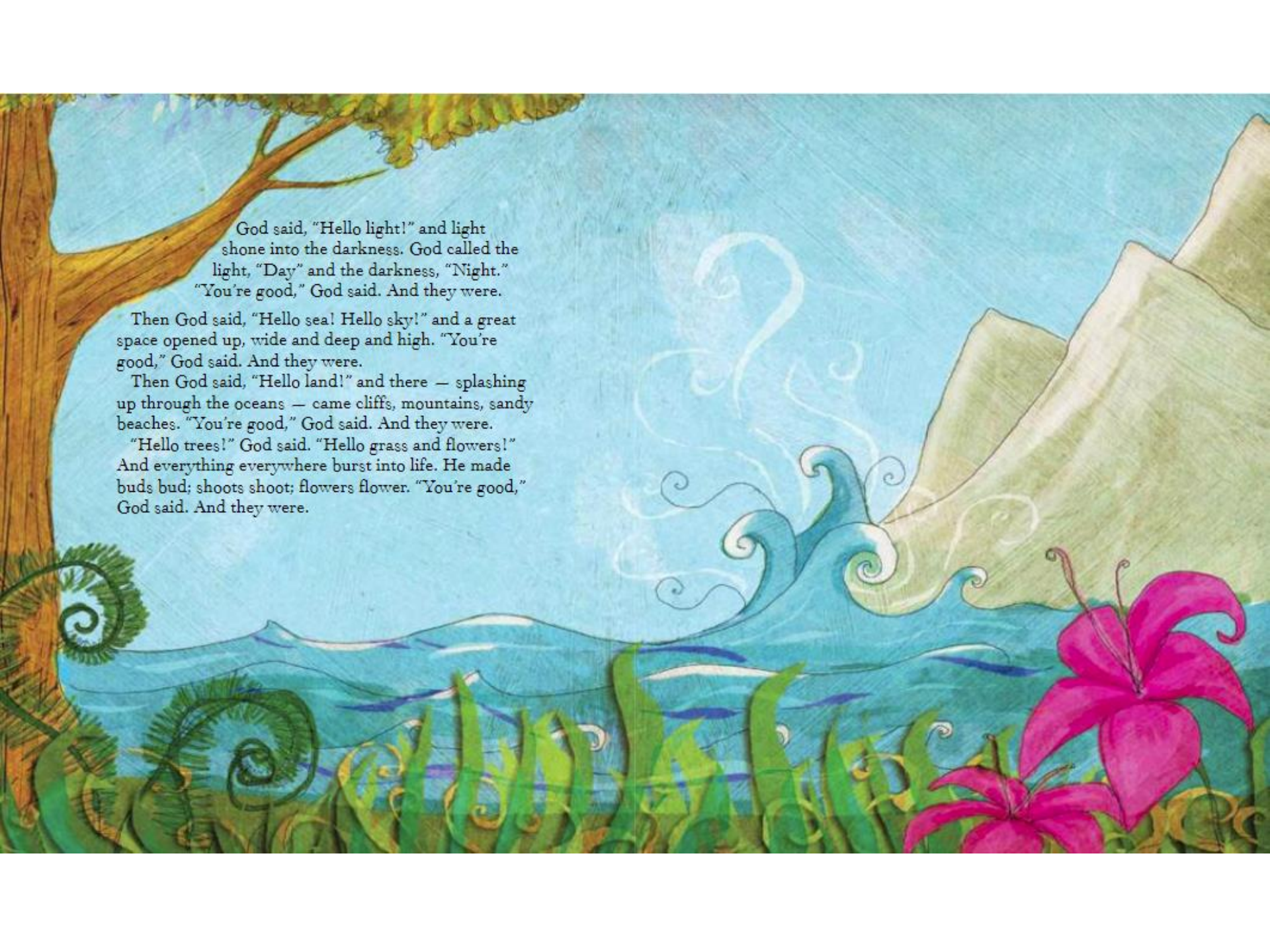
Out of the darkness, I’m going to make light! And out of the nothing, I’m going to make . . . EVERYTHING!”

Like a mommy bird flutters her wings over her eggs to help her babies hatch, God hovered over the deep, silent darkness. He was making life happen.

God spoke. That’s all. And whatever he said, it happened.





A vibrant, painterly illustration of a landscape. On the left, a large tree with a thick brown trunk and green foliage frames the scene. The sky is a deep blue with white, swirling patterns. In the middle ground, a blue sea with white-capped waves flows towards the right. In the background, there are green, rocky mountains. The foreground is filled with lush green grass and several bright pink lilies. The overall style is whimsical and artistic, with visible brushstrokes and a rich color palette.

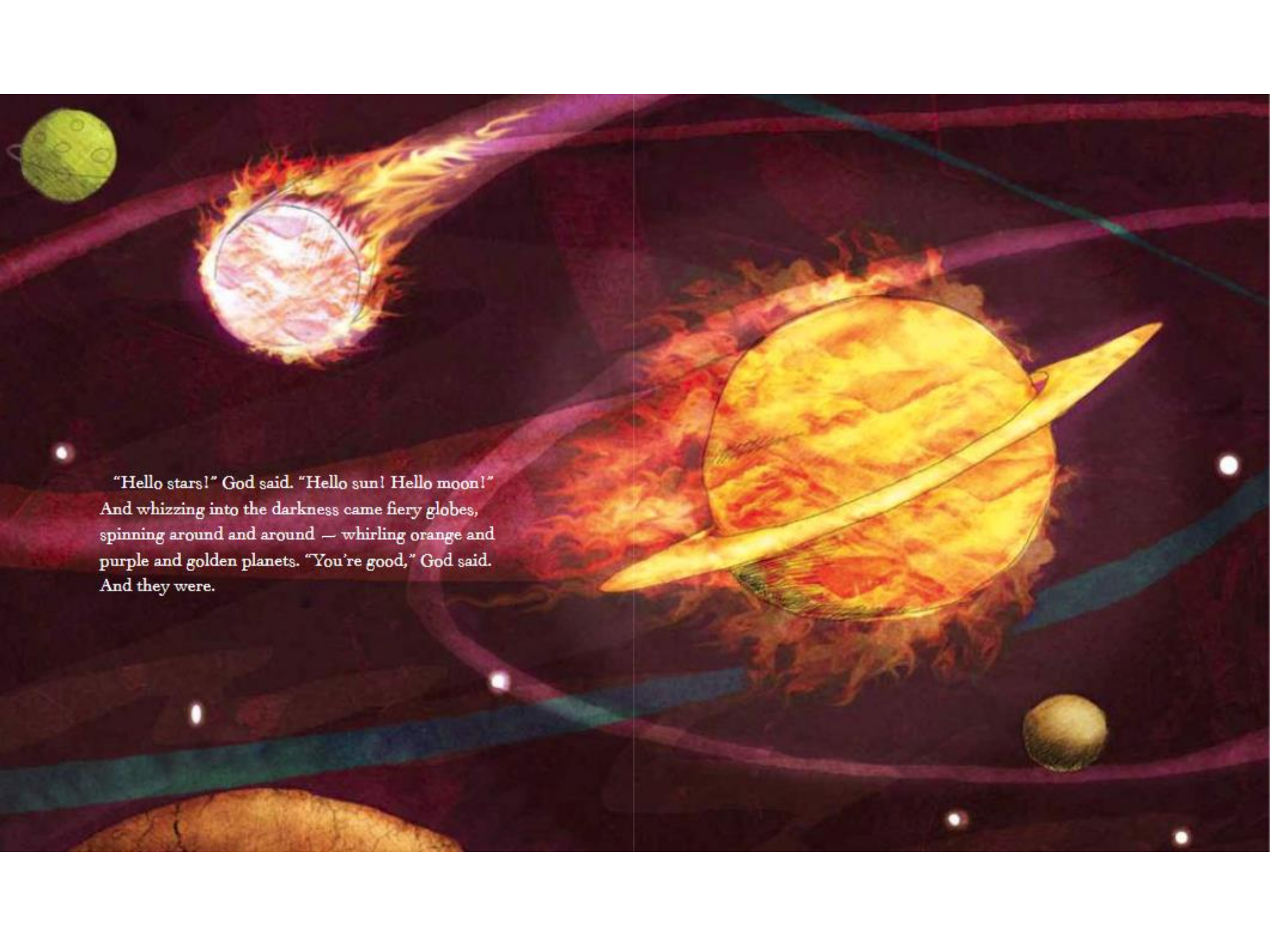
God said, "Hello light!" and light  
shone into the darkness. God called the  
light, "Day" and the darkness, "Night."  
"You're good," God said. And they were.

Then God said, "Hello sea! Hello sky!" and a great  
space opened up, wide and deep and high. "You're  
good," God said. And they were.

Then God said, "Hello land!" and there — splashing  
up through the oceans — came cliffs, mountains, sandy  
beaches. "You're good," God said. And they were.

"Hello trees!" God said. "Hello grass and flowers!"  
And everything everywhere burst into life. He made  
buds bud; shoots shoot; flowers flower. "You're good,"  
God said. And they were.





“Hello stars!” God said. “Hello sun! Hello moon!”  
And whizzing into the darkness came fiery globes,  
spinning around and around — whirling orange and  
purple and golden planets. “You’re good,” God said.  
And they were.



"Hello birds!" God said. And with a fluttering and flapping and chirping and singing, birds filled the skies. "Hello fish!" God said. And with a darting and dashing and wriggling and splashing, fish filled the seas! "You're good," God said. And they were.

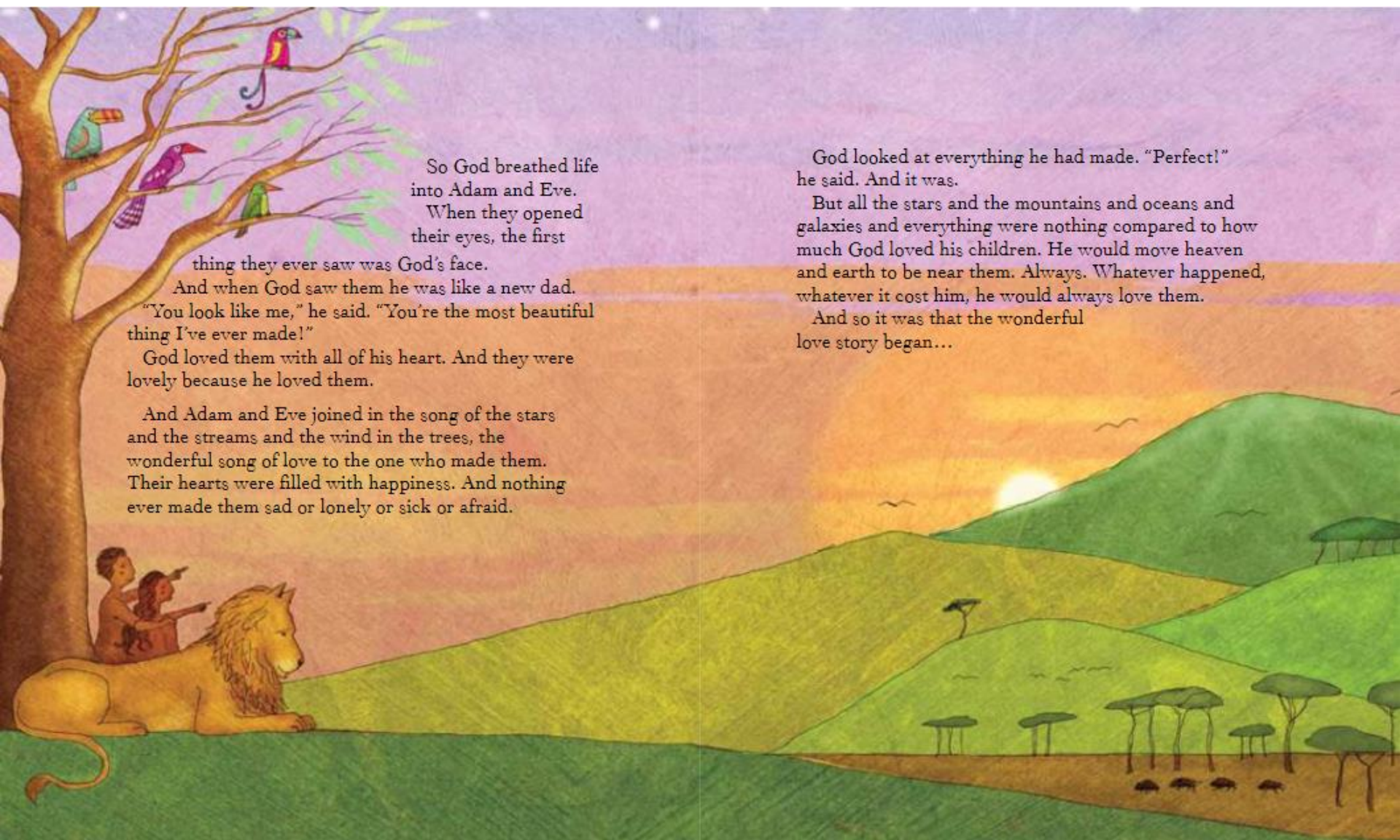
Then God said, "Hello animals!" And everyone came out to play. The earth was filled with noisy noises — growling and gobbling and snapping and snorting and happy skerfuffling. "You're good," God said. And they were.

God saw all that he had made and he loved them. And they were lovely because he loved them.

But God saved the best for last. From the beginning, God had a shining dream in his heart. He would make people to share his Forever Happiness. They would be his children, and the world would be their perfect home.







So God breathed life into Adam and Eve.

When they opened their eyes, the first

thing they ever saw was God's face.

And when God saw them he was like a new dad.

"You look like me," he said. "You're the most beautiful thing I've ever made!"

God loved them with all of his heart. And they were lovely because he loved them.

And Adam and Eve joined in the song of the stars and the streams and the wind in the trees, the wonderful song of love to the one who made them. Their hearts were filled with happiness. And nothing ever made them sad or lonely or sick or afraid.

God looked at everything he had made. "Perfect!" he said. And it was.

But all the stars and the mountains and oceans and galaxies and everything were nothing compared to how much God loved his children. He would move heaven and earth to be near them. Always. Whatever happened, whatever it cost him, he would always love them.

And so it was that the wonderful love story began...