

Children's Corner

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THY WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN

Joseph was in a terrible position. His own brothers, overcome by their jealousy and hatred, tore off his coat of many colours and through him into a pit. They would have even murdered him, without Reuben's intervention. Then they despicably sold him into slavery, never to see his father again, never to be free again (as it would have seemed at the time!).

How could this be God's will?

Daniel had served the Lord faithfully, resisting the temptations to become defiled with the immorality of the heathen around him. The king had issued a decree. No man should pray to any god but the king. Daniel knew this was idolatry and refused to stop praying to the Lord. He was thrown into the den of lions, to be eaten alive.

How could this be God's will?

There was a little girl, living in Israel. Her enemies, the Syrians, attacked her home and kidnapped her. They snatched her away from everyone she loved, everything she knew. She was marched off

to a godless country, away from the influence of her own church and family. She was forced to live as a slave.

How could this be God's will?

In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus teaches us to pray, "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." Luther in the catechism explains this: "The good and gracious will of God is done indeed without our prayer; but we pray that it may be done among us also."

What is God's will?

God's will has already been discussed in previous devotions. God wants His Name to be hallowed, kept holy, among us:

1. God's Word to be taught in its truth and purity;
2. We, as God's children, may also lead a holy life according to it.

He also wants us to pray for His Kingdom:

1. May the Lord make and keep me in the one true faith;

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2. May the Christian Church grow on earth;
3. May Jesus come at last to take His Church to heaven.

It is the Father's good pleasure, His will, to give us the kingdom; we pray now that His will be done.

In heaven the angels serve God gladly and willingly. May His will on earth be done as the angels in heaven perform His will.

This is called the good and gracious will of God. We know that if God desires that we should call Him our Father, then He must have a good and gracious will towards us.

God wants all men to be saved, 1 Timothy 2:4. This is why He sent His Son into the world.

The good and gracious will of God will be done even without our prayer. In other words, God will bring men to faith and salvation, whether we pray for it or not.

But we are praying that His will be done also in us. This will is done to us if we hallow His Name and live in His kingdom.

If this will of God is to be accomplished in us, the will and aim of someone else will have to be frustrated.

There is an evil counsel and will opposed to the will of God. This will is trying to prevent us from hallowing God's Name. It is also trying to prevent God's kingdom from coming to us.

The devil is the old foe of God and mankind, and, is determined on our destruction.

The world, the worldly people, those who are not in Christ's kingdom of grace, the unbelieving people, try to get the



Our flesh, that is, our evil nature, our wicked heart, is also opposed to our walking in the ways of God.

There is nothing, however, our enemies can do to prevent God's will being fulfilled:

Isaiah 14:24: The Lord of hosts, hath sworn, saying, Surely as I have thought, so shall it come to pass, and as I have purposed, so shall it stand.

With Saint Paul we can rejoice triumphantly: **If God be for us, who can be against us?** Romans 8:31. God loves us so much that He sent His Son into the world to die for our sins. What do we then have to fear from sin, death, and the devil?

What reason do we have to fear anything? God is our Father, if we believe in His Son, Jesus. Nothing can prevent His will from being fulfilled. And to all who love Him, who repent of their sins, believe in Jesus, and in faith seek to lead a God pleasing life, God promises:

Romans 8:33: We know that all things work together for good to them that love God.

We cannot always understand God's will. Isaiah writes chapter 55: V. 8. **For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, saith the Lord.**

V. 9. **For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts.**

But we don't have to understand God, only believe and trust Him. Joseph couldn't understand God's ways, but simply trusted God's promises. But hear Joseph's verdict in Genesis 50.20: **But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.**

As a result of Daniel's faithfulness, King Darius issued a decree. He declared:

Daniel 6:26: **I make a decree, That in every dominion of my kingdom, men tremble and fear, before the God of Daniel; for He is the living God and steadfast forever, and His kingdom that which shall not be destroyed, and His dominion shall be even unto the end.**

And what about that little girl taken captive by the Syrians? She is only mentioned in two verses of the Bible, but how touching her example is: 2 Kings 5:3, 4:

"V. 2. **And the Syrians had gone out by companies, and had brought away captive out of the land of Israel a little maid; and she waited on Naaman's wife.** V. 3. **And she said unto her mistress, Would God my lord, Naaman, were with the prophet that is in Samaria, for he would recover him of his leprosy.**

As a result of her loving testimony, Naaman was healed of his leprosy. It is believed that he was converted and brought the worship of the Lord back with him to Syria.

What wonderful ways in which the will of God was accomplished!

He promises that He will always be with His children. He promises that, whatever He allows to happen to His children, He is always in control. May we always love and trust in Him, and willingly do according to His commandments.

Leave all to His direction;
In wisdom He doth reign;
And in a way most wondrous
He will His course maintain.
Soon He, His promise keeping,
With wonder-working skill
Shall put away the sorrows
That now thy spirit fill.

Jesus Prays

Prayer was a major part of Jesus' life and ministry. Can you unravel the puzzle below to reveal part of a prayer of Jesus?



A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
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Mark 1 _ : _ 6

3

Out and About!

The Lord's Prayer

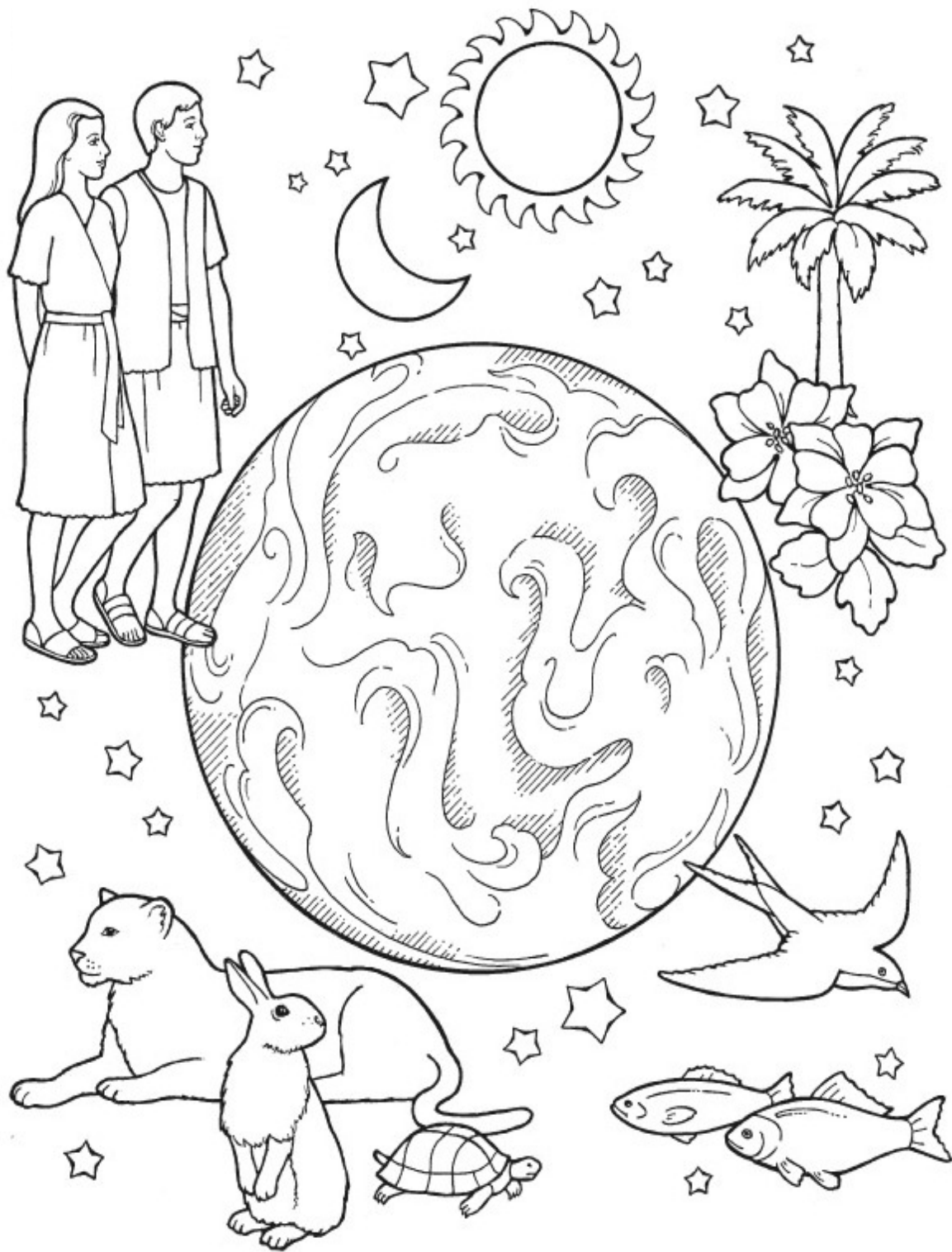
Word Bank

FATHER	GLORY
HEAVEN	EVIL
EARTH	DELIVER
BREAD	KINGDOM
FORGIVE	AMEN

Y R O L G T F N E F H D
D E L I V E R A J O E A
F O R G I V E R T A A E
M O D G N I K B R H V R
T E V I L Q W T R V E B
N E M A Y R H J R Y N R



COLOURING



The Creation

God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good (Genesis 1:31).

GOLDEN TEXT: Psalm 104:24

Oh Lord, how manifold are Thy works! In wisdom hast Thou made them all; the earth is full of Thy riches.

Dear Children.— No thoughtful boy or girl can look around at the beautiful world in which we live, or see the bright sun, the silvery moon, and the twinkling stars, or stand by the shore seeing and hearing the sights and sounds of the vast ocean, without a feeling of awe and wonder. Where did all this come from? Who made it? Why was it made? How was it made? Listen, while you are told the answer to these questions from the Word of God.

THE CREATION

GENESIS 1-2

The Beginning.— In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form and void (empty); and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

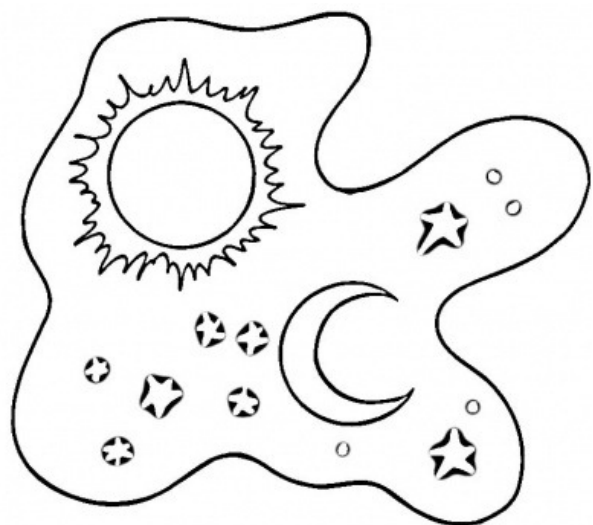
First Day: Light.— And God said, “Let there be light!” And there was light. (Not sun and moon, but simply light!) And God divided the light from the darkness. And God called the light Day and the darkness He called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.

Second Day: Firmament, or Heaven, or Sky.—And God said, “Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters.” And it was so. And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day.

Third Day: Land and Sea.— And God said, “Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called He Seas. And God said, “Let the earth bring

forth **grass**, the **herb**, and the **fruit trees**.” And it was so. And the evening and the morning were the third day.

Forth Day: Sun, Moon, and Stars. — And God said, “Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years, and to give light upon the earth.” And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the



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night; He made the stars also. And the evening and the morning were the forth day.

Fifth Day: Creatures of Sea and Birds.—

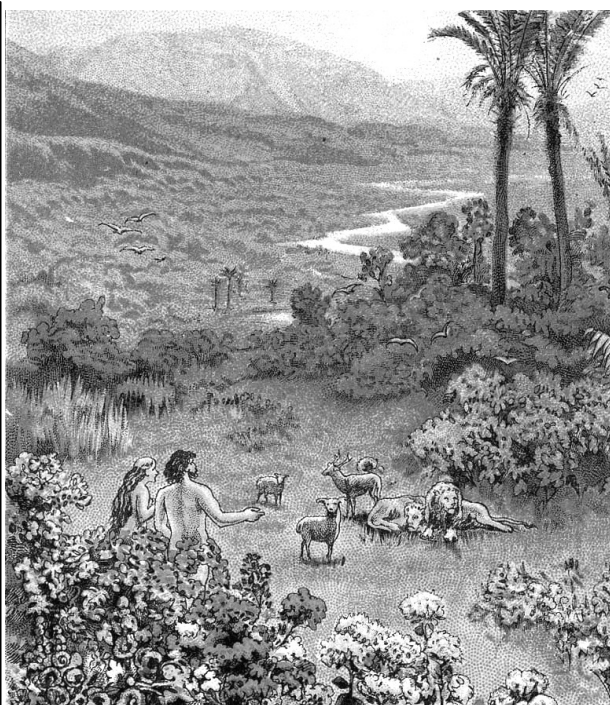
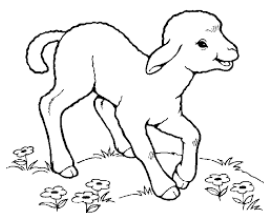
And God said, “Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowls (birds) that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven.” And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, and every winged fowl. And God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply.” And the evening and the morning were the fifth day.

Sixth Day: Land Animals and Man. —

And God said, “Let the earth bring forth cattle, and creeping things, and beast of the earth.” And it was so.

And God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.” **So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them.** And God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful, and multiply and replenish the earth, and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.” And God saw everything that He had made, and behold **it was very good.** And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

Seventh Day: Rest.— Thus were the heavens and the earth finished, and all the host of them. And God rested on the seventh day from all His work. And He blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it He had rested from all His work.



Dear Children. — That is the story of the Creation. There is only one other story as wonderful as this one, and that is the story of Jesus, the Saviour of sinners. The older we become, the more thoughtful we become, the more we wonder at this marvellous story. And we cannot help feeling that it is true. It is the first lesson that God gives to men about Himself and His works, of which man himself is one. What does it tell us? God is the Almighty Creator of heaven and earth, and all they contain. He is the Father or Fountain or Source of all living creatures. He is all-wise and infinitely good. And He loves all the creatures He has made. You are His creatures, and He loves you also.

The heavens declare Thy glory,
The firmament Thy power;
Day unto day the story
Repeats from hour to hour;
Night unto night replying,
Proclaims in every land,
O Lord, with voice undying,
The wonders of Thy hand. (Hymn 186:1)

(Taken from “Our Sunday School Paper” Jan 26, 1939. Used by permission.)

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QUESTIONS

1. Who created heaven and earth?
2. When?
3. What did the Spirit of God do?
4. What did God create on the first day?
5. What did He say?
6. What two things did God divide?
7. What were the evening and the morning?
8. What did God create on the second day?
9. What did He call the firmament?
10. What did God create on the third day?
11. What did he say?
12. What did He call the dry land?
13. What did He call the gathered waters?
14. What did God cause the earth to bring forth?
15. What did God create on the fourth day?
16. What were they to divide?
17. What were they to be for?
18. How many great lights did God make?
19. What did he also make?
20. What happened on the fifth day?
21. How did it happen?
22. What did God do with these creatures?
23. What did he say to them?
24. What did God create on the sixth day?
25. What brought forth the land animals?
26. When was man created?
27. What did God say?
28. Like Whom was man to be?
29. Over what was man to rule?
30. In whose image did God then create man?
31. How many sexes did God create?
32. What did God say to them?
33. What did God then see?
34. How was it all?
35. What was thus finished?
36. What did God do on the seventh day?
37. Why did He sanctify it?

PUZZLES

How well do you know the prayer life of Jesus?

1. What food is mentioned in the Lord's model prayer from the Sermon on the Mount?
2. Fill in the blanks: *For Thine is the _ _ _ _ _ , and the _ _ _ _ _ , and the _ _ _ _ _ , for ever. Amen.*
3. Who were the three disciples whom Jesus took with Him when He prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane?
4. How many times did Jesus pray in the Garden of Gethsemane?
5. True or False: Jesus prayed for others but never for Himself?
6. Choose A or B: When Jesus prayed for His disciples, He asked that God would
A) *take them out of the world*
B) *keep them from the evil.*
7. When Jesus prayed for all His disciples, what did He ask that they be?
A) *an example to the broken-hearted*
B) *a perfect master of His Father's word*
C) *seed that grow out of season*
D) *one, as He and the Father are one*

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