

IN THE DESERT

THE WORLD'S STORY

Ezekiel 29:3 NLT Give them this message from the Sovereign LORD: "I am your enemy, O Pharaoh, king of Egypt—you great monster, lurking in the streams of the Nile. For you have said, 'The Nile River is mine; I made it for myself.'"

Psalms 106:37-38 NLT They even sacrificed their sons and their daughters to the demons. ⁽³⁸⁾ They shed innocent blood, the blood of their sons and daughters. By sacrificing them to the idols of Canaan, they polluted the land with murder.

GOD'S STORY

Genesis 1:1-4 NLT In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ⁽²⁾ The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters. ⁽³⁾ Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. ⁽⁴⁾ And God saw that the light was good. Then He separated the light from the darkness.

Romans 1:20 NLT For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God.

Romans 5:12 NLT When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned.

1 Corinthians 15:20-21 NLT But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead. He is the first of a great harvest of all who have died. ⁽²¹⁾ So you see, just as death came into the world through a man, now the resurrection from the dead has begun through another man.

WHAT STORY ARE YOU CHOOSING TO LIVE?

Romans 1:21-25 NLT Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn't worship Him as God or even give Him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. As a result, their minds became dark and confused. ⁽²²⁾ Claiming to be wise, they instead became utter fools. ⁽²³⁾ And instead of worshiping the glorious, ever-living God, they worshiped idols made to look like mere people and birds and animals and reptiles. ⁽²⁴⁾ So God abandoned them to do whatever shameful things their hearts desired. As a result, they did vile and degrading things with each other's bodies. ⁽²⁵⁾ They traded the truth about God for a lie. So they worshiped and served the things God created instead of the Creator himself, who is worthy of eternal praise! Amen.

Joshua 24:14 NLT So fear the LORD and serve him wholeheartedly. Put away forever the idols your ancestors worshiped when they lived beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt. Serve the LORD alone.

1 Corinthians 10:20-22 NLT No, not at all. I am saying that these sacrifices are offered to demons, not to God. And I don't want you to participate with demons. ⁽²¹⁾ You cannot drink from the cup of the Lord and from the cup of demons, too. You cannot eat at the Lord's Table and at the table of demons, too. ⁽²²⁾ What? Do we dare to rouse the Lord's jealousy? Do you think we are stronger than He is?

THINK & DISCUSS:

1. Talk about the similarities between ancient Egypt's world story and our culture today?
2. How difficult is it for you to explain God's story?
3. What story are you choosing to live?