

KEVIN DEYOUNG

# WITH THE BIGGEST STORY

HOW THE SNAKE CRUSHER  
BRINGS US BACK TO THE GARDEN

ILLUSTRATED BY  
DON CLARK

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CROSSWAY • WHEATON, ILLINOIS





ONCE UPON A TIME there lived a man and a woman. They were the happiest people on the planet. True, they were the *only* people on the planet, but they were still terrifically happy.

Their names were Adam and Eve, and God made them. He made them in his image, little mirrors to reflect God's glory. And like everything else God made, he made them good.

It was a wonderful time to be God's children in God's wonderful world.





Unfortunately, things didn't stay happy and wonderful for long.

On one very bad day, Adam ate from the only tree God had declared off-limits. Adam failed. It was a terrible day, the second-worst day in the history of the world.

A snake had tricked Adam and Eve and told them a lie about the fruit. He said they would be like God if they ate it. But actually, the opposite was true. When they ate the fruit, they found themselves far away from God.







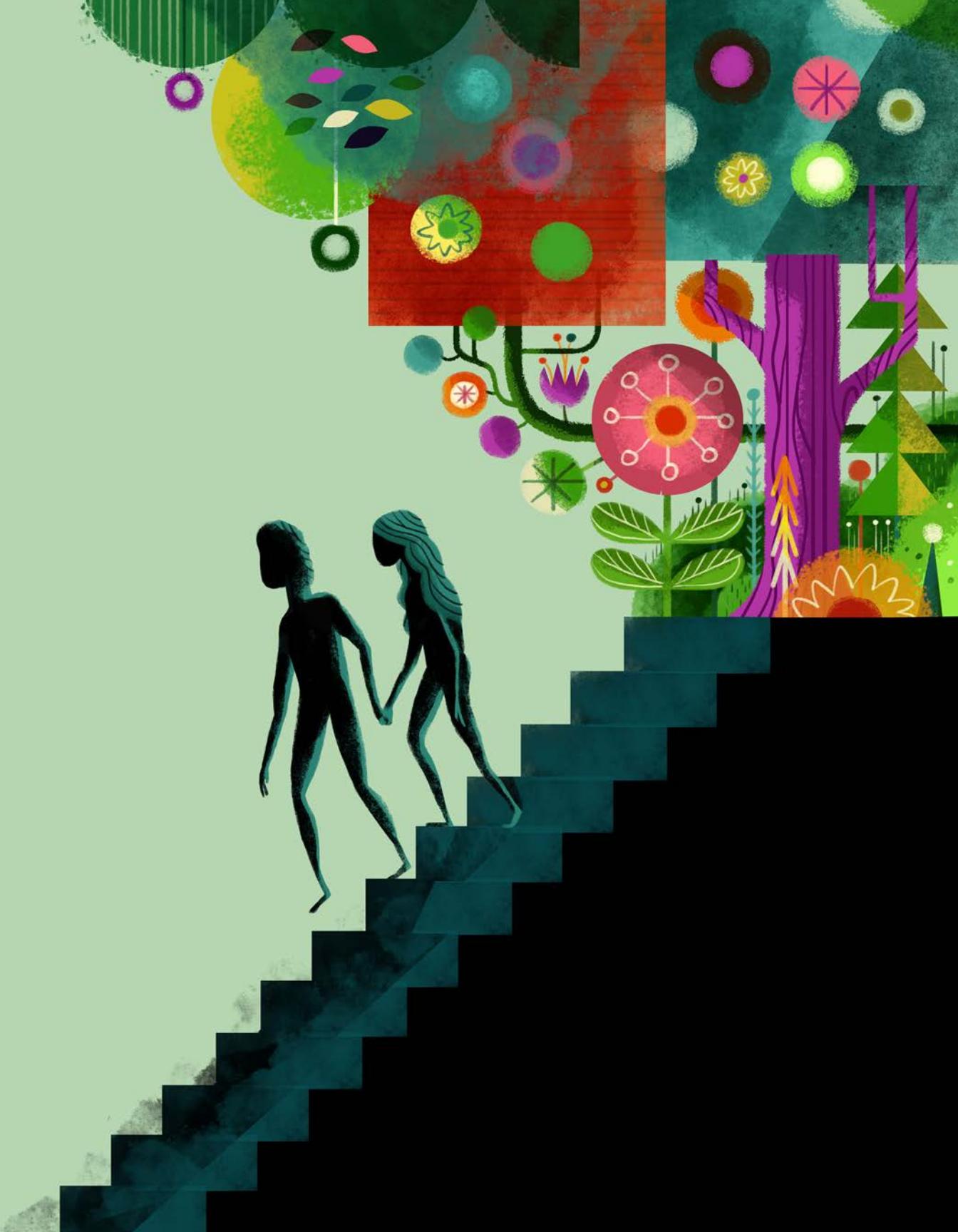
They had disobeyed God's word and believed the lie of that devilish Snake instead of the truth. Being near to God—and having him draw near to us—would not be easy any longer.

God was not happy with Adam and Eve. He wasn't happy with the Snake either. God put a curse on the man and the woman and the Snake and everything else.

He kicked Adam and Eve out of the garden Paradise he had made for them. It wasn't possible for a people who were so bad to live with a God who is so good.

They had to go.





But before they left, God made a promise. He promised that the evil Serpent, the Devil, would always be at war with Eve and her children.

Now that doesn't sound like a very nice promise—that bad guys and good guys would fight all the time. Who wants to be in a war that never ends?





But here's where the good part of the promise comes in: God promised that one of Eve's children would, someday, eventually, sooner or later, crush the head of that nasty Snake.

Nobody knew when or how, but she would have a child to put things right.





ADLY, THINGS GOT A LOT WORSE  
before they got any better.

Adam and Eve had several kids, including two brothers named Cain and Abel. Abel trusted God, but Cain did not. And when God accepted Abel's gift and not Cain's, Cain got very angry—so angry, so hurt, and so jealous that he killed his brother.

It was the first murder in history, but it wouldn't be the last.



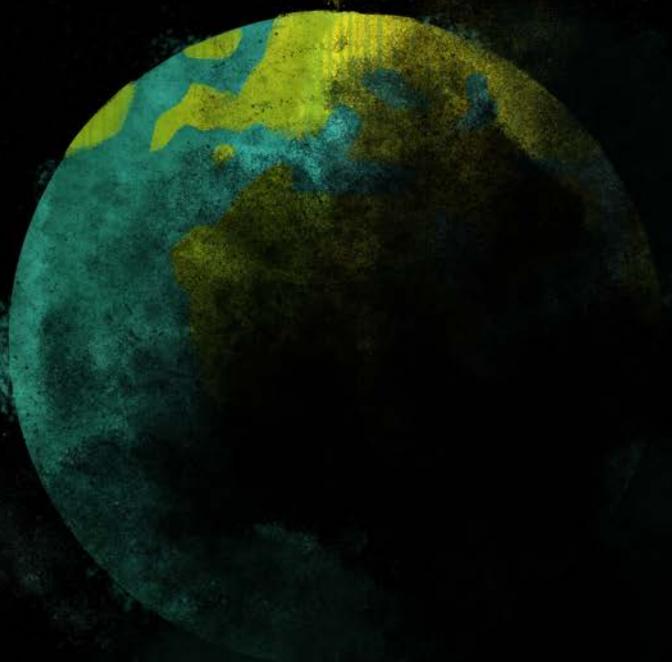
Things were not the way they were supposed to be. Everything fell apart after sin entered the world.

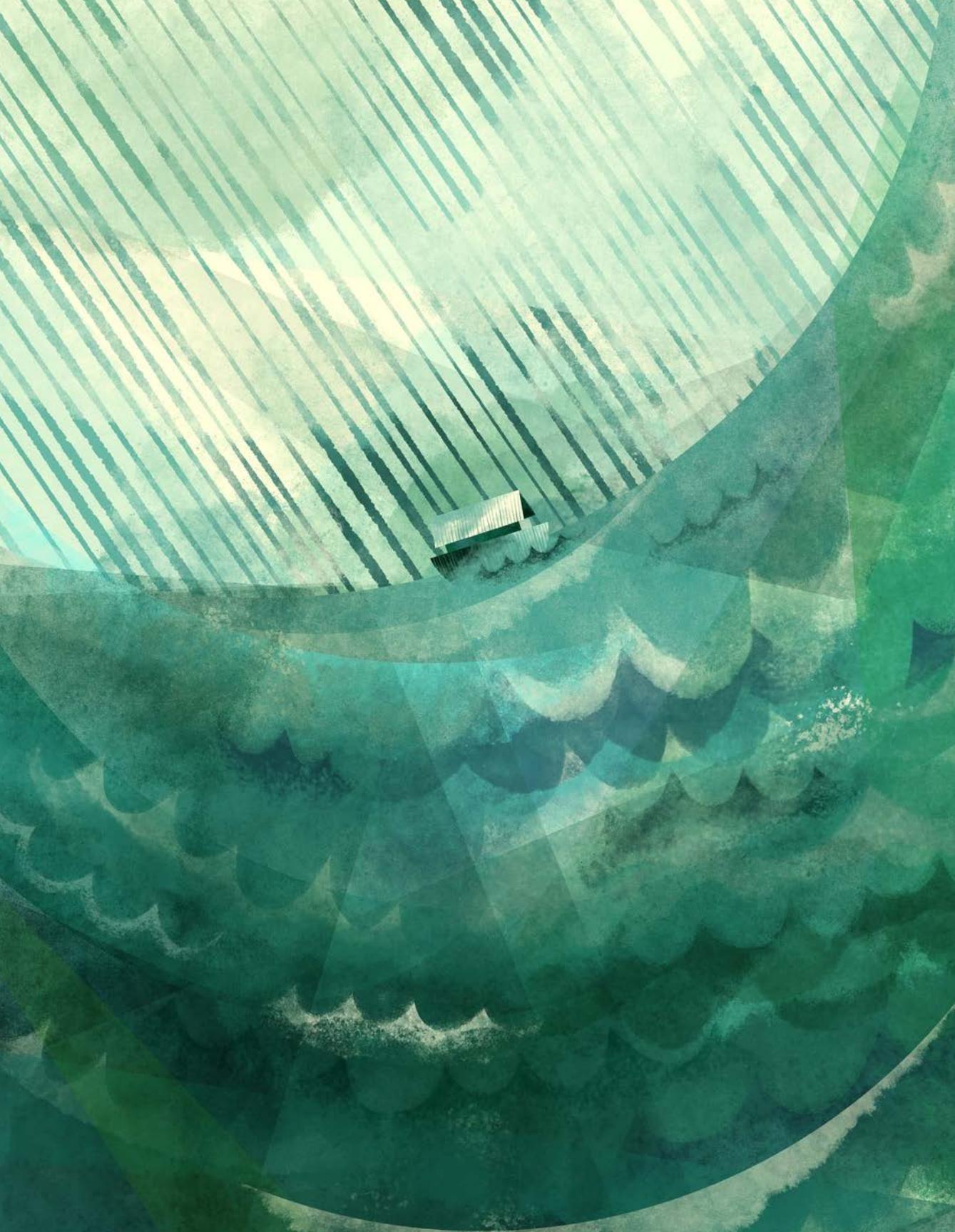
Things got so bad so fast that God decided to start over. The people on the earth were terribly wicked in their hearts, all the time, every day, nonstop.



They didn't deserve to enjoy God's world anymore.

So God took it from them.





The background of the image is a dark, textured green color. It features several large, semi-transparent geometric shapes, including triangles and circles, which overlap each other. These shapes are rendered in a lighter shade of green, creating a sense of depth and movement. The overall effect is abstract and organic.

Or, more exactly, he took *them* from *it*.

He sent a flood that wiped away everyone and everything, because it had all been stained with sin.



Well, almost everything. God saved one family on the earth—one family that trusted him and believed what he said.

Noah and his wife, and their sons and their wives, were spared. They lived for a lot of days with a lot of animals in a big boat called an ark. It rained and rained.

God was going to start over with his creation. He was angry with the world that hated him, but he was still at work to save the world that he loved. That's why he rescued Noah and his family.

God wanted to give his people another shot. God was going to start over with a new world, and Noah was going to be a new kind of Adam.





The problem was that Noah was *too much* like the first Adam. It didn't take long after they got out of the boat for Noah to do some pretty bad stuff himself.

He trusted God enough to build an ark when everyone laughed at him, but it turns out he could be just as foul as everybody else. Even one of Noah's sons got cursed, just like everything got cursed back in the garden.

History was repeating itself. Whether it was Adam or Noah, the first world in the beginning or the second world after the flood, people just couldn't get things right.





One time, a whole bunch of people got together to build a giant tower. They thought they could build all the way up to heaven. But it must not have been all that big because God had to come down just to see it.

And when God saw it, he was not pleased. Everyone was working together, which was okay, but they weren't working for God, and that was not okay. They were trying to show how smart and impressive they could be all on their own. They thought they didn't need God. So God mixed up all their languages and scattered the people all over the place.

Things were still not going well in the world God had made. Thankfully, God was still not done saving his people.



# THE BIGGEST STORY

will be available in August 2015.

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## SAMPLER EDITION

In *The Biggest Story*, best-selling author and pastor Kevin DeYoung leads readers on an exciting journey through the Bible, connecting the dots from the garden of Eden to the return of Christ. This imaginative retelling of the Bible's core message—how the snake crusher brings us back to the garden—features action-packed illustrations and engaging storytelling that will be enjoyed by the whole family.

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