

## *BIBLE DISCOVERY*

At the beginning of time there was nothing – but God changed all that, as the children will discover this week.

The Bible makes it clear that God created human beings and that we human beings have been made like God in some ways. Like God, we human beings can choose, know, and create, like God we can control, love and feel. But we human beings can also envy, murder, torture and exploit, we human beings can also oppress, fight, degrade and spoil. We may think that we are doing quite well, but none of us are what we should be.

Today's Bible passage tells us that God made all kinds of trees grow from the ground, trees which were beautiful to look at and trees which produced delicious fruit. What a feast in every way!

In the verses immediately after today's Bible passage we also hear of pure gold, rare perfumes, and precious stones being found.

God made a beautiful world for us to enjoy and to be part of. But people can go wrong and can use creation in a destructive way, so all this beautiful world can become spoiled or misused, exploited or abused. When we human beings first had to choose whether to be the kind of people God wanted or not, we pleased ourselves. When we human beings first had to choose whether to live with God and in his ways or not, we went our own way, against God. When we human beings first had to choose whether to obey God or not, we disobeyed him. And we've been pleasing ourselves, going our own way and disobeying him ever since

This spoiled our beautiful relationship with God and the beauty of the world we live in. From then on, people have needed to be changed again. That is a transformation that only God can make possible through what Jesus did on the cross. It's that transformation in us that can make the difference to the world we live in, for God also wants us to make a difference to his world by doing things to help the environment – as we are transformed, so God wants us to transform the world around us – that is what Wastewatchers is all about!

We are all looking forward to the time when God's work of changing those who love him, and changing the world, will be completed. Meanwhile, listen to what Paul wrote almost 2,000 years ago – 'I am sure that what we are suffering now cannot compare with the glory that will be shown to us. In fact, all creation is eagerly waiting for God to show who his children are.

Meanwhile, creation is confused, but not because it wants to be confused. God made it this way in the hope that creation would be set free from decay and would share in the glorious freedom of his children. We know that all creation is still groaning and is in pain, like a woman about to give birth. But we also know that nothing can separate us from God's love – not life or death, not angels or spirits, not the present or the future, not powers above or powers below. Nothing in all creation can separate us from God's love for us in Christ Jesus our Lord! Wow! Wow! Wow!