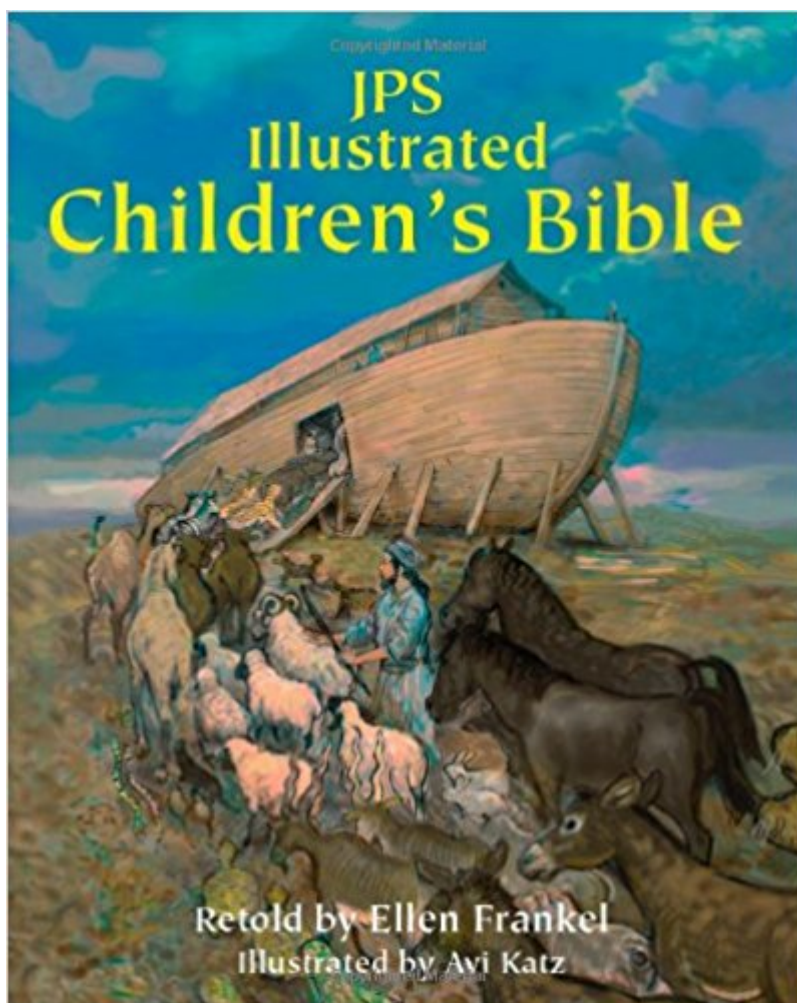


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# JPS Illustrated Children's Bible



## Synopsis

Thanks to these generous donors for making the publication of this book possible: Stanley and Marcia Katz; Members of the Levine and Frankel families. Acclaimed storyteller and Jewish scholar Ellen Frankel has masterfully tailored fifty-three Bible stories that will both delight and educate today's young readers. Using the 1985 JPS translation (NJPS) of the Hebrew Bible as her foundation, Frankel retains much of the Bible's original wording and simple narrative style as she incorporates her own exceptional storytelling technique, free of personal interpretation or commentary. Included in the volume is an "Author's Notebook"; in which Frankel shares with rabbis, parents, and educators the challenges she faced in translating and adapting these stories for children, such as how she deals with adult language in the original Bible text and themes inappropriate for most young readers. With enticing, full-page color illustrations of each Bible story, award-winning artist Avi Katz ignites readers' imaginations. His brush captures the vivid personalities and many dramatic moments in this extraordinary collection. Avi Katz and JPS are grateful to TaL AM for granting permission to reprint three illustrations from the TaL AM Tora Breshit Notebook series. Ages 5 and up.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 256 pages

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Product Dimensions: 8.3 x 1 x 10.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.5 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 27 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #489,642 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #70 in Books > Children's Books > Religions > Judaism

Age Range: 7 - 10 years

Grade Level: 2 - 5

## Customer Reviews

"An enchanting, beautiful book . . . [that is] sure to draw in young people while providing them with an accurate and dynamic understanding of the Bible. And Avi Katz's illustrations just entice and pull in the reader again and again." — Rabbi Joseph Telushkin, author

of A Code of Jewish Ethics, Jewish Literacy, and many other books (Rabbi Joseph Telushkin)“[The JPS Illustrated Children’s Bible] will seed many children’s memories and nourish their senses of wonder, curiosity, and history . . . This volume is a treasure for the generations! Peninnah Schram, professor of speech and drama at Yeshiva University’s Stern College and Azrieli Graduate School, storyteller, recording artist, and author (Peninnah Schram)“Ellen Frankel has succeeded in restoring the story to the most famous book of stories . . . Here, at last, the voice of storyteller rises up from the page and draws us into the mystery and beauty of the core stories of Jewish tradition . . . luminous illustrations by Avi Katz . . . bring these stories to life.“Howard Schwartz, author of Leaves from the Garden of Eden: One Hundred Classic Jewish Tales and Tree of Souls: The Mythology of Judaism, 2005 winner of the National Jewish Book Award (Howard Schwartz)“Ellen Frankel’s retelling of biblical stories is clearly a labor of love. . . . [She] has created a work that dazzles as it teaches.“Hadassah Magazine (Hadassah Magazine 2011-12-08)

2009 National Jewish Book Award Winner, Children’s Illustrated Books; Finalist in Jewish Family Literature 2010 Sydney Taylor Awards Notable Book for Readers of All Ages

1) For parents using this to follow along with the weekly torah portion, be warned that it makes a huge jump from the story of the Golden Calf in Exodus to the story of the 12 Spies in Numbers. I understand that you can’t faithfully render every chapter, particularly in Leviticus, for a kid audience, but that’s a pretty big chunk to skip. No Mishkan at all? Come on.2) The book is a little too faithful to the original text, which makes for some difficult reading for kids in many passages. With just a little more translation to modern language, this book could have connected much more with kids than it does without compromising its integrity.

I was delighted when my 6yo son asked to study Torah. He wanted to read a different story each evening. I purchased this bible after it was recommended to me by several Reform and Conservative rabbis and Jewish educators as well as an associate professor of religious studies who reads this bible with her own (not Jewish) children. We have been reading this bible with our 4 and 6 year old children. They enjoy the illustrations and the stories are each condensed to 1-4 pages so as not to become too tedious. I do wish there was some commentary or discussion guidelines for reading this edition with my children; perhaps a companion book would be helpful. Overall, I would recommend the JPS Illustrated Children’s Bible for beginning Torah instruction.

As a Unitarian Universalist I find it really important that my son learn about all religions. Living in a Judeo-Christian society it's really important that he learn the stories of the Bible and the different teachings in them. I had a difficult time trying to find a Children's Bible story book that didn't contain a heavily slanted view or a conversionist tone. This book is perfect. The stories are well written and short enough for right before bed time leaving us enough time to talk about what we just read. I like that this is written for a Jewish audience and gives my son a different perspective of the Bible than is commonly available. I'm learning right along with him.

This is a review purely in response to Keri Mom of 4. I am writing this because I do not want a bad review to stop anyone from buying a great book that can ignite a child's imagination, and knowledge regarding the Torah. I was worried about this review, the last thing I need is a sexualized rendition of the Bible for my children! But so many have endorsed this book, from the right or more conservative side, plus I have always trusted JPS in the past. I decided to get it any way. The first thing I did, before allowing my children to see it was to check out pages 50-51, Jacob's dream. I am sure that, with 100% assertiveness, there are NO female, NOR nude, figures in this section nor any suggestions of it. All that can be made of the genderless, iridescent and transparent figures, are that they are sitting, and the outlines of heads and arms. I have a degree in Art History, and one in Religious Studies, and was a Religious School Teacher, so I have a very good eye for these things. Perhaps the reviewer means to address another book. In fact, as I go through this book all depictions of angels, or messengers, or super human beings, are completely cloaked, shown, from behind, and obscured. Also everyone is dressed fairly modestly and covered for the time period, even the Egyptians and Romans. It's most controversial image is that of Samson bare chested and in a loin cloth. I can not fully speak on written content because I have not read it all yet, but what I have read is perfect in length, style, and content to be read by or to a young person. Also of course the pictures should be fine for anyone who is interested in an Illustrated Children's Bible of the Old Testament. I have found that a child as young as three can be engaged by this book.

This Bible was recommended to me and although I wasn't sure about buying it, I am so glad I decided to give it a chance. My husband and I love reading this old testament children's Bible with our daughter. This is one of the better children's Bibles that we have found for old testament stories. We are not Jewish so we did end up buying another Bible that contained both the new and old testaments but we still use this one just as frequently as the other. The language is easy for children

to understand and the pictures are great! My daughter enjoys reading this Bible with us. I would buy this product again and highly recommend it to others.

Best Bible story book I have ever seen! On child number 9 and we have been through many, MANY books! The stories are the closest to Scripture and no editing opinions out of stories Noah even has more than 2 of the clean animals! LOVE IT

SENT AS A GIFT. IT HAS ALL THE IMPORTANT OLD TESTAMENT STORIES WITH BEAUTIFUL PICTURES. GREAT FOR CHILDREN.

Since this is a JPS publication, it doesn't include the full Bible, but only select Old Testament texts. The art is amazing and my kids sincerely enjoy reading from this book.

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