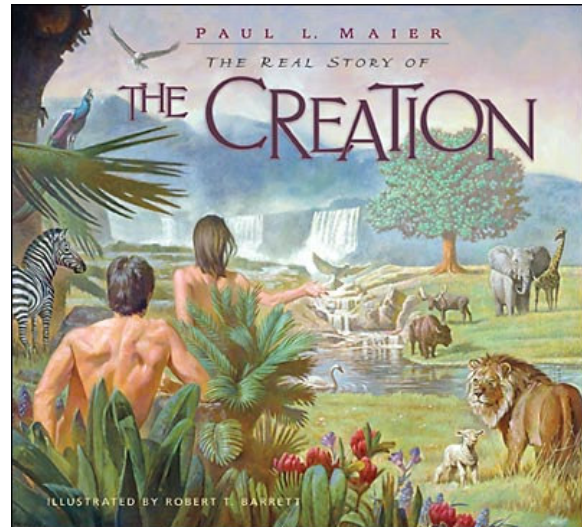


Author: Paul L. Maier  
Illustrator: Robert T. Barrett  
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I wanted to extend a word of thanks to the kind folks at Concordia Publishing House for sending me a review copy of Paul L. Maier's *The Real Story of the Creation*.

Paul L. Maier is the Russell H. Seibert Professor of Ancient History at Western Michigan University. His areas of research include manuscript and text analysis, archaeology, and the comparison of secular and sacred sources from the first century A.D. Dr. Maier also serves as the second vice-president of the Lutheran Church –Missouri Synod. Two of his more well known, recent publications are *More Than a Skeleton* (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2003) and (with H. Hanegraaff), *The Davinci Code-Fact or Fiction?* (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale, 2004). In addition to these works, Dr. Maier has written over 250 scholarly articles and has nine other books to his credit.

Robert T. Barrett is an accomplished painter, muralist, illustrator, and also a professor of art. He has illustrated another work by Dr. Maier titled: *The Real Story of the Flood* (St. Louis, Mo: Concordia Publishing House, 2008).

*The Real Story of Creation* is yet another great addition to the long list of children's books we've seen from Dr. Paul L. Maier over the past few years. This story is divided into twelve, two page chapters. Chapters two through eleven, each have a short scripture quotation from the New International version, which is relevant to the retelling of the creation story as found in the book of Genesis. Dr. Maier's writing and Robert T. Barrett's illustrations unfold the creation story in a way that is appealing to the mind and the eye of both adults and children alike. The key themes found in this book are:

- The Biblical account of creation. (Chapter 2 through 9)
- The fall of Man. (Chapter 10 & 11)
- God's promise of salvation in Jesus. (Chapter 12)

In addition to the key themes above, chapter one touches on several other creation accounts:

- Ancient Mesopotamia – Marduk kills Tiamat and cuts her in two to form the sky and the earth
- Egyptians – Re's creation of the world, while sitting on a hill of living slime
- Greeks & Romans – Heaven married earth and gave birth to the Titans.

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These other creation accounts found in chapter one may serve as a good introduction for parents wanting to introduce their children to other creation accounts from the ancient near east.

I would highly recommend this book for parents wanting to introduce their children to the Biblical story of creation. Parents and children alike will be engaged by Dr. Maier's writing and captivated by Richard T. Barrett's illustrations. For those of you who enjoy this work, I'd also recommend several other illustrated children's books by Dr. Maier:

- *The Very First Christmas* (St. Louis, MO: Concordia Publishing House, 1998)
- *The Very First Easter* (St. Louis, MO: Concordia Publishing House, 1999)
- *The Very First Christians* (St. Louis, MO: Concordia Publishing House, 2001)
- *Martin Luther: A Man Who Changed the World* (St. Louis, MO: Concordia Publishing House, 2004)
- *The Real Story of Flood* (St. Louis, Mo: Concordia Publishing House, 2008)