

Discovering New Worlds

THROUGH LITERATURE

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C H R I S T I A N L I B E R T Y P R E S S
502 West Euclid Avenue, Arlington Heights, Illinois 60004

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A publication of
Christian Liberty Press
502 W. Euclid Avenue
Arlington Heights, IL 60004
www.christianlibertypress.com

ISBN 978-1-932971-96-5 (print)
978-1-935796-46-6 (eBook PDF)

*Note: **Vocabulary words** are shown in **bold print**. Vocabulary definitions always follow the story, quotation, play, or poem in which the words occur. However, definitions of **literary terms** (shown in **blue** in the introductory paragraphs and **condensed bold** in the rest of the text) can be found at the back of the book in the appendix “Literary Terms” on [page 221](#).*

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Preface

Reading introduces us to new realities ... new worlds yet to be discovered. We sit in the comfort of an easy chair in our living room; and yet through reading a story, through literature, we can travel the globe. We can travel to places unknown and dream that, perhaps, we will go there ourselves one day. Or we can journey to ancient times and imagine what it would have been like to live back then—perhaps in the time of Aesop the teller of fables, or even in the time of Jesus, the great Teller of parables.

However, discovering a new world is more than visiting new places; it is also discovering a world of experiences. We can understand more about people through reading about their lives. We meet new people, such as missionaries who have lived throughout the world and made great sacrifices for their faith. We may make a new friend, and sometimes that friend is an author we come to love. We discover new areas of life, and therefore are exposed to new areas of knowledge; and, if we learn to apply that knowledge, it becomes wisdom. In Proverbs 4:7, we are told, “Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding.”

Yes, reading introduces us to realities yet unknown. The Bible declares, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). Reading introduces us to this, the greatest of all realities. Ultimately, we read and learn to honor the Savior Jesus who loved this world to the point of death, to know Him more fully, and to help others to know Him. I Corinthians 10:31 tells us, “Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do”—whether reading a poem about perseverance or prose that makes you laugh; whether reading great fictional literature about pirates and treasure; or reading nonfiction, such as an inspiring Christian biography—“do all to the glory of God.” Moreover, no reading would be complete without including the Book that includes the greatest story ever told and the greatest words ever written, the Word of God—the Holy Bible.

Now enjoy *Discovering New Worlds Through Literature*, and do all for the glory of God.

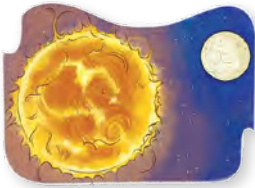
Audrey Marie Hessler

Unit 1

Discovering a World of Adventure

In the Beginning God

Genesis 1:1–31 and 2:1–4, *NKJV*



In the beginning God created the world—this world filled with snow-capped mountains and rushing streams; sweeping golden valleys and fertile green fields; deep, cold **chasms** and hot, dry deserts—a world so full of life and adventure, you could never in a lifetime discover all of its heights or depths.

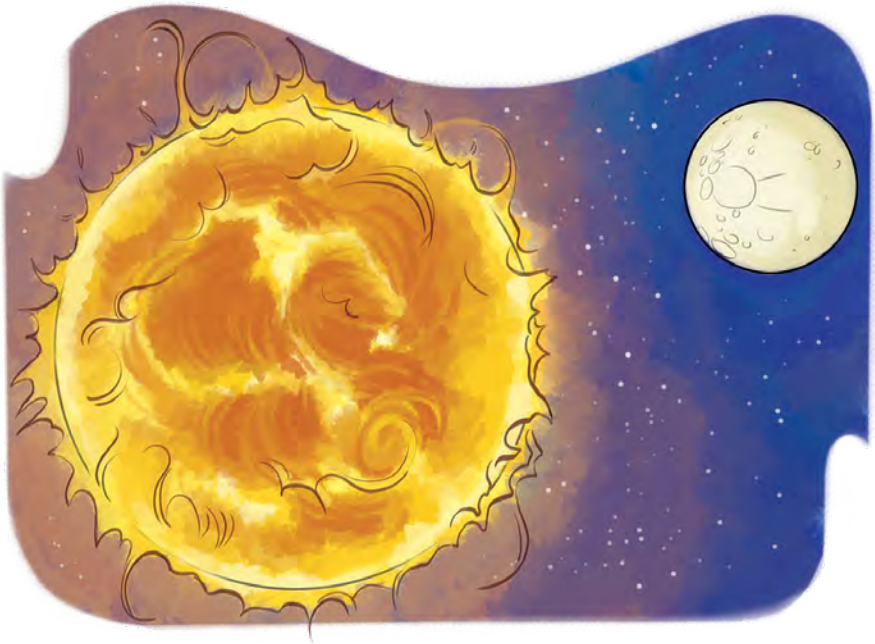
The First Day

Chapter 1: ¹ In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ² The earth was without form, and **void**; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

³ Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. ⁴ And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day.

The Second Day

⁶ Then God said, “Let there be a **firmament** in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.” ⁷ Thus God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the fir-



mament; and it was so. ⁸ And God called the firmament Heaven. So the evening and the morning were the second day.

The Third Day

⁹ Then God said, “Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry *land* appear”; and it was so. ¹⁰ And God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

¹¹ Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed is in itself, on the earth”; and it was so. ¹² And the earth brought forth grass, the herb that yields seed according to its kind, and the tree that yields fruit, whose seed is in itself according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ¹³ So the evening and the morning were the third day.

The Fourth Day

¹⁴ Then God said, “Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years; ¹⁵ and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth”; and it was so. ¹⁶ Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also. ¹⁷ God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth, ¹⁸ and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹ So the evening and the morning were the fourth day.

The Fifth Day

²⁰ Then God said, “Let the waters abound with an abundance of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the face of the firmament of the heavens.” ²¹ So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that moves, with which the waters abounded, according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ²² And God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” ²³ So the evening and the morning were the fifth day.

The Sixth Day

²⁴ Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind: cattle and creeping thing and beast of the earth, each according to its kind”; and it was so. ²⁵ And God made the beast of the earth according to its kind, cattle according to its kind, and everything that creeps on the earth according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶ Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” ²⁷ So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. ²⁸ Then God blessed them, and

God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and **subdue** it; have **dominion** over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

²⁹ And God said, “See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food. ³⁰ Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which there is life, I have given every green herb for food”; and it was so. ³¹ Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

The Seventh Day

Chapter 2: ¹ Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. ² And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. ³ Then God blessed the seventh day and **sanctified** it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.

⁴ This is the history of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens.

Vocabulary

chasms: deep holes in the earth

void: not containing anything

firmament: the expanse of the heavens; the sky

herb: plant without woody stems

subdue: bring something under control

dominion: ruling control

sanctified: made something holy

Comprehension Questions

1. On the first day, what did God call the light and the darkness?
2. On the second day, what did God call the firmament?
3. On the third day, what did God call the dry land and the gathering together of the waters?
4. On the fourth day, God made two great lights. What would the greater light rule and what would the lesser light rule? What also did God make on that day?
5. On the fifth day, God created what type of great creature? And He also created every winged creature of what type?
6. On the sixth day, what did God make in His own image?
7. On the seventh day, God ended His work that He had done, and then what did God do on the seventh day?

Extension Activity

Discover a world of adventure. Using the six days of creation, make a list of adventures that would interest you involving each of the different forms of creation represented for each day. These do not have to be adventures that you will go on at this time, just adventures that you would like to go on at some time in your life. Turn to page 1 in the **Student Exercises** booklet to complete Activity 1.



Queen Isabella's Resolve

A One Act Play: The Faith of Columbus

John Todd

Perhaps the most daring adventure to affect the modern world is the voyage of Christopher Columbus. The Bible describes the earth as a sphere, not flat like most believed at the time. Christopher Columbus read this, believed it, and then set out to sail west to get to the East. And today we continue to celebrate his faith and unintentional discovery of the Americas. Though not the first European to reach the Americas—Vikings from Scandinavia had briefly settled on the North American coast—Columbus's explorations had a profound impact on the world. He made four voyages to the Americas, with his first in 1492, which resulted in what is widely referred to as the Discovery of America. In this **drama**, go back in time and listen to the lively **dialogue**—the discussion between the **characters**, Christopher Columbus, Queen Isabella of Spain, and her trusted advisor Don Gomez—in the following **scene**.

Time: January, 1492

Scene: Taking place is a discussion of the proposed voyage of Christopher Columbus, the sailor from Genoa, Italy, with Queen Isabella of Spain and a trusted advisor named Don Gomez. They are discussing these issues in the private chamber of Queen Isabella located at the Royal Palace.

Characters: Queen Isabella
Don Gomez
Christopher Columbus

Don Gomez: I have come, my queen, to speak with you regarding the plans of Columbus.

Isabella: And so, Don Gomez, it is your conclusion that we ought to dismiss the **proposition** of this worthy adventurer.

Don Gomez: His scheme, Your Majesty, seems to me **fanciful** in the extreme; but I am a plain, **matter-of-fact** man, and do not see visions and dreams like some.

Isabella: And yet Columbus has given us **cogent** reasons for believing that it is possible to reach the eastern coast of India by sailing in a westerly direction.

Don Gomez: Admitting that his theory is correct, namely, that the earth is a **sphere**, how would it be possible for him to return, if he once descended that sphere in the direction he proposes? Would not the coming back be all up-hill? Could a ship accomplish it with even the most favorable wind?

Columbus: Will Your Majesty allow me to suggest that, if the earth is a sphere, the same laws of **adhesion** and motion must operate at every point on its surface; and the objection of Don from crossing the **Strait of Gibraltar**.

Don Gomez: This gentleman, then, would have us believe the monstrous absurdity that there are people on the earth who are our opposites, who walk with their heads down, like flies on the ceiling.

Columbus: But, Your Majesty, if there is a law of attraction that makes matter **gravitate** to the earth, and prevents it from flying off into space, may not this law operate at every point on the round earth's surface?

Isabella: Truly, it so seems to me; and I perceive nothing absurd in the **notion** that this earth is a globe floating or revolving in space.

Don Gomez: May it please Your Majesty, the ladies are privileged to give **credence** to many wild tales that we plain, simple men cannot admit. Every step I take **confutes** this **visionary** idea of the earth's **rotundity**. Would not the blood run into my head if I were standing upside down? Were I not fearful of offending Your Majesty, I would quote what the great Lactantius says.

Isabella: We are not **vain** of our science, Don Gomez; so let us have the quotation.

Don Gomez: "Is there anyone so foolish," he asks, "as to believe that there are people with their feet opposite to ours, that there is a part of the world in which all things are **topsy-turvy**, where the trees grow with their branches downward, and where it rains and snows upward?"

Columbus: I have already answered this objection. If there are people on the earth who are our opposites, it should be remembered that we are theirs also.

Don Gomez: Really, that is the very point wherein people with common sense, like myself, abide by the assurance of our own senses. We know that we are not walking with our heads downwards.

Isabella: To cut short the discussion, you think that the **enterprise** that the sailor from Genoa proposes is one unworthy of our serious consideration, and that his theory of an unknown shore to the westward of us is a **fallacy**?

Don Gomez: As a plain, matter-of-fact man, I must confess that I so regard it. Has Your Majesty ever seen an **ambassador** from this unknown coast?

Isabella: Don Gomez, do you believe in the existence of a world of spirits? Have you ever seen an ambassador from that unknown world?

Don Gomez: Certainly not. By faith we look forward to it.

Isabella: Even so by faith does Columbus look forward, far over the misty ocean, to an undiscovered shore.

Columbus: Your Majesty is right; but let it be added that I have reasons, oh! most potent and **resistless** reasons, for the faith that is in me; the testimony of many **navigators** who have picked up articles that must have drifted from this distant coast; the nature of things admitting that the earth is round; the reports current among the people of one of the Northern nations, that many years ago their **mariners** had sailed many **leagues** westward till they reached a shore where the grape grew abundantly. These and other considerations have made it the fixed persuasion of my mind that there is a great discovery reserved for the man who will sail patiently westward, trusting in God's good **providence**, and turning not back till he has achieved his purpose.

Don Gomez: Then truly we should never hear of him again. **Speculation!** Mere speculation, Your Majesty! When this gentleman can bring forward some solid facts that will induce us practical men to risk money in forwarding his enterprise, it will then be time enough for royalty to give it heed. Why, Your Majesty, the very boys in the streets point at their foreheads as he passes along.

Isabella: And so you bring forward the **frivolity** of boys, **jeering** at what they do not comprehend, as an argument why Isabella should not give heed to this great and glorious scheme? Ay, sir, though it should fail, still it has been urged in language so intelligent and convincing by this grave and ear-

nest man, whom you think to undervalue by calling him an adventurer, that I am resolved to test the “absurdity,” as you style it, and that forthwith.

Don Gomez: Your Majesty will excuse me if I remark, that I have from your royal **consort** himself the assurance that the finances are so exhausted by the late wars that he cannot consent to advance the necessary funds for fitting out an expedition of the kind proposed.

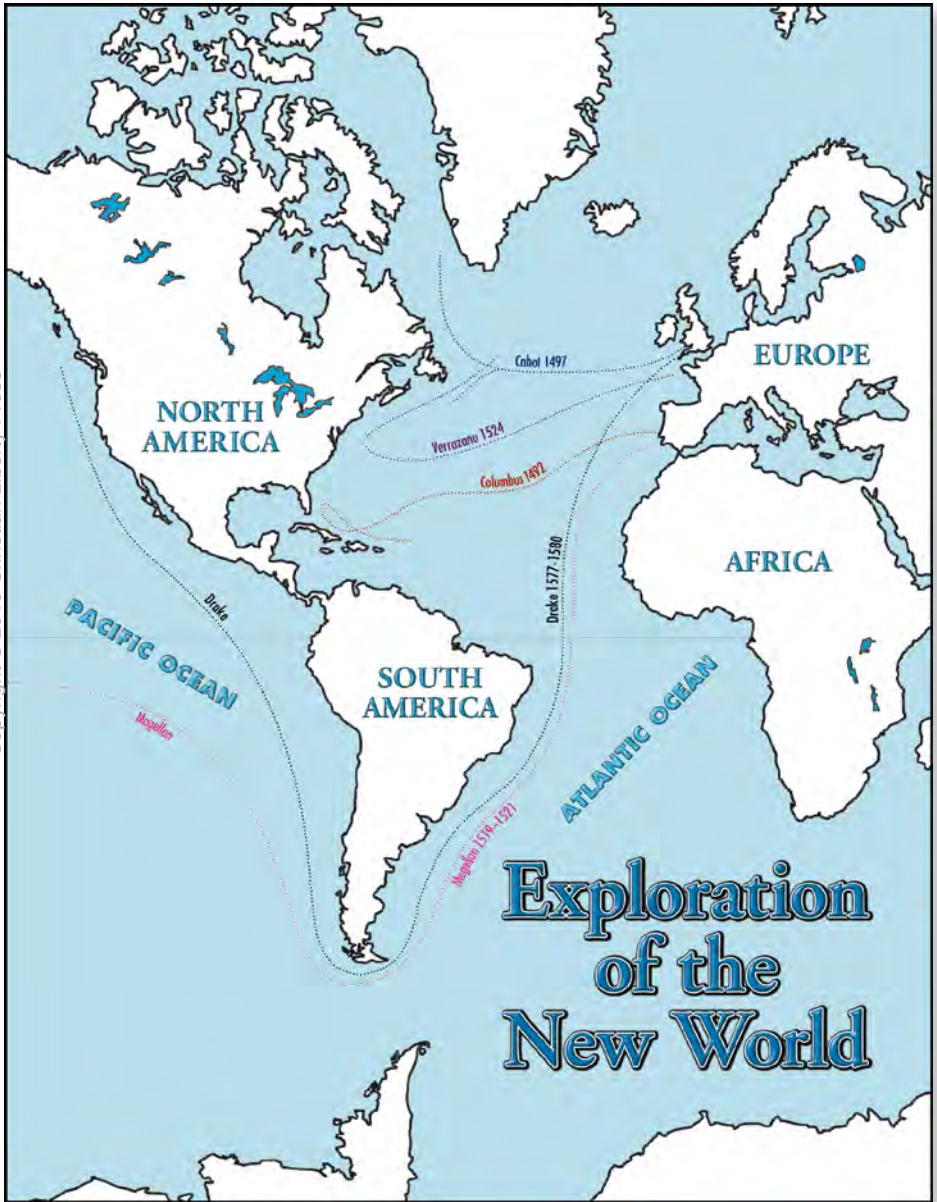
Isabella: Be mine, then, the privilege! I have jewels by the pledging of which I can raise the amount required; and I have **resolved** that they shall be pledged to this enterprise without any more delay.

Columbus: Your Majesty shall not repent your heroic resolve. I will return, Your Majesty; be sure I will return and lay at your feet such a jewel as befits a noble queen, an **imperishable** fame – a fame that shall couple with your memory the **benedictions** of millions yet unborn, in places yet unknown to civilized man. There is an uplifting assurance in my mind, a conviction that Your Majesty will live to bless the hour you came to this decision.

Don Gomez: A mere assumption! A plain, rational man, like myself, must take leave of Your Majesty, if my practical common sense is to be met and **superseded** by **presumption**. An ounce of fact, Your Majesty, is worth a ton of presumption.

Isabella: That depends altogether upon the source of the presumption, Don Gomez. If it comes from the Fountain of all truth, shall it not be good?

Don Gomez: I humbly take my leave of Your Majesty. It is obvious that you believe that this plan has been inspired by Almighty God, and I cannot and will not try to argue against that. Good day, my lady.



Vocabulary

proposition: a proposal; a plan

fanciful: imaginary

matter-of-fact: factual

cogent: well-argued

sphere: globe

adhesion: sticking power

Strait of Gibraltar: a channel connecting the Mediterranean Sea with the Atlantic Ocean, lying between southernmost Spain and northwestern Africa

gravitate: move because of gravity

notion: idea

credence: trustworthiness

confutes: proves wrong

visionary: creative

rotundity: roundness

vain: empty, unaware

topsy-turvy: upside down

enterprise: daring new project

fallacy: falsehood

ambassador: representative

resistless: unable to resist

navigators: route instructors

mariners: sailors

leagues: measure of distance

providence: God's guidance

speculation: opinion based on incomplete information

frivolity: foolishness

jeering: mocking

consort: companion

resolved: made a decision

imperishable: not able to perish or end

benedictions: kind words

superseded: passed over by

presumption: something believed without actual evidence

Comprehension Questions

1. Don Gomez said he was a “matter-of-fact” man, and he said that the plan or “scheme of Columbus” was what?
2. Columbus states, “... if there is a law of attraction that makes matter gravitate to the earth, and prevents it from flying off into space, may not this law operate” at what other place or places according to Columbus?
3. Queen Isabella states that it is by what that Columbus looks forward, “far over the misty ocean, to an undiscovered shore.”
4. Columbus tells Queen Isabella that he believes “there is a great discovery reserved for the man who will sail patiently westward” trusting in what?
5. When Don Gomez is departing from Queen Isabella, he states that it is obvious that the queen believes this plan of Columbus was inspired by whom?

Extension Activity

Let's make a time line of famous explorers around the time of Columbus. Or make a time line of your life and include family members and special events from your life. You can also expand it to include world events that have occurred in your lifetime. Turn to page 2 in the **Student Exercises** booklet to complete Activity 2.