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Preface

Life in the Great Ice Age introduced us to Jabeth, his tribe, and the "Beetle-Brow" people as we read about their adventure-filled summer. They hunted woolly mammoths, drove out a cave bear, and celebrated their successes. Jabeth lived at the end of the Ice Age, around 600 years after Noah's flood. By that time, the ice had stopped building. The oceans had cooled to temperatures close to what we have today. The ice sheet was rapidly melting.

Jabeth's tribe originally settled south of the Scandinavian Ice Sheet in central Europe. Big game was abundant. They lived in caves because of their convenience and safety. They hunted and gathered their food using their wits to survive. Stone tools and clever hunting techniques were used to procure food and clothing. Today, Jabeth's people would be considered Cro-Magnons. Their friends, the "Beetle-Brow" tribe, would be called

Neanderthals. They also lived in caves. Both people groups were human beings surviving in a challenging environment.

Jabeth and his family lived during the transition from an Ice Age climate to the deglaciation phase. Grandfather remembered the cool summers and mild winters and noticed the change to warmer summers and colder winters. The cooling oceans brought some unexpected events. Less water evaporated. The exposed land became drier. Frequent windstorms gathered huge amounts of dust. Rolling black dust clouds deposited thick layers of wind-blown silt across vast areas of land. The warmer summers caused the edge of the ice sheets to melt. Rivers overflowed their banks and floods swept the lowlands. North of Jabeth's cave home, the "great wall of ice" was melting downward at the rate of about 30 feet per year (10 m/year) and slowly retreating north.

This book continues Jabeth's story but 30 years later.

He has become the head of his tribe, replacing his father, Lathan. The story is told through the eyes of Jabeth's 12-year-old son, Eric. During Eric's lifetime, the Scandinavian Ice Sheet disappeared from continental





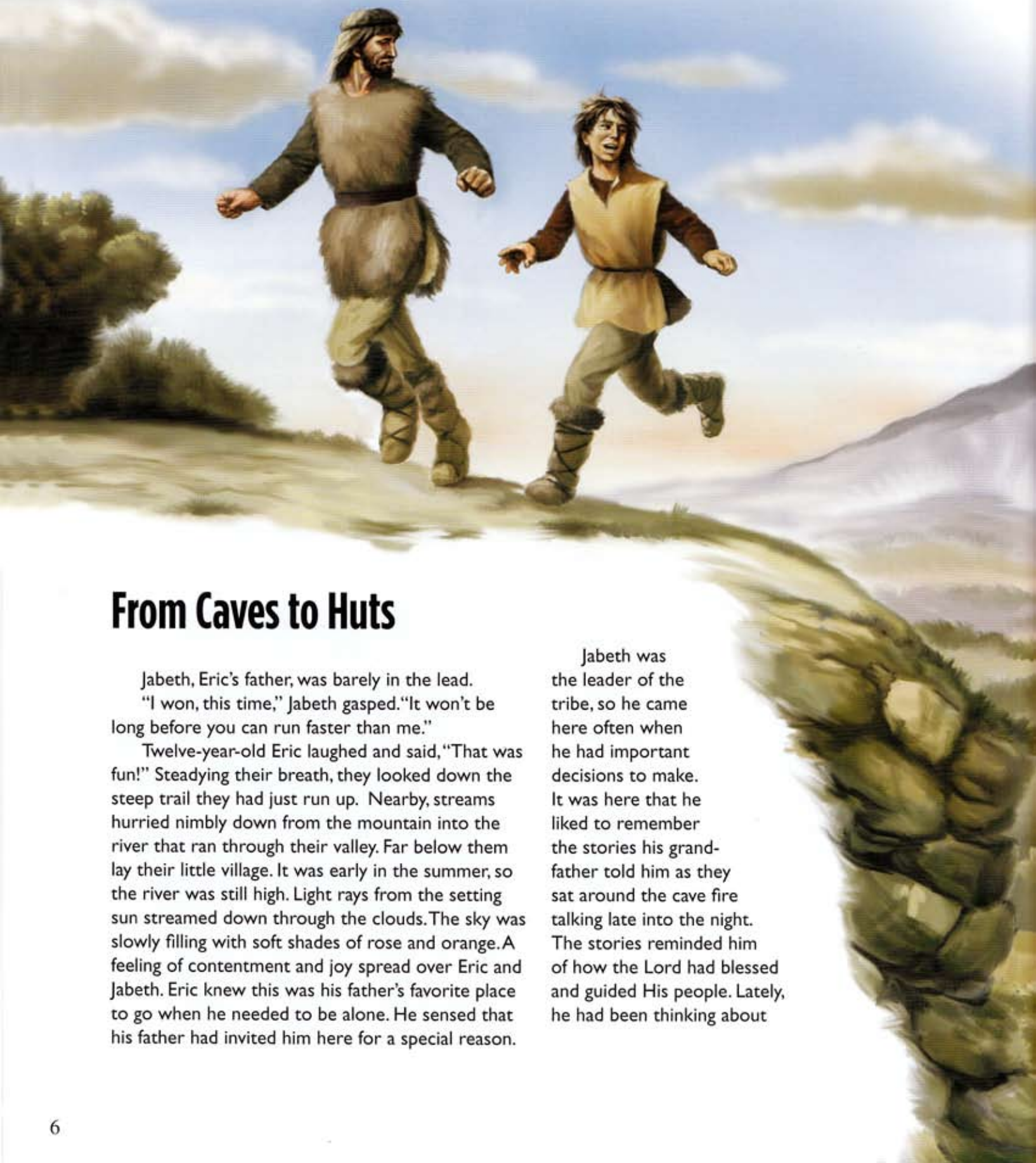
they learned the woolly mammoths were becoming extinct in Siberia as well as in Europe. The Siberians shared woolly mammoth ivory, while Jabeth's tribe shared seeds and the art of making pottery. The new tribe told Jabeth's people about their adventurous journey as they traveled south from Siberia and west into Europe seeking a better land.

Europe but remained in Scandinavia, exposing the Baltic Sea. The sea is called Lake Baltica in our story. Summers became even warmer and winters colder than when Jabeth was a child. Frequent dust storms of variable intensity continued to blow across the land. The large animals that they used to hunt were becoming either scarce or extinct. Their tribe was growing. It was time to leave the caves behind and develop agriculture and build villages and towns. Civilization began but hunting and gathering continued. The rapid development of agriculture and animal husbandry gradually added to their food supply.

When Jabeth was a child, a trader visited and told them about a far-away land called Siberia. In our story many years later, a strange group of people has moved into their peaceful valley. Jabeth and his tribe discovered they were from Siberia. As they became acquainted with their new neighbors,



Part I Chapter One



From Caves to Huts

Jabeth, Eric's father, was barely in the lead.

"I won, this time," Jabeth gasped. "It won't be long before you can run faster than me."

Twelve-year-old Eric laughed and said, "That was fun!" Steadying their breath, they looked down the steep trail they had just run up. Nearby, streams hurried nimbly down from the mountain into the river that ran through their valley. Far below them lay their little village. It was early in the summer, so the river was still high. Light rays from the setting sun streamed down through the clouds. The sky was slowly filling with soft shades of rose and orange. A feeling of contentment and joy spread over Eric and Jabeth. Eric knew this was his father's favorite place to go when he needed to be alone. He sensed that his father had invited him here for a special reason.

Jabeth was the leader of the tribe, so he came here often when he had important decisions to make. It was here that he liked to remember the stories his grandfather told him as they sat around the cave fire talking late into the night. The stories reminded him of how the Lord had blessed and guided His people. Lately, he had been thinking about

how his father Lathan taught him about life and had prepared him for leadership.

Lathan had moved the tribe into the valley ten summers ago. Not many years later Lathan went the way of his ancestors.

Thinking of his father, Jabeth recalled his first woolly mammoth hunt. He remembered the pride he felt when Lathan had chosen his plan for the hunt.

The hunters used a wall of fire to drive the woolly mammoths over a cliff. Jabeth thought wistfully, Lathan was a good and wise father and leader. Jabeth was hoping he would do as well.

Jabeth knew it was time to start training Eric to become the next leader of their clan. He had been watching his son to see if he had the gift of leadership. He noticed that Eric was protective of the younger children. The older children listened to him.

Eric already considered others before he made his decisions. Jabeth decided he would no longer come to his special spot alone.

Excitement shivered through
Eric as he sensed the
reason for Jabeth's
invitation.

CAVE LIFE

"Eric, I have been waiting to see if you have the qualities necessary for leadership. I have been pleased with what I have seen. Now that you are twelve years old, it is time to begin your training." Jabeth thought the best way to begin was to teach him how decisions were made. "You must never forget a leader is always accountable to the Creator God and responsible for his tribe's well being. Let me give you an example by telling you how we decided to leave the caves beyond the hills. The caves protected the tribe from bears, saber-toothed tigers, hyenas, and other wild animals. But the caves were cold and damp. My father and grandfather kept the fire at the entrance burning every night. This frightened away the fierce animals that were searching for food and shelter. Sometimes warring tribes traveled through. The caves protected us as we fought to keep our homes and food. But, as our family grew, the caves became too small. It was harder and harder to find enough food for everyone. We needed to find a place that had plenty of game, water, and rich land.

"While we were living in the caves, the weather changed. The winters became colder and lasted longer. The weather changes were so gradual that no one seemed to notice them at first. But, I remember one very cold winter day long ago; the older men were sitting around the fire. They were talking about the time when they were children. They remembered cool summers and mild winters. Back then, the snow was soft and deep and lasted until the early summer. After the snow disappeared, it rained heavily for months. Now winter snow is light and summers are dry.

"Back then, the great wall of ice retreated about thirty feet each summer. The thaw caused the rivers and streams to overflow. Once in a while a dust storm would blow through our area, but soon they came more and more often. Each time they came they were stronger. We would hide in our caves until the storm ended. Gath, Zorak, and some of the others liked to keep busy, so they painted the cave walls or carved on woolly mammoth tusks."

THE MYSTERY OF THE DISAPPEARING MAMMALS

Eric and Jabeth suddenly heard a branch crack nearby. Eric reached for his spear and scanned the undergrowth. Eric whispered to his dad, "Maybe it is a woolly mammoth." He then disappeared into the undergrowth and crept quietly to where he had heard the noise. Then, a beautiful elk raised its head and looked at Eric. The elk carried huge antlers that had at least six points.

There were many deer and elk in the valley, but they were hard to hunt because they moved quickly once they were startled. Often hunters would wait for them early in the morning near the streams or high in the mountains. If the men were downwind from them and very quiet, sometimes they were able to get close enough to throw a spear. Eric knew he had to aim well because he wouldn't get a second chance. He slowly raised his arm and let the spear fly. But just as he threw, the animal moved and the

spear dropped to the ground. The stately elk trotted away before Eric could throw again.

Disappointed, he walked back to his father. Jabeth was seated on a boulder, wearing a broad grin. "Did you get your woolly mammoth?"

Eric protested, "If that was a woolly mammoth, I would have killed it."

Jabeth laughed and said, "It would have taken ten grown men and twenty spears just to slow it down. There are better ways to kill a mammoth. We used to run them off cliffs, or if there was a bog nearby, we would drive them into the mud."

Eric remembered, "Didn't you say that Ungar of the Beetle-Brow tribe told us that the woolly mammoths and the other large mammals are disappearing?"

"Yes," answered Jabeth. "Ungar noticed many of the large mammals were becoming scarce. It had been a long time since they had seen a saber-toothed tiger or a woolly rhino. He thought the animals might have starved to death or died in a dust storm."

"I heard him say he thought it was because the grassland was taken over by trees, so there was less for them to eat," said Eric.

"That is probably correct," Jabeth added. "The tigers were dangerous and the hippos mean, so it is safer now for everyone. I miss hunting the woolly mammoth because it could feed us for a moon or more. Now we have to hunt more often and eat smaller game."

Fact Box

- 1) The ice sheet was retreating rapidly northward during deglaciation.
- 2) More land became exposed every summer.
- 3) Deglaciation was windy, with frequent dust storms.
- 4) The large Ice Age animals commonly went extinct during deglaciation.
- 5) People rapidly moved out of caves at the end of the Ice Age.
- 6) Civilization with the building of homes and planting of crops spread rapidly during and after deglaciation.

Fact Box

THE ABANDONED CAVES

"What made everyone decide it was time to leave the caves?" Eric asked.

Jabeth still remembered the arguments surrounding the decision to leave the caves. "Do you remember what I told you about how we came into this valley?" Jabeth responded. "Your grandfather was convinced that it was best for everyone to find a new home. Gath and Zorak argued that the tribe must stay. They were afraid to leave the safety of the caves. They had lived there south of the ice wall ever since they were born.

"Lathan said we needed more room since the tribe had grown. Gath and Zorak argued that it would be hard to protect the tribe from warring tribes if

— UNCOVERING THE MYSTERIOUS — WOOLLY MAMMOTH

- How did the Ice Age end?
- How did men survive during the end of the Ice Age?
- Discover the science behind the Ice Age World.
- Where have mammoths been found?

The questions of what happened at the end of the Ice Age and why the woolly mammoth disappeared have been asked by many. Unfortunately, the answers given are usually in line with an evolutionary world view. Author Michael Oard gives biblically and scientifically sound answers to these relevant questions for young readers in an exciting story of one boy and his family.

Follow Tungus and his tribe as they travel to a better climate away from the dust storms at the end of the great Ice Age. Learn how people lived, the challenges they faced in daily life, and why the woolly mammoths disappeared while the Ice Age was ending.

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