

Samuel

In the days of the Judges there was a man named Elkanah who had two wives. One of these wives was Hannah and she was very sad because did not have any children. Hannah went up to the "house of the LORD" (where the tabernacle was) and prayed to the LORD and asked for a God son. She promised God that she would dedicate her son to His service. God answered her prayer and she gave birth to a son and named him Samuel. She kept her promise, and when Samuel was a young boy she took him to serve Eli, who was the High Priest. Read Samuel 2:26(NIV) and fill in the blanks to see what God thought of Samuel as he was growing up.

"And the boy _____ continued to _____ in stature
and in _____ with the _____ and with men."

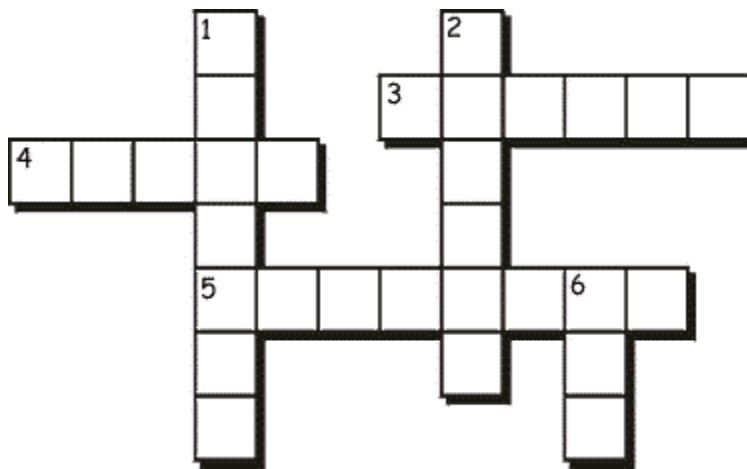
Read 1Samuel 3:1-18 (NIV) and finish the crossword puzzle below.

Across:

- 3. The LORD _____ Samuel (vs.4)
- 4. The LORD called Samuel a _____ time (vs.8)
- 5. Samuel _____ "here I am". (vs.5)

Down:

- 1. Samuel said "Speak, for your _____ is listening." (vs.10)
- 2. The boy _____ ministered before the LORD under Eli. (vs.1)
- 6. _____ said, "I did not call; go back and lie down" (vs.6)



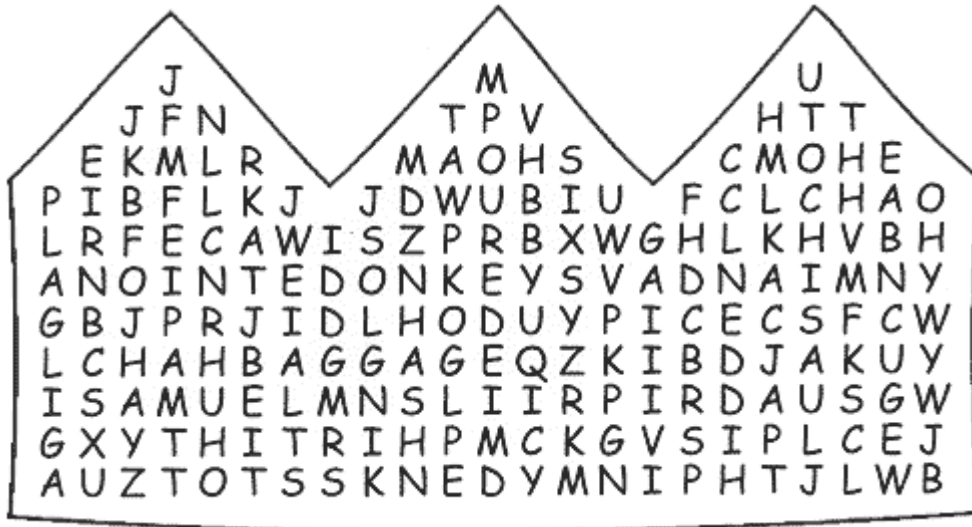
Israel's First King

Samuel had been a faithful judge all his life. When he grew old he appointed his sons as judges for Israel also. Now they were not as faithful to God, as Samuel was, and they took bribes from the people. So the people sent the elders to Samuel to complain and asked Samuel to appoint a King over them instead. Samuel was not happy to hear this but he took it to God in prayer. God told Samuel that he should do as the people wanted. God also told him to warn the people also about the burdens a king would put on them.

Read 1Samuel 9:15-17 (NIV) and fill in the blanks below to see how Samuel knew who to anoint as the new king.

... the _____ revealed this to _____ :
 "About this time tomorrow I will send you a man from the
 land of _____ . _____ him
 leader over my people _____ : ...
 When Samuel caught sight of _____ the _____
 said to him, "This is the man I spoke to you about;
 he will _____ my people."

Read about Saul's anointing and presentation to the people in 1Samuel Chapters 10 & 11.
 Find and circle the words in the word search puzzle from the word list below.



FLASK OIL POURED SAUL HEAD ANOINTED
 BENJAMIN DONKEYS GILGAL PROPHETS
 SPIRIT SAMUEL MIZPAH HIDDEN KISH
 BAGGAGE KING GIBEAH

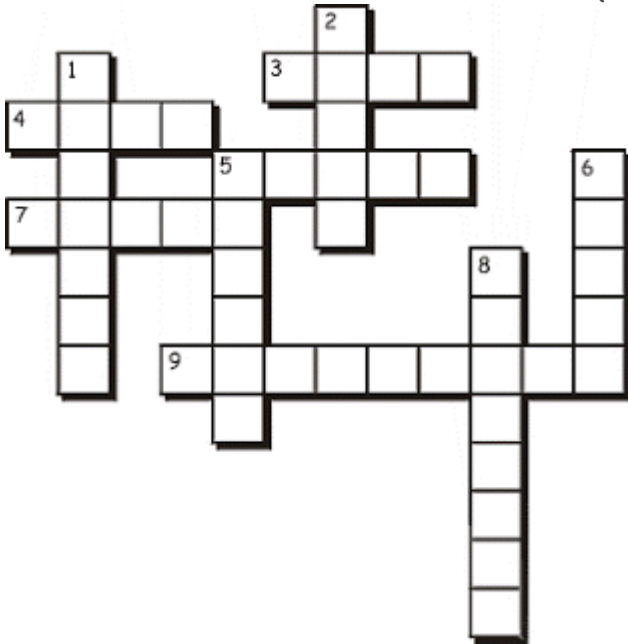
David and Goliath

Now King Saul was a good king at the beginning of his reign, but he didn't remain faithful to God. He became proud and did many things which displeased God. God told Samuel to anoint the younger son of Jesse as the new king. His name was David. Samuel did anoint him and David eventually became the second king of Israel. But before he became king he served King Saul. David played the harp beautifully and would play for Saul to soothe him when he was troubled. David also fought the enemies of Israel. 1Samuel 17 tells the story of how David defeated a giant Philistine named Goliath and how he relied on God to help him.

Read the story in 1Samuel 17:1-58 (NIV) and finish the crossword puzzle below.

Across:

3. The Philistine Giant was 9 feet _____. (vs.4)
4. David told Goliath, "I come against you in the name of the _____ Almighty" (vs.45)
5. David used a _____ and a stone to defeat Goliath. (vs.50)
7. David said to Saul, "your servant will go and _____ him." (vs.32)
9. David said, "The LORD who _____ me from the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine. (vs.37)



Down:

1. The name of the giant Philistine that David fought was _____. (vs.4)
2. _____ was the son of Jesse. (vs.12)
5. David chose five smooth _____ from the stream. (vs.40)
6. David used Goliath's _____ to kill Goliath. (vs.51)
8. David slung a stone at Goliath and it sank into the _____, and Goliath fell down. (vs.49)

David Sings Songs to God

David served Saul faithfully even though Saul became jealous of him and even tried to have David killed. Because of this David had to hide from Saul but he would never hurt Saul. Eventually Saul died and David was made the next king of Israel. Now King David did not always do what was right but when he realized his sin he repented and tried to do what God would want. Sometimes God allowed David to have difficult experiences so that David would learn to trust God and rely on Him. Because David allowed God to teach Him and because he had faith and relied on God the LORD was pleased with David. David liked to write songs and poems called Psalms. In these songs we see the heart of David. They are like prayers and they show his great love and trust in God.

One of the well known Psalms of David is the 23rd Psalm (NIV).
Look it up and fill in the words to complete the verses.

Psalm 23 verses 1-3



The LORD is my
_____, I shall not
be in _____. He _____
me lie down in _____
_____, he _____
me _____ quiet _____,
he _____
my soul.

King Solomon and the Temple

When King David grew very old and knew that he would not live much longer, he gave orders that his son Solomon should be made king. Early in his reign God appeared to Solomon and told Solomon to ask for whatever he wanted from God.

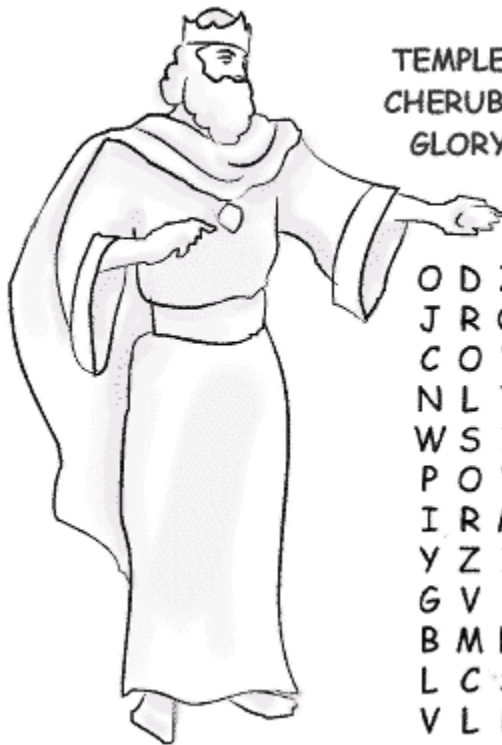
Read 1 Kings 3:9 (NIV) and fill in the blanks below to see what Solomon asked for

"So give your servant a _____
 _____ to _____ your _____
 and to distinguish between _____ and _____..."

God was pleased with this request and gave Solomon a wise and discerning heart as well as riches and honor. God also allowed Solomon to build a house for him, called the Temple, to take the place of the Tabernacle. The Temple was similar to the Tabernacle but was a permanent structure that was bigger and grander. It took 7 years to build.

Read 1 Kings 8:6-13 (NIV) to see what happened when they finished it.

Find the words from the word list and circle them in the wordsearch puzzle below

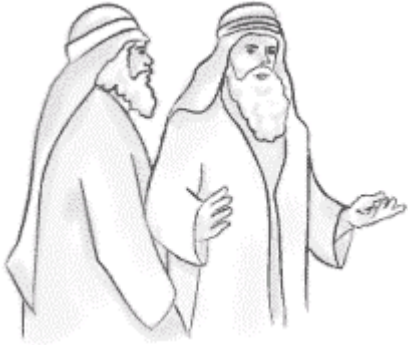


TEMPLE ARK COVENANT SANCTUARY HOLY
 CHERUBIM TABLETS PRIESTS CLOUD FILLED
 GLORY LORD SOLOMON DWELL FOREVER

O	D	Z	P	S	Y	T	K	G	P	C	G	A	S	T	C	D	G
J	R	Q	T	A	B	L	E	T	S	L	R	B	N	D	X	S	J
C	O	V	E	N	A	N	T	V	H	O	L	Y	I	O	Q	I	X
N	L	T	M	C	E	V	J	M	J	U	L	R	V	S	E	D	K
W	S	I	P	T	J	P	I	D	A	D	F	O	R	E	V	E	R
P	O	V	L	U	M	B	I	C	B	P	S	L	M	D	C	L	C
I	R	M	E	A	U	Y	W	T	B	L	G	I	O	K	L	Q	
Y	Z	I	J	R	R	W	R	G	J	E	F	P	N	O	N	I	A
G	V	K	E	Y	S	K	S	W	W	Y	F	G	N	K	U	F	A
B	M	H	C	S	W	A	F	D	L	W	P	N	N	G	W	K	W
L	C	S	U	A	T	T	K	L	N	K	B	E	J	W	R	W	C
V	L	B	X	E	D	S	C	U	B	K	U	U	P	W	M	K	V

Divided Kingdom

When King Solomon died Rehoboam, his son, became the next King. The people said to Rehoboam: "Your father put a heavy yoke on us, but now lighten the harsh labor . . . and we will serve you." (1Kings 12:4 NIV) Rehoboam asked the elders for their advice and then asked the young men he grew up with for their advice.

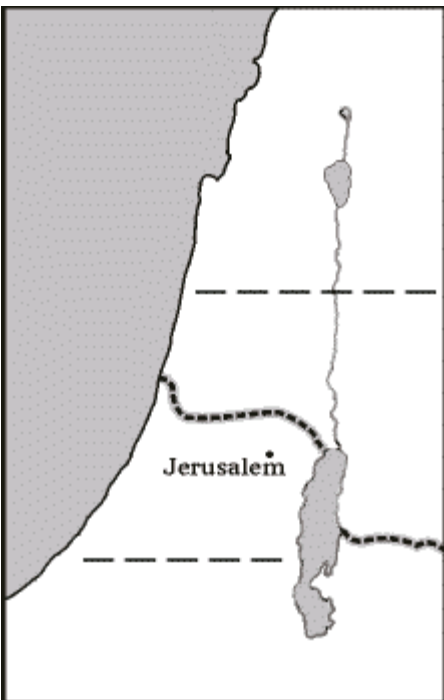


Read 1 Kings 12:7 (NIV) to see what the elders advised.

"If today you will be a _____ to these people and serve them and give them a _____ answer they will always be your _____."

Read 1 Kings 12:11 (NIV) to see what the young men advised.

"Tell these people . . . "My _____ laid on you a _____ yoke; I will make it even _____."



Rehoboam took the advice of the young men. When the Israelites heard his answer they were very angry and said they wanted another man be their king. His name was Jeroboam. So the 10 tribes of Israel had Jeroboam as their king and the 2 tribes of Judah and Benjamin kept Rehoboam as their king.

Rehoboam wanted to go to war to force the 10 tribes to accept him as king but God told him not to. Israel was now divided into two kingdoms: Israel to the North and Judah to the South.

Fill in the blank spaces on the map with the names of the two Kingdoms.

Elijah God's Prophet

1 Kings 17:1-5

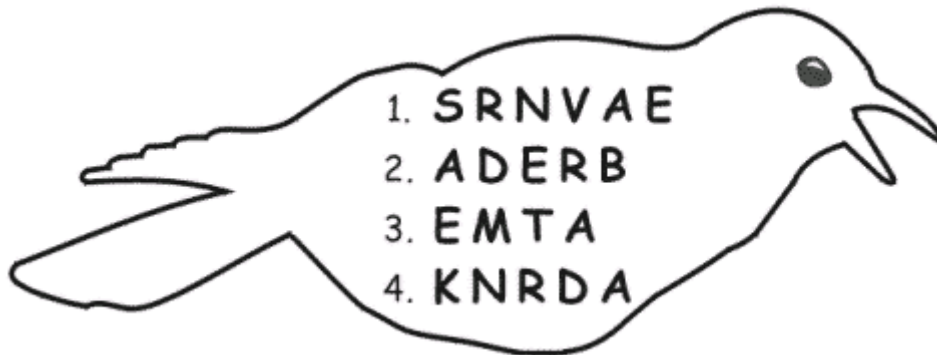
The kings of Judah and Israel often need to be reminded to worship and serve God. God used His prophets to do this. One of God's faithful prophets was named Elijah. He lived at a time when there was a very wicked king ruling over Israel named Ahab who allowed idols to be worshiped in Israel. God was very angry with him and sent Elijah to the King with a message.

Read 1 Kings 17:1 (NIV) and fill in the blanks to see what God had Elijah say to Ahab.

"... there will not be _____ nor _____ in the next few _____ except at my _____."

This message made Ahab was very angry but God was not going to let Ahab harm Elijah. The LORD told Elijah to flee and hide from Ahab in the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan River, where He would take care of him.

Unscramble the words below to see just how God took care of Elijah.



(1) _____ brought him (2) _____
and (3) _____ in the morning and evening and he
(4) _____ from the brook.

(1 Kings 17:3-5)

Elijah's Prayer Answered

1 Kings 18:16-45 (NIV)



Just as Elijah prophesied there was no rain in Israel for parts of 3 years which caused a great famine in the land. In the third year God told Elijah to tell Ahab that God would end the drought and send rain. Read about Elijah's conversation with Ahab and how he proved to the people that Jehovah was the true God.

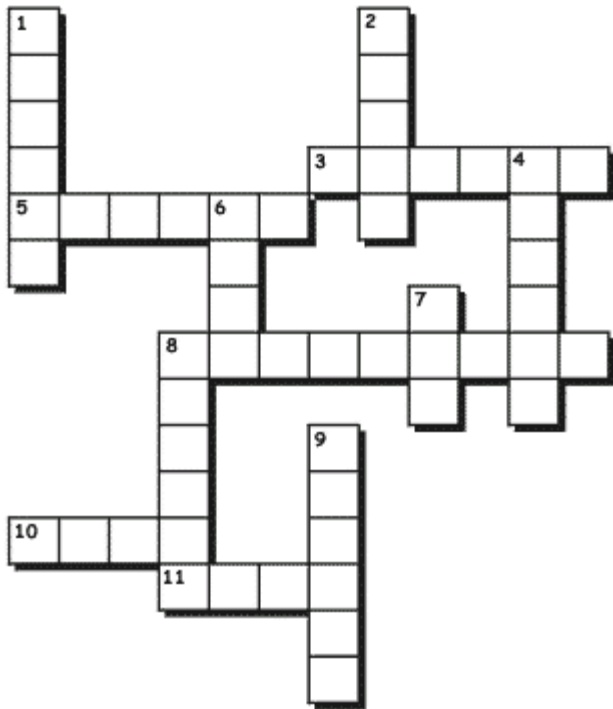
Read 1Kings 18:16-45 (NIV) solve the crossword puzzle below.

Across

3. Ahab was told to summon the _____ (vs. 19)
5. _____ told the people: "If the Lord is God follow him." (vs.21)
8. Ahab had _____ the LORD's commands. (vs. 18)
10. The _____ of the LORD fell and burned up the sacrifice. (vs. 38)
11. The sky grew black with clouds and there was a heavy _____. (45)

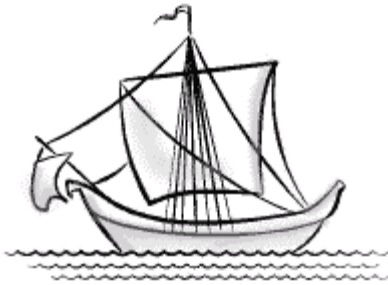
Down

1. The prophets of Baal assembled on Mount _____. (vs. 19)
2. Elijah had a trench dug around the altar and then poured _____ over the offering and the wood three times. (vs.33-35)
4. Elijah told the prophets of Baal to shout _____. (vs.27)
6. _____ went to meet Elijah (vs. 16)
7. The people cried, "The LORD - he is _____. (vs. 39)
8. Elijah asked God to _____ his prayer and burn up the sacrifice. (vs 36)
9. Elijah took 12 _____ to build an altar for the LORD. (vs.31)



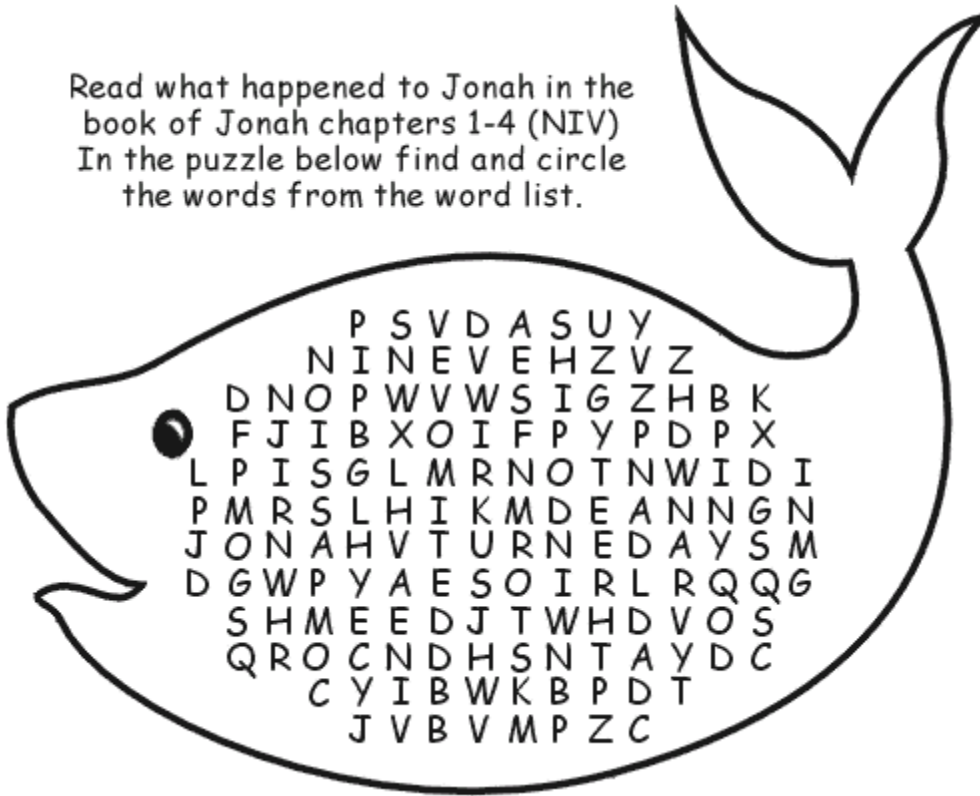
Jonah - God's Reluctant Prophet

Jonah 1-4 (NIV)



Jonah was one of God's prophets. God had something important for Jonah to do. He told Jonah to go to a very wicked city called Nineveh and tell the people of that city that they were to be destroyed because of their wickedness. Jonah didn't want to do what God told him to and tried to run away. But God gave Jonah some experiences that convinced Jonah to obey God after all. The result was that the city of Nineveh repented and God did not destroy them after all. It's a good thing that Jonah finally obeyed God.

Read what happened to Jonah in the book of Jonah chapters 1-4 (NIV)
In the puzzle below find and circle the words from the word list.



Daniel in the Lions Den

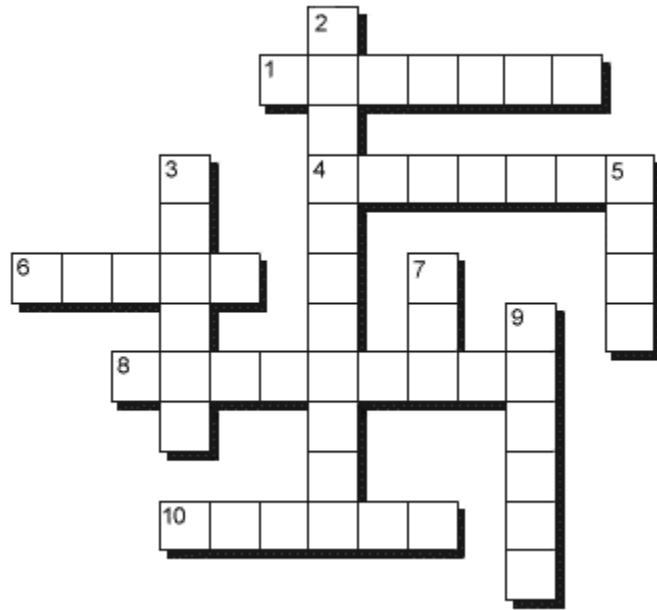
Daniel 6 (NIV)



Another faithful Hebrew who was taken off captive to Babylon was Daniel. He was taken captive as a young man and God blessed him. During the reign of Nebuchadnezzar with God's help he was able to interpret a dream for the king. As a reward the king made Daniel ruler over all the other wise men. Daniel ruled in Babylon a long time and God blessed him. Eventually the city of Babylon was captured by the Medes. The king of the Medes was named Darius. He liked Daniel and made Daniel his chief ruler. This did not make everyone happy. Some were jealous of Daniel. Read the 6th chapter of Daniel to find out what they did to try to hurt Daniel and how God protected him. Solve the crossword puzzle below.

Across:

1. God protected Daniel because he had _____ in God. (vs. 23)
4. Darius appointed 120 _____ to rule throughout the kingdom. (vs. 1)
6. Because of the decree Darius was forced to have Daniel thrown into the _____ den. (vs. 16)
8. After Daniel was removed from the lions den Darius issued a 2nd decree that the people in his kingdom should _____ the God of Daniel. (vs. 26)
10. Daniel ignored the kings decree and _____ each day to God. (vs. 10)



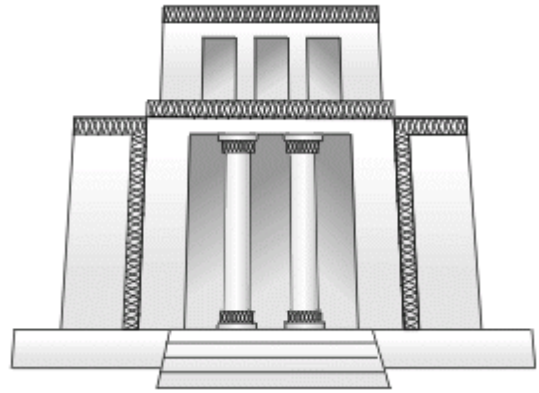
Down:

2. Daniel was _____. (vs. 4)
3. The king planned to make _____ ruler over his whole kingdom. (vs. 3)
5. God _____ the mouths of the lions so that Daniel was not hurt. (vs. 21)
7. In the morning Darius went to see what had happened to Daniel in the lions _____. (vs. 19)
9. King Darius made a _____ that no one was to worship or pray to any god or man during the next 30 days except to the king. (vs. 9)

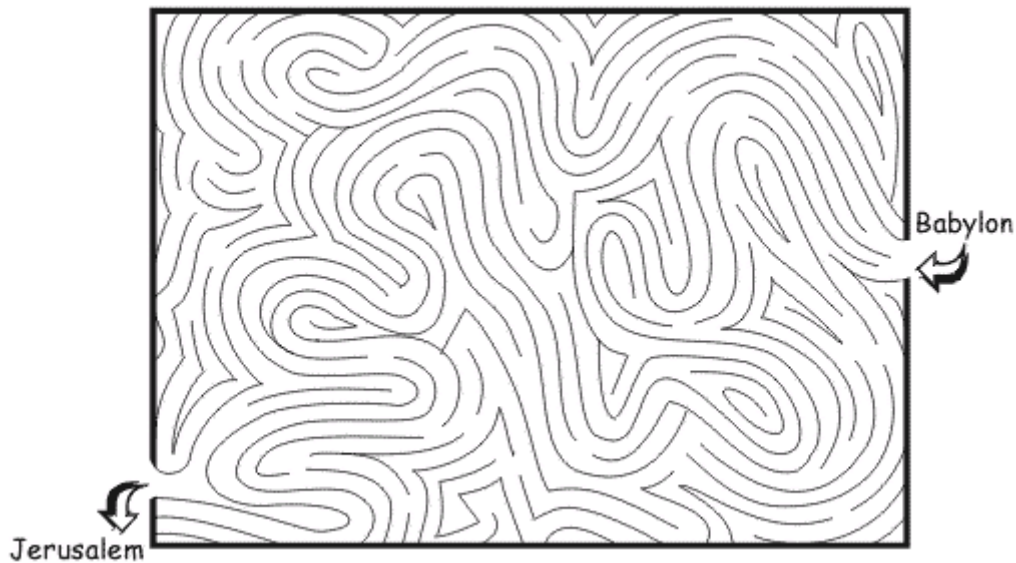
Rebuilding God's Temple

Ezra 1 (NIV)

The Babylonians, who had taken the Israelites captive, were now defeated by the Persians and a new Persian King named Cyrus ruled over the Israelites. In the first year of his reign he made an important proclamation that made the Jewish people very happy. Cyrus told the Israelites that they could go back to Jerusalem to live and rebuild the temple to the LORD.



Over 42,000 Israelites made the trip to returned to Jerusalem.
Lead the Israelites from Babylon back to Jerusalem in the maze puzzle below.



Two years and two months after they returned to Jerusalem they laid the foundation for the new temple. They were very happy and had a great celebration. Some shouted with joy and others wept with joy that God had brought them back to Jerusalem and the temple of the LORD would be rebuilt.

Read Ezra 3:11 and fill in the blanks to the song that they sang to the LORD in thanksgiving.

" He is _____ : his _____ to _____
endures _____."