

Ezra 6. 13-18

Builders

You'll know this man, I'm sure!



See if you can put all the building blocks below in the right order to get the name of the man!



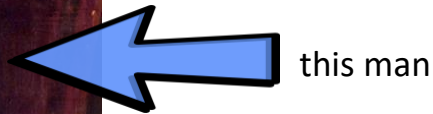
A story ...

... 3 men and a blaze



Here's a story to start with today.

Actually, it's the story of **4** men and a blaze – because it starts with



this man

He was called **Christopher Wren**:
and he was an architect.

In fact, in 1666 he was probably *the most famous architect in the world!*

In 1666 there was a huge fire in London, which is still known as

'the great fire of London'



That was when this man Christopher Wren was given the job of building **St Paul's Cathedral** (the previous building had been destroyed in the fire).

One day in 1671 Christopher Wren went along to the building site to see how the work was getting on.

He saw three men on a scaffold, all of them hard at work. He asked them what they were doing.

The first man said



**I'm just laying
some stones!**





The second man was a bit more aware of what it was he was doing.

He said to Christopher Wren



I'm building a big wall!

The third man was even more excited at what he was doing!



3

He knew that he was part of a huge big building project, and when he was asked the question, he replied like this

I'm building a great cathedral to the praise of Almighty God!



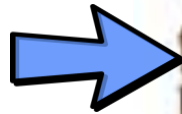
Today's passage

is also about people who were **building**.

The exiles who'd returned from Babylon were busy building in Jerusalem.

Read

Ezra 6.13-15



Can you see where the words **'build'** and **'building'** are found?

They were helped by the messages from God which the two prophets **Haggai** and **Zechariah** brought them.

As we live out our lives day by day and seek to serve God it's important to be learning from the Bible.

That's how we're able to hear God speaking with us.

What God has to say to us in the Bible helps us remember that we're involved with Him in building something really important.

¹³Then, because of the decree King Darius had sent, Tattenai, governor of Trans-Euphrates, and Shethar-Bozenai and their associates carried it out with diligence. ¹⁴So the elders of the Jews continued to build and prosper under the preaching of **Haggai** the prophet and **Zechariah**, a descendant of Iddo. They finished building the temple according to the command of the God of Israel and the decrees of Cyrus, Darius and Artaxerxes, kings of Persia. ¹⁵The temple was completed on the third day of the month Adar, in the sixth year of the reign of King Darius.



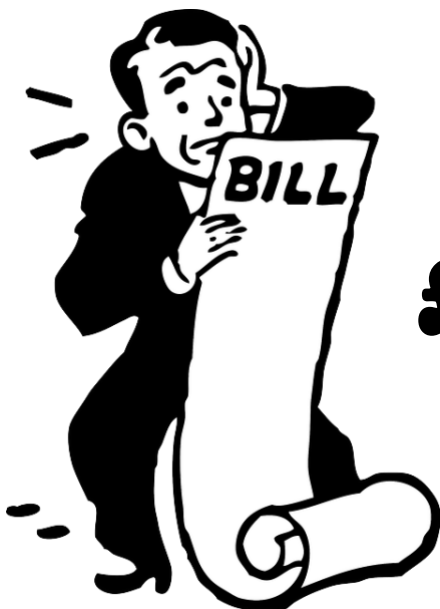
Building for the future

It took the exiles a long time to build the temple in Jerusalem.

It was a good **20** years after the foundations had been laid before the temple was completed.



It took even longer to build St Paul's Cathedral – over **40** years!



And it cost a lot of money!

.... about

£165,000,000

in today's money (that's a *lot* of money!)

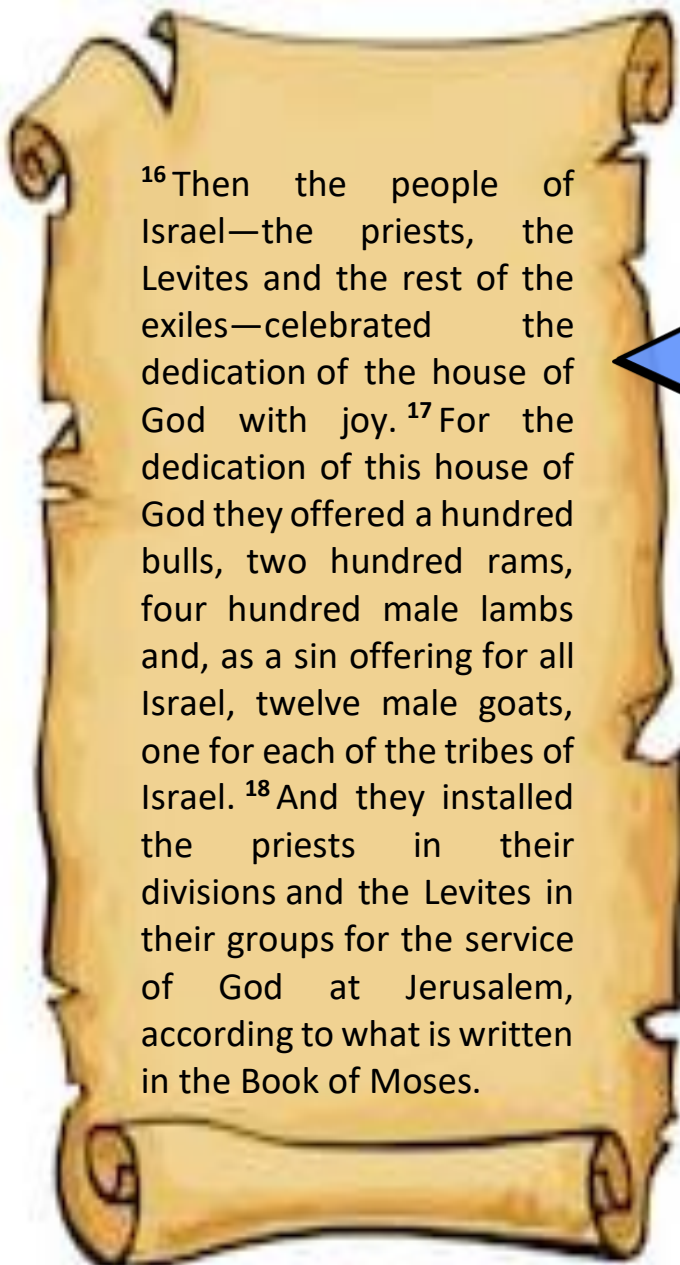


Some of the people who had started work on building the temple never saw it finished.

They were no longer alive by the time it was completed!

(The same was true, of course, with the building of St Paul's Cathedral)

But the people who were still alive when the building was finished were very happy!



¹⁶Then the people of Israel—the priests, the Levites and the rest of the exiles—celebrated the dedication of the house of God with joy. ¹⁷For the dedication of this house of God they offered a hundred bulls, two hundred rams, four hundred male lambs and, as a sin offering for all Israel, twelve male goats, one for each of the tribes of Israel. ¹⁸And they installed the priests in their divisions and the Levites in their groups for the service of God at Jerusalem, according to what is written in the Book of Moses.

They knew that all their hard work would help others see how great and wonderful God is!

So they celebrated!

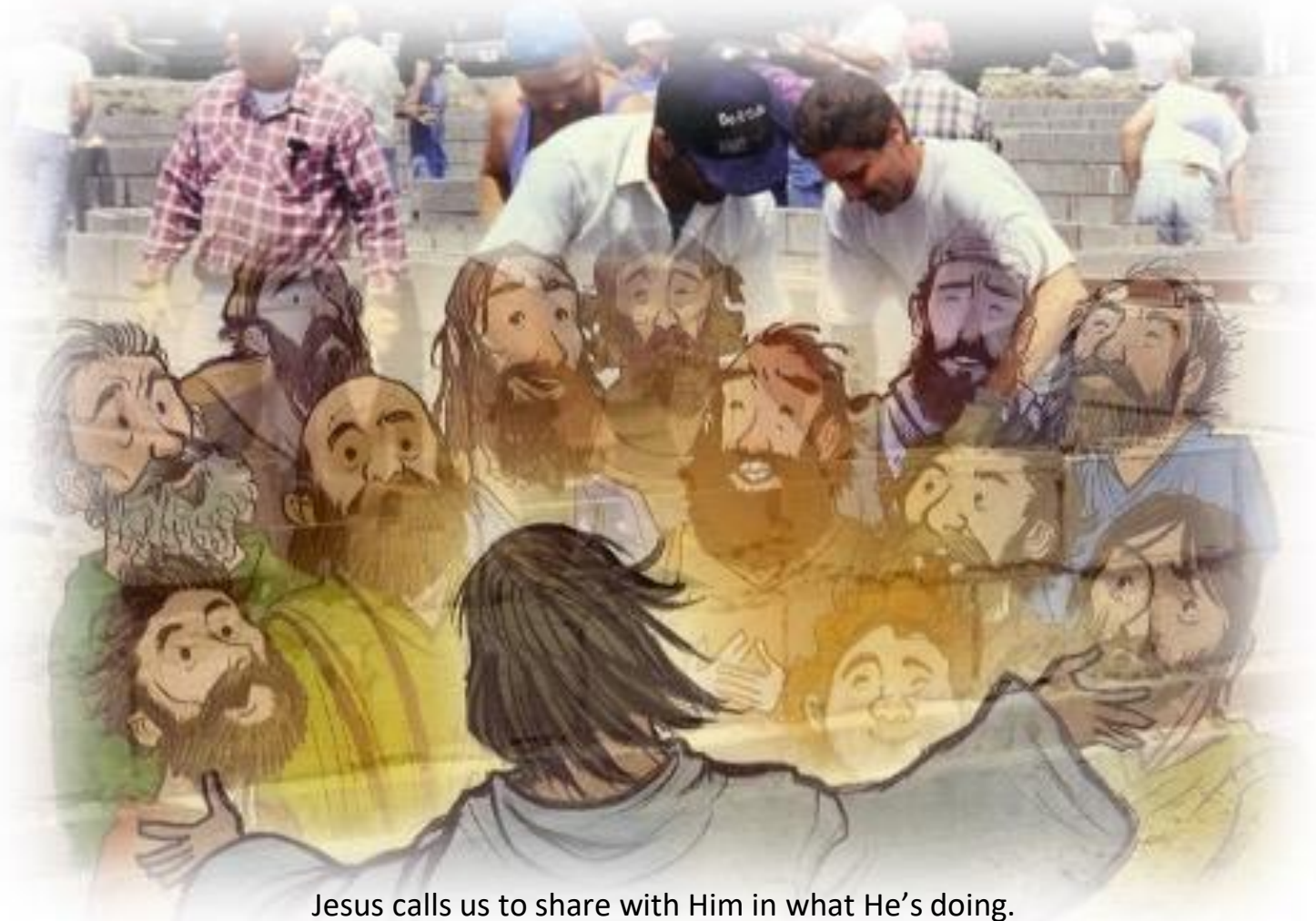
Read

Ezra 6.16-18

In everything they did they were careful to follow the instructions which God had given to them.

Where did they find those instructions? Here's some more building block work for you to do – use the letters and write the answer in the box below

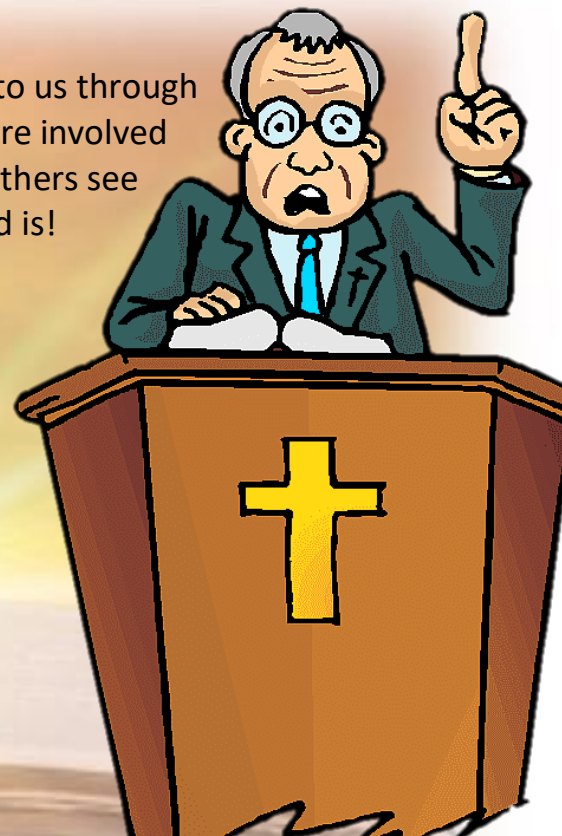
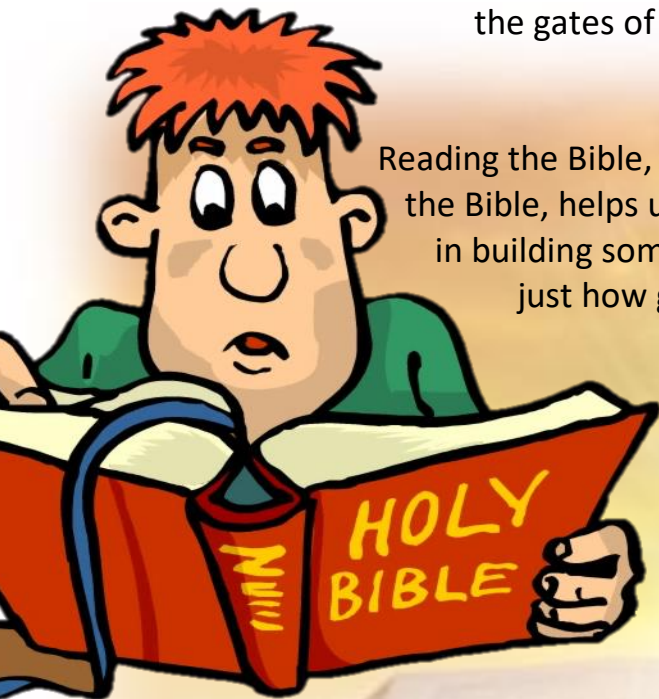




Jesus calls us to share with Him in what He's doing.

He said, "I will build My church, and the gates of hell will not prevail against it!"

Reading the Bible, and hearing God speak to us through the Bible, helps us to remember that we're involved in building something which will help others see just how great and wonderful God is!



A prayer

Think about what you've been learning today.

Now try praying this prayer (or making up your own prayer!)

Thank You, Jesus, for the Bible.

There's lots for me to learn, and it's exciting to find that You want me to share with You in what You're doing in the world today.

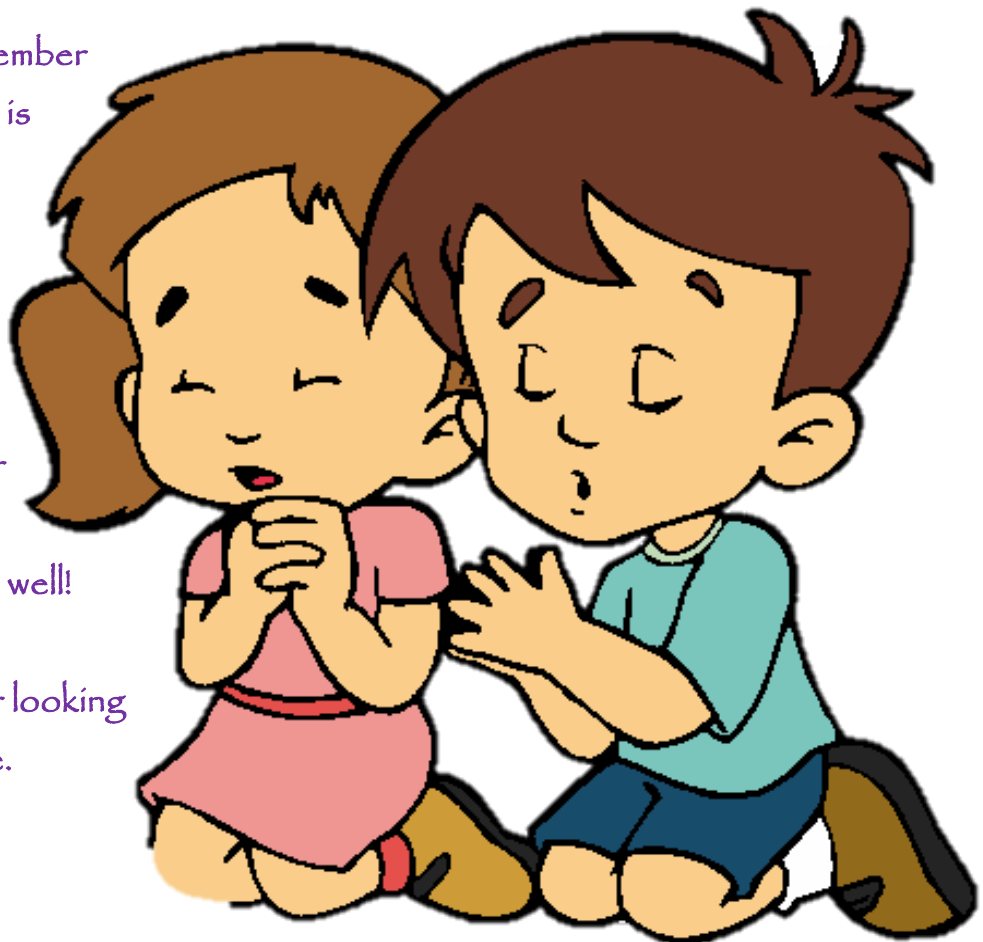
I want to be part of what You're doing; but I need You to teach me, because I'm definitely just a learner and I often get things wrong!

Help me always to remember that what You're doing is building something that will help others see that God is great!

Please help me to live in such a way that other people will want to be part of Your people as well!

Thank You, Jesus, for looking after me and helping me.

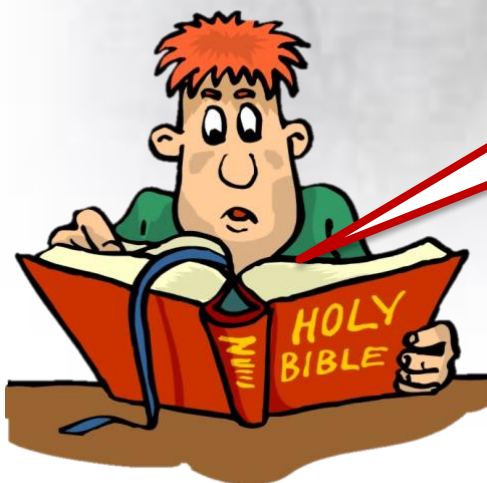
You're amazing!



Today's verse for you to try and remember!

**".. the Jews
continued to build
and prosper under
the preaching .."**

Ezra 6.14



A PUZZLE

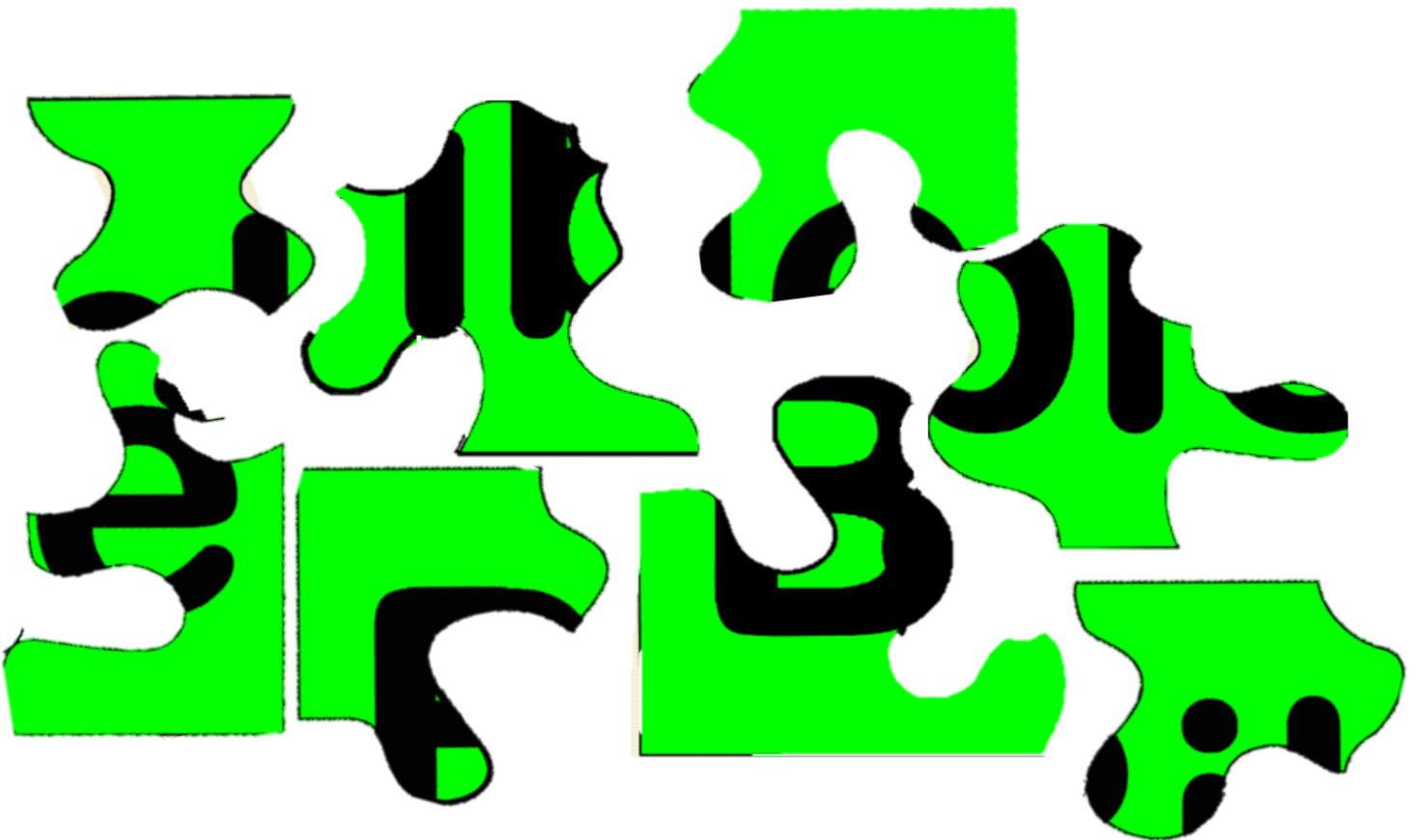
Can you take these 8 pieces and **build** them together
to make the **Bible**?

HINTS:

Each piece is the right way up so you don't have to turn any of them round at all.

Look for the four corner pieces first of all.

There are 2 rows of 4 pieces each.



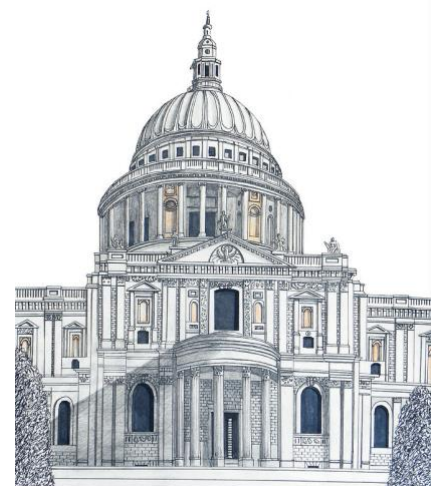
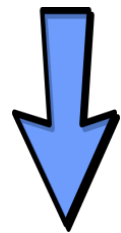
For you to COLOUR IN



Try colouring in this drawing of St Paul's Cathedral.

And then try finishing off the drawing!

Use the other drawing of the Cathedral down below to help you!



ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL
LONDON

1/20/15
07-15

Here's another picture to colour in! This picture shows Zerubbabel and Jeshua at work on the rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem by the exiles.

