

Ezra 7.1-10

Devoted!

WHAT'S
IN A
NAME?

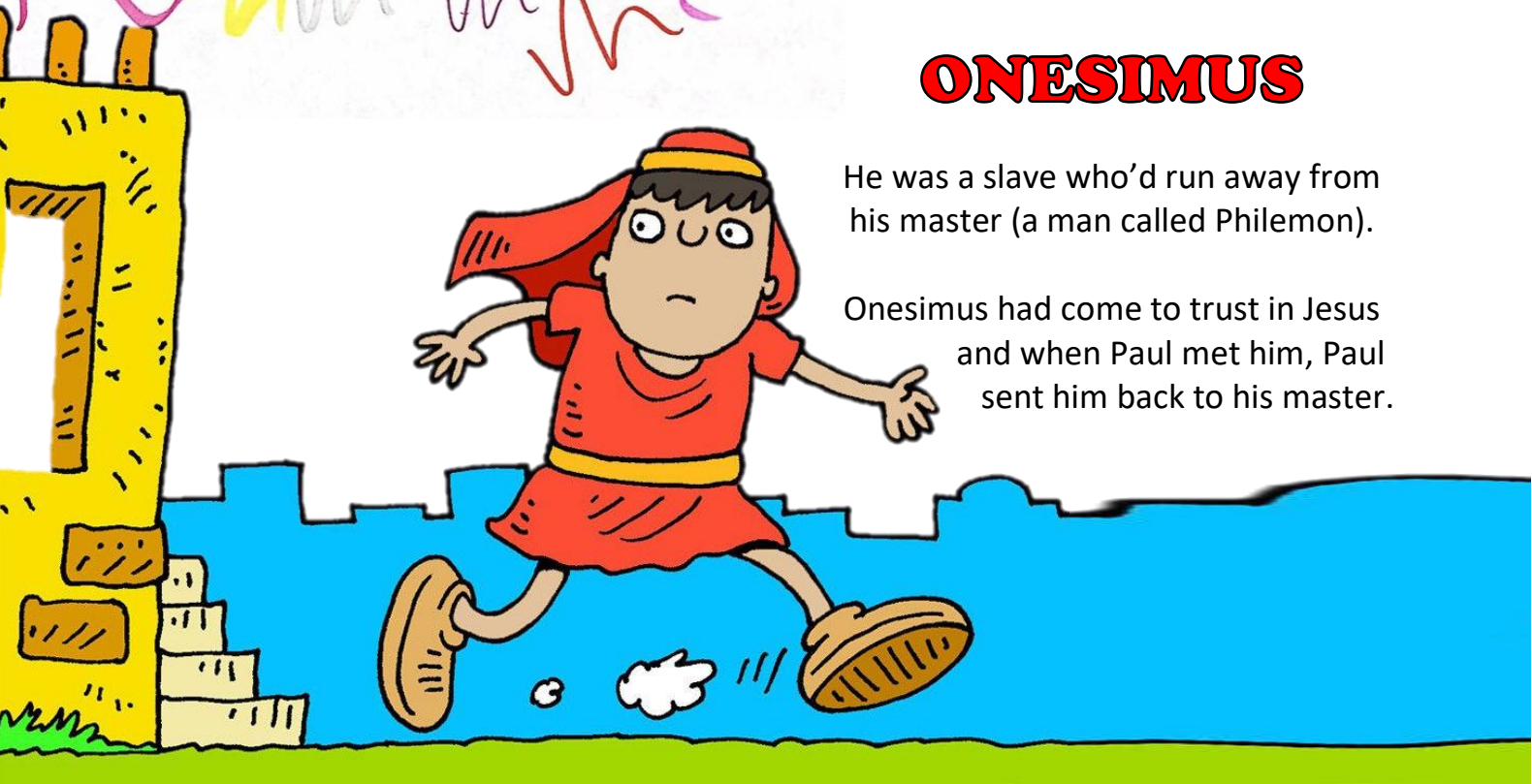
My name is –

There's a man in the Bible called

ONESIMUS

He was a slave who'd run away from his master (a man called Philemon).

Onesimus had come to trust in Jesus and when Paul met him, Paul sent him back to his master.



The name **ONESIMUS** has a special meaning.

See if you put these letters together in the right order to spell what his name means.

F **U** **E** **L**
U **S**

His name means



Today's passage is about a man who was very useful to the Lord!

His name was Ezra.

The story of which he was a part took place a long, long time ago – a good 500 years and more before Jesus was born!

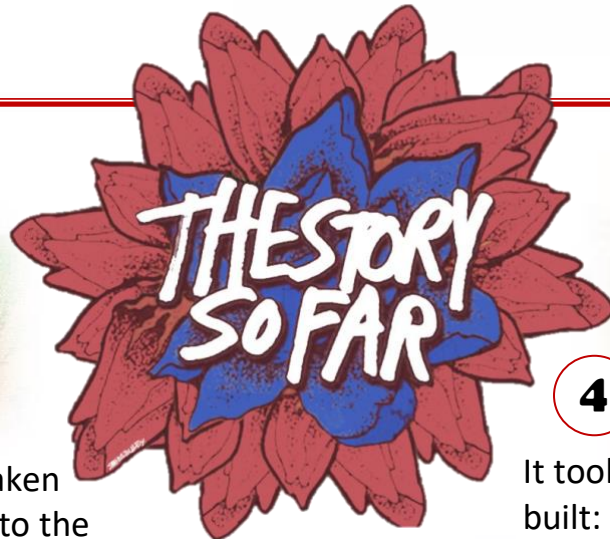
And it's a long story!

This man Ezra only appeared 80 years after the story had started! He hadn't even been born when this story of God being at work had begun!

God is never in a rush!



That means we often have to **wait patiently!**



1



God's people had been taken from Jerusalem far away to the land of Babylon: it was a sad time.

4



It took them 20 years to get the temple built: but they'd managed to do it!

2



70 years later the king gave an order for them to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple!

3

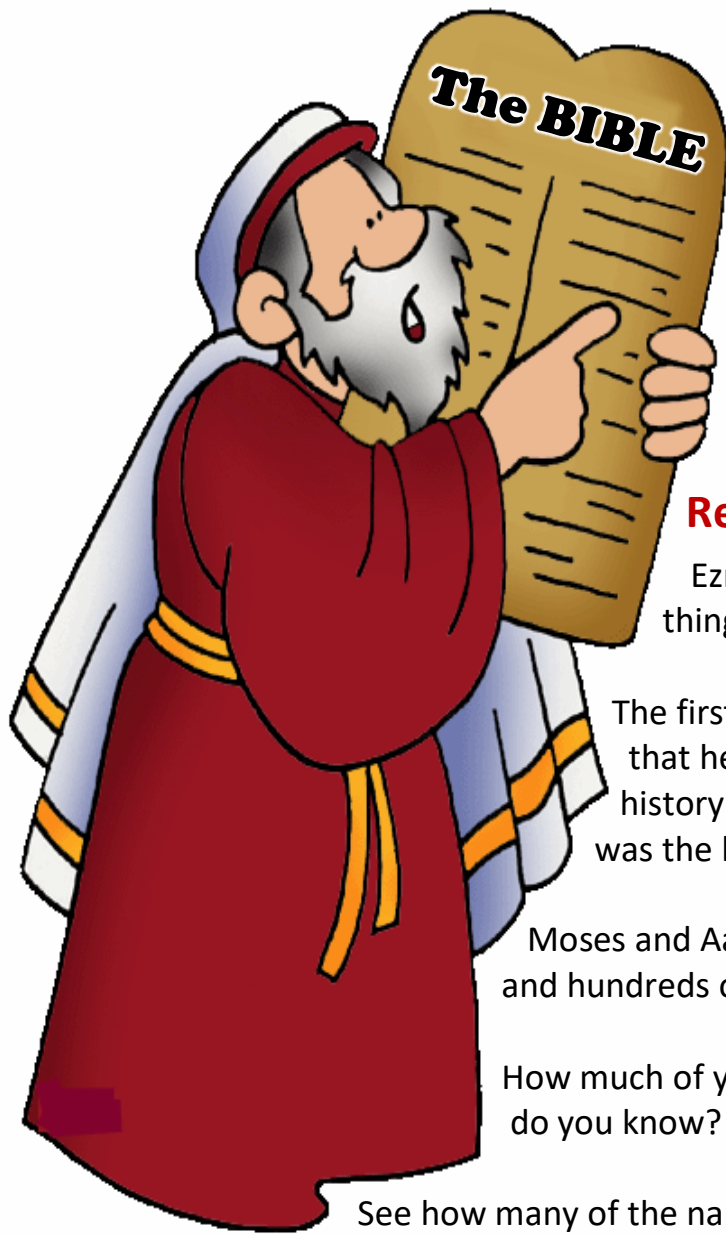


When they arrived the city was in ruins!

5



.. but 58 years had passed since then!



The temple had been rebuilt.

But the people needed to be 'rebuilt' as well. They needed to be taught from the Bible how God meant them to live.

That's why God had sent this man Ezra back to Jerusalem – to teach them the Bible.

Read **Ezra 7.1-6**

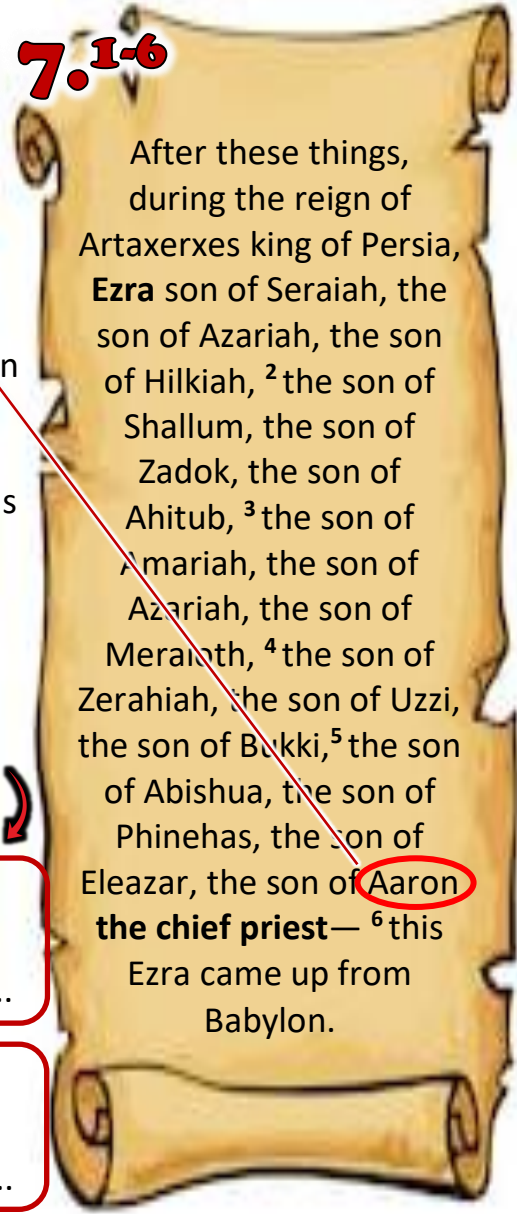
Ezra tells us a few things about himself!

The first thing we learn is that he had a long family history: his ancestor Aaron was the brother of Moses.

Moses and Aaron lived hundreds and hundreds of years earlier!

How much of your family history do you know?

See how many of the names you can fill in.



After these things, during the reign of Artaxerxes king of Persia, **Ezra** son of Seraiah, the son of Azariah, the son of Hilkiah, ²the son of Shallum, the son of Zadok, the son of Ahitub, ³the son of Amariah, the son of Azariah, the son of Meremoth, ⁴the son of Zerariah, the son of Uzzi, the son of Bukki, ⁵the son of Abishua, the son of Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of **Aaron** the chief priest— ⁶this Ezra came up from Babylon.

My Dad

My Dad's Dad

My Dad's Mum

My Mum

My Mum's Dad

My Mum's Mum

My great grandfathers

1.
2.
3.
4.



My great grandmothers

1.
2.
3.
4.

It's a very special thing growing up in a family where each generation loves the Lord Jesus.

That's how God means it to be.

He means that parents should teach their children about Jesus:

And when those children grow up, they then are to teach *their* children about Jesus!



Why not say 'Thank You' to God now for your family?

Thank God for all the people who teach you about Jesus and who help you understand the Bible.

Read

Ezra 7.6

Ezra came up from Babylon.

He was a teacher well versed in the Law of Moses, which the Lord, the God of Israel, had given.

God needed someone to teach the people in Jerusalem and help them learn to live as God meant them to live.

And Ezra was the ideal person!

He was going to be very **useful** to God!

Why was Ezra so well suited to do this job for God?

**“He was a _____
in _____
of _____**

which the Lord, the God of Israel had given”

Here's how that that had come about!

And there's the key word for today's lesson –

devoted

Read

Ezra 7.10

Ezra had **devoted** himself to the study and observance of the Law of the Lord, and to teaching its decrees and laws in Israel.

devoted ..



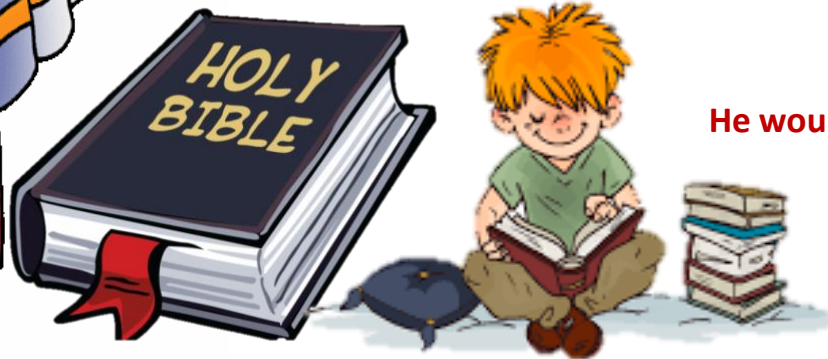
That means that Ezra had made this an absolute top priority.

It wasn't something he'd thought he'd *maybe* do.

He would do it. Whatever.

Look at v.10 again. What were the three things which Ezra had made sure would be an absolute top priority for himself.

You'll find all the letters you need to fill in the blanks at the side



He would _____ it

H E A R T

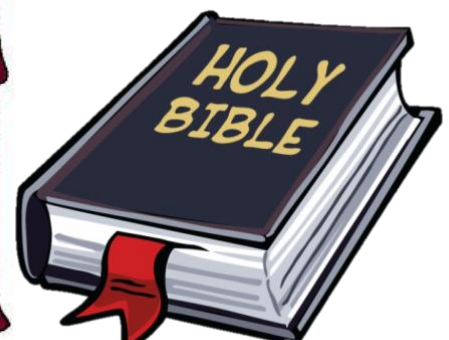


He would _____ it

B U S T E D

C O S E Y D

He would _____ it



Ezra was a person who proved to be very **useful** in the service of God.

Make it your aim to be **useful** too: that'll mean being **devoted** like Ezra was.

Try following these seven bits of advice so that **you** will be truly
devoted and **useful**
in God's service

Day by day try and read a bit from the Bible

Expect God to be speaking to you through the Bible

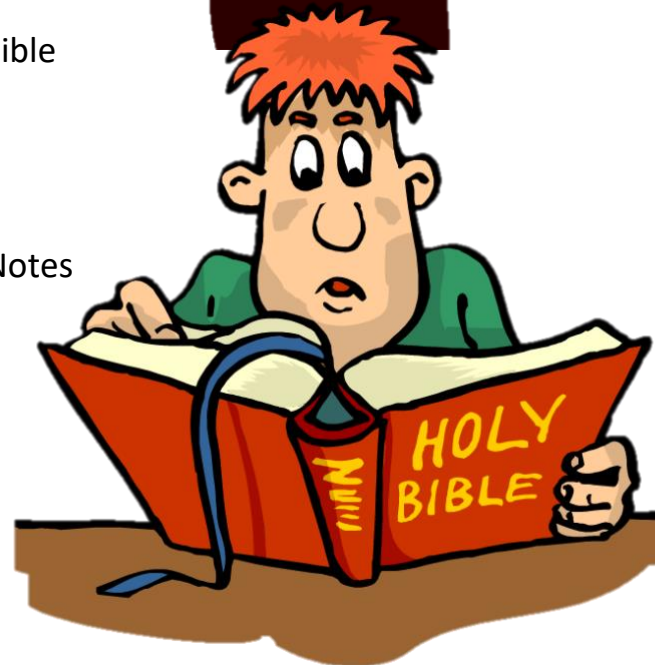
Verses: try and memorise some verses from the Bible

Organise your reading of the Bible by using Bible Notes

Tell someone what you've been learning

Explanations: get someone to explain bits you don't understand

Do whatever you've heard God teach you!



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 teaching me about this man Ezra.

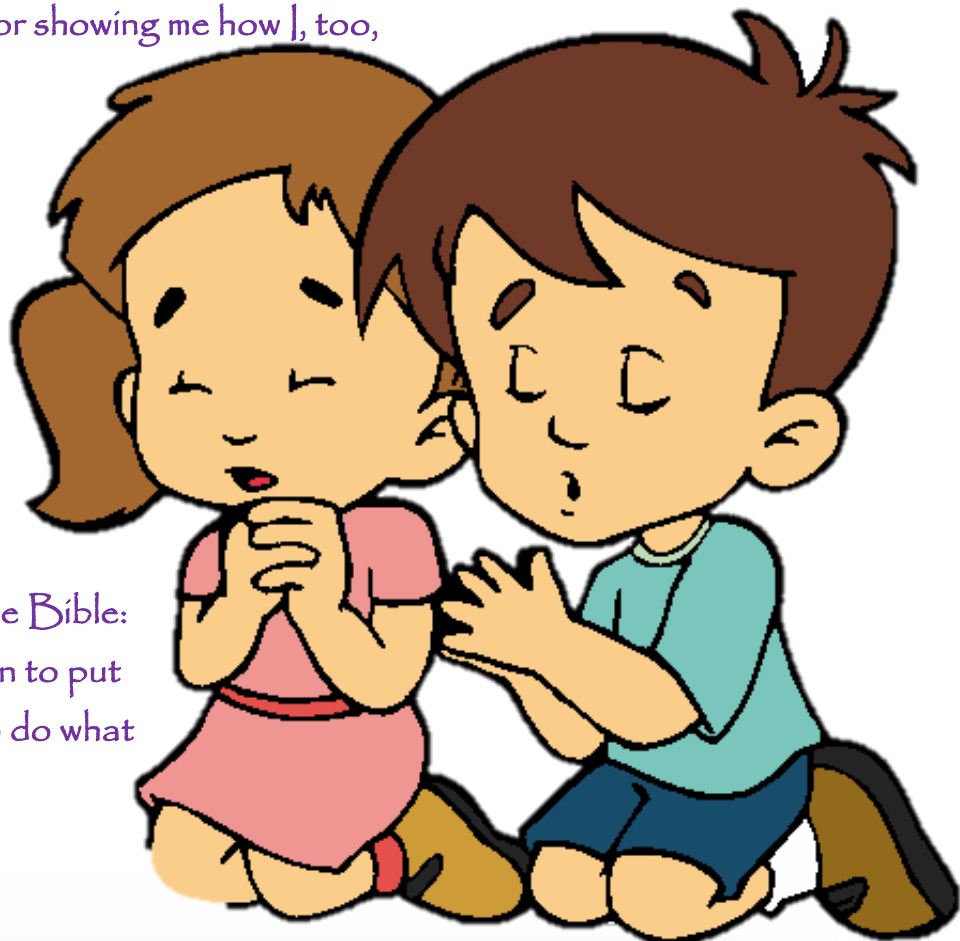
It's exciting to see how You wanted to use him in what You were doing
- and to know that You want me to share in Your work as well!

Thank You that You're never in a rush: sometimes, Jesus, I find it hard
not to be in a hurry - waiting isn't always easy!

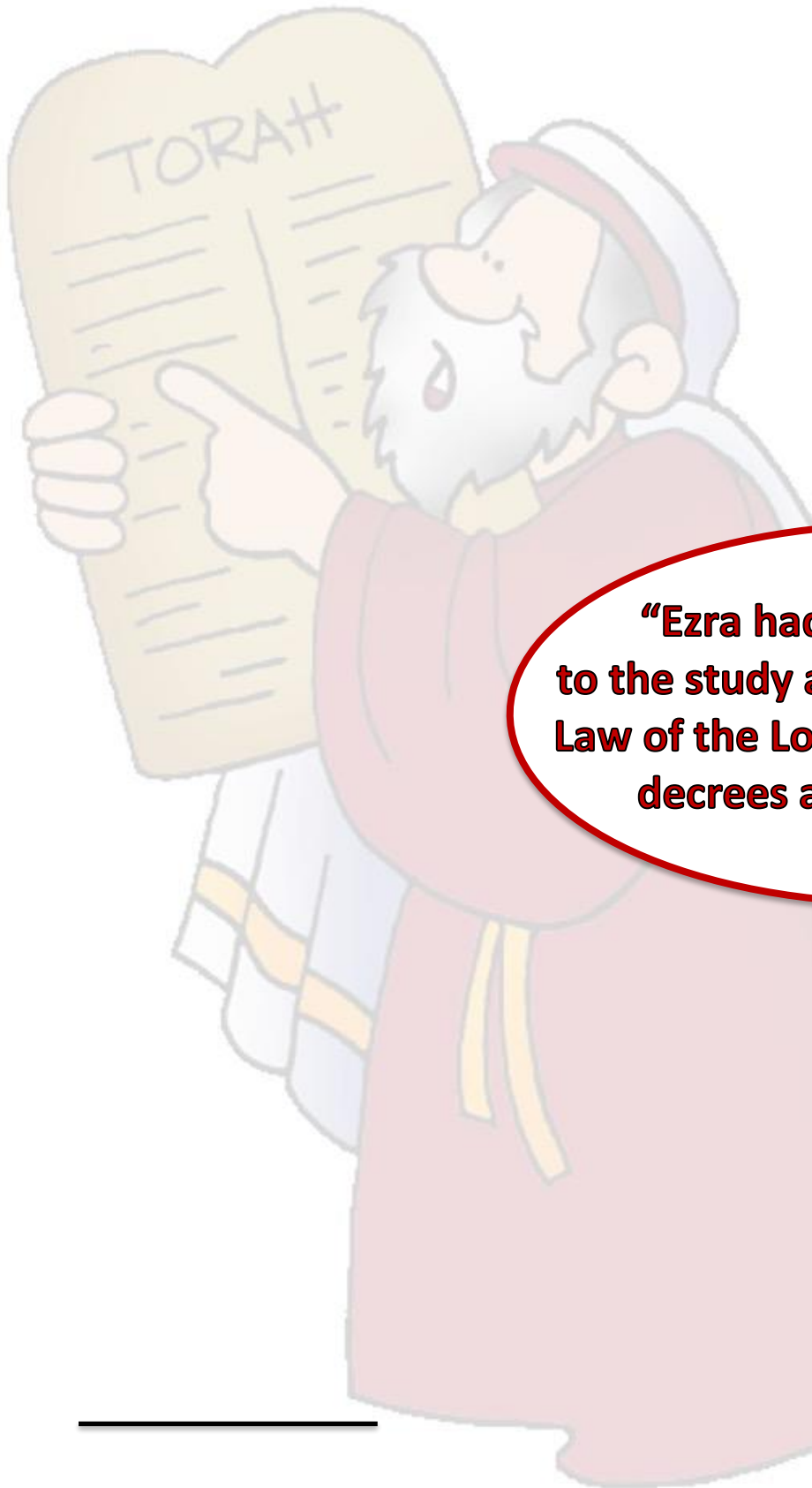
I really want to be useful in Your service, so that my life will make a
difference: thank You for showing me how I, too,
can be useful by being
like Ezra was - devoted.

Please help me, Jesus,
to get into the habit of
reading and learning
from the Bible.

Help me to understand
what You teach me in the Bible:
and help me, too, to learn to put
it all into practice and to do what
You teach me!

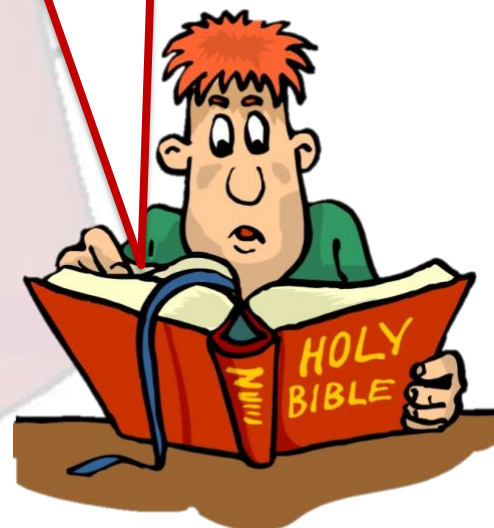


Today's verse for you to try and remember!



**“Ezra had devoted himself
to the study and observance of the
Law of the Lord, and to teaching its
decrees and laws in Israel”**

Ezra 7.10



a Wordsearch

Books of the Bible The Old Testament

U S E T S A I S E L C C E S N A S 2 A K T X G I
 P E I Z M H U M 2 Z 1 E 2 A V L E S I U P R R V
 Y Z I P T G P Z E K E X U A 1 L M A T L H F F C
 L C C C B B T C I R S O G I M L R M L A E S C Y
 A K H H 1 N H N B O T D N K A R U U L E Z O O B
 M D G U F A G G H R H U I S M L M E U S B T J J
 E L G L R S E S C A E S P U C A Z L D O Y Z D M
 N G V I D N L A I 2 R J H C H V J S X H G J I 2
 T B A T E V F N P 2 B A 1 B D A N I E L 2 C E D
 A H T S 1 P A V O X N I I R J E R E M I A H R E
 T L I G O H E H A B A K K U K H H U H H O C N U
 I S P Y P D A B B F X Z S 2 T A M X G 1 C F U T
 O X R E M Z Z O D R E A C 2 2 I P B M C G F M E
 N F Z K S L C G H Z 2 H V A K A X P A H D U B R
 S M 2 K I N G S E U R L E H H S T C L R Y U E O
 1 I S F J Y C K N O H E E B X I O X A O N K R N
 A S J B F L I X N O A V H A N O J G C N I I S O
 R X A S R E 2 I H F I I P L N A S A H I A S I M
 Z L I M L E C R A J D T N U D L R M I C V E A Y
 E L P C U L V J K Y A I L U S F L O L L T G G R
 A G K D E E L O 2 M B C 2 I T Z I S 2 E U D G J
 I S I S N O L D R X O U B B S L P A C S R U A O
 H A I M E H E N E P G S A S R U T H J K M J H B
 X T Y 1 2 X H S O N G O F S O L O M O N N C H G

| | | | |
|-----------|-----------------|--------------|-----------|
| Malachi | Zechariah | Haggai | Zephaniah |
| Habakkuk | Nahum | Micah | Jonah |
| Obadiah | Amos | Joel | Hosea |
| Daniel | Ezekiel | Lamentations | Jeremiah |
| Isaiah | Song of Solomon | Ecclesiastes | Proverbs |
| Psalms | Job | Esther | Nehemiah |
| Ezra | 2 Chronicles | 1 Chronicles | 2 Kings |
| 1 Kings | 2 Samuel | 1 Samuel | Ruth |
| Judges | Joshua | Deuteronomy | Numbers |
| Leviticus | Exodus | Genesis | |

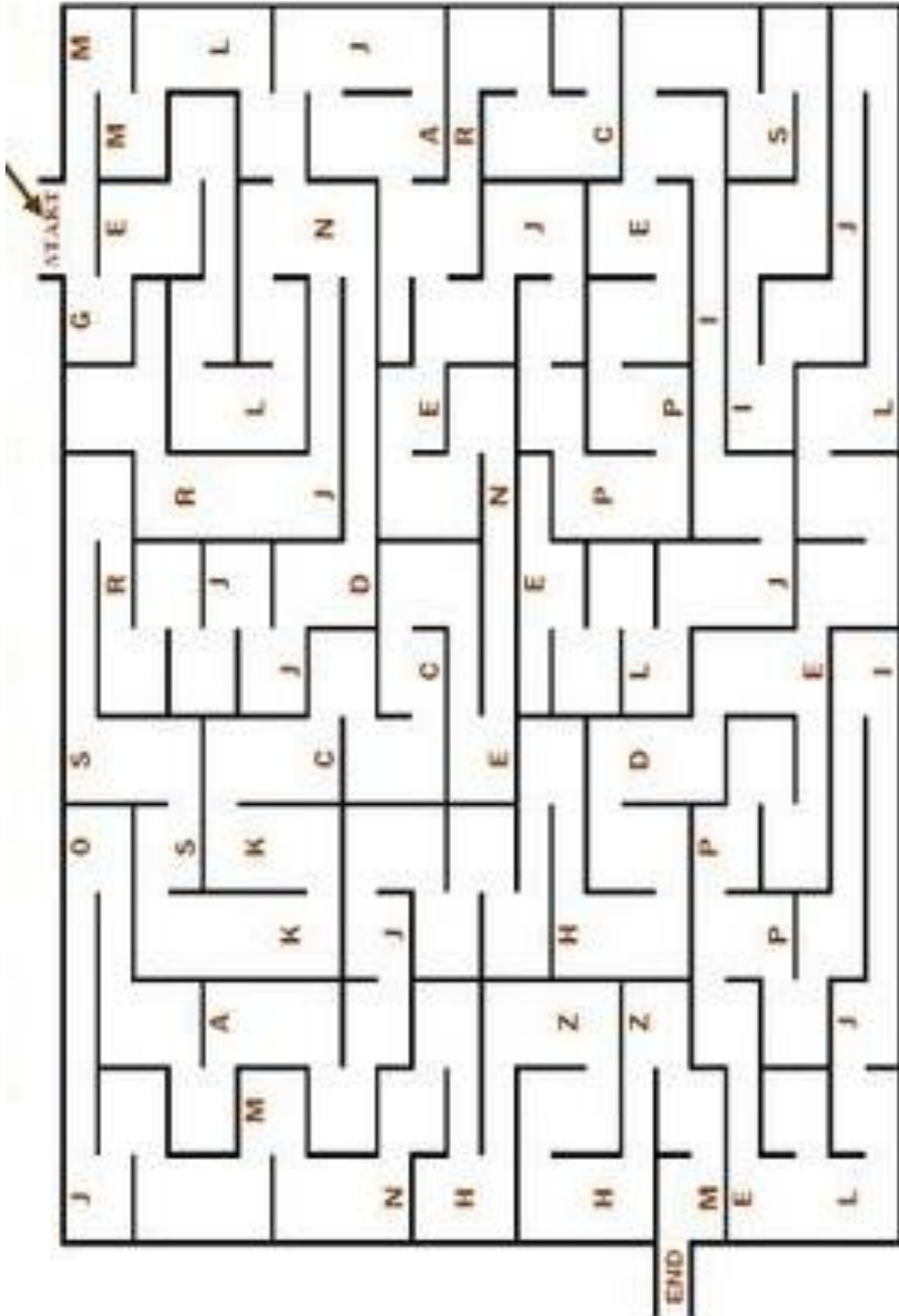
A puzzle for you!

If you go to the end of the worksheet you'll find where to look!
(But no cheating! Try working it out for yourself first!)

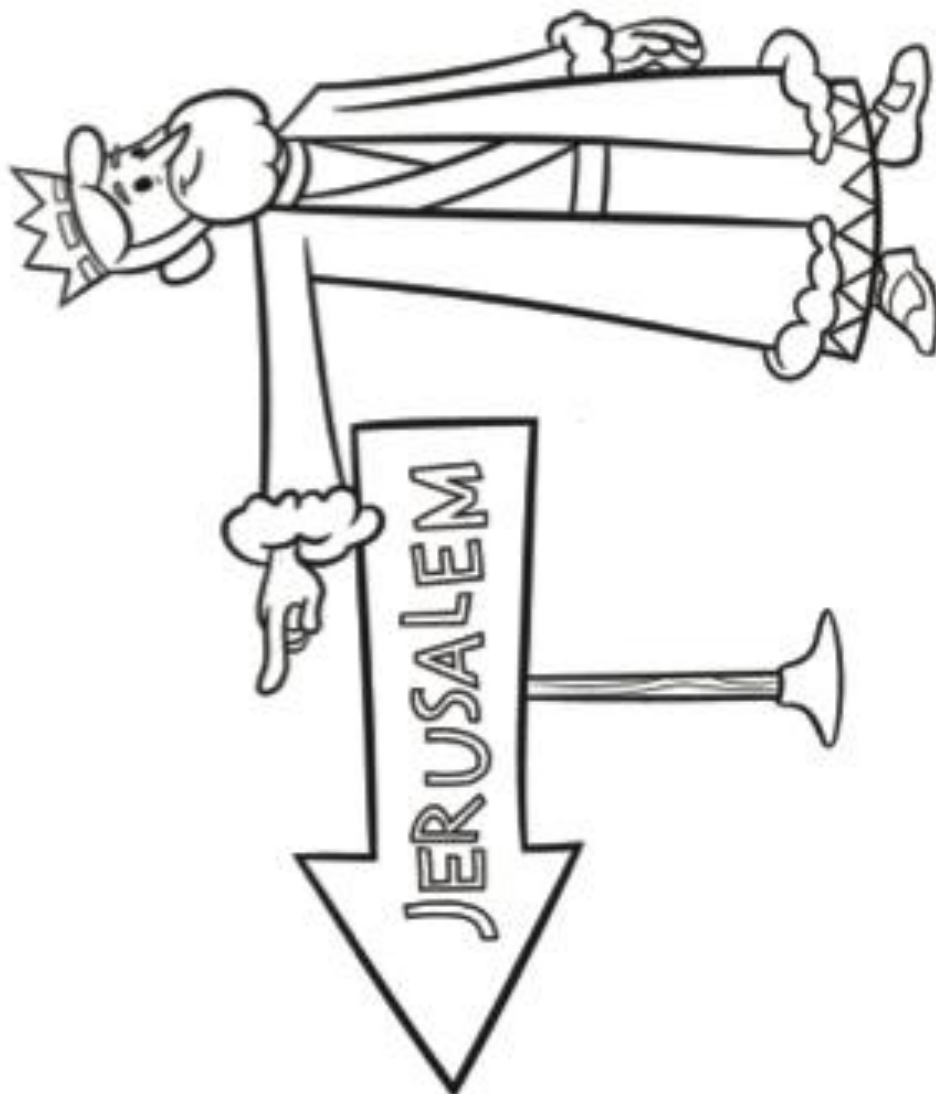
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|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| N | A | L | W | O | A | K | Y | U | W | T |
| S | <p>Here's a super fun Bible word game!</p> <p>We've hidden a verse from Proverbs in this shape.</p> <p>To find it, you'll need to start at the correct letter and then read every second letter, going in a clockwise direction.</p> <p>How long will it take you to uncover the wisdom of this proverb?</p> | | | | | | | | | R |
| U | | | | | | | | | | M |
| N | | | | | | | | | | A |
| O | | | | | | | | | | I |
| R | | | | | | | | | | T |
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| C | | | | | | | | | | O |
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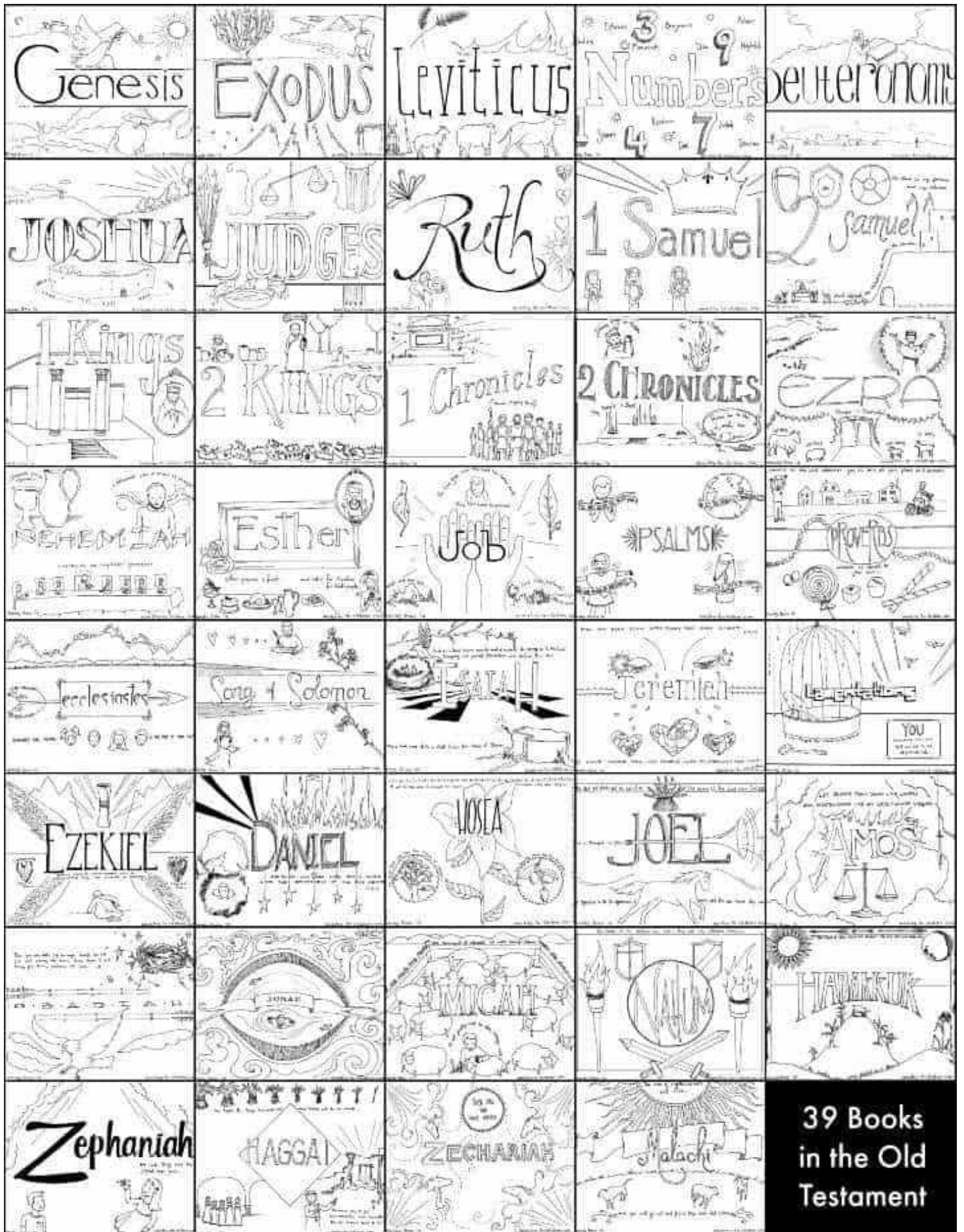
A PUZZLE

See if you can work your way through the books of the Old Testament.
All the books are there in the right order, but only the first letter of
each book has been given. *And there are some 'false trails' too!*



For you to COLOUR IN





The proverb can be found in the book of Proverbs 15.1