

# Ezra 7.11-28

## Praise the LORD!

What would you like to be when you grow up?

Here's a set of 10 pictures showing a lot of different jobs which you might like to do.

See if you can work out what job each of the pictures is showing.

Write underneath it what the job is – and give a tick in the box if you'd quite like to have that job!



What would you like to be when you grow up?



## Remember this guy?

Can you remember his name?  
Write his name on the name plate below



See if you can work out from the clues below what  
this man's 'job' was, what God had called him to be

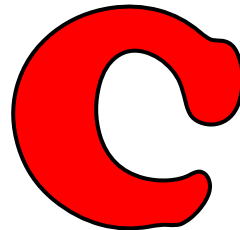
### The letters of



or



plus



and



He was a



*(You'll find the answer on the next page when you read the Bible passage!)*





The king of Persia was a very powerful man!

When he told people what to do, people had to make sure they did it!

In the letter which he'd given to Ezra he was telling people what he wanted done!

Read

## Ezra 7.11-12

<sup>11</sup>This is a copy of the letter King Artaxerxes had given to Ezra the priest, a teacher of the Law, a man learned in matters concerning the commands and decrees of the Lord for Israel:

<sup>12</sup>Artaxerxes, king of kings,  
To Ezra the priest, **teacher** of the Law of the God of heaven:  
Greetings.

### How would you feel if you got a letter from the Queen?

*Tick any boxes which describe how you'd feel*



PLEASED?

WORRIED?



SAD?



EXCITED?



The people of Israel had been taken away from their own land and had been 'exiled' to that part of the world: many of them still lived there at the time.

It's quite likely that Ezra had an official role as part of the way the king governed his country: Ezra would have been a good person to advise him about the customs and the needs of the people of Israel.

## Here's how the king's letter went on

Read

### Ezra 7.11-12

<sup>13</sup> Now I decree that any of the Israelites in my kingdom, including priests and Levites, who volunteer to go to Jerusalem with you, may go. <sup>14</sup> You are sent by the king and his seven advisers to **inquire** about Judah and Jerusalem with regard to the Law of your God, which is in your hand. <sup>15</sup> Moreover, you are to **take** with you the silver and gold that the king and his advisers have freely given to the God of Israel, whose dwelling is in Jerusalem, <sup>16</sup> together with all the silver and gold you may obtain from the province of Babylon, as well as the freewill offerings of the people and priests for the temple of their God in Jerusalem.

If you look carefully, you'll see that the king had two tasks which he was telling Ezra to do.

See if you can work out what they were.



**1**

Here's a clue to help you with the first task Ezra was given by the king.

Look at **verse 14** in the passage and you'll see that Ezra's first task was to

“ \_\_\_\_\_ ”  
about Judah and Jerusalem

He was to find out how much attention the people were paying to the Law of God.



And here's a clue to help you work out what the second task was which the king gave Ezra.

2

It was a **BIG** task – and it takes two verses to tell you!  
(Read through **verses 15 and 16** again and you'll see!)

The second instruction the **king** gave Ezra was to

“ **k** \_\_\_\_\_ with you  
\_\_\_\_\_ **i** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ **n** \_\_\_\_\_ **g** \_\_\_\_\_ ”

which the king said he was giving to God.



## But why was it all needed?

Read

### Ezra 7.17

<sup>17</sup>With this money be sure to buy bulls, rams and male lambs, together with their grain offerings and drink offerings, and sacrifice them on the altar of the temple of your God in Jerusalem.

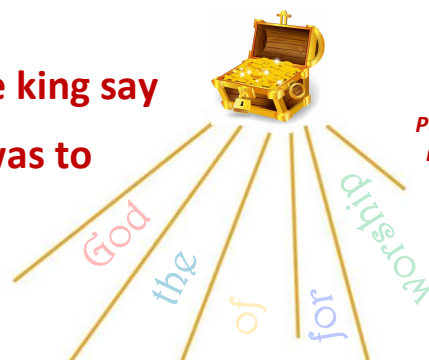
A good question!

The king explained why it was needed in the letter he gave Ezra.

What did the king say the money was to be used for?



Put the five words in the right order and write your answer down in the bottom left corner of the page



○ \_\_\_\_\_  
○ \_\_\_\_\_



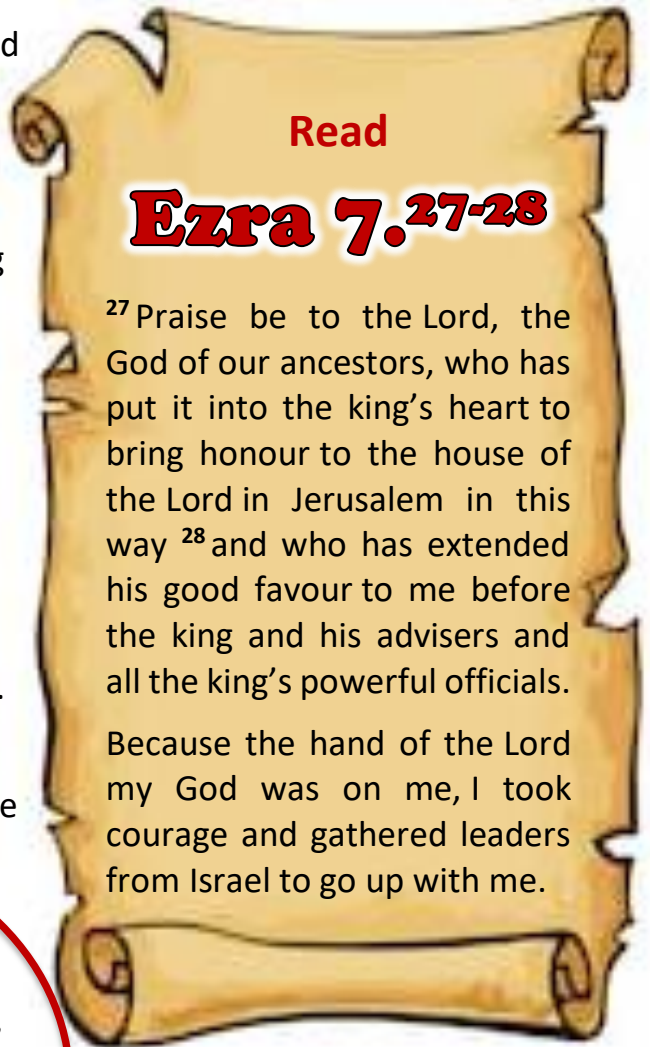
Ezra was really pleased when the king gave him the letter!

He knew this was something which the Lord had done!

So he wanted to let everyone know how wonderfully God works in the lives of His people.

Try thinking of one thing which God has done in your life in recent days.

Use Ezra's words to start your praise off and then use your own words after that ...



Read

## Ezra 7.27-28

<sup>27</sup> Praise be to the Lord, the God of our ancestors, who has put it into the king's heart to bring honour to the house of the Lord in Jerusalem in this way <sup>28</sup> and who has extended his good favour to me before the king and his advisers and all the king's powerful officials.

Because the hand of the Lord my God was on me, I took courage and gathered leaders from Israel to go up with me.

**Praise**  
be to the Lord,  
the God of our ancestors,  
who has . . . . .  
. . . . .  
. . . . .  
. . . . .



# I'M GONNA PRAISE YOU



Because the hand of the Lord  
my God was on me I took courage  
and gathered leaders from  
Israel to go up with me.

Knowing that God's hand is on you  
makes a huge, big difference!

It means that He's always there and  
will be helping you in everything you do.

Ezra said that two things happened as a result of  
God's hand being on him. Can you see what they were?

Use the letters provided (**GOD HELPS US**) to fill in the blanks below

BE  
**Bold**

**1**

I took c \_ u r a \_ e

**G O D H E L P S U S**

**2**

I gat \_ e r e d \_ \_ a \_ e r \_ f r o m  
I \_ r a e l t o g o \_ \_ w i t h m e



# 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 all the amazing stories in the Bible!

It's brilliant to think that You love to take ordinary people like Ezra – and people like me – and You then do the most *extra*-ordinary things through us!

I want to live my life in that sort of way, seeing You at work and making Your plans come to pass.


But I know that that doesn't ever happen just because I want it to happen. Thank You for teaching me about Ezra and how he had worked hard to learn about You.

Help me to make time to learn from the Bible: and please help me to understand it!

Please help me to be brave and stand up for You: help me not just to follow the crowd but to gather others around me

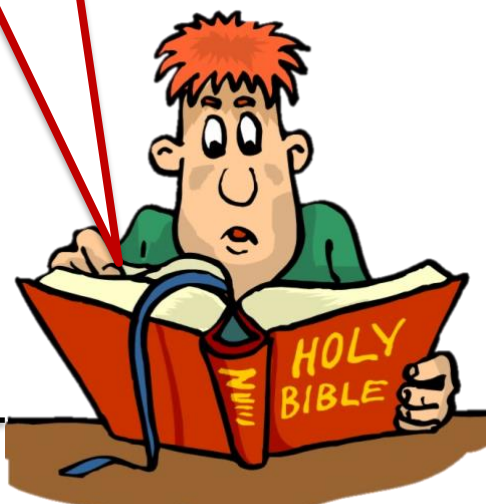


# Today's verse for you to try and remember!



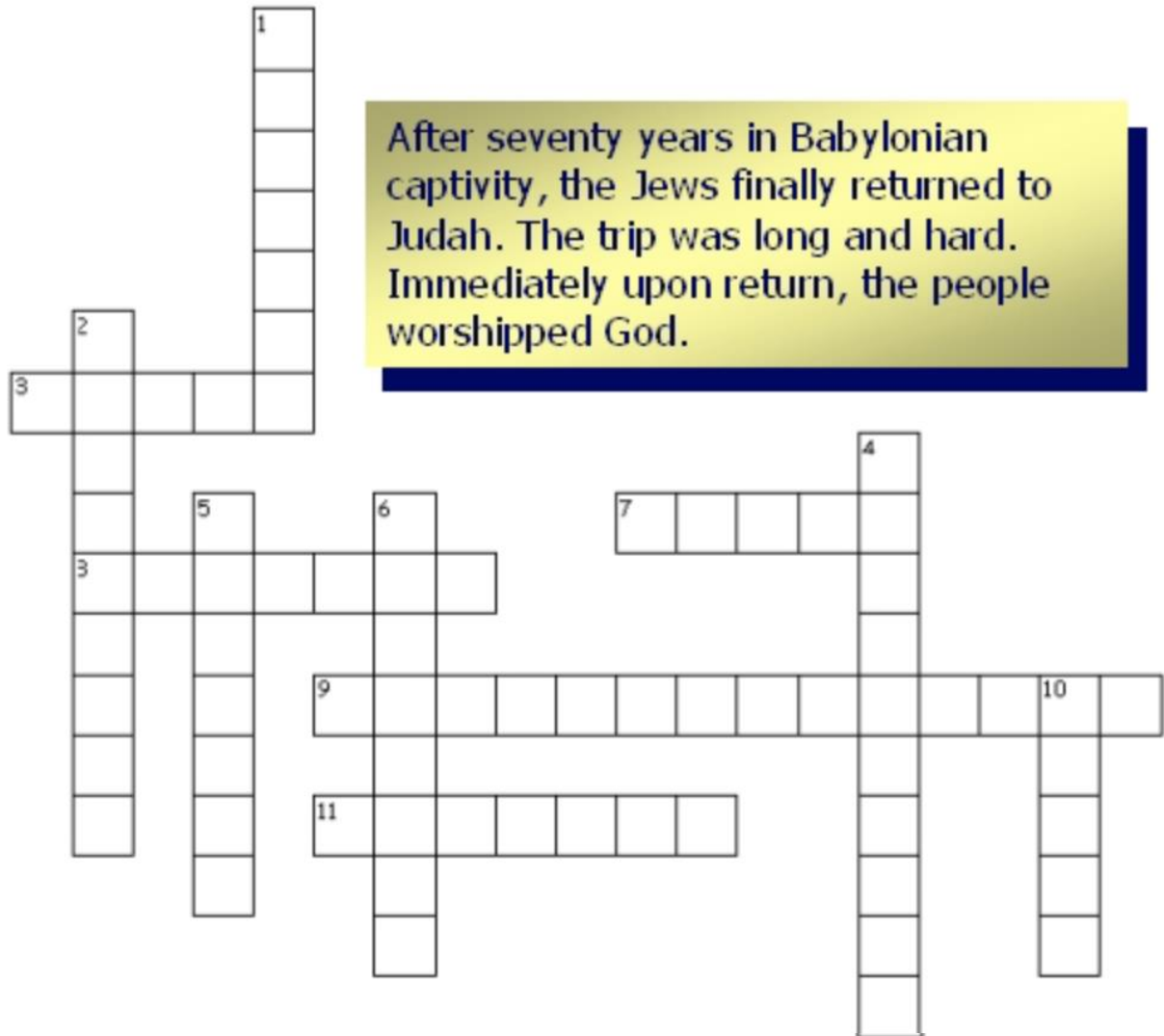
**"Because  
the hand of the LORD my God  
was on me I took  
courage"**

*Ezra 7.28*



# a Wordsearch

*Try doing this crossword to remind you of what had happened before Ezra came back to Jerusalem*



## Across

3. It took this many months for the Jews to make the trip. (Ezra 3:1)
7. He was the king of Persia who allowed the Jews to return to Judah. (Ezra 1:1)
8. What the people did when the temple's foundation was laid. (Ezra 3:11)
9. His army destroyed Jerusalem and took the Jews into captivity. (Ezra 1:7)
11. The Jews returned with 200 of these. (Ezra 2:65)

## Down

1. The country where God's people were held captive. (Ezra 1:1)
2. The city where God's temple was located. (Ezra 1:2)
4. They were God's people in the Old Testament.
5. The Jews who returned had 6,720 of these. (Ezra 2:67)
6. The prophet who delivered God's message to Cyrus. (Ezra 1:1)
10. Jeshua, Zerubbabel, and their brethren built this for God. (Ezra 3:2)

# A WORDSEARCH

## The Book of Ezra

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

Southern Kingdom

Northern Kingdom

Benjamin

Judah

Faith and Action

God's Word

Opposition

Rededication

Jerusalem

Jews

Medopersian

Babylonian

Persian

King Cyrus

Silver

Gold

Zerubbabel

Ezra

Nebuchadnezzar

Temple

How quickly can you find the book of Ezra?



# And another!

## BOOKS OF THE BIBLE WORD SEARCH OLD TESTAMENT 1



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



Genesis  
Exodus  
Leviticus  
Numbers  
Deuteronomy  
Joshua  
Judges

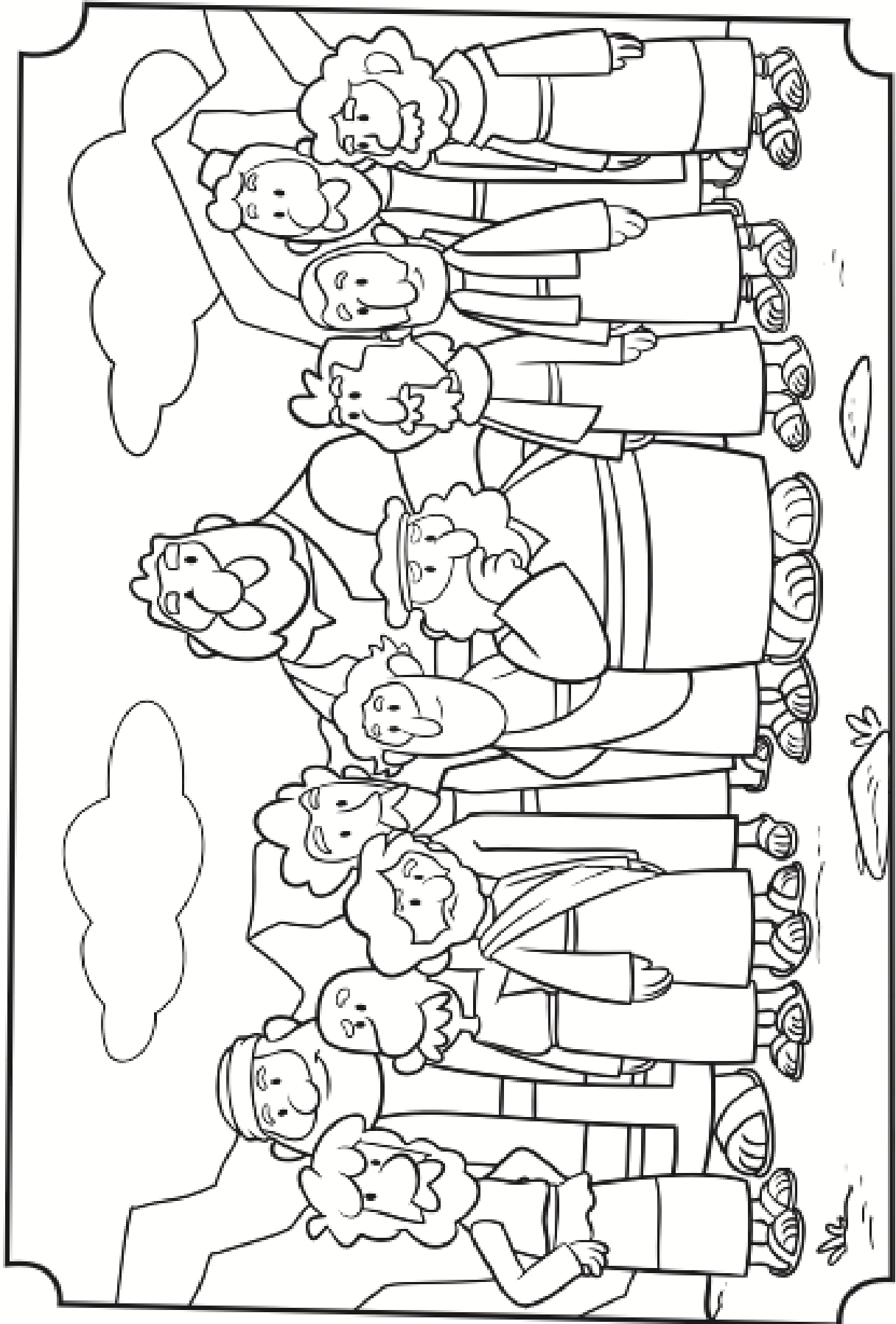
Ruth  
Samuel  
Kings  
Chronicles  
Ezra  
Nehemiah  
Esther

Job  
Psalms  
Proverbs  
Ecclesiastes  
Song of Solomon



# For you to COLOUR IN

*Ezra gathered leaders from Israel to go up with him to Jerusalem*





Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" -Matthew 4:4