



The Tender Grape

March 2019 No. 772



**Bible Animals:
This month
discover
about dogs
on pages 14 & 15.**

A magazine for children and young people to encourage an interest in the Bible.

Please send all correspondence to the address on page 9.



Wandering in a Field

Isaac needed a wife. His father Abraham didn't want him to marry any of the young ladies from the neighbouring Canaanite villages. This special son, so long waited for, was not to be lured into worshipping idols. No, Isaac should marry someone who at least believed in the true and living God, the One whom Abraham worshipped.

Have you ever thought how important it will be when you grow up, if you are a true Christian, that you should only marry someone who is also trusting in the Lord Jesus for their salvation?

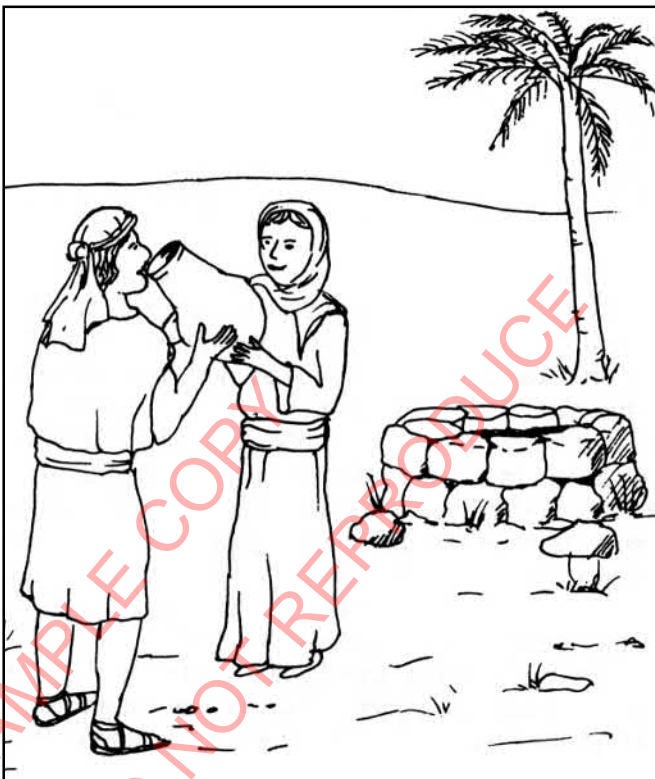
"Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" Amos 3 v 3

Abraham had a plan and it would be his most trusted servant who would carry it out. Eliezer was to do his best, but if he failed to return with a wife for Isaac, because the one chosen would not come with him, then he would not be blamed. Wow, what a task, to get a young lady to leave her family and her home, and to travel many miles to marry a man she'd never met! Would it work?

Eliezer took this commission very seriously and wasn't going to take any chances. He would go prepared to show the prospective bride and her family just how wealthy his master Abraham was. He took ten camels loaded with provisions for the long journey AND a variety of very precious gifts.

Eliezer had plenty of time to wonder how he was going to find just the right person. As he arrived at his destination he prayed to the One he knew his master trusted in. You can find this prayer in Genesis 24 verses 12 to 14. We don't know if he closed his eyes to pray, but we do know that as he was finishing asking God for His help, Rebekah appeared at the well. How quickly the Lord had answered his prayer, but now he had to make sure this was the one.

We can learn a lot about Rebekah at this encounter. She was respectful towards the old servant. She was kind in offering him a drink. She was very generous in offering to draw enough water for ten very thirsty camels. She was hospitable in offering her parents' home as a place to stay, for him and the other servants plus camels.



Eliezer didn't forget to thank the Lord for this wonderful turn of events and later, when he arrived at the house and was invited to sit down for a meal he wanted,

first of all, to declare the purpose of his visit. The family agreed to let Rebekah go, and Eliezer gave out the rest of the precious gifts he had brought, but then the crucial question was asked, would Rebekah agree to go?

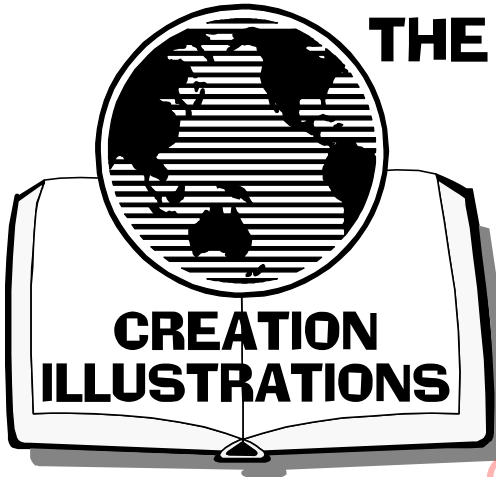
Look up Genesis 24 v 58 to find her answer: “_ _ _ _ _”.

Back home, Isaac was also wondering what the outcome would be. No fast communication in those days. He would just have to wait until Eliezer returned. We find Isaac going out for an evening walk in a field. He has gone to have a good think, and is he praying too? He looks up and sees camels approaching. Is his bride-to-be riding on one of them? If so, what will she look like? (Rebekah is described in Genesis 24 v 16) and was there a happy ending?

You can find the answer in Genesis 24 verses 64-67, can you unscramble the letters? “she became his F E W I ; and he E D V O L her.”

Why not try set B questions on page 10 which are some Bible verses about the life of Isaac.

THE MOON & STARS



If you have ever tried counting the stars you will know how impossible it is. The prophet Jeremiah, who lived during the time King Nebuchadnezzar was taking the people of Israel to Babylon, said that they were too many to be numbered:

“The host of _____ cannot be numbered.” (Jeremiah 33 v 22)

It was not until Galileo, using his newly invented telescope, proved this to be true. As the power of telescopes improved, so more and more stars could be seen. Yet Isaiah had written that God... “...calleth them all by names by the greatness of his _____.” (Isaiah 40 v 26)

Before Isaiah was born, King David had already written: “He telleth the _____ of the stars; he calleth them all by their names.” (Psalm 147 v 4)

The Phases of the Moon

As the moon moves around the earth, more or less of it is lit by the sun as we see it. This gives us the phases of the moon, taking about three weeks.



There are about thirty days from one new moon to the next. This was the origin of our calendar months.

Scientists today tell us that every star is different. They are different in size, weight, temperature and make up. Stars also differ in colour and brightness. The apostle Paul wrote:

“One star differeth from another star in _ _ _ _ . So also is the resurrection of the _ _ _ _ .” (1 Corinthians 15 v 41-42)

Just as no two stars are alike or two people on earth are exactly the same, so none of those who love the Lord will be exactly alike in heaven.

The stars can tell us a lot about God. But we know that the moon shines brighter on the earth than any star. When God created the sun, moon and stars, He made them to...

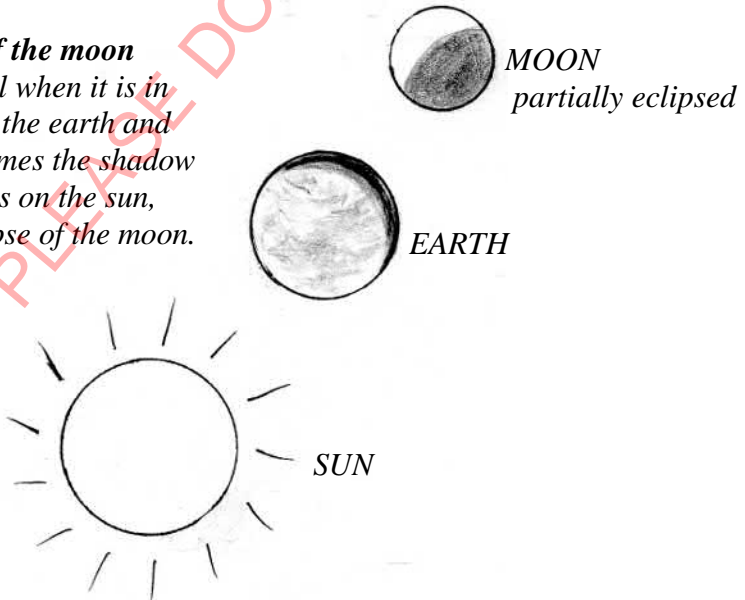
“...divide the day from the _ _ _ _ ;” and also to be “for signs, and for seasons, and for _ _ _ _ , and _ _ _ _ .” (Genesis 1 v 14)

The moon is unlike the sun. It doesn't have any light of its own. It helps to control the sea tides on earth but it doesn't help things grow. When we remember that the Lord Jesus said:

“I am the light of the _ _ _ _ .” (John 9 v 5) then if we love Him we can be like the moon. Although the moon does not have any light of its own and can only reflect the light of the sun it tells us that the sun is still there even if we cannot see it. In the same way, we can reflect the light of Jesus to the people who do not know Him round about us.

Eclipse of the moon

The moon is full when it is in direct line with the earth and the sun. Sometimes the shadow of the earth falls on the sun, making an eclipse of the moon.



Fulfilled



Hope despite sadness prophesied and fulfilled.

There are many things in our lives that can make us sad. We feel sad when we do not do very well at school. We are even more sad when our friends say unkind things to us. But if someone we love becomes ill and there is no hope for them getting better then we are very sad.

Jeremiah is often called the weeping prophet and that is because he was told by God of many sad things that would happen to God's people. He prophesied that their homes would be burned, crops would be destroyed and the people would either be killed or be taken into captivity. In Jeremiah chapter 31 we read these words...

Thus saith the LORD; A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping; Rachel weeping for her children refused to be comforted for her children, because they were not. v15



Who is Rachel?

Rachel was the wife of Jacob. She had two children - Joseph and Benjamin. Joseph's family lived in the north part of the land of Israel with the families of Reuben, Simeon, Dan, Asher, Issachar and Naphtali. Benjamin's family eventually lived in the south part of the land of Israel with the family of Judah. Those in the north part of Israel had been taken into captivity starting in about 730BC. Those in the south part of Israel were taken into captivity in about 590BC just a short time after this prophecy was spoken to the people. Rachel had died many years before this prophecy was written but it pictures her weeping bitterly for her family because they have been taken away into captivity.

Where is Ramah?

Ramah is a city in the land belonging to Benjamin's family and is about six miles from Jerusalem.

The captives from the south part of Israel were gathered here before being taken to Babylon. There must have been many who stood in this city and cried as they realised that they were being taken away from their homes and sometimes even taken from their families.

Why does Rachel refuse to be comforted?

Rachel is pictured here as having no hope. God had promised His people that one day He would send a Saviour who would be born to a Jewish woman. The promised Saviour was the only hope for God's people being saved from their sin and going to heaven. If the Jews were destroyed there could be no deliverer and therefore no one could comfort Rachel. But then Jeremiah said...

Thus saith the LORD; Refrain thy voice from weeping, and thine eyes from tears: for thy work shall be rewarded, saith the LORD; and they shall come again from the land of the enemy. And there is hope in thine end, saith the LORD, that thy children shall come again to their own border. v16-17

God promised His people that there would be hope and seventy years later they came back from the promised land.

In Matthew's gospel we read that this prophecy was also fulfilled at the time of Jesus' birth. After the shepherds had seen baby Jesus they told the people in Bethlehem about what they had heard and seen. God's people in Bethlehem would have been very excited to know that the Saviour had been born. But shortly after this soldiers arrived in Bethlehem and they killed every baby that they found who was under two years old. This was done on the orders of King Herod who was a very wicked man and had become very worried that this new baby might one day take over his kingdom.



Continued on page 16.

*For the LORD
knoweth the way
of the righteous:
but the way of
the ungodly shall
perish.*



Psalm 1v6

Set B: Age limit your 12th birthday.

B772

Name _____ Age _____

Address _____ Postcode _____

Fields & Gardens: Wandering in a Field

Look up these Bible verses about Isaac and fill in the missing words.

- 1. Gen. 17v19** And God said, “_____ thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and thou shalt _____ his name Isaac.”
- 2. Gen. 25v28** And Isaac loved _____, because he did eat of his venison: but _____ loved Jacob.
- 3. Gen. 26v12** Then Isaac _____ in that land, and received in the same year an hundredfold: and the LORD _____ him.
- 4. Gen. 35v28** The days of Isaac were an _____ and fourscore years.
- 5. Ex. 2v24** And God _____ their groaning, and God remembered his _____ with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob.
- 6. Matt. 8v11** Many shall come...and shall _____ down with Abraham, and Isaac, and _____, in the kingdom of heaven.
- 7. Heb 11v20** By faith Isaac blessed _____ and _____ concerning things to come.



Set C: Open to any age.

C772

Name _____ Age _____

Address _____ Postcode _____

HOPE DESPITE SADNESS: PROPHESED AND FULFILLED

Find these prophecies and fulfilments and fill in the missing words.

- 1. Matt. 2v...** Out of _____ have I called my _____.
- 2. Hos. 11v...** When _____ was a _____, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt.
- 3. Matt. 2v...** In Rama was there a _____ heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, _____ weeping for her children.
- 4. Jer. 31v...** And there is _____ in thine end, saith the LORD, that thy children shall come again to their own _____.
- 5. Gen. 30v...** And God remembered _____, and God hearkened to her, and opened her _____.
- 6. Gen. 35v...** And Rachel died, and was buried in the way to _____, which is _____.
- 7. Ruth 4v...** The LORD make the woman that is come into thine _____ like Rachel and like _____, which two did build the house of Israel: and do thou worthily in Ephratah, and be famous in Bethlehem.

Competition Replies

Replies to questions were received in January from:

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

PLEASE DO NOT REPRODUCE

The names of the prize-winners are on page 17.

Page 16: Word Search

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

Page 3: Rebekah's answer - I will go.
Missing words - wife & loved.

Page 4: Missing words - heaven, might, number.

Page 5: Missing words - glory, dead, night, days, years.

Page 15: (1) Labrador, (2) Terrier, (3) Spaniel, (4) Poodle, (5) Whippet.

PUZZLE ANSWERS:

Down 1. Joseph, 3 stayed, 4 God & 6. four.
Across 2. seasons, 5. David & 7 blood.

Back Page:

Elisha and Samaria - Part 1

The Syrian army bands no longer attacked Israel. Instead their king sent a large army to attack the capital.

The Syrian army surrounded the city of Samaria. The gates were kept locked and no one went in or out.

Food was running out and cost a lot of money.

Even a donkey's head cost eighty silver coins.

People were starving and were cruel to each other.

The king was troubled by what he saw in his city.

He didn't know what to do.

He blamed Elisha and sent a messenger to kill him.

Elisha was in house with the city elders.

He told his friends to keep the door shut.

He wanted the king to come himself.

He told the king that the famine would soon end:

"Tomorrow a measure of flour will be sold for a shekel.

Two measures of barley for a shekel."

The lord who served the king didn't believe Elisha:

"If God opened heaven's windows could this happen?"

Elisha said, "You will see but not eat of it."

We will find out how God rescued Samaria next month.

But the next day God's words to Elisha came true.

The lord did see the food but he did not get to eat it.



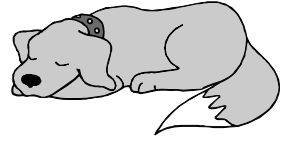
*Are you under nine years old then have you tried the Set A questions on page 9?
Colour the picture on page 13. ⇨*

ELISHA TELLS HIS FRIENDS NOT TO
LET THE KING'S MESSENGER IN.





Bible Animals: THE DOG



If you have a pet dog, you are probably very fond of it. It is your friend and playmate, and is like one of the family. However, people in the Bible did not think of dogs like that. To them, dogs were half-wild beasts that roamed the streets and towns, especially at night, looking for any scraps or rubbish that they could eat. David compared the behaviour of dangerous men to dogs who were waiting outside at night to catch him: *“And at evening let them return; and let them make a noise like a dog, and go round about the city. Let them wander up and down for meat, and grudge if they be not satisfied.”* (Psalm 59 v 14-15)

Dogs were despised as unclean, nasty and cowardly, so people did not want to be near them. Animals that were predators or ate dead remains were unclean to the Hebrews or Jews, so they were not allowed to eat them as food. These dogs were both predators and scavengers.

If dogs came too close, people might throw stones at them or hit them with a stick. So when young David went out to fight Goliath carrying his sling and shepherd's staff, the warrior giant felt insulted: *“Am I a dog, that thou comest to me with staves?”* (1 Samuel 17 v 43) he roared.

To be called a dog was one of the worst insults people could have. When Shimei came out and cursed King David when he was fleeing from Absalom, his nephew Abishai said to David: *“Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? let me go over, I pray thee, and take off his head.”* (2 Samuel 16 v 9) David would not allow that and later forgave Shimei. (2 Samuel 19 v 18-23)

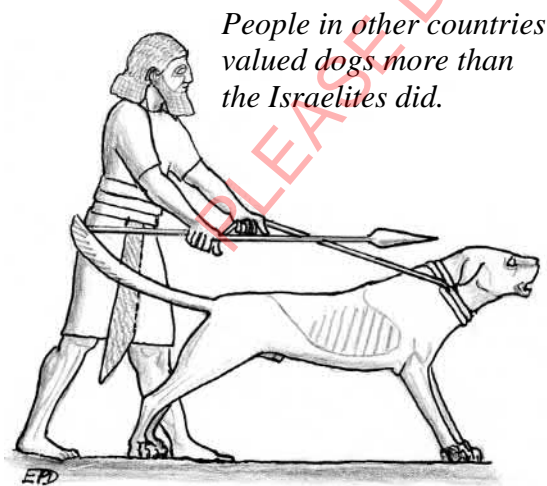
To be called a 'dead dog' was an even worse insult; but if somebody wanted to show great humility to an important person they might call themselves 'a dead dog' as a sign of respect. Mephibosheth, who was disabled, did that when he came before King David: *“And he bowed himself, and said, “What is thy servant, that thou shouldest look upon such a dead dog as I am?”* (2 Samuel 9 v 8)

In contrast, there is a proverb that says: *“For a living dog is better than a dead lion.”* (Ecclesiastes 9 v 4) The first part tells us why: *“For to him that is joined to all the living there is hope...”* While people are still alive, there is hope that even bad, ungodly people may repent (change their ways), turn to God and come to faith in the Lord Jesus.

Once they die, it is too late to change. Don't leave it too late yourself; none of us know how long we will live.

Most baby animals are appealing and the puppies of these wild dogs were cute. Some people would take them home for their children to have as pets until they grew bigger and more fierce. When Jesus spoke to the foreign woman in Matthew 15 v 21-28, he compared her and her daughter to dogs, which seems rather rude. However, the original word really means 'little dogs' or puppies, so he was really meaning these pet dogs; that was not being rude.

The Israelites don't seem to have used dogs for guarding themselves and their possessions as people in other countries did. Job spoke of '*the dogs of my flock*' (Job 30 v 1), which suggests sheepdogs, but Job was probably not an Israelite. However, there were hounds for hunting gazelles, hares etc. kept by the tent-dwelling Bedouin people. These were probably the 'greyhounds' of Proverbs 30 v 29-31: "*There be three things which go well, yea, four are comely in going; a lion...a greyhound; an he goat also; and a king,...*" Greyhounds certainly look lovely and graceful; as they run. The type would have been the Arabian Greyhound or Saluki, which has not changed much over many centuries (the middle and lower drawings on the cover). They follow their prey by eyesight rather than by following its scent. It may seem strange to us, but these hounds were highly valued by the Bedouin people, because they didn't really regard them to be the same as dogs!



People in other countries valued dogs more than the Israelites did.

A big fierce-looking mastiff dog with his handler: from an Assyrian carving.

(By courtesy of the British Museum)

Over time dogs have been bred into distinctive types.

Can you decode these common dog breeds?

1=A, 2=B, 3=C etc.

1) 12-1-2-18-1-4-15-18

2) 20-5-18-18-9-5-18

3) 19-16-1-14-9-5-12

4) 16-15-15-4-12-5

5) 23-8-9-16-16-5-20

Puzzle answer on page 11.

Fulfilled Hope despite sadness prophesied and fulfilled.



Continued from page 7

So once again this prophecy was fulfilled as the Jewish mothers bitterly wept for their children and they refused to be comforted because they knew that if the Saviour had also been killed then they had no hope. However, the promised Saviour had not been killed - Jesus had been taken by His parents to Egypt and just as the captives would return from the land of the enemy so Jesus would soon be brought back to the land of Israel.

Happy is he that
hath the God of Jacob for his
help, whose hope is in the LORD
his God. Psalm 146 v 5

Can you find the words of three letters or more from this text in our word search?

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

Opening up . . . Ezekiel

Continued from page 19. Sorry about last month's text which didn't print as clearly as we expected, but we hope you managed to still read and learn it.

Verse to remember: Ezekiel 36v26

*A new heart also
will I give you, and
a new spirit will I
put within you: and
I will take away
the stony heart
out of your flesh,
and I will give you
an heart of flesh.*

PRIZE-WINNERS

Congratulations to the following who have completed 12 months of competition questions:

- xxxxxxxxxxx, 7 of xxxxxxx, 3rd time.
- xxxxxxxxxxx, 12 of xxxxxxx, 6th time.
- xxxxxxxxxxx, 9 of xxxxxxx, 2nd time.
- xxxxxxxxxxx, 13 of xxxxxx, 2nd time.
- xxxxxxxxxxx, 11 of xxxxxxxxxxx, 2nd time.
- xxxxxxxxxxx, 10 of xxxxxx, 5th time.



COLOURING
received during
January

An extra **thank you** to:
xxxxxxxxxxx who also
sent in Bible texts and
pictures they had
carefully coloured.



Opening up...

I wonder how many of you have tried to read the book of Ezekiel? Have a look at it now if you haven't. Really, it's quite straightforward, except for the strange visions, the wheels full of eyes, the eating of the scroll and lots of other peculiar things that happen. Don't let all of that put you off. Ezekiel is certainly an unusual prophet. He lived out his prophesies. Some of his messages were difficult for the people to understand and accept, so he lived them out right in front of them. He acted them out. If you can get through the pictures and the dreams, the message he had for the people and for us too, was straightforward: God was with His people.

So let's start at the beginning as Ezekiel is given a glimpse into heaven. Whenever anyone came close to seeing God's glory, they always ran out of words to explain it which is why Ezekiel describes what he can see "as the appearance of sapphire stone" (1v26) and the "appearance of fire" (1v27). We aren't meant to take this literally. Ezekiel simply takes all of the most powerful and incredible things in this world and says that the glory he saw was like them but far more amazing! But let's get to what he actually sees. He sees a wheel within a wheel with eyes round the outside. Without getting too complicated, this represented God's Spirit (or part of it anyway). God's Spirit was not confined to one space. It went wherever He wanted to go. The eyes remind us that God is all-seeing. He is everywhere and sees everything. But why was that important for the people of Judah?

God's presence had always been linked with the city of Jerusalem and the temple. That was where God made Himself known. But now the people had been taken away into a strange land, far away from the temple. Did that mean God had left them? God had always made Himself known through a fixed place - first it was the tabernacle, and then the temple. You can understand why they were worried. No temple, no God. That is what they thought anyway. They had sinned and now God had abandoned them. Yet what did Ezekiel see? He saw that God was everywhere! God wasn't fixed to the temple. He didn't need a specific place. He was with His people wherever they were and He saw and knew what they were facing.

Ezekiel

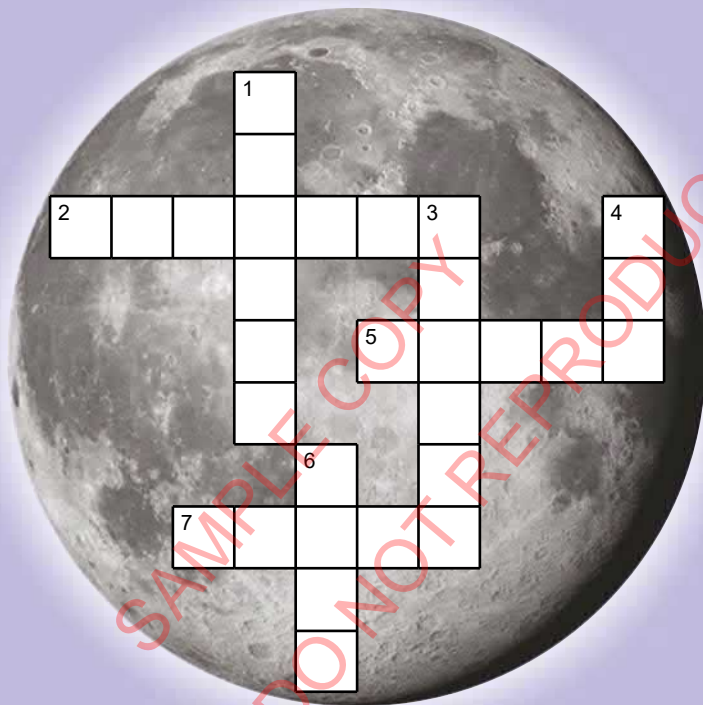


Ezekiel was certainly in need of the reminder that God was there with Him because he now had a difficult message to give to the people. He had to tell them that Jerusalem was going to be destroyed. He had to put an end to the vain hope that they might soon be able to return. He did this by acting out the siege and building a fort! Then he had to lie on one side for a certain number of days and then on the other - to mark the years of Judah's sin. He even lived on rationed food cooked over cow dung! In the next couple of chapters, we read of various strange things that Ezekiel had to do to show Judah what was going to happen to Jerusalem. Just remember when you read anything strange that there is a meaning behind it. It was meant to show the people the results of their sin that would soon come upon them and bring them to repent. Chapter 33 marks the turning point. Jerusalem has fallen (33v21). God's judgement has now fallen on His people. The leaders of God's people (the shepherds) had failed them. They had only led them into sin and brought about this destruction. But as the judgement falls, we find a message of hope in the closing chapters of Ezekiel. God promises to provide a better shepherd to seek out His sheep from wherever they have been scattered. He promises restoration and peace in their own land under the leadership of a new shepherd, called here "my servant David." (34v24) Of course this was going to be Jesus Christ!

The temple had gone. It wasn't going to be needed anymore! The people of Israel would rebuild it and try to live out this new restored kingdom that God had promised, but it wouldn't work. Something better was needed and even while they were receiving His judgement, God gave them a glimpse of hope for the future. God was going to make Himself known to His people in a new way- through His own Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. The problem of sin had followed Israel all the way through their history but God was going to deal with it once and for all, by laying the punishment on His Son. We can thank God that He has fulfilled that, and we can look forward to the final restoration of God's people in a new heaven and a new earth.

Our "**Verse to remember**" is on page 17.

The Moon in the Bible



Across

- 2) What did God make the moon for?
(Psalm 104 v 19)
- 5) Who hid in a field at the time of the
new moon? (1 Samuel 20 v 5)
- 7) What will the moon be turned to at
the end of time? (Acts 2 v 20)

Down

- 1) Who did the sun, moon and stars
bow down to in a dream?
(Genesis 37 v 9)
- 3) What did the moon do when
Joshua was fighting against the
Amorites? (Joshua 10 v 13)
- 4) Who made the moon? (Psalm 8 v 3)
- 6) On which day of creation was the
moon made? (Genesis 1 v 14-19)

