

William Miller was born in America in 178. Although his family was not well off, he seemed bound for honour and wealth; he had many good character habits including a love of study, honesty, careful thinking, and management of money. His mother was a religious woman but as a young man William adopted the view of some of his associates, that God created the world, then left it alone to run itself – this idea was called deism. It was not until William was thirty-four that he became aware of his sinful condition; he realised he needed help but did not know where to turn. In his search, he finally turned to the Bible and found the Saviour.

Of course when they heard the news, his associates were very ready to point out all the arguments that Miller himself had formerly used against religion and Miller didn't know the answers so he started studying the Bible, thinking that if it was truly inspired by God it should be able to explain itself. He kept notes and compared various texts. He found that the 1000 years which many people believed would happen on earth would actually happen in heaven, and he was very interested to learn about the second coming and the signs that would happen before, many of which were being fulfilled. The same was true of the visions of Daniel.

At the end of Daniel's vision of the Ram and Goat he hears an angel say, "Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed." Daniel 8:14<sub>KJV</sub> Miller realised this prophecy had not yet been fulfilled; he concluded if the earth was the sanctuary the cleansing would refer to the cleansing at the second coming but did not know when the prophesy started. With excitement he continued to study, spending days and nights at it, He eventually concluded that the 2300 days started with the command to rebuild Jerusalem and would finish in 1844 –only 25 more years! He felt he should share this news but hesitated in case he was wrong,

At first he shared it with friends and colleagues, but in 1831 he finally agreed to preach publicly. From that time on he travelled around preaching in various cities and in 1833 he was recognised as a minister by the Baptist Church. As a minister he received a small income but not enough to support his travelling so his wife and children stayed on the farm and with very careful saving managed to earn enough to feed themselves and support the preaching.

On 13 November 1833 the prophecy of the falling stars from Matthew 24:29 was fulfilled, when the largest meteor shower of modern times was seen America! Scientists now know it was caused by debris from the comet Tempel-Tuttle entering the atmosphere; this occurs on a yearly basis with an average of one falling star every 6 minutes but in 1833 it was seen at a rate of several hundred, perhaps even 1500 falling stars every minute! It must have been spectacular to see.

# Rebuilding the City

## Sabbath

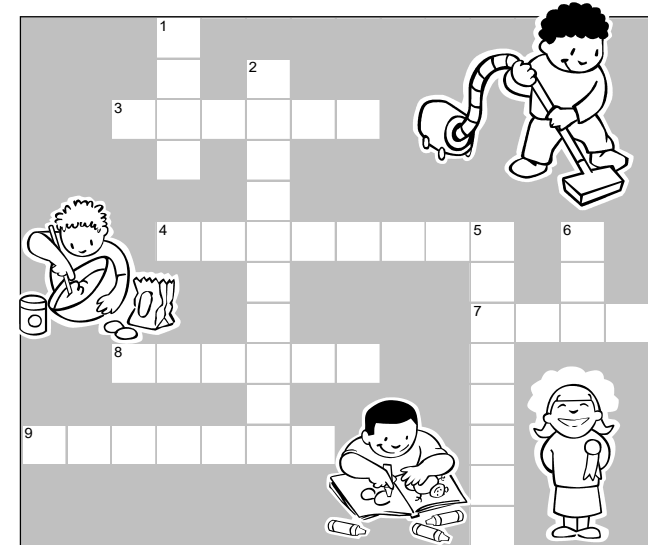
When something takes a long time to finish it can be discouraging. Here are some verses to inspire and encourage you. Find the missing words and then fit them into the grid.

Ecclesiastes 9:10<sub>NLT</sub> " \_\_\_\_\_ (4 across) you do, do it well..."

Romans 8:31<sub>NIV</sub> "If God is \_\_\_\_\_ (6d) us, who can be \_\_\_\_\_ (9a) us?"

Joshua 1:9<sub>NLT</sub> "This is my command—be \_\_\_\_\_ (3a) and \_\_\_\_\_ (2d)! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the LORD your God is \_\_\_\_\_ (1d) you wherever you go."

2 Chronicles 15:7<sub>NIV</sub> "But as for you, be \_\_\_\_\_ (8a) and do not give up, for your \_\_\_\_\_ (7a) will be \_\_\_\_\_ (5d)."



Year 2, Quarter 2, Week 12, Level: "Pre/Teens"

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Refer: Nehemiah 2; 4; 6:1-9, 15; 8:1-6 NLT; *Prophets and Kings* p628-600; *The Bible Story* vol6 p104-124

## Sunday

After the time of Daniel, King Cyrus let the Jews who wanted to, return to Jerusalem, but nearly 100 years later much of the city was still in ruins. When Nehemiah, cupbearer to King Artaxerxes, heard this, he was very sad. The following is from Nehemiah's diary.

One day I was serving the king when he asked me, "Are you worried about something? What is wrong?"

I was scared but with a quick prayer and said, "Long, live the king! I am sad because I heard that the city of my family is still in ruins."

The king asked, "What can I do?"

I said, "If it pleases the king, allow me to go and rebuild the city of Jerusalem."

The king agreed, so I also asked if I might use timber from the king's forest for the rebuilding, and after enquiring how long I expected to be away the king granted my requests.

Three days after arriving in Jerusalem, I slipped out in the night to look at the broken walls and burned gates. I had not told the city officials of my plans yet but the next day I said to them, "Let us rebuild the wall!" Then I told them how God had been with me and about my talk with the king. They all agreed and so the work began; the priests started on the Sheep Gate, and each family chose a section of wall to work on.

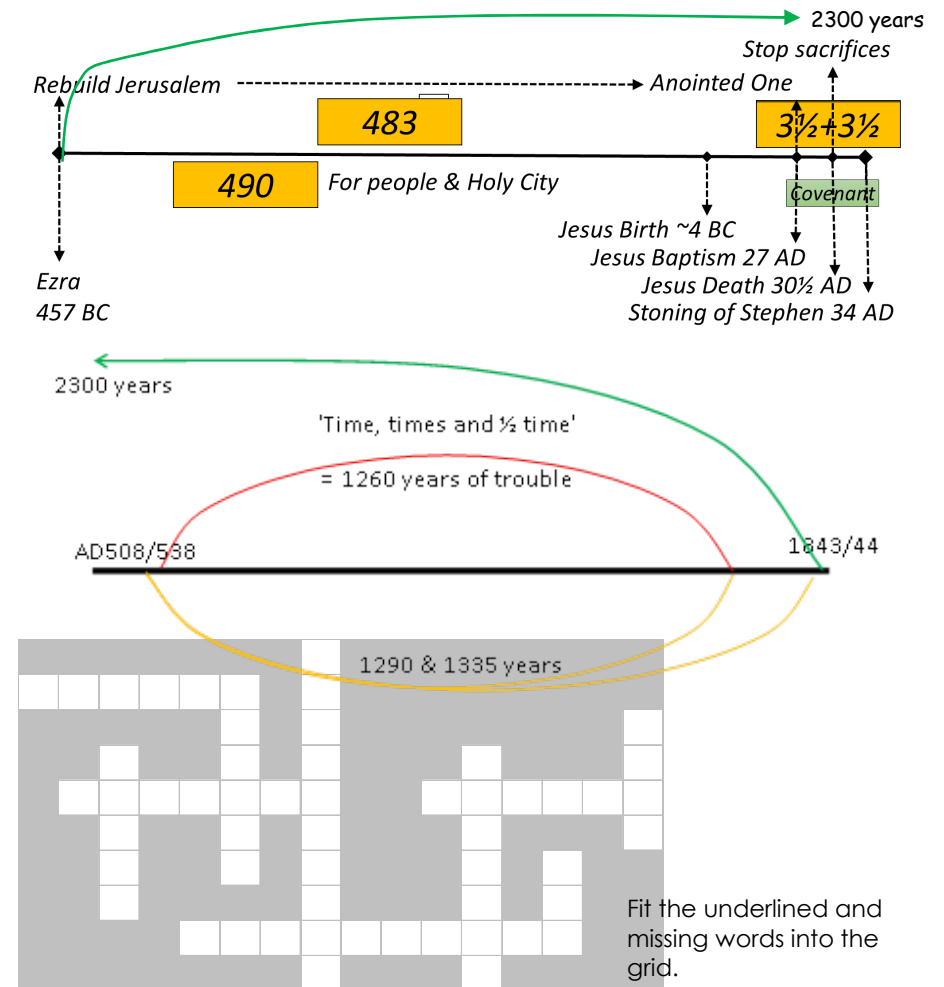
When our old enemies, Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite official, and Geshem the Arab heard about the rebuilding, they laughed at us and said, "Do they think they can make something from that burned rubbish heap?"

But when they heard that the wall was half finished, they were furious and prepared to attack. So, we prayed to God and guarded the city day and night. From then on, we worked in two shifts, half the men working with their weapon next to them while the other half stood guard. We worked from sunrise to sunset. During this time, none of us took off our clothes and we always carried our weapons.

## Friday

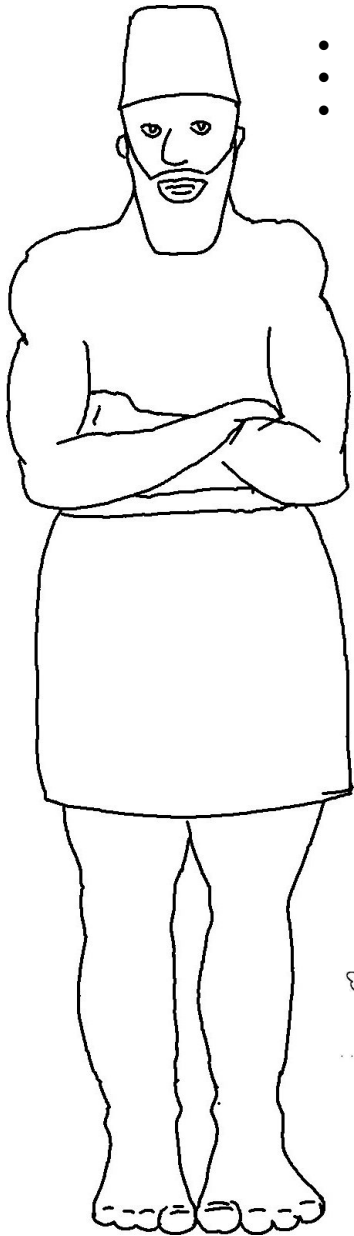
Read the story on the back page first.

For a long time, the prophecies of Daniel didn't make sense to people. What was Daniel told in Daniel 12:9? "Go now, Daniel, for what I have said is kept secret and \_\_\_\_\_ until the time of the \_\_\_\_." It wasn't until the time of William Miller that people started to really study and understand. The prophecy of the 2300 days starts at the same time as the prophecy about the Messiah in Daniel 9 and it includes the time of the "time, times and half a time" given to the little horn of the terrible beast from Daniel 7, also mentioned in Daniel 12, along with the 1290 and 1335 days.



## Thursday

In the last few weeks, we have learned about the visions that the prophet Daniel received, telling of events in the future.



- The statue. (See Daniel 2:31-34)
- The beasts. (See Daniel 7:4-8)
- The ram and goat. (See Daniel 8:3, 5)

Colour the pictures and draw lines to match the names of the empires with each part.

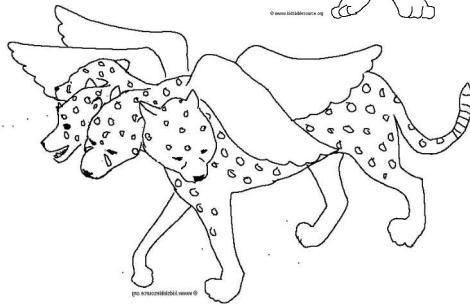
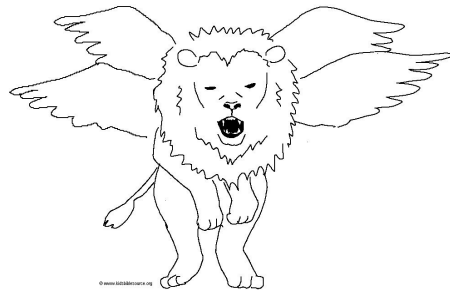
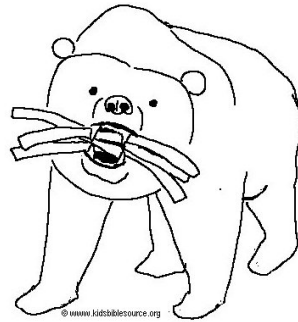
**GREECE**

**ROME**

**BABYLON**

**MEADS & PERSIANS**

**DIVIDED NATIONS**



## Monday

Nehemiah was appointed governor of Jerusalem; his diary continues: At one stage, the people began to complain, "We are tired, and there is so much rubbish to be moved; we will never finish."

I told them, "Don't be afraid! Remember the Lord is with us!"

Then I heard that some of the people were complaining they did not have enough food to feed their families; they had already sold their fields and vineyards, and some had even sold their children. I called the officials together and reminded them that God did not want them to make a profit from their brothers. "Give back their fields and vineyards immediately, as well as the interest you have charged!" The previous governors had placed heavy taxes on the people, but I would not even use the allowance the governor was entitled to, and I used my own money to give interest free loans to those who needed them.

After fifty-two days the wall was finished except for the gates, then a message arrived from Sanballat, Tobiah, Geshem, and our other enemies saying meet us at such and such a village on the plain of Ono. But I figured it was a trap so I sent back a message saying I was busy and they could come to me. Four times they tried, then they sent a message accusing us of plotting to revolt but I knew it was untrue and ignored it.

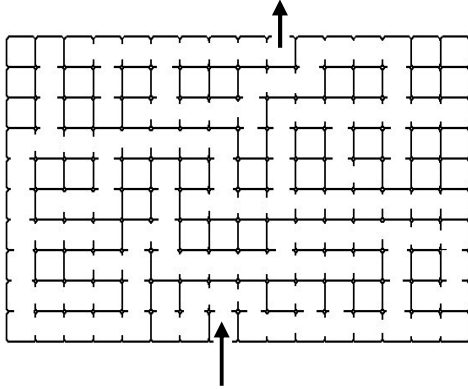
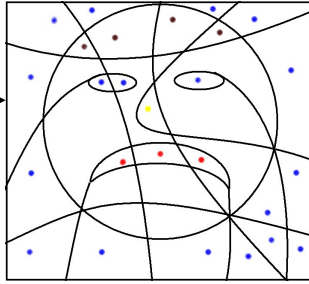
We praised God when we finished the gates and appointed guards.

For twelve years I was the governor in Jerusalem before returning to work for King Artaxerxes. Some time later I returned to Jerusalem and found out that Eliashib, the priest in charge of the store rooms had given one of the rooms to our old enemy, Tobiah the Ammonite. When I learned of this evil I threw him out and had the rooms purified to be used for the temple again. I also found people working in their vineyards on the Sabbath and buying and selling from traders so I ordered the gates remain shut on the Sabbath to keep the traders out on during the Sabbath hours.

## Tuesday

The king's servants were supposed to be happy. But Nehemiah was

God wanted Nehemiah to help rebuild His city and God made the king sympathetic to Nehemiah's request.



Nehemiah found the walls badly broken - in some places they were so broken he couldn't pass by and had to go another way!

Find a way through the broken wall maze.

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

Find the underlined words from Sunday and Monday.

## Wednesday

What does your house look like? – Underline or circle your answer.

Is it clean or dirty?

Is it neat or untidy?

Is it in good repair or broken?

Are things away in their place or out in a mess?

Would you be proud to have someone special visit? (Or would you want to clean up first?) YES NO

Is there anything that you can do to make it a better place?



What does your Church look like?

Is it clean or dirty?

Is it in good repair or broken?

Would you be proud to have someone special visit your Sabbath School or Church? YES NO

Is there anything you can do to make it a better place?

