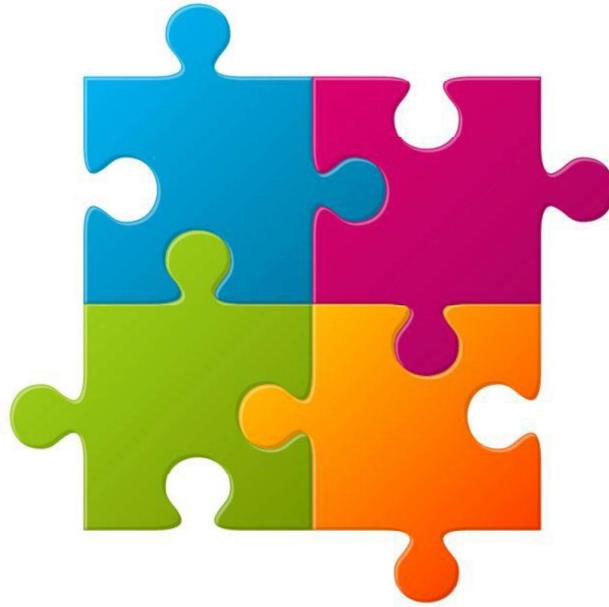


## Kingdom Kids 2015

### God's Big Picture:

Piecing together all the pieces of the Bible



The kingdom of God	<i>The pattern of the kingdom</i>	<i>The perished kingdom</i>	<i>The promised kingdom</i>	<i>The partial kingdom</i>	<i>The prophesied kingdom</i>	<i>The present kingdom</i>	<i>The proclaimed kingdom</i>	<i>The perfected kingdom</i>
<i>God's people</i>	Adam and Eve	No-one	Abraham's descendants	The Israelites	Remnant of Israel; inclusion of nations	<i>Jesus Christ:</i> new Adam; new Israel	The new Israel; Jew and Gentile believers in Christ	Multi-national family of God
<i>God's place</i>	The garden	Banished	Canaan	Canaan (and Jerusalem and temple)	New temple; new creation	<i>Jesus Christ:</i> true tabernacle; true temple	The individual believer; the church	New creation, new Jerusalem, new temple
<i>God's rule and blessing</i>	God's word; perfect relationships	Disobedience and curse	Blessing to Israel and the nations	The law and the king	New covenant; new king; great blessing	<i>Jesus Christ:</i> new covenant; rest	New covenant; Holy Spirit	Throne of God and the Lamb; perfect blessing

**Contributors:**

Motlatsing Moreki

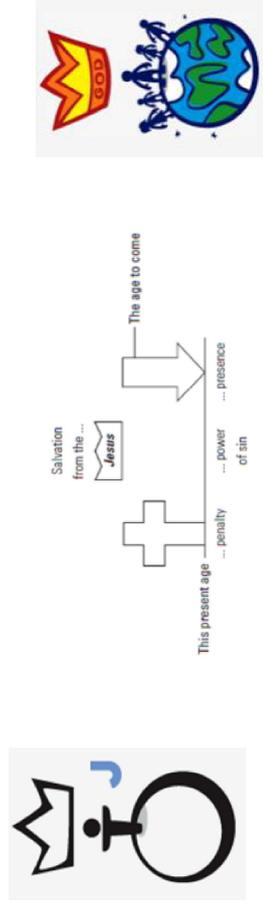
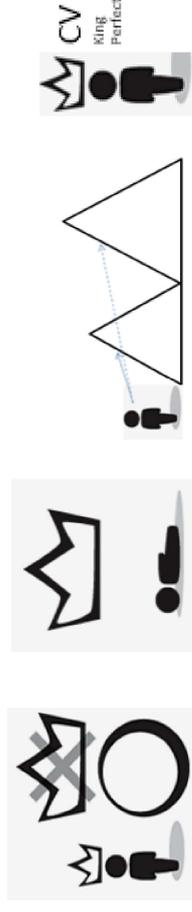
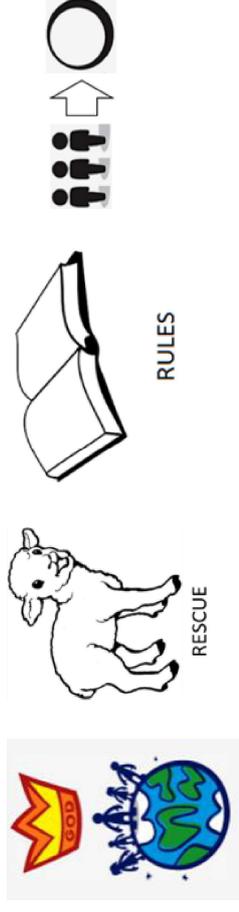
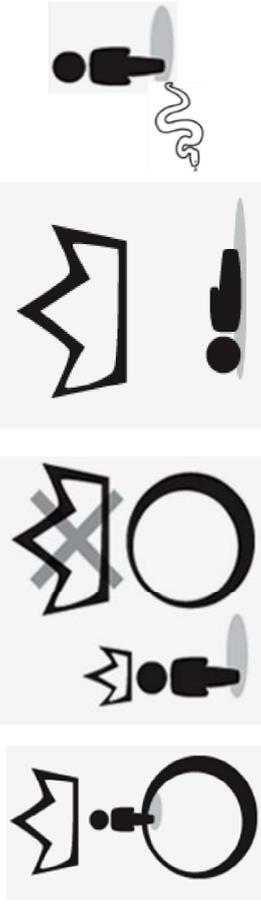
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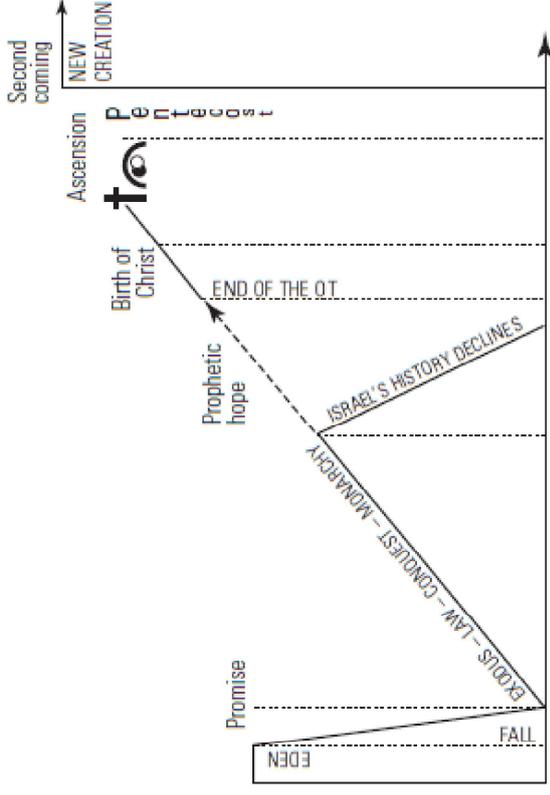
Ilze Linde



All of the above mentioned contributors are volunteers from the Reformed Churches of South Africa who are involved with the work of Kingdom Kids. Kingdom Kids exists to provide a safe place for children to find out about the Christian faith.

Based on the book “God’s Big Picture” authored by Vaughan Roberts.

## Puzzle summary: #1-#16



Matthew/Mark/Luke/John: Jesus Christ is the Crusher King, the Messiah, and the Son of God. [Rescue]

Acts: Jesus Christ through His Spirit and His church is proclaiming the good news of his salvation to the whole world.

1 Corinthians-3 John: Letters written to Christians telling them how to live and behave now that they have been rescued by Jesus. [Rules]

Revelation: God is in control, keep going because one day we will be with God! [Hope]

## Introduction

The Bible is the most well-known, most read and most published book in the whole world. Most of us can have a Bible in our very own language to read and study.

But, reading the Bible can sometimes be a bit difficult. There are lots of parts and books in the Bible that can be hard to understand, and often we tend to 'skip' over them rather than to read them.

That makes sense given that the Bible is a book written by and about God – of course there will be things we don't understand!

If you have ever tried to build a puzzle, it helps a lot to have the picture of what the final puzzle will look like in front of you on the table. Then, when you study each puzzle piece, you have an idea of where it fits overall in the 'big picture.'

In the same way, if we know what the 'big picture' of the Bible is, what the main story is, it will help us to understand where all the individual books and passages (which we might think are strange) fit in!

## Basic building blocks

## Puzzle piece #16

Before we get started with building our Bible puzzle, it will help if we remember a few things about the Bible.

- 1) The Bible was written by many different people (all of them men) but it really only has one main author – God (2 Timothy 3:16). What's more, God made sure that through His Holy Spirit, everything written in the Bible is exactly what God wanted to say (2 Peter 1:21).
- 2) The Bible has one main subject that holds everything together – Jesus Christ and the salvation which God offers through him (see John 5:39 and Luke 24:46).
- 3) The Bible is one book which contains the Old and the New Testament, they fit together. It must not be read as if it is a book of quotations, where you randomly open a page, read a verse and think that is what God wants to say. Instead, just like any other book, we need to start at the beginning and work through it bit by bit...no skipping to the end!

So, let's begin building our Bible puzzle...

[Bible reading: Revelation 4-5, 18-22]

God is the one who is ultimately in control of everything even if it might not look or seem like it today.

One day, Jesus the King will return to judge the world, a comprehensive and final judgement where those who have been rescued by God will be with him, and those who have rejected God will forever face his wrath and anger at their sin and rebellion in hell.

The new creation will be wonderful – finally we will have all of God's people (many nations) in God's place (living with God) and enjoying God's blessing and rule (no sin or death). We will be freed from the presence of sin and spend eternity with God!



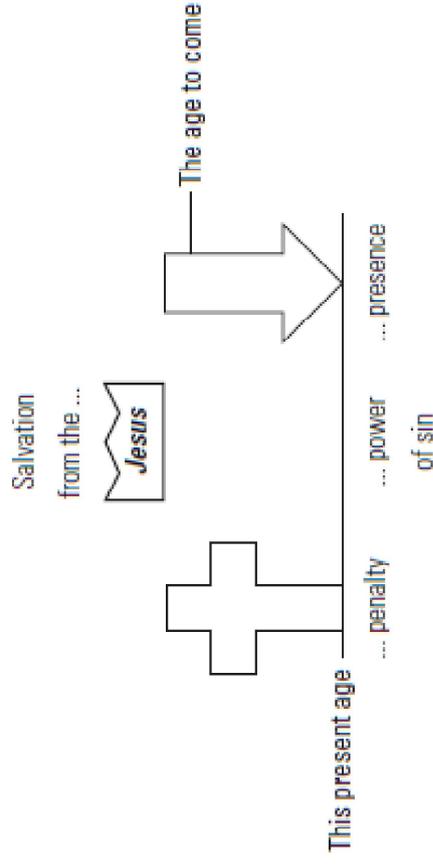
## Puzzle piece #15

[Bible reading: Matthew 24-25, 2 Peter 3:3-9]

We live in a time of now and not yet while we wait for Jesus to return and the final fulfilment of all God's promises. God is giving time for many people to come to repentance and for the gospel to be proclaimed to the whole world.

The Holy Spirit now lives in believers to help them obey God's rules, to give them the power to say no to sin and to equip them to share the good news about Jesus the Crusher King.

God has a task for all of us to tell other people about his rescue plan before he returns.



## Puzzle piece #1

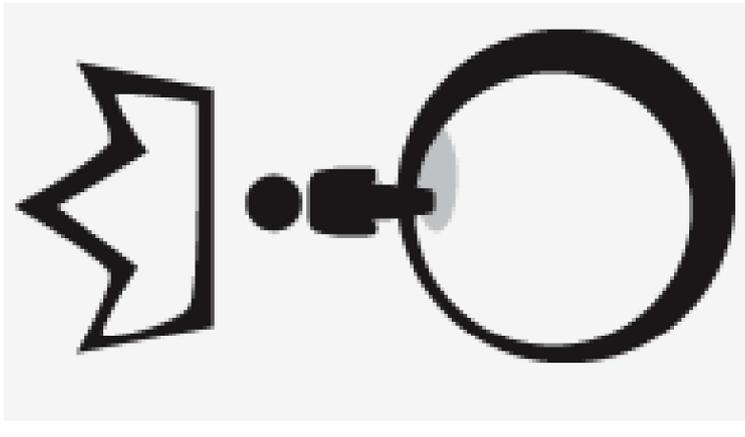
[Bible reading: Genesis 1:1-2:3]

*In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.*

God is the loving ruler of the world

God made the world

God made us to rule over the world under him



In Genesis 1-2 we see God as king with God's people (Adam and Eve) in God's place (Garden of Eden) enjoying God's blessing and rule (living in peace and loving God).

## Side note: Science and God

Many people today think that science and God (or at least what the Bible teaches) are at war with each other!

Science is (or should be) concerned with empirical observation and data analysis – we look at things in this world and try to understand how they work and fit together.

The Bible is concerned primarily with God and God's story. It tells us what we should believe about God and this world.

Problem – sometimes people (in the name of science) propose philosophical or religious theories to support their claims and explain reality – but science cannot do this, it can only observe nature and try to explain observations.

When people start introducing religious theories in the name of science (i.e. the world evolved from nothing) they begin to contradict what the Bible teaches (God made the world).

## Puzzle piece #14

[Bible reading: Matthew 1, 5-7; 2 Corinthians 1:20, 2 Peter 3:18, Mark 8:27-38, 1 Corinthians 15]

*This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham...*

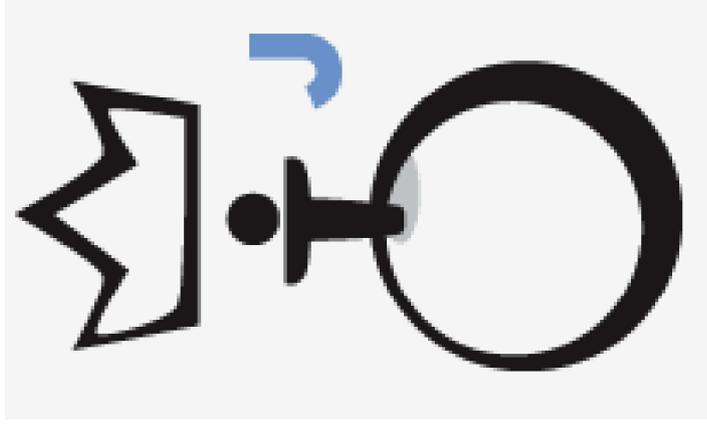
Jesus Christ is a descendant of Abraham and David

Jesus lived a perfect life and taught people with authority how to obey God's rules

All of God's promises find their fulfilment in Jesus Christ

Jesus defeats Satan by his sacrificial death dying on a cross

Jesus is the king who conquers death and reigns with God eternally



## Puzzle piece #13

## Puzzle piece #2

[Bible reading: Psalm 24]

[Bible reading: Genesis 3:1-7]

CV for the Crusher King

*“Did God really say...?”*

[Genesis 3:15] - Needs to be born of a woman

We all rebel against God as ruler of the world

[Genesis 12] - Needs to be a descendant of Abraham

We want to be our own rulers, deciding what is right and wrong for ourselves.

[Exodus 12] - Needs to rescue God’s people by being a substitute

In doing this, we believe the three oldest lies of the Devil:

[Exodus 20] - Needs to teach people how to obey God’s rules after their rescue

1) God is not good

[2 Samuel 7] - Needs to be a king that does not sin and who does not die

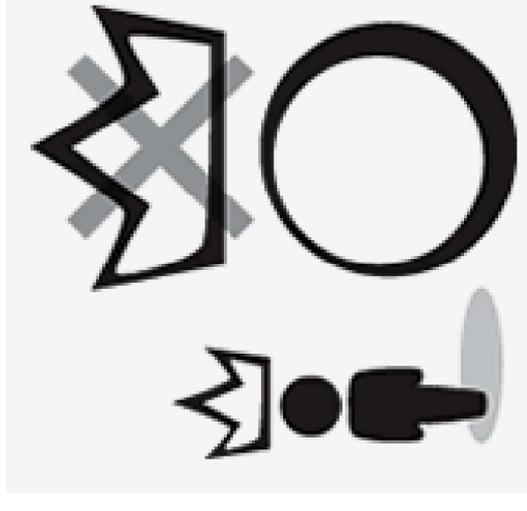
2) There is no judgement

3) We can be the rulers of our own lives without God.

[2 Samuel 7] - Needs to be a descendant of David

[Isaiah 53] - Needs to be a servant who will be crushed for the sins of God’s people and who has no sin himself

Who is the Crusher King?



### Puzzle piece #3

[Bible reading: Genesis 3:8-24]

...because you have done this...

The consequences of rebellion against God are terrible:

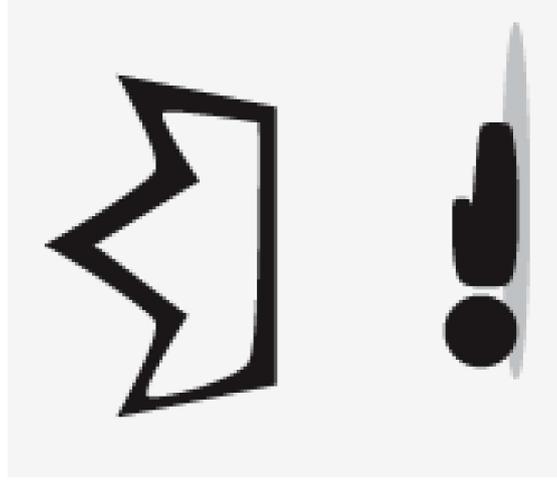
1) There is a broken relationship between us and God

(*Adam and Eve hide from God...*)

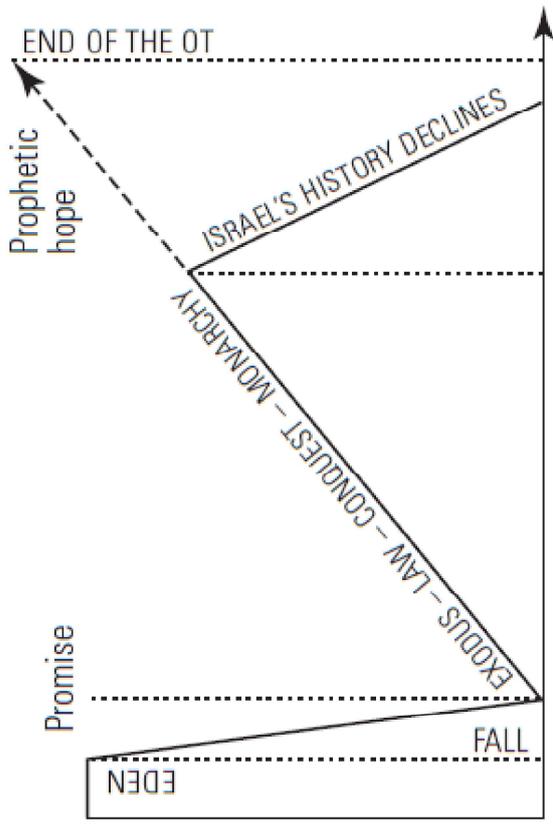
2) There is a broken relationship between us and the world (*Thorns and thistles...*)

3) There is a broken relationship between us and other people (*Adam blames Eve...*)

But worst of all, we are judged by God – the punishment for sin is everlasting death.



### Puzzle summary: #1-#12



Genesis: Creation → Fall → Promises of Redemption

Exodus: God rescues and then God gives rules

Leviticus/Deuteronomy: God's rules/law

Numbers/Joshua/Judges: Conquest and settlement of the promised land of Canaan.

1/2 Samuel & 1/2 Kings: Kingdom of Israel, God's people in God's place enjoying God's rule [Partial]

Prophets (Isaiah-Micah): Remind Israel to keep the covenant, hope of a new and better time.

Puzzle piece #12

[Bible reading: Malachi 3]

*“I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the LORD Almighty.*

After the final prophet Malachi came, there was 400 years of silence. For 400 years God did not speak to his people again, instead they waited patiently for the coming of the crusher....

By this time, the people of Israel had learned many things about God and what to expect from his crusher so that they would recognise the crusher when he finally came...



Puzzle piece #4

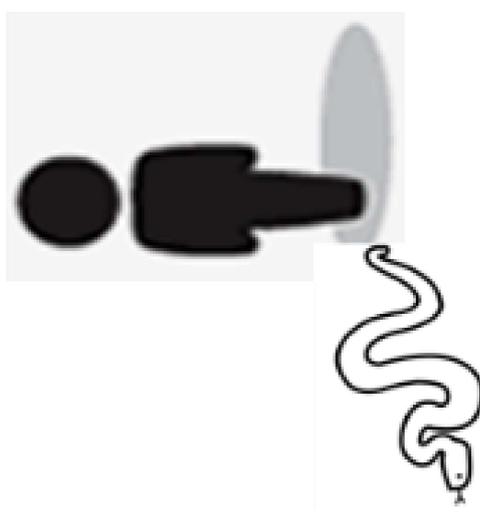
[Bible reading: Genesis 3:15]

*And I will put hatred between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.*

But, there is hope....

God will send someone, someone who will be born of a woman, who will crush the serpent.

One day, this serpent crusher will come, and then maybe, it might be possible for us to escape from the punishment which we deserve for our rebellion against God....



## Puzzle piece #5

[Bible reading: Genesis 12:1-3]

*...all peoples on earth will be blessed through you...*

God makes big promises to Abram, through Abram God will reverse the effects of the fall:

- 1) Abram will have many descendants [*One day God's people will be many people*]
- 2) Abram will have his own land [*One day God's people will be in God's land*]
- 3) Abram will be blessed by God [*One day God's people will enjoy God's blessing and rule*]



## Side note: Prophets

[Bible reading: Deuteronomy 18:15-22; Hebrews 1:1-4]

When God sent prophets in the time of the Bible, they always had three roles:

Convict God's people of their sin;

Remind them of the law of God;

Give them hope for a new future, when the Messiah will come.

According to Hebrews 1:1-4, Jesus Christ is God's final Prophet to whom all other prophets were pointing. In him, God has completely revealed himself.

Today, a prophet is not supposed to tell new things (Revelations 22:18-19). A prophet should speak only about what God had revealed to us through the Bible and through Jesus Christ. All Christians are anointed through the Spirit to do this!

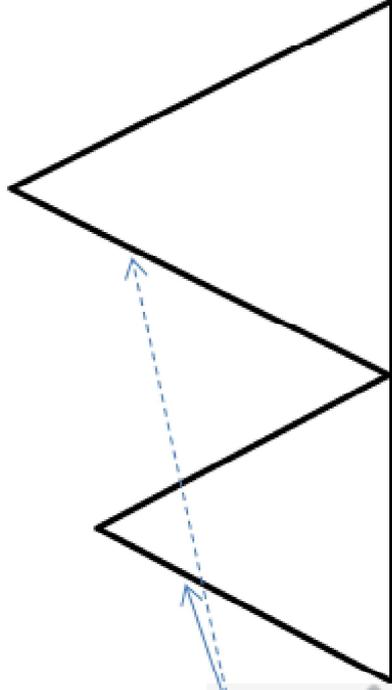
What does this imply for the many people today who advertise themselves as 'prophets'?

### Puzzle piece #11

[Bible reading: Isaiah 10:20-23, Jeremiah 31:31-34, Isaiah 49:1-7, Isaiah 65:17-25, Zechariah 9:9, Micah 5:2 & Isaiah 53]

God also sent prophets to give hope to people – hope that one day they would again be God’s people, in God’s place and enjoying God’s blessing and rule.

Now, God’s people will include Jews and Gentiles, a new covenant written on the heart, with a small group of people returning to the land of Israel but one day a new heaven and earth will be established. All these promises are going to be fulfilled through God’s king who will suffer and free his people.



### Puzzle piece #5a

[Bible reading: Genesis 15-22]

*Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness.*

God will keep his promises even if it looks impossible

Abram was too old to have children but God miraculously gave him a child, and many descendants (Isaac, Jacob & Jacob’s 12 sons). We are still waiting for God to give Abraham the land he promised...

God is trustworthy – he wants us to trust in Him and in the promises which he has made to us.

[Bible reading: Genesis 18:16-33]

**Crusher Clue:** For the sake of the righteous (the one who is right with God), the wicked can be saved.

If someone could be found who is perfectly righteous, who has a perfect relationship with God, it will be possible for us who are sinful people (and not right with God) to be saved....

## Puzzle piece #6

[Bible reading: Exodus 1-12]

*The Lord said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. So I have come down to rescue them..."*

The people of God (Israelites) have been made slaves in Egypt and are being killed by the Egyptians. Does God have the power so save them?

God sends a rescuer (Moses), who together with Aaron warn Pharaoh. God also sends many plagues to show Pharaoh how powerful God is.

Ultimately, to be rescued from God's wrath, something needs to die. A lamb is killed so that the Israelites are spared from God's wrath and their sons don't need to die.



RESCUE

## Puzzle piece #10

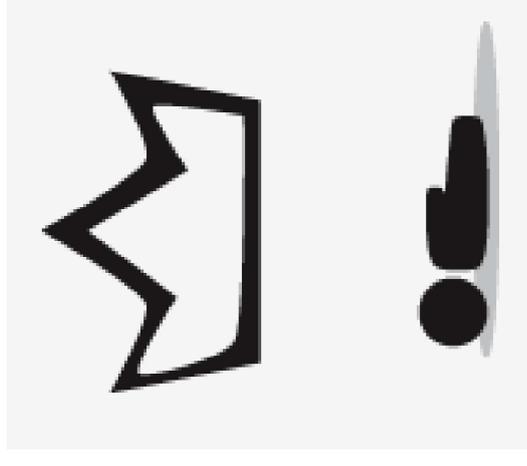
[Bible reading: 2 Kings 17:7-20]

As a result of their sin, the people are judged. They are gradually beaten by the nations around them, and taken off into exile, kicked out of the land.

God sent prophets to encourage the people to keep God's commandments and to warn them what would happen if they did not. Moses, Joshua, Samuel, Elijah and Elisha all encouraged the people to obey God's commandments, and warned the people what would happen if they sinned against God.

But the people ignored God, and so, in rejecting God they were judged and punished for their sin.

What about God's rescue plan? Will this now be the end?



## Puzzle piece #9

[Bible reading: 1 Samuel 9-11, 15; 2 Samuel 6-11]

God gives the people a king to rule over them, despite their sinful request, (almost an exact repeat of puzzle piece #2).

The people prosper under King David, and build God's Temple under King Solomon.

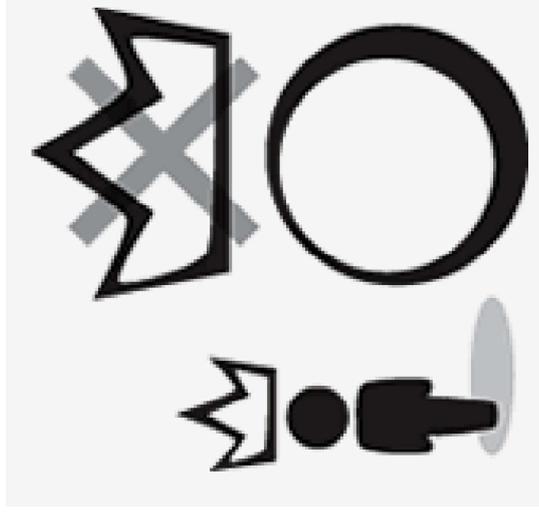
Finally – it seems as if we have God's people, in God's place and enjoying God's blessing and rule.

But, the kings are all sinful and they also disobey God.

We need a king who does not sin and can rule us righteously.

[Bible reading: 2 Samuel 7]

Crusher clue: One day a great future king will come, his kingdom will last forever.



## Puzzle piece #7

[Bible reading: Exodus 19-21]

*"I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery..."*

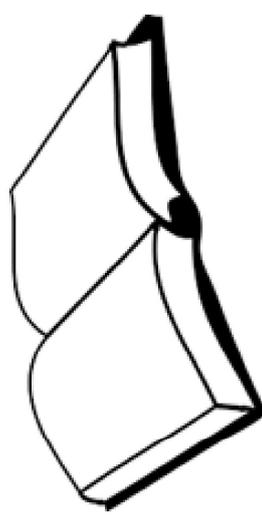
God rescued the Israelites so that they could be his special people, and worship him alone. They were to keep God's RULES because they had already been RESCUED.

God is holy and dangerous – He is not someone who we can treat lightly or mess around.

God is also gracious and compassionate – He does not treat sinners as they deserve.

God promises to go with the Israelites and take them to the land of Canaan.

He gives them the Ark of the Covenant to symbolise his presence amongst them.



## RULES

## Side note: The place of ancestors

[Bible reading: Exodus 20, Deuteronomy 18: 9-13]

How should we think about our ancestors? The Bible tells us many things...

We must not worship any God but God alone. Only God should be worshipped, not people, not pastors and not ancestors.

Idols are anything which takes God's place – anything which we think is able to give us what only God can give us.

Jesus Christ alone is the intermediary between God and man. He is the only one who can intercede and plead on our behalf before God [1 Timothy 2:5-6].

God forbids us to practice divination, sorcery or to consult the dead.

Nothing can separate us from God's love or protection  
– God is more powerful than any spirits or anyone  
[Romans 8:31-38]

## Puzzle piece #8

[Bible reading: Numbers 1:44; Joshua 3; Joshua 24:14-28; Judges 7; Judges 16]

The people of Israel have now become many, it is time to go to the land God promised them. When they come to the border of Canaan, the Promised Land, Moses dies and Joshua succeeds him.

The land Canaan is filled with big nations. But God shows he is with them – they pass miraculously through the Jordan River, win many impressive battle victories and eventually, God gives them the whole land Canaan. The question is: will they serve him there?

The answer is 'no'. They worship idols. Twelve times God punishes them and sends enemies to oppress them. He also sends 12 judges to save them from their enemies. Gideon and Samson are two of them.

