

17.23 David Fights Philistines; Recaptures Saul's Losses (2 Samuel 5:11–25; 1 Chronicles 14:1–17)

✓ “Check” it out; opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows

Brackets [. . .] indicate a remark to the teacher that should not be read aloud, or they show answers to questions.

Visuals and Tools:

- Pictures and other visuals found at the end of this lesson. Please give credit to the sources of pictures.
- Check “Activities” and “Handwork” found below for additional materials.

Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach: Vocabulary words are enlarged for flashcards at the end of this lesson. Print, cut out, and glue to card stock, or just print on colorful cardstock.

- *concubines*: a sort of half wives, as the word may signify, or secondary ones, and under the others” ([2 Samuel 5:13 - Meaning and Commentary on Bible Verse \(biblestudytools.com\)](#))

Scripture: (ESV)

2 Samuel 5:11 And Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David, and cedar trees, also carpenters and masons who built David a house. 12 And David knew that the Lord had established him king over Israel, and that he had exalted his kingdom for the sake of his people Israel.

13 And David took more concubines and wives from Jerusalem, after he came from Hebron, and more sons and daughters were born to David. 14 And these are the names of those who were born to him in Jerusalem: Shammua, Shobab, Nathan, Solomon, 15 Ibhar, Elishua, Nepheg, Japhia, 16 Elishama, Eliada, and Eliphelet.

17 When the Philistines heard that David had been anointed king over Israel, all the Philistines went up to search for David. But David heard of it and went down to the stronghold. 18 Now the Philistines had come and spread out in the Valley of Rephaim. 19 And David inquired of the Lord, “Shall I go up against the Philistines? Will you give them into my hand?” And the Lord said to David, “Go up, for I will certainly give the Philistines into your hand.” 20 And David came to Baal-perazim, and David defeated them there. And he said, “The Lord has broken through my enemies before me like a breaking flood.” Therefore the name of that place is called Baal-perazim. 21 And the Philistines left their idols there, and David and his men carried them away.

22 And the Philistines came up yet again and spread out in the Valley of Rephaim. 23 And when David inquired of the Lord, he said, “You shall not go up; go around to their rear, and come against them opposite the balsam trees. 24 And when you hear the sound of marching in the tops of the balsam trees, then rouse yourself, for then the Lord has gone out before you to strike down the army of the Philistines.” 25 And David did as the Lord commanded him, and struck down the Philistines from Geba to Gezer.

1 Chronicles 14:1 And Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David, and cedar trees, also masons and carpenters to build a house for him. 2 And David knew that the Lord had established him as king over Israel, and that his kingdom was highly exalted for the sake of his people Israel.

3 And David took more wives in Jerusalem, and David fathered more sons and daughters. 4 These are the names of the children born to him in Jerusalem: Shammua, Shobab, Nathan, Solomon, 5 Ibhar, Elishua, Elpelet, 6 Nogah, Nepheg, Japhia, 7 Elishama, Beeliada and Eliphelet.

8 When the Philistines heard that David had been anointed king over all Israel, all the Philistines went up to search for David. But David heard of it and went out against them. 9 Now the Philistines had come and made a raid in the Valley of Rephaim. 10 And David inquired of God, “Shall I go up against the Philistines? Will you give them into my hand?” And the Lord said to him, “Go up, and I will give them into your hand.” 11 And he went up to Baal-perazim, and David struck them down there. And David said, “God has broken through my enemies by my hand, like a bursting flood.” Therefore the name of that place is called Baal-perazim. 12 And they left their gods there, and David gave command, and they were burned.

13 And the Philistines yet again made a raid in the valley. 14 And when David again inquired of God, God said to him, “You shall not go up after them; go around and come against them opposite the balsam trees. 15

And when you hear the sound of marching in the tops of the balsam trees, then go out to battle, for God has gone out before you to strike down the army of the Philistines.” 16 And David did as God commanded him, and they struck down the Philistine army from Gibeon to Gezer. 17 And the fame of David went out into all lands, and the Lord brought the fear of him upon all nations.

Introduction/Review:

When the Philistines won the war against Israel, they slew Saul, his sons, and many soldiers and conquered several cities of Israel, causing the people of Israel to run away to other places in order to be safe.

When David became king over all Israel, he chose Jerusalem to be the capital, fought against the Jebusites at Jerusalem, and conquered that city. The first one to smite the Jebusites was Joab; so, as David had promised, Joab, David’s sister’s son, became commander of David’s army.

Story:

The Bible tells us God exalted David’s kingdom in order to save His people from the Philistines (2 Samuel 3:18). David is a type of Jesus Christ, who later came to earth in order to save His people from their sins. Also, just as God exalted David for the sake of His people, so God exalts Jesus for the sake of His glory and for the sake of those who believe on Jesus.

David’s friend

When a man becomes king, the kings of countries around him either want to become his friend or his foe. Hiram, king of Tyre [locate], wanted to become David’s friend. He sent messengers to him, he sent cedar trees for wood, he sent carpenters (who work with wood) and masons (who work with stone), and Hiram built David a house. He was a good friend.

David’s family

David no doubt needed a very large house, for he had a very large family. Why such a large family? The reason reveals a weakness in David’s character. God not only tells us the good about Bible people; He also tells us the bad, even of His most faithful servants. Although David was a “man after God’s own heart” (1 Samuel 13:14; Acts 13:22), he was still a man, and, like all human beings, he was sinful.

The problem was that David had several wives and concubines. Although this practice was customary, it was not a godly custom and was strictly forbidden for Israel’s kings (Deuteronomy 17:17). From these many women David had many sons and daughters. While he reigned in Hebron, he had at least six children by his wives and more by his concubines.¹ In Jerusalem he added more wives and concubines and nine (maybe as many as thirteen) children to his household.²

David’s enemies

Even though David found a friend in Hiram, king of Tyre, he also found he had enemies. Who do you think his enemies were? Yes, the Philistines. When they heard David had been anointed king over all Israel, they went to look for him, not for a friendly welcome, but ✓so that they could defeat him while he was a new king, just getting started. David went to a fort (“stronghold”), but the Philistines spread out all over the Valley of Rephaim [locate], west of but close to Jerusalem. They brought their idols to help them.

David asked God, “Shall I go up against the Philistines? Will you give them into my hand?”

God answered, “Go up, for I will certainly give the Philistines into your hand.”

David’s victories, Part One

David and his soldiers went against the Philistines and, sure enough, defeated them there. David said, “God has burst through my enemies like a bursting flood.”

For an illustration of this term, *bursting flood*, let me tell you about that tube that comes from the roof of a house; it’s called a *downspout*. More than one time ours has become packed full of old leaves, seeds, and

twigs. No water could come down that clogged downspout. It needed to be cleaned out, but it seems as if we didn't get the job done until it became absolutely necessary—during a downpour. We would pull out the debris in the rain, and suddenly, whoosh! Water came bursting out of that downspout, flooding the people closest to it. That little bursting of water is nothing compared to a bursting flood that sometimes comes through a valley in a wall of water.

David said God broke through those Philistines like a bursting flood. God gave a tremendous victory; so that's what David named the place: "the Lord who breaks out" or Baal Perazim.

What about all those idols the Philistines had brought to help them? The Philistines left the Valley of Rephaim ✓so scared and so fast or so disappointed in the lack of help they received from those idols that they left them right there in the valley.

Oh, no! Will the Israelites start worshiping these idols as they had worshiped other gods when Israel had judges? No! For David and his men gathered those idols and burned them!

Remember when the Philistines had the ark of God—how it had caused them so much death, sickness, and trouble. These Philistine gods could do nothing then and nothing now, not even to save themselves. The demonic gods of this world are nothing compared to the true God of Abraham, Isaac, Moses, Joshua, Samuel, David, and, hopefully, of you.

David's victories, Part Two

But those Philistines didn't give up. Once again they came to the Valley of Rephaim and spread out. Again, David asked God if he should fight. This time God was going to fight for Israel in a different way. He said, "Don't go straight against them but circle around behind them by the mulberry (or balsam) trees." This shrub-like tree with lots of branches and hard leaves would hide them from the Philistines.³

Israel's army did what God commanded. Then God said, "When you hear the sound of marching (*"going"* KJV) in the tops of the mulberry (or balsam) trees, then go to battle, for God has gone out before you to smite the army of the Philistines."

So that's what they did. ✓I don't know if the Philistines heard God's sound of marching in the trees, got scared, and ran, unexpectedly meeting David's soldiers, who defeated them, or whether something else happened. This we know: "David did as the Lord commanded him, and he struck down the Philistines all the way from Gibeon to Bezer [locate].

David became famous and respected in all the lands. God caused those people to fear David.

Oh, I love to hear how God can do anything! Can He do great and mighty things today? Oh, yes, for He is the same God who ever lives.

¹1 Chronicles 3:9 tells us the children of the concubines "are not reckoned, and how many they were is not known; he had ten concubines at least (2 Samuel 15:16) and (2 Samuel 20:3)" ([1 Chronicles 3:9 - Meaning and Commentary on Bible Verse \(biblestudytools.com\)](#)).

²"He had six when he was at Hebron, ([2 Samuel 3:2-5](#)), and now he took more, which was not to his honour" ([2 Samuel 5:13 - Meaning and Commentary on Bible Verse \(biblestudytools.com\)](#)).

The count of children born in Jerusalem is eleven in 2 Samuel 5:14–16 and thirteen in 1 Chronicles 3:6–8, "there being in that account two Eliphalets, and another called Nogah; which two, one of the Eliphalets, and Nogah, might die without sons, as Kimchi thinks, and so are not mentioned here" ([2 Samuel 5:16 - Meaning and Commentary on Bible Verse \(biblestudytools.com\)](#)).

³Eerdman's Bible Dictionary

- We see Jesus:

As mentioned above, the Bible tells us God exalted David's kingdom in order to save His people from the Philistines. David is a type of Jesus Christ, who later came to earth in order to save His people from their sins.

Also, just as God exalted David for the sake of His people, so God exalts Jesus for the sake of His glory and for the sake of those who believe on Jesus.

Activities:

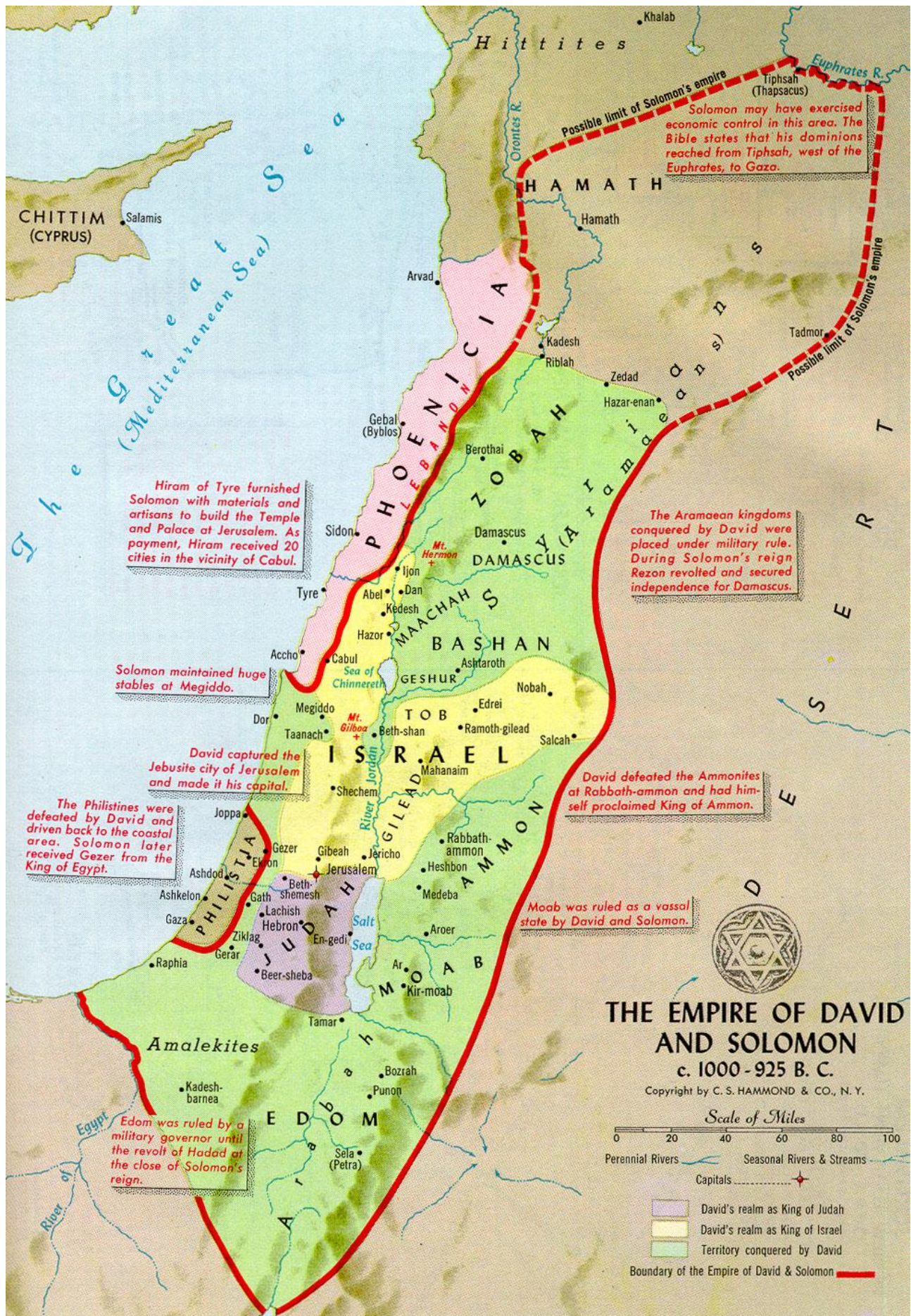
- Play dough: trees, houses
- Snack: a mulberry dessert (if these berries are unavailable, try blackberries or substitute blueberries); a site with good information and recipes is [Mulberry Harvesting-10 Ideas of What to do With Mulberries – Sharon Glasgow](#).
- Show carpenter tools and mason tools.
- Show mulberry leaves, a branch, or fruit if in season; (You can tell if they are ripe in your area if you see purple bird droppings.)
- Play-act the two battles with plastic soldiers and trees.
- Review questions: (Game: Print on card stock the clipart of mulberries found below. Cut apart. For each correct answer, a student may place a mulberry picture in a pocket chart.)
 1. What was the name of the king of Tyre? [Hiram.]
 2. What did he do for David? [Provided materials and workers and built David a house.]
 3. What did the Philistines do when they heard David was king of Israel? [Came looking for him; started a battle.]
 4. What did David do before going out to battle the Philistines? [Asked God whether Israel should go.]
 5. Why did David call this place Baal Pearazim, meaning "bursting flood"? [Because God had caused such a victory it was like a bursting flood.]
 6. What did David and his men do with the idols left behind by the Philistines? [Burned them.]
 7. When the Philistines came back again, what did God tell David to do? [Go behind the Philistines and wait to hear moving or marching in the trees before attacking.]
 8. What kind of reputation did David have among the nations? ["The fame of David went out into all lands, and the Lord brought the fear of him upon all nations."]

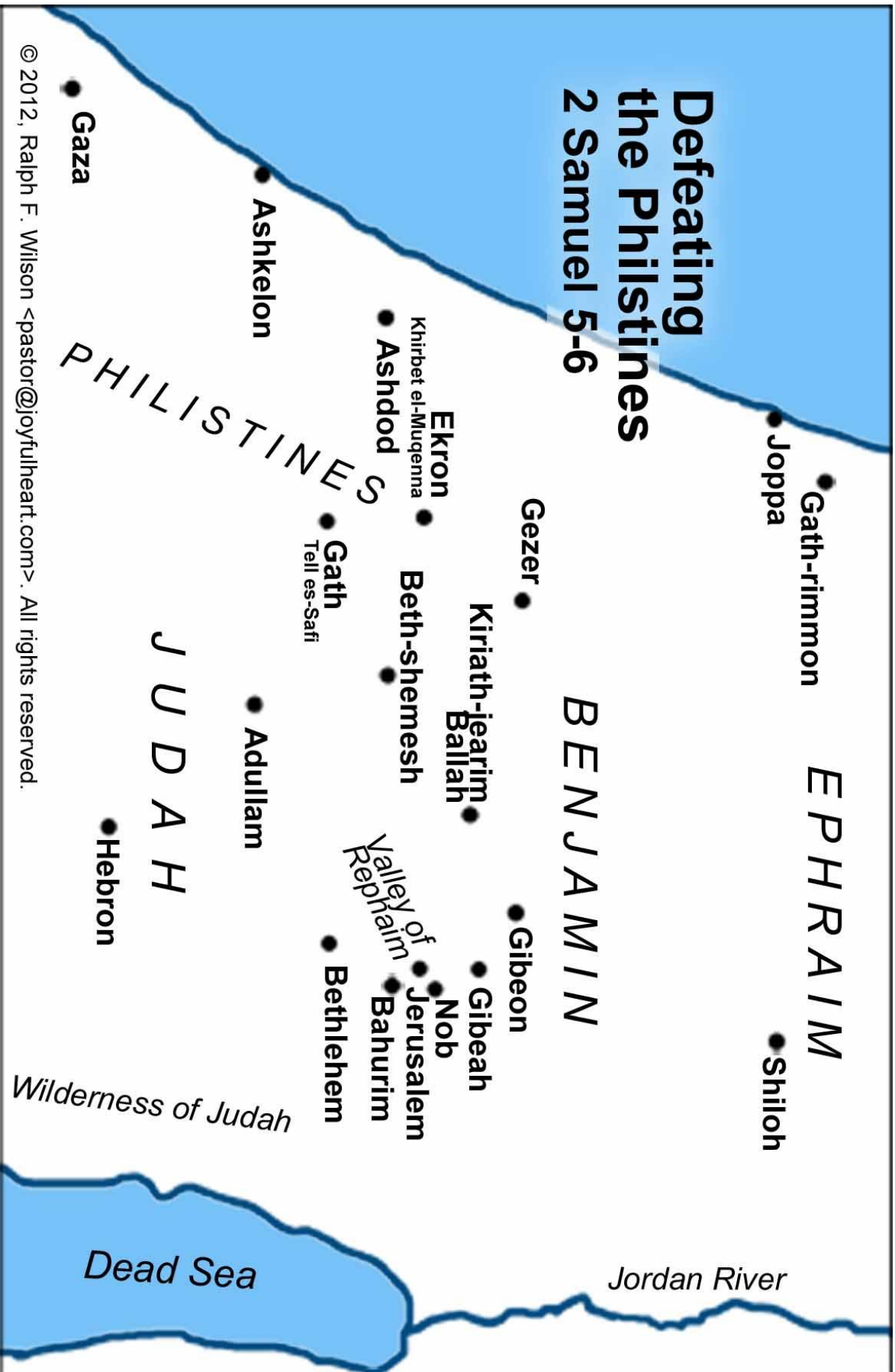
Memory Verse[s]: (KJV)

- Psalm 100:1 Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. 2 Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing. 3 Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. 4 Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. 5 For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.

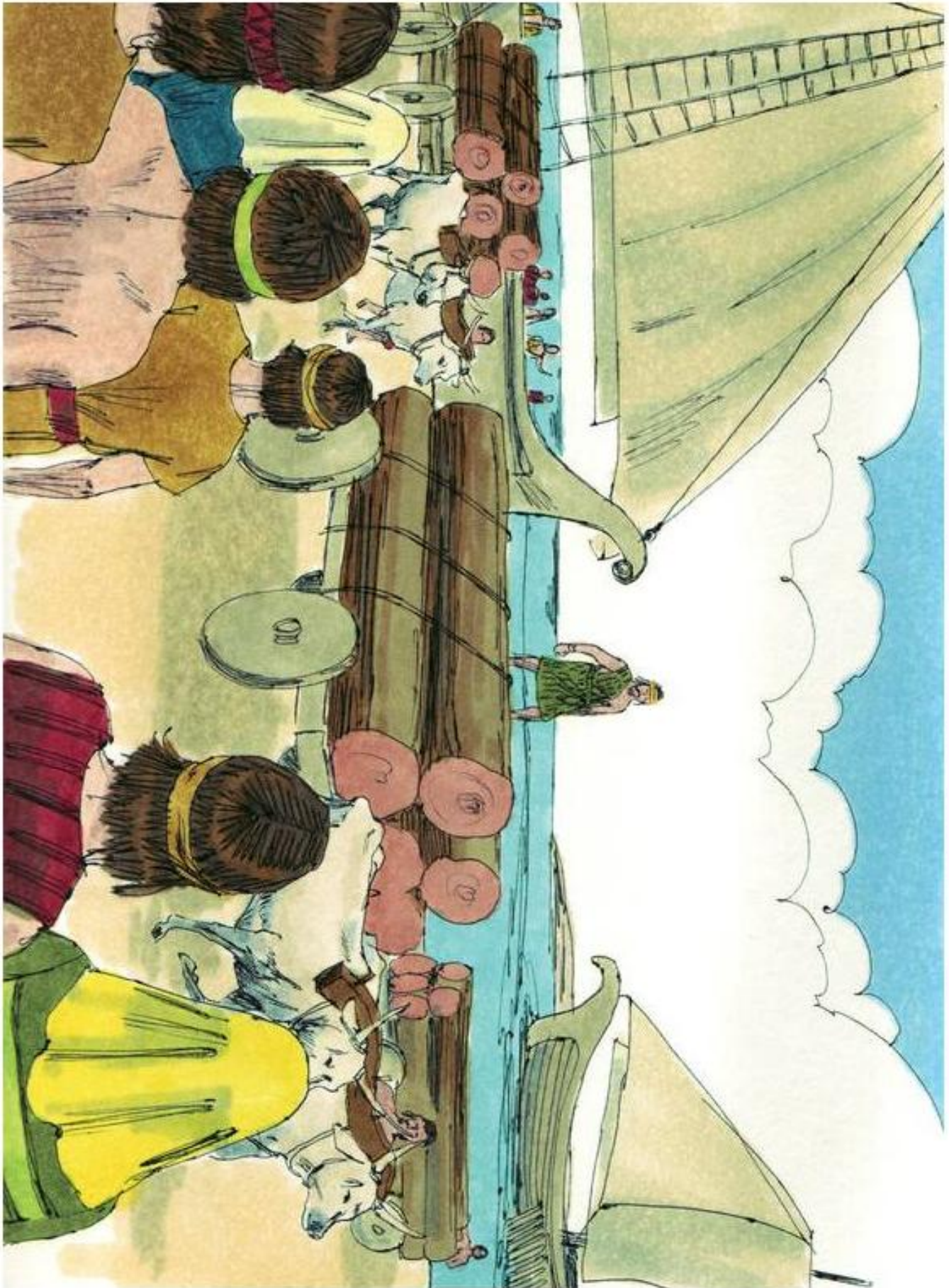
Handwork:

- Print the picture with Psalm 1:4 found below. Have students color the picture.

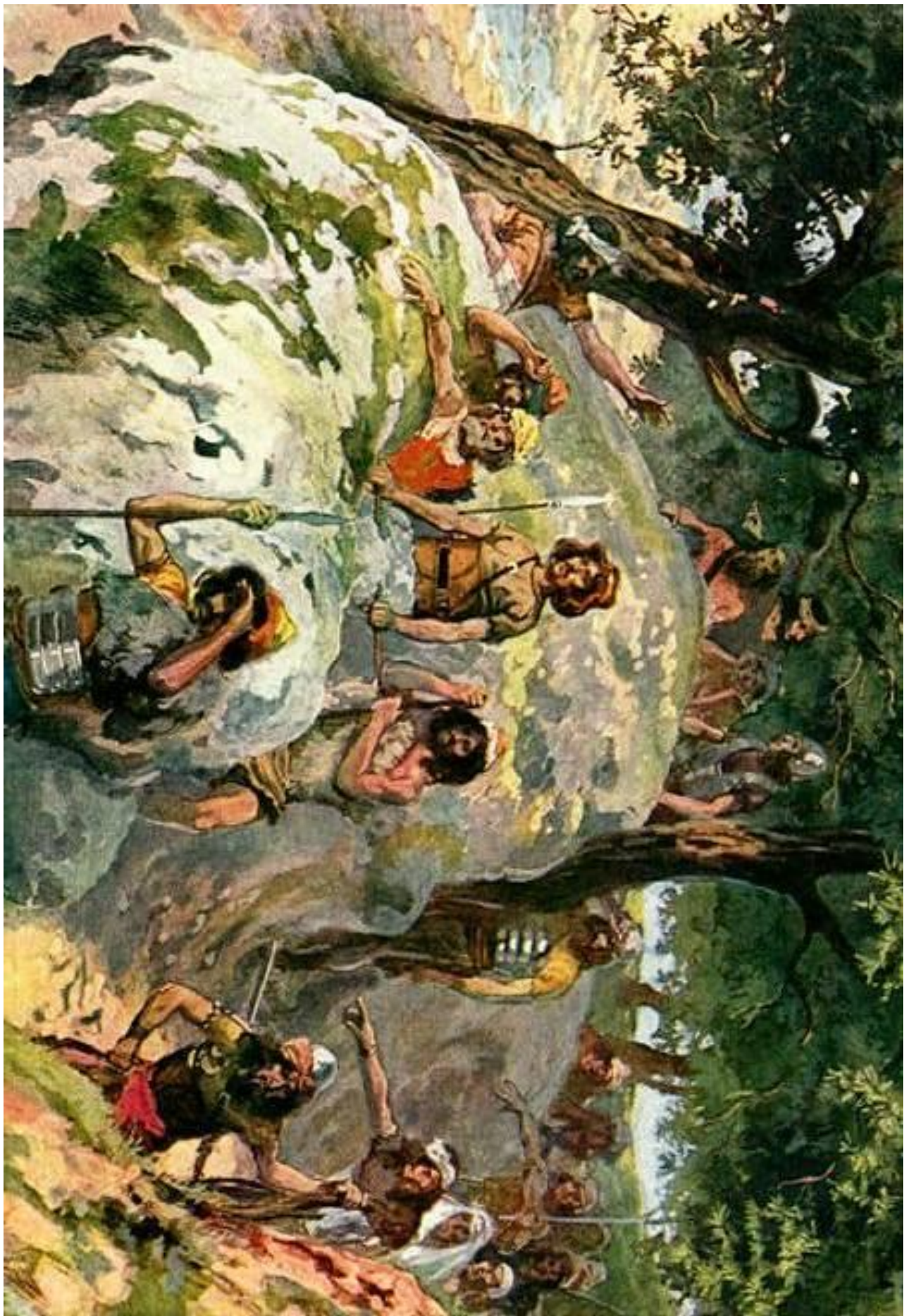




© 2012, Ralph F. Wilson <pastor@joyfulheart.com>. All rights reserved.



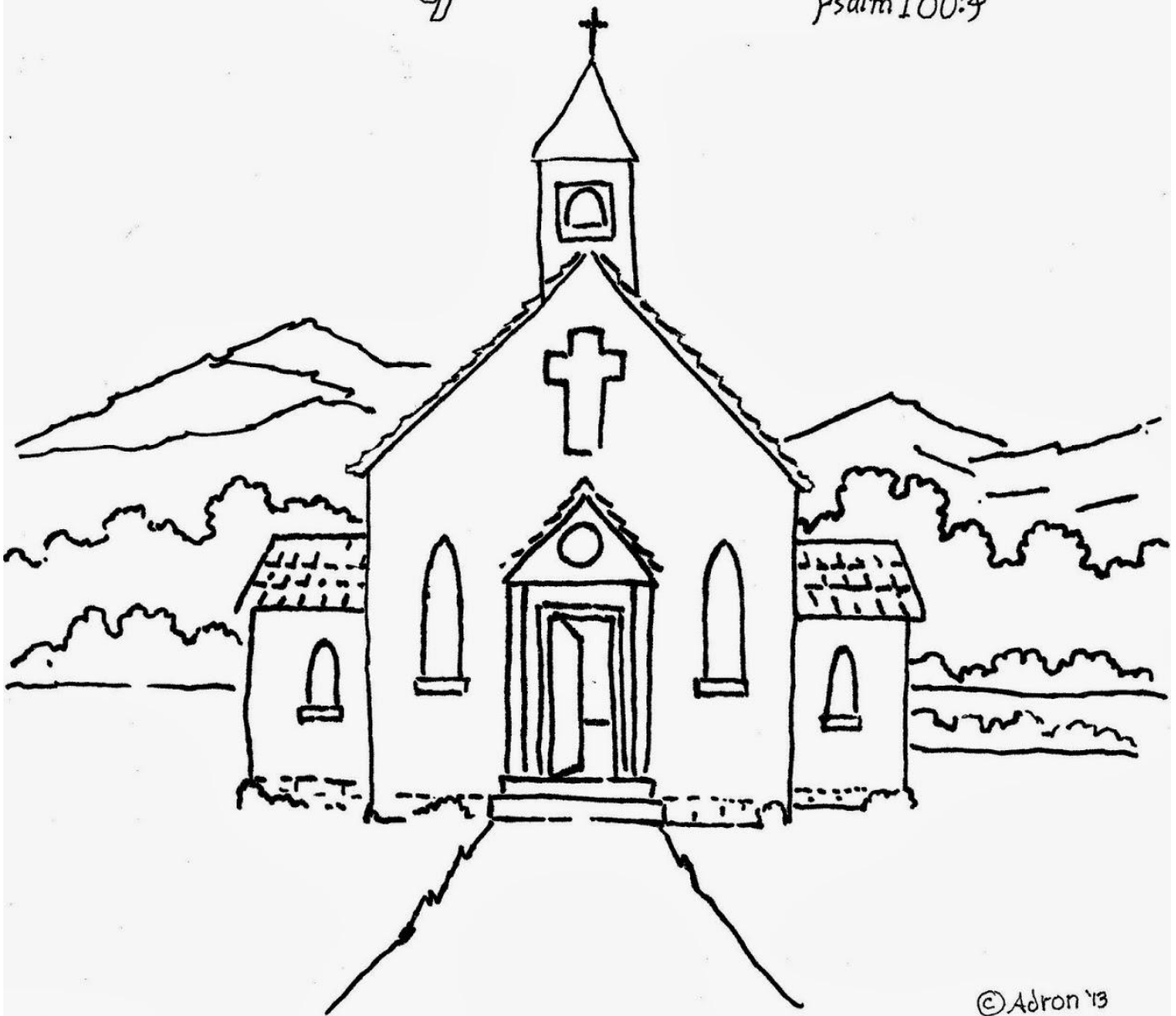






Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;
Give thanks to him
and praise his name.

psalm 100:4



©Adron '13