

# אֶרֶץ יִשְׂרָאֵל

## *Eretz Israel – The Land of Israel*

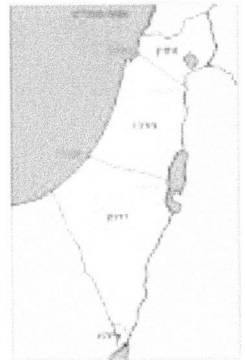
In B'reisheet (Genesis) 15, God confirms the covenant He made with our father, Abraham. In this covenant, God renewed His promise to give to Abraham and to his descendants a land which today is called the Land of Israel. What is more, God promised that this land would belong to Abraham and his descendants forever.

The reason God could give the Land to Abraham and his descendants is because God is owner of everything. In the previous chapter (B'reisheet 14), the Name used of God is אֵל עֵלְיוֹן, *El Elyon*, God Most High, He is referred to as "Owner of everything." Therefore, since God is the Creator, and Owner of everything, He had the right to give Abraham the Land, and to make it the possession of his descendants forever.

But for the descendants of Abraham to live in the Land, and to enjoy the blessings from the Land, God required that they obey Him and following His commandments. When the sons of Jacob, the tribes of Israel, first entered the Land, as long as they were obedient to God, they were given victory over their enemies, and were able to take the cities and the Land that God had given to them. But when they were disobedient, God did not give them victory, and they would be defeated in battle. Eventually Israel did dwell in the Land, even though her enemies continued to fight against her. God raised up leaders (called Judges) to help lead the armies of Israel, and to maintain her possession of the Land. Eventually God gave Israel kings to lead her armies and to rule the nation.

But the people of Israel were not obedient to God, and they rebelled against His Torah. Therefore, God allowed her enemies to defeat her, and to remove her from the Land. Israel was taken captive first by Assyria, and then by Babylon, and the people were taken into exile. It was not until the time of Ezra and Nehemiah that Israel returned to the Land, and then they still were not allowed to rule themselves, but were under the rule of foreign kings. Eventually, in 70 CE, Israel's enemies destroyed the Holy Temple, and expelled all of the Israelites out of the Land. From that time on the Land was ruled by foreign peoples, and Jews were not allowed to worship in Jerusalem, nor even to live there (though a few still lived there secretly).

It was not until 1948 that Israel was once again allowed by the mercies of God to live in the Land. Following the terrible holocaust in Europe where millions of our people were destroyed, Jews once again returned to the Land, and the modern nation of Israel was established. Yet Israel's enemies continued to fight against her, and tried to push her out of the Land. Still, to this day, we are not allowed to have free access to the place where the Holy Temple stood (the Temple mount), and still, our enemies are trying to push us out of the Land and claim the Land for themselves. Yet God's faithfulness remains: He has promised that the descendants of Jacob will have the Land, and He will be faithful to His promise!



# Eretz Israel

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

JERUSALEM

NAZARETH

DEADSEA

KINNERET

BETHLEHEM

HEBRON

KINNESET

JORDON

JUDAH

ABRAHAM

DAVID

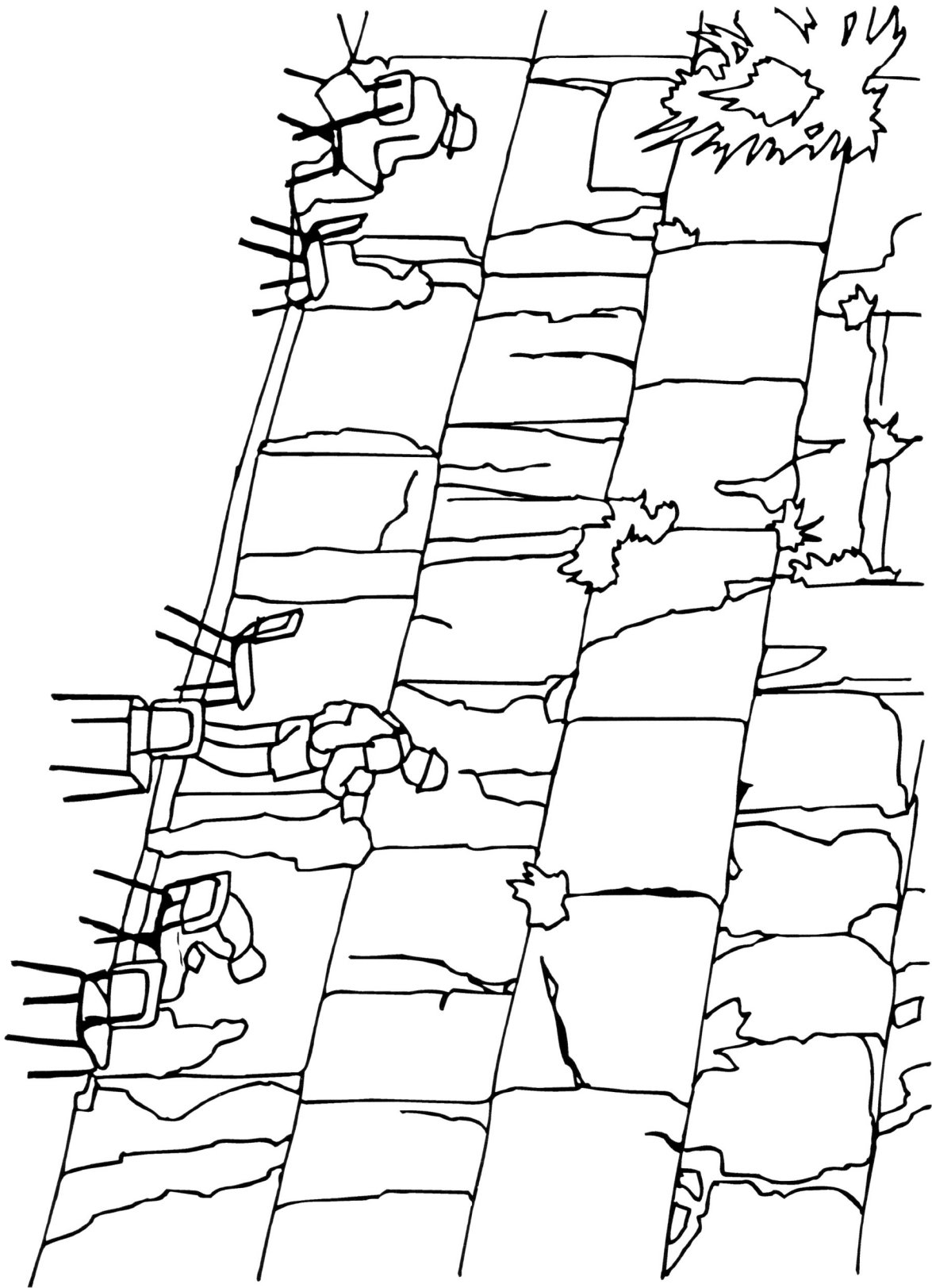
TALLIT

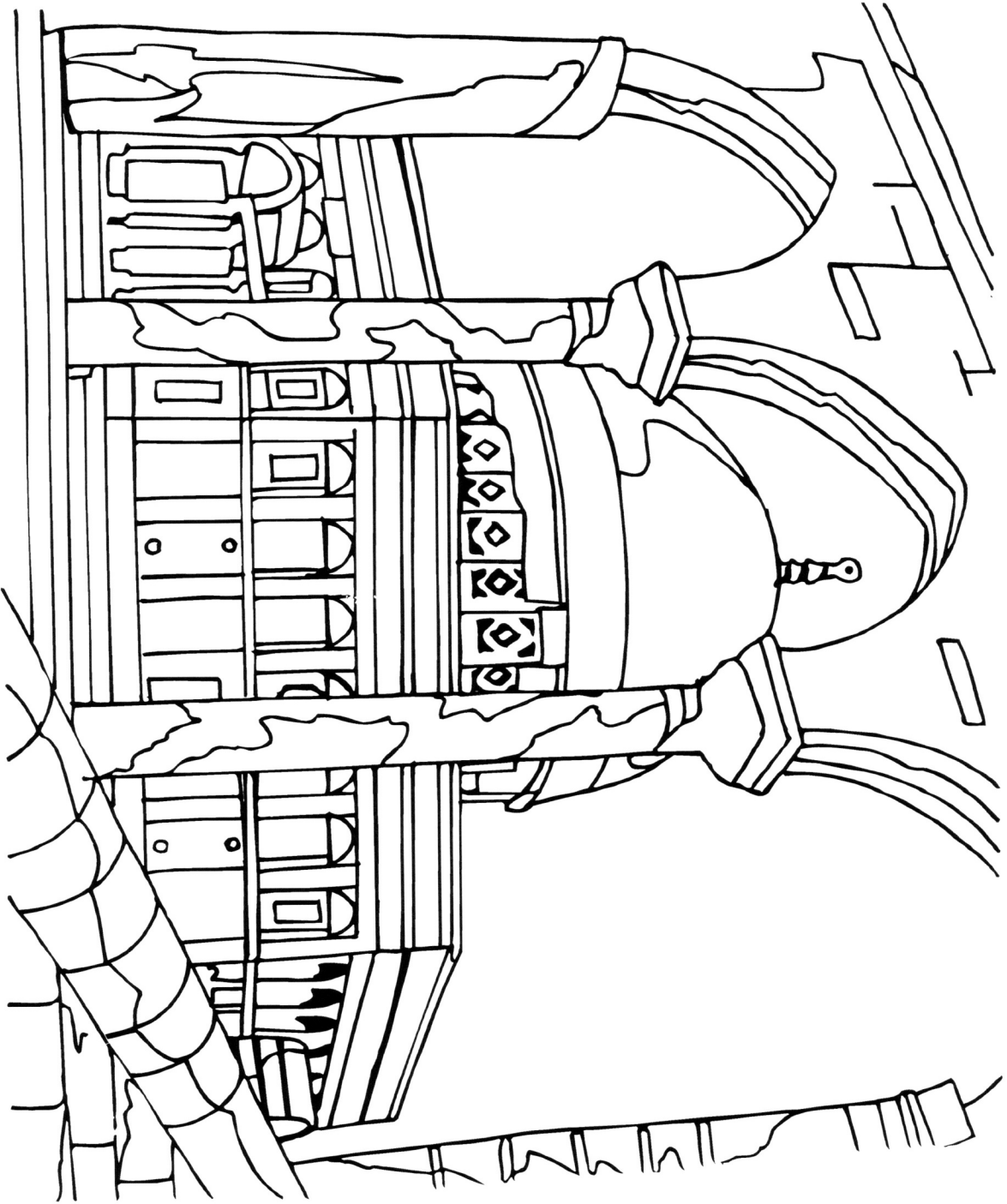
GALILEE

JERICH0

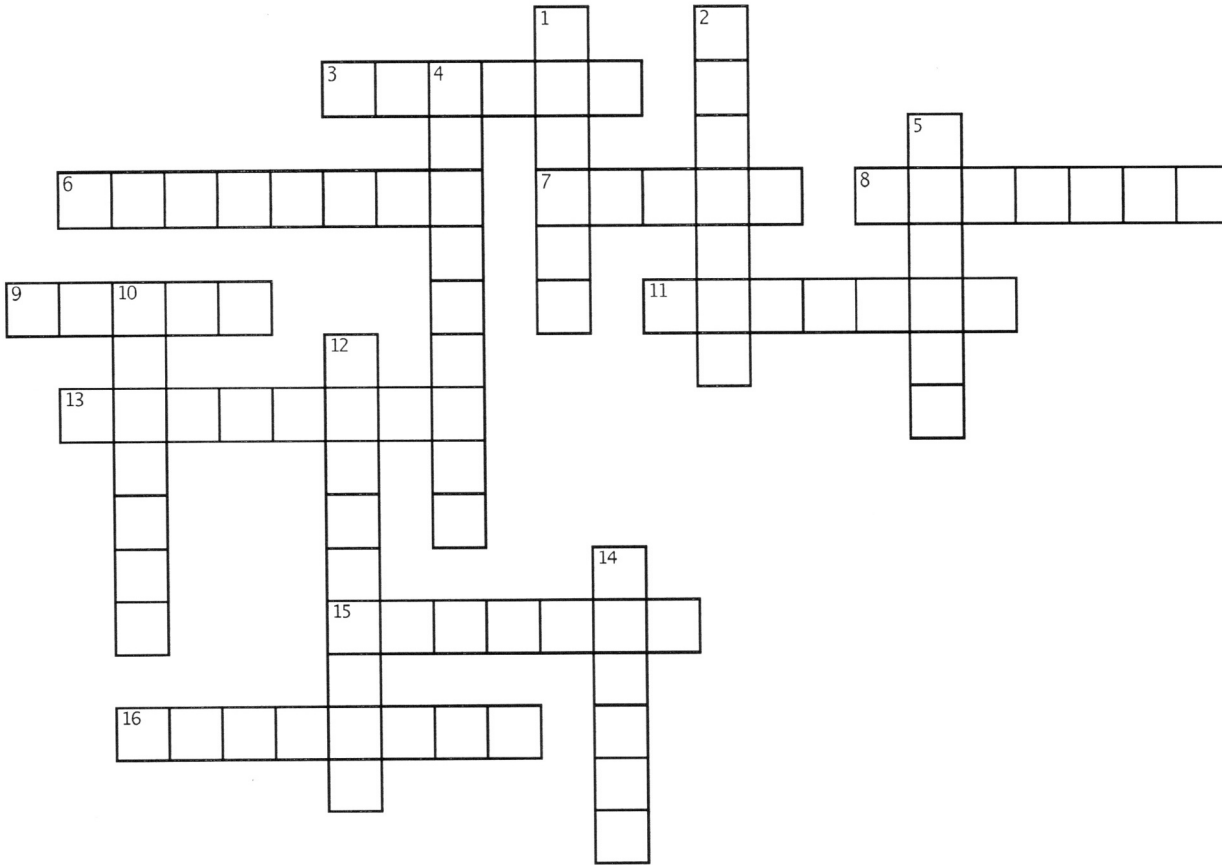
JOSHUA

FOREVER





# Eretz Israel



## Across

3. The city in which the Abraham and the patriachs were buried
6. The "congress" of Israel is called the \_\_\_\_\_
7. The Israeli flag has a star of \_\_\_\_\_ on it
8. The Land of Israel belongs to the descendants of Abraham \_\_\_\_\_
9. The city of Jerusalem is in the region given to the tribe of \_\_\_\_\_
11. The first city conquered when Israel entered the Land was \_\_\_\_\_
13. The city where Yeshua lived
15. The Land was first promised to \_\_\_\_\_
16. The large lake where Yeshua calmed the storm

## Down

1. The river that flows between the Kinneret and the Dead Sea
2. Another name for the Kinneret is the Sea of \_\_\_\_\_
4. The city in which Yeshua was born
5. The leader of the Israel army who conquered Jericho was \_\_\_\_\_
10. The large lake the is very salty
12. The capital of Israel
14. The Israeli flag was patterned after a \_\_\_\_\_

# אַרֶץ יִשְׂרָאֵל

Unscramble the names of the cities and other important places in Israel

