

2

Delivered at Last



People who hated Jeremiah had put him in a muddy pit. He lay there, hungry and sad. God had said, “Do not be afraid. I will deliver you.” But He had not done it.

Nebuchadnezzar’s army camped outside Jerusalem. They planned to break through the walls and kill or capture everyone. But would anyone think about Jeremiah? Would the enemy soldiers bother to look in the pit? Or would everyone go away and leave him there to die? How could God deliver him now?

Suddenly, one day from the top of the pit, he heard a voice say, “Put these rags and ropes under your arms.”

Into the mud beside him fell ropes and rags. And looking down from above he saw his friend Ebed-Melech.

Jeremiah lost no time fixing the rags and ropes under his armpits.

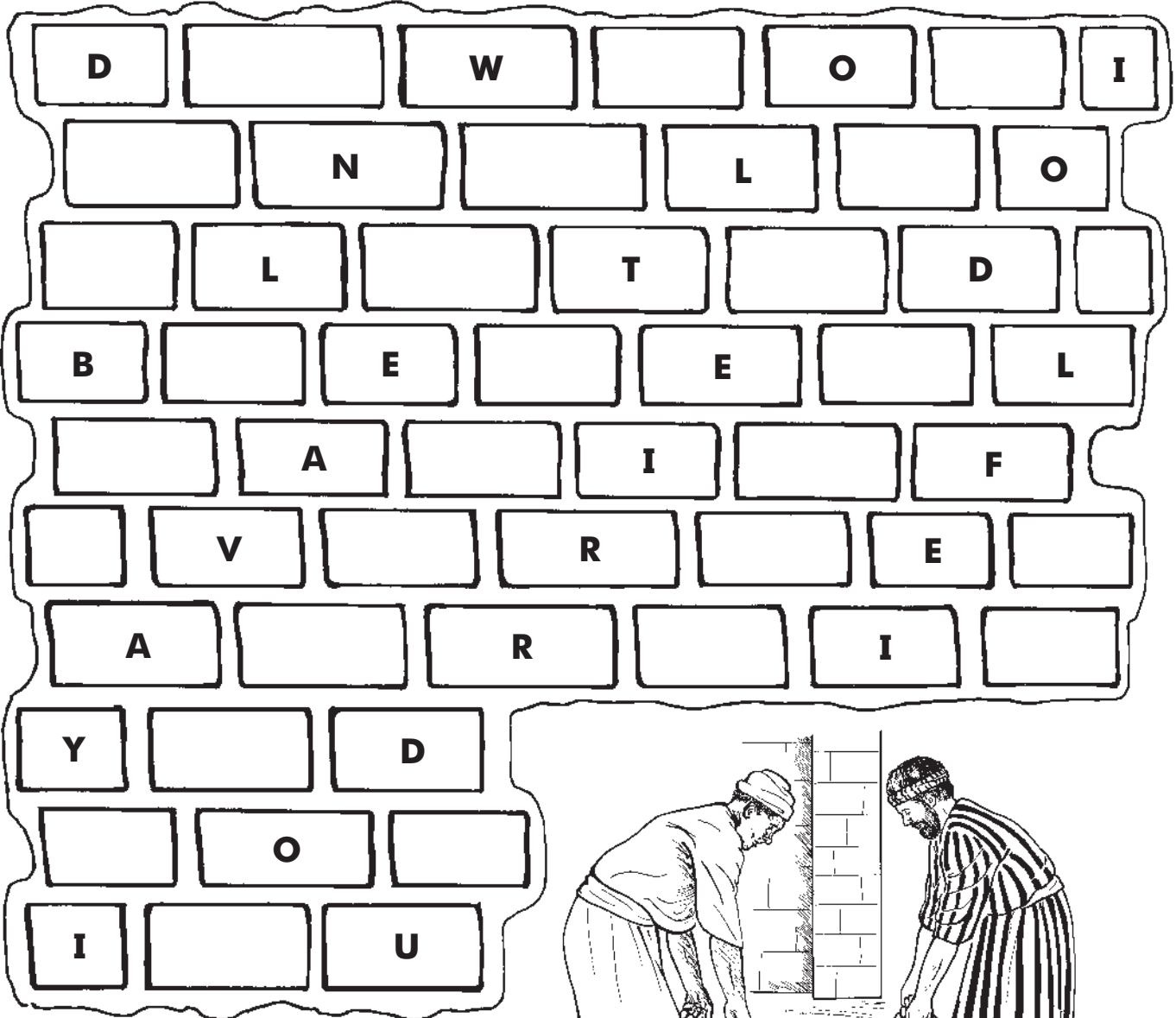
Then slowly and carefully the men pulled him out of the mud and up out of the pit.

But soon the army broke through the walls. They killed or captured everyone. When they came to Jeremiah, the captain said kindly, “If you want to go with me to Babylon, I will take care of you. But you may stay here if you want to.”

Jeremiah said he wanted to stay in Judah. So the captain took the chains off the prophet’s hands. He gave him some food and money. “Now you are free. Do whatever you please.”

Then the captain marched the king of Judah and all the wicked people off to Babylon. But not Jeremiah. At last God had delivered His faithful prophet, just as He had promised.

Find what God told Jeremiah. Write every other letter on the lines below. Start with the first letter *D*. Then start over at the second letter *W* and again write every other letter.



Write the letters to find the message.

" _____

_____."

Take up Jeremiah the prophet out of the dungeon. Jeremiah 38:10

3

The Better Choice



What should Daniel choose? To obey God or the king of Babylon? He and his four friends were captives in the land of Babylon. Nebuchadnezzar had taken them and many other Jewish boys from their home in Judah. They were being trained to serve the king in a special way. The king wanted them strong and healthy and wise. He wanted them to eat the same kind of food he ate. The king's food was the finest in all of Babylon.

Daniel made up his mind not to sin by eating the king's meat and drinking his wine. He asked the man in charge if he and his friends could eat vegetables and drink water instead.

The man said, "The king told me to feed you this food. If he sees you are not as healthy as the other boys, he will kill me for disobeying him."

Daniel did not want the man to get into trouble by disobeying his king. But neither did he want to disobey God. So he said, "Test us for ten days. Give us vegetables to eat and water to drink. Then decide if we look worse than the others."

So the man did as Daniel suggested. At mealtime he brought Daniel and his three friends only vegetables and water. After ten days, Daniel and his three friends looked more healthy than the other boys.

When the king looked at all the boys, he chose Daniel and his three friends to be his special servants. They looked better and were wiser than any of the others.

The Lord had blessed Daniel for choosing to obey God rather than the king of Babylon.

