

Three down nine across

80 Bible-based crosswords

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Introduction

In one sense, a book of crossword puzzles is something of a contradiction in terms. A crossword, after all, is usually just one small item in a newspaper or magazine—something to be done as part of the process of relating to the whole of the contents, like the weather forecast or the share prices. A book containing only page after page of crosswords would seem to be an unlikely concept, were it not for the fact that such books appear to be very popular.

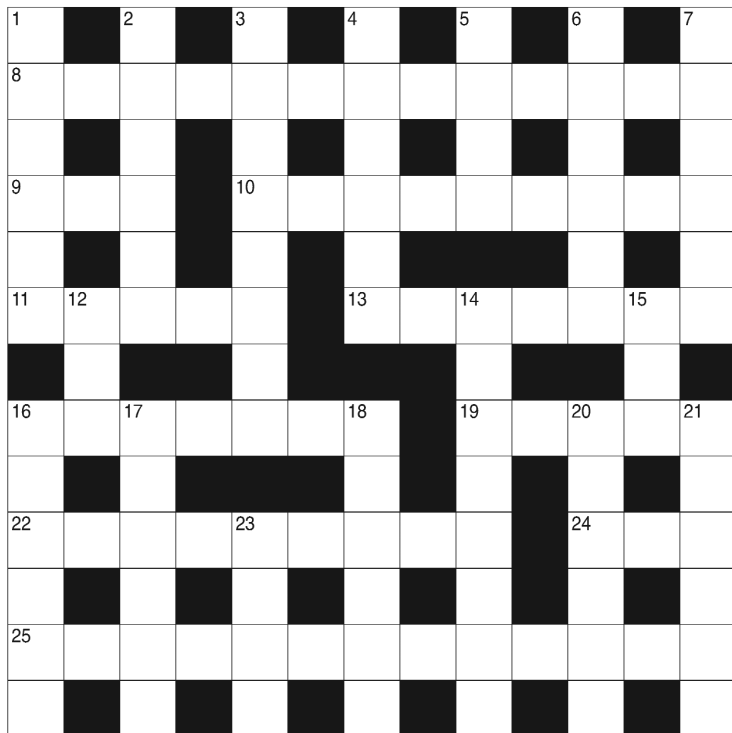
What marks this one out as different from most of the rest, however, is that nearly all the answers come from the Bible (The New International Version, first edition). These particular puzzles first appeared in the weekly denominational newspaper *The Baptist Times* and I am grateful to its editor, the Revd Mark Woods, for suggesting the book in the first place. The puzzles have been amended where necessary to make them appropriate to a wider audience. The clues are either alternative words, descriptions, tests of biblical knowledge or missing words from familiar or self-evident Bible texts. Bible references are given, but for the majority of clues they are intended to be used only as a last resort. The small number of non-biblical answers require a modest religious or general knowledge—and each puzzle includes a couple of anagrams to add variety.

Compiling these crosswords (a task I took up only upon retirement as editor of *The Baptist Times*) has increased my biblical knowledge, and I hope the same may be true for those who use this book. Turning up a previously unfamiliar text has often led me to read its context, with consequent benefit. I have made some surprising discoveries, too, such as the existence in the Bible (or at least the NIV) of the word ‘terrorists’ (see Puzzle No 34).

I hope these puzzles will provide you, the reader of this book, with some not-too-demanding mental activity, and if it sends you back to your Bible into the bargain, well, that can’t be bad!

I would like to express my gratitude to all the members of the BRF team and especially my editor, Naomi Starkey, for her encouragement and patience, and to my wife Sue for her forbearance during a long period when she became a 'crossword widow'.

No 1



Across

- 8 'Then Aaron and his sons and — — will be consecrated' (*Exodus 29:21*) (5,8)
- 9 'He lifted me out of the slimy — , out of the mud and mire' (*Psalms 40:2*) (3)
- 10 Such a person should be put to death (*Leviticus 20:27*) (9)
- 11 Chain of mountains (*Numbers 27:12*) (5)
- 13 'They are worse off at the — — they were at the beginning' (*2 Peter 2:20*) (3,4)
- 16 Descent (anag.) (7)
- 19 'But they all alike — to make excuses' (*Luke 14:18*) (5)
- 22 Reimbursement (*Luke 6:34*) (9)
- 24 Female sheep (*2 Samuel 12:4*) (3)

25 ' — — is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain'
(*Psalm 139:6*) (4,9)

Down

- 1 Alcohol-induced oblivion (*Psalm 78:65*) (6)
- 2 'Three times I was — with rods' (2 *Corinthians 11:25*) (6)
- 3 Future outlook (*Proverbs 10:28*) (8)
- 4 It caused Joseph's brothers to journey to Egypt to buy grain
(*Genesis 42:5*) (6)
- 5 See 15 Down
- 6 'You care for the land and water it; you — it abundantly'
(*Psalm 65:9*) (6)
- 7 Son of Mehir and descendant of Judah (1 *Chronicles 4:11*) (6)
- 12 Car (anag.) (3)
- 14 Engage in warfare (*Isaiah 31:4*) (2,6)
- 15 'In the thirty-first year of — king of Judah, — became king of
Israel' (1 *Kings 16:23*) (3,4)
- 16 Excessive strain or tension (*Jeremiah 19:9*) (6)
- 17 'The Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not — him'
(*Luke 12:40*) (6)
- 18 'Very rarely will anyone — — a righteous man' (*Romans 5:7*) (3,3)
- 20 Avaricious (1 *Peter 5:2*) (6)
- 21 'Martha, Martha, you are worried and upset about many things,
but only one thing is — ' (*Luke 10:41–42*) (6)
- 23 'For my — is easy and my burden is light' (*Matthew 11:30*) (4)

Answers

No 1

ACROSS: 8, Their garments. 9, Pit. 10, Spiritist. 11, Range. 13, End than. 16, Scented. 19, Began. 22, Repayment. 24, Ewe. 25, Such knowledge.

DOWN: 1, Stupor. 2, Beaten. 3, Prospect. 4, Famine. 5, Omri. 6, Enrich. 7, Eshton. 12, Arc. 14, Do battle. 15, Asa. 16, Stress. 17, Expect. 18, Die for. 20, Greedy. 21, Needed. 23, Yoke.