

1 Kings 17

In all their affliction he was afflicted.
Isaiah 63:9

Readings this week:

- S 1 Kings 16:29-34
- M 1 Kings 17:1-16
- T 1 Kings 17:17-24
- W Psalm 72
- Th Isaiah 63:7-9
- F Isaiah 58:6-11
- S James 5:7-19



Do these look like today's headlines? Or are they from Elijah's time? Things like droughts, disasters, cruelty and suffering are not new. They have been happening for thousands of years.



During the reign of King Ahab, the king allowed people to worship idols. His wife, Jezebel, set up Baal worship temples. All over the land, God's priests and followers had to hide from her persecution. In this situation, God's prophet Elijah announced there would be a drought over the land.

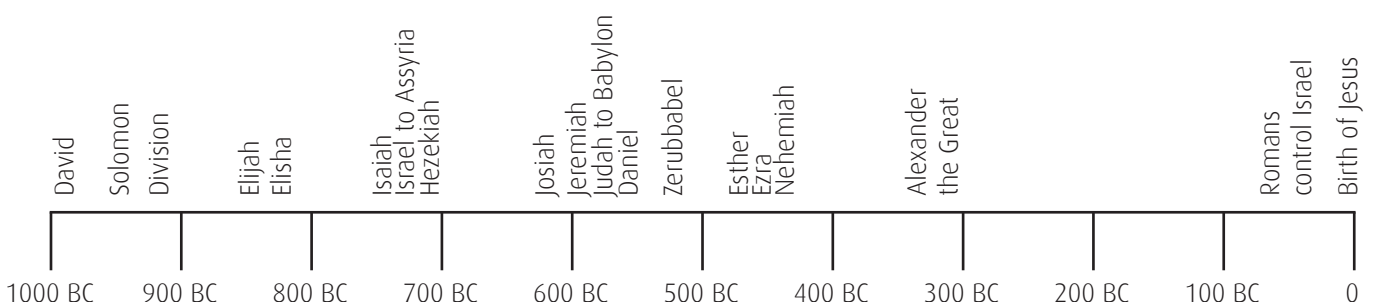
What do you think were people's reactions when Elijah announced that there would be a drought?

Jesus said,

"Truly, I say to you, no prophet is acceptable in his hometown. But in truth, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heavens were shut up three years and six months, and a great famine came over all the land, and Elijah was sent to none of them but only to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow.
Luke 4:24-26 ESV



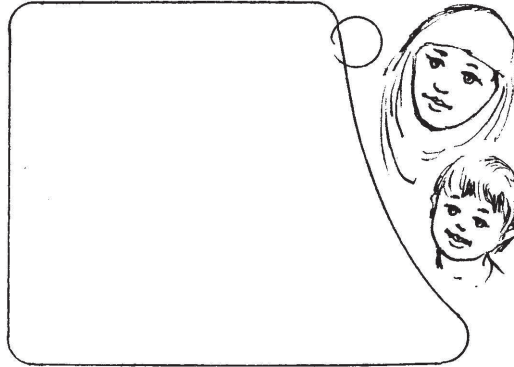
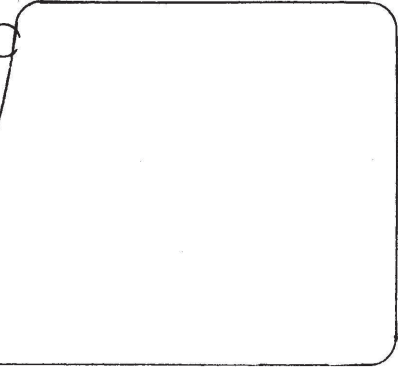
What might a drought have made people start to think about?



Read in 1 Kings 17:17-24 about the time Elijah spent with the widow at Zarepheth.

What did Elijah learn from this?

What did the widow learn?



Did the drought have the effect on the people of Israel that Elijah had hoped for?

Do you believe God is in control of the hard times as well as the easy ones?

Do you turn to God when life is difficult or not?

Why?

Talk about your ideas together.

Digging Deeper

What is a prophet?

Look the word up in a good dictionary or decide your own answer before carrying on. You might like to think of Elijah or other prophets that you have heard of.

- Did prophets only tell what was going to happen in the future?
- Were they always prophets of God?
- Were they always men?
- Were they always speaking what God said?
- How were the people to decide which were genuine prophets?

Look up these passages to help you answer the questions:

- Zechariah 1:1-3
- Joel 2:12-13
- Genesis 20:7 (Abraham)
- Exodus 7:1 (Aaron)
- 1 Kings 18:19
- Exodus 15:20-21 (Miriam)
- Jeremiah 23:16-18
- Deuteronomy 18:21-22
- Deuteronomy 13:1-3

Try doing a drama presentation about this story. Think about the way you can dramatise the way people felt - and how their feelings and reactions to Elijah and to God changed. For dance, think about the different songs or music you could use - you will need to bring things in from home to play.

Could you perform your presentation to the rest of your Bible school?

Remember to pray for those people who have no rain and very little food.