

Reading:- 1 Kings Chapter 17

Ahab was one of the Kings who reigned over the Israelites, he was not a good King. He was married to a very wicked, cruel wife who did not believe in God and who caused her husband to do some very wicked things. Instead of praying and worshipping God, Ahab prayed and bowed to "Baal". Ahab and his wife set a bad example to all the people in Israel, and most of them followed the example of the King and forsook God.

Not all the nation forsook God; there were some men and women who still prayed and worshipped Him and refused to bow down to Baal. Among these was Elijah, the prophet. A prophet was a man with a special message from God. He would have to be a brave man and one who did not mind suffering hardship. Elijah had the unpleasant task of taking a message, one of these special messages from God, to the wicked King Ahab. Elijah's special message from God was that there was going to be a drought for 3½ years. This was to punish the Israelites for their wickedness.

But God looked after Elijah, as he always does to those who trust in Him. God sent Elijah during the drought to the Brook Cherith where Elijah would get water and was fed by the ravens. The ravens were used by God to carry food to Elijah.

Now the brook dried up, but God remembered Elijah and spoke to him again and told him to go this time to a place called Zarephath. Elijah came upon a woman whose husband had died. She had little flour in the bottom of a barrel and a little oil in a cruse (a small flask for holding liquid), and she was making her last flat cake of bread for herself and her son. While Elijah was staying there the oil and the flour never finished during the remainder of the drought, because of the woman's unselfishness and kindness to Elijah. God looks after us if we put our trust in Him.

The woman's son became very sick, and Elijah took the child into his own room, a loft, laid him on his bed prayed to God and stretched himself three times upon the child. God heard and answered Elijah's prayers and the child came to life again.

The woman was so filled with joy and happiness when Elijah returned from the loft with the child alive in good health. So God answered the prayer of His faithful prophet, and the woman was convinced that the man she had sheltered during the long time of drought was indeed a "man of God".

Point to remember:- God shall supply us with all our needs.