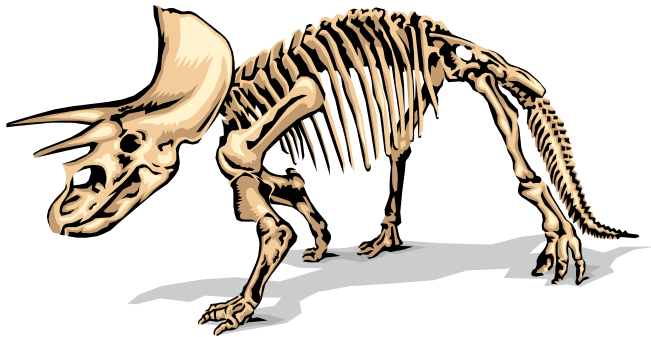


TEMKIT FOR CHILDREN

TEMKIT'S MISSION:

To provide Bible based, true reading material for children and youth.

Year 2 - 2nd Quarter - Issue #11



CREATION CORNER

STRATA Pt. 1

Evolution occurs when a living creature changes (“evolves”) into another, different, species. We know it is not happening now. Has it ever happened in the past? The bones and other remains of dead plants and animals are in the ground—in the layers of rock called ‘strata’. Strata have been studied since the early part of the 19th century, so we know a lot about them.

Much information has been gathered by scientists, and it all points to the fact that no evolution of species has occurred in the past; no plants or animals have changed into new creatures; and the strata (layers) which the fossils are in were made rather quickly.

The information we learn from the strata and fossils shows that they were caused by the world-wide Flood described in the book of Genesis, chapters 6 to 9. It is scientific history, and well-worth reading.

When the Flood occurred, the water washed sediments (gravel, clay, sand, etc.) into place, and covered over the dead animals and plants. As the waters flowed back and forth as the flood was being dried up, one layer after another of

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strata was laid down. Then it was packed down by more layers on top. At the bottom of the layers we find what they call the Cambrian strata, which is the lowest one with fossils in it.

All those creatures were slow moving ocean dwellers; that is why they are found at the bottom, they could not run from the flood. Yet they all have complex eyes and other organs.

Evolutionists say they are at the bottom because they are millions of years old and were the first to ‘evolve’. But there are too many kinds (over 1,500 species), and from all major types of life forms—including backboned creatures. There are even human footprints found in that bottom strata.

Evolutionists say this strata is so many millions of years old. Where do they get those dates? They date the rocks by some of the fossils in them—and then they date those fossils by a theory of how old they think the fossils ought to be! They have just made up their mind what it should be, and then they say it is so. That is not scientific.

Evolution teaches that everything keeps getting bigger and better. But we learn, from the fossils, that plants and animals were much

larger at the time of the Flood than they are today.

Evolution also teaches that plants keep changing (“evolving”) into other plants; and animals into other, new, animals.

But there is no evidence in the fossils that any species has changed into another. In order to do that, there would have to be many part-way species made also. But that never happened.

The fossils are said to have gotten into the strata, because the plants and animals turned to fossils when they died. But fossils never happen that way today. It was the rapid burial and immense compression by the Flood, which made the fossils.

All these are definite facts, because evolutionists tell us that, for more than 150 years, they have collected 100 million plant and animal fossil specimens, which are now in museums and other collections.

Evolutionists point to dinosaur fossils as the outstanding evidence that evolution has occurred in the past. But extinction is not evolution. The dinosaurs died out. They did not evolve; they died. Coal was formed when large masses of plants and trees were buried fast, under great pressure from additional strata laid down on top. Petroleum was formed in the same way from animals. When we drive our cars we use fuel from the animals and plants that died in the flood.

There are many evidences of the Flood in the strata. We find massive boulders that were moved into place by the floodwaters, on top of strata, and then new strata were laid down around and above them.

Large upright trees run vertically through several strata levels. Seashells, sand, and gravel are be mixed in with the fossils and coal.
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HISTORY

The History of Mohammed: 9

The Death of Mohammed June 7, 632

Only two years remained to his life. Proclaiming that all Arabia must submit to his rule, or else, he sent messengers to inform them. After some minor rebellions, the entire peninsula yielded submission.

In return for a moderate tribute, the Christians of Arabia were taken under Mohammed’s protection and enjoyed full liberty of worship.

This was a pattern that would be followed in later years by the prophet’s successors: Convert to the faith, or pay yearly tribute money, or die.

Mohammed also sent envoys to several foreign monarchs, demanding that they accept him as the prophet of Allah. The rulers either ignored the message or rejected it with a laugh. All those empires, as well as others, were later overrun by the Muslims.

Although age was telling on him, Mohammed wanted to extend his empire beyond the borders of Arabia while he was still alive so he determined to invade Syria.

The Arabs did not want to fight, as it was harvest season; and there was scarcity in the land. They begged him to wait until later, urging different excuses—lack of money, camels, provisions, and the hot weather. The angry prophet replied, “Hell is much hotter!”

So an army of thirty thousand Muslims was assembled and a holy war (jihad) was solemnly proclaimed. Ten men rode by turns on the same camel, and the suffering from thirst was intense. After a ten-day’s journey, they reached the oasis partway between Medina and Damascus. There they learned that the Roman army they wanted to attack had packed up and moved elsewhere. Using that as an excuse, the Arabs returned home. Mohammed, weakened by age and frequent sickness, had no disposition to do anything further outside of Arabia.

Among the Arabs, as among the Jews, the calendar consisted of twelve lunar months of 28 days, with an extra month tossed in every three years, to keep the seasons in harmony with the sun.

But Mohammed changed the calendar for Muslims, and made it a disaster. He declared that the angel said it should have twelve lunar months, of alternately thirty and twenty-nine days. This threw the Muslim calendar out of harmony with the seasons, and gained a year on the Gregorian calendar every thirty-two and a half years.

The weekly cycle of seven days did not, of course, change. In all lands, everywhere, ever since the Creation of the world, it has always been a week of seven days. According to historians and astronomers, the first day of the week today is the same as the first day of the week in the most distant past.

The prophet drew up no code; he just issued revelations covering items as they arose. When a conflict occurred, he came up with a new revelation contradicting the previous one.

Whatever he wanted to do he said he had a revelation from the angel. When Mohammed decided to marry the pretty wife of his adopted son, he said the angel told him he could take the other man's wife. Mohammed had earlier announced that no Muslim could have more than four wives. But, by special revelations from the angel, he gave himself more.

The prophet's first wife, Khadija, died in 619. After that, by 632 Mohammed had ten wives and two concubines. All his wives after Khadija had no children and of her children, only one daughter survived him: Fatima. The sons all died in infancy.

His crowded harem troubled him with quarrels, jealousies, and demands for spending money. Women and power were his only indulgence. Otherwise, he lived simply. His usual fare were dates and water, or a small quantity of barley bread—the same as his countrymen ate. But he did enjoy spending time grooming himself, perfuming his body, painting his eyes, and dying his hair. He was proud of a ring someone had engraved for him, which said, "Mohammed the Messenger of Allah."

Mohammed took part in religious processions. His camp included all his wives, who rode on camels and were enclosed within pavilions of embroidered silk. He was followed by a number of captives. Every spot where he halted and said his prayers became consecrated. The way he conducted the various religious rites, from cutting his hair and nails to the solemn act of casting stones at the devil, are still faithfully followed by Muslims.

He was a heartless warrior, yet kind to the poor. His followers collected his spittle, hair cuttings, nail clippings, and the water in which he washed himself, hoping that those objects would perform magic cures. The prophet never told them this was wrong.

As he grew older, Aisha his favorite wife reported, he would leave the house at times, visit a graveyard, ask forgiveness of the dead, pray aloud for them, and congratulate them on being dead. Early in his sixty-third year, Mohammed had a fever lasting for fourteen days. On June 7, 632, he passed away.

When he was born, Arabia was a collection

of quarrelsome tribes. When he died, it was a single nation, prepared to rapidly expand from Gibraltar to the borders of India. Few men in history have been more influential. = ^ .. ^ =

TRUE-STORY-TIME

Banging the Barrel

When Grandma was much younger than she is now she lived on a small farm hundreds of miles from a big city. Her nearest neighbors were so far away she scarcely ever saw them. Sometimes she would feel very lonely, especially when her husband was working far from home and she was left alone with the children for weeks on end.

Sometimes food would get scarce, and the children would have to go on short rations until their daddy got back with fresh supplies. One bad winter he didn't get back when he said he would, and the food ran out.

Grandma was worried. She hated to see the children suffer. Gladly would she have driven to the nearest village to buy food, but there was no way for her to get there. Her husband had the horse and cart.

She couldn't telephone for help, because farmhouses didn't have telephones in those days. So the last little bit of food was eaten, and Grandma wondered what would happen if her husband didn't return soon. Next morning she went to the flour barrel and looked in. It was empty. This meant there would be nothing to eat for breakfast.

At this moment Grandma remembered another barrel that belonged to a woman like her, and how the prophet Elijah promised that if she would put God first, the barrel would never be empty. She knelt by the barrel and prayed.

"I've always tried to put You first, dear God. I've paid my tithe and brought up my children to love You. Now we are in great need, and I claim the same promise."

As she prayed a voice seemed to say to her, "Bang the barrel!" So she stood up and banged it, good and hard, with the flour dipper. Then she looked inside. There was flour at the bottom. Quite a lot, in fact; at least enough to make a nice little breakfast for everybody. Next day Grandma banged the barrel again, and once more found flour at the bottom of it, this time enough to make a pan of biscuits. The third

day she banged it again, and still more flour came.

The day after that she banged it again. Believe it or not, she kept on banging that barrel for a whole month, and without fail always found enough flour at the bottom to give them something to eat. She was still banging it when her husband arrived home with fresh supplies of food. He laughed when he heard the story, but she didn't. To her it was something very precious. Ever after she would remember 1 Kings 17:14.

"The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the Lord sendeth rain upon the earth." She had claimed God's promise, and He had kept it, as He always does. = ^ .. ^ =

STORY LESSON

The Seeing Eye

"The hearing ear, and the seeing eye, the LORD hath made even both of them." Proverbs 20:12

The eye is one of the most wonderful organs in the whole body. It lets us know what is going on around us and to enjoy many beautiful things that our other senses can tell us nothing about. It also allows us to read. Let's learn about this wonderful organ that our Creator has given us.

Looking at the eye, we see first a round part that rolls in different directions. This is the eyeball. We see only the front of it, as it fits into a hollow in the skull in a safe place where it is not likely to get hurt. The eyeball is filled with a clear, jelly substance, so clear that the light can shine through it as easy as through water.

If you look closely at the eyeball you will see a small black hole just in the center. This is a little window, called the pupil, to lets the light into the inside. Around the pupil is a colored ring called the iris. We say we have blue or brown or gray eyes according as the iris is blue or brown or gray. It is a kind of curtain for the window of the eye.

Look closely at your pupils in a mirror while you bring a small flashlight to shine near them then turn it off, you will see them get larger and smaller. If you look at the light, the pupil is small; if you turn away from the light, the pupil gets larger. This is because the curtain closes when in a bright light and opens in the darkness. It does this without our thinking about it,

so the eye is protected from too strong a light.

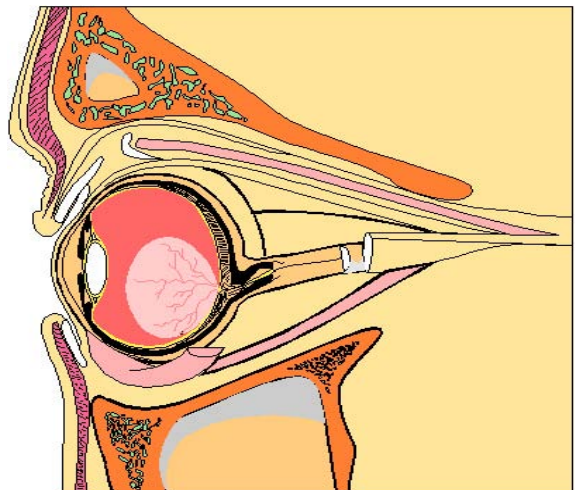
If you look a little sideways at an eyeball, you will see that the curtain has something in front of it as clear as glass. It is called the cornea. In fact, this is the window to the eye. The white of the eye is a tough, firm membrane around the eyeball that keeps it in a round shape.

You have seen the lens in a camera or in people's glasses, well, there is a lens in the eye almost like one of these lenses, only smaller. The lens is in the eyeball just behind the pupil.

But a person might have an eyeball with all the parts and yet not be able to see. More is needed, there must be a nerve. The optic nerve comes from some little nerve cells in the brain into the eyeball at the back of the eye; there it is spread out on the inside of the black lining of the white of the eye. This membrane is called the retina.

Let's notice some other parts about the eye. First there are the eyelids. They are little folds of skin, which we can shut to cover the eyeball and keep out the light when we want to sleep or to keep from getting dust or smoke into the eye. The eyelids are fringed with hairs placed along the edge of the lids to help keep the dust out when the eyes are open. The eyelids also help to keep the eye moist. This is why we blink from time to time.

The row of hairs above the eye is called the eyebrow. Like the eyelids, the eyebrows catch some things that might fall into the eye, and they also help to keep sweat out of the eyes. We'll learn more about eyes next week. = ^ .. ^ =



MISSION STORY

Ratu Ambrose a new man!

In November of that year the believers, including Ratu Ambrose and Clara, together with the believers from Tamavua, were baptized in the river. This was the first baptism in Fiji, and the following Sabbath, Pastor Fulton held the first communion service with the newly organized church.

The new members had never before seen or taken part in the ordinance of foot washing. In simple language Pastor Fulton explained how sin and sorrow were all the result of the pride, which Lucifer had in his heart. He told of the plan the Lord Jesus Himself had put in the early Christian church, to keep pride out of the hearts of His followers. Then he told how Jesus Himself had washed the feet of His disciples, and had said, "If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. . . . If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them."

The women then retired to a nearby house for their service. Left alone with the men, John girded himself with a towel and picked up a basin of water to show the new believers how the foot washing was done. As he did so he kept watching Ratu Ambrose. He wondered what this great chief would do. All his life he had been accustomed to being served by others. What would he do now? There was no need to worry about it, however, for suddenly the old chief got the idea. He sprang to his feet, and girding himself with a towel, said, "Misi Fulitoni, please let me wash their feet." Taking a basin of water, he knelt first at the feet of Metui, the poor old fisherman whose body still bore the marks of his cruelty, and prepared to wash his feet.

"No! No!" cried Metui in anguish. "You must not wash my feet! You are a great high chief and I am only a common man!" It was a tense moment. The men sitting there trembled with emotion, partly from fear, partly from joy. Some began to weep. But Ratu Ambrose was speaking again. They held their breath to hear what he would say. "Metui," he said softly, "you must let me wash your feet, for there is no chief here today, only Jesus." O what joy! Jesus was indeed there that day by the presence of His Holy Spirit and the young missionaries felt that the foundations of the Lotu Savasava were being divinely established.

A few weeks later John stepped into Mr. Bailey's shoe shop in Suva. Mr. Bailey was an infidel and had no time for, or interest in, religion, but this day he said to Mr. Fulton, "Whatever has come over old Ambrose?"

"Why do you ask?" inquired John. "What has he done?" "I don't know what has happened to him. I only know that he has owed me two pounds ten shillings [\$12.50 at that time] for years and I never expected to see a penny of it. But the other day he came in and put the whole sum of money down in front of me and said, 'Misi Bailey, here is the money I have owed you so long.'"

"Well, you know," said John with a smile, "converted men pay their debts."

Mr. Bailey felt uneasy for a moment, then said, "Converted or not, I don't know anything about that, but I was sure glad to get my money." But after John left the thought persisted in Mr. Bailey's mind, there must be something to this Lotu Savasava if it can do that to old Ratu Ambrose.

Of course, the dear old man still had much to learn. One day he brought John ten shillings (\$2.50 at that time) for tithe. He had paid his regular tithe only a few days before, so John said to him, "Well, Ratu, God is blessing you for paying your tithe, isn't He?"

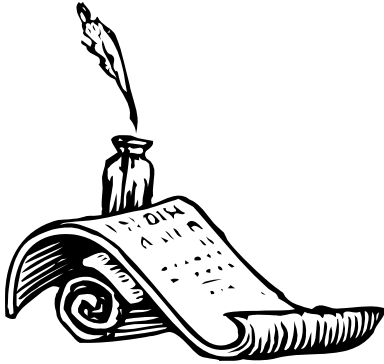
"Yes," he replied, "the Lord surely did bless me. I was over in Suva and I played a game of billiards with two Englishmen, and I won five pounds!"

"Do you mean to say you were over there in a saloon playing billiards?" asked John, trying to suppress his surprise. "But, Misi Fulitoni, I didn't drink or smoke. Is it wrong to gamble? You never told me it was wrong to gamble." "I didn't think I needed to tell you that the Lotu Savasava keeps away from all the snares of Satan." "All right!" said Ambrose as simply as a child would say it. "Then away goes gambling along with pork and whisky and tobacco." And he never gambled again.

No wonder Mr. Scott, a government official, said to Mr. Fulton one day, "The government is keeping its eye on old Ratu Ambrose. He has been such a rascal and such a rogue. You know, he was once a government officer. He was very popular. He even went to Australia on government business and got his name and his picture in the papers. But the temptation was too

great. He took to drinking. He embezzled government funds, lost his position, and was imprisoned. But now look at him! He is so different! He is like a new man!"

"Yes," agreed John Fulton, "Mr. Scott, he is a new man." = ^ .. ^ =



Year 2: 2nd Quarter:

"FAVOURITE BIBLE STORIES"

**WEEKLY BIBLE LESSON 11: "ELIJAH:
THE MAN WHO WENT TO HEAVEN"**

For our Bible lessons we are going to use the King James Version of the Bible. Just like the boys and girls used to use to learn to read from in the pioneer days.

There will be some texts to look up for each day and you should practice your memory verse until you can say it without looking. Don't forget to learn the text too.

**MEMORY VERSE: "And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word."
1 Kings 18:21**

Story found in 1 Kings 17-18

Sunday

Text: 1 Kings 17:1 "1 And Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word."

There were sad bad days in Israel. Ahab the

king had married a heathen princess, Jezebel and it was a disaster! Jezebel's name is known even today as a designing, crafty, malicious, revengeful, and cruel woman.

She was the first one to really organize persecution against the saints of God. Fearing neither God nor man, she was passionately devoted to her heathen worship, and was known for fierceness and violent temper. This would perhaps tell us why Ahab just allowed her to have her own way. She enforced Baal worship on all in Israel and killed many worshipers and prophets of the True God of heaven.

She spared no pains to uphold idolatry around her in all its splendour. Four hundred and fifty prophets ministered under her care to Baal, besides four hundred prophets of the groves ate at her table. The idolatry, too, was of the most debased kind.

You will see in Revelation 2:20, that her name is used to represent the cruel apostate church of the Middle Ages. Remember that Israel in the time of Ahab, was part of the 'chosen people of God', It was part of the Seventh-day Adventist church of those days, and yet, led astray by its leaders, it was now serving Satan and persecuting the real people of God.

Elijah's name meant, 'whose God is Jehovah'. He grew up in the wilderness areas of Israel and he served God with all his heart, He prayed and did all he could to fight against the terrible wrong Israel was doing in serving Baal. One day God sent him to go to the palace of King Ahab and tell him that because of the wicked ways of Israel there would be no more rain or dew until he said so.

Thought - Jezebel is the first one in the Bible record to use make-up and eye shadow. "And when Jehu was come to Jezreel, Jezebel heard of it; and she painted her face, and tired her head, and looked out at a window." 2 Kings 9:30. The original says she put her eyes in painting. Think about this if you are ever tempted to use such heathen things.

Monday

Text: 1 Kings 17:2-4 "And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, Get thee hence, and turn thee eastward, and hide thyself by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan. And it shall be, that thou shalt drink of the brook; and I have

commanded the ravens to feed thee there.”

Can you imagine the scene? Here is Ahab on his throne doing the business of his court, and all of a sudden here stands this man dressed in the rough garments of a peasant right in front of the throne. God helped him to be able to walk right past the guards and there he was in front of the king.

Solemnly he announces the words God told him to say, “Because you have forsaken the God of heaven to serve Baal, there shall no rain or dew happen until I say so.” The king was astonished, he didn’t know what to do or say, and by the time he had recovered enough that he could have yelled for his guards to seize the man, the prophet was gone. Quickly and quietly he walked, again past all the palace soldiers, and out of the city.

God sent him to a place in the wilderness where there was a sparkling stream of water and told him he would use the ravens to bring him food. Now I have heard some people say that the ravens brought him the meat that they would eat. The Bible does not say this at all; it says morning and night they brought him both bread and meat. Now I don’t know about you, but I have never seen a raven baking bread.

So where did the birds get the food? Well I sort of imagine they got it in a very interesting place, I think they got it right off of Queen Jezebel’s huge tables, where she fed her almost a thousand priests of Baal every day. We know that she spared no effort to keep her religion going in Israel. To feed so many, no doubt tables were set up out of doors and those pesky ravens would swoop down and select from the table some nice bread and roast, and away they would go over the hills to the little stream where Elijah was waiting for his meal.

Did you know there was somebody else who also was fed from the stores of food that Jezebel had planned for her Baal priests? Yes, the servant who was in charge of the food supplies in the palace, was Obadiah, and he was a true worshipper of God. When he learned of Jezebel’s intent to kill all the true prophets of God, he took a hundred of them and hid them in two caves. Then he sneaked out every night and brought food to them from the palace supplies.

Thought - God can use the very plans of His enemies to help His people. He can turn a curse into a blessing for those who love Him.

Tuesday

Text: 1 Kings 17:8,9 “And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, Arise, get thee to Zarephath, which belongeth to Zidon, and dwell there: behold, I have commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee.”

Time went on and gradually things in Israel dried up. Ahab was looking all over for Elijah but he could not find him. Elijah was quite happy down by the little brook, but then the brook began to dry up and he was having a hard time to find any water.

He took the problem to God and was told to go out of Israel to Zarephath, where there was a widow woman who would provide for him. So he went and when he got there he saw a poor woman out in the field gathering sticks with her young son.

Now both the faith of Elijah and the faith of the woman were about to be tested. The woman sure did not look like anyone he would think could feed him during the famine, but he asked her for a drink of water. She went to get it and as she was leaving he called and said, ‘Bring me, I pray thee, a morsel of bread in thine hand.’

At this the woman turned back and said sadly, “As the LORD thy God liveth, I have not a cake, but an handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse: and, behold, I am gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die.”

Now Elijah made a strange request, he asked her to make him a cake first and then make for herself and her son; “For thus saith the LORD God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the LORD sendeth rain upon the earth.”

Now it took faith for the woman to do this, but even though she did not know a lot about Israel’s God, she believed in him, and so she did what he asked. Sure enough, every day there was always enough flour and oil to make bread for the three of them for the day. Elijah stayed there in a room in the loft.

Thought - God knew that this woman was more worthy of His blessings than most of Israel because she lived up to all that she knew was right.

Wednesday

Text: 1 Kings 17:17,18 “And it came to pass after these things, that the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, fell sick; and his sickness was so sore, that there was no breath left in him. And she said unto Elijah, What have I to do with thee, O thou man of God? art thou come unto me to call my sin to remembrance, and to slay my son?”

Now it seemed as if Satan wasn't happy to have the prophet of God so well provided for, and one day the son of the woman got sick and died. The woman told Elijah the words of our text.

But he knew what to do, He took the boy to his room and prayed to God for his life to return and said, “O LORD my God, hast thou also brought evil upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by slaying her son?”

He stretched himself on the boy three times, praying earnestly, and the boy came back to life. He carried him happily back to the woman. And the woman said to Elijah, “Now by this I know that thou art a man of God, and that the word of the LORD in thy mouth is truth.”

Maybe the woman needed an extra boost to her faith so she would give up all her heathen ways, because you will notice she said that now she would believe all what Elijah was saying. It sounds like he had been teaching her more about the ways of the God of heaven.

Thought - The widow of Zarephath shared what little she had with Elijah, and in return her life and that of her son were preserved. And to all who, in time of trial and want, give sympathy and help to others more needy, God has promise great blessing. He has not changed. His power is no less now than in the days of Elijah. No less sure now than when spoken by our Saviour is the promise, “He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward.” Matthew 10:41.

Thursday

Text: 1 Kings 18:1,2 “And it came to pass after many days, that the word of the LORD came to Elijah in the third year, saying, Go, shew thyself unto Ahab; and I will send rain upon the earth. And Elijah went to shew himself unto Ahab. And

there was a sore famine in Samaria.”

For three years no rain or dew fell in the kingdom of Israel. Conditions were desperate, animals and even people died. Even the king and Jezebel with all her prophets of Baal to feed were having a hard time.

There was great meaning in what the Lord was doing, for the idolaters claimed that Baal the sun god was the one that sent the rain and made things grow on the earth. You can imagine that during all this time these priests of Baal were trying every ceremony and sacrifice they could think of to get Baal to make it rain, but nothing happened.

Another thing that this accomplished is that Jezebel did not have as much time to think about hunting and killing God's true people. They did do everything they could think of to try and find Elijah, but they could not. Maybe also, some of the people smartened up and began to see that this idol Baal wasn't really a god at all, and they should go back and worship the real God of heaven. But most of the people just followed their leaders and believed what the leaders told them. They were afraid to step out and be different. The leaders told them that Baal was angry and would not stop being angry until Elijah was found and killed.

Now God saw it was time for a showdown, and Elijah went back into the dried up land of Israel to where he was shown where Ahab was. He met Obadiah, the king's servant who loved God, and asked him to tell Ahab he wanted to talk to him.

Poor Obadiah was afraid that he would tell this to Ahab and God would hide Elijah again and the servant would be killed, but Elijah said not to worry, he would talk to Ahab that day.

Thought - No one will ever get to heaven by following any other leader but Jesus!

Friday

Text: 1 Kings 18:16-18 “So Obadiah went to meet Ahab, and told him: and Ahab went to meet Elijah. And it came to pass, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said unto him, Art thou he that troubleth Israel? And he answered, I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father's house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the LORD, and thou hast followed Baalim.”

Now the famine was so bad that even the King with his head servant had gone out to try and find water! So Ahab was not far from where Elijah had met Obadiah. When Ahab learned Elijah wanted to see him he was terrified.

Ahab knew that Elijah would not have come to see him at risk of his life unless God had sent him and he was afraid that some more terrible thing was about to happen. So trembling and pale, and with his guards close around him, he went to meet the man of God. He hated Elijah but he did not dare to try and harm him. As he came face to face with the strange prophet, he blurted out, "Art thou he that troubleth Israel?"

Elijah did not let that pass, but quickly replied that the king and his family had brought the trouble to Israel because they had left the God of Heaven and disobeyed Him to serve idols.

Now the prophet commanded the King to call all the people of Israel to meet him on a certain day on Mount Carmel, and that all the priests of Baal were to come there also. "Send," he com-

manded, "and gather to me all Israel unto Mount Carmel, and the prophets of Baal four hundred and fifty, and the prophets of the groves four hundred, which eat at Jezebel's table."

Elijah seemed to stand in the very presence of God; and Ahab obeyed at once, as if the prophet were monarch, and the king a subject. Swift messengers were sent through the kingdom with the summons to meet Elijah and the prophets of Baal and Ashtoreth. In every town and village the people prepared to assemble at the appointed time. As they journeyed toward the place, the hearts of many were filled with fear. Something unusual was about to happen; else why this order to gather at Carmel? What new calamity was about to fall upon the people and the land?

Thought - It is very strange that when people decide to turn away from God and do wicked things and trouble comes to them, they always blame the true people of God who have warned them they are doing wrong!! = ^ .. ^ =

