

Elijah

Before we meet Elijah

Let's look and see what life was like in Israel in the years leading up to his bold ministry.

Open 1 Kings 16 and **read** the sorry history of the kings of Israel.

- Elah v8-10
- Zimri v18-19
- Omri v25-26
- Ahab v29-33.

What strikes you about the quality of life for the people of Israel?

Take a few minutes now to **be still with God** and **ask** Him to show you the situation we are living in now: the strange and uncertain days of lockdown, but also the other aspects of life which have perhaps been eclipsed by the virus.

What's happening around you?

Note these down, and then **hold them open to God** who sees and knows our lives.

Maybe you would like to write a prayer, and share it later?



Elijah

Enter Elijah

Read 1 Kings 17:1

‘As the Lord, the God of Israel lives, whom I serve...’

We hear nothing of Elijah before this point - but he already had a history with God.

(Seeing that the end of this story is God’s appointing of a successor for Elijah, we guess he wasn’t a young man. His history and learning of God’s ways lasted years.)

Life in that ‘silent’ background had already prepared him to be a changemaker in his generation. He knew his country, his people’s situation. And somehow he had grown the courage to face this evil king Ahab and speak chilling words of judgement for his nation.

- Who are the prophets to our situation these days?
- Are there some folk whom we see God is preparing to work for Him?
- Are there some who need our prayers?



Elijah

Desert Preparation for Elijah

God brought Elijah to that point. He spoke out that first time to Ahab. Before any further confrontation with the king, God has much more to teach His prophet.

Praying with the Imagination

[\(find the separate sheet\)](#)

Pick up the notes on praying with the imagination.

Read these verses, then put your Bible down, and **pray with your imagination** through the different events in the account of God's preparation of Elijah:

- 1 Kings 17:2-6, water from the brook, and food from ravens;
- 17:7-16, the widow in Zarephath;
- 17:17-24, the son of the widow comes back to life.

Note the time scale: v7 and v 17; 'some time later' and 18:1. God's preparation took time.

- How was God preparing Elijah for the next steps in this ministry? Notice, then ask:
- What is God doing in your life to prepare you for things ahead? Notice, then talk to God about His work in your life.

Maybe you would like to write about this conversation so you can come back to it later?

