

Handout 7-C

Introduction to the Prophets

Directions: Read the cited scripture passages and related biblical footnotes to help you to fill in the blanks for each item.

- 1 Kings 17 introduces the stories of the _____.
- One impression that many people have of prophets is that their main job or purpose is to predict the _____.
- What biblical prophets always do, however, is to announce some message from _____.
- The biblical prophets preached against four sins: idolatry, adultery, oppression of the poor, and religious hypocrisy. Look up the following prophets and match the sins mentioned above to what the prophet was preaching against:
 - A. Hos 4:2 _____
 - B. Is 2:6–8 _____
 - C. Is 3:14–15 _____
 - D. Is 1:12–17 _____
- Sometimes the prophets worked miracles, but the miracles themselves are not the reason for the prophets. The miracles were intended to show that the prophet was sent to preach by God. In fact, the test to prove whether or not a prophet is really from God is found in Deuteronomy 18:21f. A prophet is from God if _____.
- Elijah is known as the father of prophecy. In 1 Kings 17:7, Elijah goes to Zarephath, a town in Phoenicia, which is a stronghold of the Canaanite god Baal. This area has also been stricken by the Lord's _____.
- Here Elijah meets a widow who is gathering sticks for the purpose of preparing for herself and her son one last _____. (1 Kgs 17:10–12)
- Elijah asks her for water and a little cake for himself from her meager rations. In return, he promises her that until the drought is over, her jar of flour and jug of oil will not _____. (1 Kgs 17:14)
- Not only does God, through Elijah, provide food for the widow, but he also gives back to her son his _____. (1 Kgs 17:22)
- The widow now sees that Elijah is an instrument of God who has the power over life and _____.

11. What does the widow exclaim in 1 Kings 17:24? _____

12. Elijah establishes his credentials from God by demonstrating power over material things and over life and death before he does his prophetic work. These powerful actions prove that he has been sent by _____.
13. After establishing the fact that he is a prophet sent from God, Elijah gets back to his main mission, which is calling the Israelites back to the true worship of _____. (1 Kgs 18:21)
14. What is the connection between this mission of Elijah's and the passage found in Deuteronomy 6:4?

_____.
15. The widow in this story shows us what is important about the prophet and his mission. It is not any miracle the prophet may perform that is important. What is important is the _____ he delivers from God.