

Background to scripture readings for June 2016

Sunday June 5

1 Kings 17:8-16

Ahab, King of Israel, and his wife Jezebel have been worshipping a Canaanite god and as a result, the prophet Elijah has decreed a drought.

Galatians 1:11-24

Paul is troubled about the influence of church leaders who consider him not to be a true apostle and who insist that becoming Jewish is required before one becomes a Christian.

Luke 7:11-17

Jesus has healed the slave of a Roman centurion. Now he proceeds to Nain where he encounters a funeral procession

Sunday June 12

1 Kings 21:1-10,15-21a

King Ahab and Queen Jezebel “fall from God’s favour” due to her devious means of acquiring some land for him.

Galatians 2:15-21

Earlier, Peter has associated with and eaten with Gentiles. But now, under pressure from the traditionalist Jewish-Christian movement, he has ceased to do so. Paul has challenged the validity of Peter's changed behaviour.

Luke 7:36-8:3

While eating at Simon the Pharisee's house, Jesus is anointed with ointment. Simon reacts judgmentally. Jesus shows that not only does he heal, he is also more than just a prophet because he also forgives sins...something only God can do.

Sunday June 19

1 Kings 19:1-4,(5-7),8-15a

In Israel many people have strayed from worshipping God as the Canaanite religion has been promoted. Elijah has shown that God is much more powerful than the local gods.

Galatians 3:23-29

Some Galatians argue that a right relationship with God comes through the law of Moses. Paul argues that it is God's promises that establish the relationship. We are people of faith, not the law.

Luke 8:26-39

Jesus "delivers" a man from being an outcast to being a member of his community. The man becomes a missionary.

Sunday June 26

2 Kings 2:1-2,6-14

Only two people in the Bible were taken up to heaven without dying: Enoch and Elijah. The power and greatness of Elijah are described.

Galatians 5:1, 13-25

Certain evangelists in Galatia seem to have argued: so long as you are circumcised and keep Jewish feasts, you are free to do anything you like. Paul denounces this theology: Christians must not abuse their liberty.

Luke 9:51-62

Peter, John and James have seen Moses and Elijah talking to Jesus about "his departure which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem". Now the time draws near.