

Reader 1:

Researchers looked at month-by-month statistics from 1901 to 2014 at 24,000 locations in California, analyzing rainfall, temperature, humidity, wind and other data. The study found the lack of rain from “natural variability” is the driving force behind the drought, but it found that global warming has increased the likelihood of “extreme California droughts.”

Response: We hope for rain.

Reader 2:

Job 37:1-18

37 “At this my heart pounds
and leaps from its place.

² Listen! Listen to the roar of his voice,
to the rumbling that comes from his mouth.

³ He unleashes his lightning beneath the whole heaven
and sends it to the ends of the earth.

⁴ After that comes the sound of his roar;
he thunders with his majestic voice.

When his voice resounds,
he holds nothing back.

⁵ God’s voice thunders in marvelous ways;
he does great things beyond our understanding.

⁶ He says to the snow, ‘Fall on the earth,’
and to the rain shower, ‘Be a mighty downpour.’

⁷ So that everyone he has made may know his work,
he stops all people from their labor.^[a]

⁸ The animals take cover;
they remain in their dens.

⁹ The tempest comes out from its chamber,
the cold from the driving winds.

¹⁰ The breath of God produces ice,
and the broad waters become frozen.

¹¹ He loads the clouds with moisture;
he scatters his lightning through them.

¹² At his direction they swirl around
over the face of the whole earth
to do whatever he commands them.

¹³ He brings the clouds to punish people,
or to water his earth and show his love.

¹⁴ “Listen to this, Job;
stop and consider God’s wonders.

Response: We hope for rain.

Reader 3:

Researchers have long tied California’s drought to an unusually stubborn ridge of high pressure — dubbed the “Ridiculously Resilient Ridge” — that has hung over the Pacific Ocean, deflecting rainstorms away from the West Coast.

Response: We hope for rain.

Reader 4:

Psalms 147:7 - 8

Sing to the LORD with grateful praise;
make music to our God on the harp.

⁸ He covers the sky with clouds;
he supplies the earth with rain
and makes grass grow on the hills.

⁹ He provides food for the cattle
and for the young ravens when they call.

Response: We hope for rain.

Reader 1:

In the United States – mostly in the west, at the end of August 2015, just over 97 million people were in drought areas, compared to just under 76 million people a month earlier, and compared to 73 million people at this time last year.

Response: We hope for rain.

Reader 4:

Jeremiah 14:21-22

For the sake of your name do not despise us;
do not dishonor your glorious throne.

Remember your covenant with us
and do not break it.

Do any of the worthless idols of the nations bring rain?

Do the skies themselves send down showers?

No, it is you, LORD our God.

Therefore our hope is in you,
for you are the one who does all this.

Response: We hope for rain.

Reader 3:

Californians use 196 gallons of water per capita per day, including all businesses except agriculture. But there are wide differences by community and the moist coast uses less water than the arid inland and wealthier communities use the most per capita.

Response: We hope for rain.

Reader 2:

Acts 14: 14-17

But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of this, they tore their clothes and rushed out into the crowd, shouting: ¹⁵“Friends, why are you doing this? We too are only human, like you. We are bringing you good news, telling you to turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made the heavens and the earth and the sea and everything in them. ¹⁶In the past, he let all nations go their own way. ¹⁷Yet he has not left himself without testimony: He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy.”

Response: We hope for rain.

Reader 1:

Some 564,000 acres are estimated to be left unplanted this year due to the drought, a 33 percent increase over 2014 that will result in the loss of approximately 18,600 full-time, part-time, and seasonal jobs.

Response: We hope for rain.

Reader 2:

Psalms 65:9-10

You care for the land and water it;
you enrich it abundantly.

The streams of God are filled with water
to provide the people with grain,
for so you have ordained it.

You drench its furrows and level its ridges;
you soften it with showers and bless its crops.

Response: We hope for rain.

Reader 3:

Thirty California oil companies were fined \$4,500 for missing a deadline to report details about the source, volume and disposal of water used in oil and gas production to the California Department of Conservation. Given the continuing drought, knowledge of the use and treatment of water is vital.

Response: We hope for rain.

Reader 4:

Jeremiah 17:8

⁸ He is like a tree planted by water,
that sends out its roots by the stream,
and does not fear when heat comes,

for its leaves remain green,
and is not anxious in the year of drought,
for it does not cease to bear fruit.”

Response: We hope for rain.

Reader 3:

Residents are conserving water by letting lawns die, not washing cars, harnessing and using grey water to support flushing and watering plants, reporting violations and incidents of water waste, removing or limiting pork and beef consumption.

Response: We hope for rain.

Reader 2:

Deuteronomy 32:2

"Let my teaching drop as the rain, My speech distill as the dew, As the droplets on the fresh grass And as the showers on the herb.

Response: We hope for rain.

Reader 1:

A 59 percent habitat loss has diminishes waterfowl food supplies by 33 percent to 50 percent, depending on the habitat type.

Response: We hope for rain.

Reader 4:

John 7 37-38

On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.”

Response: We hope for rain.

After the “waterdrop” prayers:

A Poem from - Steve Garnaas-Holmes

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***These clouds come from another need,
have gathered patiently,
give themselves without regard.***

We carry such small handfuls
beneath this great giving and receiving,
forget so quickly the cup, the sea.

***Of what is made of rain, much or little,
brown floods or green flowering,
we ourselves will make something.***

19

And brother drought,
the times of wide, dry waiting
teach us the holiness of our longing.

***Baptized into this
we only flow and do not pool,
proceed but do not end.***

20

The rivulet, the drop,
the warm evaporating sea
go somewhere, and go on.

***In our gathering and releasing,
being formed and borne and spent,
how dependent we are, how part.***

AMEN