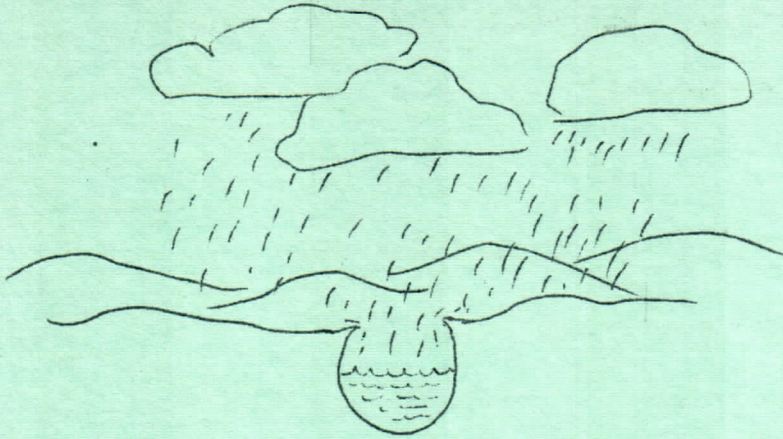


# CISTERN

©



A cistern is built to store rain water.

In some places in Israel it rains only 2 inches the entire year. The whole land has five months each year when there is no rain anywhere. The rivers dry up. The water stops in the springs. Of course the people can not live in this land unless they have water. Water is very valuable.

Long ago the people learned how to store the rain water. A pit dug in the earth was one way to store the rainwater. This pit was called a cistern. It was narrower at the top than at the bottom. This pit was plastered on the inside to make it water-tight. Sometimes grooves were made in the surface around the cistern. This helped to make the rain water run into the cistern.

A person who wanted to get some water from the cistern would go to the cistern with a long rope, a leather bucket, and a water jar. At some cisterns, you would just stand on the edge of the cistern opening. You would let down the

TURN CARD OVER



leather bucket tied to your rope. When your bucket was full of water, you would pull it up and pour the water into your jar.

At other cisterns, you sometimes had to climb down some steps into the cistern in order to get closer to the water. Then you could let down your rope and leather bucket.

FIND OUT

The prophet Jeremiah was put into a cistern.

What kind of a cistern was it? Read Jeremiah 38:6.