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173. 21-June Daily Reading (Prophets and Writings).

2 Samuel 14.

1 . Absalom Returns to Jerusalem. .

Now Joab the son of Zeruiah perceived that the king's heart was toward Absalom.

2 Joab sent to Tekoa, and fetched there a wise woman, and said to her, "Please act like a mourner, and put on mourning clothing, please, and don't anoint yourself with oil, but be as a woman who has mourned a long time for the dead.

3 Go in to the king, and speak like this to him." So Joab put the words in her mouth.

4 When the woman of Tekoa spoke to the king, she fell on her face to the ground, showed respect, and said, "Help, O king!"

5 The king said to her, "What ails you?" She answered, "Truly I am a widow, and my husband is dead.

6 Your handmaid had two sons, and they both fought together in the field, and there was no one to part them, but the one struck the other, and killed him.

7 Behold, the whole family has risen against your handmaid, and they say, 'Deliver him who struck his brother, that we may kill him for the life of his brother whom he killed, and so destroy the heir also.' Thus they would quench my coal which is left, and would leave to my husband neither name nor remainder on the surface of the earth."

8 The king said to the woman, "Go to your house, and I will give a command concerning you."

9 The woman of Tekoa said to the king, "My master, O king, the iniquity be on me, and on my father's house; and the king and his throne be guiltless."

10 The king said, "Whoever says anything to you, bring him to me, and he shall not touch you any more."

11 Then she said, "Please let the king remember YAHWEH your ELOHIM, that the avenger of blood destroy not any more, lest they destroy my son." He said, "As YAHWEH lives, not one hair of your son shall fall to the earth."

12 Then the woman said, "Please let your handmaid speak a word to my master the king." He said, "Say on."

13 The woman said, "Why then have you devised such a thing against the people of ELOHIM? For in speaking this word the king is as one who is guilty, in that the king does not bring home again his banished one.

14 For we must die, and are as water split on the ground, which can't be gathered up again; neither does ELOHIM take away life, but devises means, that he who is banished not be an outcast from him.

15 Now therefore seeing that I have come to speak this word to my master the king, it is because the people have made me afraid: and your handmaid said, 'I will now speak to the king; it may be that the king will perform the request of his servant.'

16 For the king will hear, to deliver his servant out of the hand of the man who would destroy me and my son together out of the inheritance of ELOHIM!

17 Then your handmaid said, 'Please let the word of my master the king bring rest; for as an angel of ELOHIM, so is my master the king to discern good and bad. May YAHWEH, your ELOHIM, be with you.'

18 Then the king answered the woman, "Please don't hide anything from me that I ask you." The woman said, "Let my master the king now speak."

19 The king said, "Is the hand of Joab with you in all this?" The woman answered, "As your soul lives, my master the king, no one can turn to the right hand or to the left from anything that my master the king has spoken; for your servant Joab, he urged me, and he put all these words in the mouth of your handmaid;

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20 to change the face of the matter has your servant Joab done this thing. My master is wise, according to the wisdom of an angel of ELOHIM, to know all things that are in the earth.”

21 The king said to Joab, “Behold now, I have done this thing. Go therefore, bring the young man Absalom back.”

22 Joab fell to the ground on his face, showed respect, and blessed the king. Joab said, “Today your servant knows that I have found favor in your sight, my master, king, in that the king has performed the request of his servant.”

23 So Joab arose and went to Geshur, and brought Absalom to Jerusalem.

24 The king said, “Let him return to his own house, but let him not see my face.” So Absalom returned to his own house, and didn’t see the king’s face.

25 . **David Forgives Absalom.** .

Now in all Israel there was none to be so much praised as Absalom for his beauty: from the sole of his foot even to the crown of his head there was no blemish in him.

26 When he cut the hair of his head (now it was at every year’s end that he cut it; because it was heavy on him, therefore he cut it); he weighed the hair of his head at two hundred shekels, after the king’s weight.

27 To Absalom there were born three sons, and one daughter, whose name was Tamar: she was a woman of a beautiful face.

28 Absalom lived two full years in Jerusalem; and he didn’t see the king’s face.

29 Then Absalom sent for Joab, to send him to the king; but he would not come to him: and he sent again a second time, but he would not come.

30 Therefore he said to his servants, “Behold, Joab’s field is near mine, and he has barley there. Go and set it on fire.” Absalom’s servants set the field on fire.

31 Then Joab arose, and came to Absalom to his house, and said to him, “Why have your servants set my field on fire?”

32 Absalom answered Joab, “Behold, I sent to you, saying, ‘Come here, that I may send you to the king, to say, “Why have I come from Geshur? It would be better for me to be there still. Now therefore let me see the king’s face; and if there is iniquity in me, let him kill me.”’”

33 So Joab came to the king, and told him; and when he had called for Absalom, he came to the king, and bowed himself on his face to the ground before the king: and the king kissed Absalom.

Daniel 8.

1 . **Vision of a Ram and a Goat.** .

In the third year of the reign of king Belshazzar a vision appeared to me, even to me, Daniel, after that which appeared to me at the first.

2 I saw in the vision; now it was so, that when I saw, I was in the citadel of Susa, which is in the province of Elam; and I saw in the vision, and I was by the river Ulai.

3 Then I lifted up my eyes, and saw, and behold, there stood before the river a ram which had two horns: and the two horns were high; but one was higher than the other, and the higher came up last.

4 I saw the ram pushing westward, and northward, and southward; and no animals could stand before him, neither was there any who could deliver out of his hand; but he did according to his will, and magnified himself.

5 As I was considering, behold, a male goat came from the west over the surface of the whole earth, and didn’t touch the ground: and the goat had a notable horn between his

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eyes.

6 He came to the ram that had the two horns, which I saw standing before the river, and ran on him in the fury of his power.

7 I saw him come close to the ram, and he was moved with anger against him, and struck the ram, and broke his two horns; and there was no power in the ram to stand before him; but he cast him down to the ground, and trampled on him; and there was none who could deliver the ram out of his hand.

8 The male goat magnified himself exceedingly: and when he was strong, the great horn was broken; and instead of it there came up four notable horns toward the four winds of the sky.

9 Out of one of them came forth a little horn, which grew exceeding great, toward the south, and toward the east, and toward the glorious land.

10 It grew great, even to the army of the sky; and some of the army and of the stars it cast down to the ground, and trampled on them.

11 Yes, it magnified itself, even to the prince of the army; and it took away from him the continual burnt offering, and the place of his sanctuary was cast down.

12 The army was given over to it together with the continual burnt offering through disobedience; and it cast down truth to the ground, and it did its pleasure and prospered.

13 Then I heard a holy one speaking; and another holy one said to that certain one who spoke, How long shall be the vision concerning the continual burnt offering, and the disobedience that makes desolate, to give both the sanctuary and the army to be trodden under foot?

14 He said to me, To two thousand and three hundred evenings and mornings; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.

15 **Gabriel Interprets the Vision.**

It happened, when I, even I Daniel, had seen the vision, that I sought to understand it; and behold, there stood before me as the appearance of a man.

16 I heard a man's voice between the banks of the Ulai, which called, and said, Gabriel, make this man to understand the vision.

17 So he came near where I stood; and when he came, I was frightened, and fell on my face: but he said to me, Understand, son of man; for the vision belongs to the time of the end.

18 Now as he was speaking with me, I fell into a deep sleep with my face toward the ground; but he touched me, and set me upright.

19 He said, Behold, I will make you know what shall be in the latter time of the indignation; for it belongs to the appointed time of the end.

20 The ram which you saw, that had the two horns, they are the kings of Media and Persia.

21 The rough male goat is the king of Greece: and the great horn that is between his eyes is the first king.

22 As for that which was broken, in the place where four stood up, four kingdoms shall stand up out of the nation, but not with his power.

23 In the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors have come to the full, a king of fierce face, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up.

24 His power shall be mighty, but not by his own power; and he shall destroy wonderfully, and shall prosper and do his pleasure; and he shall destroy the mighty ones and the holy people.

25 Through his policy he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and in their security shall he destroy many: he shall also stand up against the prince of princes; but he shall be broken without hand.

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26 The vision of the evenings and mornings which has been told is true: but seal up the vision; for it belongs to many days to come.

27 I, Daniel, fainted, and was sick certain days; then I rose up, and did the king's business: and I wondered at the vision, but none understood it.

Psalms 142.

1 . A Contemplation of David. A Prayer when he was in the cave.. .

A contemplation by David, when he was in the cave. A Prayer. I cry with my voice to YAHWEH! With my voice, I ask YAHWEH for mercy.

2 I pour out my complaint before him. I tell him my troubles.

3 When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, you knew my path. In the way in which I walk, they have hidden a snare for me.

4 Look on my right, and see; for there is no one who is concerned for me. Refuge has fled from me. No one cares for my soul.

5 I cried to you, YAHWEH! I said, "You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living."

6 Listen to my cry, for I am in desperate need. deliver me from my persecutors, For they are stronger than me.

7 Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to your name. The righteous will surround me, for you will be good to me.

Proverbs 7.

1 My son, keep my words. Lay up my commandments within you.

2 Keep my commandments and live! Guard my teaching as the apple of your eye.

3 Bind them on your fingers. Write them on the tablet of your heart.

4 Tell wisdom, "You are my sister." Call understanding your relative,

5 that they may keep you from the strange woman, from the foreigner who flatters with her words.

6 . The Crafty Harlot. .

For at the window of my house, I looked out through my lattice.

7 I saw among the simple ones. I discerned among the youths a young man void of understanding,

8 passing through the street near her corner, he went the way to her house,

9 in the twilight, in the evening of the day, in the middle of the night and in the darkness.

10 Behold, there a woman met him with the attire of a prostitute, and with crafty intent.

11 She is loud and defiant. Her feet don't stay in her house.

12 Now she is in the streets, now in the squares, and lurking at every corner.

13 So she caught him, and kissed him. With an impudent face she said to him:

14 "Sacrifices of peace offerings are with me. This day I have paid my vows.

15 Therefore I came out to meet you, to diligently seek your face, and I have found you.

16 I have spread my couch with carpets of tapestry, with striped cloths of the yarn of Egypt.

17 I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon.

18 Come, let's take our fill of loving until the morning. Let's solace ourselves with loving.

19 For my husband isn't at home. He has gone on a long journey.

20 He has taken a bag of money with him. He will come home at the full moon."

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21 With persuasive words, she led him astray. With the flattering of her lips, she seduced him.

22 He followed her immediately, as an ox goes to the slaughter, as a fool stepping into a noose.

23 Until an arrow strikes through his liver, as a bird hurries to the snare, and doesn't know that it will cost his life.

24 Now therefore, sons, listen to me. Pay attention to the words of my mouth.

25 Don't let your heart turn to her ways. Don't go astray in her paths,

26 for she has thrown down many wounded. Yes, all her slain are a mighty army.

27 Her house is the way to Sheol, going down to the rooms of death.

!! End of the Daily Reading from the PROPHETS AND WRITINGS! Praise Yah! (HNV-yet version, in the public domain.)

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