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2 Samuel 15.

1 . Absalom's Treason. .

It happened after this, that Absalom prepared him a chariot and horses, and fifty men to run before him.

2 Absalom rose up early, and stood beside the way of the gate. It was so, that when any man had a suit which should come to the king for judgment, then Absalom called to him, and said, "What city are you from?" He said, "Your servant is of one of the tribes of Israel."

3 Absalom said to him, "Behold, your matters are good and right; but there is no man deputed by the king to hear you."

4 Absalom said moreover, "Oh that I were made judge in the land, that every man who has any suit or cause might come to me, and I would do him justice!"

5 It was so, that when any man came near to do him obeisance, he put forth his hand, and took hold of him, and kissed him.

6 Absalom did this sort of thing to all Israel who came to the king for judgment. So Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel.

7 It happened at the end of forty years, that Absalom said to the king, "Please let me go and pay my vow, which I have vowed to YAHWEH, in Hebron.

8 For your servant vowed a vow while I stayed at Geshur in Syria, saying, 'If YAHWEH shall indeed bring me again to Jerusalem, then I will serve YAHWEH!'"

9 The king said to him, "Go in peace." So he arose, and went to Hebron.

10 But Absalom sent spies throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, "As soon as you hear the sound of the shofar, then you shall say, 'Absalom is king in Hebron!'"

11 Two hundred men went with Absalom out of Jerusalem, who were invited, and went in their simplicity; and they didn't know anything.

12 Absalom sent for Ahithophel the Gilonite, David's counselor, from his city, even from Giloh, while he was offering the sacrifices. The conspiracy was strong; for the people increased continually with Absalom.

13 . David Escapes from Jerusalem. .

A messenger came to David, saying, "The hearts of the men of Israel are after Absalom."

14 David said to all his servants who were with him at Jerusalem, "Arise, and let us flee; for else none of us shall escape from Absalom. Make speed to depart, lest he overtake us quickly, and bring down evil on us, and strike the city with the edge of the sword."

15 The king's servants said to the king, "Behold, your servants are ready to do whatever my master the king chooses."

16 The king went forth, and all his household after him. The king left ten women, who were concubines, to keep the house.

17 The king went forth, and all the people after him; and they stayed in Beth Merhak.

18 All his servants passed on beside him; and all the Cherethites, and all the Pelethites, and all the Gittites, six hundred men who came after him from Gath, passed on before the king.

19 Then the king said to Ittai the Gittite, "Why do you also go with us? Return, and stay with the king; for you are a foreigner, and also an exile. Return to your own place.

20 Whereas you came but yesterday, should I this day make you go up and down with us, since I go where I may? Return, and take back your brothers. Mercy and truth be with you."

21 Ittai answered the king, and said, "As YAHWEH lives, and as my master the king lives,

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surely in what place my master the king shall is, whether for death or for life, even there also will your servant be.”

22 David said to Ittai, “Go and pass over.” Ittai the Gittite passed over, and all his men, and all the little ones who were with him.

23 All the country wept with a loud voice, and all the people passed over: the king also himself passed over the brook Kidron, and all the people passed over, toward the way of the wilderness.

24 Behold, Zadok also came, and all the Levites with him, bearing the ark of the covenant of ELOHIM; and they set down the ark of ELOHIM; and Abiathar went up, until all the people finished passing out of the city.

25 The king said to Zadok, “Carry back the ark of ELOHIM into the city. If I find favor in the eyes of YAHWEH, he will bring me again, and show me both it, and his habitation;

26 but if he say thus, ‘I have no delight in you;’ behold, here am I. Let him do to me as seems good to him.”

27 The king said also to Zadok the priest, “Aren’t you a seer? Return into the city in peace, and your two sons with you, Ahimaaz your son, and Jonathan the son of Abiathar.

28 Behold, I will stay at the fords of the wilderness, until word comes from you to inform me.”

29 Zadok therefore and Abiathar carried the ark of ELOHIM again to Jerusalem; and they stayed there.

30 David went up by the ascent of the Mount of Olives, and wept as he went up; and he had his head covered, and went barefoot: and all the people who were with him covered every man his head, and they went up, weeping as they went up.

31 Someone told David, saying, “Ahithophel is among the conspirators with Absalom.” David said, “YAHWEH, please turn the counsel of Ahithophel into foolishness.”

32 It happened that when David had come to the top, where ELOHIM was worshiped, behold, Hushai the Archite came to meet him with his coat torn, and earth on his head.

33 David said to him, “If you pass on with me, then you will be a burden to me;

34 but if you return to the city, and tell Absalom, ‘I will be your servant, O king. As I have been your father’s servant in time past, so will I now be your servant; then will you defeat for me the counsel of Ahithophel.’

35 Don’t you have Zadok and Abiathar the priests there with you? Therefore it shall be, that whatever thing you shall hear out of the king’s house, you shall tell it to Zadok and Abiathar the priests.

36 Behold, they have there with them their two sons, Ahimaaz, Zadok’s son, and Jonathan, Abiathar’s son; and by them you shall send to me everything that you shall hear.”

37 So Hushai, David’s friend, came into the city; and Absalom came into Jerusalem.

Daniel 9.

1 . Daniel's Prayer for the People. .

In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of the seed of the Medes, who was made king over the realm of the Kasdim,

2 in the first year of his reign I, Daniel, understood by the books the number of the years about which the word of YAHWEH came to Jeremiah the prophet, for the accomplishing of the desolations of Jerusalem, even seventy years.

3 I set my face to ADONAI ELOHIM, to seek by prayer and petitions, with fasting and sackcloth and ashes.

4 I prayed to YAHWEH my ELOHIM, and made confession, and said, Oh, ADONAI, the great and dreadful ELOHIM, who keeps covenant and loving kindness with those who

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love him and keep his commandments,

5 we have sinned, and have dealt perversely, and have done wickedly, and have rebelled, even turning aside from your precepts and from your ordinances;

6 neither have we listened to your servants the prophets, who spoke in your name to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, and to all the people of the land.

7 ADONAI, righteousness belongs to you, but to us confusion of face, as at this day; to the men of Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and to all Israel, who are near, and who are far off, through all the countries where you have driven them, because of their trespass that they have trespassed against you.

8 ADONAI, to us belongs confusion of face, to our kings, to our princes, and to our fathers, because we have sinned against you.

9 To ADONAI our ELOHIM belong mercies and forgiveness; for we have rebelled against him;

10 neither have we obeyed the voice of YAHWEH our ELOHIM, to walk in his Torah (teachings and instructions), which he set before us by his servants the prophets.

11 Yes, all Israel have transgressed your Torah (teaching and instruction), turning aside, that they should not obey your voice: therefore the curse and the oath written in the Torah of Moses the servant of ELOHIM has been poured out on us; for we have sinned against him.

12 He has confirmed his words, which he spoke against us, and against our judges who judged us, by bringing on us a great evil; for under the whole sky, such has not been done as has been done to Jerusalem.

13 As it is written in the Torah of Moses, all this evil has come on us: yet have we not entreated the favor of YAHWEH our ELOHIM, that we should turn from our iniquities, and have discernment in your truth.

14 Therefore has YAHWEH watched over the evil, and brought it on us; for YAHWEH our ELOHIM is righteous in all his works which he does, and we have not obeyed his voice.

15 Now, ADONAI our ELOHIM, who has brought your people forth out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand, and have gotten yourself renown, as at this day; we have sinned, we have done wickedly.

16 ADONAI, according to all your righteousness, let your anger and please let your wrath be turned away from your city Jerusalem, your holy mountain; because for our sins, and for the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and your people have become a reproach to all who are around us.

17 Now therefore, our ELOHIM, listen to the prayer of your servant, and to his petitions, and cause your face to shine on your sanctuary that is desolate, for ADONAI's sake.

18 My ELOHIM, turn your ear, and hear; open your eyes, and see our desolations, and the city which is called by your name: for we do not present our petitions before you for our righteousness, but for your great mercies' sake.

19 ADONAI, hear; ADONAI, forgive; ADONAI, listen and do; don't defer, for your own sake, my ELOHIM, because your city and your people are called by your name.

20 . The Seventy-Weeks Prophecy. .

While I was speaking, and praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before YAHWEH my ELOHIM for the holy mountain of my ELOHIM;

21 yes, while I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, touched me about the time of the evening offering.

22 He instructed me, and talked with me, and said, Daniel, I am now come forth to give

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you wisdom and understanding.

23 At the beginning of your petitions the commandment went forth, and I have come to tell you; for you are greatly beloved: therefore consider the matter, and understand the vision.

24 Seventy weeks are decreed on your people and on your holy city, to finish disobedience, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most holy.

25 Know therefore and discern, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem to the Anointed One, the prince, shall be seven weeks, and sixty-two weeks: it shall be built again, with street and moat, even in troubled times.

26 After the sixty-two weeks the Anointed One shall be cut off, and shall have nothing: and the people of the prince who shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and its end shall be with a flood, and even to the end shall be war; desolations are determined.

27 He shall make a firm covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the offering to cease; and on the wing of abominations shall come one who makes desolate; and even to the full end, and that determined, shall wrath be poured out on the desolate.

Psalms 143.

1 . A Psalm of David..

A Psalm by David. Hear my prayer, YAHWEH! Listen to my petitions. In your faithfulness and righteousness, relieve me.

2 Don't enter into judgment with your servant, for in your sight no man living is righteous.

3 For the enemy pursues my soul. He has struck my life down to the ground. He has made me live in dark places, as those who have been long dead.

4 Therefore my spirit is overwhelmed within me. My heart within me is desolate.

5 I remember the days of old. I meditate on all your doings. I contemplate the work of your hands.

6 I spread forth my hands to you. My soul thirsts for you, like a parched land. Selah.

7 Hurry to answer me, YAHWEH! My spirit fails. Don't hide your face from me, so that I don't become like those who go down into the pit.

8 Cause me to hear your loving kindness in the morning, for I trust in you. Cause me to know the way in which I should walk, for I lift up my soul to you.

9 Deliver me, YAHWEH, from my enemies. I flee to you to hide me.

10 Teach me to do your will, for you are my ELOHIM! Your Spirit is good. Lead me in the land of uprightness.

11 Revive me, YAHWEH, for your name's sake. In your righteousness, bring my soul out of trouble.

12 In your loving kindness, cut off my enemies, and destroy all those who afflict my soul, For I am your servant.

Proverbs 8.

1 . The Excellence of Wisdom..

Doesn't wisdom cry out? Doesn't understanding raise her voice?

2 On the top of high places by the way, where the paths meet, she stands.

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- 3 Beside the gates, at the entry of the city, at the entry doors, she cries aloud:
4 “To you men, I call! I send my voice to the sons of mankind.
5 You simple, understand prudence. You fools, be of an understanding heart.
6 Hear, for I will speak excellent things. The opening of my lips is for right things.
7 For my mouth speaks truth. Wickedness is an abomination to my lips.
8 All the words of my mouth are in righteousness. There is nothing crooked or perverse in them.
9 They are all plain to him who understands, right to those who find knowledge.
10 Receive my instruction rather than silver; knowledge rather than choice gold.
11 For wisdom is better than rubies. All the things that may be desired can’t be compared to it.
12 “I, wisdom, have made prudence my dwelling. Find out knowledge and discretion.
13 The fear of YAHWEH is to hate evil. I hate pride, arrogance, the evil way, and the perverse mouth.
14 Counsel and sound knowledge are mine. I have understanding and power.
15 By me kings reign, and princes decree justice.
16 By me princes rule; nobles, and all the righteous rulers of the earth.
17 I love those who love me. Those who seek me diligently will find me.
18 With me are riches, honor, enduring wealth, and prosperity.
19 My fruit is better than gold, yes, than fine gold; my yield than choice silver.
20 I walk in the way of righteousness, in the midst of the paths of justice;
21 That I may give wealth to those who love me. I fill their treasuries.
22 “YAHWEH possessed me in the beginning of his work, before his deeds of old.
23 I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, before the earth existed.
24 When there were no depths, I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water.
25 Before the mountains were settled in place, before the hills, I was brought forth;
26 while as yet he had not made the earth, nor the fields, nor the beginning of the dust of the world.
27 When he established the heavens, I was there; when he set a circle on the surface of the deep,
28 when he established the clouds above, when the springs of the deep became strong,
29 when he gave to the sea its boundary, that the waters should not violate his commandment, when he marked out the foundations of the earth;
30 then I was the craftsman by his side. I was a delight day by day, always rejoicing before him,
31 Rejoicing in his whole world. My delight was with the sons of men.
32 “Now therefore, my sons, listen to me, for blessed are those who keep my ways.
33 Hear instruction, and be wise. Don’t refuse it.
34 Blessed is the man who hears me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at my door posts.
35 For whoever finds me, finds life, and will obtain favor from YAHWEH!
36 But he who sins against me wrongs his own soul. All those who hate me love death.”

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

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