175. 23-June Daily Reading (Prophets and Writings).

2 Samuel 16.

1 . Mephibosheth's Servant. .

When David was a little past the top, behold, Ziba the servant of Mephibosheth met him, with a couple of donkeys saddled, and on them two hundred loaves of bread, and one hundred clusters of raisins, and one hundred summer fruits, and a bottle of wine.

- 2 The king said to Ziba, What do you mean by these? Ziba said, The donkeys are for the king's household to ride on; and the bread and summer fruit for the young men to eat; and the wine, that such as are faint in the wilderness may drink.
- 3 The king said, "Where is your master's son?" Ziba said to the king, "Behold, he is staying in Jerusalem; for he said, 'Today the house of Israel will restore me the kingdom of my father."
- 4 Then the king said to Ziba, "Behold, all that pertains to Mephibosheth is yours." Ziba said, "I do obeisance. Let me find favor in your sight, my master, O king."

5 . Shimei Curses David. .

When king David came to Bahurim, behold, a man of the family of the house of Saul came out, whose name was Shimei, the son of Gera. He came out, and cursed still as he came.

- 6 He cast stones at David, and at all the servants of king David, and all the people and all the mighty men were on his right hand and on his left.
- 7 Shimei said when he cursed, "Be gone, be gone, you man of blood, and base fellow!
- 8 YAHWEH has returned on you all the blood of the house of Saul, in whose place you have reigned! YAHWEH has delivered the kingdom into the hand of Absalom your son! Behold, you are caught by your own mischief, because you are a man of blood!"
- 9 Then Abishai the son of Zeruiah said to the king, "Why should this dead dog curse my master the king? Please let me go over and take off his head."
- 10 The king said, "What have I to do with you, you sons of Zeruiah? Because he curses, and because YAHWEH has said to him, 'Curse David;' who then shall say, 'Why have you done so?'"
- 11 David said to Abishai, and to all his servants, "Behold, my son, who came forth from my bowels, seeks my life. How much more this Benjamite, now? Leave him alone, and let him curse; for YAHWEH has invited him.
- 12 It may be that YAHWEH will look on the wrong done to me, and that YAHWEH will repay me good for the cursing of me today."
- 13 So David and his men went by the way; and Shimei went along on the hillside opposite him, and cursed as he went, threw stones at him, and threw dust.
- 14 The king, and all the people who were with him, came weary; and he refreshed himself there.

. The Advice of Ahithophel. .

Absalom, and all the people, the men of Israel, came to Jerusalem, and Ahithophel with him.

- 16 It happened, when Hushai the Archite, David's friend, had come to Absalom, that Hushai said to Absalom, "Long live the king! Long live the king!"
- 17 Absalom said to Hushai, "Is this your kindness to your friend? Why didn't you go with your friend?"
- 18 Hushai said to Absalom, "No; but whomever YAHWEH, and this people, and all the

men of Israel have chosen, his will I be, and with him I will stay.

- 19 Again, whom should I serve? Shouldn't I serve in the presence of his son? As I have served in your father's presence, so will I be in your presence."
- 20 Then Absalom said to Ahithophel, "Give your counsel what we shall do."
- 21 Ahithophel said to Absalom, "Go in to your father's concubines, that he has left to keep the house. Then all Israel will hear that you are abhorred by your father. Then the hands of all who are with you will be strong."
- 22 So they spread Absalom a tent on the top of the house; and Absalom went in to his father's concubines in the sight of all Israel.
- 23 The counsel of Ahithophel, which he gave in those days, was as if a man inquired at the oracle of ELOHIM: so was all the counsel of Ahithophel both with David and with Absalom.

Daniel 10.,11:1.

. Vision of the Glorious Man. .

In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a thing was revealed to Daniel, whose name was called Belteshazzar; and the thing was true, even a great warfare: and he understood the thing, and had understanding of the vision.

- 2 In those days I, Daniel, was mourning three whole weeks.
- 3 I ate no pleasant bread, neither came flesh nor wine into my mouth, neither did I anoint myself at all, until three whole weeks were fulfilled.
- 4 In the four and twentieth day of the first month, as I was by the side of the great river, which is Hiddekel,
- 5 I lifted up my eyes, and looked, and behold, a man clothed in linen, whose thighs were adorned with pure gold of Uphaz:
- 6 his body also was like the beryl, and his face as the appearance of lightning, and his eyes as flaming torches, and his arms and his feet like burnished brass, and the voice of his words like the voice of a multitude.
- 7 I, Daniel, alone saw the vision; for the men who were with me didn't see the vision; but a great quaking fell on them, and they fled to hide themselves.
- 8 So I was left alone, and saw this great vision, and there remained no strength in me; for my comeliness was turned in me into corruption, and I retained no strength.
- 9 Yet heard I the voice of his words; and when I heard the voice of his words, then was I fallen into a deep sleep on my face, with my face toward the ground.

10 . Prophecies Concerning Persia and Greece. .

Behold, a hand touched me, which set me on my knees and on the palms of my hands. 11 He said to me, Daniel, you man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak to you, and stand upright; for am I now sent to you. When he had spoken this word to me, I stood trembling.

- 12 Then he said to me, Don't be afraid, Daniel; for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your ELOHIM, your words were heard: and I have come for your words' sake.
- 13 But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; but, behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me: and I remained there with the kings of Persia
- 14 Now I have come to make you understand what shall happen to your people in the latter days; for the vision is yet for many days:
- 15 and when he had spoken to me according to these words, I set my face toward the

ground, and was mute.

- 16 Behold, one in the likeness of the sons of men touched my lips: then I opened my mouth, and spoke and said to him who stood before me, my master, by reason of the vision my sorrows are turned on me, and I retain no strength.
- 17 For how can the servant of this my master talk with this my master? for as for me, immediately there remained no strength in me, neither was there breath left in me.
- 18 Then there touched me again one like the appearance of a man, and he strengthened me.
- 19 He said, "Greatly beloved man, don't be afraid: peace be to you, be strong, yes, be strong." When he spoke to me, I was strengthened, and said, "Let my master speak; for you have strengthened me."
- 20 Then he said, "Do you know why I have come to you? Now I will return to fight with the prince of Persia. When I go forth, behold, the prince of Greece shall come.
- 21 But I will tell you that which is inscribed in the writing of truth: and there is none who holds with me against these, but Michael your prince."
- 1 "As for me, in the first year of Darius the Mede, I stood up to confirm and strengthen him.

Psalms 144.

1 .A Psalm of David...

By David. Blessed be YAHWEH, my rock, who teaches my hands to war, and my fingers to battle:

- 2 my loving kindness, my fortress, my high tower, my deliverer, my shield, and he in whom I take refuge; who subdues my people under me.
- 3 YAHWEH, what is man, that you care for him? Or the son of man, that you think of him?
- 4 Man is like a breath. His days are like a shadow that passes away.
- 5 Part your heavens, YAHWEH, and come down. Touch the mountains, and they will smoke.
- 6 Throw out lightning, and scatter them. Send out your arrows, and rout them.
- 7 Stretch out your hand from above, rescue me, and deliver me out of great waters, out of the hands of foreigners;
- 8 whose mouths speak deceit, Whose right hand is a right hand of falsehood.
- 9 I will sing a new song to you, ELOHIM! On a ten-stringed lyre, I will sing praises to you.
- 10 You are he who gives salvation to kings, who rescues David, his servant, from the deadly sword.
- 11 Rescue me, and deliver me out of the hands of foreigners, whose mouths speak deceit, whose right hand is a right hand of falsehood.
- 12 Then our sons will be like well-nurtured plants, our daughters like pillars carved to adorn a palace.
- 13 Our barns are full, filled with all kinds of provision. Our sheep bring forth thousands and ten thousands in our fields.
- 14 Our oxen will pull heavy loads. There is no breaking in, and no going away, and no outcry in our streets.
- 15 Happy are the people who are in such a situation. Happy are the people whose ELOHIM is YAHWEH!

Proverbs 9.

1 . The Way of Wisdom. .

Wisdom has built her house. She has carved out her seven pillars.

- 2 She has prepared her meat. She has mixed her wine. She has also set her table.
- 3 She has sent out her maidens. She cries from the highest places of the city:
- 4 "Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!" As for him who is void of understanding, she says to him,
- 5 "Come, eat some of my bread, Drink some of the wine which I have mixed!
- 6 Leave your simple ways, and live. Walk in the way of understanding."
- 7 He who corrects a mocker invites insult. He who reproves a wicked man invites abuse.
- 8 Don't reprove a scoffer, lest he hate you. Reprove a wise man, and he will love you.
- 9 Instruct a wise man, and he will be still wiser. Teach a righteous man, and he will increase in learning.
- 10 The fear of YAHWEH is the beginning of wisdom. The knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.
- 11 For by me your days will be multiplied. The years of your life will be increased.
- 12 If you are wise, you are wise for yourself. If you mock, you alone will bear it.

13 . The Way of Folly. .

The foolish woman is loud, Undisciplined, and knows nothing.

- 14 She sits at the door of her house, on a seat in the high places of the city,
- 15 To call to those who pass by, who go straight on their ways,
- 16 "Whoever is simple, let him turn in here." as for him who is void of understanding, she says to him,
- 17 "Stolen water is sweet. Food eaten in secret is pleasant."
- 18 But he doesn't know that the dead are there, that her guests are in the depths of Sheol.

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