

4 Jul Daily Reading (Prophets and Writings).

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1 Kings 4.

1 . Solomon's Administration. .

King Solomon was king over all Israel.

2 These were the princes whom he had: Azariah the son of Zadok, the priest;

3 Elihoreph and Ahijah, the sons of Shisha, scribes; Jehoshaphat the son of Ahilud, the recorder;

4 and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada was over the army; and Zadok and Abiathar were priests;

5 and Azariah the son of Nathan was over the officers; and Zabud the son of Nathan was chief minister, the king's friend;

6 and Ahishar was over the household; and Adoniram the son of Abda was over the men subject to forced labor.

7 Solomon had twelve officers over all Israel, who provided food for the king and his household: each man had to make provision for a month in the year.

8 These are their names: Ben Hur, in the hill country of Ephraim;

9 Ben Deker, in Makaz, and in Shaalvim, and Beth Shemesh, and Elon Beth Hanan;

10 Ben Hessed, in Arubboth (to him belonged Socoh, and all the land of Hephher);

11 Ben Abinadab, in all the height of Dor (he had Taphath the daughter of Solomon as wife);

12 Baana the son of Ahilud, in Taanach and Megiddo, and all Beth Shean which is beside Zarethan, beneath Jezreel, from Beth Shean to Abel Meholah, as far as beyond Jokmeam;

13 Ben Geber, in Ramoth Gilead (to him belonged the towns of Jair the son of Manasseh, which are in Gilead; to him belonged the region of Argob, which is in Bashan, sixty great cities with walls and bronze bars);

14 Ahinadab the son of Iddo, in Mahanaim;

15 Ahimaaz, in Naphtali (he also took Basemath the daughter of Solomon as wife);

16 Baana the son of Hushai, in Asher and Bealoth;

17 Jehoshaphat the son of Paruah, in Issachar;

18 Shimei the son of Ela, in Benjamin;

19 Geber the son of Uri, in the land of Gilead, the country of Sihon king of the Amorites and of Og king of Bashan; and he was the only officer who was in the land.

20 . Prosperity and Wisdom of Solomon's Reign. .

Judah and Israel were many as the sand which is by the sea in multitude, eating and drinking and making merry.

21 Solomon ruled over all the kingdoms from the River to the land of the Philistines, and to the border of Egypt: they brought tribute, and served Solomon all the days of his life.

22 Solomon's provision for one day was thirty measures of fine flour, and sixty measures of meal,

23 ten head of fat cattle, and twenty head of cattle out of the pastures, and one hundred sheep, besides harts, and gazelles, and roebucks, and fattened fowl.

24 For he had dominion over all on this side the River, from Tiphseh even to Gaza, over all the kings on this side the River: and he had peace on all sides around him.

25 Judah and Israel lived safely, every man under his vine and under his fig tree, from Dan even to Beersheba, all the days of Solomon.

26 Solomon had forty thousand stalls of horses for his chariots, and twelve thousand horsemen.

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- 27 Those officers provided food for king Solomon, and for all who came to king Solomon's table, every man in his month; they let nothing be lacking.
- 28 Barley also and straw for the horses and swift steeds brought they to the place where the officers were, every man according to his duty.
- 29 ELOHIM gave Solomon wisdom and understanding exceeding much, and very great understanding, even as the sand that is on the seashore.
- 30 Solomon's wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the children of the east, and all the wisdom of Egypt.
- 31 For he was wiser than all men; than Ethan the Ezrahite, and Heman, and Calcol, and Darda, the sons of Mahol: and his fame was in all the nations all around.
- 32 He spoke three thousand proverbs; and his songs were one thousand five.
- 33 He spoke of trees, from the cedar that is in Lebanon even to the hyssop that springs out of the wall; he spoke also of animals, and of birds, and of creeping things, and of fish.
- 34 There came of all peoples to hear the wisdom of Solomon, from all kings of the earth, who had heard of his wisdom.

1 Kings 5.

1 **. Solomon Prepares to Build the Temple. .**

- Hiram king of Tyre sent his servants to Solomon; for he had heard that they had anointed him king in the place of his father: for Hiram was ever a lover of David.
- 2 Solomon sent to Hiram, saying,
- 3 "You know how that David my father could not build a house for the name of YAHWEH his ELOHIM for the wars which were about him on every side, until YAHWEH put them under the soles of his feet.
- 4 But now YAHWEH my ELOHIM has given me rest on every side. There is neither adversary, nor evil occurrence.
- 5 Behold, I purpose to build a house for the name of YAHWEH my ELOHIM, as YAHWEH spoke to David my father, saying, 'Your son, whom I will set on your throne in your place, he shall build the house for my name.'
- 6 Now therefore command that they cut me cedar trees out of Lebanon. My servants shall be with your servants; and I will give you wages for your servants according to all that you shall say. For you know that there is not among us any who knows how to cut timber like the Sidonians."
- 7 It happened, when Hiram heard the words of Solomon, that he rejoiced greatly, and said, "Blessed is YAHWEH this day, who has given to David a wise son over this great people."
- 8 Hiram sent to Solomon, saying, "I have heard the message which you have sent to me. I will do all your desire concerning timber of cedar, and concerning timber of fir.
- 9 My servants shall bring them down from Lebanon to the sea. I will make them into rafts to go by sea to the place that you shall appoint me, and will cause them to be broken up there, and you shall receive them. You shall accomplish my desire, in giving food for my household."
- 10 So Hiram gave Solomon timber of cedar and timber of fir according to all his desire.
- 11 Solomon gave Hiram twenty thousand measures of wheat for food to his household, and twenty measures of pure oil. Solomon gave this to Hiram year by year.
- 12 YAHWEH gave Solomon wisdom, as he promised him; and there was peace between Hiram and Solomon; and they two made a treaty together.
- 13 King Solomon raised a levy out of all Israel; and the levy was thirty thousand men.
- 14 He sent them to Lebanon, ten thousand a month by courses; a month they were in Lebanon, and two months at home; and Adoniram was over the men subject to forced

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labor.

15 Solomon had seventy thousand who bore burdens, and eighty thousand who were stone cutters in the mountains;

16 besides Solomon's chief officers who were over the work, three thousand and three hundred, who bore rule over the people who labored in the work.

17 The king commanded, and they cut out great stones, costly stones, to lay the foundation of the house with worked stone.

18 Solomon's builders and Hiram's builders and the Gebalites cut them, and prepared the timber and the stones to build the house.

Hosea 7:3-16.

3 They make the king glad with their wickedness, and the princes with their lies.

4 They are all adulterers. They are burning like an oven that the baker stops stirring, from the kneading of the dough, until it is leavened.

5 On the day of our king, the princes made themselves sick with the heat of wine. He joined his hand with mockers.

6 For they have prepared their heart like an oven, while they lie in wait. Their baker sleeps all the night. In the morning it burns as a flaming fire.

7 They are all hot as an oven, and devour their judges. All their kings have fallen. There is no one among them who calls to me.

8 Ephraim, he mixes himself among the nations. Ephraim is a pancake not turned over.

9 Strangers have devoured his strength, and he doesn't realize it. Indeed, gray hairs are here and there on him, and he doesn't realize it.

10 The pride of Israel testifies to his face; yet they haven't returned to YAHWEH their ELOHIM, nor sought him, for all this.

11 . Futile Reliance on the Nations. .

"Ephraim is like an easily deceived dove, without understanding. They call to Egypt. They go to Assyria.

12 When they go, I will spread my net on them. I will bring them down like the birds of the sky. I will chastise them, as their congregation has heard.

13 Woe to them! For they have wandered from me. Destruction to them! For they have trespassed against me. Though I would redeem them, yet they have spoken lies against me.

14 They haven't cried to me with their heart, but they howl on their beds. They assemble themselves for grain and new wine. They turn away from me.

15 Though I have taught and strengthened their arms, yet they plot evil against me.

16 They return, but not to the Most High. They are like a faulty bow. Their princes will fall by the sword for the rage of their tongue. This will be their derision in the land of Egypt.

Psalms 5.

1 . To the Chief Musician. With flutes. A Psalm of David.. .

For the Chief Musician, with the flutes. A Psalm by David. Give ear to my words, YAHWEH! Consider my meditation.

2 Listen to the voice of my cry, my King and my ELOHIM; for to you do I pray.

3 YAHWEH, in the morning you shall hear my voice. In the morning I will lay my requests before you, and will watch expectantly.

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- 4 For you are not an EL who has pleasure in wickedness. Evil can't live with you.
- 5 The arrogant shall not stand in your sight. You hate all workers of iniquity.
- 6 You will destroy those who speak lies. YAHWEH abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man.
- 7 But as for me, in the abundance of your loving kindness I will come into your house. I will bow toward your holy temple in reverence of you.
- 8 Lead me, YAHWEH, in your righteousness because of my enemies. Make your way straight before my face.
- 9 For there is no faithfulness in their mouth. Their heart is destruction. Their throat is an open tomb. They flatter with their tongue.
- 10 Hold them guilty, ELOHIM! Let them fall by their own counsels; Thrust them out in the multitude of their transgressions, for they have rebelled against you.
- 11 But let all those who take refuge in you rejoice, Let them always shout for joy, because you defend them. Let them also who love your name be joyful in you.
- 12 For you will bless the righteous. YAHWEH, you will surround him with favor as with a shield.

Proverbs 20.

- 1 Wine is a mocker, and beer is a brawler. Whoever is led astray by them is not wise.
- 2 The terror of a king is like the roaring of a lion. He who provokes him to anger forfeits his own life.
- 3 It is an honor for a man to keep aloof from strife; but every fool will be quarreling.
- 4 The sluggard will not plow by reason of the winter; therefore he shall beg in harvest, and have nothing.
- 5 Counsel in the heart of man is like deep water; but a man of understanding will draw it out.
- 6 Many men claim to be men of unfailing love, but who can find a faithful man?
- 7 A righteous man walks in integrity. Blessed are his children after him.
- 8 A king who sits on the throne of judgment scatters away all evil with his eyes.
- 9 Who can say, "I have made my heart pure. I am clean and without sin?"
- 10 Differing weights and differing measures, both of them alike are an abomination to YAHWEH!
- 11 Even a child makes himself known by his doings, whether his work is pure, and whether it is right.
- 12 The hearing ear, and the seeing eye, YAHWEH has made even both of them.
- 13 Don't love sleep, lest you come to poverty. Open your eyes, and you shall be satisfied with bread.
- 14 "It's no good, it's no good," says the buyer; but when he is gone his way, then he boasts.
- 15 There is gold and abundance of rubies; but the lips of knowledge are a rare jewel.
- 16 Take the garment of one who puts up collateral for a stranger; and hold him in pledge for a wayward woman.
- 17 Fraudulent food is sweet to a man, but afterwards his mouth is filled with gravel.
- 18 Plans are established by advice; by wise guidance you wage war!
- 19 He who goes about as a tale-bearer reveals secrets; therefore don't keep company with him who opens wide his lips.
- 20 Whoever curses his father or his mother, his lamp shall be put out in blackness of darkness.
- 21 An inheritance quickly gained at the beginning, won't be blessed in the end.
- 22 Don't say, "I will pay back evil." Wait for YAHWEH, and he will save you.

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- 23 YAHWEH detests differing weights, and dishonest scales are not pleasing.
24 A man's steps are from YAHWEH; how then can man understand his way?
25 It is a snare to a man to make a rash dedication, then later to consider his vows.
26 A wise king winnows out the wicked, and drives the threshing wheel over them.
27 The spirit of man is YAHWEH's lamp, searching all his innermost parts.
28 Love and faithfulness keep the king safe. His throne is sustained by love.
29 The glory of young men is their strength. The splendor of old men is their gray hair.
30 Wounding blows cleanse away evil, and beatings purge the innermost parts.

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

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