

19 Jul Daily Reading (Prophets and Writings).

201. 19-July Daily Reading (Prophets and Writings).

1 Kings 20.

1 . Ahab Defeats the Syrians. .

Ben Hadad the king of Syria gathered all his army together; and there were thirty-two kings with him, and horses and chariots: and he went up and besieged Samaria, and fought against it.

2 He sent messengers to Ahab king of Israel, into the city, and said to him, "Thus says Ben Hadad,

3 'Your silver and your gold is mine. Your wives also and your children, even the best, are mine.'"

4 The king of Israel answered, "It is according to your saying, my master, O king. I am yours, and all that I have."

5 The messengers came again, and said, "Ben Hadad says, 'I sent indeed to you, saying, 'You shall deliver me your silver, and your gold, and your wives, and your children;

6 but I will send my servants to you tomorrow about this time, and they shall search your house, and the houses of your servants; and it shall be, that whatever is pleasant in your eyes, they shall put it in their hand, and take it away.'"

7 Then the king of Israel called all the elders of the land, and said, "Please notice how this man seeks mischief; for he sent to me for my wives, and for my children, and for my silver, and for my gold; and I didn't deny him."

8 All the elders and all the people said to him, "Don't listen, neither consent."

9 Therefore he said to the messengers of Ben Hadad, "Tell my master the king, 'All that you sent for to your servant at the first I will do; but this thing I cannot do.'" The messengers departed, and brought him back the message.

10 Ben Hadad sent to him, and said, "The gods do so to me, and more also, if the dust of Samaria shall suffice for handfuls for all the people who follow me."

11 The king of Israel answered, "Tell him, 'Don't let him who puts on his armor brag like he who takes it off.'"

12 It happened, when Ben Hadad heard this message, as he was drinking, he and the kings, in the pavilions, that he said to his servants, "Prepare to attack!" They prepared to attack the city.

13 Behold, a prophet came near to Ahab king of Israel, and said, "Thus says YAHWEH, 'Have you seen all this great multitude? Behold, I will deliver it into your hand this day; and you shall know that I am YAHWEH!'"

14 Ahab said, "By whom?" He said, "Thus says YAHWEH, 'By the young men of the princes of the provinces.'" Then he said, "Who shall begin the battle?" He answered, "You."

15 Then he mustered the young men of the princes of the provinces, and they were two hundred and thirty-two. After them, he mustered all the people, even all the children of Israel, being seven thousand.

16 They went out at noon. But Ben Hadad was drinking himself drunk in the pavilions, he and the kings, the thirty-two kings who helped him.

17 The young men of the princes of the provinces went out first; and Ben Hadad sent out, and they told him, saying, "Men are coming out from Samaria."

18 He said, "If they have come out for peace, take them alive; or if they have come out for war, take them alive."

19 So these went out of the city, the young men of the princes of the provinces, and the army which followed them.

20 They each killed his man. The Syrians fled, and Israel pursued them. Ben Hadad the

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king of Syria escaped on a horse with horsemen.

21 The king of Israel went out, and struck the horses and chariots, and killed the Syrians with a great slaughter.

22 The prophet came near to the king of Israel, and said to him, "Go, strengthen yourself, and mark, and see what you do; for at the return of the year the king of Syria will come up against you."

23 . The Syrians Again Defeated. .

The servants of the king of Syria said to him, "Their god is a god of the hills; therefore they were stronger than we. But let us fight against them in the plain, and surely we shall be stronger than they.

24 Do this thing: take the kings away, every man out of his place, and put captains in their place.

25 Muster an army, like the army that you have lost, horse for horse, and chariot for chariot. We will fight against them in the plain, and surely we will be stronger than them." He listened to their voice, and did so.

26 It happened at the return of the year, that Ben Hadad mustered the Syrians, and went up to Aphek, to fight against Israel.

27 The children of Israel were mustered, and were provisioned, and went against them. The children of Israel encamped before them like two little flocks of young goats; but the Syrians filled the country.

28 A man of ELOHIM came near and spoke to the king of Israel, and said, "Thus says YAHWEH, 'Because the Syrians have said, "YAHWEH is a god of the hills, but he is not a god of the valleys;" therefore I will deliver all this great multitude into your hand, and you shall know that I am YAHWEH!"

29 They encamped one over against the other seven days. So it was, that in the seventh day the battle was joined; and the children of Israel killed one hundred thousand footmen of the Syrians in one day.

30 But the rest fled to Aphek, into the city; and the wall fell on twenty-seven thousand men who were left. Ben Hadad fled, and came into the city, into an inner room.

31 . Ahab's Treaty with Ben-Hadad. .

His servants said to him, "See now, we have heard that the kings of the house of Israel are merciful kings. Please let us put sackcloth on our bodies, and ropes on our heads, and go out to the king of Israel. Maybe he will save your life."

32 So they put sackcloth on their bodies and ropes on their heads, and came to the king of Israel, and said, "Your servant Ben Hadad says, 'Please let me live.'" He said, "Is he still alive? He is my brother."

33 Now the men observed diligently, and hurried to take this phrase; and they said, "Your brother Ben Hadad." Then he said, "Go, bring him." Then Ben Hadad came out to him; and he caused him to come up into the chariot.

34 Ben Hadad said to him, "The cities which my father took from your father I will restore. You shall make streets for yourself in Damascus, as my father made in Samaria." "I," said Ahab, "will let you go with this covenant." So he made a covenant with him, and let him go.

35 . Ahab Condemned. .

A certain man of the sons of the prophets said to his fellow by the word of YAHWEH, "Please strike me!" The man refused to strike him.

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36 Then he said to him, "Because you have not obeyed the voice of YAHWEH, behold, as soon as you are departed from me, a lion shall kill you." As soon as he was departed from him, a lion found him, and killed him.

37 Then he found another man, and said, "Please strike me." The man struck him, smiting and wounding him.

38 So the prophet departed, and waited for the king by the way, and disguised himself with his headband over his eyes.

39 As the king passed by, he cried to the king; and he said, "Your servant went out into the midst of the battle; and behold, a man turned aside, and brought a man to me, and said, 'Guard this man! If by any means he be missing, then your life shall be for his life, or else you shall pay a talent of silver.'

40 As your servant was busy here and there, he was gone." The king of Israel said to him, "So your judgment shall be; you yourself have decided it."

41 He hurried, and took the headband away from his eyes; and the king of Israel recognized that he was of the prophets.

42 He said to him, "Thus says YAHWEH, 'Because you have let go out of your hand the man whom I had devoted to destruction, therefore your life shall go for his life, and your people for his people.'"

43 The king of Israel went to his house sullen and angry, and came to Samaria.

Amos 4:4-13.

4 "Go to Bethel, and sin; to Gilgal, and sin more. Bring your sacrifices every morning, your tithes every three days,

5 offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving of that which is leavened, and proclaim free will offerings and brag about them: for this pleases you, you children of Israel," says ADONAI YAHWEH!

6 . Israel Did Not Accept Correction. .

"I also have given you cleanness of teeth in all your cities, and lack of bread in every town; yet you haven't returned to me," says YAHWEH!

7 "I also have withheld the rain from you, when there were yet three months to the harvest; and I caused it to rain on one city, and caused it not to rain on another city. One place was rained on, and the piece where it didn't rain withered.

8 So two or three cities staggered to one city to drink water, and were not satisfied: yet you haven't returned to me," says YAHWEH!

9 "I struck you with blight and mildew many times in your gardens and your vineyards; and your fig trees and your olive trees have the swarming locust devoured: yet you haven't returned to me," says YAHWEH!

10 "I sent plagues among you like I did Egypt. I have slain your young men with the sword, and have carried away your horses; and I filled your nostrils with the stench of your camp, yet you haven't returned to me," says YAHWEH!

11 "I have overthrown some of you, as when ELOHIM overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah, and you were like a burning stick plucked out of the fire; yet you haven't returned to me," says YAHWEH!

12 "Therefore thus will I do to you, Israel; because I will do this to you, prepare to meet your ELOHIM, Israel.

13 For, behold, he who forms the mountains, and creates the wind, and declares to man what is his thought; who makes the morning darkness, and treads on the high places of the earth: YAHWEH, the ELOHIM of Hosts, is his name."

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Psalms 20.

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

For the Chief Musician. A Psalm by David. May YAHWEH answer you in the day of trouble. May the name of the ELOHIM of Jacob set you up on high,
2 send you help from the sanctuary, grant you support from Zion,
3 remember all your offerings, and accept your burnt sacrifice. Selah.
4 May He grant you your heart's desire, and fulfill all your counsel.
5 We will triumph in your salvation. In the name of our ELOHIM, we will set up our banners. May YAHWEH grant all your requests.
6 Now I know that YAHWEH saves his anointed. He will answer him from his holy heaven, with the saving strength of his right hand.
7 Some trust in chariots, and some in horses, but we trust the name of YAHWEH our ELOHIM!
8 They are bowed down and fallen, but we rise up, and stand upright.
9 Save, YAHWEH! Let the King answer us when we call!

Proverbs 4.

1 . Security in Wisdom..

Listen, sons, to a father's instruction. Pay attention and know understanding;
2 for I give you sound learning. Don't forsake my Torah (teaching and instruction).
3 For I was a son to my father, tender and an only child in the sight of my mother.
4 He taught me, and said to me: "Let your heart retain my words. Keep my commandments, and live.
5 Get wisdom. Get understanding. Don't forget, neither swerve from the words of my mouth.
6 Don't forsake her, and she will preserve you. Love her, and she will keep you.
7 Wisdom is supreme. Get wisdom. Yes, though it costs all your possessions, get understanding.
8 Esteem her, and she will exalt you. She will bring you to honor, when you embrace her.
9 She will give to your head a garland of grace. She will deliver a crown of splendor to you."
10 Listen, my son, and receive my sayings. The years of your life will be many.
11 I have taught you in the way of wisdom. I have led you in straight paths.
12 When you go, your steps will not be hampered. When you run, you will not stumble.
13 Take firm hold of instruction. Don't let her go. Keep her, for she is your life.
14 Don't enter into the path of the wicked. Don't walk in the way of evil men.
15 Avoid it, and don't pass by it. Turn from it, and pass on.
16 For they don't sleep, unless they do evil. Their sleep is taken away, unless they make someone fall.
17 For they eat the bread of wickedness, and drink the wine of violence.
18 But the path of the righteous is like the dawning light, that shines more and more until the perfect day.
19 The way of the wicked is like darkness. They don't know what they stumble over.
20 My son, attend to my words. Turn your ear to my sayings.
21 Let them not depart from your eyes. Keep them in the midst of your heart.
22 For they are life to those who find them, and health to their whole body.
23 Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it is the wellspring of life.
24 Put away from yourself a perverse mouth. Put corrupt lips far from you.

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- 25 Let your eyes look straight ahead. Fix your gaze directly before you.
26 Make the path of your feet level. Let all of your ways be established.
27 Don't turn to the right hand nor to the left. Remove your foot from evil.

!! End of The Daily Reading from the PROPHETS AND WRITINGS! Praise Yah!
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