222. 9-August Daily Reading (Prophets and Writings).

2 Kings 23:36-to-end,24:1-20.

36 Jehoiakim was twenty-five years old when he began to reign; and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem: and his mother's name was Zebidah the daughter of Pedaiah of Rumah.

37 He did that which was evil in the sight of YAHWEH, according to all that his fathers had done.

1 . Judah Overrun by Enemies. .

In his days Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up, and Jehoiakim became his servant three years: then he turned and rebelled against him.

- 2 YAHWEH sent against him bands of the Kasdim, and bands of the Syrians, and bands of the Moabites, and bands of the children of Ammon, and sent them against Judah to destroy it, according to the word of YAHWEH, which he spoke by his servants the prophets.
- 3 Surely at the commandment of YAHWEH came this on Judah, to remove them out of his sight, for the sins of Manasseh, according to all that he did,
- 4 and also for the innocent blood that he shed; for he filled Jerusalem with innocent blood: and YAHWEH would not pardon.
- 5 Now the rest of the acts of Jehoiakim, and all that he did, aren't they written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?
- 6 So Jehoiakim slept with his fathers; and Jehoiachin his son reigned in his place.
- 7 The king of Egypt didn't come again out of his land any more; for the king of Babylon had taken, from the brook of Egypt to the river Euphrates, all that pertained to the king of Egypt.

8 . The Reign and Captivity of Jehoiachin. .

Jehoiachin was eighteen years old when he began to reign; and he reigned in Jerusalem three months: and his mother's name was Nehushta the daughter of Elnathan of Jerusalem.

- 9 He did that which was evil in the sight of YAHWEH, according to all that his father had done.
- 10 At that time the servants of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up to Jerusalem, and the city was besieged.
- 11 Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to the city, while his servants were besieging it; 12 and Jehoiachin the king of Judah went out to the king of Babylon, he, and his mother, and his servants, and his princes, and his officers: and the king of Babylon took him in the eighth year of his reign.

. The Captivity of Jerusalem. .

He carried out there all the treasures of the house of YAHWEH, and the treasures of the king's house, and cut in pieces all the vessels of gold, which Solomon king of Israel had made in the temple of YAHWEH, as YAHWEH had said.

- 14 He carried away all Jerusalem, and all the princes, and all the mighty men of valor, even ten thousand captives, and all the craftsmen and the smiths; none remained, except the poorest sort of the people of the land.
- 15 He carried away Jehoiachin to Babylon; and the king's mother, and the king's wives, and his officers, and the chief men of the land, carried he into captivity from Jerusalem

to Babylon.

16 All the men of might, even seven thousand, and the craftsmen and the smiths one thousand, all of them strong and apt for war, even them the king of Babylon brought captive to Babylon.

. Zedekiah Reigns in Judah. .

The king of Babylon made Mattaniah, Jehoiachin's father's brother, king is his place, and changed his name to Zedekiah.

- 18 Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he began to reign; and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem: and his mother's name was Hamutal the daughter of Jeremiah of Libnah.
- 19 He did that which was evil in the sight of YAHWEH, according to all that Jehoiakim had done.
- 20 For through the anger of YAHWEH, it happened in Jerusalem and Judah, until he had cast them out from his presence. Zedekiah rebelled against the king of Babylon.

Habakkuk 1.

1 Habakkuk!

The oracle which Habakkuk the prophet saw.

.. The Prophet's Question. .

- 2 YAHWEH, how long will I cry, and you will not hear? I cry out to you "Violence!" and will you not save?
- 3 Why do you show me iniquity, and look at perversity? For destruction and violence are before me. There is strife, and contention rises up.
- 4 Therefore the Torah (teaching and instruction) is paralyzed, and justice never goes forth; for the wicked surround the righteous; therefore justice goes forth perverted.

5 .YAHWEH's Reply...

- "Look among the nations, watch, and wonder marvelously; for I am working a work in your days, which you will not believe though it is told you.
- 6 For, behold, I raise up the Kasdim, that bitter and hasty nation, that march through the breadth of the earth, to possess dwelling places that are not theirs.
- 7 They are feared and dreaded. Their judgment and their dignity proceed from themselves.
- 8 Their horses also are swifter than leopards, and are more fierce than the evening wolves. Their horsemen press proudly on. Yes, their horsemen come from afar. They fly as an eagle that hurries to devour.
- 9 All of them come for violence. Their hordes face the desert. He gathers prisoners like sand.
- 10 Yes, he scoffs at kings, and princes are a derision to him. He laughs at every stronghold, for he builds up an earthen ramp, and takes it.
- 11 Then he sweeps by like the wind, and goes on. He is indeed guilty, whose strength is his god."

. The Prophet's Second Question. .

Aren't you from everlasting, YAHWEH my ELOHIM, my Holy One? We will not die. YAHWEH, you have appointed him for judgment. You, Rock, have established him to punish.

- 13 You who have purer eyes than to see evil, and who cannot look on perversity, why do you tolerate those who deal treacherously, and keep silent when the wicked swallows up the man who is more righteous than he,
- 14 and make men like the fish of the sea, like the creeping things, that have no ruler over them?
- 15 He takes up all of them with the hook. He catches them in his net, and gathers them in his dragnet. Therefore he rejoices and is glad.
- 16 Therefore he sacrifices to his net, and burns incense to his dragnet, because by them his life is luxurious, and his food is good.
- 17 Will he therefore continually empty his net, and kill the nations without mercy?

Psalms 41.

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

For the Chief Musician. A Psalm by David. Blessed is he who considers the poor. YAHWEH will deliver him in the day of evil.

- 2 YAHWEH will preserve him, and keep him alive. He shall be blessed on the earth, and he will not surrender him to the will of his enemies.
- 3 YAHWEH will sustain him on his sickbed, and restore him from his bed of illness.
- 4 I said, "YAHWEH, have mercy on me! Heal me, for I have sinned against you."
- 5 My enemies speak evil against me: "When will he die, and his name perish?"
- 6 If he comes to see me, he speaks falsehood. His heart gathers iniquity to itself. When he goes abroad, he tells it.
- 7 All who hate me whisper together against me. They imagine the worst for me.
- 8 "An evil disease," they say, "has afflicted him. Now that he lies he shall rise up no more."
- 9 Yes, my own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, who ate bread with me, has lifted up his heel against me.
- 10 But you, YAHWEH, have mercy on me, and raise me up, that I may repay them.
- 11 By this I know that you delight in me, because my enemy doesn't triumph over me.
- 12 As for me, you uphold me in my integrity, and set me in your presence forever.
- 13 Blessed be YAHWEH, the ELOHIM of Israel, from everlasting and to everlasting! Amen and amen. BOOK II

Proverbs 25.

- 1 These also are proverbs of Solomon, which the men of Hezekiah king of Judah copied out.
- 2 It is the glory of ELOHIM to conceal a thing, but the glory of kings is to search out a matter.
- 3 As the heavens for height, and the earth for depth, so the hearts of kings are unsearchable.
- 4 Take away the dross from the silver, and material comes out for the refiner;
- 5 Take away the wicked from the king's presence, and his throne will be established in righteousness.
- 6 Don't exalt yourself in the presence of the king, or claim a place among great men;
- 7 for it is better that it be said to you, "Come up here," than that you should be put lower in the presence of the prince, whom your eyes have seen.

- 8 Don't be hasty in bringing charges to court. What will you do in the end when your neighbor shames you?
- 9 Debate your case with your neighbor, and don't betray the confidence of another;
- 10 lest one who hears it put you to shame, and your bad reputation never depart.
- 11 A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver.
- 12 As an earring of gold, and an ornament of fine gold, so is a wise reprover to an obedient ear.
- 13 As the cold of snow in the time of harvest, so is a faithful messenger to those who send him; for he refreshes the soul of his masters.
- 14 As clouds and wind without rain, so is he who boasts of gifts deceptively.
- 15 By patience a ruler is persuaded. A soft tongue breaks the bone.
- 16 Have you found honey? Eat as much as is sufficient for you, lest you eat too much, and vomit it.
- 17 Let your foot be seldom in your neighbor's house, lest he be weary of you, and hate you.
- 18 A man who gives false testimony against his neighbor is like a club, a sword, or a sharp arrow.
- 19 Confidence in someone unfaithful in time of trouble is like a bad tooth, or a lame foot.
- 20 As one who takes away a garment in cold weather, or vinegar on soda, so is one who sings songs to a heavy heart.
- 21 If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat. If he is thirsty, give him water to drink:
- 22 for you will heap coals of fire on his head, and YAHWEH will reward you.
- 23 The north wind brings forth rain: so a backbiting tongue brings an angry face.
- 24 It is better to dwell in the corner of the housetop, than to share a house with a contentious woman.
- 25 Like cold water to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country.
- 26 Like a muddied spring, and a polluted well, so is a righteous man who gives way before the wicked.
- 27 It is not good to eat much honey; nor is it honorable to seek one's own honor.
- 28 Like a city that is broken down and without walls is a man whose spirit is without restraint.

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

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