223. 10-August Daily Reading (Prophets and Writings).

2 Kings 25.

1 . The Fall and Captivity of Judah. .

It happened in the ninth year of his reign, in the tenth month, in the tenth day of the month, that Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came, he and all his army, against Jerusalem, and encamped against it; and they built forts against it around it. 2 So the city was besieged to the eleventh year of king Zedekiah.

3 On the ninth day of the fourth month the famine was severe in the city, so that there

was no bread for the people of the land.

4 Then a breach was made in the city, and all the men of war fled by night by the way of the gate between the two walls, which was by the king's garden (now the Kasdim were against the city around it); and the king went by the way of the Arabah.

5 But the army of the Kasdim pursued after the king, and overtook him in the plains of Jericho; and all his army was scattered from him.

6 Then they took the king, and carried him up to the king of Babylon to Riblah; and they gave judgment on him.

7 They killed the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes, and put out the eyes of Zedekiah, and bound him in fetters, and carried him to Babylon.

8 Now in the fifth month, on the seventh day of the month, which was the nineteenth year of king Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, came Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard, a servant of the king of Babylon, to Jerusalem.

9 He burnt the house of YAHWEH, and the king's house; and all the houses of Jerusalem, even every great house, burnt he with fire.

10 All the army of the Kasdim, who were with the captain of the guard, broke down the walls around Jerusalem.

11 Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard carried away captive the residue of the people who were left in the city, and those who fell away, who fell to the king of Babylon, and the residue of the multitude.

12 But the captain of the guard left some of the poorest of the land to work the vineyards and fields.

13 The Kasdim broke up the pillars of brass that were in the house of YAHWEH and the bases and the bronze sea that were in the house of YAHWEH, and carried the brass pieces to Babylon.

14 They took away the pots, the shovels, the snuffers, the spoons, and all the vessels of brass with which they ministered.

15 The captain of the guard took away the fire pans, the basins, that which was of gold, in gold, and that which was of silver, in silver.

16 The two pillars, the one sea, and the bases, which Solomon had made for the house of YAHWEH, the brass of all these vessels was without weight.

17 The height of the one pillar was eighteen cubits, and a capital of brass was on it; and the height of the capital was three cubits, with network and pomegranates on the capital around it, all of brass: and like to these had the second pillar with network.

18 The captain of the guard took Seraiah the chief priest, and Zephaniah the second priest, and the three keepers of the threshold:

19 and out of the city he took an officer who was set over the men of war; and five men of those who saw the king's face, who were found in the city; and the scribe, the captain of the army, who mustered the people of the land; and sixty men of the people of the land, who were found in the city.

20 Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard took them, and brought them to the king of

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Babylon to Riblah.

21 The king of Babylon struck them, and put them to death at Riblah in the land of Hamath. So Judah was carried away captive out of his land.

22 . Gedaliah Made Governor of Judah. .

As for the people who were left in the land of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had left, even over them he made Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan, governor.

23 Now when all the captains of the forces, they and their men, heard that the king of Babylon had made Gedaliah governor, they came to Gedaliah to Mizpah, even Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, and Yochanan the son of Kareah, and Seraiah the son of Tanhumeth the Netophathite, and Jaazaniah the son of the Maacathite, they and their men.

24 Gedaliah swore to them and to their men, and said to them, "Don't be afraid because of the servants of the Kasdim. Dwell in the land, and serve the king of Babylon, and it shall be well with you."

25 But it happened in the seventh month, that Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, the son of Elishama, of the royal seed came, and ten men with him, and struck Gedaliah, so that he died, and the Jews and the Kasdim that were with him at Mizpah.

26 All the people, both small and great, and the captains of the forces, arose, and came to Egypt; for they were afraid of the Kasdim.

27 . Jehoiachin Released from Prison. .

It happened in the seven and thirtieth year of the captivity of Jehoiachin king of Judah, in the twelfth month, on the seven and twentieth day of the month, that Evilmerodach king of Babylon, in the year that he began to reign, lifted up the head of Jehoiachin king of Judah out of prison;

28 and he spoke kindly to him, and set his throne above the throne of the kings who were with him in Babylon,

29 and changed his prison garments. Jehoiachin ate bread before him continually all the days of his life:

30 and for his allowance, there was a continual allowance given him of the king, every day a portion, all the days of his life.

Habakkuk 2.

1 I will stand at my watch, and set myself on the ramparts, and will look out to see what he will say to me, and what I will answer concerning my complaint.

2 <u>. The Just Live by Faith. .</u>

YAHWEH answered me, "Write the vision, and make it plain on tablets, that he who runs may read it.

3 For the vision is yet for the appointed time, and it hurries toward the end, and won't prove false. Though it takes time, wait for it; because it will surely come. It won't delay. 4 Behold, his soul is puffed up. It is not upright in him, but the righteous will live by his faith.

5 . Woe to the Wicked. .

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Yes, moreover, wine is treacherous. A haughty man who doesn't stay at home, who enlarges his desire as Sheol, and he is like death, and can't be satisfied, but gathers to himself all nations, and heaps to himself all peoples.

6 Won't all these take up a parable against him, and a taunting proverb against him, and say, 'Woe to him who increases that which is not his, and who enriches himself by extortion! How long?'

7 Won't your debtors rise up suddenly, and wake up those who make you tremble, and you will be their victim?

8 Because you have plundered many nations, all the remnant of the peoples will plunder you, because of men's blood, and for the violence done to the land, to the city and to all who dwell in it.

9 Woe to him who gets an evil gain for his house, that he may set his nest on high, that he may be delivered from the hand of evil!

10 You have devised shame to your house, by cutting off many peoples, and have sinned against your soul.

11 For the stone will cry out of the wall, and the beam out of the woodwork will answer it. 12 Woe to him who builds a town with blood, and establishes a city by iniquity!

13 Behold, isn't it of YAHWEH of Hosts that the peoples labor for the fire, and the nations weary themselves for vanity?

14 For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of YAHWEH, as the waters cover the sea.

15 "Woe to him who gives his neighbor drink, pouring your inflaming wine until they are drunk, so that you may gaze at their naked bodies!

16 You are filled with shame, and not glory. You will also drink, and be exposed! The cup of YAHWEH's right hand will come around to you, and disgrace will cover your glory.

17 For the violence done to Lebanon will overwhelm you, and the destruction of the animals, which made them afraid; because of men's blood, and for the violence done to the land, to every city and to those who dwell in them.

18 "What value does the engraved image have, that its maker has engraved it; the molten image, even the teacher of lies, that he who fashions its form trusts in it, to make mute idols?

19 Woe to him who says to the wood, 'Awake!' or to the mute stone, 'Arise!' Shall this teach? Behold, it is overlaid with gold and silver, and there is no breath at all in its midst. 20 But YAHWEH is in his holy temple. Let all the earth be silent before him!"

Psalms 42.

1 . To the Chief Musician. A Contemplation of the sons of Korah...

For the Chief Musician. A contemplation by the sons of Korah. As the deer pants for the water brooks, so my soul pants after you, ELOHIM!

2 My soul thirsts for ELOHIM, for the living ELOHIM! When shall I come and appear before ELOHIM?

3 My tears have been my food day and night, while they continually ask me, "Where is your ELOHIM?"

⁴ These things I remember, and pour out my soul within me, how I used to go with the crowd, and led them to the house of ELOHIM, with the voice of joy and praise, a multitude keeping a holy day.

5 Why are you in despair, my soul? Why are you disturbed within me? Hope in ELOHIM! For I shall still praise him for the saving help of his presence.

6 My ELOHIM, my soul is in despair within me. Therefore I remember you from the land of the Jordan, the heights of Hermon, from the hill Mizar.

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7 Deep calls to deep at the noise of your waterfalls. All your waves and your billows have swept over me.

8 YAHWEH will command his loving kindness in the daytime. In the night his song shall be with me: a prayer to the EL of my life.

9 I will ask ELOHIM, my rock, "Why have you forgotten me? Why do I go mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?"

10 As with a sword in my bones, my adversaries reproach me, while they continually ask me, "Where is your ELOHIM?"

11 Why are you in despair, my soul? Why are you disturbed within me? Hope in ELOHIM! For I shall still praise him, the saving help of my countenance, and my ELOHIM!

Proverbs 26.

1 Like snow in summer, and as rain in harvest, so honor is not fitting for a fool.2 Like a fluttering sparrow, like a darting swallow, so the undeserved curse doesn't

come to rest.

3 A whip is for the horse, a bridle for the donkey, and a rod for the back of fools!

4 Don't answer a fool according to his folly, lest you also be like him.

5 Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own eyes.

6 One who sends a message by the hand of a fool is cutting off feet and drinking violence.

7 Like the legs of the lame that hang loose: so is a parable in the mouth of fools.

8 As one who binds a stone in a sling, so is he who gives honor to a fool.

9 Like a thornbush that goes into the hand of a drunkard, so is a parable in the mouth of fools.

10 As an archer who wounds all, so is he who hires a fool or he who hires those who pass by.

11 As a dog that returns to his vomit, so is a fool who repeats his folly.

12 Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him.

13 The sluggard says, "There is a lion in the road! A fierce lion roams the streets!"

14 As the door turns on its hinges, so does the sluggard on his bed.

15 The sluggard buries his hand in the dish. He is too lazy to bring it back to his mouth.

16 The sluggard is wiser in his own eyes than seven men who answer with discretion. 17 Like one who grabs a dog's ears is one who passes by and meddles in a quarrel not his own.

18 Like a madman who shoots torches, arrows, and death,

19 is the man who deceives his neighbor and says, "Am I not joking?"

20 For lack of wood a fire goes out. Without gossip, a quarrel dies down.

21 As coals are to hot embers, and wood to fire, so is a contentious man to kindling strife.

22 The words of a whisperer are as dainty morsels, they go down into the innermost parts.

23 Like silver dross on an earthen vessel are the lips of a fervent one with an evil heart.

24 A malicious man disguises himself with his lips, but he harbors evil in his heart.

25 When his speech is charming, don't believe him; for there are seven abominations in his heart.

26 His malice may be concealed by deception, but his wickedness will be exposed in the assembly.

27 Whoever digs a pit shall fall into it. Whoever rolls a stone, it will come back on him.28 A lying tongue hates those it hurts; and a flattering mouth works ruin.

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

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