270. 26-September Daily Reading (Prophets and Writings).

Ezra 1.

. End of the Babylonian Captivity. . Ezra!

Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of YAHWEH by the mouth of Jeremiah might be accomplished, YAHWEH stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saving.

- 2 "Thus says Cyrus king of Persia, 'YAHWEH, the ELOHIM of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and he has commanded me to build him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah.
- 3 Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his ELOHIM be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and build the house of YAHWEH, the ELOHIM of Israel (he is ELOHIM), which is in Jerusalem.
- 4 Whoever is left, in any place where he lives, let the men of his place help him with silver, with gold, with goods, and with animals, besides the freewill offering for the house of ELOHIM which is in Jerusalem."
- 5 Then the heads of fathers' households of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests, and the Levites, even all whose spirit ELOHIM had stirred to go up rose up to build the house of YAHWEH which is in Jerusalem.
- 6 All those who were around them strengthened their hands with vessels of silver, with gold, with goods, and with animals, and with precious things, besides all that was willingly offered.
- 7 Also Cyrus the king brought forth the vessels of the house of YAHWEH, which Nebuchadnezzar had brought out of Jerusalem, and had put in the house of his gods; 8 even those, Cyrus king of Persia brought out by the hand of Mithredath the treasurer, and numbered them to Sheshbazzar, the prince of Judah.
- 9 This is the number of them: thirty platters of gold, one thousand platters of silver, twenty-nine knives,
- 10 thirty bowls of gold, silver bowls of a second sort four hundred and ten, and other vessels one thousand.
- 11 All the vessels of gold and of silver were five thousand and four hundred. Sheshbazzar brought all these up, when the captives were brought up from Babylon to Jerusalem.

Ezra 2.

1 . The Captives Who Returned to Jerusalem. .

Now these are the children of the province, who went up out of the captivity of those who had been carried away, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away to Babylon, and who returned to Jerusalem and Judah, everyone to his city;

- 2 who came with Zerubbabel, Yeshua, Nehemiah, Seraiah, Reelaiah, Mordecai, Bilshan, Mispar, Bigvai, Rehum, Baanah. The number of the men of the people of Israel:
- 3 The children of Parosh, two thousand one hundred seventy-two.
- 4 The children of Shephatiah, three hundred seventy-two.
- 5 The children of Arah, seven hundred seventy-five.
- 6 The children of Pahathmoab, of the children of Yeshua and Joab, two thousand eight hundred twelve.
- 7 The children of Elam, one thousand two hundred fifty-four.
- 8 The children of Zattu, nine hundred forty-five.
- 9 The children of Zaccai, seven hundred sixty.

- 10 The children of Bani, six hundred forty-two.
- 11 The children of Bebai, six hundred twenty-three.
- 12 The children of Azgad, one thousand two hundred twenty-two.
- 13 The children of Adonikam, six hundred sixty-six.
- 14 The children of Bigvai, two thousand fifty-six.
- 15 The children of Adin, four hundred fifty-four.
- 16 The children of Ater, of Hezekiah, ninety-eight.
- 17 The children of Bezai, three hundred twenty-three.
- 18 The children of Jorah, one hundred twelve.
- 19 The children of Hashum, two hundred twenty-three.
- 20 The children of Gibbar, ninety-five.
- 21 The children of Bethlehem, one hundred twenty-three.
- 22 The men of Netophah, fifty-six.
- 23 The men of Anathoth, one hundred twenty-eight.
- 24 The children of Azmaveth, forty-two.
- 25 The children of Kiriath Arim, Chephirah, and Beeroth, seven hundred forty-three.
- 26 The children of Ramah and Geba, six hundred twenty-one.
- 27 The men of Michmas, one hundred twenty-two.
- 28 The men of Bethel and Ai, two hundred twenty-three.
- 29 The children of Nebo, fifty-two.
- 30 The children of Magbish, one hundred fifty-six.
- 31 The children of the other Elam, one thousand two hundred fifty-four.
- 32 The children of Harim, three hundred twenty.
- 33 The children of Lod, Hadid, and Ono, seven hundred twenty-five.
- 34 The children of Jericho, three hundred forty-five.
- 35 The children of Senaah, three thousand six hundred thirty.
- 36 The priests: the children of Jedaiah, of the house of Yeshua, nine hundred seventy-three.
- 37 The children of Immer, one thousand fifty-two.
- 38 The children of Pashhur, one thousand two hundred forty-seven.
- 39 The children of Harim, one thousand seventeen.
- 40 The Levites: the children of Yeshua and Kadmiel, of the children of Hodaviah, seventy-four.
- 41 The singers: the children of Asaph, one hundred twenty-eight.
- 42 The children of the porters: the children of Shallum, the children of Ater, the children of Talmon, the children of Akkub, the children of Hatita, the children of Shobai, in all one hundred thirty-nine.
- 43 The Nethinim: the children of Ziha, the children of Hasupha, the children of Tabbaoth,
- 44 the children of Keros, the children of Siaha, the children of Padon,
- 45 the children of Lebanah, the children of Hagabah, the children of Akkub,
- 46 the children of Hagab, the children of Shamlai, the children of Hanan,
- 47 the children of Giddel, the children of Gahar, the children of Reaiah,
- 48 the children of Rezin, the children of Nekoda, the children of Gazzam,
- 49 the children of Uzza, the children of Paseah, the children of Besai,
- 50 the children of Asnah, the children of Meunim, the children of Nephisim,
- 51 the children of Bakbuk, the children of Hakupha, the children of Harhur,
- 52 the children of Bazluth, the children of Mehida, the children of Harsha,
- 53 the children of Barkos, the children of Sisera, the children of Temah,
- 54 the children of Neziah, the children of Hatipha.
- 55 The children of Solomon's servants: the children of Sotai, the children of

Hassophereth, the children of Peruda,

- 56 the children of Jaalah, the children of Darkon, the children of Giddel,
- 57 the children of Shephatiah, the children of Hattil, the children of Pochereth Hazzebaim, the children of Ami.
- 58 All the Nethinim, and the children of Solomon's servants, were three hundred ninety-two.
- 59 These were those who went up from Tel Melah, Tel Harsha, Cherub, Addan, and Immer; but they could not show their fathers' houses, and their seed, whether they were of Israel:
- 60 the children of Delaiah, the children of Tobiah, the children of Nekoda, six hundred fifty-two.
- 61 Of the children of the priests: the children of Habaiah, the children of Hakkoz, the children of Barzillai, who took a wife of the daughters of Barzillai the Gileadite, and was called after their name.
- 62 These sought their place among those who were registered by genealogy, but they were not found: therefore were they deemed polluted and put from the priesthood.
- 63 The governor said to them, that they should not eat of the most holy things, until there stood up a priest with Urim and with Thummim.
- 64 The whole assembly together was forty-two thousand three hundred sixty,
- 65 besides their male servants and their female servants, of whom there were seven thousand three hundred thirty-seven: and they had two hundred singing men and singing women.
- 66 Their horses were seven hundred thirty-six; their mules, two hundred forty-five;
- 67 their camels, four hundred thirty-five; their donkeys, six thousand seven hundred and twenty.
- 68 Some of the heads of fathers' households, when they came to the house of YAHWEH which is in Jerusalem, offered willingly for the house of ELOHIM to set it up in its place:
- 69 they gave after their ability into the treasury of the work sixty-one thousand darics of gold, and five thousand minas of silver, and one hundred priests' garments.
- 70 So the priests, and the Levites, and some of the people, and the singers, and the porters, and the Nethinim, lived in their cities, and all Israel in their cities.

Psalms 91.

Safety of Abiding in the Presence of ELOHIM.

He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

- 2 I will say of YAHWEH, "He is my refuge and my fortress; my ELOHIM, in whom I trust."
- 3 For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler, and from the deadly pestilence.
- 4 He will cover you with his feathers. Under his wings you will take refuge. His faithfulness is your shield and rampart.
- 5 You shall not be afraid of the terror by night, nor of the arrow that flies by day;
- 6 nor of the pestilence that walks in darkness, nor of the destruction that wastes at noonday.
- 7 A thousand may fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right hand; but it will not come near you.
- 8 You will only look with your eyes, and see the recompense of the wicked.
- 9 Because you have made YAHWEH your refuge, and the Most High your dwelling place,
- 10 no evil shall happen to you, neither shall any plague come near your dwelling.

- 11 For he will put his angels in charge of you, to guard you in all your ways.
- 12 They will bear you up in their hands, so that you won't dash your foot against a stone.
- 13 You will tread on the lion and cobra. You will trample the young lion and the serpent underfoot.
- 14 "Because he has set his love on me, therefore I will deliver him. I will set him on high, because he has known my name.
- 15 He will call on me, and I will answer him. I will be with him in trouble. I will deliver him, and honor him.
- 16 I will satisfy him with long life, and show him my salvation [yeshuah-ti]."

Proverbs 11.

- 1 A false balance is an abomination to YAHWEH, but accurate weights are his delight.
- 2 When pride comes, then comes shame, but with humility comes wisdom.
- 3 The integrity of the upright shall guide them, but the perverseness of the treacherous shall destroy them.
- 4 Riches don't profit in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death.
- 5 The righteousness of the blameless will direct his way, but the wicked shall fall by his own wickedness.
- 6 The righteousness of the upright shall deliver them, but the unfaithful will be trapped by evil desires.
- 7 When a wicked man dies, hope perishes, and expectation of power comes to nothing.
- 8 A righteous person is delivered out of trouble, and the wicked takes his place.
- 9 With his mouth the godless man destroys his neighbor, but the righteous will be delivered through knowledge.
- 10 When it goes well with the righteous, the city rejoices. When the wicked perish, there is shouting.
- 11 By the blessing of the upright, the city is exalted, but it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked.
- 12 One who despises his neighbor is void of wisdom, but a man of understanding holds his peace.
- 13 One who brings gossip betrays a confidence, but one who is of a trustworthy spirit is one who keeps a secret.
- 14 Where there is no wise guidance, the nation falls, but in the multitude of counselors there is victory.
- 15 He who is collateral for a stranger will suffer for it, but he who refuses pledges of collateral is secure.
- 16 A gracious woman obtains honor, but violent men obtain riches.
- 17 The merciful man does good to his own soul, but he who is cruel troubles his own flesh.
- 18 Wicked people earn deceitful wages, but one who sows righteousness reaps a sure reward.
- 19 He who is truly righteous gets life. He who pursues evil gets death.
- 20 Those who are perverse in heart are an abomination to YAHWEH, but those whose ways are blameless are his delight.
- 21 Most certainly, the evil man will not be unpunished, but the seed of the righteous will be delivered.
- 22 Like a gold ring in a pig's snout, is a beautiful woman who lacks discretion.
- 23 The desire of the righteous is only good. The expectation of the wicked is wrath.
- 24 There is one who scatters, and increases yet more. There is one who withholds more than is appropriate, but gains poverty.

- 25 The liberal soul shall be made fat. He who waters shall be watered also himself.
- 26 People curse someone who withholds grain, but blessing will be on the head of him who sells it.
- 27 He who diligently seeks good seeks favor, but he who searches after evil, it shall come to him.
- 28 He who trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous shall flourish as the green leaf.
- 29 He who troubles his own house shall inherit the wind. The foolish shall be servant to the wise of heart.
- 30 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life. He who is wise wins souls.
- 31 Behold, the righteous shall be repaid in the earth; how much more the wicked and the sinner!
 - !! End of the Daily Reading from the PROPHETS AND WRITINGS! Praise Yah! (HNV-yet version, in the public domain.)

271. 27-September Daily Reading (Prophets and Writings).

Ezra 3.

. Worship Restored at Jerusalem. .

When the seventh month had come, and the children of Israel were in the cities, the people gathered themselves together as one man to Jerusalem.

- 2 Then stood up Yeshua the son of Jozadak, and his brothers the priests, and Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and his brothers, and built the altar of the ELOHIM of Israel, to offer burnt offerings thereon, as it is written in the Torah of Moses the man of ELOHIM!
- 3 They set the altar on its base; for fear was on them because of the peoples of the countries: and they offered burnt offerings thereon to YAHWEH, even burnt offerings morning and evening.
- 4 They kept the feast of booths, as it is written, and offered the daily burnt offerings by number, according to the ordinance, as the duty of every day required;
- 5 and afterward the continual burnt offering, and the offerings of the new moons, and of all the set feasts of YAHWEH that were consecrated, and of everyone who willingly offered a freewill offering to YAHWEH!
- 6 From the first day of the seventh month began they to offer burnt offerings to YAHWEH: but the foundation of the temple of YAHWEH was not yet laid.
- 7 They gave money also to the masons, and to the carpenters; and food, and drink, and oil, to them of Sidon, and to them of Tyre, to bring cedar trees from Lebanon to the sea, to Joppa, according to the grant that they had of Cyrus king of Persia.

8 . Restoration of the Temple Begins. .

Now in the second year of their coming to the house of ELOHIM at Jerusalem, in the second month, began Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Yeshua the son of Jozadak, and the rest of their brothers the priests and the Levites, and all those who were come out of the captivity to Jerusalem, and appointed the Levites, from twenty years old and upward, to have the oversight of the work of the house of YAHWEH!

- 9 Then stood Yeshua with his sons and his brothers, Kadmiel and his sons, the sons of Judah, together, to have the oversight of the workmen in the house of ELOHIM: the sons of Henadad, with their sons and their brothers the Levites.
- 10 When the builders laid the foundation of the temple of YAHWEH, they set the priests in their clothing with shofars, and the Levites the sons of Asaph with cymbals, to praise YAHWEH, after the order of David king of Israel.
- 11 They sang one to another in praising and giving thanks to YAHWEH, "For he is good, for his loving kindness endures forever toward Israel." All the people shouted with a great shout, when they praised YAHWEH, because the foundation of the house of YAHWEH was laid.
- 12 But many of the priests and Levites and heads of fathers' households, the old men who had seen the first house, when the foundation of this house was laid before their eyes, wept with a loud voice; and many shouted aloud for joy:
- 13 so that the people could not discern the noise of the shout of joy from the noise of the weeping of the people; for the people shouted with a loud shout, and the noise was heard afar off.

Ezra 4.

. Resistance to Rebuilding the Temple. .

Now when the adversaries of Judah and Benjamin heard that the children of the captivity were building a temple to YAHWEH, the ELOHIM of Israel;

- 2 then they drew near to Zerubbabel, and to the heads of fathers' households, and said to them, "Let us build with you; for we seek your ELOHIM, as you do; and we sacrifice to him since the days of Esar Haddon king of Assyria, who brought us up here."
- 3 But Zerubbabel, and Yeshua, and the rest of the heads of fathers' households of Israel, said to them, "You have nothing to do with us in building a house to our ELOHIM; but we ourselves together will build to YAHWEH, the ELOHIM of Israel, as king Cyrus the king of Persia has commanded us."
- 4 Then the people of the land weakened the hands of the people of Judah, and troubled them in building,
- 5 and hired counselors against them, to frustrate their purpose, all the days of Cyrus king of Persia, even until the reign of Darius king of Persia.

6 . Rebuilding of Jerusalem Opposed. .

In the reign of Ahasuerus, in the beginning of his reign, wrote they an accusation against the inhabitants of Judah and Jerusalem.

- 7 In the days of Artaxerxes wrote Bishlam, Mithredath, Tabeel, and the rest of his companions, to Artaxerxes king of Persia; and the writing of the letter was written in Syrian, and set forth in the Syrian language.
- 8 Rehum the chancellor and Shimshai the scribe wrote a letter against Jerusalem to Artaxerxes the king in this sort:
- 9 then Rehum the chancellor, and Shimshai the scribe, and the rest of their companions, the Dinaites, and the Apharsathchites, the Tarpelites, the Apharsites, the Archevites, the Babylonians, the Shushanchites, the Dehaites, the Elamites,
- 10 and the rest of the nations whom the great and noble Osnappar brought over, and set in the city of Samaria, and in the rest of the country beyond the River, and so forth, wrote.
- 11 This is the copy of the letter that they sent to Artaxerxes the king: Your servants the men beyond the River, and so forth.
- 12 Be it known to the king, that the Jews who came up from you have come to us to Jerusalem; they are building the rebellious and the bad city, and have finished the walls, and repaired the foundations.
- 13 Be it known now to the king that if this city is built, and the walls finished, they will not pay tribute, custom, or toll, and in the end it will be hurtful to the kings.
- 14 Now because we eat the salt of the palace, and it is not appropriate for us to see the king's dishonor, therefore have we sent and informed the king;
- 15 that search may be made in the book of the records of your fathers: so you shall find in the book of the records, and know that this city is a rebellious city, and hurtful to kings and provinces, and that they have moved sedition within the same of old time; for which cause was this city laid waste.
- 16 We inform the king that, if this city be built, and the walls finished, by this means you shall have no portion beyond the River.
- 17 Then the king sent an answer to Rehum the chancellor, and to Shimshai the scribe, and to the rest of their companions who dwell in Samaria, and in the rest of the country beyond the River: Peace, and so forth.
- 18 The letter which you sent to us has been plainly read before me.
- 19 I decreed, and search has been made, and it is found that this city of old time has made insurrection against kings, and that rebellion and sedition have been made therein.
- 20 There have been mighty kings also over Jerusalem, who have ruled over all the country beyond the River; and tribute, custom, and toll, was paid to them.

- 21 Make a decree now to cause these men to cease, and that this city not be built, until a decree shall be made by me.
- 22 Take heed that you not be slack herein: why should damage grow to the hurt of the kings?
- 23 Then when the copy of king Artaxerxes' letter was read before Rehum, and Shimshai the scribe, and their companions, they went in haste to Jerusalem to the Jews, and made them to cease by force and power.
- 24 Then ceased the work of the house of ELOHIM which is at Jerusalem; and it ceased until the second year of the reign of Darius king of Persia.

Psalms 92.

1 . A Psalm. A Song for the Sabbath day...

A Psalm. A song for the Sabbath day. It is a good thing to give thanks to YAHWEH, to sing praises to your name, Most High;

- 2 to proclaim your loving kindness in the morning, and your faithfulness every night,
- 3 with the ten-stringed lute, with the harp, and with the melody of the lyre.
- 4 For you, YAHWEH, have made me glad through your work. I will triumph in the works of your hands.
- 5 How great are your works, YAHWEH! Your thoughts are very deep.
- 6 A senseless man doesn't know, neither does a fool understand this:
- 7 though the wicked spring up as the grass, and all the evildoers flourish, they will be destroyed forever.
- 8 But you, YAHWEH, are on high forevermore.
- 9 For, behold, your enemies, YAHWEH, for, behold, your enemies shall perish. All the evildoers will be scattered.
- 10 But you have exalted my horn like that of the wild ox. I am anointed with fresh oil.
- 11 My eye has also seen my enemies. My ears have heard of the wicked enemies who rise up against me.
- 12 The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree. He will grow like a cedar in Lebanon.
- 13 They are planted in YAHWEH's house. They will flourish in our ELOHIM's courts.
- 14 They will still bring forth fruit in old age. They will be full of sap and green,
- 15 to show that YAHWEH is upright. He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.

Proverbs 12.

- 1 Whoever loves correction loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof is stupid.
- 2 A good man shall obtain favor from YAHWEH, but he will condemn a man of wicked devices.
- 3 A man shall not be established by wickedness, but the root of the righteous shall not be moved.
- 4 A worthy woman is the crown of her husband, but a disgraceful wife is as rottenness in his bones.
- 5 The thoughts of the righteous are just, but the advice of the wicked is deceitful.
- 6 The words of the wicked are about lying in wait for blood, but the speech of the upright rescues them.
- 7 The wicked are overthrown, and are no more, but the house of the righteous shall stand.
- 8 A man shall be commended according to his wisdom, but he who has a warped mind shall be despised.

- 9 Better is he who is lightly esteemed, and has a servant, than he who honors himself, and lacks bread.
- 10 A righteous man respects the life of his animal, but the tender mercies of the wicked are cruel.
- 11 He who tills his land shall have plenty of bread, but he who chases fantasies is void of understanding.
- 12 The wicked desires the plunder of evil men, but the root of the righteous flourishes.
- 13 An evil man is trapped by sinfulness of lips, but the righteous shall come out of trouble.
- 14 A man shall be satisfied with good by the fruit of his mouth. The work of a man's hands shall be rewarded to him.
- 15 The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but he who is wise listens to counsel.
- 16 A fool shows his annoyance the same day, but one who overlooks an insult is prudent.
- 17 He who is truthful testifies honestly, but a false witness lies.
- 18 There is one who speaks rashly like the piercing of a sword, but the tongue of the wise heals.
- 19 Truth's lips will be established forever, but a lying tongue is only momentary.
- 20 Deceit is in the heart of those who plot evil, but joy comes to the promoters of peace.
- 21 No mischief shall happen to the righteous, but the wicked shall be filled with evil.
- 22 Lying lips are an abomination to YAHWEH, but those who do the truth are his delight.
- 23 A prudent man keeps his knowledge, but the hearts of fools proclaim foolishness.
- 24 The hands of the diligent ones shall rule, but laziness ends in slave labor.
- 25 Anxiety in a man's heart weighs it down, but a kind word makes it glad.
- 26 A righteous person is cautious in friendship, but the way of the wicked leads them astray.
- 27 The slothful man doesn't roast his game, but the possessions of diligent men are prized.
- 28 In the way of righteousness is life; in its path there is no death.

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

272. 28-September Daily Reading (Prophets and Writings).

Ezra 5.

. Restoration of the Temple Resumed. .

Now the prophets, Haggai the prophet, and Zechariah the son of Iddo, prophesied to the Jews who were in Judah and Jerusalem; in the name of the ELOHIM of Israel they prophesied to them.

- 2 Then rose up Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Yeshua the son of Jozadak, and began to build the house of ELOHIM which is at Jerusalem; and with them were the prophets of ELOHIM, helping them.
- 3 At the same time came to them Tattenai, the governor beyond the River, and Shetharbozenai, and their companions, and said thus to them, "Who gave you a decree to build this house, and to finish this wall?"
- 4 Then we told them in this way, what the names of the men were who were making this building.
- 5 But the eye of their ELOHIM was on the Jewish elders, and they did not make them cease, until the matter should come to Darius, and then answer should be returned by letter concerning it.
- 6 The copy of the letter that Tattenai, the governor beyond the River, and Shetharbozenai, and his companions the Apharsachites, who were beyond the River, sent to Darius the king;
- 7 they sent a letter to him, in which was written thus: To Darius the king, all peace.
- 8 Be it known to the king, that we went into the province of Judah, to the house of the great ELOHIM, which is built with great stones, and timber is laid in the walls; and this work goes on with diligence and prospers in their hands.
- 9 Then we asked those elders, and said to them thus, "Who gave you a decree to build this house, and to finish this wall?"
- 10 We asked them their names also, to inform you that we might write the names of the men who were at their head.
- 11 Thus they returned us answer, saying, "We are the servants of the ELOHIM of heaven and earth, and are building the house that was built these many years ago, which a great king of Israel built and finished.
- 12 But after that our fathers had provoked the ELOHIM of heaven to wrath, he gave them into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, the Kasdian, who destroyed this house, and carried the people away into Babylon.
- 13 But in the first year of Cyrus king of Babylon, Cyrus the king made a decree to build this house of ELOHIM!
- 14 The gold and silver vessels also of the house of ELOHIM, which Nebuchadnezzar took out of the temple that was in Jerusalem, and brought into the temple of Babylon, those Cyrus the king took out of the temple of Babylon, and they were delivered to one whose name was Sheshbazzar, whom he had made governor;
- 15 and he said to him, 'Take these vessels, go, put them in the temple that is in Jerusalem, and let the house of ELOHIM be built in its place.'
- 16 Then the same Sheshbazzar came, and laid the foundations of the house of ELOHIM which is in Jerusalem: and since that time even until now has it been in building, and yet it is not completed.
- 17 Now therefore, if it seem good to the king, let there be search made in the king's treasure house, which is there at Babylon, whether it be so, that a decree was made of Cyrus the king to build this house of ELOHIM at Jerusalem; and let the king send his pleasure to us concerning this matter."

Ezra 6.

1 . The Decree of Darius. .

Then Darius the king made a decree, and search was made in the house of the archives, where the treasures were laid up in Babylon.

- 2 There was found at Achmetha, in the palace that is in the province of Media, a scroll, and therein was thus written for a record:
- 3 In the first year of Cyrus the king, Cyrus the king made a decree: Concerning the house of ELOHIM at Jerusalem, let the house be built, the place where they offer sacrifices, and let its foundations be strongly laid; its height sixty cubits, and its breadth sixty cubits;
- 4 with three courses of great stones, and a course of new timber: and let the expenses be given out of the king's house.
- 5 Also let the gold and silver vessels of the house of ELOHIM, which Nebuchadnezzar took forth out of the temple which is at Jerusalem, and brought to Babylon, be restored, and brought again to the temple which is at Jerusalem, everyone to its place; and you shall put them in the house of ELOHIM!
- 6 Now therefore, Tattenai, governor beyond the River, Shetharbozenai, and your companions the Apharsachites, who are beyond the River, you must stay far from there.
- 7 Leave the work of this house of ELOHIM alone; let the governor of the Jews and the Jewish elders build this house of ELOHIM in its place.
- 8 Moreover I make a decree what you shall do to these Jewish elders for the building of this house of ELOHIM: that of the king's goods, even of the tribute beyond the River, expenses be given with all diligence to these men, that they be not hindered.
- 9 That which they have need of, both young bulls, and rams, and lambs, for burnt offerings to the ELOHIM of heaven; also wheat, salt, wine, and oil, according to the word of the priests who are at Jerusalem, let it be given them day by day without fail;
- 10 that they may offer sacrifices of pleasant aroma to the ELOHIM of heaven, and pray for the life of the king, and of his sons.
- 11 Also I have made a decree, that whoever shall alter this word, let a beam be pulled out from his house, and let him be lifted up and fastened thereon; and let his house be made a dunghill for this:
- 12 and the ELOHIM who has caused his name to dwell there overthrow all kings and peoples who shall put forth their hand to alter the same, to destroy this house of ELOHIM which is at Jerusalem. I Darius have made a decree; let it be done with all diligence.

13 . The Temple Completed and Dedicated. .

Then Tattenai, the governor beyond the River, Shetharbozenai, and their companions, because Darius the king had sent a decree, did accordingly with all diligence.

- 14 The Jewish elders built and prospered, through the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo. They built and finished it, according to the commandment of the ELOHIM of Israel, and according to the decree of Cyrus, and Darius, and Artaxerxes king of Persia.
- 15 This house was finished on the third day of the month Adar, which was in the sixth year of the reign of Darius the king.
- 16 The children of Israel, the priests, and the Levites, and the rest of the children of the captivity, kept the dedication of this house of ELOHIM with joy.
- 17 They offered at the dedication of this house of ELOHIM one hundred bulls, two hundred rams, four hundred lambs; and for a sin offering for all Israel, twelve male goats, according to the number of the tribes of Israel.

18 They set the priests in their divisions, and the Levites in their courses, for the service of ELOHIM, which is at Jerusalem; as it is written in the book of Moses.

19 . The Passover Celebrated. .

The children of the captivity kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the first month. 20 For the priests and the Levites had purified themselves together: all of them were

- 20 For the priests and the Levites had purified themselves together; all of them were pure: and they killed the Passover for all the children of the captivity, and for their brothers the priests, and for themselves.
- 21 The children of Israel who had come again out of the captivity, and all such as had separated themselves to them from the filthiness of the nations of the land, to seek YAHWEH, the ELOHIM of Israel, ate,
- 22 and kept the feast of unleavened bread seven days with joy: for YAHWEH had made them joyful, and had turned the heart of the king of Assyria to them, to strengthen their hands in the work of the house of ELOHIM, the ELOHIM of Israel.

Psalms 93.

1 . The Eternal Reign of YAHWEH..

YAHWEH reigns! He is clothed with majesty! YAHWEH is armed with strength. The world also is established. It can't be moved.

- 2 Your throne is established from long ago. You are from everlasting.
- 3 The floods have lifted up, YAHWEH, the floods have lifted up their voice. The floods lift up their waves.
- 4 Above the voices of many waters, the mighty breakers of the sea, YAHWEH on high is mighty.
- 5 Your statutes stand firm. Holiness adorns your house, YAHWEH, forevermore.

Proverbs 13.

- 1 A wise son listens to his father's instruction, but a scoffer doesn't listen to rebuke.
- 2 By the fruit of his lips, a man enjoys good things; but the unfaithful crave violence.
- 3 He who guards his mouth guards his soul. One who opens wide his lips comes to ruin.
- 4 The soul of the sluggard desires, and has nothing, but the desire of the diligent shall be fully satisfied.
- 5 A righteous man hates lies, but a wicked man brings shame and disgrace.
- 6 Righteousness guards the way of integrity, but wickedness overthrows the sinner.
- 7 There are some who pretend to be rich, yet have nothing. There are some who pretend to be poor, yet have great wealth.
- 8 The ransom of a man's life is his riches, but the poor hear no threats.
- 9 The light of the righteous shines brightly, but the lamp of the wicked is snuffed out.
- 10 Pride only breeds guarrels, but with ones who take advice is wisdom.
- 11 Wealth gained dishonestly dwindles away, but he who gathers by hand makes it grow.
- 12 Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but when longing is fulfilled, it is a tree of life.
- 13 Whoever despises instruction will pay for it, but he who respects a command will be rewarded.
- 14 The teaching of the wise is a spring of life, to turn from the snares of death.
- 15 Good understanding wins favor; but the way of the unfaithful is hard.
- 16 Every prudent man acts from knowledge, but a fool exposes folly.
- 17 A wicked messenger falls into trouble, but a trustworthy envoy gains healing.
- 18 Poverty and shame come to him who refuses discipline, but he who heeds correction

shall be honored.

- 19 Longing fulfilled is sweet to the soul, but fools detest turning from evil.
- 20 One who walks with wise men grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm.
- 21 Misfortune pursues sinners, but prosperity rewards the righteous.
- 22 A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children, but the wealth of the sinner is stored for the righteous.
- 23 An abundance of food is in poor people's fields, but injustice sweeps it away.
- 24 One who spares the rod hates his son, but one who loves him is careful to discipline him.
- 25 The righteous one eats to the satisfying of his soul, but the belly of the wicked goes hungry.

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

273. 29-September Daily Reading (Prophets and Writings).

Ezra 7.

1 . The Arrival of Ezra. .

Now after these things, in the reign of Artaxerxes king of Persia, Ezra the son of Seraiah, the son of Azariah, the son of Hilkiah,

- 2 the son of Shallum, the son of Zadok, the son of Ahitub,
- 3 the son of Amariah, the son of Azariah, the son of Meraioth,
- 4 the son of Zerahiah, the son of Uzzi, the son of Bukki,
- 5 the son of Abishua, the son of Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the chief priest;
- 6 this Ezra went up from Babylon: and he was a ready scribe in the Torah of Moses, which YAHWEH, the ELOHIM of Israel, had given; and the king granted him all his request, according to the hand of YAHWEH his ELOHIM on him.
- 7 There went up some of the children of Israel, and of the priests, and the Levites, and the singers, and the porters, and the Nethinim, to Jerusalem, in the seventh year of Artaxerxes the king.
- 8 He came to Jerusalem in the fifth month, which was in the seventh year of the king.
- 9 For on the first day of the first month began he to go up from Babylon; and on the first day of the fifth month came he to Jerusalem, according to the good hand of his ELOHIM on him.
- 10 For Ezra had set his heart to seek the Torah (teaching and instruction) of YAHWEH, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and ordinances.

. The Letter of Artaxerxes to Ezra. .

Now this is the copy of the letter that the king Artaxerxes gave to Ezra the priest, the scribe, even the scribe of the words of the commandments of YAHWEH, and of his statutes to Israel:

- 12 Artaxerxes, king of kings, to Ezra the priest, the scribe of the decrees of the ELOHIM of heaven, perfect and so forth.
- 13 I make a decree, that all those of the people of Israel, and their priests and the Levites, in my realm, who are minded of their own free will to go to Jerusalem, go with you.
- 14 Because you are sent of the king and his seven counselors, to inquire concerning Judah and Jerusalem, according to the decrees of your ELOHIM which is in your hand,
- 15 and to carry the silver and gold, which the king and his counselors have freely offered to the ELOHIM of Israel, whose habitation is in Jerusalem,
- 16 and all the silver and gold that you shall find in all the province of Babylon, with the freewill offering of the people, and of the priests, offering willingly for the house of their ELOHIM which is in Jerusalem;
- 17 therefore you shall with all diligence buy with this money bulls, rams, lambs, with their meal offerings and their drink offerings, and shall offer them on the altar of the house of your ELOHIM which is in Jerusalem.
- 18 Whatever shall seem good to you and to your brothers to do with the rest of the silver and the gold, do that after the will of your ELOHIM!
- 19 The vessels that are given to you for the service of the house of your ELOHIM, deliver before the ELOHIM of Jerusalem.
- 20 Whatever more shall be needful for the house of your ELOHIM, which you shall have occasion to bestow, bestow it out of the king's treasure house.
- 21 I, even I Artaxerxes the king, do make a decree to all the treasurers who are beyond the River, that whatever Ezra the priest, the scribe of the decrees of the ELOHIM of

heaven, shall require of you, it be done with all diligence,

- 22 to one hundred talents of silver, and to one hundred measures of wheat, and to one hundred baths of wine, and to one hundred baths of oil, and salt without prescribing how much.
- 23 Whatever is commanded by the ELOHIM of heaven, let it be done exactly for the house of the ELOHIM of heaven; for why should there be wrath against the realm of the king and his sons?
- 24 Also we inform you, that touching any of the priests and Levites, the singers, porters, Nethinim, or servants of this house of ELOHIM, it shall not be legal to impose tribute, custom, or toll, on them.
- 25 You, Ezra, after the wisdom of your ELOHIM who is in your hand, appoint magistrates and judges, who may judge all the people who are beyond the River, all such as know the Torah (teachings and instructions) of your ELOHIM; and teach him who doesn't know them.
- 26 Whoever will not do the decrees of your ELOHIM, and the decrees of the king, let judgment be executed on him with all diligence, whether it be to death, or to banishment, or to confiscation of goods, or to imprisonment.
- 27 Blessed be YAHWEH, the ELOHIM of our fathers, who has put such a thing as this in the king's heart, to beautify the house of YAHWEH which is in Jerusalem;
- 28 and has extended loving kindness to me before the king, and his counselors, and before all the king's mighty princes. I was strengthened according to the hand of YAHWEH my ELOHIM on me, and I gathered together out of Israel chief men to go up with me.

Ezra 8.

1 . Heads of Families Who Returned with Ezra. .

Now these are the heads of their fathers' households, and this is the genealogy of those who went up with me from Babylon, in the reign of Artaxerxes the king:

- 2 Of the sons of Phinehas, Gershom. Of the sons of Ithamar, Daniel. Of the sons of David, Hattush.
- 3 Of the sons of Shecaniah, of the sons of Parosh, Zechariah; and with him were reckoned by genealogy of the males one hundred fifty.
- 4 Of the sons of Pahathmoab, Eliehoenai the son of Zerahiah; and with him two hundred males.
- 5 Of the sons of Shecaniah, the son of Jahaziel; and with him three hundred males.
- 6 Of the sons of Adin, Ebed the son of Jonathan; and with him fifty males.
- 7 Of the sons of Elam, Jeshaiah the son of Athaliah; and with him seventy males.
- 8 Of the sons of Shephatiah, Zebadiah the son of Michael; and with him eighty males.
- 9 Of the sons of Joab, Obadiah the son of Jehiel; and with him two hundred and eighteen males.
- 10 Of the sons of Shelomith, the son of Josiphiah; and with him one hundred sixty males.
- 11 Of the sons of Bebai, Zechariah the son of Bebai; and with him twenty-eight males.
- 12 Of the sons of Azgad, Yochanan the son of Hakkatan; and with him one hundred ten males.
- 13 Of the sons of Adonikam, who were the last; and these are their names: Eliphelet, Jeuel, and Shemaiah; and with them sixty males.
- 14 Of the sons of Bigvai, Uthai and Zabbud; and with them seventy males.

. Servants for the Temple. .

I gathered them together to the river that runs to Ahava; and there we encamped three days: and I viewed the people, and the priests, and found there none of the sons of Levi. 16 Then sent I for Eliezer, for Ariel, for Shemaiah, and for Elnathan, and for Jarib, and for Elnathan, and for Nathan, and for Zechariah, and for Meshullam, chief men; also for Joiarib, and for Elnathan, who were teachers.

- 17 I sent them forth to Iddo the chief at the place Casiphia; and I told them what they should tell Iddo, and his brothers the Nethinim, at the place Casiphia, that they should bring to us ministers for the house of our ELOHIM!
- 18 According to the good hand of our ELOHIM on us they brought us a man of discretion, of the sons of Mahli, the son of Levi, the son of Israel; and Sherebiah, with his sons and his brothers, eighteen;
- 19 and Hashabiah, and with him Jeshaiah of the sons of Merari, his brothers and their sons, twenty;
- 20 and of the Nethinim, whom David and the princes had given for the service of the Levites, two hundred and twenty Nethinim: all of them were mentioned by name.

. Fasting and Prayer for Protection..

Then I proclaimed a fast there, at the river Ahava, that we might humble ourselves before our ELOHIM, to seek of him a straight way for us, and for our little ones, and for all our substance.

- 22 For I was ashamed to ask of the king a band of soldiers and horsemen to help us against the enemy in the way, because we had spoken to the king, saying, "The hand of our ELOHIM is on all those who seek him, for good; but his power and his wrath is against all those who forsake him."
- 23 So we fasted and begged our ELOHIM for this: and he was entreated of us.

<u>. Gifts for the Temple.</u>

Then I set apart twelve of the chiefs of the priests, even Sherebiah, Hashabiah, and ten of their brothers with them,

- 25 and weighed to them the silver, and the gold, and the vessels, even the offering for the house of our ELOHIM, which the king, and his counselors, and his princes, and all Israel there present, had offered:
- 26 I weighed into their hand six hundred fifty talents of silver, and silver vessels one hundred talents; of gold one hundred talents;
- 27 and twenty bowls of gold, of one thousand darics; and two vessels of fine bright brass, precious as gold.
- 28 I said to them, "You are holy to YAHWEH, and the vessels are holy; and the silver and the gold are a freewill offering to YAHWEH, the ELOHIM of your fathers.
- 29 Watch, and keep them, until you weigh them before the chiefs of the priests and the Levites, and the princes of the fathers' households of Israel, at Jerusalem, in the rooms of the house of YAHWEH!"
- 30 So the priests and the Levites received the weight of the silver and the gold, and the vessels, to bring them to Jerusalem to the house of our ELOHIM!

. The Return to Jerusalem. .

Then we departed from the river Ahava on the twelfth day of the first month, to go to Jerusalem: and the hand of our ELOHIM was on us, and he delivered us from the hand of the enemy and the bandit by the way.

32 We came to Jerusalem, and staved there three days.

- 33 On the fourth day the silver and the gold and the vessels were weighed in the house of our ELOHIM into the hand of Meremoth the son of Uriah the priest; and with him was Eleazar the son of Phinehas; and with them was Jozabad the son of Yeshua, and Noadiah the son of Binnui, the Levite;
- 34 the whole by number and by weight: and all the weight was written at that time.
- 35 The children of the captivity, who had come out of exile, offered burnt offerings to the ELOHIM of Israel, twelve bulls for all Israel, ninety-six rams, seventy-seven lambs, and twelve male goats for a sin offering: all this was a burnt offering to YAHWEH!
- 36 They delivered the king's commissions to the king's satraps, and to the governors beyond the River: and they furthered the people and the house of ELOHIM!

Psalms 94.

1 . ELOHIM the Refuge of the Righteous. .

YAHWEH, you ELOHIM to whom vengeance belongs, you ELOHIM to whom vengeance belongs, shine forth.

- 2 Rise up, you judge of the earth. Pay back the proud what they deserve.
- 3 YAHWEH, how long will the wicked, how long will the wicked triumph?
- 4 They pour out arrogant words. All the evildoers boast.
- 5 They break your people in pieces, YAHWEH, and afflict your heritage.
- 6 They kill the widow and the alien, and murder the fatherless.
- 7 They say, "YAH will not see, neither will Jacob's ELOHIM consider."
- 8 Consider, you senseless among the people; you fools, when will you be wise?
- 9 He who implanted the ear, won't he hear? He who formed the eye, won't he see?
- 10 He who disciplines the nations, won't he punish? He who teaches man knows.
- 11 YAHWEH knows the thoughts of man, that they are futile.
- 12 Blessed is the man whom you discipline, YAH, and teach out of your Torah;
- 13 that you may give him rest from the days of adversity, until the pit is dug for the wicked.
- 14 For YAHWEH won't reject his people, neither will he forsake his inheritance.
- 15 For judgment will return to righteousness. All the upright in heart shall follow it.
- 16 Who will rise up for me against the wicked? Who will stand up for me against the evildoers?
- 17 Unless YAHWEH had been my help, my soul would have soon lived in silence.
- 18 When I said, "My foot is slipping!" Your loving kindness, YAHWEH, held me up.
- 19 In the multitude of my thoughts within me, your comforts delight my soul.
- 20 Shall the throne of wickedness have fellowship with you, which brings about mischief by statute?
- 21 They gather themselves together against the soul of the righteous, and condemn the innocent blood.
- 22 But YAHWEH has been my high tower, my ELOHIM, the rock of my refuge.
- 23 He has brought on them their own iniquity, and will cut them off in their own wickedness. YAHWEH, our ELOHIM, will cut them off.

Proverbs 14.

- 1 Every wise woman builds her house, but the foolish one tears it down with her own hands.
- 2 He who walks in his uprightness fears YAHWEH, but he who is perverse in his ways despises him.
- 3 The fool's talk brings a rod to his back, but the lips of the wise protect them.

- 4 Where no oxen are, the crib is clean, but much increase is by the strength of the ox.
- 5 A truthful witness will not lie, but a false witness pours out lies.
- 6 A scoffer seeks wisdom, and doesn't find it, but knowledge comes easily to a discerning person.
- 7 Stay away from a foolish man, for you won't find knowledge on his lips.
- 8 The wisdom of the prudent is to think about his way, but the folly of fools is deceit.
- 9 Fools mock at making atonement for sins, but among the upright there is good will.
- 10 The heart knows its own bitterness and joy; he will not share these with a stranger.
- 11 The house of the wicked will be overthrown, but the tent of the upright will flourish.
- 12 There is a way which seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.
- 13 Even in laughter the heart may be sorrowful, and mirth may end in heaviness.
- 14 The unfaithful will be repaid for his own ways; likewise a good man will be rewarded for his ways.
- 15 A simple man believes everything, but the prudent man carefully considers his ways.
- 16 A wise man fears, and shuns evil, but the fool is hotheaded and reckless.
- 17 He who is quick to become angry will commit folly, and a crafty man is hated.
- 18 The simple inherit folly, but the prudent are crowned with knowledge.
- 19 The evil bow down before the good, and the wicked at the gates of the righteous.
- 20 The poor person is shunned even by his own neighbor, but the rich person has many friends.
- 21 He who despises his neighbor sins, but blessed is he who has pity on the poor.
- 22 Don't they go astray who plot evil? But love and faithfulness belong to those who plan good.
- 23 In all hard work there is profit, but the talk of the lips leads only to poverty.
- 24 The crown of the wise is their riches, but the folly of fools crowns them with folly.
- 25 A truthful witness saves souls, but a false witness is deceitful.
- 26 In the fear of YAHWEH is a secure fortress, and he will be a refuge for his children.
- 27 The fear of YAHWEH is a fountain of life, turning people from the snares of death.
- 28 In the multitude of people is the king's glory, but in the lack of people is the destruction of the prince.
- 29 He who is slow to anger has great understanding, but he who has a quick temper displays folly.
- 30 The life of the body is a heart at peace, but envy rots the bones.
- 31 He who oppresses the poor shows contempt for his Maker, but he who is kind to the needy honors him.
- 32 The wicked is brought down in his calamity, but in death, the righteous has a refuge.
- 33 Wisdom rests in the heart of one who has understanding, and is even made known in the inward part of fools.
- 34 Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people.
- 35 The king's favor is toward a servant who deals wisely, but his wrath is toward one who causes shame.

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

274. 30-September Daily Reading (Prophets and Writings).

Ezra 9.

Intermarriage with Pagans...

Now when these things were done, the princes drew near to me, saying, "The people of Israel, and the priests and the Levites, have not separated themselves from the peoples of the lands, following their abominations, even those of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Jebusites, the Ammonites, the Moabites, the Egyptians, and the Amorites.

- 2 For they have taken of their daughters for themselves and for their sons, so that the holy seed have mixed themselves with the peoples of the lands. Yes, the hand of the princes and rulers has been chief in this trespass."
- 3 When I heard this thing, I tore my garment and my robe, and plucked off the hair of my head and of my beard, and sat down confounded.
- 4 Then were assembled to me everyone who trembled at the words of the ELOHIM of Israel, because of their trespass of the captivity; and I sat confounded until the evening offering.
- 5 At the evening offering I arose up from my humiliation, even with my garment and my robe torn; and I fell on my knees, and spread out my hands to YAHWEH my ELOHIM; 6 and I said, "My ELOHIM, I am ashamed and blush to lift up my face to you, my ELOHIM; for our iniquities have increased over our head, and our guiltiness has grown up to the heavens.
- 7 Since the days of our fathers we have been exceeding guilty to this day; and for our iniquities we, our kings, and our priests, have been delivered into the hand of the kings of the lands, to the sword, to captivity, to plunder, and to confusion of face, as it is this day.
- 8 Now for a little moment grace has been shown from YAHWEH our ELOHIM, to leave us a remnant to escape, and to give us a nail in his holy place, that our ELOHIM may lighten our eyes, and give us a little reviving in our bondage.
- 9 For we are bondservants; yet our ELOHIM has not forsaken us in our bondage, but has extended loving kindness to us in the sight of the kings of Persia, to give us a reviving, to set up the house of our ELOHIM, and to repair its ruins, and to give us a wall in Judah and in Jerusalem.
- 10 "Now, our ELOHIM, what shall we say after this? For we have forsaken your commandments,
- 11 which you have commanded by your servants the prophets, saying, 'The land, to which you go to possess it, is an unclean land through the uncleanness of the peoples of the lands, through their abominations, which have filled it from one end to another with their filthiness.
- 12 Now therefore don't give your daughters to their sons, neither take their daughters to your sons, nor seek their peace or their prosperity forever; that you may be strong, and eat the good of the land, and leave it for an inheritance to your children forever.'
- 13 "After all that has come on us for our evil deeds, and for our great guilt, since you, our ELOHIM, have punished us less than our iniquities deserve, and have given us such a remnant,
- 14 shall we again break your commandments, and join in affinity with the peoples that do these abominations? Wouldn't you be angry with us until you had consumed us, so that there should be no remnant, nor any to escape?
- 15 YAHWEH, the ELOHIM of Israel, you are righteous; for we are left a remnant that has escaped, as it is this day. Behold, we are before you in our guiltiness; for none can stand before you because of this."

Ezra 10.

1 . Confession of Improper Marriages. .

Now while Ezra prayed and made confession, weeping and casting himself down before the house of ELOHIM, there was gathered together to him out of Israel a very great assembly of men and women and children; for the people wept very bitterly.

- 2 Shecaniah the son of Jehiel, one of the sons of Elam, answered Ezra, "We have trespassed against our ELOHIM, and have married foreign women of the peoples of the land. Yet now there is hope for Israel concerning this thing.
- 3 Now therefore let us make a covenant with our ELOHIM to put away all the wives, and such as are born of them, according to the counsel of my master, and of those who tremble at the commandment of our ELOHIM! Let it be done according to the Torah (teaching and instruction).
- 4 Arise; for the matter belongs to you, and we are with you. Be courageous, and do it."
- 5 Then Ezra arose, and made the chiefs of the priests, the Levites, and all Israel, to swear that they would do according to this word. So they swore.
- 6 Then Ezra rose up from before the house of ELOHIM, and went into the room of Jehohanan the son of Eliashib: and when he came there, he ate no bread, nor drank water; for he mourned because of their trespass of the captivity.
- 7 They made proclamation throughout Judah and Jerusalem to all the children of the captivity, that they should gather themselves together to Jerusalem;
- 8 and that whoever didn't come within three days, according to the counsel of the princes and the elders, all his substance should be forfeited, and himself separated from the assembly of the captivity.
- 9 Then all the men of Judah and Benjamin gathered themselves together to Jerusalem within the three days; it was the ninth month, on the twentieth day of the month: and all the people sat in the broad place before the house of ELOHIM, trembling because of this matter, and for the great rain.
- 10 Ezra the priest stood up, and said to them, "You have trespassed, and have married foreign women, to increase the guilt of Israel.
- 11 Now therefore make confession to YAHWEH, the ELOHIM of your fathers, and do his pleasure; and separate yourselves from the peoples of the land, and from the foreign women."
- 12 Then all the assembly answered with a loud voice, "As you have said concerning us, so must we do.
- 13 But the people are many, and it is a time of much rain, and we are not able to stand outside; neither is this a work of one day or two; for we have greatly transgressed in this matter.
- 14 Let now our princes be appointed for all the assembly, and let all those who are in our cities who have married foreign women come at appointed times, and with them the elders of every city, and its judges, until the fierce wrath of our ELOHIM be turned from us, until this matter is resolved."
- 15 Only Jonathan the son of Asahel and Jahzeiah the son of Tikvah stood up against this; and Meshullam and Shabbethai the Levite helped them.
- 16 The children of the captivity did so. Ezra the priest, with certain heads of fathers' households, after their fathers' houses, and all of them by their names, were set apart; and they sat down in the first day of the tenth month to examine the matter.
- 17 They made an end with all the men who had married foreign women by the first day of the first month.

. Pagan Wives Put Away...

Among the sons of the priests there were found who had married foreign women: of the sons of Yeshua, the son of Jozadak, and his brothers, Maaseiah, and Eliezer, and Jarib, and Gedaliah.

- 19 They gave their hand that they would put away their wives; and being guilty, they offered a ram of the flock for their guilt.
- 20 Of the sons of Immer: Hanani and Zebadiah.
- 21 Of the sons of Harim: Maaseiah, and Elijah, and Shemaiah, and Jehiel, and Uzziah.
- 22 Of the sons of Pashhur: Elioenai, Maaseiah, Ishmael, Nethanel, Jozabad, and Elasah.
- 23 Of the Levites: Jozabad, and Shimei, and Kelaiah (the same is Kelita), Pethahiah, Judah, and Eliezer.
- 24 Of the singers: Eliashib. Of the porters: Shallum, and Telem, and Uri.
- 25 Of Israel: Of the sons of Parosh: Ramiah, and Izziah, and Malchijah, and Mijamin, and Eleazar, and Malchijah, and Benaiah.
- 26 Of the sons of Elam: Mattaniah, Zechariah, and Jehiel, and Abdi, and Jeremoth, and Elijah.
- 27 Of the sons of Zattu: Elioenai, Eliashib, Mattaniah, and Jeremoth, and Zabad, and Aziza.
- 28 Of the sons of Bebai: Jehohanan, Hananiah, Zabbai, Athlai.
- 29 Of the sons of Bani: Meshullam, Malluch, and Adaiah, Jashub, and Sheal, Jeremoth.
- 30 Of the sons of Pahathmoab: Adna, and Chelal, Benaiah, Maaseiah, Mattaniah, Bezalel, and Binnui, and Manasseh.
- 31 Of the sons of Harim: Eliezer, Isshijah, Malchijah, Shemaiah, Shimeon,
- 32 Benjamin, Malluch, Shemariah.
- 33 Of the sons of Hashum: Mattenai, Mattattah, Zabad, Eliphelet, Jeremai, Manasseh, Shimei.
- 34 Of the sons of Bani: Maadai, Amram, and Uel,
- 35 Benaiah, Bedeiah, Cheluhi,
- 36 Vaniah, Meremoth, Eliashib,
- 37 Mattaniah, Mattenai, and Jaasu,
- 38 and Bani, and Binnui, Shimei,
- 39 and Shelemiah, and Nathan, and Adaiah,
- 40 Machnadebai, Shashai, Sharai,
- 41 Azarel, and Shelemiah, Shemariah,
- 42 Shallum, Amariah, Joseph.
- 43 Of the sons of Nebo: Jeiel, Mattithiah, Zabad, Zebina, Iddo, and Joel, Benaiah.
- 44 All these had taken foreign wives; and some of them had wives by whom they had children.

Psalms 95.

. A Call to Worship and Obedience. .

Oh come, let's sing to YAHWEH! Let's shout aloud to the rock of our salvation!

- 2 Let's come before his presence with thanksgiving. Let's extol him with songs!
- 3 For YAHWEH is a great ELOHIM, a great King above all gods.
- 4 In his hand are the deep places of the earth. The heights of the mountains are also his.
- 5 The sea is his, and he made it. His hands formed the dry land.
- 6 Oh come, let's worship and bow down. Let's kneel before YAHWEH, our Maker,
- 7 for he is our ELOHIM! We are the people of his pasture, and the sheep in his care. Today, oh that you would hear his voice!

- 8 Don't harden your heart, as at Meribah, as in the day of Massah in the wilderness,
- 9 when your fathers tempted me, tested me, and saw my work.
- 10 Forty long years I was grieved with that generation, and said, "It is a people that errs in their heart. They have not known my ways."
- 11 Therefore I swore in my wrath, "They won't enter into my rest."

Proverbs 15.

- 1 A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.
- 2 The tongue of the wise commends knowledge, but the mouth of fools gush out folly.
- 3 YAHWEH's eyes are everywhere, keeping watch on the evil and the good.
- 4 A gentle tongue is a tree of life, but deceit in it crushes the spirit.
- 5 A fool despises his father's correction, but he who heeds reproof shows prudence.
- 6 In the house of the righteous is much treasure, but the income of the wicked brings trouble.
- 7 The lips of the wise spread knowledge; not so with the heart of fools.
- 8 The sacrifice made by the wicked is an abomination to YAHWEH, but the prayer of the upright is his delight.
- 9 The way of the wicked is an abomination to YAHWEH, but he loves him who follows after righteousness.
- 10 There is stern discipline for one who forsakes the way: whoever hates reproof shall die.
- 11 Sheol and Abaddon are before YAHWEH how much more then the hearts of the children of men!
- 12 A scoffer doesn't love to be reproved; he will not go to the wise.
- 13 A glad heart makes a cheerful face; but an aching heart breaks the spirit.
- 14 The heart of one who has understanding seeks knowledge, but the mouths of fools feed on folly.
- 15 All the days of the afflicted are wretched, but one who has a cheerful heart enjoys a continual feast.
- 16 Better is little, with the fear of YAHWEH, than great treasure with trouble.
- 17 Better is a dinner of herbs, where love is, than a fattened calf with hatred.
- 18 A wrathful man stirs up contention, but one who is slow to anger appearses strife.
- 19 The way of the sluggard is like a thorn patch, but the path of the upright is a highway.
- 20 A wise son makes a father glad, but a foolish man despises his mother.
- 21 Folly is joy to one who is void of wisdom, but a man of understanding keeps his way straight.
- 22 Where there is no counsel, plans fail; but in a multitude of counselors they are established.
- 23 Joy comes to a man with the reply of his mouth. How good is a word at the right time!
- 24 The path of life leads upward for the wise, to keep him from going downward to Sheol.
- 25 YAHWEH will uproot the house of the proud, but he will keep the widow's borders intact.
- 26 YAHWEH detests the thoughts of the wicked, but the thoughts of the pure are pleasing.
- 27 He who is greedy for gain troubles his own house, but he who hates bribes will live.
- 28 The heart of the righteous weighs answers, but the mouth of the wicked gushes out evil
- 29 YAHWEH is far from the wicked, but he hears the prayer of the righteous.

- 30 The light of the eyes rejoices the heart. Good news gives health to the bones.
- 31 The ear that listens to reproof lives, and will be at home among the wise.
- 32 He who refuses correction despises his own soul, but he who listens to reproof gets understanding.
- 33 The fear of YAHWEH teaches wisdom. Before honor is humility.

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275. 1-October Daily Reading (Prophets and Writings).

Nehemiah 1.

. Nehemiah Prays for His People. . Nehemiah!

The words of Nehemiah the son of Hacaliah. Now it happened in the month Chisley, in the twentieth year, as I was in Shushan the palace,

- 2 that Hanani, one of my brothers, came, he and certain men out of Judah; and I asked them concerning the Jews who had escaped, who were left of the captivity, and concerning Jerusalem.
- 3 They said to me, "The remnant who are left of the captivity there in the province are in great affliction and reproach. The wall of Jerusalem also is broken down, and its gates are burned with fire."
- 4 It happened, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned certain days; and I fasted and prayed before the ELOHIM of heaven,
- 5 and said, "I beg you, YAHWEH, the ELOHIM of heaven, the great and awesome ELOHIM, who keeps covenant and loving kindness with those who love him and keep his commandments:
- 6 Let your ear now be attentive, and your eyes open, that you may listen to the prayer of your servant, which I pray before you at this time, day and night, for the children of Israel your servants while I confess the sins of the children of Israel, which we have sinned against you. Yes, I and my father's house have sinned.
- 7 We have dealt very corruptly against you, and have not kept the commandments, nor the statutes, nor the ordinances, which you commanded your servant Moses.
- 8 "Remember, I beg you, the word that you commanded your servant Moses, saying, 'If you trespass, I will scatter you abroad among the peoples;
- 9 but if you return to me, and keep my commandments and do them, though your outcasts were in the uttermost part of the heavens, yet will I gather them from there, and will bring them to the place that I have chosen, to cause my name to dwell there.'
- 10 "Now these are your servants and your people, whom you have redeemed by your great power, and by your strong hand.
- 11 ADONAI, I beg you, let your ear be attentive now to the prayer of your servant, and to the prayer of your servants, who delight to fear your name; and please prosper your servant this day, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man." Now I was cup bearer to the king.

Nehemiah 2.

1 . Nehemiah Sent to Judah. .

It happened in the month Nisan, in the twentieth year of Artaxerxes the king, when wine was before him, that I took up the wine, and gave it to the king. Now I had not been sad before in his presence.

- 2 The king said to me, "Why is your face sad, since you are not sick? This is nothing else but sorrow of heart." Then I was very much afraid.
- 3 I said to the king, "Let the king live forever! Why shouldn't my face be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' tombs, lies waste, and its gates have been consumed with fire?"
- 4 Then the king said to me, "For what do you make request?" So I prayed to the ELOHIM of heaven.
- 5 I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor in your sight, that you would send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' tombs, that I may build

it."

- 6 The king said to me (the queen was also sitting by him), "For how long shall your journey be? And when will you return?" So it pleased the king to send me; and I set him a time.
- 7 Moreover I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, let letters be given me to the governors beyond the River, that they may let me pass through until I come to Judah; 8 and a letter to Asaph the keeper of the king's forest, that he may give me timber to make beams for the gates of the citadel by the temple, for the wall of the city, and for the house that I shall enter into." The king granted my requests, because of the good hand of my ELOHIM on me.
- 9 Then I came to the governors beyond the River, and gave them the king's letters. Now the king had sent with me captains of the army and horsemen.
- 10 When Sanballat the Horonite, and Tobiah the servant, the Ammonite, heard of it, it grieved them exceedingly, because a man had come to seek the welfare of the children of Israel.

. Nehemiah Views the Wall of Jerusalem. .

So I came to Jerusalem, and was there three days.

- 12 I arose in the night, I and some few men with me; neither told I any man what my ELOHIM put into my heart to do for Jerusalem; neither was there any animal with me, except the animal that I rode on.
- 13 I went out by night by the valley gate, even toward the jackal's well, and to the dung gate, and viewed the walls of Jerusalem, which were broken down, and its gates were consumed with fire.
- 14 Then I went on to the spring gate and to the king's pool: but there was no place for the animal that was under me to pass.
- 15 Then went I up in the night by the brook, and viewed the wall; and I turned back, and entered by the valley gate, and so returned.
- 16 The rulers didn't know where I went, or what I did; neither had I as yet told it to the Jews, nor to the priests, nor to the nobles, nor to the rulers, nor to the rest who did the work.
- 17 Then I said to them, "You see the evil case that we are in, how Jerusalem lies waste, and its gates are burned with fire. Come, let us build up the wall of Jerusalem, that we won't be disgraced."
- 18 I told them of the hand of my ELOHIM which was good on me, as also of the king's words that he had spoken to me. They said, "Let's rise up and build." So they strengthened their hands for the good work.
- 19 But when Sanballat the Horonite, and Tobiah the servant, the Ammonite, and Geshem the Arabian, heard it, they ridiculed us, and despised us, and said, "What is this thing that you are doing? Will you rebel against the king?"
- 20 Then answered I them, and said to them, "The ELOHIM of heaven will prosper us. Therefore we, his servants, will arise and build; but you have no portion, nor right, nor memorial, in Jerusalem."

Psalms 96.

1 . A Song of Praise to ELOHIM Coming in Judgment. .

Sing to YAHWEH a new song! Sing to YAHWEH, all the earth.

- 2 Sing to YAHWEH! Bless his name! Proclaim his salvation from day to day!
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples.

- 4 For great is YAHWEH, and greatly to be praised! He is to be feared above all gods.
- 5 For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but YAHWEH made the heavens.
- 6 Honor and majesty are before him. Strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.
- 7 Ascribe to YAHWEH, you families of nations, ascribe to YAHWEH glory and strength.
- 8 Ascribe to YAHWEH the glory due to his name. Bring an offering, and come into his courts.
- 9 Worship YAHWEH in holy array. Tremble before him, all the earth.
- 10 Say among the nations, "YAHWEH reigns." The world is also established. It can't be moved. He will judge the peoples with equity.
- 11 Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice. Let the sea roar, and its fullness!
- 12 Let the field and all that is in it exult! Then all the trees of the woods shall sing for joy
- 13 before YAHWEH; for he comes, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, the peoples with his truth.

Proverbs 16.

- 1 The plans of the heart belong to man, but the answer of the tongue is from YAHWEH!
- 2 All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes; but YAHWEH weighs the motives.
- 3 Commit your deeds to YAHWEH, and your plans shall succeed.
- 4 YAHWEH has made everything for its own end yes, even the wicked for the day of evil.
- 5 Everyone who is proud in heart is an abomination to YAHWEH: they shall certainly not be unpunished.
- 6 By mercy and truth iniquity is atoned for. By the fear of YAHWEH men depart from evil.
- 7 When a man's ways please YAHWEH, he makes even his enemies to be at peace with him
- 8 Better is a little with righteousness, than great revenues with injustice.
- 9 A man's heart plans his course, but YAHWEH directs his steps.
- 10 Inspired judgments are on the lips of the king. He shall not betray his mouth.
- 11 Honest balances and scales are YAHWEH's; all the weights in the bag are his work.
- 12 It is an abomination for kings to do wrong, for the throne is established by righteousness.
- 13 Righteous lips are the delight of kings. They value one who speaks the truth.
- 14 The king's wrath is a messenger of death, but a wise man will pacify it.
- 15 In the light of the king's face is life. His favor is like a cloud of the spring rain.
- 16 How much better it is to get wisdom than gold! Yes, to get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver.
- 17 The highway of the upright is to depart from evil. He who keeps his way preserves his soul.
- 18 Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.
- 19 It is better to be of a lowly spirit with the poor, than to divide the plunder with the proud.
- 20 He who heeds the Word finds prosperity. Whoever trusts in YAHWEH is blessed.
- 21 The wise in heart shall be called prudent. Pleasantness of the lips promotes instruction.
- 22 Understanding is a fountain of life to one who has it, but the punishment of fools is their folly.
- 23 The heart of the wise instructs his mouth, and adds learning to his lips.
- 24 Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones.
- 25 There is a way which seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.

- 26 The appetite of the laboring man labors for him; for his mouth urges him on.
- 27 A worthless man devises mischief. His speech is like a scorching fire.
- 28 A perverse man stirs up strife. A whisperer separates close friends.
- 29 A man of violence entices his neighbor, and leads him in a way that is not good.
- 30 One who winks his eyes to plot perversities, one who compresses his lips, is bent on evil.
- 31 Gray hair is a crown of glory. It is attained by a life of righteousness.
- 32 One who is slow to anger is better than the mighty; one who rules his spirit, than he who takes a city.
- 33 The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from YAHWEH!

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276. 2-October Daily Reading (Prophets and Writings).

Nehemiah 3.

1 . Rebuilding the Wall. .

Then Eliashib the high priest rose up with his brothers the priests, and they built the sheep gate; they sanctified it, and set up its doors; even to the tower of Hammeah they sanctified it, to the tower of Hananel.

- 2 Next to him built the men of Jericho. Next to them built Zaccur the son of Imri.
- 3 The sons of Hassenaah built the fish gate. They laid its beams, and set up its doors, its bolts, and its bars.
- 4 Next to them, Meremoth the son of Uriah, the son of Hakkoz made repairs. Next to them, Meshullam the son of Berechiah, the son of Meshezabel made repairs. Next to them, Zadok the son of Baana made repairs.
- 5 Next to them, the Tekoites made repairs; but their nobles didn't put their necks to the work of their master.
- 6 Joiada the son of Paseah and Meshullam the son of Besodeiah repaired the old gate. They laid its beams, and set up its doors, and its bolts, and its bars.
- 7 Next to them, Melatiah the Gibeonite, and Jadon the Meronothite, the men of Gibeon, and of Mizpah, repaired the residence of the governor beyond the River.
- 8 Next to him, Uzziel the son of Harhaiah, goldsmiths, made repairs. Next to him, Hananiah one of the perfumers made repairs, and they fortified Jerusalem even to the broad wall.
- 9 Next to them, Rephaiah the son of Hur, the ruler of half the district of Jerusalem, made repairs.
- 10 Next to them, Jedaiah the son of Harumaph made repairs across from his house. Next to him, Hattush the son of Hashabneiah made repairs.
- 11 Malchijah the son of Harim, and Hasshub the son of Pahathmoab, repaired another portion, and the tower of the furnaces.
- 12 Next to him, Shallum the son of Hallohesh, the ruler of half the district of Jerusalem, he and his daughters, made repairs.
- 13 Hanun and the inhabitants of Zanoah repaired the valley gate. They built it, and set up its doors, its bolts, and its bars, and one thousand cubits of the wall to the dung gate.
- 14 Malchijah the son of Rechab, the ruler of the district of Beth Haccherem repaired the dung gate. He built it, and set up its doors, its bolts, and its bars.
- 15 Shallun the son of Colhozeh, the ruler of the district of Mizpah repaired the spring gate. He built it, and covered it, and set up its doors, its bolts, and its bars, and the wall of the pool of Shelah by the king's garden, even to the stairs that go down from the city of David.
- 16 After him, Nehemiah the son of Azbuk, the ruler of half the district of Beth Zur, made repairs to the place opposite the tombs of David, and to the pool that was made, and to the house of the mighty men.
- 17 After him, the Levites, Rehum the son of Bani made repairs. Next to him, Hashabiah, the ruler of half the district of Keilah, made repairs for his district.
- 18 After him, their brothers, Bavvai the son of Henadad, the ruler of half the district of Keilah made repairs.
- 19 Next to him, Ezer the son of Yeshua, the ruler of Mizpah, repaired another portion, across from the ascent to the armory at the turning of the wall.
- 20 After him, Baruch the son of Zabbai earnestly repaired another portion, from the turning of the wall to the door of the house of Eliashib the high priest.
- 21 After him, Meremoth the son of Uriah the son of Hakkoz repaired another portion,

from the door of the house of Eliashib even to the end of the house of Eliashib.

- 22 After him, the priests, the men of the Plain made repairs.
- 23 After them, Benjamin and Hasshub made repairs across from their house. After them, Azariah the son of Maaseiah the son of Ananiah made repairs beside his own house.
- 24 After him, Binnui the son of Henadad repaired another portion, from the house of Azariah to the turning of the wall, and to the corner.
- 25 Palal the son of Uzai made repairs opposite the turning of the wall, and the tower that stands out from the upper house of the king, which is by the court of the guard. After him Pedaiah the son of Parosh made repairs.
- 26 (Now the Nethinim lived in Ophel, to the place over against the water gate toward the east, and the tower that stands out.)
- 27 After him the Tekoites repaired another portion, over against the great tower that stands out, and to the wall of Ophel.
- 28 Above the horse gate, the priests made repairs, everyone across from his own house.
- 29 After them, Zadok the son of Immer made repairs across from his own house. After him, Shemaiah the son of Shecaniah, the keeper of the east gate made repairs.
- 30 After him, Hananiah the son of Shelemiah, and Hanun the sixth son of Zalaph, repaired another portion. After him, Meshullam the son of Berechiah made repairs across from his room.
- 31 After him, Malchijah one of the goldsmiths to the house of the Nethinim, and of the merchants, made repairs over against the gate of Hammiphkad, and to the ascent of the corner.
- 32 Between the ascent of the corner and the sheep gate, the goldsmiths and the merchants made repairs.

Psalms 97.

. A Song of Praise to the Sovereign YAHWEH..

YAHWEH reigns! Let the earth rejoice! Let the multitude of islands be glad!

- 2 Clouds and darkness are around him. Righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.
- 3 A fire goes before him, and burns up his adversaries on every side.
- 4 His lightning lights up the world. The earth sees, and trembles.
- 5 The mountains melt like wax at the presence of YAHWEH, at the presence of ADONAI of the whole earth.
- 6 The heavens declare his righteousness. All the peoples have seen his glory.
- 7 Let all them be shamed who serve engraved images, who boast in their idols. Worship him, all you gods!
- 8 Zion heard and was glad. The daughters of Judah rejoiced, because of your judgments, YAHWEH!
- 9 For you, YAHWEH, are most high above all the earth. You are exalted far above all gods.
- 10 You who love YAHWEH, hate evil. He preserves the souls of his holy ones. He delivers them out of the hand of the wicked.
- 11 Light is sown for the righteous, and gladness for the upright in heart.
- 12 Be glad in YAHWEH, you righteous people! Give thanks to his holy Name.

Proverbs 17.

- 1 Better is a dry morsel with quietness, than a house full of feasting with strife.
- 2 A servant who deals wisely will rule over a son who causes shame, and shall have a

part in the inheritance among the brothers.

- 3 The refining pot is for silver, and the furnace for gold, but YAHWEH tests the hearts.
- 4 An evildoer heeds wicked lips. A liar gives ear to a mischievous tongue.
- 5 Whoever mocks the poor reproaches his Maker. He who is glad at calamity shall not be unpunished.
- 6 Children's children are the crown of old men; the glory of children are their parents.
- 7 Arrogant speech isn't fitting for a fool, much less do lying lips fit a prince.
- 8 A bribe is a precious stone in the eyes of him who gives it; wherever he turns, he prospers.
- 9 He who covers an offense promotes love; but he who repeats a matter separates best friends.
- 10 A rebuke enters deeper into one who has understanding than a hundred lashes into a fool.
- 11 An evil man seeks only rebellion; therefore a cruel messenger shall be sent against him.
- 12 Let a bear robbed of her cubs meet a man, rather than a fool in his folly.
- 13 Whoever rewards evil for good, evil shall not depart from his house.
- 14 The beginning of strife is like breaching a dam, therefore stop contention before quarreling breaks out.
- 15 He who justifies the wicked, and he who condemns the righteous, both of them alike are an abomination to YAHWEH!
- 16 Why is there money in the hand of a fool to buy wisdom, since he has no understanding?
- 17 A friend loves at all times; and a brother is born for adversity.
- 18 A man void of understanding strikes hands, and becomes collateral in the presence of his neighbor.
- 19 He who loves disobedience loves strife. One who builds a high gate seeks destruction.
- 20 One who has a perverse heart doesn't find prosperity, and one who has a deceitful tongue falls into trouble.
- 21 He who becomes the father of a fool grieves. The father of a fool has no joy.
- 22 A cheerful heart makes good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.
- 23 A wicked man receives a bribe in secret, to pervert the ways of justice.
- 24 Wisdom is before the face of one who has understanding, but the eyes of a fool wander to the ends of the earth.
- 25 A foolish son brings grief to his father, and bitterness to her who bore him.
- 26 Also to punish the righteous is not good, nor to flog officials for their integrity.
- 27 He who spares his words has knowledge. He who is even tempered is a man of understanding.
- 28 Even a fool, when he keeps silent, is counted wise. When he shuts his lips, he is thought to be discerning.

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