

10-16 Oct Daily Reading (Prophets and Writings).

284. 10-October Daily Reading (Prophets and Writings).

Nehemiah 13.

1 . Principles of Separation. .

On that day they read in the book of Moses in the audience of the people; and therein was found written, that an Ammonite and a Moabite should not enter into the assembly of ELOHIM forever,

2 because they didn't meet the children of Israel with bread and with water, but hired Balaam against them, to curse them: however our ELOHIM turned the curse into a blessing.

3 It came to pass, when they had heard the Torah (teaching and instruction), that they separated from Israel all the mixed multitude.

4 . The Reforms of Nehemiah. .

Now before this, Eliashib the priest, who was appointed over the rooms of the house of our ELOHIM, being allied to Tobiah,

5 had prepared for him a great room, where before they laid the meal offerings, the frankincense, and the vessels, and the tithes of the grain, the new wine, and the oil, which were given by commandment to the Levites, and the singers, and the porters; and the wave offerings for the priests.

6 But in all this, I was not at Jerusalem; for in the two and thirtieth year of Artaxerxes king of Babylon I went to the king: and after certain days asked I leave of the king,

7 and I came to Jerusalem, and understood the evil that Eliashib had done for Tobiah, in preparing him a room in the courts of the house of ELOHIM!

8 It grieved me severely: therefore I cast forth all the household stuff of Tobiah out of the room.

9 Then I commanded, and they cleansed the rooms: and there brought I again the vessels of the house of ELOHIM, with the meal offerings and the frankincense.

10 I perceived that the portions of the Levites had not been given them; so that the Levites and the singers, who did the work, had fled everyone to his field.

11 Then I contended with the rulers, and said, "Why is the house of ELOHIM forsaken?" I gathered them together, and set them in their place.

12 Then brought all Judah the tithe of the grain and the new wine and the oil to the treasuries.

13 I made treasurers over the treasuries, Shelemiah the priest, and Zadok the scribe, and of the Levites, Pedaiah: and next to them was Hanan the son of Zaccur, the son of Mattaniah; for they were counted faithful, and their business was to distribute to their brothers.

14 Remember me, my ELOHIM, concerning this, and don't wipe out my good deeds that I have done for the house of my ELOHIM, and for its observances.

15 In those days saw I in Judah some men treading winepresses on the Sabbath, and bringing in sheaves, and loading donkeys; as also wine, grapes, and figs, and all kinds of burdens, which they brought into Jerusalem on the Sabbath day: and I testified against them in the day in which they sold food.

16 There lived men of Tyre also therein, who brought in fish, and all kinds of wares, and sold on the Sabbath to the children of Judah, and in Jerusalem.

17 Then I contended with the nobles of Judah, and said to them, "What evil thing is this that you do, and profane the Sabbath day?"

18 Didn't your fathers do thus, and didn't our ELOHIM bring all this evil on us, and on this city? Yet you bring more wrath on Israel by profaning the Sabbath."

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19 It came to pass that, when the gates of Jerusalem began to be dark before the Sabbath, I commanded that the doors should be shut, and commanded that they should not be opened until after the Sabbath. I set some of my servants over the gates, that no burden should be brought in on the Sabbath day.

20 So the merchants and sellers of all kinds of wares lodged outside of Jerusalem once or twice.

21 Then I testified against them, and said to them, "Why do you stay around the wall? If you do so again, I will lay hands on you." From that time on, they didn't come on the Sabbath.

22 I commanded the Levites that they should purify themselves, and that they should come and keep the gates, to sanctify the Sabbath day. Remember to me, my ELOHIM, this also, and spare me according to the greatness of your loving kindness.

23 In those days also saw I the Jews who had married women of Ashdod, of Ammon, and of Moab:

24 and their children spoke half in the speech of Ashdod, and could not speak in the Jews' language, but according to the language of each people.

25 I contended with them, and cursed them, and struck certain of them, and plucked off their hair, and made them swear by ELOHIM, "You shall not give your daughters to their sons, nor take their daughters for your sons, or for yourselves.

26 Didn't Solomon king of Israel sin by these things? Yet among many nations was there no king like him, and he was beloved of his ELOHIM, and ELOHIM made him king over all Israel. Nevertheless foreign women caused even him to sin.

27 Shall we then listen to you to do all this great evil, to trespass against our ELOHIM in marrying foreign women?"

28 One of the sons of Joiada, the son of Eliashib the high priest, was son-in-law to Sanballat the Horonite: therefore I chased him from me.

29 Remember them, my ELOHIM, because they have defiled the priesthood, and the covenant of the priesthood, and of the Levites.

30 Thus I cleansed them from all foreigners, and appointed duties for the priests and for the Levites, everyone in his work;

31 and for the wood offering, at times appointed, and for the first fruits. Remember me, my ELOHIM, for good.

Psalms 104:24-35.

24 YAHWEH, how many are your works! In wisdom have you made them all. The earth is full of your riches.

25 There is the sea, great and wide, in which are innumerable living things, both small and large animals.

26 There the ships go, and leviathan, whom you formed to play there.

27 These all wait for you, that you may give them their food in due season.

28 You give to them; they gather. You open your hand; they are satisfied with good.

29 You hide your face: they are troubled; you take away their breath: they die, and return to the dust.

30 You send forth your Spirit: they are created. You renew the face of the ground.

31 Let the glory of YAHWEH endure forever. Let YAHWEH rejoice in his works.

32 He looks at the earth, and it trembles. He touches the mountains, and they smoke.

33 I will sing to YAHWEH as long as I live. I will sing praise to my ELOHIM while I have any being.

34 Let your meditation be sweet to him. I will rejoice in YAHWEH!

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35 Let sinners be consumed out of the earth. Let the wicked be no more. Bless YAHWEH, my soul. Praise YAH!

Proverbs 25.

- 1 These also are proverbs of Solomon, which the men of Hezekiah king of Judah copied out.
- 2 It is the glory of ELOHIM to conceal a thing, but the glory of kings is to search out a matter.
- 3 As the heavens for height, and the earth for depth, so the hearts of kings are unsearchable.
- 4 Take away the dross from the silver, and material comes out for the refiner;
- 5 Take away the wicked from the king's presence, and his throne will be established in righteousness.
- 6 Don't exalt yourself in the presence of the king, or claim a place among great men;
- 7 for it is better that it be said to you, "Come up here," than that you should be put lower in the presence of the prince, whom your eyes have seen.
- 8 Don't be hasty in bringing charges to court. What will you do in the end when your neighbor shames you?
- 9 Debate your case with your neighbor, and don't betray the confidence of another;
- 10 lest one who hears it put you to shame, and your bad reputation never depart.
- 11 A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver.
- 12 As an earring of gold, and an ornament of fine gold, so is a wise reprover to an obedient ear.
- 13 As the cold of snow in the time of harvest, so is a faithful messenger to those who send him; for he refreshes the soul of his masters.
- 14 As clouds and wind without rain, so is he who boasts of gifts deceptively.
- 15 By patience a ruler is persuaded. A soft tongue breaks the bone.
- 16 Have you found honey? Eat as much as is sufficient for you, lest you eat too much, and vomit it.
- 17 Let your foot be seldom in your neighbor's house, lest he be weary of you, and hate you.
- 18 A man who gives false testimony against his neighbor is like a club, a sword, or a sharp arrow.
- 19 Confidence in someone unfaithful in time of trouble is like a bad tooth, or a lame foot.
- 20 As one who takes away a garment in cold weather, or vinegar on soda, so is one who sings songs to a heavy heart.
- 21 If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat. If he is thirsty, give him water to drink:
- 22 for you will heap coals of fire on his head, and YAHWEH will reward you.
- 23 The north wind brings forth rain: so a backbiting tongue brings an angry face.
- 24 It is better to dwell in the corner of the housetop, than to share a house with a contentious woman.
- 25 Like cold water to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country.
- 26 Like a muddied spring, and a polluted well, so is a righteous man who gives way before the wicked.
- 27 It is not good to eat much honey; nor is it honorable to seek one's own honor.
- 28 Like a city that is broken down and without walls is a man whose spirit is without restraint.

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

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285. 11-October Daily Reading (Prophets and Writings).

Esther 1.

1 . The King Dethrones Queen Vashti. . Esther!

Now it happened in the days of Ahasuerus (this is Ahasuerus who reigned from India even to Ethiopia, over one hundred twenty-seven provinces),

2 that in those days, when the King Ahasuerus sat on the throne of his kingdom, which was in Shushan the palace,

3 in the third year of his reign, he made a feast for all his princes and his servants; the power of Persia and Media, the nobles and princes of the provinces, being before him.

4 He displayed the riches of his glorious kingdom and the honor of his excellent majesty many days, even one hundred eighty days.

5 When these days were fulfilled, the king made a seven day feast for all the people who were present in Shushan the palace, both great and small, in the court of the garden of the king's palace.

6 There were hangings of white, green, and blue material, fastened with cords of fine linen and purple to silver rings and marble pillars. The couches were of gold and silver, on a pavement of red, white, yellow, and black marble.

7 They gave them drinks in golden vessels of various kinds, including royal wine in abundance, according to the bounty of the king.

8 In accordance with the decree, the drinking was not compulsory; for so the king had instructed all the officials of his house, that they should do according to every man's pleasure.

9 Also Vashti the queen made a feast for the women in the royal house which belonged to King Ahasuerus.

10 On the seventh day, when the heart of the king was merry with wine, he commanded Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha, and Abagtha, Zethar, and Carcass, the seven eunuchs who served in the presence of Ahasuerus the king,

11 to bring Vashti the queen before the king with the royal crown, to show the people and the princes her beauty; for she was beautiful.

12 But the queen Vashti refused to come at the king's commandment by the eunuchs. Therefore the king was very angry, and his anger burned in him.

13 Then the king said to the wise men, who knew the times, (for it was the king's custom to consult those who knew decree and judgment;

14 and the next to him were Carshena, Shethar, Admatha, Tarshish, Meres, Marsena, and Memucan, the seven princes of Persia and Media, who saw the king's face, and sat first in the kingdom),

15 "What shall we do to the queen Vashti according to decree, because she has not done the bidding of the King Ahasuerus by the eunuchs?"

16 Memucan answered before the king and the princes, "Vashti the queen has not done wrong to just the king, but also to all the princes, and to all the people who are in all the provinces of the King Ahasuerus.

17 For this deed of the queen will become known to all women, causing them to show contempt for their husbands, when it is reported, 'King Ahasuerus commanded Vashti the queen to be brought in before him, but she didn't come.'

18 Today, the princesses of Persia and Media who have heard of the queen's deed will tell all the king's princes. This will cause much contempt and wrath.

19 "If it please the king, let a royal commandment go from him, and let it be written among the laws of the Persians and the Medes, so that it cannot be altered, that Vashti may never again come before King Ahasuerus; and let the king give her royal estate to

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another who is better than she.

20 When the king's decree which he shall make is published throughout all his kingdom (for it is great), all the wives will give their husbands honor, both great and small."

21 This advice pleased the king and the princes, and the king did according to the word of Memucan:

22 for he sent letters into all the king's provinces, into every province according to its writing, and to every people in their language, that every man should rule his own house, speaking in the language of his own people.

Psalms 105:1-25.

1 . The Eternal Faithfulness of YAHWEH. .

Give thanks to YAHWEH! Call on his name! Make his doings known among the peoples.

2 Sing to him, sing praises to him! Tell of all his marvelous works.

3 Glory in his holy name. Let the heart of those who seek YAHWEH rejoice.

4 Seek YAHWEH and his strength. Seek his face forever more.

5 Remember his marvelous works that he has done; his wonders, and the judgments of his mouth,

6 you seed of Abraham, his servant, you children of Jacob, his chosen ones.

7 He is YAHWEH, our ELOHIM! His judgments are in all the earth.

8 He has remembered his covenant forever, the word which he commanded to a thousand generations,

9 the covenant which he made with Abraham, his oath to Isaac,

10 and confirmed the same to Jacob for a statute; to Israel for an everlasting covenant,

11 saying, "To you I will give the land of Canaan, the lot of your inheritance;"

12 when they were but a few men in number, yes, very few, and foreigners in it.

13 They went about from nation to nation, from one kingdom to another people.

14 He allowed no one to do them wrong. Yes, he reprov'd kings for their sakes,

15 "Don't touch my anointed ones! Do my prophets no harm!"

16 He called for a famine on the land. He destroyed the food supplies.

17 He sent a man before them. Joseph was sold for a slave.

18 They bruised his feet with shackles. His neck was locked in irons,

19 until the time that his word happened, and YAHWEH's word proved him true.

20 The king sent and freed him; even the ruler of peoples, and let him go free.

21 He made him master of his house, and ruler of all of his possessions;

22 to discipline his princes at his pleasure, and to teach his elders wisdom.

23 Israel also came into Egypt. Jacob lived in the land of Ham.

24 He increased his people greatly, and made them stronger than their adversaries.

25 He turned their heart to hate his people, to conspire against his servants.

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.

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- 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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Esther 2.

1 . Esther Becomes Queen. .

After these things, when the wrath of King Ahasuerus was pacified, he remembered Vashti, and what she had done, and what was decreed against her.

2 Then the king's servants who served him said, "Let beautiful young virgins be sought for the king.

3 Let the king appoint officers in all the provinces of his kingdom, that they may gather together all the beautiful young virgins to the citadel of Susa, to the women's house, to the custody of Hegai the king's eunuch, keeper of the women. Let cosmetics be given them;

4 and let the maiden who pleases the king be queen instead of Vashti." The thing pleased the king, and he did so.

5 There was a certain Jew in the citadel of Susa, whose name was Mordecai, the son of Jair, the son of Shimei, the son of Kish, a Benjamite,

6 who had been carried away from Jerusalem with the captives who had been carried away with Jeconiah king of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away.

7 He brought up Hadassah, that is, Esther, his uncle's daughter; for she had neither father nor mother. The maiden was fair and beautiful; and when her father and mother were dead, Mordecai took her for his own daughter.

8 So it happened, when the king's commandment and his decree was heard, and when many maidens were gathered together to the citadel of Susa, to the custody of Hegai, that Esther was taken into the king's house, to the custody of Hegai, keeper of the women.

9 The maiden pleased him, and she obtained kindness from him. He quickly gave her cosmetics and her portions of food, and the seven choice maidens who were to be given her out of the king's house. He moved her and her maidens to the best place in the women's house.

10 Esther had not made known her people nor her relatives, because Mordecai had instructed her that she should not make it known.

11 Mordecai walked every day in front of the court of the women's house, to find out how Esther was doing, and what would become of her.

12 Each young woman's turn came to go in to King Ahasuerus after her purification for twelve months (for so were the days of their purification accomplished, six months with oil of myrrh, and six months with sweet fragrances and with preparations for beautifying women).

13 The young woman then came to the king like this: whatever she desired was given her to go with her out of the women's house to the king's house.

14 In the evening she went, and on the next day she returned into the second women's house, to the custody of Shaashgaz, the king's eunuch, who kept the concubines. She came in to the king no more, unless the king delighted in her, and she was called by name.

15 Now when the turn of Esther, the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai, who had taken her for his daughter, came to go in to the king, she required nothing but what Hegai the king's eunuch, the keeper of the women, advised. Esther obtained favor in the sight of all those who looked at her.

16 So Esther was taken to King Ahasuerus into his royal house in the tenth month, which is the month Tebeth, in the seventh year of his reign.

17 The king loved Esther more than all the women, and she obtained favor and kindness

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in his sight more than all the virgins; so that he set the royal crown on her head, and made her queen instead of Vashti.

18 Then the king made a great feast for all his princes and his servants, even Esther's feast; and he proclaimed a holiday in the provinces, and gave gifts according to the king's bounty.

19 . Mordecai Discovers a Plot. .

When the virgins were gathered together the second time, Mordecai was sitting in the king's gate.

20 Esther had not yet made known her relatives nor her people, as Mordecai had commanded her; for Esther obeyed Mordecai, like she did when she was brought up by him.

21 In those days, while Mordecai was sitting in the king's gate, two of the king's eunuchs, Bigthan and Teresh, who were doorkeepers, were angry, and sought to lay hands on the King Ahasuerus.

22 This thing became known to Mordecai, who informed Esther the queen; and Esther informed the king in Mordecai's name.

23 When this matter was investigated, and it was found to be so, they were both hanged on a tree; and it was written in the book of the chronicles in the king's presence.

Psalms 105:26-45.

26 He sent Moses, his servant, and Aaron, whom he had chosen.

27 They performed miracles among them, and wonders in the land of Ham.

28 He sent darkness, and made it dark. They didn't rebel against his words.

29 He turned their waters into blood, and killed their fish.

30 Their land swarmed with frogs, even in the rooms of their kings.

31 He spoke, and swarms of flies came, and lice in all their borders.

32 He gave them hail for rain, with lightning in their land.

33 He struck their vines and also their fig trees, and shattered the trees of their country.

34 He spoke, and the locusts came, and the grasshoppers, without number,

35 ate up every plant in their land; and ate up the fruit of their ground.

36 He struck also all the firstborn in their land, the first fruits of all their manhood.

37 He brought them forth with silver and gold. There was not one feeble person among his tribes.

38 Egypt was glad when they departed, for the fear of them had fallen on them.

39 He spread a cloud for a covering, fire to give light in the night.

40 They asked, and he brought quails, and satisfied them with the bread of the sky.

41 He opened the rock, and waters gushed out. They ran as a river in the dry places.

42 For he remembered his holy word, and Abraham, his servant.

43 He brought forth his people with joy, his chosen with singing.

44 He gave them the lands of the nations. They took the labor of the peoples in possession,

45 that they might keep his statutes, and observe his Torah (teachings and instructions).
Praise YAH!

Proverbs 27.

1 Don't boast about tomorrow; for you don't know what a day may bring forth.

2 Let another man praise you, and not your own mouth; a stranger, and not your own

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lips.

3 A stone is heavy, and sand is a burden; but a fool's provocation is heavier than both.

4 Wrath is cruel, and anger is overwhelming; but who is able to stand before jealousy?

5 Better is open rebuke than hidden love.

6 Faithful are the wounds of a friend; although the kisses of an enemy are profuse.

7 A full soul loathes a honeycomb; but to a hungry soul, every bitter thing is sweet.

8 As a bird that wanders from her nest, so is a man who wanders from his home.

9 Perfume and incense bring joy to the heart; so does earnest counsel from a man's friend.

10 Don't forsake your friend and your father's friend. Don't go to your brother's house in the day of your disaster: better is a neighbor who is near than a distant brother.

11 Be wise, my son, and bring joy to my heart, then I can answer my tormentor.

12 A prudent man sees danger and takes refuge; but the simple pass on, and suffer for it.

13 Take his garment when he puts up collateral for a stranger. Hold it for a wayward woman!

14 He who blesses his neighbor with a loud voice early in the morning, it will be taken as a curse by him.

15 A continual dropping on a rainy day and a contentious wife are alike:

16 restraining her is like restraining the wind, or like grasping oil in his right hand.

17 Iron sharpens iron; so a man sharpens his friend's countenance.

18 Whoever tends the fig tree shall eat its fruit. He who looks after his master shall be honored.

19 As water reflects a face, so a man's heart reflects the man.

20 Sheol and Abaddon are never satisfied; and a man's eyes are never satisfied.

21 The crucible is for silver, and the furnace for gold; but man is refined by his praise.

22 Though you grind a fool in a mortar with a pestle along with grain, yet his foolishness will not be removed from him.

23 Know well the state of your flocks, and pay attention to your herds:

24 for riches are not forever, nor does even the crown endure to all generations.

25 The hay is removed, and the new growth appears, the grasses of the hills are gathered in.

26 The lambs are for your clothing, and the goats are the price of a field.

27 There will be plenty of goats' milk for your food, for your family's food, and for the nourishment of your servant girls.

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

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Esther 3.

1 . Haman's Conspiracy Against the Jews. .

After these things King Ahasuerus promoted Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, and advanced him, and set his seat above all the princes who were with him.

2 All the king's servants who were in the king's gate bowed down, and paid homage to Haman; for the king had so commanded concerning him. But Mordecai didn't bow down or pay him homage.

3 Then the king's servants, who were in the king's gate, said to Mordecai, "Why do you disobey the king's commandment?"

4 Now it came to pass, when they spoke daily to him, and he didn't listen to them, that they told Haman, to see whether Mordecai's reason would stand; for he had told them that he was a Jew.

5 When Haman saw that Mordecai didn't bow down, nor pay him homage, Haman was full of wrath.

6 But he scorned the thought of laying hands on Mordecai alone, for they had made known to him Mordecai's people. Therefore Haman sought to destroy all the Jews who were throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus, even Mordecai's people.

7 In the first month, which is the month Nisan, in the twelfth year of King Ahasuerus, they cast Pur, that is, the lot, before Haman from day to day, and from month to month, and chose the twelfth month, which is the month Adar.

8 Haman said to King Ahasuerus, "There is a certain people scattered abroad and dispersed among the peoples in all the provinces of your kingdom, and their laws are different than other people's. They don't keep the king's laws. Therefore it is not for the king's profit to allow them to remain.

9 If it pleases the king, let it be written that they be destroyed; and I will pay ten thousand talents of silver into the hands of those who are in charge of the king's business, to bring it into the king's treasuries."

10 The king took his ring from his hand, and gave it to Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the Jews' enemy.

11 The king said to Haman, "The silver is given to you, the people also, to do with them as it seems good to you."

12 Then the king's scribes were called in on the first month, on the thirteenth day of the month; and all that Haman commanded was written to the king's satraps, and to the governors who were over every province, and to the princes of every people, to every province according its writing, and to every people in their language. It was written in the name of King Ahasuerus, and it was sealed with the king's ring.

13 Letters were sent by couriers into all the king's provinces, to destroy, to kill, and to cause to perish, all Jews, both young and old, little children and women, in one day, even on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month Adar, and to plunder their possessions.

14 A copy of the letter, that the decree should be given out in every province, was published to all the peoples, that they should be ready against that day.

15 The couriers went forth in haste by the king's commandment, and the decree was given out in the citadel of Susa. The king and Haman sat down to drink; but the city of Shushan was perplexed.

Esther 4.

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1 **. Esther Agrees to Help the Jews. .**

Now when Mordecai found out all that was done, Mordecai tore his clothes, and put on sackcloth with ashes, and went out into the midst of the city, and wailed loudly and a bitterly.

2 He came even before the king's gate, for no one is allowed inside the king's gate clothed with sackcloth.

3 In every province, wherever the king's commandment and his decree came, there was great mourning among the Jews, and fasting, and weeping, and wailing; and many lay in sackcloth and ashes.

4 Esther's maidens and her eunuchs came and told her this, and the queen was exceedingly grieved. She sent clothing to Mordecai, to replace his sackcloth; but he didn't receive it.

5 Then Esther called for Hathach, one of the king's eunuchs, whom he had appointed to attend her, and commanded him to go to Mordecai, to find out what this was, and why it was.

6 So Hathach went out to Mordecai, to city square which was before the king's gate.

7 Mordecai told him of all that had happened to him, and the exact sum of the money that Haman had promised to pay to the king's treasuries for the destruction of the Jews.

8 He also gave him the copy of the writing of the decree that was given out in Shushan to destroy them, to show it to Esther, and to declare it to her, and to urge her to go in to the king, to make supplication to him, and to make request before him, for her people.

9 Hathach came and told Esther the words of Mordecai.

10 Then Esther spoke to Hathach, and gave him a message to Mordecai:

11 "All the king's servants, and the people of the king's provinces, know, that whoever, whether man or woman, comes to the king into the inner court without being called, there is one decree for him, that he be put to death, except those to whom the king might hold out the golden scepter, that he may live. I have not been called to come in to the king these thirty days."

12 They told to Mordecai Esther's words.

13 Then Mordecai asked them return answer to Esther, "Don't think to yourself that you will escape in the king's house any more than all the Jews.

14 For if you remain silent now, then relief and deliverance will come to the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. Who knows if you haven't come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

15 Then Esther asked them to answer Mordecai,

16 "Go, gather together all the Jews who are present in Shushan, and fast for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day. I and my maidens will also fast the same way. Then I will go in to the king, which is against the decree; and if I perish, I perish."

17 So Mordecai went his way, and did according to all that Esther had commanded him.

Psalms 106:1-23.

1 **. Joy in Forgiveness of Israel's Sins. .**

Praise YAH! Give thanks to YAHWEH, for he is good, for his loving kindness endures forever.

2 Who can utter the mighty acts of YAHWEH, or fully declare all his praise?

3 Blessed are those who keep justice. Blessed is one who does what is right at all times.

4 Remember me, YAHWEH, with the favor that you show to your people. Visit me with your salvation,

5 that I may see the prosperity of your chosen, that I may rejoice in the gladness of your nation, that I may glory with your inheritance.

10-16 Oct Daily Reading (Prophets and Writings).

- 6 We have sinned with our fathers. We have committed iniquity. We have done wickedly.
- 7 Our fathers didn't understand your wonders in Egypt. They didn't remember the multitude of your loving kindnesses, but were rebellious at the sea, even at the Sea of Suf.
- 8 Nevertheless he saved them for his name's sake, that he might make his mighty power known.
- 9 He rebuked the Sea of Suf also, and it was dried up; so he led them through the depths, as through a desert.
- 10 He saved them from the hand of him who hated them, and redeemed them from the hand of the enemy.
- 11 The waters covered their adversaries. There was not one of them left.
- 12 Then they believed his words. They sang his praise.
- 13 They soon forgot his works. They didn't wait for his counsel,
- 14 but gave in to craving in the desert, and tested EL in the wasteland.
- 15 He gave them their request, but sent leanness into their soul.
- 16 They envied Moses also in the camp, and Aaron, YAHWEH's holy one.
- 17 The earth opened and swallowed up Dathan, and covered the company of Abiram.
- 18 A fire was kindled in their company. The flame burned up the wicked.
- 19 They made a calf in Horeb, and worshiped a molten image.
- 20 Thus they exchanged their glory for an image of a bull that eats grass.
- 21 They forgot EL, their Savior, who had done great things in Egypt,
- 22 Wondrous works in the land of Ham, and awesome things by the Sea of Suf.
- 23 Therefore he said that he would destroy them, had Moses, his chosen, not stood before him in the breach, to turn away his wrath, so that he wouldn't destroy them.

Proverbs 28.

- 1 The wicked flee when no one pursues; but the righteous are as bold as a lion.
- 2 In rebellion, a land has many rulers, but order is maintained by a man of understanding and knowledge.
- 3 A needy man who oppresses the poor is like a driving rain which leaves no crops.
- 4 Those who forsake the Torah praise the wicked; but those who keep the Torah contend with them.
- 5 Evil men don't understand justice; but those who seek YAHWEH understand it fully.
- 6 Better is the poor who walks in his integrity, than he who is perverse in his ways, and he is rich.
- 7 Whoever keeps the Torah is a wise son; but he who is a companion of gluttons shames his father.
- 8 He who increases his wealth by excessive interest gathers it for one who has pity on the poor.
- 9 He who turns away his ear from hearing the Torah, even his prayer is an abomination.
- 10 Whoever causes the upright to go astray in an evil way, he will fall into his own trap; but the blameless will inherit good.
- 11 The rich man is wise in his own eyes; but the poor who has understanding sees through him.
- 12 When the righteous triumph, there is great glory; but when the wicked rise, men hide themselves.
- 13 He who conceals his sins doesn't prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.
- 14 Blessed is the man who always fears; but one who hardens his heart falls into trouble.

10-16 Oct Daily Reading (Prophets and Writings).

- 15 As a roaring lion or a charging bear, so is a wicked ruler over helpless people.
- 16 A tyrannical ruler lacks judgment. One who hates ill-gotten gain will have long days.
- 17 A man who is tormented by life blood will be a fugitive until death; no one will support him.
- 18 Whoever walks blamelessly is kept safe; but one with perverse ways will fall suddenly.
- 19 One who works his land will have an abundance of food; but one who chases fantasies will have his fill of poverty.
- 20 A faithful man is rich with blessings; but one who is eager to be rich will not go unpunished.
- 21 To show partiality is not good; yet a man will do wrong for a piece of bread.
- 22 A stingy man hurries after riches, and doesn't know that poverty waits for him.
- 23 One who rebukes a man will afterward find more favor than one who flatters with the tongue.
- 24 Whoever robs his father or his mother, and says, "It's not wrong." He is a partner with a destroyer.
- 25 One who is greedy stirs up strife; but one who trusts in YAHWEH will prosper.
- 26 One who trusts in himself is a fool; but one who walks in wisdom is kept safe.
- 27 One who gives to the poor has no lack; but one who closes his eyes will have many curses.
- 28 When the wicked rise, men hide themselves; but when they perish, the righteous thrive.

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10-16 Oct Daily Reading (Prophets and Writings).

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Esther 5.

1 . Esther's Banquet. .

Now it happened on the third day that Esther put on her royal clothing, and stood in the inner court of the king's house, next to the king's house. The king sat on his royal throne in the royal house, next to the entrance of the house.

2 When the king saw Esther the queen standing in the court, she obtained favor in his sight; and the king held out to Esther the golden scepter that was in his hand. So Esther came near, and touched the top of the scepter.

3 Then the king asked her, "What would you like, queen Esther? What is your request? It shall be given you even to the half of the kingdom."

4 Esther said, "If it seems good to the king, let the king and Haman come today to the banquet that I have prepared for him."

5 Then the king said, "Bring Haman quickly, so that it may be done as Esther has said." So the king and Haman came to the banquet that Esther had prepared.

6 The king said to Esther at the banquet of wine, "What is your petition? It shall be granted you. What is your request? Even to the half of the kingdom it shall be performed."

7 Then Esther answered and said, "My petition and my request is this.

8 If I have found favor in the sight of the king, and if it please the king to grant my petition and to perform my request, let the king and Haman come to the banquet that I will prepare for them, and I will do tomorrow as the king has said."

9 . Haman's Plot Against Mordecai. .

Then Haman went out that day joyful and glad of heart, but when Haman saw Mordecai in the king's gate, that he didn't stand up nor move for him, he was filled with wrath against Mordecai.

10 Nevertheless Haman restrained himself, and went home. There, he sent and called for his friends and Zeresh his wife.

11 Haman recounted to them the glory of his riches, the multitude of his children, all the things in which the king had promoted him, and how he had advanced him above the princes and servants of the king.

12 Haman also said, "Yes, Esther the queen let no man come in with the king to the banquet that she had prepared but myself; and tomorrow I am also invited by her together with the king.

13 Yet all this avails me nothing, so long as I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king's gate."

14 Then Zeresh his wife and all his friends said to him, "Let a gallows be made fifty cubits high, and in the morning speak to the king about hanging Mordecai on it. Then go in merrily with the king to the banquet." This pleased Haman, so he had the gallows made.

Esther 6.

1 . The King Honors Mordecai. .

On that night, the king couldn't sleep. He commanded the book of records of the chronicles to be brought, and they were read to the king.

2 It was found written that Mordecai had told of Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's eunuchs, who were doorkeepers, who had tried to lay hands on the King Ahasuerus.

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- 3 The king said, "What honor and dignity has been bestowed on Mordecai for this?" Then the king's servants who attended him said, "Nothing has been done for him."
- 4 The king said, "Who is in the court?" Now Haman had come into the outer court of the king's house, to speak to the king about hanging Mordecai on the gallows that he had prepared for him.
- 5 The king's servants said to him, "Behold, Haman stands in the court." The king said, "Let him come in."
- 6 So Haman came in. The king said to him, "What shall be done to the man whom the king delights to honor?" Now Haman said in his heart, "Who would the king delight to honor more than myself?"
- 7 Haman said to the king, "For the man whom the king delights to honor,
- 8 let royal clothing be brought which the king uses to wear, and the horse that the king rides on, and on the head of which a crown royal is set.
- 9 Let the clothing and the horse be delivered to the hand of one of the king's most noble princes, that they may array the man whom the king delights to honor with them, and have him ride on horseback through the city square, and proclaim before him, "Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delights to honor!"
- 10 Then the king said to Haman, "Hurry and take the clothing and the horse, as you have said, and do this for Mordecai the Jew, who sits at the king's gate. Let nothing fail of all that you have spoken."
- 11 Then Haman took the clothing and the horse, and arrayed Mordecai, and had him ride through the city square, and proclaimed before him, "Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delights to honor!"
- 12 Mordecai came back to the king's gate, but Haman hurried to his house, mourning and having his head covered.
- 13 Haman recounted to Zeresh his wife and all his friends everything that had happened to him. Then his wise men and Zeresh his wife said to him, "If Mordecai, before whom you have begun to fall, is of Jewish descent, you will not prevail against him, but you will surely fall before him."
- 14 While they were yet talking with him, the king's eunuchs came, and hurried to bring Haman to the banquet that Esther had prepared.

Psalms 106:24-48.

- 24 Yes, they despised the pleasant land. They didn't believe his word,
- 25 but murmured in their tents, and didn't listen to YAHWEH's voice.
- 26 Therefore he swore to them that he would overthrow them in the wilderness,
- 27 that he would overthrow their seed among the nations, and scatter them in the lands.
- 28 They joined themselves also to Baal Peor, and ate the sacrifices of the dead.
- 29 Thus they provoked him to anger with their deeds. The plague broke in on them.
- 30 Then Phinehas stood up, and executed judgment, so the plague was stopped.
- 31 That was credited to him for righteousness, for all generations to come.
- 32 They angered him also at the waters of Meribah, so that Moses was troubled for their sakes;
- 33 because they were rebellious against his spirit, he spoke rashly with his lips.
- 34 They didn't destroy the peoples, as YAHWEH commanded them,
- 35 but mixed themselves with the nations, and learned their works.
- 36 They served their idols, which became a snare to them.
- 37 Yes, they sacrificed their sons and their daughters to demons.
- 38 They shed innocent blood, even the blood of their sons and of their daughters, whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan. The land was polluted with blood.

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39 Thus were they defiled with their works, and prostituted themselves in their deeds.
40 Therefore YAHWEH burned with anger against his people. He abhorred his inheritance.
41 He gave them into the hand of the nations. Those who hated them ruled over them.
42 Their enemies also oppressed them. They were brought into subjection under their hand.
43 Many times he delivered them, but they were rebellious in their counsel, and were brought low in their iniquity.
44 Nevertheless he regarded their distress, when he heard their cry.
45 He remembered for them his covenant, and repented according to the multitude of his loving kindnesses.
46 He made them also to be pitied by all those who carried them captive.
47 Save us, YAHWEH, our ELOHIM, gather us from among the nations, to give thanks to your holy name, to triumph in your praise!
48 Blessed be YAHWEH, the ELOHIM of Israel, from everlasting even to everlasting! Let all the people say, "Amen." Praise YAH! BOOK V

Proverbs 29.

1 He who is often rebuked and stiffens his neck will be destroyed suddenly, with no remedy.
2 When the righteous thrive, the people rejoice; but when the wicked rule, the people groan.
3 Whoever loves wisdom brings joy to his father; but a companion of prostitutes squanders his wealth.
4 The king by justice makes the land stable, but he who takes bribes tears it down.
5 A man who flatters his neighbor spreads a net for his feet.
6 An evil man is snared by his sin, but the righteous can sing and be glad.
7 The righteous care about justice for the poor. The wicked aren't concerned about knowledge.
8 Mockers stir up a city, but wise men turn away anger.
9 If a wise man goes to court with a foolish man, the fool rages or scoffs, and there is no peace.
10 The bloodthirsty hate a man of integrity; and they seek the life of the upright.
11 A fool vents all of his anger, but a wise man brings himself under control.
12 If a ruler listens to lies, all of his officials are wicked.
13 The poor man and the oppressor have this in common: YAHWEH gives sight to the eyes of both.
14 The king who fairly judges the poor, his throne shall be established forever.
15 The rod of correction gives wisdom, but a child left to himself causes shame to his mother.
16 When the wicked increase, sin increases; but the righteous will see their downfall.
17 Correct your son, and he will give you peace; yes, he will bring delight to your soul.
18 Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; but one who keeps the Torah is blessed.
19 A servant can't be corrected by words. Though he understands, yet he will not respond.
20 Do you see a man who is hasty in his words? There is more hope for a fool than for him.
21 He who pampers his servant from youth will have him become a son in the end.
22 An angry man stirs up strife, and a wrathful man abounds in sin.

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23 A man's pride brings him low, but one of lowly spirit gains honor.

24 Whoever is an accomplice of a thief is an enemy of his own soul. He takes an oath, but dares not testify.

25 The fear of man proves to be a snare, but whoever puts his trust in YAHWEH is kept safe.

26 Many seek the ruler's favor, but a man's justice comes from YAHWEH!

27 A dishonest man detests the righteous, and the upright in their ways detest the wicked.

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Esther 7.

1 . Haman Hanged Instead of Mordecai.

So the king and Haman came to banquet with Esther the queen.

2 The king said again to Esther on the second day at the banquet of wine, "What is your petition, queen Esther? It shall be granted you. What is your request? Even to the half of the kingdom it shall be performed."

3 Then Esther the queen answered, "If I have found favor in your sight, O king, and if it please the king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request.

4 For we are sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be slain, and to perish. But if we had been sold for bondservants and bondmaids, I would have held my peace, although the adversary could not have compensated for the king's loss."

5 Then King Ahasuerus said to Esther the queen, "Who is he, and where is he who dared presume in his heart to do so?"

6 Esther said, "An adversary and an enemy, even this wicked Haman!" Then Haman was afraid before the king and the queen.

7 The king arose in his wrath from the banquet of wine and went into the palace garden. Haman stood up to make request for his life to Esther the queen; for he saw that there was evil determined against him by the king.

8 Then the king returned out of the palace garden into the place of the banquet of wine; and Haman had fallen on the couch where Esther was. Then the king said, "Will he even assault the queen in front of me in the house?" As the word went out of the king's mouth, they covered Haman's face.

9 Then Harbonah, one of the eunuchs who were with the king said, "Behold, the gallows fifty cubits high, which Haman has made for Mordecai, who spoke good for the king, is standing at Haman's house." The king said, "Hang him on it!"

10 So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then was the king's wrath pacified.

Esther 8.

1 . Esther Saves the Jews.

On that day, King Ahasuerus gave the house of Haman, the Jews' enemy, to Esther the queen. Mordecai came before the king; for Esther had told what he was to her.

2 The king took off his ring, which he had taken from Haman, and gave it to Mordecai. Esther set Mordecai over the house of Haman.

3 Esther spoke yet again before the king, and fell down at his feet, and begged him with tears to put away the mischief of Haman the Agagite, and his device that he had devised against the Jews.

4 Then the king held out to Esther the golden scepter. So Esther arose, and stood before the king.

5 She said, "If it pleases the king, and if I have found favor in his sight, and the thing seem right to the king, and I am pleasing in his eyes, let it be written to reverse the letters devised by Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, which he wrote to destroy the Jews who are in all the king's provinces.

6 For how can I endure to see the evil that would come to my people? How can I endure to see the destruction of my relatives?"

7 Then King Ahasuerus said to Esther the queen and to Mordecai the Jew, "See, I have given Esther the house of Haman, and him they have hanged on the gallows, because he

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laid his hand on the Jews.

8 Write also to the Jews, as it pleases you, in the king's name, and seal it with the king's ring; for the writing which is written in the king's name, and sealed with the king's ring, may not be reversed by any man."

9 Then the king's scribes were called at that time, in the third month Sivan, on the twenty-third day of the month; and it was written according to all that Mordecai commanded to the Jews, and to the satraps, and the governors and princes of the provinces which are from India to Ethiopia, one hundred twenty-seven provinces, to every province according to its writing, and to every people in their language, and to the Jews in their writing, and in their language.

10 He wrote in the name of King Ahasuerus, and sealed it with the king's ring, and sent letters by courier on horseback, riding on royal horses that were bred from swift steeds.

11 In those letters, the king granted the Jews who were in every city to gather themselves together, and to defend their life, to destroy, to kill, and to cause to perish, all the power of the people and province that would assault them, their little ones and women, and to plunder their possessions,

12 on one day in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month Adar.

13 A copy of the letter, that the decree should be given out in every province, was published to all the peoples, that the Jews should be ready for that day to avenge themselves on their enemies.

14 So the couriers who rode on royal horses went out, hastened and pressed on by the king's commandment. The decree was given out in the citadel of Susa.

15 Mordecai went out of the presence of the king in royal clothing of blue and white, and with a great crown of gold, and with a robe of fine linen and purple; and the city of Susa shouted and was glad.

16 The Jews had light, gladness, joy, and honor.

17 In every province, and in every city, wherever the king's commandment and his decree came, the Jews had gladness, joy, a feast, and a good day. Many from among the peoples of the land became Jews; for the fear of the Jews was fallen on them.

Psalms 107:1-22.

1 . Thanksgiving to YAHWEH for His Great Works of Deliverance. .

Give thanks to YAHWEH, for he is good, for his loving kindness endures forever.

2 Let the redeemed by YAHWEH say so, whom he has redeemed from the hand of the adversary,

3 And gathered out of the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

4 They wandered in the wilderness in a desert way. They found no city to live in.

5 Hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted in them.

6 Then they cried to YAHWEH in their trouble, and he delivered them out of their distresses,

7 he led them also by a straight way, that they might go to a city to live in.

8 Let them praise YAHWEH for his loving kindness, for his wonderful works to the children of men!

9 For he satisfies the longing soul. He fills the hungry soul with good.

10 Some sat in darkness and in the shadow of death, being bound in affliction and iron,

11 because they rebelled against the words of EL, and condemned the counsel of the Most High.

12 Therefore he brought down their heart with labor. They fell down, and there was

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none to help.

13 Then they cried to YAHWEH in their trouble, and he saved them out of their distresses.

14 He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death, and broke their bonds in sunder.

15 Let them praise YAHWEH for his loving kindness, for his wonderful works to the children of men!

16 For he has broken the gates of brass, and cut through bars of iron.

17 Fools are afflicted because of their disobedience, and because of their iniquities.

18 Their soul abhors all kinds of food. They draw near to the gates of death.

19 Then they cry to YAHWEH in their trouble, he saves them out of their distresses.

20 He sends his word, and heals them, and delivers them from their graves.

21 Let them praise YAHWEH for his loving kindness, for his wonderful works to the children of men!

22 Let them offer the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare his works with singing.

Proverbs 30.

1 . **The Wisdom of Agur.** .

The words of Agur the son of Jakeh, the oracle: the man says to Ithiel, to Ithiel and Ucal:

2 “Surely I am the most ignorant man, and don’t have a man’s understanding.

3 I have not learned wisdom, neither do I have the knowledge of the Holy One.

4 Who has ascended up into heaven, and descended? Who has gathered the wind in his fists? Who has bound the waters in his garment? Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is his name, and what is his son’s name, if you know?

5 “Every word of ELOHIM is flawless. He is a shield to those who take refuge in him.

6 Don’t you add to his words, lest he reprove you, and you be found a liar.

7 “Two things I have asked of you; don’t deny me before I die:

8 Remove far from me falsehood and lies. Give me neither poverty nor riches. Feed me with the food that is needful for me;

9 lest I be full, deny you, and say, ‘Who is YAHWEH?’ or lest I be poor, and steal, and so dishonor the name of my ELOHIM!

10 “Don’t slander a servant to his master, lest he curse you, and you be held guilty.

11 There is a generation that curses their father, and doesn’t bless their mother.

12 There is a generation that is pure in their own eyes, yet are not washed from their filthiness.

13 There is a generation, oh how lofty are their eyes! Their eyelids are lifted up.

14 There is a generation whose teeth are like swords, and their jaws like knives, to devour the poor from the earth, and the needy from among men.

15 “The leach has two daughters: ‘Give, give.’ “There are three things that are never satisfied; four that don’t say, ‘Enough:’

16 Sheol, the barren womb; the earth that is not satisfied with water; and the fire that doesn’t say, ‘Enough.’

17 “The eye that mocks at his father, and scorns obedience to his mother: the ravens of the valley shall pick it out, the young eagles shall eat it.

18 “There are three things which are too amazing for me, four which I don’t understand:

19 The way of an eagle in the air; the way of a serpent on a rock; the way of a ship in the midst of the sea; and the way of a man with a maiden.

20 “So is the way of an adulterous woman: she eats and wipes her mouth, and says, ‘I have done nothing wrong.’

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- 21 “For three things the earth tremble, and under four, it can’t bear up:
22 For a servant when he is king; a fool when he is filled with food;
23 for an unloved woman when she is married; and a handmaid who is heir to her mistress.
24 “There are four things which are little on the earth, but they are exceedingly wise:
25 the ants are not a strong people, yet they provide their food in the summer.
26 The conies are but a feeble folk, yet make they their houses in the rocks.
27 The locusts have no king, yet they advance in ranks.
28 You can catch a lizard with your hands, yet it is in kings’ palaces.
29 “There are three things which are stately in their march, four which are stately in going:
30 The lion, which is mightiest among animals, and doesn’t turn away for any;
31 the greyhound, the male goat also; and the king against whom there is no rising up.
32 “If you have done foolishly in lifting up yourself, or if you have thought evil, put your hand over your mouth.
33 For as the churning of milk brings forth butter, and the wringing of the nose brings forth blood; so the forcing of wrath brings forth strife.”

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290. 16-October Daily Reading (Prophets and Writings).

Esther 9.

1 . The Jews Destroy Their Tormentors. .

Now in the twelfth month, which is the month Adar, on the thirteenth day of the month, when the king's commandment and his decree drew near to be put in execution, on the day that the enemies of the Jews hoped to conquer them, (but it was turned out the opposite happened, that the Jews conquered those who hated them),

2 the Jews gathered themselves together in their cities throughout all the provinces of the King Ahasuerus, to lay hands on those who wanted to harm them. No one could withstand them, because the fear of them had fallen on all the people.

3 All the princes of the provinces, the satraps, the governors, and those who did the king's business helped the Jews, because the fear of Mordecai had fallen on them.

4 For Mordecai was great in the king's house, and his fame went out throughout all the provinces; for the man Mordecai grew greater and greater.

5 The Jews struck all their enemies with the stroke of the sword, and with slaughter and destruction, and did what they wanted to those who hated them.

6 In the citadel of Susa, the Jews killed and destroyed five hundred men.

7 They killed Parshandatha, Dalphon, Aspatha,

8 Poratha, Adalia, Aridatha,

9 Parmashta, Arisai, Aridai, and Vaizatha,

10 the ten sons of Haman the son of Hammedatha, the Jew's enemy, but they didn't lay their hand on the plunder.

11 On that day, the number of those who were slain in the citadel of Susa was brought before the king.

12 The king said to Esther the queen, "The Jews have slain and destroyed five hundred men in the citadel of Susa, including the ten sons of Haman; what then have they done in the rest of the king's provinces! Now what is your petition? It shall be granted you. What is your further request? It shall be done."

13 Then Esther said, "If it pleases the king, let it be granted to the Jews who are in Shushan to do tomorrow also according to this day's decree, and let Haman's ten sons be hanged on the gallows."

14 The king commanded this to be done. A decree was given out in Shushan; and they hanged Haman's ten sons.

15 The Jews who were in Shushan gathered themselves together on the fourteenth day also of the month Adar, and killed three hundred men in Shushan; but they didn't lay their hand on the spoil.

16 The other Jews who were in the king's provinces gathered themselves together, defended their lives, had rest from their enemies, and killed seventy-five thousand of those who hated them; but they didn't lay their hand on the plunder.

17 This was done on the thirteenth day of the month Adar; and on the fourteenth day of that month they rested and made it a day of feasting and gladness.

18 . The Feast of Purim. .

But the Jews who were in Shushan assembled together on the thirteenth and on the fourteenth days of the month; and on the fifteenth day of that month, they rested, and made it a day of feasting and gladness.

19 Therefore the Judeans of the villages, who live in the unwalled towns, make the fourteenth day of the month Adar a day of gladness and feasting, a good day, and a day of sending presents of food to one another.

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20 Mordecai wrote these things, and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of the king Ahasuerus, both near and far,
21 to enjoin them that they should keep the fourteenth and fifteenth days of the month Adar yearly,
22 as the days in which the Jews had rest from their enemies, and the month which was turned to them from sorrow to gladness, and from mourning into a good day; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, and of sending presents of food to one another, and gifts to the needy.
23 The Jews accepted the custom that they had begun, as Mordecai had written to them;
24 because Haman the son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, the enemy of all the Jews, had plotted against the Jews to destroy them, and had cast “Pur,” that is the lot, to consume them, and to destroy them;
25 but when this became known to the king, he commanded by letters that his wicked device, which he had devised against the Jews, should return on his own head, and that he and his sons should be hanged on the gallows.
26 Therefore they called these days “Purim,” from the word “Pur.” Therefore because of all the words of this letter, and of that which they had seen concerning this matter, and that which had come to them,
27 the Jews established, and imposed on themselves, and on their descendants, and on all those who joined themselves to them, so that it should not fail, that they would keep these two days according to what was written, and according to its appointed time, every year;
28 and that these days should be remembered and kept throughout every generation, every family, every province, and every city; and that these days of Purim should not fail from among the Jews, nor their memory perish from their seed.
29 Then Esther the queen, the daughter of Abihail, and Mordecai the Jew, wrote with all authority to confirm this second letter of Purim.
30 He sent letters to all the Jews, to the hundred twenty-seven provinces of the kingdom of Ahasuerus, with words of peace and truth,
31 to confirm these days of Purim in their appointed times, as Mordecai the Jew and Esther the queen had decreed, and as they had imposed upon themselves and their descendants, in the matter of the fastings and their cry.
32 The commandment of Esther confirmed these matters of Purim; and it was written in the book.

Esther 10.

1 . Mordecai's Advancement. .

King Ahasuerus laid a tribute on the land, and on the islands of the sea.

2 All the acts of his power and of his might, and the full account of the greatness of Mordecai, to which the king advanced him, aren't they written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Media and Persia?

3 For Mordecai the Jew was next to King Ahasuerus, and great among the Jews, and accepted by the multitude of his brothers, seeking the good of his people, and speaking peace to all his descendants.

Psalms 107:23-43.

23 Those who go down to the sea in ships, who do business in great waters;

24 These see YAHWEH's works, and his wonders in the deep.

25 For he commands, and raises the stormy wind, which lifts up its waves.

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26 They mount up to the sky; they go down again to the depths. Their soul melts away because of trouble.
27 They reel back and forth, and stagger like a drunken man, and are at their wits' end.
28 Then they cry to YAHWEH in their trouble, and he brings them out of their distress.
29 He makes the storm a calm, so that its waves are still.
30 Then they are glad because it is calm, so he brings them to their desired haven.
31 Let them praise YAHWEH for his loving kindness, for his wonderful works for the children of men!
32 Let them exalt him also in the assembly of the people, and praise him in the seat of the elders.
33 He turns rivers into a desert, water springs into a thirsty ground,
34 and a fruitful land into a salt waste, for the wickedness of those who dwell in it.
35 He turns a desert into a pool of water, and a dry land into water springs.
36 There he makes the hungry live, that they may prepare a city to live in,
37 sow fields, plant vineyards, and reap the fruits of increase.
38 He blesses them also, so that they are multiplied greatly. He doesn't allow their livestock to decrease.
39 Again, they are diminished and bowed down through oppression, trouble, and sorrow.
40 He pours contempt on princes, and causes them to wander in a trackless waste.
41 Yet he lifts the needy out of their affliction, and increases their families like a flock.
42 The upright will see it, and be glad. All the wicked will shut their mouths.
43 Whoever is wise will pay attention to these things. They will consider the loving kindnesses of YAHWEH!

Proverbs 31.

1 . The Words of King Lemuel's Mother. .

The words of king Lemuel; the oracle which his mother taught him.
2 "Oh, my son! Oh, son of my womb! Oh, son of my vows!
3 Don't give your strength to women, nor your ways to that which destroys kings.
4 It is not for kings, Lemuel; it is not for kings to drink wine; nor for princes to say, 'Where is strong drink?'
5 lest they drink, and forget the decree, and pervert the justice due to anyone who is afflicted.
6 Give strong drink to him who is ready to perish; and wine to the bitter in soul:
7 Let him drink, and forget his poverty, and remember his misery no more.
8 Open your mouth for the mute, in the cause of all who are left desolate.
9 Open your mouth, judge righteously, and serve justice to the poor and needy."

10 . The Virtuous Wife. .

Who can find a worthy woman? For her price is far above rubies.
11 The heart of her husband trusts in her. He shall have no lack of gain.
12 She does him good, and not harm, all the days of her life.
13 She seeks wool and flax, and works eagerly with her hands.
14 She is like the merchant ships. She brings her bread from afar.
15 She rises also while it is yet night, gives food to her household, and portions for her servant girls.
16 She considers a field, and buys it. With the fruit of her hands, she plants a vineyard.
17 She arms her waist with strength, and makes her arms strong.

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- 18 She perceives that her merchandise is profitable. Her lamp doesn't go out by night.
19 She lays her hands to the distaff, and her hands hold the spindle.
20 She opens her arms to the poor; yes, she extends her hands to the needy.
21 She is not afraid of the snow for her household; for all her household are clothed with scarlet.
22 She makes for herself carpets of tapestry. Her clothing is fine linen and purple.
23 Her husband is respected in the gates, when he sits among the elders of the land.
24 She makes linen garments and sells them, and delivers sashes to the merchant.
25 Strength and dignity are her clothing. She laughs at the time to come.
26 She opens her mouth with wisdom. Faithful instruction is on her tongue.
27 She looks well to the ways of her household, and doesn't eat the bread of idleness.
28 Her children rise up and call her blessed. Her husband also praises her:
29 "Many women do noble things, but you excel them all."
30 Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain; but a woman who fears YAHWEH, she shall be praised.
31 Give her of the fruit of her hands! Let her works praise her in the gates!

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10-16 Oct Daily Reading (Prophets and Writings).

**!! End of This Weeks Daily Reading from the PROPHETS AND WRITINGS!
Praise Yah!!**

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