

Tish'a B'Av - Fast of Av.

Deuteronomy 4:25-40, Jeremiah 8:13-22,9:1-24. (JPS=Jeremiah 8:13-23,9:1-23), Matthew 23:16-23,24:1-2, Exodus 32:11-14,34:1-10, Isaiah 55:6-to-end,56:1-8.

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Morning Reading:

Deuteronomy 4:25-40.

25 When you shall father children, and children's children, and you shall have been long in the land, and shall corrupt yourselves, and make an engraved image in the form of anything, and shall do that which is evil in the sight of YHWH your ELOHIM, to provoke him to anger;

26 I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that you shall soon utterly perish from off the land whereunto you go over the Jordan to possess it; you shall not prolong your days on it, but shall utterly be destroyed.

27 YHWH will scatter you among the peoples, and you shall be left few in number among the nations, where YHWH shall lead you away.

28 There you shall serve gods, the work of men's hands, wood and stone, which neither see, nor hear, nor eat, nor smell.

29 But from there you shall seek YHWH your ELOHIM, and you shall find him, when you search after him with all your heart and with all your soul.

30 When you are in oppression, and all these things have come on you, in the latter days you shall return to YHWH your ELOHIM, and listen to his voice:

31 for YHWH your ELOHIM is a merciful ELOHIM; he will not fail you, neither destroy you, nor forget the covenant of your fathers which he swore to them.

32 For ask now of the days that are past, which were before you, since the day that ELOHIM created man on the earth, and from the one end of the sky to the other, whether there has been anything as this great thing is, or has been heard like it?

33 Did a people ever hear the voice of ELOHIM speaking out of the midst of the fire, as you have heard, and live?

34 Or has ELOHIM tried to go and take a nation for himself from the midst of another nation, by trials, by signs, and by wonders, and by war, and by a mighty hand, and by an outstretched arm, and by great terrors, according to all that YHWH your ELOHIM did for you in Egypt before your eyes?

35 It was shown to you so that you might know that YHWH is ELOHIM! There is no one else besides him.

36 Out of heaven he made you to hear his voice, that he might instruct you: and on earth he made you to see his great fire; and you heard his words out of the midst of the fire.

37 Because he loved your fathers, therefore he chose their seed after them, and brought you out with his presence, with his great power, out of Egypt;

38 to drive out nations from before you greater and mightier than you, to bring you in, to give you their land for an inheritance, as at this day.

39 Know therefore this day, and lay it to your heart, that YHWH he is ELOHIM in heaven above and on the earth beneath; there is none else.

40 You shall keep his statutes, and his commandments, which I command you this day, that it may go well with you, and with your children after you, and that you may prolong your days in the land, which YHWH your ELOHIM gives you, forever.

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Jeremiah 8:13-22,9:1-24. (JPS=Jeremiah 8:13-23,9:1-23).

13 I will utterly consume them, says YHWH: no grapes shall be on the vine, nor figs on the fig tree, and the leaf shall fade; and the things that I have given them shall pass away from them.

14 Why do we sit still? Assemble yourselves, and let us enter into the fortified cities, and let us be silent there; for YHWH our ELOHIM has put us to silence, and given us water of gall to drink, because we have sinned against YHWH!

15 We looked for peace, but no good came; and for a time of healing, and behold, dismay!

16 The snorting of his horses is heard from Dan: at the sound of the neighing of his strong ones the whole land trembles; for they have come, and have devoured the land and all that is in it; the city and those who dwell therein.

17 For, behold, I will send serpents, adders, among you, which will not be charmed; and they shall bite you, says YHWH!

18 . The Prophet Mourns for the People. .

Oh that I could comfort myself against sorrow! My heart is faint within me.

19 Behold, the voice of the cry of the daughter of my people from a land that is very far off: isn't YHWH in Zion? Isn't her King in her? Why have they provoked me to anger with their engraved images, and with foreign vanities?

20 The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.

21 For the hurt of the daughter of my people am I hurt: I mourn; dismay has taken hold on me.

22 Is there no balm in Gilead? is there no physician there? why then isn't the health of the daughter of my people recovered?

1 Oh that my head were waters, and my eyes a spring of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people!

2 Oh that I had in the wilderness a lodging place of wayfaring men; that I might leave my people, and go from them! for they are all adulterers, an assembly of treacherous men.

3 They bend their tongue, as their bow, for falsehood; and they are grown strong in the land, but not for truth: for they proceed from evil to evil, and they don't know me, says YHWH!

4 Take heed everyone of his neighbor, and don't trust in any brother; for every brother will utterly supplant, and every neighbor will go about with slanders.

5 They will deceive everyone his neighbor, and will not speak the truth: they have taught their tongue to speak lies; they weary themselves to commit iniquity.

6 Your habitation is in the midst of deceit; through deceit they refuse to know me, says YHWH!

7 Therefore thus says YHWH of Hosts, Behold, I will melt them, and try them; for how should I deal with the daughter of my people?

8 Their tongue is a deadly arrow; it speaks deceit: one speaks peaceably to his neighbor with his mouth, but in his heart he lays wait for him.

9 Shall I not visit them for these things? says YHWH; shall not my soul be avenged on such a nation as this?

10 For the mountains will I take up a weeping and wailing, and for the pastures of the wilderness a lamentation, because they are burned up, so that none passes through; neither can men hear the voice of the livestock; both the birds of the sky and the animals are fled, they are gone.

11 I will make Jerusalem heaps, a dwelling place of jackals; and I will make the cities of Judah a desolation, without inhabitant.

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12 Who is the wise man, that may understand this? Who is he to whom the mouth of YHWH has spoken, that he may declare it? Why is the land perished and burned up like a wilderness, so that none passes through?

13 YHWH says, Because they have forsaken my Torah (teaching and instruction) which I set before them, and have not obeyed my voice, neither walked therein,

14 but have walked after the stubbornness of their own heart, and after the Baals, which their fathers taught them;

15 therefore thus says YHWH of Hosts, the ELOHIM of Israel, Behold, I will feed them, even this people, with wormwood, and give them water of gall to drink.

16 I will scatter them also among the nations, whom neither they nor their fathers have known; and I will send the sword after them, until I have consumed them.

17 . The People Mourn in Judgment. .

Thus says YHWH of Hosts, Consider, and call for the mourning women, that they may come; and send for the skillful women, that they may come:

18 and let them make haste, and take up a wailing for us, that our eyes may run down with tears, and our eyelids gush out with waters.

19 For a voice of wailing is heard out of Zion, How are we ruined! we are greatly confounded, because we have forsaken the land, because they have cast down our dwellings.

20 Yet hear the word of YHWH, you women, and let your ear receive the word of his mouth; and teach your daughters wailing, and everyone her neighbor lamentation.

21 For death has come up into our windows, it is entered into our palaces; to cut off the children from outside, and the young men from the streets.

22 Speak, Thus says YHWH, The dead bodies of men shall fall as dung on the open field, and as the handful after the harvester; and none shall gather them.

23 Thus says YHWH, Don't let the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, don't let the rich man glory in his riches;

24 but let him who glories glory in this, that he has understanding, and knows me, that I am YHWH who exercises loving kindness, justice, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, says YHWH!

Matthew 23:16-23,24:1-2.

16 "Woe to you, you blind guides, who say, 'Whoever swears by the temple, it is nothing; but whoever swears by the gold of the temple, he is obligated.'

17 You blind fools! For which is greater, the gold, or the temple that sanctifies the gold?

18 'Whoever swears by the altar, it is nothing; but whoever swears by the gift that is on it, he is obligated?'

19 You blind fools! For which is greater, the gift, or the altar that sanctifies the gift?

20 He therefore who swears by the altar, swears by it, and by everything on it.

21 He who swears by the temple, swears by it, and by him who was living in it.

22 He who swears by heaven, swears by the throne of ELOHIM, and by him who sits on it.

23 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint, dill, and cumin, and have left undone the weightier matters of the Torah: justice, mercy, and faith. But you ought to have done these, and not to have left the other undone.

1 . YESHUA Predicts the Destruction of the Temple. .

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YESHUA went out from the temple, and was going on his way. His disciples came to him to show him the buildings of the temple.

2 But he answered them, "You see all of these things, don't you? Most certainly I tell you, there will not be left here one stone on another, that will not be thrown down."

3PM Reading:

Exodus 32:11-14,34:1-10.

11 Moses begged YHWH his ELOHIM, and said, "YHWH, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, that you have brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand?

12 Why should the Egyptians speak, saying, 'He brought them forth for evil, to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the surface of the earth?' Turn from your fierce wrath, and repent of this evil against your people.

13 Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, to whom you swore by your own self, and said to them, 'I will multiply your seed as the stars of the sky, and all this land that I have spoken of I will give to your seed, and they shall inherit it forever.'"

14 YHWH repented of the evil which he said he would do to his people.

1 . Moses Makes New Tablets.

YHWH said to Moses, "Chisel two stone tablets like the first: and I will write on the tablets the words that were on the first tablets, which you broke.

2 Be ready by the morning, and come up in the morning to Mount Sinai, and present yourself there to me on the top of the mountain.

3 No one shall come up with you; neither let anyone be seen throughout all the mountain; neither let the flocks nor herds feed before that mountain."

4 He chiseled two tablets of stone like the first; and Moses rose up early in the morning, and went up to Mount Sinai, as YHWH had commanded him, and took in his hand two stone tablets.

5 YHWH descended in the cloud, and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of YHWH!

6 YHWH passed by before him, and proclaimed, "YHWH! YHWH, a merciful and gracious ELOHIM, slow to anger, and abundant in loving kindness and truth,

7 keeping loving kindness for thousands, forgiving iniquity and disobedience and sin; and that will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, and on the children's children, on the third and on the fourth generation."

8 Moses hurried and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshiped.

9 He said, "If now I have found favor in your sight, ADONAI, please let ADONAI go in the midst of us; although this is a stiff-necked people; pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us for your inheritance."

10 . The Covenant Renewed.

He said, "Behold, I make a covenant: before all your people I will do marvels, such as have not been worked in all the earth, nor in any nation; and all the people among which you are shall see the work of YHWH; for it is an awesome thing that I do with you.

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Isaiah 55:6-to-end,56:1-8.

6 Seek YHWH while he may be found; call you on him while he is near:

7 let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return to YHWH, and he will have mercy on him; and to our ELOHIM, for he will abundantly pardon.

8 “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” says YHWH!

9 “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

10 For as the rain comes down and the snow from the sky, and doesn't return there, but waters the earth, and makes it bring forth and bud, and gives seed to the sower and bread to the eater;

11 so shall my word be that goes forth out of my mouth: it shall not return to me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing I sent it to do.

12 For you shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing; and all the trees of the fields shall clap their hands.

13 Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree; and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree: and it shall be to YHWH for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”

1 . Salvation for the Gentiles. .

Thus says YHWH, “Keep justice, and do righteousness; for my salvation [yeshuah-ti] is near to come, and my righteousness to be revealed.

2 Blessed is the man who does this, and the son of man who holds it fast; who keeps the Sabbath from profaning it, and keeps his hand from doing any evil.”

3 Neither let the foreigner, who has joined himself to YHWH, speak, saying, “YHWH will surely separate me from his people;” neither let the eunuch say, “Behold, I am a dry tree.”

4 For thus says YHWH, “To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbaths, and choose the things that please me, and hold fast my covenant:

5 to them I will give in my house and within my walls a memorial and a name better than of sons and of daughters; I will give them an everlasting name, that shall not be cut off.

6 Also the foreigners who join themselves to YHWH, to minister to him, and to love the name of YHWH, to be his servants, everyone who keeps the Sabbath from profaning it, and holds fast my covenant;

7 even them will I bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer: their burnt offerings and their sacrifices shall be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.”

8 ADONAI YHWH, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, says, “Yet will I gather others to him, besides his own who are gathered.”

!! End of Today's Feast Scriptures! Praise Yah! (HNV-yet version, in the public domain.)

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Tish'a B'Av / תשעה באב

The Ninth of Av, fast commemorating the destruction of the two Temples.

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