307. 2-November Daily Reading (Prophets and Writings).

Isaiah 38.

1 <u>. Hezekiah's Life Extended. .</u>

In those days was Hezekiah sick and near death. Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, came to him, and said to him, "Thus says YAHWEH, 'Set your house in order, for you will die, and not live."

2 Then Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed to YAHWEH,

3 and said, "Remember now, YAHWEH, I beg you, how I have walked before you in truth and with a perfect heart, and have done that which is good in your sight." Hezekiah wept bitterly.

4 Then the word of YAHWEH came to Isaiah, saying,

5 "Go, and tell Hezekiah, 'Thus says YAHWEH, the ELOHIM of David your father, "I have heard your prayer. I have seen your tears. Behold, I will add fifteen years to your life.

6 I will deliver you and this city out of the hand of the king of Assyria, and I will defend this city.

7 This shall be the sign to you from YAHWEH, that YAHWEH will do this thing that he has spoken.

8 Behold, I will cause the shadow on the sundial, which has gone down on the sundial of Ahaz with the sun, to return backward ten steps. So the sun returned ten steps on the sundial on which it had gone down.""

9 The writing of Hezekiah king of Judah, when he had been sick, and had recovered of his sickness.

10 I said, "In the middle of my life I go into the gates of Sheol. I am deprived of the residue of my years."

11 I said, "I won't see YAH, YAH in the land of the living. I will see man no more with the inhabitants of the world.

12 My dwelling is removed, and is carried away from me like a shepherd's tent. I have rolled up, like a weaver, my life. He will cut me off from the loom. From day even to night you will make an end of me.

13 I waited patiently until morning. He breaks all my bones like a lion. From day even to night you will make an end of me.

14 I chattered like a swallow or a crane. I moaned like a dove. My eyes weaken looking upward. ADONAI, I am oppressed. Be my security."

15 What will I say? He has both spoken to me, and himself has done it. I will walk carefully all my years because of the anguish of my soul.

16 ADONAI, men live by these things; and my spirit finds life in all of them: you restore me, and cause me to live.

17 Behold, for peace I had great anguish, but you have in love for my soul delivered it from the pit of corruption; for you have cast all my sins behind your back.

18 For Sheol can't praise you. Death can't celebrate you. Those who go down into the pit can't hope for your truth.

19 The living, the living, he shall praise you, as I do this day. The father shall make known your truth to the children.

20 YAHWEH will save me. Therefore we will sing my songs with stringed instruments all the days of our life in the house of YAHWEH!

21 Now Isaiah had said, "Let them take a cake of figs, and lay it for a poultice on the boil, and he shall recover."

22 Hezekiah also had said, "What is the sign that I will go up to the house of YAHWEH?"

Isaiah 39.

1 <u>. The Babylonian Envoys. .</u>

At that time, Merodach Baladan the son of Baladan, king of Babylon, sent letters and a present to Hezekiah; for he heard that he had been sick, and had recovered.

² Hezekiah was pleased with them, and showed them the house of his precious things, the silver, and the gold, the spices, and the precious oil, and all the house of his armor, and all that was found in his treasures. There was nothing in his house, nor in all his dominion, that Hezekiah didn't show them.

3 Then Isaiah the prophet came to king Hezekiah, and asked him, "What did these men say? Where did they come from to you?" Hezekiah said, "They have come from a country far from me, even from Babylon."

4 Then he asked, "What have they seen in your house?" Hezekiah answered, "They have seen all that is in my house. There is nothing among my treasures that I have not shown them."

5 Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, "Hear the word of YAHWEH of Hosts:

6 'Behold, the days are coming when all that is in your house, and that which your fathers have stored up until this day, will be carried to Babylon. Nothing will be left,' says YAHWEH!

7 'They will take away your sons who will issue from you, whom you shall father, and they will be eunuchs in the king of Babylon's palace."

8 Then Hezekiah said to Isaiah, "YAHWEH's word which you have spoken is good." He said moreover, "For there will be peace and truth in my days."

Psalms 119:129-160.

129 <u>. PE. .</u>

Your testimonies are wonderful, therefore my soul keeps them.

130 The entrance of your words gives light. It gives understanding to the simple.

131 I opened my mouth wide and panted, for I longed for your commandments.

132 Turn to me, and have mercy on me, as you always do to those who love your name.

133 Establish my footsteps in your word. Don't let any iniquity have dominion over me.

134 Redeem me from the oppression of man, so I will observe your precepts.

135 Make your face shine on your servant. Teach me your statutes.

136 Streams of tears run down my eyes, because they don't observe your Torah. TZADI

137 <u>. TSADDE. .</u>

You are righteous, YAHWEH! Your judgments are upright.

138 You have commanded your statutes in righteousness. They are fully trustworthy.

139 My zeal wears me out, because my enemies ignore your words.

140 Your promises have been thoroughly tested, and your servant loves them.

141 I am small and despised. I don't forget your precepts.

142 Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness. Your Torah is truth.

143 Trouble and anguish have taken hold of me. Your commandments are my delight.

144 Your testimonies are righteous forever. Give me understanding, that I may live. KUF

145 <u>.QOPH..</u>

I have called with my whole heart. Answer me, YAHWEH! I will keep your statutes. 146 I have called to you. Save me! I will obey your statutes.

147 I rise before dawn and cry for help. I put my hope in your words.

148 My eyes stay open through the night watches, that I might meditate on your word. 149 Hear my voice according to your loving kindness. Revive me, YAHWEH, according to your ordinances.

150 They draw near who follow after wickedness. They are far from your Torah.

151 You are near, YAHWEH! All your commandments are truth.

152 Of old I have known from your testimonies, that you have founded them forever. RESH

153 <u>. RESH. .</u>

Consider my affliction, and deliver me, for I don't forget your Torah.

154 Plead my cause, and redeem me! Revive me according to your promise.

155 Salvation is far from the wicked, for they don't seek your statutes.

156 Great are your tender mercies, YAHWEH! Revive me according to your ordinances.

157 Many are my persecutors and my adversaries. I haven't swerved from your testimonies.

158 I look at the faithless with loathing, because they don't observe your word.159 Consider how I love your precepts. Revive me, YAHWEH, according to your loving kindness.

160 All of your words are truth. Every one of your righteous ordinances endures forever. SIN AND SHIN

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.

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

308. 3-November Daily Reading (Prophets and Writings).

Jeremiah 1.

1 Jeremiah!

The words of Jeremiah the son of Hilkiah, of the priests who were in Anathoth in the land of Benjamin:

2 to whom the word of YAHWEH came in the days of Josiah the son of Amon, king of Judah, in the thirteenth year of his reign.

3 It came also in the days of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, to the end of the eleventh year of Zedekiah, the son of Josiah, king of Judah, to the carrying away of Jerusalem captive in the fifth month.

4 . The Prophet Is Called. .

Now the word of YAHWEH came to me, saying,

5 "Before I formed you in the belly, I knew you. Before you came forth out of the womb, I sanctified you. I have appointed you a prophet to the nations."

6 Then I said, "Ah, ADONAI YAHWEH! Behold, I don't know how to speak; for I am a child."

7 But YAHWEH said to me, "Don't say, 'I am a child;' for to whoever I shall send you, you shall go, and whatever I shall command you, you shall speak.

8 Don't be afraid because of them; for I am with you to deliver you," says YAHWEH! 9 Then YAHWEH put forth his hand, and touched my mouth; and YAHWEH said to me, "Behold, I have put my words in your mouth.

10 Behold, I have this day set you over the nations and over the kingdoms, to pluck up and to break down and to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant."

11 Moreover the word of YAHWEH came to me, saying, "Jeremiah, what do you see?" I said, "I see a branch of an almond tree."

12 Then YAHWEH said to me, "You have seen well; for I watch over my word to perform it."

13 The word of YAHWEH came to me the second time, saying, "What do you see?" I said, "I see a boiling caldron; and it is tipping away from the north."

14 Then YAHWEH said to me, "Out of the north evil will break out on all the inhabitants of the land.

15 For, behold, I will call all the families of the kingdoms of the north," says YAHWEH; "and they shall come, and they shall each set his throne at the entrance of the gates of Jerusalem, and against all its walls all around, and against all the cities of Judah.

16 I will utter my judgments against them touching all their wickedness, in that they have forsaken me, and have burned incense to other idol_gods, and worshiped the works of their own hands.

17 "You therefore put your belt on your waist, arise, and speak to them all that I command you. Don't be dismayed at them, lest I dismay you before them.

18 For, behold, I have made you this day a fortified city, and an iron pillar, and bronze walls, against the whole land, against the kings of Judah, against its princes, against its priests, and against the people of the land.

19 They will fight against you; but they will not prevail against you; for I am with you," says YAHWEH, "to deliver you."

Jeremiah 2.

1 . ELOHIM's Case Against Israel. .

The word of YAHWEH came to me, saying,

2 "Go, and cry in the ears of Jerusalem, saying, 'Thus says YAHWEH, "I remember for you the kindness of your youth, the love of your weddings; how you went after me in the wilderness, in a land that was not sown.

3 Israel was holiness to YAHWEH, the first fruits of his increase. All who devour him shall be held guilty. Evil shall come on them," says YAHWEH!"

4 Hear the word of YAHWEH, O house of Jacob, and all the families of the house of Israel!

5 Thus says YAHWEH, "What unrighteousness have your fathers found in me, that they have gone far from me, and have walked after vanity, and are become vain?

6 Neither did they say, 'Where is YAHWEH who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, who led us through the wilderness, through a land of deserts and of pits, through a land of drought and of the shadow of death, through a land that none passed through, and where no man lived?'

7 I brought you into a plentiful land, to eat its fruit and its goodness; but when you entered, you defiled my land, and made my heritage an abomination.

8 The priests didn't say, 'Where is YAHWEH?' and those who handle the Torah (teaching and instruction) didn't know me. The rulers also transgressed against me, and the prophets prophesied by Baal, and walked after things that do not profit.

9 "Therefore I will yet contend with you," says YAHWEH, "and I will contend with your children's children.

10 For pass over to the islands of Kittim, and see; and send to Kedar, and consider diligently; and see if there has been such a thing.

11 Has a nation changed its idol_gods, which really are no idol_gods? But my people have changed their glory for that which does not profit.

12 "Be astonished, you heavens, at this, and be horribly afraid. Be very desolate," says YAHWEH!

13 "For my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the spring of living waters, and cut them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.

14 Is Israel a servant? Is he a native-born slave? Why has he become a prey?

15 The young lions have roared at him, and yelled. They have made his land waste. His cities are burned up, without inhabitant.

16 The children also of Memphis and Tahpanhes have broken the crown of your head. 17 "Haven't you procured this to yourself, in that you have forsaken YAHWEH your ELOHIM, when he led you by the way?

18 Now what have you to do in the way to Egypt, to drink the waters of the Shihor? Or what have you to do in the way to Assyria, to drink the waters of the River?

19 "Your own wickedness shall correct you, and your backsliding shall reprove you. Know therefore and see that it is an evil thing and a bitter, that you have forsaken YAHWEH your ELOHIM, and that my fear is not in you," says ADONAI, YAHWEH of Hosts.

20 "For of old time I have broken your yoke, and burst your bonds; and you said, 'I will not serve;' for on every high hill and under every green tree you bowed yourself, playing the prostitute.

21 Yet I had planted you a noble vine, wholly a right seed. How then have you turned into the degenerate branches of a foreign vine to me?

22 For though you wash yourself with lye, and use much soap, yet your iniquity is marked before me," says ADONAI YAHWEH!

23 "How can you say, 'I am not defiled. I have not gone after the Baals'? See your way in the valley. Know what you have done. You are a swift dromedary traversing her ways; 24 a wild donkey used to the wilderness, that snuffs up the wind in her desire. When she

is in heat, who can turn her away? All those who seek her will not weary themselves. In her month, they will find her.

25 "Withhold your foot from being unshod, and your throat from thirst. But you said, 'It is in vain. No, for I have loved strangers, and I will go after them.'

26 As the thief is ashamed when he is found, so is the house of Israel ashamed; they, their kings, their princes, and their priests, and their prophets;

27 who tell wood, 'You are my father;' and a stone, 'You have brought me out:' for they have turned their back to me, and not their face; but in the time of their trouble they will say, 'Arise, and save us.'

28 "But where are your idol_gods that you have made for yourselves? Let them arise, if they can save you in the time of your trouble: for according to the number of your cities are your idol_gods, Judah.

29 "Why will you contend with me? You all have transgressed against me," says YAHWEH!

30 "I have struck your children in vain. They received no correction. Your own sword has devoured your prophets, like a destroying lion.

31 Generation, consider the word of YAHWEH! Have I been a wilderness to Israel? Or a land of thick darkness? Why do my people say, 'We have broken loose. We will come to you no more?'

32 "Can a virgin forget her ornaments, or a bride her attire? Yet my people have forgotten me for days without number.

33 How well you prepare your way to seek love! Therefore you have taught even the wicked women your ways.

34 Also the blood of the souls of the innocent poor is found in your skirts. You did not find them breaking in; but it is because of all these things.

35 "Yet you said, 'I am innocent. Surely his anger has turned away from me.' "Behold, I will judge you, because you say, 'I have not sinned.'

36 Why do you go about so much to change your way? You will be ashamed of Egypt also, as you were ashamed of Assyria.

37 From there also you shall go forth, with your hands on your head; for YAHWEH has rejected those in whom you trust, and you shall not prosper with them.

Psalms 119:161-176.

161 <u>. SHIN. .</u>

Princes have persecuted me without a cause, but my heart stands in awe of your words. 162 I rejoice at your word, as one who finds great spoil.

163 I hate and abhor falsehood. I love your Torah.

164 Seven times a day, I praise you, because of your righteous ordinances.

165 Those who love your Torah have great peace. Nothing causes them to stumble.

166 I have hoped for your salvation, YAHWEH! I have done your commandments.

167 My soul has observed your testimonies. I love them exceedingly.

168 I have obeyed your precepts and your testimonies, for all my ways are before you. TAV

169 <u>. TAU. .</u>

Let my cry come before you, YAHWEH! Give me understanding according to your word. 170 Let my supplication come before you. Deliver me according to your word.

171 Let my lips utter praise, for you teach me your statutes.

172 Let my tongue sing of your word, for all your commandments are righteousness.

173 Let your hand be ready to help me, for I have chosen your precepts.

174 I have longed for your salvation [yeshuat], YAHWEH! Your Torah is my delight.

175 Let my soul live, that I may praise you. Let your ordinances help me.

176 I have gone astray like a lost sheep. Seek your servant, for I don't forget your commandments.

Proverbs 18.

1 An unfriendly man pursues selfishness, and defies all sound judgment.

2 A fool has no delight in understanding, but only in revealing his own opinion.

3 When wickedness comes, contempt also comes, and with shame comes disgrace.

4 The words of a man's mouth are like deep waters. The fountain of wisdom is like a flowing brook.

5 To be partial to the faces of the wicked is not good, nor to deprive the innocent of justice.

⁶ A fool's lips come into strife, and his mouth invites beatings.

7 A fool's mouth is his destruction, and his lips are a snare to his soul.

8 The words of a gossip are like dainty morsels: they go down into a person's innermost parts.

9 One who is slack in his work is brother to him who is a master of destruction.

10 The name of YAHWEH is a strong tower: the righteous run to him, and are safe.

11 The rich man's wealth is his strong city, like an unscalable wall in his own imagination.

12 Before destruction the heart of man is proud, but before honor is humility.

13 He who gives answer before he hears, that is folly and shame to him.

14 A man's spirit will sustain him in sickness, but a crushed spirit, who can bear?

15 The heart of the discerning gets knowledge. The ear of the wise seeks knowledge.

16 A man's gift makes room for him, and brings him before great men.

17 He who pleads his cause first seems right; until another comes and questions him.

18 The lot settles disputes, and keeps strong ones apart.

19 A brother offended is more difficult than a fortified city; and disputes are like the bars of a castle.

20 A man's stomach is filled with the fruit of his mouth. With the harvest of his lips he is satisfied.

21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue; those who love it will eat its fruit.

22 Whoever finds a wife finds a good thing, and obtains favor of YAHWEH!

23 The poor plead for mercy, but the rich answer harshly.

24 A man of many companions may be ruined, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

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

309. 4-November Daily Reading (Prophets and Writings).

Jeremiah 3.

1 <u>. Israel Is Shameless. .</u>

"They say, 'If a man puts away his wife, and she goes from him, and become another man's, will he return to her again?' Wouldn't that land be greatly polluted? But you have played the prostitute with many lovers; yet return again to me," says YAHWEH! 2 "Lift up your eyes to the bare heights, and see! Where have you not been lain with? You have sat for them by the ways, as an Arabian in the wilderness. You have polluted the land with your prostitution and with your wickedness.

3 Therefore the showers have been withheld, and there has been no latter rain; yet you have a prostitute's forehead, you refused to be ashamed.

4 Will you not from this time cry to me, 'My Father, you are the guide of my youth?' 5 "'Will he retain his anger forever? Will he keep it to the end?' Behold, you have spoken and have done evil things, and have had your way."

6 <u>. A Call to Repentance. .</u>

Moreover, YAHWEH said to me in the days of Josiah the king, "Have you seen that which backsliding Israel has done? She has gone up on every high mountain and under every green tree, and there has played the prostitute.

7 I said after she had done all these things, 'She will return to me;' but she didn't return; and her treacherous sister Judah saw it.

8 I saw, when, for this very cause that backsliding Israel had committed adultery, I had put her away and given her a bill of divorce, yet treacherous Judah, her sister, didn't fear; but she also went and played the prostitute.

9 It happened through the lightness of her prostitution, that the land was polluted, and she committed adultery with stones and with stocks.

10 Yet for all this her treacherous sister, Judah, has not returned to me with her whole heart, but only in pretense," says YAHWEH!

11 YAHWEH said to me, "Backsliding Israel has shown herself more righteous than treacherous Judah.

12 Go, and proclaim these words toward the north, and say, 'Return, you backsliding Israel,' says YAHWEH; 'I will not look in anger on you; for I am merciful,' says YAHWEH! 'I will not keep anger forever.

13 Only acknowledge your iniquity, that you have transgressed against YAHWEH your ELOHIM, and have scattered your ways to the strangers under every green tree, and you have not obeyed my voice,' says YAHWEH!"

14 "Return, backsliding children," says YAHWEH; "for I am a husband to you. I will take you one of a city, and two of a family, and I will bring you to Zion.

15 I will give you shepherds according to my heart, who shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.

16 It shall come to pass, when you are multiplied and increased in the land, in those days," says YAHWEH, "they shall say no more, 'The ark of the covenant of YAHWEH!' neither shall it come to mind; neither shall they remember it; neither shall they miss it; neither shall it be made any more.

17 At that time they shall call Jerusalem 'The throne of YAHWEH;' and all the nations shall be gathered to it, to the name of YAHWEH, to Jerusalem. Neither shall they walk any more after the stubbornness of their evil heart.

18 In those days the house of Judah shall walk with the house of Israel, and they shall come together out of the land of the north to the land that I gave for an inheritance to

your fathers.

19 "But I said, 'How I would put you among the children, and give you a pleasant land, a goodly heritage of the armies of the nations!' and I said, 'You shall call me "My Father," and shall not turn away from following me.'

20 "Surely as a wife treacherously departs from her husband, so you have dealt treacherously with me, house of Israel," says YAHWEH!

21 A voice is heard on the bare heights, the weeping and the petitions of the children of Israel; because they have perverted their way, they have forgotten YAHWEH their ELOHIM!

22 Return, you backsliding children, I will heal your backsliding. "Behold, we have come to you; for you are YAHWEH our ELOHIM!

23 Truly in vain is help from the hills, the tumult on the mountains. Truly the salvation of Israel is in YAHWEH our ELOHIM!

24 But the shameful thing has devoured the labor of our fathers from our youth, their flocks and their herds, their sons and their daughters.

25 Let us lie down in our shame, and let our confusion cover us; for we have sinned against YAHWEH our ELOHIM, we and our fathers, from our youth even to this day. We have not obeyed the voice of YAHWEH our ELOHIM!"

Jeremiah 4.

1 "If you will return, Israel," says YAHWEH, "if you will return to me, and if you will put away your abominations out of my sight; then you shall not be removed;

2 and you shall swear, 'As YAHWEH lives,' in truth, in justice, and in righteousness. The nations shall bless themselves in him, and in him shall they glory."

3 For thus says YAHWEH to the men of Judah and to Jerusalem, "Break up your fallow ground, and don't sow among thorns.

4 Circumcise yourselves to YAHWEH, and take away the foreskins of your heart, you men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem; lest my wrath go forth like fire, and burn so that none can quench it, because of the evil of your doings.

5 <u>. An Imminent Invasion. .</u>

Declare in Judah, and publish in Jerusalem; and say, 'Blow the shofar in the land!' Cry aloud and say, 'Assemble yourselves! Let us go into the fortified cities!'

6 Set up a standard toward Zion. Flee for safety! Don't wait; for I will bring evil from the north, and a great destruction."

7 A lion is gone up from his thicket, and a destroyer of nations; he is on his way, he is gone forth from his place, to make your land desolate, that your cities be laid waste, without inhabitant.

8 For this clothe yourself with sackcloth, lament and wail; for the fierce anger of YAHWEH hasn't turned back from us.

9 "It shall happen at that day," says YAHWEH, "that the heart of the king shall perish, and the heart of the princes; and the priests shall be astonished, and the prophets shall wonder."

10 Then I said, "Ah, ADONAI YAHWEH! Surely you have greatly deceived this people and Jerusalem, saying, 'You shall have peace;' whereas the sword reaches to the heart." 11 At that time shall it be said to this people and to Jerusalem, "A hot wind from the bare heights in the wilderness toward the daughter of my people, not to winnow, nor to cleanse;

12 a full wind from these shall come for me. Now I will also utter judgments against them."

13 Behold, he shall come up as clouds, and his chariots shall be as the whirlwind: his horses are swifter than eagles. Woe to us! For we are ruined.

14 Jerusalem, wash your heart from wickedness, that you may be saved. How long shall your evil thoughts lodge within you?

15 For a voice declares from Dan, and publishes evil from the hills of Ephraim:

16 "Tell the nations; behold, publish against Jerusalem, 'Watchers come from a far country, and raise their voice against the cities of Judah.

17 As keepers of a field, they are against her all around, because she has been rebellious against me," says YAHWEH!

18 "Your way and your doings have brought these things to you. This is your wickedness; for it is bitter, for it reaches to your heart."

19 <u>. Sorrow for the Doomed Nation.</u>

My anguish, my anguish! I am pained at my very heart; my heart is disquieted in me; I can't hold my peace; because you have heard, O my soul, the sound of the shofar, the alarm of war.

20 Destruction on destruction is cried; for the whole land is laid waste: suddenly are my tents destroyed, and my curtains in a moment.

21 How long shall I see the standard, and hear the sound of the shofar?

22 "For my people are foolish, they don't know me. They are foolish children, and they have no understanding. They are skillful in doing evil, but to do good they have no knowledge."

23 I saw the earth, and, behold, it was waste and void; and the heavens, and they had no light.

24 I saw the mountains, and behold, they trembled, and all the hills moved back and forth.

25 I saw, and behold, there was no man, and all the birds of the sky had fled.26 I saw, and behold, the fruitful field was a wilderness, and all its cities were broken

down at the presence of YAHWEH, before his fierce anger.

27 For thus says YAHWEH, "The whole land shall be a desolation; yet will I not make a full end.

28 For this the earth will mourn, and the heavens above be black; because I have spoken it, I have purposed it, and I have not repented, neither will I turn back from it."

29 Every city flees for the noise of the horsemen and archers; they go into the thickets, and climb up on the rocks: every city is forsaken, and not a man dwells therein.

30 You, when you are made desolate, what will you do? Though you clothe yourself with scarlet, though you deck you with ornaments of gold, though you enlarge your eyes with paint, in vain do you make yourself beautiful; your lovers despise you, they seek your life. 31 For I have heard a voice as of a woman in travail, the anguish as of her who brings forth her first child, the voice of the daughter of Zion, who gasps for breath, who spreads her hands, saying, "Woe is me now! For my soul faints before the murderers."

Psalms 120.

1 <u>. A Song of Ascents...</u>

A Song of Ascents. In my distress, I cried to YAHWEH! He answered me.

2 Deliver my soul, YAHWEH, from lying lips, from a deceitful tongue.

3 What will be given to you, and what will be done more to you, you deceitful tongue?

4 Sharp arrows of the mighty, with coals of juniper.

5 Woe is me, that I live in Meshech, that I dwell among the tents of Kedar!

6 My soul has had her dwelling too long with him who hates peace.

7 I am for peace, but when I speak, they are for war.

Proverbs 19.

1 Better is the poor who walks in his integrity than he who is perverse in his lips and is a fool.

2 It isn't good to have zeal without knowledge; nor being hasty with one's feet and missing the way.

3 The foolishness of man subverts his way; his heart rages against YAHWEH!

4 Wealth adds many friends, but the poor is separated from his friend.

5 A false witness shall not be unpunished. He who pours out lies shall not go free.

6 Many will entreat the favor of a ruler, and everyone is a friend to a man who gives gifts.

7 All the relatives of the poor shun him: how much more do his friends avoid him! He pursues them with pleas, but they are gone.

8 He who gets wisdom loves his own soul. He who keeps understanding shall find good. 9 A false witness shall not be unpunished. He who utters lies shall perish.

10 Delicate living is not appropriate for a fool, much less for a servant to have rule over princes.

11 The discretion of a man makes him slow to anger. It is his glory to overlook an offense.

12 The king's wrath is like the roaring of a lion, but his favor is like dew on the grass.

13 A foolish son is the calamity of his father. A wife's quarrels are a continual dripping.

14 House and riches are an inheritance from fathers, but a prudent wife is from YAHWEH!

15 Slothfulness casts into a deep sleep. The idle soul shall suffer hunger.

16 He who keeps the commandment keeps his soul, but he who is contemptuous in his ways shall die.

17 He who has pity on the poor lends to YAHWEH; he will reward him.

18 Discipline your son, for there is hope; don't be a willing party to his death.

19 A hot-tempered man must pay the penalty, for if you rescue him, you must do it again.

20 Listen to counsel and receive instruction, that you may be wise in your latter end.

21 There are many plans in a man's heart, but YAHWEH's counsel will prevail.

22 That which makes a man to be desired is his kindness. A poor man is better than a liar.

23 The fear of YAHWEH leads to life, then contentment; he rests and will not be touched by trouble.

24 The sluggard buries his hand in the dish; he will not so much as bring it to his mouth again.

25 Flog a scoffer, and the simple will learn prudence; rebuke one who has understanding, and he will gain knowledge.

26 He who robs his father and drives away his mother, is a son who causes shame and brings reproach.

27 If you stop listening to instruction, my son, you will stray from the words of knowledge.

28 A corrupt witness mocks justice, and the mouth of the wicked gulps down iniquity. 29 Penalties are prepared for scoffers, and beatings for the backs of fools.

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

310. 5-November Daily Reading (Prophets and Writings).

Jeremiah 5.

1 . The Justice of ELOHIM's Judgment. .

"Run back and forth through the streets of Jerusalem, and see now, and know, and seek in the broad places of it, if you can find a man, if there are any who does justly, who seeks truth; and I will pardon her.

2 Though they say, 'As YAHWEH lives;' surely they swear falsely."

3 O YAHWEH, don't your eyes look on truth? You have stricken them, but they were not grieved. You have consumed them, but they have refused to receive correction. They have made their faces harder than a rock. They have refused to return.

4 Then I said, "Surely these are poor. They are foolish; for they don't know the way of YAHWEH, nor the Torah (teaching and instruction) of their ELOHIM!

5 I will go to the great men, and will speak to them; for they know the way of YAHWEH, and the Torah (teaching and instruction) of their ELOHIM!" But these with one accord have broken the yoke, and burst the bonds.

6 Therefore a lion out of the forest shall kill them, a wolf of the evenings shall destroy them, a leopard shall watch against their cities; everyone who goes out there shall be torn in pieces; because their transgressions are many, and their backsliding is increased.

7 "How can I pardon you? Your children have forsaken me, and sworn by what are no idol_gods. When I had fed them to the full, they committed adultery, and assembled themselves in troops at the prostitutes' houses.

8 They were as fed horses roaming at large: everyone neighed after his neighbor's wife. 9 Shouldn't I punish them for these things?" says YAHWEH; "and shouldn't my soul be avenged on such a nation as this?

10 "Go up on her walls, and destroy; but don't make a full end. Take away her branches; for they are not YAHWEH's.

11 For the house of Israel and the house of Judah have dealt very treacherously against me," says YAHWEH!

12 They have denied YAHWEH, and said, "It is not he; neither shall evil come on us; neither shall we see sword nor famine.

13 The prophets shall become wind, and the word is not in them. Thus shall it be done to them."

14 Therefore thus says YAHWEH, the ELOHIM of Hosts, "Because you speak this word, behold, I will make my words in your mouth fire, and this people wood, and it shall devour them.

15 Behold, I will bring a nation on you from far, house of Israel," says YAHWEH! "It is a mighty nation. It is an ancient nation, a nation whose language you don't know, neither understand what they say.

16 Their quiver is an open tomb, they are all mighty men.

17 They shall eat up your harvest, and your bread, which your sons and your daughters should eat. They shall eat up your flocks and your herds. They shall eat up your vines and your fig-trees. They shall beat down your fortified cities, in which you trust, with the sword.

18 "But even in those days," says YAHWEH, "I will not make a full end with you.

19 It will happen, when you say, 'Why has YAHWEH our ELOHIM done all these things to us?' Then you shall say to them, 'Just like you have forsaken me, and served foreign idol_gods in your land, so you shall serve strangers in a land that is not yours.'

20 "Declare this in the house of Jacob, and publish it in Judah, saying,

21 'Hear now this, foolish people, and without understanding; who have eyes, and don't

see; who have ears, and don't hear:

22 Don't you fear me?' says YAHWEH 'Won't you tremble at my presence, who have placed the sand for the bound of the sea, by a perpetual decree, that it can't pass it? and though its waves toss themselves, yet they can't prevail; though they roar, yet they can't pass over it.'

23 "But this people has a revolting and a rebellious heart; they have revolted and gone. 24 Neither do they say in their heart, 'Let us now fear YAHWEH our ELOHIM, who gives rain, both the former and the latter, in its season; who preserves to us the appointed weeks of the harvest.'

25 "Your iniquities have turned away these things, and your sins have withheld good from you.

26 For among my people are found wicked men. They watch, as fowlers lie in wait. They set a trap. They catch men.

27 As a cage is full of birds, so are their houses full of deceit. Therefore they have become great, and grew rich.

28 They have grown fat. They shine; yes, they excell in deeds of wickedness. They don't plead the cause, the cause of the fatherless, that they may prosper; and they don't judge the right of the needy.

29 "Shall I not punish for these things?" says YAHWEH! "Shall not my soul be avenged on such a nation as this?

30 "An astonishing and horrible thing has happened in the land.

31 The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests rule by their own authority; and my people love to have it so. What will you do in the end of it?

Jeremiah 6.

1 . Impending Destruction from the North. .

"Flee for safety, you children of Benjamin, out of the midst of Jerusalem, and blow the shofar in Tekoa, and raise up a signal on Beth Haccherem; for evil looks forth from the north, and a great destruction.

2 The comely and delicate one, the daughter of Zion, will I cut off.

3 Shepherds with their flocks shall come to her; they shall pitch their tents against her all around; they shall feed everyone in his place."

4 "Prepare war against her; arise, and let us go up at noon. Woe to us! For the day declines, for the shadows of the evening are stretched out.

5 Arise, and let us go up by night, and let us destroy her palaces."

6 For YAHWEH of Hosts said, "Cut down trees, and cast up a mound against Jerusalem: this is the city to be visited; she is wholly oppression in the midst of her.

7 As a well casts forth its waters, so she casts forth her wickedness: violence and destruction is heard in her; before me continually is sickness and wounds.

8 Be instructed, Jerusalem, lest my soul be alienated from you; lest I make you a desolation, a land not inhabited."

9 Thus says YAHWEH of Hosts, "They shall thoroughly glean the remnant of Israel like a vine. Turn again your hand as a grape gatherer into the baskets."

10 To whom shall I speak and testify, that they may hear? Behold, their ear is uncircumcised, and they can't listen. Behold, the word of YAHWEH has become a reproach to them. They have no delight in it.

11 Therefore I am full of the wrath of YAHWEH! I am weary with holding in. "Pour it out on the children in the street, and on the assembly of young men together; for even the husband with the wife shall be taken, the aged with him who is full of days.

12 Their houses shall be turned to others, their fields and their wives together; for I will

stretch out my hand on the inhabitants of the land, says YAHWEH!"

13 "For from their least even to their greatest, everyone is given to covetousness; and from the prophet even to the priest, everyone deals falsely.

14 They have healed also the hurt of my people superficially, saying, 'Peace, peace!' when there is no peace.

15 Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? No, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush. Therefore they shall fall among those who fall; at the time that I visit them, they shall be cast down," says YAHWEH!

16 Thus says YAHWEH, "Stand in the ways and see, and ask for the old paths, 'Where is the good way?' and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls. But they said, 'We will not walk in it.'

17 I set watchmen over you, saying, 'Listen to the sound of the shofar!' But they said, 'We will not listen!'

18 Therefore hear, you nations, and know, congregation, what is among them.

19 Hear, earth! Behold, I will bring evil on this people, even the fruit of their thoughts, because they have not listened to my words; and as for my Torah (teaching and instruction), they have rejected it.

20 To what purpose comes there to me frankincense from Sheba, and the sweet cane from a far country? your burnt offerings are not acceptable, nor your sacrifices pleasing to me."

21 Therefore thus says YAHWEH, "Behold, I will lay stumbling blocks before this people. The fathers and the sons together shall stumble against them. The neighbor and his friend shall perish."

22 Thus says YAHWEH, "Behold, a people comes from the north country. A great nation shall be stirred up from the uttermost parts of the earth.

23 They take hold of bow and spear. They are cruel, and have no mercy. Their voice roars like the sea, and they ride on horses, everyone set in array, as a man to the battle, against you, daughter of Zion."

24 We have heard its report; our hands become feeble: anguish has taken hold of us, and pains as of a woman in labor.

25 Don't go forth into the field, nor walk by the way; for the sword of the enemy and terror, are on every side.

26 Daughter of my people, clothe yourself with sackcloth, and wallow in ashes! Mourn, as for an only son, most bitter lamentation; for the destroyer shall suddenly come on us. 27 "I have made you a tester of metals and a fortress among my people; that you may know and try their way.

28 They are all grievous rebels, going about with slanders; they are brass and iron: they all of them deal corruptly.

29 The bellows blow fiercely; the lead is consumed of the fire: in vain do they go on refining; for the wicked are not plucked away.

30 Men will call them rejected silver, because YAHWEH has rejected them."

Psalms 121.

1 <u>. A Song of Ascents...</u>

A Song of Ascents. I will lift up my eyes to the hills. Where does my help come from? 2 My help comes from YAHWEH, who made heaven and earth.

3 He will not allow your foot to be moved. He who keeps you will not slumber.

4 Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

5 YAHWEH is your keeper. YAHWEH is your shade on your right hand.

6 The sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night.

7 YAHWEH will keep you from all evil. He will keep your soul.

8 YAHWEH will keep your going out and your coming in, from this time forth, and forevermore.

Proverbs 20.

1 Wine is a mocker, and beer is a brawler. Whoever is led astray by them is not wise.2 The terror of a king is like the roaring of a lion. He who provokes him to anger forfeits his own life.

3 It is an honor for a man to keep aloof from strife; but every fool will be quarreling.

4 The sluggard will not plow by reason of the winter; therefore he shall beg in harvest, and have nothing.

5 Counsel in the heart of man is like deep water; but a man of understanding will draw it out.

6 Many men claim to be men of unfailing love, but who can find a faithful man? 7 A righteous man walks in integrity. Blessed are his children after him.

8 A king who sits on the throne of judgment scatters away all evil with his eyes.

9 Who can say, "I have made my heart pure. I am clean and without sin?"

10 Differing weights and differing measures, both of them alike are an abomination to YAHWEH!

11 Even a child makes himself known by his doings, whether his work is pure, and whether it is right.

12 The hearing ear, and the seeing eye, YAHWEH has made even both of them.

13 Don't love sleep, lest you come to poverty. Open your eyes, and you shall be satisfied with bread.

14 "It's no good, it's no good," says the buyer; but when he is gone his way, then he boasts.

15 There is gold and abundance of rubies; but the lips of knowledge are a rare jewel.

16 Take the garment of one who puts up collateral for a stranger; and hold him in pledge for a wayward woman.

17 Fraudulent food is sweet to a man, but afterwards his mouth is filled with gravel.

18 Plans are established by advice; by wise guidance you wage war!

19 He who goes about as a tale-bearer reveals secrets; therefore don't keep company with him who opens wide his lips.

20 Whoever curses his father or his mother, his lamp shall be put out in blackness of darkness.

21 An inheritance quickly gained at the beginning, won't be blessed in the end.

22 Don't say, "I will pay back evil." Wait for YAHWEH, and he will save you.

23 YAHWEH detests differing weights, and dishonest scales are not pleasing.

24 A man's steps are from YAHWEH; how then can man understand his way?

25 It is a snare to a man to make a rash dedication, then later to consider his vows.

26 A wise king winnows out the wicked, and drives the threshing wheel over them.

27 The spirit of man is YAHWEH's lamp, searching all his innermost parts.

28 Love and faithfulness keep the king safe. His throne is sustained by love.

29 The glory of young men is their strength. The splendor of old men is their gray hair.

30 Wounding blows cleanse away evil, and beatings purge the innermost parts.

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

311. 6-November Daily Reading (Prophets and Writings).

Jeremiah 7.

1 <u>. Trusting in Lying Words. .</u>

The word that came to Jeremiah from YAHWEH, saying,

2 "Stand in the gate of YAHWEH's house, and proclaim there this word, and say, 'Hear the word of YAHWEH, all you of Judah, who enter in at these gates to worship YAHWEH!

3 Thus says YAHWEH of Hosts, the ELOHIM of Israel, Amend your ways and your doings, and I will cause you to dwell in this place.

4 Don't trust in lying words, saying, The temple of YAHWEH, the temple of YAHWEH, the temple of YAHWEH, are these.

5 For if you thoroughly amend your ways and your doings; if you thoroughly execute justice between a man and his neighbor;

6 if you don't oppress the foreigner, the fatherless, and the widow, and don't shed innocent blood in this place, neither walk after other idol_gods to your own hurt: 7 then will I cause you to dwell in this place, in the land that I gave to your fathers, from of old even forevermore.

8 Behold, you trust in lying words, that can't profit.

9 Will you steal, murder, and commit adultery, and swear falsely, and burn incense to Baal, and walk after other idol_gods that you have not known,

10 and come and stand before me in this house, which is called by my name, and say, We are delivered; that you may do all these abominations?

11 Is this house, which is called by my name, become a den of robbers in your eyes? Behold, I, even I, have seen it, says YAHWEH!

12 But go now to my place which was in Shiloh, where I caused my name to dwell at the first, and see what I did to it for the wickedness of my people Israel.

13 Now, because you have done all these works, says YAHWEH, and I spoke to you, rising up early and speaking, but you didn't hear; and I called you, but you didn't answer: 14 therefore will I do to the house which is called by my name, in which you trust, and to the place which I gave to you and to your fathers, as I did to Shiloh.

15 I will cast you out of my sight, as I have cast out all your brothers, even the whole seed of Ephraim.

16 Therefore don't pray for this people, neither lift up a cry nor prayer for them, neither make intercession to me; for I will not hear you.

17 Don't you see what they do in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem? 18 The children gather wood, and the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead the dough, to make cakes to the queen of the sky, and to pour out drink offerings to other idol_gods, that they may provoke me to anger.

19 Do they provoke me to anger? says YAHWEH! Don't they provoke themselves, to the confusion of their own faces?

20 Therefore thus says ADONAI YAHWEH: Behold, my anger and my wrath shall be poured out on this place, on man, and on animal, and on the trees of the field, and on the fruit of the ground; and it shall burn, and shall not be quenched.

21 Thus says YAHWEH of Hosts, the ELOHIM of Israel: Add your burnt offerings to your sacrifices, and eat meat.

22 For I didn't speak to your fathers, nor command them in the day that I brought them out of the land of Egypt, concerning burnt offerings or sacrifices:

23 but this thing I commanded them, saying, Listen to my voice, and I will be your ELOHIM, and you shall be my people; and walk in all the way that I command you, that

it may be well with you.

24 But they didn't listen nor turn their ear, but walked in their own counsels and in the stubbornness of their evil heart, and went backward, and not forward.

25 Since the day that your fathers came forth out of the land of Egypt to this day, I have sent to you all my servants the prophets, daily rising up early and sending them:

26 yet they didn't listen to me, nor inclined their ear, but made their neck stiff: they did worse than their fathers.

27 You shall speak all these words to them; but they will not listen to you: you shall also call to them; but they will not answer you.

28 <u>Judgment on Obscene Religion.</u>

You shall tell them, This is the nation that has not listened to the voice of YAHWEH their ELOHIM, nor received instruction: truth is perished, and is cut off from their mouth. 29 Cut off your hair, and throw it away, and take up a lamentation on the bare heights; for YAHWEH has rejected and forsaken the generation of his wrath.

30 For the children of Judah have done that which is evil in my sight, says YAHWEH: they have set their abominations in the house which is called by my name, to defile it. 31 They have built the high places of Topheth, which is in the valley of the son of Hinnom, to burn their sons and their daughters in the fire; which I didn't command, nor

did it come into my mind.

32 Therefore, behold, the days come, says YAHWEH, that it shall no more be called Topheth, nor The valley of the son of Hinnom, but The valley of Slaughter: for they shall bury in Topheth, until there is no place to bury.

33 The dead bodies of this people shall be food for the birds of the sky, and for the animals of the earth; and none shall frighten them away.

34 Then will I cause to cease from the cities of Judah, and from the streets of Jerusalem, the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride; for the land shall become a waste.

Jeremiah 8.

1 At that time, says YAHWEH, they shall bring out the bones of the kings of Judah, and the bones of his princes, and the bones of the priests, and the bones of the prophets, and the bones of the inhabitants of Jerusalem, out of their graves;

2 and they shall spread them before the sun, and the moon, and all the army of the sky, which they have loved, and which they have served, and after which they have walked, and which they have sought, and which they have worshiped: they shall not be gathered, nor be buried, they shall be for dung on the surface of the earth.

3 Death shall be chosen rather than life by all the residue that remain of this evil family, that remain in all the places where I have driven them, says YAHWEH of Hosts.

4 <u>. The Peril of False Teaching. .</u>

Moreover you shall tell them, Thus says YAHWEH: Shall men fall, and not rise up again? Shall one turn away, and not return?

5 Why then is this people of Jerusalem slidden back by a perpetual backsliding? they hold fast deceit, they refuse to return.

6 I listened and heard, but they didn't speak aright: no man repents him of his wickedness, saying, What have I done? everyone turns to his course, as a horse that rushes headlong in the battle.

7 Yes, the stork in the sky knows her appointed times; and the turtledove and the

swallow and the crane observe the time of their coming; but my people don't know YAHWEH's Torah (teaching and instruction).

8 How do you say, We are wise, and the Torah (teaching and instruction) of YAHWEH is with us? But, behold, the false pen of the scribes has worked falsely.

9 The wise men are disappointed, they are dismayed and taken: behold, they have rejected the word of YAHWEH; and what kind of wisdom is in them?

10 Therefore will I give their wives to others, and their fields to those who shall possess them: for everyone from the least even to the greatest is given to covetousness; from the prophet even to the priest every one deals falsely.

11 They have healed the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when there is no peace.

12 Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush: therefore shall they fall among those who fall; in the time of their visitation they shall be cast down, says YAHWEH!

13 I will utterly consume them, says YAHWEH: 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 YAHWEH our ELOHIM has put us to silence, and given us water of gall to drink, because we have sinned against YAHWEH!

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 YAHWEH!

18 <u>. The Prophet Mourns for the People.</u>

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 YAHWEH 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?

Psalms 122.

1 . A Song of Ascents. Of David...

A Song of Ascents. By David. I was glad when they said to me, "Let's go to YAHWEH's house!"

2 Our feet are standing within your gates, Jerusalem;

3 Jerusalem, that is built as a city that is compact together;

4 where the tribes go up, even YAH's tribes, according to an ordinance for Israel, to give thanks to the name of YAHWEH!

5 For there are set thrones for judgment, the thrones of David's house.

6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem. Those who love you will prosper.

7 Peace be within your walls, and prosperity within your palaces.

8 For my brothers' and companions' sakes, I will now say, "Peace be within you." 9 For the sake of the house of YAHWEH our ELOHIM, I will seek your good.

Proverbs 21.

1 The king's heart is in YAHWEH's hand like the watercourses. He turns it wherever he desires.

2 Every way of a man is right in his own eyes, but YAHWEH weighs the hearts.

3 To do righteousness and justice is more acceptable to YAHWEH than sacrifice.

4 A high look, and a proud heart, the lamp of the wicked, is sin.

5 The plans of the diligent surely lead to profit; and everyone who is hasty surely rushes to poverty.

6 Getting treasures by a lying tongue is a fleeting vapor for those who seek death. 7 The violence of the wicked will drive them away, because they refuse to do what is right.

8 The way of the guilty is devious, but the conduct of the innocent is upright.

9 It is better to dwell in the corner of the housetop, than to share a house with a contentious woman.

10 The soul of the wicked desires evil; his neighbor finds no mercy in his eyes.

11 When the mocker is punished, the simple gains wisdom. When the wise is instructed, he receives knowledge.

12 The Righteous One considers the house of the wicked, and brings the wicked to ruin.13 Whoever stops his ears at the cry of the poor, he will also cry out, but shall not be heard.

14 A gift in secret pacifies anger; and a bribe in the cloak, strong wrath.

15 It is joy to the righteous to do justice; but it is a destruction to the workers of iniquity. 16 The man who wanders out of the way of understanding shall rest in the assembly of the dead.

17 He who loves pleasure shall be a poor man. He who loves wine and oil shall not be rich.

18 The wicked is a ransom for the righteous; the treacherous for the upright.

19 It is better to dwell in a desert land, than with a contentious and fretful woman. 20 There is precious treasure and oil in the dwelling of the wise; but a foolish man swallows it up.

21 He who follows after righteousness and kindness finds life, righteousness, and honor.
22 A wise man scales the city of the mighty, and brings down the strength of its confidence.

23 Whoever guards his mouth and his tongue keeps his soul from troubles.

24 The proud and haughty man, "scoffer" is his name; he works in the arrogance of pride.

25 The desire of the sluggard kills him, for his hands refuse to labor.

26 There are those who covet greedily all day long; but the righteous give and don't withhold.

27 The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination: how much more, when he brings it with a wicked mind!

28 A false witness will perish, and a man who listens speaks to eternity.

29 A wicked man hardens his face; but as for the upright, he establishes his ways.

30 There is no wisdom nor understanding nor counsel against YAHWEH!

31 The horse is prepared for the day of battle; but victory is with YAHWEH!

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

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