

8 May Daily Reading (Prophets and Writings).

Judges 9, Job 38, Psalms 129, Proverbs 25.

Day 129. 8-May Daily Reading (Prophets and Writings).

Judges 9.

1. **Abimelech's Conspiracy.**

Abimelech the son of Jerubbaal went to Shechem to his mother's brothers, and spoke with them, and with all the family of the house of his mother's father, saying,

2 "Please speak in the ears of all the men of Shechem, 'Is it better for you that all the sons of Jerubbaal, who are seventy persons, rule over you, or that one rule over you?' Remember also that I am your bone and your flesh."

3 His mother's brothers spoke of him in the ears of all the men of Shechem all these words: and their hearts inclined to follow Abimelech; for they said, "He is our brother."

4 They gave him seventy pieces of silver out of the house of Baal Berith, with which Abimelech hired vain and light fellows, who followed him.

5 He went to his father's house at Ophrah, and killed his brothers the sons of Jerubbaal, being seventy persons, on one stone: but Jotham the youngest son of Jerubbaal was left; for he hid himself.

6 All the men of Shechem assembled themselves together, and all the house of Millo, and went and made Abimelech king, by the oak of the pillar that was in Shechem.

7. **The Parable of the Trees.**

When they told it to Jotham, he went and stood on the top of Mount Gerizim, and lifted up his voice, and cried, and said to them, "Listen to me, you men of Shechem, that ELOHIM may listen to you.

8 The trees went forth on a time to anoint a king over them; and they said to the olive tree, 'Reign over us.'

9 "But the olive tree said to them, 'Should I leave my fatness, with which by me they honor ELOHIM and man, and go to wave back and forth over the trees?'

10 "The trees said to the fig tree, 'Come and reign over us.'

11 "But the fig tree said to them, 'Should I leave my sweetness, and my good fruit, and go to wave back and forth over the trees?'

12 "The trees said to the vine, 'Come and reign over us.'

13 "The vine said to them, 'Should I leave my new wine, which cheers ELOHIM and man, and go to wave back and forth over the trees?'

14 "Then all the trees said to the bramble, 'Come and reign over us.'

15 "The bramble said to the trees, 'If in truth you anoint me king over you, then come and take refuge in my shade; and if not, let fire come out of the bramble, and devour the cedars of Lebanon.'

16 "Now therefore, if you have dealt truly and righteously, in that you have made Abimelech king, and if you have dealt well with Jerubbaal and his house, and have done to him according to the deserving of his hands

17 (for my father fought for you, and risked his life, and delivered you out of the hand of Midian:

18 and you have risen up against my father's house this day, and have slain his sons, seventy persons, on one stone, and have made Abimelech, the son of his female servant, king over the men of Shechem, because he is your brother);

19 if you then have dealt truly and righteously with Jerubbaal and with his house this day, then rejoice in Abimelech, and let him also rejoice in you:

20 but if not, let fire come out from Abimelech, and devour the men of Shechem, and the house of Millo; and let fire come out from the men of Shechem, and from the house of Millo, and devour Abimelech."

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21 Jotham ran away, and fled, and went to Beer, and lived there, for fear of Abimelech his brother.

22 . Downfall of Abimelech. .

Abimelech was prince over Israel three years.

23 ELOHIM sent an evil spirit between Abimelech and the men of Shechem; and the men of Shechem dealt treacherously with Abimelech:

24 that the violence done to the seventy sons of Jerubbaal might come, and that their blood might be laid on Abimelech their brother, who killed them, and on the men of Shechem, who strengthened his hands to kill his brothers.

25 The men of Shechem set an ambush for him on the tops of the mountains, and they robbed all who came along that way by them: and it was told Abimelech.

26 Gaal the son of Ebed came with his brothers, and went over to Shechem; and the men of Shechem put their trust in him.

27 They went out into the field, and harvested their vineyards, and trod the grapes, and held festival, and went into the house of their god, and ate and drank, and cursed Abimelech.

28 Gaal the son of Ebed said, "Who is Abimelech, and who is Shechem, that we should serve him? Isn't he the son of Jerubbaal? and Zebul his officer? Serve the men of Hamor the father of Shechem: but why should we serve him?"

29 Would that this people were under my hand! Then I would remove Abimelech." He said to Abimelech, "Increase your army, and come out!"

30 When Zebul the ruler of the city heard the words of Gaal the son of Ebed, his anger was kindled.

31 He sent messengers to Abimelech craftily, saying, "Behold, Gaal the son of Ebed and his brothers have come to Shechem; and behold, they incite the city against you.

32 Now therefore, go up by night, you and the people who are with you, and lie in wait in the field:

33 and it shall be, that in the morning, as soon as the sun is up, you shall rise early, and rush on the city; and behold, when he and the people who are with him come out against you, then may you do to them as you shall find occasion."

34 Abimelech rose up, and all the people who were with him, by night, and they laid wait against Shechem in four companies.

35 Gaal the son of Ebed went out, and stood in the entrance of the gate of the city: and Abimelech rose up, and the people who were with him, from the ambush.

36 When Gaal saw the people, he said to Zebul, "Behold, people are coming down from the tops of the mountains." Zebul said to him, "You see the shadow of the mountains as if they were men."

37 Gaal spoke again and said, "Behold, people are coming down by the middle of the land, and one company comes by the way of the oak of Meonenim."

38 Then Zebul said to him, "Now where is your mouth, that you said, 'Who is Abimelech, that we should serve him?' Isn't this the people that you have despised? Please go out now and fight with them."

39 Gaal went out before the men of Shechem, and fought with Abimelech.

40 Abimelech chased him, and he fled before him, and many fell wounded, even to the entrance of the gate.

41 Abimelech lived at Arumah: and Zebul drove out Gaal and his brothers, that they should not dwell in Shechem.

42 It happened on the next day, that the people went out into the field; and they told Abimelech.

43 He took the people, and divided them into three companies, and laid wait in the field;

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and he looked, and behold, the people came forth out of the city; He rose up against them, and struck them.

44 Abimelech, and the companies that were with him, rushed forward, and stood in the entrance of the gate of the city: and the two companies rushed on all who were in the field, and struck them.

45 Abimelech fought against the city all that day; and he took the city, and killed the people who were therein: and he beat down the city, and sowed it with salt.

46 When all the men of the tower of Shechem heard of it, they entered into the stronghold of the house of Elberith.

47 It was told Abimelech that all the men of the tower of Shechem were gathered together.

48 Abimelech went up to Mount Zalmon, he and all the people who were with him; and Abimelech took an axe in his hand, and cut down a bough from the trees, and took it up, and laid it on his shoulder: and he said to the people who were with him, "What you have seen me do, make haste, and do as I have done!"

49 All the people likewise each cut down his bough, and followed Abimelech, and put them at the base of the stronghold, and set the stronghold on fire on them; so that all the people of the tower of Shechem died also, about a thousand men and women.

50 Then went Abimelech to Thebez, and encamped against Thebez, and took it.

51 But there was a strong tower within the city, and there fled all the men and women, and all they of the city, and shut themselves in, and went up to the roof of the tower.

52 Abimelech came to the tower, and fought against it, and drew near to the door of the tower to burn it with fire.

53 A certain woman cast an upper millstone on Abimelech's head, and broke his skull.

54 Then he called hastily to the young man his armor bearer, and said to him, "Draw your sword, and kill me, that men not say of me, 'A woman killed him.' His young man thrust him through, and he died."

55 When the men of Israel saw that Abimelech was dead, they departed every man to his place.

56 Thus ELOHIM requited the wickedness of Abimelech, which he did to his father, in killing his seventy brothers;

57 and all the wickedness of the men of Shechem did ELOHIM requite on their heads: and on them came the curse of Jotham the son of Jerubbaal.

Job 38.

1 . YHWH Reveals His Omnipotence to Job. .

Then YHWH answered Job out of the whirlwind,

2 "Who is this who darkens counsel by words without knowledge?

3 Brace yourself like a man, for I will question you, then you answer me!

4 "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Declare, if you have understanding.

5 Who determined its measures, if you know? Or who stretched the line on it?

6 Whereupon were its foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone,

7 when the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of ELOHIM shouted for joy?

8 "Or who shut up the sea with doors, when it broke forth from the womb,

9 when I made clouds its garment, and wrapped it in thick darkness,

10 marked out for it my bound, set bars and doors,

11 and said, 'Here you may come, but no further. Here your proud waves shall be stayed?'

12 "Have you commanded the morning in your days, and caused the dawn to know its

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place;

13 that it might take hold of the ends of the earth, and shake the wicked out of it?

14 It is changed as clay under the seal, and stands forth as a garment.

15 From the wicked, their light is withheld. The high arm is broken.

16 “Have you entered into the springs of the sea? Or have you walked in the recesses of the deep?

17 Have the gates of death been revealed to you? Or have you seen the gates of the shadow of death?

18 Have you comprehended the earth in its breadth? Declare, if you know it all.

19 “What is the way to the dwelling of light? As for darkness, where is its place,

20 that you should take it to its bound, that you should discern the paths to its house?

21 Surely you know, for you were born then, and the number of your days is great!

22 Have you entered the treasures of the snow, or have you seen the treasures of the hail,

23 which I have reserved against the time of trouble, against the day of battle and war?

24 By what way is the lightning distributed, or the east wind scattered on the earth?

25 Who has cut a channel for the flood water, or the path for the thunderstorm;

26 To cause it to rain on a land where no man is; on the wilderness, in which there is no man;

27 to satisfy the waste and desolate ground, to cause the tender grass to spring forth?

28 Does the rain have a father? Or who fathers the drops of dew?

29 Out of whose womb came the ice? The gray frost of the sky, who has given birth to it?

30 The waters become hard like stone, when the surface of the deep is frozen.

31 “Can you bind the cluster of the Pleiades, or loosen the cords of Orion?

32 Can you lead forth the constellations in their season? Or can you guide the Bear with her cubs?

33 Do you know the laws of the heavens? Can you establish its dominion over the earth?

34 “Can you lift up your voice to the clouds, That abundance of waters may cover you?

35 Can you send forth lightnings, that they may go? Do they report to you, ‘Here we are?’

36 Who has put wisdom in the inward parts? Or who has given understanding to the mind?

37 Who can number the clouds by wisdom? Or who can pour out the bottles of the sky,

38 when the dust runs into a mass, and the clods of earth stick together?

39 “Can you hunt the prey for the lioness, or satisfy the appetite of the young lions,

40 when they crouch in their dens, and lie in wait in the thicket?

41 Who provides for the raven his prey, when his young ones cry to EL, and wander for lack of food?

Psalms 129.

1 . A Song of Ascents.. .

A Song of Ascents. Many times they have afflicted me from my youth up. Let Israel now say,

2 many times they have afflicted me from my youth up, yet they have not prevailed against me.

3 The plowers plowed on my back. They made their furrows long.

4 YHWH is righteous. He has cut apart the cords of the wicked.

5 Let them be disappointed and turned backward, all those who hate Zion.

6 Let them be as the grass on the housetops, which withers before it grows up;

7 with which the reaper doesn't fill his hand, nor he who binds sheaves, his bosom.

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8 Neither do those who go by say, “The blessing of YHWH be on you. We bless you in the name of YHWH!”

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 reprovener 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 YHWH 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.

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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.)