165. 13-June Daily Reading (Prophets and Writings).

2 Samuel 2.,3:1.

. David Anointed King of Judah. .

It happened after this, that David inquired of YHWH, saying, "Shall I go up into any of the cities of Judah?" YHWH said to him, "Go up." David said, "Where shall I go up?" He said, "To Hebron,"

- 2 So David went up there, and his two wives also, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the wife of Nabal the Carmelite.
- 3 David brought up his men who were with him, every man with his household. They lived in the cities of Hebron.
- 4 The men of Judah came, and there they anointed David king over the house of Judah. They told David, saying, "The men of Jabesh Gilead were those who buried Saul."
- 5 David sent messengers to the men of Jabesh Gilead, and said to them, "Blessed are you by YHWH, that you have shown this kindness to your master, even to Saul, and have buried him.
- 6 Now may YHWH show loving kindness and truth to you. I also will reward you for this kindness, because you have done this thing.
- 7 Now therefore let your hands be strong, and be valiant; for Saul your master is dead, and also the house of Judah have anointed me king over them."

. Ishbosheth Made King of Israel. .

Now Abner the son of Ner, captain of Saul's army, had taken Ishbosheth the son of Saul, and brought him over to Mahanaim:

- 9 and he made him king over Gilead, and over the Ashurites, and over Jezreel, and over Ephraim, and over Benjamin, and over all Israel.
- 10 Ishbosheth, Saul's son, was forty years old when he began to reign over Israel, and he reigned two years. But the house of Judah followed David.
- 11 The time that David was king in Hebron over the house of Judah was seven years and six months.

. Israel and Judah at War. . 12

Abner the son of Ner, and the servants of Ishbosheth the son of Saul, went out from Mahanaim to Gibeon.

- 13 Joab the son of Zeruiah, and the servants of David, went out, and met them by the pool of Gibeon; and they sat down, the one on the one side of the pool, and the other on the other side of the pool.
- 14 Abner said to Joab, "Please let the young men arise and play before us!" Joab said, "Let them arise!"
- 15 Then they arose and went over by number: twelve for Benjamin, and for Ishbosheth the son of Saul, and twelve of the servants of David.
- 16 They each caught his opponent by the head, and thrust his sword in his fellow's side; so they fell down together: therefore that place was called Helkath Hazzurim, which is in
- 17 The battle was very severe that day: and Abner was beaten, and the men of Israel, before the servants of David.
- 18 The three sons of Zeruiah were there, Joab, and Abishai, and Asahel: and Asahel was as light of foot as a wild gazelle.
- 19 Asahel pursued after Abner; and in going he didn't turn to the right hand nor to the

left from following Abner.

- 20 Then Abner looked behind him, and said, "Is it you, Asahel?" He answered, "It is I."
- 21 Abner said to him, "Turn aside to your right hand or to your left, and grab one of the young men, and take his armor." But Asahel would not turn aside from following him.
- 22 Abner said again to Asahel, "Turn aside from following me. Why should I strike you to the ground? How then should I hold up my face to Joab your brother?"
- 23 However he refused to turn aside. Therefore Abner with the back end of the spear struck him in the body, so that the spear came out behind him; and he fell down there, and died in the same place. It happened, that as many as came to the place where Asahel fell down and died stood still.
- 24 But Joab and Abishai pursued after Abner: and the sun went down when they had come to the hill of Ammah, that lies before Giah by the way of the wilderness of Gibeon.
- 25 The children of Benjamin gathered themselves together after Abner, and became one band, and stood on the top of a hill.
- 26 Then Abner called to Joab, and said, "Shall the sword devour forever? Don't you know that it will be bitterness in the latter end? How long shall it be then, before you ask the people to return from following their brothers?"
- 27 Joab said, "As ELOHIM lives, if you had not spoken, surely then in the morning the people would have gone away, and not each followed his brother."
- 28 So Joab blew the shofar; and all the people stood still, and pursued after Israel no more, neither fought they any more.
- 29 Abner and his men went all that night through the Arabah; and they passed over the Jordan, and went through all Bithron, and came to Mahanaim.
- 30 Joab returned from following Abner: and when he had gathered all the people together, there lacked of David's servants nineteen men and Asahel.
- 31 But the servants of David had struck of Benjamin, and of Abner's men, so that three hundred sixty men died.
- 32 They took up Asahel, and buried him in the tomb of his father, which was in Bethlehem. Joab and his men went all night, and the day broke on them at Hebron.
- 1 Now there was long war between the house of Saul and the house of David: and David grew stronger and stronger, but the house of Saul grew weaker and weaker.

Daniel 1.

. Daniel and His Friends Obey ELOHIM. . Daniel! 1

In the third year of the reign of Jehojakim king of Judah came Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon to Jerusalem, and besieged it.

- 2 ADONAI gave Jehojakim king of Judah into his hand, with part of the vessels of the house of ELOHIM; and he carried them into the land of Shinar to the house of his god: and he brought the vessels into the treasure house of his god.
- 3 The king spoke to Ashpenaz the master of his eunuchs, that he should bring in certain of the children of Israel, even of the seed royal and of the nobles:
- 4 youths in whom was no blemish, but well-favored, and skillful in all wisdom, and endowed with knowledge, and understanding science, and such as had ability to stand in the king's palace; and that he should teach them the learning and the language of the Kasdim.
- 5 The king appointed for them a daily portion of the king's dainties, and of the wine which he drank, and that they should be nourished three years; that at its end they should stand before the king.
- 6 Now among these were, of the children of Judah, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah.

- 7 The prince of the eunuchs gave names to them: to Daniel he gave the name of Belteshazzar; and to Hananiah, of Shadrach; and to Mishael, of Meshach; and to Azariah, of Abednego.
- 8 But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the king's dainties, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.
- 9 Now ELOHIM made Daniel to find kindness and compassion in the sight of the prince of the eunuchs.
- 10 The prince of the eunuchs said to Daniel, I fear my master the king, who has appointed your food and your drink: for why should he see your faces worse looking than the youths who are of your own age? so would you endanger my head with the king.
- 11 Then Daniel said to the steward whom the prince of the eunuchs had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah:
- 12 Test your servants, I beg you, ten days; and let them give us vegetables to eat, and water to drink.
- 13 Then let our faces be looked on before you, and the face of the youths who eat of the king's dainties; and as you see, deal with your servants.
- 14 So he listened to them in this matter, and proved them ten days.
- 15 At the end of ten days their faces appeared fairer, and they were fatter in flesh, than all the youths who ate of the king's dainties.
- 16 So the steward took away their dainties, and the wine that they should drink, and gave them pulse.
- 17 Now as for these four youths, ELOHIM gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom: and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.
- 18 At the end of the days which the king had appointed for bringing them in, the prince of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar.
- 19 The king talked with them; and among them all was found none like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah: therefore stood they before the king.
- 20 In every matter of wisdom and understanding, concerning which the king inquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters who were in all his realm.
- 21 Daniel continued even to the first year of king Cyrus.

Psalms 134.

. A Song of Ascents...

A Song of Ascents. Look! Praise YHWH, all you servants of YHWH, who stand by night in YHWH's house!

- 2 Lift up your hands in the sanctuary. Praise YHWH!
- 3 May YHWH bless you from Zion; even he who made heaven and earth.

Proverbs 30.

. 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 YHWH?' 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.'
- 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
- 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."

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