Esther 3, 4, Psalms 106:1-23, Proverbs 28.

Day 287. 13-October Daily Reading (Prophets and Writings).

Esther 3.

1 . Haman's Conspiracy Against the Jews. .

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

- 2 All the king's servants who were in the king's gate bowed down, and paid homage to Haman; for the king had so commanded concerning him. But Mordecai didn't bow down or pay him homage.
- 3 Then the king's servants, who were in the king's gate, said to Mordecai, "Why do you disobey the king's commandment?"
- 4 Now it came to pass, when they spoke daily to him, and he didn't listen to them, that they told Haman, to see whether Mordecai's reason would stand; for he had told them that he was a Jew.
- 5 When Haman saw that Mordecai didn't bow down, nor pay him homage, Haman was full of wrath.
- 6 But he scorned the thought of laying hands on Mordecai alone, for they had made known to him Mordecai's people. Therefore Haman sought to destroy all the Jews who were throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus, even Mordecai's people.
- 7 In the first month, which is the month Nisan, in the twelfth year of King Ahasuerus, they cast Pur, that is, the lot, before Haman from day to day, and from month to month, and chose the twelfth month, which is the month Adar.
- 8 Haman said to King Ahasuerus, "There is a certain people scattered abroad and dispersed among the peoples in all the provinces of your kingdom, and their laws are different than other people's. They don't keep the king's laws. Therefore it is not for the king's profit to allow them to remain.
- 9 If it pleases the king, let it be written that they be destroyed; and I will pay ten thousand talents of silver into the hands of those who are in charge of the king's business, to bring it into the king's treasuries."
- 10 The king took his ring from his hand, and gave it to Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the Jews' enemy.
- 11 The king said to Haman, "The silver is given to you, the people also, to do with them as it seems good to you."
- 12 Then the king's scribes were called in on the first month, on the thirteenth day of the month; and all that Haman commanded was written to the king's satraps, and to the governors who were over every province, and to the princes of every people, to every province according its writing, and to every people in their language. It was written in the name of King Ahasuerus, and it was sealed with the king's ring.
- 13 Letters were sent by couriers into all the king's provinces, to destroy, to kill, and to cause to perish, all Jews, both young and old, little children and women, in one day, even on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month Adar, and to plunder their possessions.
- 14 A copy of the letter, that the decree should be given out in every province, was published to all the peoples, that they should be ready against that day.
- 15 The couriers went forth in haste by the king's commandment, and the decree was given out in the citadel of Susa. The king and Haman sat down to drink; but the city of Shushan was perplexed.

Esther 4.

Esther 3, 4, Psalms 106:1-23, Proverbs 28.

Esther Agrees to Help the Jews.

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

- 2 He came even before the king's gate, for no one is allowed inside the king's gate clothed with sackcloth.
- 3 In every province, wherever the king's commandment and his decree came, there was great mourning among the Jews, and fasting, and weeping, and wailing; and many lay in sackcloth and ashes.
- 4 Esther's maidens and her eunuchs came and told her this, and the queen was exceedingly grieved. She sent clothing to Mordecai, to replace his sackcloth; but he didn't receive it.
- 5 Then Esther called for Hathach, one of the king's eunuchs, whom he had appointed to attend her, and commanded him to go to Mordecai, to find out what this was, and why it was.
- 6 So Hathach went out to Mordecai, to city square which was before the king's gate.
- 7 Mordecai told him of all that had happened to him, and the exact sum of the money that Haman had promised to pay to the king's treasuries for the destruction of the Jews.
- 8 He also gave him the copy of the writing of the decree that was given out in Shushan to destroy them, to show it to Esther, and to declare it to her, and to urge her to go in to the king, to make supplication to him, and to make request before him, for her people.
- 9 Hathach came and told Esther the words of Mordecai.
- 10 Then Esther spoke to Hathach, and gave him a message to Mordecai:
- 11 "All the king's servants, and the people of the king's provinces, know, that whoever, whether man or woman, comes to the king into the inner court without being called, there is one decree for him, that he be put to death, except those to whom the king might hold out the golden scepter, that he may live. I have not been called to come in to the king these thirty days."
- 12 They told to Mordecai Esther's words.
- 13 Then Mordecai asked them return answer to Esther, "Don't think to yourself that you will escape in the king's house any more than all the Jews.
- 14 For if you remain silent now, then relief and deliverance will come to the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. Who knows if you haven't come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"
- 15 Then Esther asked them to answer Mordecai,
- 16 "Go, gather together all the Jews who are present in Shushan, and fast for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day. I and my maidens will also fast the same way. Then I will go in to the king, which is against the decree; and if I perish, I perish."
- 17 So Mordecai went his way, and did according to all that Esther had commanded him.

Psalms 106:1-23.

. Joy in Forgiveness of Israel's Sins..

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

- 2 Who can utter the mighty acts of YHWH, or fully declare all his praise?
- 3 Blessed are those who keep justice. Blessed is one who does what is right at all times.
- 4 Remember me, YHWH, with the favor that you show to your people. Visit me with your salvation,
- 5 that I may see the prosperity of your chosen, that I may rejoice in the gladness of your nation, that I may glory with your inheritance.

Esther 3, 4, Psalms 106:1-23, Proverbs 28.

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

Proverbs 28.

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

Esther 3, 4, Psalms 106:1-23, Proverbs 28.

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

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

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