Esther 7, 8, Psalms 107:1-22, Proverbs 30.

Day 289. 15-October Daily Reading (Prophets and Writings).

Esther 7.

. Haman Hanged Instead of Mordecai. .

So the king and Haman came to banquet with Esther the queen.

- 2 The king said again to Esther on the second day at the banquet of wine, "What is your petition, queen Esther? It shall be granted you. What is your request? Even to the half of the kingdom it shall be performed."
- 3 Then Esther the queen answered, "If I have found favor in your sight, O king, and if it please the king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request.
- 4 For we are sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be slain, and to perish. But if we had been sold for bondservants and bondmaids, I would have held my peace, although the adversary could not have compensated for the king's loss."
- 5 Then King Ahasuerus said to Esther the queen, "Who is he, and where is he who dared presume in his heart to do so?"
- 6 Esther said, "An adversary and an enemy, even this wicked Haman!" Then Haman was afraid before the king and the queen.
- 7 The king arose in his wrath from the banquet of wine and went into the palace garden. Haman stood up to make request for his life to Esther the queen; for he saw that there was evil determined against him by the king.
- 8 Then the king returned out of the palace garden into the place of the banquet of wine; and Haman had fallen on the couch where Esther was. Then the king said, "Will he even assault the queen in front of me in the house?" As the word went out of the king's mouth, they covered Haman's face.
- 9 Then Harbonah, one of the eunuchs who were with the king said, "Behold, the gallows fifty cubits high, which Haman has made for Mordecai, who spoke good for the king, is standing at Haman's house." The king said, "Hang him on it!"
- 10 So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then was the king's wrath pacified.

Esther 8.

1 . Esther Saves the Jews. .

On that day, King Ahasuerus gave the house of Haman, the Jews' enemy, to Esther the queen. Mordecai came before the king; for Esther had told what he was to her.

- 2 The king took off his ring, which he had taken from Haman, and gave it to Mordecai. Esther set Mordecai over the house of Haman.
- 3 Esther spoke yet again before the king, and fell down at his feet, and begged him with tears to put away the mischief of Haman the Agagite, and his device that he had devised against the Jews.
- 4 Then the king held out to Esther the golden scepter. So Esther arose, and stood before the king.
- 5 She said, "If it pleases the king, and if I have found favor in his sight, and the thing seem right to the king, and I am pleasing in his eyes, let it be written to reverse the letters devised by Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, which he wrote to destroy the Jews who are in all the king's provinces.
- 6 For how can I endure to see the evil that would come to my people? How can I endure to see the destruction of my relatives?"
- 7 Then King Ahasuerus said to Esther the queen and to Mordecai the Jew, "See, I have given Esther the house of Haman, and him they have hanged on the gallows, because he

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laid his hand on the Jews.

- 8 Write also to the Jews, as it pleases you, in the king's name, and seal it with the king's ring; for the writing which is written in the king's name, and sealed with the king's ring, may not be reversed by any man."
- 9 Then the king's scribes were called at that time, in the third month Sivan, on the twenty-third day of the month; and it was written according to all that Mordecai commanded to the Jews, and to the satraps, and the governors and princes of the provinces which are from India to Ethiopia, one hundred twenty-seven provinces, to every province according to its writing, and to every people in their language, and to the Jews in their writing, and in their language.
- 10 He wrote in the name of King Ahasuerus, and sealed it with the king's ring, and sent letters by courier on horseback, riding on royal horses that were bread from swift steeds.
- 11 In those letters, the king granted the Jews who were in every city to gather themselves together, and to defend their life, to destroy, to kill, and to cause to perish, all the power of the people and province that would assault them, their little ones and women, and to plunder their possessions,
- 12 on one day in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month Adar.
- 13 A copy of the letter, that the decree should be given out in every province, was published to all the peoples, that the Jews should be ready for that day to avenge themselves on their enemies.
- 14 So the couriers who rode on royal horses went out, hastened and pressed on by the king's commandment. The decree was given out in the citadel of Susa.
- 15 Mordecai went out of the presence of the king in royal clothing of blue and white, and with a great crown of gold, and with a robe of fine linen and purple; and the city of Susa shouted and was glad.
- 16 The Jews had light, gladness, joy, and honor.
- 17 In every province, and in every city, wherever the king's commandment and his decree came, the Jews had gladness, joy, a feast, and a good day. Many from among the peoples of the land became Jews; for the fear of the Jews was fallen on them.

Psalms 107:1-22.

. Thanksgiving to YHWH for His Great Works of Deliverance. .

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

- 2 Let the redeemed by YHWH say so, whom he has redeemed from the hand of the adversary.
- 3 And gathered out of the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.
- 4 They wandered in the wilderness in a desert way. They found no city to live in.
- 5 Hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted in them.
- 6 Then they cried to YHWH in their trouble, and he delivered them out of their distresses.
- 7 he led them also by a straight way, that they might go to a city to live in.
- 8 Let them praise YHWH for his loving kindness, for his wonderful works to the children of men!
- 9 For he satisfies the longing soul. He fills the hungry soul with good.
- 10 Some sat in darkness and in the shadow of death, being bound in affliction and iron,
- 11 because they rebelled against the words of EL, and condemned the counsel of the Most High.
- 12 Therefore he brought down their heart with labor. They fell down, and there was

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none to help.

- 13 Then they cried to YHWH in their trouble, and he saved them out of their distresses.
- 14 He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death, and broke their bonds in sunder.
- 15 Let them praise YHWH for his loving kindness, for his wonderful works to the children of men!
- 16 For he has broken the gates of brass, and cut through bars of iron.
- 17 Fools are afflicted because of their disobedience, and because of their iniquities.
- 18 Their soul abhors all kinds of food. They draw near to the gates of death.
- 19 Then they cry to YHWH in their trouble, he saves them out of their distresses.
- 20 He sends his word, and heals them, and delivers them from their graves.
- 21 Let them praise YHWH for his loving kindness, for his wonderful works to the children of men!
- 22 Let them offer the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare his works with singing.

Proverbs 30.

1 . 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:

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- 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 mistress.
- 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."

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