

21 Nov Daily Reading (Prophets and Writings).

Jeremiah 37, 38, Psalms 137, Proverbs 5.

Day 326. 21-November Daily Reading (Prophets and Writings).

Jeremiah 37.

1 . Zedekiah's Vain Hope. .

Zedekiah the son of Josiah reigned as king, instead of Coniah the son of Jehoiakim, whom Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon made king in the land of Judah.

2 But neither he, nor his servants, nor the people of the land, listened to the words of YHWH, which he spoke by the prophet Jeremiah.

3 Zedekiah the king sent Jehucal the son of Shelemiah, and Zephaniah the son of Maaseiah, the priest, to the prophet Jeremiah, saying, Pray now to YHWH our ELOHIM for us.

4 Now Jeremiah came in and went out among the people; for they had not put him into prison.

5 Pharaoh's army had come forth out of Egypt; and when the Kasdim who were besieging Jerusalem heard news of them, they broke up from Jerusalem.

6 Then came the word of YHWH to the prophet Jeremiah, saying,

7 Thus says YHWH, the ELOHIM of Israel, You shall tell the king of Judah, who sent you to me to inquire of me: Behold, Pharaoh's army, which has come forth to help you, shall return to Egypt into their own land.

8 The Kasdim shall come again, and fight against this city; and they shall take it, and burn it with fire.

9 Thus says YHWH, Don't deceive yourselves, saying, The Kasdim shall surely depart from us; for they shall not depart.

10 For though you had struck the whole army of the Kasdim who fight against you, and there remained but wounded men among them, yes would they rise up every man in his tent, and burn this city with fire.

11 . Jeremiah Imprisoned. .

It happened that, when the army of the Kasdim was broken up from Jerusalem for fear of Pharaoh's army,

12 then Jeremiah went forth out of Jerusalem to go into the land of Benjamin, to receive his portion there, in the midst of the people.

13 When he was in the gate of Benjamin, a captain of the guard was there, whose name was Irijah, the son of Shelemiah, the son of Hananiah; and he laid hold on Jeremiah the prophet, saying, You are falling away to the Kasdim.

14 Then Jeremiah said, It is false; I am not falling away to the Kasdim. But he didn't listen to him; so Irijah laid hold on Jeremiah, and brought him to the princes.

15 The princes were angry with Jeremiah, and struck him, and put him in prison in the house of Jonathan the scribe; for they had made that the prison.

16 When Jeremiah had come into the dungeon house, and into the cells, and Jeremiah had remained there many days;

17 Then Zedekiah the king sent, and fetched him: and the king asked him secretly in his house, and said, Is there any word from YHWH? Jeremiah said, There is. He said also, You shall be delivered into the hand of the king of Babylon.

18 Moreover Jeremiah said to king Zedekiah, Wherein have I sinned against you, or against your servants, or against this people, that you have put me in prison?

19 Where now are your prophets who prophesied to you, saying, The king of Babylon shall not come against you, nor against this land?

20 Now please hear, my master the king: please let my supplication be presented before you, that you not cause me to return to the house of Jonathan the scribe, lest I die there.

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21 Then Zedekiah the king commanded, and they committed Jeremiah into the court of the guard; and they gave him daily a loaf of bread out of the bakers' street, until all the bread in the city was spent. Thus Jeremiah remained in the court of the guard.

Jeremiah 38.

1 **. Jeremiah in the Dungeon. .**

Shephatiah the son of Mattan, and Gedaliah the son of Pashhur, and Jucal the son of Shelemiah, and Pashhur the son of Malchijah, heard the words that Jeremiah spoke to all the people, saying,

2 Thus says YHWH, He who remains in this city shall die by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence; but he who goes forth to the Kasdim shall live, and his life shall be to him for a prey, and he shall live.

3 Thus says YHWH, This city shall surely be given into the hand of the army of the king of Babylon, and he shall take it.

4 Then the princes said to the king, "Please let this man be put to death; because he weakens the hands of the men of war who remain in this city, and the hands of all the people, in speaking such words to them: for this man doesn't seek the welfare of this people, but the hurt."

5 Zedekiah the king said, Behold, he is in your hand; for the king is not he who can do anything against you.

6 Then took they Jeremiah, and cast him into the dungeon of Malchijah the king's son, that was in the court of the guard: and they let down Jeremiah with cords. In the dungeon there was no water, but mire; and Jeremiah sank in the mire.

7 Now when Ebedmelech the Ethiopian, a eunuch, who was in the king's house, heard that they had put Jeremiah in the dungeon (the king then sitting in the gate of Benjamin),

8 Ebedmelech went forth out of the king's house, and spoke to the king, saying,

9 My master the king, these men have done evil in all that they have done to Jeremiah the prophet, whom they have cast into the dungeon; and he is likely to die in the place where he is, because of the famine; for there is no more bread in the city.

10 Then the king commanded Ebedmelech the Ethiopian, saying, Take from here thirty men with you, and take up Jeremiah the prophet out of the dungeon, before he dies.

11 So Ebedmelech took the men with him, and went into the house of the king under the treasury, and took there rags and worn-out garments, and let them down by cords into the dungeon to Jeremiah.

12 Ebedmelech the Ethiopian said to Jeremiah, Put now these rags and worn-out garments under your armpits under the cords. Jeremiah did so.

13 So they drew up Jeremiah with the cords, and took him up out of the dungeon: and Jeremiah remained in the court of the guard.

14 **. Zedekiah's Fears and Jeremiah's Advice. .**

Then Zedekiah the king sent, and took Jeremiah the prophet to him into the third entry that is in the house of YHWH: and the king said to Jeremiah, I will ask you something. Hide nothing from me.

15 Then Jeremiah said to Zedekiah, If I declare it to you, will you not surely put me to death? and if I give you counsel, you will not listen to me.

16 So Zedekiah the king swore secretly to Jeremiah, saying, As YHWH lives, who made us this soul, I will not put you to death, neither will I give you into the hand of these men who seek your life.

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17 Then Jeremiah said to Zedekiah, Thus says YHWH, the ELOHIM of Hosts, the ELOHIM of Israel: If you will go forth to the king of Babylon's princes, then your soul shall live, and this city shall not be burned with fire; and you shall live, and your house.

18 But if you will not go forth to the king of Babylon's princes, then shall this city be given into the hand of the Kasdim, and they shall burn it with fire, and you shall not escape out of their hand.

19 Zedekiah the king said to Jeremiah, I am afraid of the Jews who are fallen away to the Kasdim, lest they deliver me into their hand, and they mock me.

20 But Jeremiah said, They shall not deliver you. Obey, I beg you, the voice of YHWH, in that which I speak to you: so it shall be well with you, and your soul shall live.

21 But if you refuse to go forth, this is the word that YHWH has shown me:

22 behold, all the women who are left in the king of Judah's house shall be brought forth to the king of Babylon's princes, and those women shall say, Your familiar friends have set you on, and have prevailed over you: now that your feet are sunk in the mire, they are turned away back.

23 They shall bring out all your wives and your children to the Kasdim; and you shall not escape out of their hand, but shall be taken by the hand of the king of Babylon: and you shall cause this city to be burned with fire.

24 Then Zedekiah said to Jeremiah, Let no man know of these words, and you shall not die.

25 But if the princes hear that I have talked with you, and they come to you, and tell you, Declare to us now what you have said to the king; don't hide it from us, and we will not put you to death; also what the king said to you:

26 then you shall tell them, I presented my supplication before the king, that he would not cause me to return to Jonathan's house, to die there.

27 Then came all the princes to Jeremiah, and asked him; and he told them according to all these words that the king had commanded. So they left off speaking with him; for the matter was not perceived.

28 So Jeremiah stayed in the court of the guard until the day that Jerusalem was taken.

Psalms 137.

1 . Longing for Zion in a Foreign Land. .

By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down. Yes, we wept, when we remembered Zion.

2 On the willows in its midst, we hung up our harps.

3 For there, those who led us captive asked us for songs. Those who tormented us demanded songs of joy: "Sing us one of the songs of Zion!"

4 How can we sing YHWH's song in a foreign land?

5 If I forget you, Jerusalem, let my right hand forget its skill.

6 Let my tongue stick to the roof of my mouth if I don't remember you; if I don't prefer Jerusalem above my chief joy.

7 Remember, YHWH, against the children of Edom, the day of Jerusalem; who said, "Raze it! Raze it even to its foundation!"

8 Daughter of Babylon, doomed to destruction, he will be happy who rewards you, as you have served us.

9 Happy shall he be, who takes and dashes your little ones against the rock.

Proverbs 5.

1 . The Peril of Adultery. .

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My son, pay attention to my wisdom. Turn your ear to my understanding:
2 that you may maintain discretion, that your lips may preserve knowledge.
3 For the lips of an adulteress drip honey. Her mouth is smoother than oil,
4 But in the end she is as bitter as wormwood, and as sharp as a two-edged sword.
5 Her feet go down to death. Her steps lead straight to Sheol.
6 She gives no thought to the way of life. Her ways are crooked, and she doesn't know it.
7 Now therefore, my sons, listen to me. Don't depart from the words of my mouth.
8 Remove your way far from her. Don't come near the door of her house,
9 lest you give your honor to others, and your years to the cruel one;
10 lest strangers feast on your wealth, and your labors enrich another man's house.
11 You will groan at your latter end, when your flesh and your body are consumed,
12 and say, "How I have hated instruction, and my heart despised reproof;
13 neither have I obeyed the voice of my teachers, nor turned my ear to those who instructed me!
14 I have come to the brink of utter ruin, in the midst of the gathered assembly."
15 Drink water out of your own cistern, running water out of your own well.
16 Should your springs overflow in the streets, streams of water in the public squares?
17 Let them be for yourself alone, not for strangers with you.
18 Let your spring be blessed. Rejoice in the wife of your youth.
19 A loving doe and a graceful deer let her breasts satisfy you at all times. Be captivated always with her love.
20 For why should you, my son, be captivated with an adulteress? Why embrace the bosom of another?
21 For the ways of man are before the eyes of YHWH! He examines all his paths.
22 The evil deeds of the wicked ensnare him. The cords of his sin hold him firmly.
23 He will die for lack of instruction. In the greatness of his folly, he will go astray.

!! End of The Daily Reading from the PROPHETS AND WRITINGS! Praise Yah!
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