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Jeremiah 51.

1 . The Utter Destruction of Babylon.

Thus says YAHWEH: Behold, I will raise up against Babylon, and against those who dwell in Lebkamai, a destroying wind.

2 I will send to Babylon strangers, who shall winnow her; and they shall empty her land: for in the day of trouble they shall be against her around.

3 Against him who bends let the archer bend his bow, and against him who lifts himself up in his coat of mail: and don't spare her young men; utterly destroy all her army.

4 They shall fall down slain in the land of the Kasdim, and thrust through in her streets.

5 For Israel is not forsaken, nor Judah, of his ELOHIM, of YAHWEH of Hosts; though their land is full of guilt against the Holy One of Israel.

6 Flee out of the midst of Babylon, and save every man his life; don't be cut off in her iniquity: for it is the time of YAHWEH's vengeance; he will render to her a recompense.

7 Babylon has been a golden cup in YAHWEH's hand, who made all the earth drunken: the nations have drunk of her wine; therefore the nations are mad.

8 Babylon is suddenly fallen and destroyed: wail for her; take balm for her pain, if so be she may be healed.

9 We would have healed Babylon, but she is not healed: forsake her, and let us go everyone into his own country; for her judgment reaches to heaven, and is lifted up even to the skies.

10 YAHWEH has brought forth our righteousness: come, and let us declare in Zion the work of YAHWEH our ELOHIM!

11 Make sharp the arrows; hold firm the shields: YAHWEH has stirred up the spirit of the kings of the Medes; because his purpose is against Babylon, to destroy it: for it is the vengeance of YAHWEH, the vengeance of his temple.

12 Set up a standard against the walls of Babylon, make the watch strong, set the watchmen, prepare the ambushes; for YAHWEH has both purposed and done that which he spoke concerning the inhabitants of Babylon.

13 You who dwell on many waters, abundant in treasures, your end has come, the measure of your covetousness.

14 YAHWEH of Hosts has sworn by himself, saying, Surely I will fill you with men, as with the canker worm; and they shall lift up a shout against you.

15 He has made the earth by his power, he has established the world by his wisdom, and by his understanding has he stretched out the heavens:

16 when he utters his voice, there is a tumult of waters in the heavens, and he causes the vapors to ascend from the ends of the earth; he makes lightning for the rain, and brings forth the wind out of his treasures.

17 Every man has become brutish and is without knowledge; every goldsmith is disappointed by his image; for his molten image is falsehood, and there is no breath in them.

18 They are vanity, a work of delusion: in the time of their visitation they shall perish.

19 The portion of Jacob is not like these; for he is the former of all things; and Israel is the tribe of his inheritance: YAHWEH of Hosts is his name.

20 You are my battle axe and weapons of war: and with you will I break in pieces the nations; and with you will I destroy kingdoms;

21 and with you will I break in pieces the horse and his rider;

22 and with you will I break in pieces the chariot and him who rides therein; and with you will I break in pieces man and woman; and with you will I break in pieces the old

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man and the youth; and with you will I break in pieces the young man and the virgin;
23 and with you will I break in pieces the shepherd and his flock; and with you will I break in pieces the farmer and his yoke of oxen; and with you will I break in pieces governors and deputies.

24 I will render to Babylon and to all the inhabitants of the Kasdim for all their evil that they have done in Zion in your sight, says YAHWEH!

25 Behold, I am against you, destroying mountain, says YAHWEH, which destroys all the earth; and I will stretch out my hand on you, and roll you down from the rocks, and will make you a burnt mountain.

26 They shall not take of you a stone for a corner, nor a stone for foundations; but you shall be desolate for ever, says YAHWEH!

27 Set up a standard in the land, blow the shofar among the nations, prepare the nations against her, call together against her the kingdoms of Ararat, Minni, and Ashkenaz: appoint a marshal against her; cause the horses to come up as the rough canker worm.

28 Prepare against her the nations, the kings of the Medes, its governors, and all its deputies, and all the land of their dominion.

29 The land trembles and is in pain; for the purposes of YAHWEH against Babylon do stand, to make the land of Babylon a desolation, without inhabitant.

30 The mighty men of Babylon have forborne to fight, they remain in their strongholds; their might has failed; they are become as women: her dwelling places are set on fire; her bars are broken.

31 One runner will run to meet another, and one messenger to meet another, to show the king of Babylon that his city is taken on every quarter:

32 and the passages are seized, and the reeds they have burned with fire, and the men of war are frightened.

33 For thus says YAHWEH of Hosts, the ELOHIM of Israel: The daughter of Babylon is like a threshing floor at the time when it is trodden; yet a little while, and the time of harvest shall come for her.

34 Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon has devoured me, he has crushed me, he has made me an empty vessel, he has, like a monster, swallowed me up, he has filled his maw with my delicacies; he has cast me out.

35 The violence done to me and to my flesh be on Babylon, shall the inhabitant of Zion say; and, My blood be on the inhabitants of the Kasdim, shall Jerusalem say.

36 Therefore thus says YAHWEH: Behold, I will plead your cause, and take vengeance for you; and I will dry up her sea, and make her fountain dry.

37 Babylon shall become heaps, a dwelling place for jackals, an astonishment, and a hissing, without inhabitant.

38 They shall roar together like young lions; they shall growl as lions' cubs.

39 When they are heated, I will make their feast, and I will make them drunken, that they may rejoice, and sleep a perpetual sleep, and not wake, says YAHWEH!

40 I will bring them down like lambs to the slaughter, like rams with male goats.

41 How is Sheshach taken! and the praise of the whole earth seized! how is Babylon become a desolation among the nations!

42 The sea has come up on Babylon; she is covered with the multitude of its waves.

43 Her cities are become a desolation, a dry land, and a desert, a land in which no man dwells, neither does any son of man pass thereby.

44 I will execute judgment on Bel in Babylon, and I will bring forth out of his mouth that which he has swallowed up; and the nations shall not flow any more to him: yes, the wall of Babylon shall fall.

45 My people, go away from the midst of her, and save yourselves every man from the fierce anger of YAHWEH!

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46 Don't let your heart faint, neither fear for the news that shall be heard in the land; for news shall come one year, and after that in another year shall come news, and violence in the land, ruler against ruler.

47 Therefore, behold, the days come, that I will execute judgment on the engraved images of Babylon; and her whole land shall be confounded; and all her slain shall fall in the midst of her.

48 Then the heavens and the earth, and all that is therein, shall sing for joy over Babylon; for the destroyers shall come to her from the north, says YAHWEH!

49 As Babylon has caused the slain of Israel to fall, so at Babylon shall fall the slain of all the land.

50 You who have escaped the sword, go, don't stand still; remember YAHWEH from afar, and let Jerusalem come into your mind.

51 We are confounded, because we have heard reproach; confusion has covered our faces: for strangers have come into the sanctuaries of YAHWEH's house.

52 Therefore, behold, the days come, says YAHWEH, that I will execute judgment on her engraved images; and through all her land the wounded shall groan.

53 Though Babylon should mount up to the sky, and though she should fortify the height of her strength, yet from me shall destroyers come to her, says YAHWEH!

54 The sound of a cry from Babylon, and of great destruction from the land of the Kasdim!

55 For YAHWEH lays Babylon waste, and destroys out of her the great voice; and their waves roar like many waters; the noise of their voice is uttered:

56 for the destroyer has come on her, even on Babylon, and her mighty men are taken, their bows are broken in pieces; for YAHWEH is an El of recompenses, he will surely requite.

57 I will make drunk her princes and her wise men, her governors and her deputies, and her mighty men; and they shall sleep a perpetual sleep, and not wake up, says the King, whose name is YAHWEH of Hosts.

58 Thus says YAHWEH of Hosts: The broad walls of Babylon shall be utterly overthrown, and her high gates shall be burned with fire; and the peoples shall labor for vanity, and the nations for the fire; and they shall be weary.

59 . Jeremiah's Command to Seraiah. .

The word which Jeremiah the prophet commanded Seraiah the son of Neriah, the son of Mahseiah, when he went with Zedekiah the king of Judah to Babylon in the fourth year of his reign. Now Seraiah was chief quartermaster.

60 Jeremiah wrote in a book all the evil that should come on Babylon, even all these words that are written concerning Babylon.

61 Jeremiah said to Seraiah, When you come to Babylon, then see that you read all these words,

62 and say, YAHWEH, you have spoken concerning this place, to cut it off, that none shall dwell therein, neither man nor animal, but that it shall be desolate forever.

63 It shall be, when you have made an end of reading this book, that you shall bind a stone to it, and cast it into the midst of the Euphrates:

64 and you shall say, Thus shall Babylon sink, and shall not rise again because of the evil that I will bring on her; and they shall be weary. Thus far are the words of Jeremiah.

Jeremiah 52.

1 . The Fall of Jerusalem Reviewed. .

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Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he began to reign; and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem: and his mother's name was Hamutal the daughter of Jeremiah of Libnah.

2 He did that which was evil in the sight of YAHWEH, according to all that Jehoiakim had done.

3 For through the anger of YAHWEH it happened in Jerusalem and Judah, until he had cast them out from his presence. Zedekiah rebelled against the king of Babylon.

4 It happened in the ninth year of his reign, in the tenth month, in the tenth day of the month, that Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came, he and all his army, against Jerusalem, and encamped against it; and they built forts against it round about.

5 So the city was besieged to the eleventh year of king Zedekiah.

6 In the fourth month, in the ninth day of the month, the famine was severe in the city, so that there was no bread for the people of the land.

7 Then a breach was made in the city, and all the men of war fled, and went forth out of the city by night by the way of the gate between the two walls, which was by the king's garden; (now the Kasdim were against the city all around;) and they went toward the Arabah.

8 But the army of the Kasdim pursued after the king, and overtook Zedekiah in the plains of Jericho; and all his army was scattered from him.

9 Then they took the king, and carried him up to the king of Babylon to Riblah in the land of Hamath; and he gave judgment on him.

10 The king of Babylon killed the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes: he killed also all the princes of Judah in Riblah.

11 He put out the eyes of Zedekiah; and the king of Babylon bound him in fetters, and carried him to Babylon, and put him in prison until the day of his death.

12 **. The Temple and City Plundered and Burned. .**

Now in the fifth month, in the tenth day of the month, which was the nineteenth year of king Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, came Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard, who stood before the king of Babylon, into Jerusalem:

13 and he burned the house of YAHWEH, and the king's house; and all the houses of Jerusalem, even every great house, burned he with fire.

14 All the army of the Kasdim, who were with the captain of the guard, broke down all the walls of Jerusalem all around.

15 Then Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard carried away captive of the poorest of the people, and the residue of the people who were left in the city, and those who fell away, who fell to the king of Babylon, and the residue of the multitude.

16 But Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard left of the poorest of the land to be vineyard keepers and farmers.

17 The Kasdim broke the pillars of brass that were in the house of YAHWEH, and the bases and the bronze sea that were in the house of YAHWEH in pieces, and carried all the of their brass to Babylon.

18 They also took away the pots, the shovels, the snuffers, the basins, the spoons, and all the vessels of brass with which they ministered.

19 The captain of the guard took away the cups, the fire pans, the basins, the pots, the menorahs, the spoons, and the bowls; that which was of gold, in gold, and that which was of silver, in silver.

20 They took the two pillars, the one sea, and the twelve bronze bulls that were under the bases, which king Solomon had made for the house of YAHWEH! The brass of all these vessels was without weight.

21 As for the pillars, the height of the one pillar was eighteen cubits; and a line of twelve cubits encircled it; and its thickness was four fingers. It was hollow.

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22 A capital of brass was on it; and the height of the one capital was five cubits, with network and pomegranates on the capital all around, all of brass: and the second pillar also had like these, and pomegranates.

23 There were ninety-six pomegranates on the sides; all the pomegranates were one hundred on the network all around.

24 . The People Taken Captive to Babylonia. .

The captain of the guard took Seraiah the chief priest, and Zephaniah the second priest, and the three keepers of the threshold:

25 and out of the city he took an officer who was set over the men of war; and seven men of those who saw the king's face, who were found in the city; and the scribe of the captain of the army, who mustered the people of the land; and sixty men of the people of the land, who were found in the midst of the city.

26 Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard took them, and brought them to the king of Babylon to Riblah.

27 The king of Babylon struck them, and put them to death at Riblah in the land of Hamath. So Judah was carried away captive out of his land.

28 This is the people whom Nebuchadnezzar carried away captive: in the seventh year three thousand twenty-three Jews;

29 in the eighteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar he carried away captive from Jerusalem eight hundred thirty-two persons;

30 in the three and twentieth year of Nebuchadnezzar Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard carried away captive of the Jews seven hundred forty-five persons: all the persons were four thousand and six hundred.

31 . Jehoiachin Released from Prison. .

It happened in the seven and thirtieth year of the captivity of Jehoiachin king of Judah, in the twelfth month, in the five and twentieth day of the month, that Evilmerodach king of Babylon, in the first year of his reign, lifted up the head of Jehoiachin king of Judah, and brought him forth out of prison;

32 and he spoke kindly to him, and set his throne above the throne of the kings who were with him in Babylon,

33 and changed his prison garments. Jehoiachin ate bread before him continually all the days of his life:

34 and for his allowance, there was a continual allowance given him by the king of Babylon, every day a portion until the day of his death, all the days of his life.

Psalms 144.

1 . A Psalm of David... .

By David. Blessed be YAHWEH, my rock, who teaches my hands to war, and my fingers to battle:

2 my loving kindness, my fortress, my high tower, my deliverer, my shield, and he in whom I take refuge; who subdues my people under me.

3 YAHWEH, what is man, that you care for him? Or the son of man, that you think of him?

4 Man is like a breath. His days are like a shadow that passes away.

5 Part your heavens, YAHWEH, and come down. Touch the mountains, and they will smoke.

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- 6 Throw out lightning, and scatter them. Send out your arrows, and rout them.
- 7 Stretch out your hand from above, rescue me, and deliver me out of great waters, out of the hands of foreigners;
- 8 whose mouths speak deceit, Whose right hand is a right hand of falsehood.
- 9 I will sing a new song to you, ELOHIM! On a ten-stringed lyre, I will sing praises to you.
- 10 You are he who gives salvation to kings, who rescues David, his servant, from the deadly sword.
- 11 Rescue me, and deliver me out of the hands of foreigners, whose mouths speak deceit, whose right hand is a right hand of falsehood.
- 12 Then our sons will be like well-nurtured plants, our daughters like pillars carved to adorn a palace.
- 13 Our barns are full, filled with all kinds of provision. Our sheep bring forth thousands and ten thousands in our fields.
- 14 Our oxen will pull heavy loads. There is no breaking in, and no going away, and no outcry in our streets.
- 15 Happy are the people who are in such a situation. Happy are the people whose ELOHIM is YAHWEH!

Proverbs 12.

- 1 Whoever loves correction loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof is stupid.
- 2 A good man shall obtain favor from YAHWEH, but he will condemn a man of wicked devices.
- 3 A man shall not be established by wickedness, but the root of the righteous shall not be moved.
- 4 A worthy woman is the crown of her husband, but a disgraceful wife is as rotteness in his bones.
- 5 The thoughts of the righteous are just, but the advice of the wicked is deceitful.
- 6 The words of the wicked are about lying in wait for blood, but the speech of the upright rescues them.
- 7 The wicked are overthrown, and are no more, but the house of the righteous shall stand.
- 8 A man shall be commended according to his wisdom, but he who has a warped mind shall be despised.
- 9 Better is he who is lightly esteemed, and has a servant, than he who honors himself, and lacks bread.
- 10 A righteous man respects the life of his animal, but the tender mercies of the wicked are cruel.
- 11 He who tills his land shall have plenty of bread, but he who chases fantasies is void of understanding.
- 12 The wicked desires the plunder of evil men, but the root of the righteous flourishes.
- 13 An evil man is trapped by sinfulness of lips, but the righteous shall come out of trouble.
- 14 A man shall be satisfied with good by the fruit of his mouth. The work of a man's hands shall be rewarded to him.
- 15 The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but he who is wise listens to counsel.
- 16 A fool shows his annoyance the same day, but one who overlooks an insult is prudent.
- 17 He who is truthful testifies honestly, but a false witness lies.
- 18 There is one who speaks rashly like the piercing of a sword, but the tongue of the wise heals.

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- 19 Truth's lips will be established forever, but a lying tongue is only momentary.
20 Deceit is in the heart of those who plot evil, but joy comes to the promoters of peace.
21 No mischief shall happen to the righteous, but the wicked shall be filled with evil.
22 Lying lips are an abomination to YAHWEH, but those who do the truth are his delight.
23 A prudent man keeps his knowledge, but the hearts of fools proclaim foolishness.
24 The hands of the diligent ones shall rule, but laziness ends in slave labor.
25 Anxiety in a man's heart weighs it down, but a kind word makes it glad.
26 A righteous person is cautious in friendship, but the way of the wicked leads them astray.
27 The slothful man doesn't roast his game, but the possessions of diligent men are prized.
28 In the way of righteousness is life; in its path there is no death.

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

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Lamentations 1.

1 . Jerusalem in Affliction. . Lamentations!

How the city sits solitary, that was full of people! She has become as a widow, who was great among the nations! She who was a princess among the provinces has become tributary!

2 She weeps bitterly in the night, and her tears are on her cheeks; among all her lovers she has none to comfort her: All her friends have dealt treacherously with her; they are become her enemies.

3 Judah is gone into captivity because of affliction, and because of great servitude; she dwells among the nations, she finds no rest: all her persecutors overtook her within the straits.

4 The ways of Zion do mourn, because none come to the solemn assembly; all her gates are desolate, her priests do sigh: her virgins are afflicted, and she herself is in bitterness.

5 Her adversaries are become the head, her enemies prosper; for YAHWEH has afflicted her for the multitude of her transgressions: her young children are gone into captivity before the adversary.

6 From the daughter of Zion all her majesty is departed: her princes are become like harts that find no pasture, they are gone without strength before the pursuer.

7 Jerusalem remembers in the days of her affliction and of her miseries all her pleasant things that were from the days of old: when her people fell into the hand of the adversary, and no one helped her, The adversaries saw her, they mocked at her desolations.

8 Jerusalem has grievously sinned; therefore she has become as an unclean thing; all who honored her despise her, because they have seen her nakedness: yes, she sighs, and turns backward.

9 Her filthiness was in her skirts; she didn't remember her latter end; therefore is she come down wonderfully; she has no comforter: see, YAHWEH, my affliction; for the enemy has magnified himself.

10 The adversary has spread out his hand on all her pleasant things: for she has seen that the nations are entered into her sanctuary, concerning whom you commanded that they should not enter into your assembly.

11 All her people sigh, they seek bread; they have given their pleasant things for food to refresh the soul: look, YAHWEH, and see; for I am become abject.

12 Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by? Look, and see if there be any sorrow like my sorrow, which is brought on me, With which YAHWEH has afflicted me in the day of his fierce anger.

13 From on high has he sent fire into my bones, and it prevails against them; He has spread a net for my feet, he has turned me back: He has made me desolate and faint all the day.

14 The yoke of my transgressions is bound by his hand; They are knit together, they have come up on my neck; he has made my strength to fail: ADONAI has delivered me into their hands, against whom I am not able to stand.

15 ADONAI has set at nothing all my mighty men in the midst of me; He has called a solemn assembly against me to crush my young men: ADONAI has trodden as in a winepress the virgin daughter of Judah.

16 For these things I weep; my eye, my eye runs down with water; Because the comforter who should refresh my soul is far from me: My children are desolate, because the enemy has prevailed.

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17 Zion spreads forth her hands; there is none to comfort her; YAHWEH has commanded concerning Jacob, that those who are around him should be his adversaries: Jerusalem is among them as an unclean thing.

18 YAHWEH is righteous; for I have rebelled against his commandment: Please hear all you peoples, and see my sorrow: My virgins and my young men are gone into captivity.

19 I called for my lovers, but they deceived me: My priests and my elders gave up the spirit in the city, While they sought them food to refresh their souls.

20 See, YAHWEH; for I am in distress; my heart is troubled; My heart is turned within me; for I have grievously rebelled: Abroad the sword bereaves, at home there is as death.

21 They have heard that I sigh; there is none to comfort me; All my enemies have heard of my trouble; they are glad that you have done it: You will bring the day that you have proclaimed, and they shall be like me.

22 Let all their wickedness come before you; Do to them, as you have done to me for all my transgressions: For my sighs are many, and my heart is faint.

Lamentations 2.

1 . ELOHIM's Anger with Jerusalem. .

How has ADONAI covered the daughter of Zion with a cloud in his anger! He has cast down from heaven to the earth the beauty of Israel, And hasn't remembered his footstool in the day of his anger.

2 ADONAI has swallowed up all the habitations of Jacob, and has not pitied: He has thrown down in his wrath the strongholds of the daughter of Judah; He has brought them down to the ground; he has profaned the kingdom and its princes.

3 He has cut off in fierce anger all the horn of Israel; He has drawn back his right hand from before the enemy: He has burned up Jacob like a flaming fire, which devours all around.

4 He has bent his bow like an enemy, he has stood with his right hand as an adversary, Has killed all that were pleasant to the eye: In the tent of the daughter of Zion he has poured out his wrath like fire.

5 ADONAI has become as an enemy, he has swallowed up Israel; He has swallowed up all her palaces, he has destroyed his strongholds; He has multiplied in the daughter of Judah mourning and lamentation.

6 He has violently taken away his tabernacle, as if it were of a garden; he has destroyed his place of assembly: YAHWEH has caused solemn assembly and Sabbath to be forgotten in Zion, Has despised in the indignation of his anger the king and the priest.

7 ADONAI has cast off his altar, he has abhorred his sanctuary; He has given up into the hand of the enemy the walls of her palaces: They have made a noise in the house of YAHWEH, as in the day of a solemn assembly.

8 YAHWEH has purposed to destroy the wall of the daughter of Zion; He has stretched out the line, he has not withdrawn his hand from destroying; He has made the rampart and wall to lament; they languish together.

9 Her gates are sunk into the ground; he has destroyed and broken her bars: Her king and her princes are among the nations where the Torah (teaching and instruction) is not; Yes, her prophets find no vision from YAHWEH!

10 The elders of the daughter of Zion sit on the ground, they keep silence; They have cast up dust on their heads; they have clothed themselves with sackcloth: The virgins of Jerusalem hang down their heads to the ground.

11 My eyes do fail with tears, my heart is troubled; My liver is poured on the earth, because of the destruction of the daughter of my people, Because the young children and the infants swoon in the streets of the city.

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12 They tell their mothers, Where is grain and wine? When they swoon as the wounded in the streets of the city, When their soul is poured out into their mothers' bosom.

13 What shall I testify to you? what shall I liken to you, daughter of Jerusalem? What shall I compare to you, that I may comfort you, virgin daughter of Zion? For your breach is great like the sea: who can heal you?

14 Your prophets have seen for you false and foolish visions; They have not uncovered your iniquity, to bring back your captivity, but have seen for you false oracles and causes of banishment.

15 All that pass by clap their hands at you. They hiss and wag their head at the daughter of Jerusalem, saying, Is this the city that men called The perfection of beauty, The joy of the whole earth?

16 All your enemies have opened their mouth wide against you; They hiss and gnash the teeth; they say, We have swallowed her up; Certainly this is the day that we looked for; we have found, we have seen it.

17 YAHWEH has done that which he purposed; he has fulfilled his word that he commanded in the days of old; He has thrown down, and has not pitied: He has caused the enemy to rejoice over you; he has exalted the horn of your adversaries.

18 Their heart cried to ADONAI: wall of the daughter of Zion, let tears run down like a river day and night; Give yourself no respite; don't let the apple of your eye cease.

19 Arise, cry out in the night, at the beginning of the watches; Pour out your heart like water before the face of ADONAI: Lift up your hands toward him for the life of your young children, that faint for hunger at the head of every street.

20 Look, YAHWEH, and see to whom you have done thus! Shall the women eat their fruit, the children that are dandled in the hands? Shall the priest and the prophet be killed in the sanctuary of ADONAI?

21 The youth and the old man lie on the ground in the streets; My virgins and my young men are fallen by the sword: You have killed them in the day of your anger; you have slaughtered, and not pitied.

22 You have called, as in the day of a solemn assembly, my terrors on every side; There was none that escaped or remained in the day of YAHWEH's anger: Those that I have dandled and brought up has my enemy consumed.

Psalms 145.

1 . A Praise of David..

A praise psalm by David. I will exalt you, my ELOHIM, the King. I will praise your name forever and ever.

2 Every day I will praise you. I will extol your name forever and ever.

3 Great is YAHWEH, and greatly to be praised! His greatness is unsearchable.

4 One generation will commend your works to another, and will declare your mighty acts.

5 Of the glorious majesty of your honor, of your wondrous works, I will meditate.

6 Men will speak of the might of your awesome acts. I will declare your greatness.

7 They will utter the memory of your great goodness, and will sing of your righteousness.

8 YAHWEH is gracious, merciful, slow to anger, and of great loving kindness.

9 YAHWEH is good to all. His tender mercies are over all his works.

10 All your works will give thanks to you, YAHWEH! Your holy ones will extol you.

11 They will speak of the glory of your kingdom, and talk about your power;

12 to make known to the sons of men his mighty acts, the glory of the majesty of his kingdom.

13 Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom. Your dominion endures throughout all

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generations. YAHWEH is faithful in all his words, and loving in all his deeds.

14 YAHWEH upholds all who fall, and raises up all those who are bowed down.

15 The eyes of all wait for you. You give them their food in due season.

16 You open your hand, and satisfy the desire of every living thing.

17 YAHWEH is righteous in all his ways, and gracious in all his works.

18 YAHWEH is near to all those who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.

19 He will fulfill the desire of those who fear him. He also will hear their cry, and will save them.

20 YAHWEH preserves all those who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy.

21 My mouth will speak the praise of YAHWEH! Let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever.

Proverbs 13.

1 A wise son listens to his father's instruction, but a scoffer doesn't listen to rebuke.

2 By the fruit of his lips, a man enjoys good things; but the unfaithful crave violence.

3 He who guards his mouth guards his soul. One who opens wide his lips comes to ruin.

4 The soul of the sluggard desires, and has nothing, but the desire of the diligent shall be fully satisfied.

5 A righteous man hates lies, but a wicked man brings shame and disgrace.

6 Righteousness guards the way of integrity, but wickedness overthrows the sinner.

7 There are some who pretend to be rich, yet have nothing. There are some who pretend to be poor, yet have great wealth.

8 The ransom of a man's life is his riches, but the poor hear no threats.

9 The light of the righteous shines brightly, but the lamp of the wicked is snuffed out.

10 Pride only breeds quarrels, but with ones who take advice is wisdom.

11 Wealth gained dishonestly dwindles away, but he who gathers by hand makes it grow.

12 Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but when longing is fulfilled, it is a tree of life.

13 Whoever despises instruction will pay for it, but he who respects a command will be rewarded.

14 The teaching of the wise is a spring of life, to turn from the snares of death.

15 Good understanding wins favor; but the way of the unfaithful is hard.

16 Every prudent man acts from knowledge, but a fool exposes folly.

17 A wicked messenger falls into trouble, but a trustworthy envoy gains healing.

18 Poverty and shame come to him who refuses discipline, but he who heeds correction shall be honored.

19 Longing fulfilled is sweet to the soul, but fools detest turning from evil.

20 One who walks with wise men grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm.

21 Misfortune pursues sinners, but prosperity rewards the righteous.

22 A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children, but the wealth of the sinner is stored for the righteous.

23 An abundance of food is in poor people's fields, but injustice sweeps it away.

24 One who spares the rod hates his son, but one who loves him is careful to discipline him.

25 The righteous one eats to the satisfying of his soul, but the belly of the wicked goes hungry.

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

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335. 30-November Daily Reading (Prophets and Writings).

Lamentations 3.

1 . The Prophet's Anguish and Hope. .

- 1 I am the man that has seen affliction by the rod of his wrath.
2 He has led me and caused me to walk in darkness, and not in light.
3 Surely against me he turns his hand again and again all the day.
4 My flesh and my skin has he made old; he has broken my bones.
5 He has built against me, and surrounded me with gall and travail.
6 He has made me to dwell in dark places, as those that have been long dead.
7 He has walled me about, that I can't go forth; he has made my chain heavy.
8 Yes, when I cry, and call for help, he shuts out my prayer.
9 He has walled up my ways with cut stone; he has made my paths crooked.
10 He is to me as a bear lying in wait, as a lion in secret places.
11 He has turned aside my ways, and pulled me in pieces; he has made me desolate.
12 He has bent his bow, and set me as a mark for the arrow.
13 He has caused the shafts of his quiver to enter into my kidneys.
14 I am become a derision to all my people, and their song all the day.
15 He has filled me with bitterness, he has sated me with wormwood.
16 He has also broken my teeth with gravel stones; he has covered me with ashes.
17 You have removed my soul far off from peace; I forgot prosperity.
18 I said, My strength is perished, and my expectation from YAHWEH!
19 Remember my affliction and my misery, the wormwood and the gall.
20 My soul still remembers them, and is bowed down within me.
21 This I recall to my mind; therefore have I hope.
22 It is of YAHWEH's loving kindnesses that we are not consumed, because his compassion doesn't fail.
23 They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.
24 YAHWEH is my portion, says my soul; therefore will I hope in him.
25 YAHWEH is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him.
26 It is good that a man should hope and quietly wait for the salvation of YAHWEH!
27 It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth.
28 Let him sit alone and keep silence, because he has laid it on him.
29 Let him put his mouth in the dust, if so be there may be hope.
30 Let him give his cheek to him who strikes him; let him be filled full with reproach.
31 For ADONAI will not cast off forever.
32 For though he cause grief, yet he will have compassion according to the multitude of his loving kindnesses.
33 For he does not afflict willingly, nor grieve the children of men.
34 To crush under foot all the prisoners of the earth,
35 To turn aside the right of a man before the face of the Most High,
36 To subvert a man in his cause, ADONAI doesn't approve.
37 Who is he who says, and it comes to pass, when ADONAI doesn't command it?
38 Doesn't evil and good come out of the mouth of the Most High?
39 Why does a living man complain, a man for the punishment of his sins?
40 Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to YAHWEH!
41 Let us lift up our heart with our hands to El in the heavens.
42 We have transgressed and have rebelled; you have not pardoned.
43 You have covered with anger and pursued us; you have killed, you have not pitied.
44 You have covered yourself with a cloud, so that no prayer can pass through.

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- 45 You have made us an off-scouring and refuse in the midst of the peoples.
46 All our enemies have opened their mouth wide against us.
47 Fear and the pit have come on us, devastation and destruction.
48 My eye runs down with streams of water, for the destruction of the daughter of my people.
49 My eye pours down, and doesn't cease, without any intermission,
50 Until YAHWEH look down, and see from heaven.
51 My eye affects my soul, because of all the daughters of my city.
52 They have chased me relentlessly like a bird, those who are my enemies without cause.
53 They have cut off my life in the dungeon, and have cast a stone on me.
54 Waters flowed over my head; I said, I am cut off.
55 I called on your name, YAHWEH, out of the lowest dungeon.
56 You heard my voice; don't hide your ear at my breathing, at my cry.
57 You drew near in the day that I called on you; you said, Don't be afraid.
58 ADONAI, you have pleaded the causes of my soul; you have redeemed my life.
59 YAHWEH, you have seen my wrong. Judge my cause.
60 You have seen all their vengeance and all their devices against me.
61 You have heard their reproach, YAHWEH, and all their devices against me,
62 The lips of those that rose up against me, and their device against me all the day.
63 You see their sitting down, and their rising up; I am their song.
64 You will render to them a recompense, YAHWEH, according to the work of their hands.
65 You will give them hardness of heart, your curse to them.
66 You will pursue them in anger, and destroy them from under the heavens of YAHWEH!

Lamentations 4.

1 . The Degradation of Zion. .

- How is the gold become dim! how is the most pure gold changed! The stones of the sanctuary are poured out at the head of every street.
2 The precious sons of Zion, comparable to fine gold, How are they esteemed as earthen pitchers, the work of the hands of the potter!
3 Even the jackals draw out the breast, they nurse their young ones: The daughter of my people has become cruel, like the ostriches in the wilderness.
4 The tongue of the nursing child clings to the roof of his mouth for thirst: The young children ask bread, and no man breaks it to them.
5 Those who fed delicately are desolate in the streets: Those who were brought up in scarlet embrace dunghills.
6 For the iniquity of the daughter of my people is greater than the sin of Sodom, That was overthrown as in a moment, and no hands were laid on her.
7 Her Nazirites were purer than snow, they were whiter than milk; They were more ruddy in body than rubies, their polishing was as of sapphire.
8 Their appearance is blacker than a coal; they are not known in the streets: Their skin clings to their bones; it is withered, it has become like a stick.
9 Those who are killed with the sword are better than those who are killed with hunger; For these pine away, stricken through, for want of the fruits of the field.
10 The hands of the pitiful women have boiled their own children; They were their food in the destruction of the daughter of my people.
11 YAHWEH has accomplished his wrath, he has poured out his fierce anger; He has

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kindled a fire in Zion, which has devoured its foundations.

12 The kings of the earth didn't believe, neither all the inhabitants of the world, That the adversary and the enemy would enter into the gates of Jerusalem.

13 It is because of the sins of her prophets, and the iniquities of her priests, That have shed the blood of the just in the midst of her.

14 They wander as blind men in the streets, they are polluted with blood, So that men can't touch their garments.

15 Depart! they cried to them, Unclean! depart, depart, don't touch! When they fled away and wandered, men said among the nations, They shall no more live here.

16 The anger of YAHWEH has scattered them; he will no more regard them: They didn't respect the persons of the priests, they didn't favor the elders.

17 Our eyes do yet fail in looking for our vain help: In our watching we have watched for a nation that could not save.

18 They hunt our steps, so that we can't go in our streets: Our end is near, our days are fulfilled; for our end has come.

19 Our pursuers were swifter than the eagles of the sky: They chased us on the mountains, they laid wait for us in the wilderness.

20 The breath of our nostrils, the anointed of YAHWEH, was taken in their pits; Of whom we said, Under his shadow we shall live among the nations.

21 Rejoice and be glad, daughter of Edom, that dwell in the land of Uz: The cup shall pass through to you also; you shall be drunken, and shall make yourself naked.

22 The punishment of your iniquity is accomplished, daughter of Zion; he will no more carry you away into captivity: He will visit your iniquity, daughter of Edom; he will uncover your sins.

Psalms 146.

1 . The Happiness of Those Whose Help Is YAHWEH. .

Praise YAH! Praise YAHWEH, my soul.

2 While I live, I will praise YAHWEH! I will sing praises to my ELOHIM as long as I exist.

3 Don't put your trust in princes, each a son of man in whom there is no help.

4 His spirit departs, and he returns to the earth. In that very day, his thoughts perish.

5 Happy is he who has the El of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in YAHWEH, his ELOHIM:

6 who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps truth forever;

7 who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry. YAHWEH frees the prisoners.

8 YAHWEH opens the eyes of the blind. YAHWEH raises up those who are bowed down. YAHWEH loves the righteous.

9 YAHWEH preserves the foreigners. He upholds the fatherless and widow, but the way of the wicked he turns upside down.

10 YAHWEH will reign forever; your ELOHIM, O Zion, to all generations. Praise YAH!

Proverbs 14.

1 Every wise woman builds her house, but the foolish one tears it down with her own hands.

2 He who walks in his uprightness fears YAHWEH, but he who is perverse in his ways despises him.

3 The fool's talk brings a rod to his back, but the lips of the wise protect them.

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- 4 Where no oxen are, the crib is clean, but much increase is by the strength of the ox.
- 5 A truthful witness will not lie, but a false witness pours out lies.
- 6 A scoffer seeks wisdom, and doesn't find it, but knowledge comes easily to a discerning person.
- 7 Stay away from a foolish man, for you won't find knowledge on his lips.
- 8 The wisdom of the prudent is to think about his way, but the folly of fools is deceit.
- 9 Fools mock at making atonement for sins, but among the upright there is good will.
- 10 The heart knows its own bitterness and joy; he will not share these with a stranger.
- 11 The house of the wicked will be overthrown, but the tent of the upright will flourish.
- 12 There is a way which seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.
- 13 Even in laughter the heart may be sorrowful, and mirth may end in heaviness.
- 14 The unfaithful will be repaid for his own ways; likewise a good man will be rewarded for his ways.
- 15 A simple man believes everything, but the prudent man carefully considers his ways.
- 16 A wise man fears, and shuns evil, but the fool is hotheaded and reckless.
- 17 He who is quick to become angry will commit folly, and a crafty man is hated.
- 18 The simple inherit folly, but the prudent are crowned with knowledge.
- 19 The evil bow down before the good, and the wicked at the gates of the righteous.
- 20 The poor person is shunned even by his own neighbor, but the rich person has many friends.
- 21 He who despises his neighbor sins, but blessed is he who has pity on the poor.
- 22 Don't they go astray who plot evil? But love and faithfulness belong to those who plan good.
- 23 In all hard work there is profit, but the talk of the lips leads only to poverty.
- 24 The crown of the wise is their riches, but the folly of fools crowns them with folly.
- 25 A truthful witness saves souls, but a false witness is deceitful.
- 26 In the fear of YAHWEH is a secure fortress, and he will be a refuge for his children.
- 27 The fear of YAHWEH is a fountain of life, turning people from the snares of death.
- 28 In the multitude of people is the king's glory, but in the lack of people is the destruction of the prince.
- 29 He who is slow to anger has great understanding, but he who has a quick temper displays folly.
- 30 The life of the body is a heart at peace, but envy rots the bones.
- 31 He who oppresses the poor shows contempt for his Maker, but he who is kind to the needy honors him.
- 32 The wicked is brought down in his calamity, but in death, the righteous has a refuge.
- 33 Wisdom rests in the heart of one who has understanding, and is even made known in the inward part of fools.
- 34 Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people.
- 35 The king's favor is toward a servant who deals wisely, but his wrath is toward one who causes shame.

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336. 1-December Daily Reading (Prophets and Writings).

Lamentations 5.

1 . A Prayer for Restoration. .

Remember, YAHWEH, what has come on us: Look, and see our reproach.
2 Our inheritance is turned to strangers, Our houses to aliens.
3 We are orphans and fatherless; Our mothers are as widows.
4 We have drunken our water for money; Our wood is sold to us.
5 Our pursuers are on our necks: We are weary, and have no rest.
6 We have given the hand to the Egyptians, To the Assyrians, to be satisfied with bread.
7 Our fathers sinned, and are no more; We have borne their iniquities.
8 Servants rule over us: There is none to deliver us out of their hand.
9 We get our bread at the peril of our lives, Because of the sword of the wilderness.
10 Our skin is black like an oven, Because of the burning heat of famine.
11 They ravished the women in Zion, The virgins in the cities of Judah.
12 Princes were hanged up by their hand: The faces of elders were not honored.
13 The young men bare the mill; The children stumbled under the wood.
14 The elders have ceased from the gate, The young men from their music.
15 The joy of our heart is ceased; Our dance is turned into mourning.
16 The crown is fallen from our head: Woe to us! for we have sinned.
17 For this our heart is faint; For these things our eyes are dim;
18 For the mountain of Zion, which is desolate: The foxes walk on it.
19 You, YAHWEH, remain forever; Your throne is from generation to generation.
20 Why do you forget us forever, And forsake us so long time?
21 Turn us to yourself, YAHWEH, and we shall be turned. Renew our days as of old.
22 But you have utterly rejected us; You are very angry against us.

Psalms 147.

1 . Praise to ELOHIM for His Word and Providence. .

Praise YAH, for it is good to sing praises to our ELOHIM; for it is pleasant and fitting to praise him.
2 YAHWEH builds up Jerusalem. He gathers together the outcasts of Israel.
3 He heals the broken in heart, and binds up their wounds.
4 He counts the number of the stars. He calls them all by their names.
5 Great is our ADONAI, and mighty in power. His understanding is infinite.
6 YAHWEH upholds the humble. He brings the wicked down to the ground.
7 Sing to YAHWEH with thanksgiving. Sing praises on the harp to our ELOHIM,
8 who covers the sky with clouds, who prepares rain for the earth, who makes grass grow on the mountains.
9 He provides food for the livestock, and for the young ravens when they call.
10 He doesn't delight in the strength of the horse. He takes no pleasure in the legs of a man.
11 YAHWEH takes pleasure in those who fear him, in those who hope in his loving kindness.
12 Praise YAHWEH, Jerusalem! Praise your ELOHIM, Zion!
13 For he has strengthened the bars of your gates. He has blessed your children within you.
14 He makes peace in your borders. He fills you with the finest of the wheat.
15 He sends out his commandment to the earth. His word runs very swiftly.

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- 16 He gives snow like wool, and scatters frost like ashes.
17 He hurls down his hail like pebbles. Who can stand before his cold?
18 He sends out his word, and melts them. He causes his wind to blow, and the waters flow.
19 He shows his word to Jacob; his statutes and his ordinances to Israel.
20 He has not done this for just any nation. They don't know his ordinances. Praise YAH!

Proverbs 15.

- 1 A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.
2 The tongue of the wise commends knowledge, but the mouth of fools gush out folly.
3 YAHWEH's eyes are everywhere, keeping watch on the evil and the good.
4 A gentle tongue is a tree of life, but deceit in it crushes the spirit.
5 A fool despises his father's correction, but he who heeds reproof shows prudence.
6 In the house of the righteous is much treasure, but the income of the wicked brings trouble.
7 The lips of the wise spread knowledge; not so with the heart of fools.
8 The sacrifice made by the wicked is an abomination to YAHWEH, but the prayer of the upright is his delight.
9 The way of the wicked is an abomination to YAHWEH, but he loves him who follows after righteousness.
10 There is stern discipline for one who forsakes the way: whoever hates reproof shall die.
11 Sheol and Abaddon are before YAHWEH how much more than the hearts of the children of men!
12 A scoffer doesn't love to be reproved; he will not go to the wise.
13 A glad heart makes a cheerful face; but an aching heart breaks the spirit.
14 The heart of one who has understanding seeks knowledge, but the mouths of fools feed on folly.
15 All the days of the afflicted are wretched, but one who has a cheerful heart enjoys a continual feast.
16 Better is little, with the fear of YAHWEH, than great treasure with trouble.
17 Better is a dinner of herbs, where love is, than a fattened calf with hatred.
18 A wrathful man stirs up contention, but one who is slow to anger appeases strife.
19 The way of the sluggard is like a thorn patch, but the path of the upright is a highway.
20 A wise son makes a father glad, but a foolish man despises his mother.
21 Folly is joy to one who is void of wisdom, but a man of understanding keeps his way straight.
22 Where there is no counsel, plans fail; but in a multitude of counselors they are established.
23 Joy comes to a man with the reply of his mouth. How good is a word at the right time!
24 The path of life leads upward for the wise, to keep him from going downward to Sheol.
25 YAHWEH will uproot the house of the proud, but he will keep the widow's borders intact.
26 YAHWEH detests the thoughts of the wicked, but the thoughts of the pure are pleasing.
27 He who is greedy for gain troubles his own house, but he who hates bribes will live.
28 The heart of the righteous weighs answers, but the mouth of the wicked gushes out

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evil.

29 YAHWEH is far from the wicked, but he hears the prayer of the righteous.

30 The light of the eyes rejoices the heart. Good news gives health to the bones.

31 The ear that listens to reproof lives, and will be at home among the wise.

32 He who refuses correction despises his own soul, but he who listens to reproof gets understanding.

33 The fear of YAHWEH teaches wisdom. Before honor is humility.

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337. 2-December Daily Reading (Prophets and Writings).

Ezekiel 1.

1 . Ezekiel's Vision of ELOHIM. . Ezekiel!

Now it happened in the thirtieth year, in the fourth month, in the fifth day of the month, as I was among the captives by the river Chebar, that the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of ELOHIM!

2 In the fifth day of the month, which was the fifth year of king Jehoiachin's captivity,
3 the word of YAHWEH came expressly to Ezekiel the priest, the son of Buzi, in the land of the Kasdim by the river Chebar; and the hand of YAHWEH was there on him.

4 I looked, and behold, a stormy wind came out of the north, a great cloud, with flashing lightning, and a brightness around it, and out of its midst as it were glowing metal, out of the midst of the fire.

5 Out of its midst came the likeness of four living creatures. This was their appearance: they had the likeness of a man.

6 Everyone had four faces, and each one of them had four wings.

7 Their feet were straight feet; and the sole of their feet was like the sole of a calf's foot; and they sparkled like burnished brass.

8 They had the hands of a man under their wings on their four sides; and the four of them had their faces and their wings thus:

9 their wings were joined one to another; they didn't turn when they went; each one went straight forward.

10 As for the likeness of their faces, they had the face of a man; and the four of them had the face of a lion on the right side; and the four of them had the face of an ox on the left side; the four of them also had the face of an eagle.

11 Such were their faces. Their wings were spread out above. Two wings of each one touched another, and two covered their bodies.

12 Each one went straight forward: where the spirit was to go, they went; they didn't turn when they went.

13 As for the likeness of the living creatures, their appearance was like burning coals of fire, like the appearance of torches: the fire went up and down among the living creatures; and the fire was bright, and out of the fire went forth lightning.

14 The living creatures ran and returned as the appearance of a flash of lightning.

15 Now as I saw the living creatures, behold, one wheel on the earth beside the living creatures, for each of the four faces of it.

16 The appearance of the wheels and their work was like a beryl: and the four of them had one likeness; and their appearance and their work was as it were a wheel within a wheel.

17 When they went, they went in their four directions: they didn't turn when they went.

18 As for their rims, they were high and dreadful; and the four of them had their rims full of eyes all around.

19 When the living creatures went, the wheels went beside them; and when the living creatures were lifted up from the earth, the wheels were lifted up.

20 Wherever the spirit was to go, they went; there was the spirit to go: and the wheels were lifted up beside them; for the spirit of the living creature was in the wheels.

21 When those went, these went; and when those stood, these stood; and when those were lifted up from the earth, the wheels were lifted up beside them: for the spirit of the living creature was in the wheels.

22 Over the head of the living creature there was the likeness of an expanse, like the awesome crystal to look on, stretched forth over their heads above.

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23 Under the expanse were their wings straight, the one toward the other: each one had two which covered on this side, and every one had two which covered on that side, their bodies.

24 When they went, I heard the noise of their wings like the noise of great waters, like the voice of the Almighty, a noise of tumult like the noise of an army: when they stood, they let down their wings.

25 There was a voice above the expanse that was over their heads: when they stood, they let down their wings.

26 Above the expanse that was over their heads was the likeness of a throne, as the appearance of a sapphire stone; and on the likeness of the throne was a likeness as the appearance of a man on it above.

27 I saw as it were glowing metal, as the appearance of fire within it all around, from the appearance of his waist and upward; and from the appearance of his waist and downward I saw as it were the appearance of fire, and there was brightness around him.

28 As the appearance of the rainbow that is in the cloud in the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness all around. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of YAHWEH! When I saw it, I fell on my face, and I heard a voice of one that spoke.

Psalms 148.

1 . Praise to YAHWEH from Creation. .

Praise YAH! Praise YAHWEH from the heavens! Praise him in the heights!

2 Praise him, all his angels! Praise him, all his army!

3 Praise him, sun and moon! Praise him, all you shining stars!

4 Praise him, you heavens of heavens, You waters that are above the heavens.

5 Let them praise the name of YAHWEH, For he commanded, and they were created.

6 He has also established them forever and ever. He has made a decree which will not pass away.

7 Praise YAHWEH from the earth, you great sea creatures, and all depths!

8 Lightning and hail, snow and clouds; stormy wind, fulfilling his word;

9 mountains and all hills; fruit trees and all cedars;

10 wild animals and all livestock; small creatures and flying birds;

11 kings of the earth and all peoples; princes and all judges of the earth;

12 both young men and maidens; old men and children:

13 let them praise the name of YAHWEH, for his name alone is exalted. His glory is above the earth and the heavens.

14 He has lifted up the horn of his people, the praise of all his holy ones; even of the children of Israel, a people near to him. Praise YAH!

Proverbs 16.

1 The plans of the heart belong to man, but the answer of the tongue is from YAHWEH!

2 All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes; but YAHWEH weighs the motives.

3 Commit your deeds to YAHWEH, and your plans shall succeed.

4 YAHWEH has made everything for its own end yes, even the wicked for the day of evil.

5 Everyone who is proud in heart is an abomination to YAHWEH: they shall certainly not be unpunished.

6 By mercy and truth iniquity is atoned for. By the fear of YAHWEH men depart from evil.

7 When a man's ways please YAHWEH, he makes even his enemies to be at peace with

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him.

8 Better is a little with righteousness, than great revenues with injustice.

9 A man's heart plans his course, but YAHWEH directs his steps.

10 Inspired judgments are on the lips of the king. He shall not betray his mouth.

11 Honest balances and scales are YAHWEH's; all the weights in the bag are his work.

12 It is an abomination for kings to do wrong, for the throne is established by righteousness.

13 Righteous lips are the delight of kings. They value one who speaks the truth.

14 The king's wrath is a messenger of death, but a wise man will pacify it.

15 In the light of the king's face is life. His favor is like a cloud of the spring rain.

16 How much better it is to get wisdom than gold! Yes, to get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver.

17 The highway of the upright is to depart from evil. He who keeps his way preserves his soul.

18 Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.

19 It is better to be of a lowly spirit with the poor, than to divide the plunder with the proud.

20 He who heeds the Word finds prosperity. Whoever trusts in YAHWEH is blessed.

21 The wise in heart shall be called prudent. Pleasantness of the lips promotes instruction.

22 Understanding is a fountain of life to one who has it, but the punishment of fools is their folly.

23 The heart of the wise instructs his mouth, and adds learning to his lips.

24 Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones.

25 There is a way which seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.

26 The appetite of the laboring man labors for him; for his mouth urges him on.

27 A worthless man devises mischief. His speech is like a scorching fire.

28 A perverse man stirs up strife. A whisperer separates close friends.

29 A man of violence entices his neighbor, and leads him in a way that is not good.

30 One who winks his eyes to plot perversities, one who compresses his lips, is bent on evil.

31 Gray hair is a crown of glory. It is attained by a life of righteousness.

32 One who is slow to anger is better than the mighty; one who rules his spirit, than he who takes a city.

33 The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from YAHWEH!

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Ezekiel 2.

1 . Ezekiel Sent to Rebellious Israel. .

- He said to me, Son of man, stand on your feet, and I will speak with you.
- 2 The Spirit entered into me when he spoke to me, and set me on my feet; and I heard him who spoke to me.
- 3 He said to me, Son of man, I send you to the children of Israel, to a nation of rebels who have rebelled against me. They and their fathers have transgressed against me even to this very day.
- 4 The children are impudent and stiff-hearted: I am sending you to them; and you shall tell them, Thus says ADONAI YAHWEH!
- 5 They, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear, (for they are a rebellious house), yet shall know that there has been a prophet among them.
- 6 You, son of man, don't be afraid of them, neither be afraid of their words, though briers and thorns are with you, and you do dwell among scorpions: don't be afraid of their words, nor be dismayed at their looks, though they are a rebellious house.
- 7 You shall speak my words to them, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear; for they are most rebellious.
- 8 But you, son of man, hear what I tell you; don't be rebellious like that rebellious house: open your mouth, and eat that which I give you.
- 9 When I looked, behold, a hand was put forth to me; and, behold, a scroll of a book was therein;
- 10 He spread it before me: and it was written within and without; and there were written therein lamentations, and mourning, and woe.

Ezekiel 3.

- 1 He said to me, Son of man, eat that which you find. Eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel.
- 2 So I opened my mouth, and he caused me to eat the scroll.
- 3 He said to me, Son of man, cause your belly to eat, and fill your bowels with this scroll that I give you. Then I ate it; and it was as sweet as honey in my mouth.
- 4 He said to me, Son of man, go to the house of Israel, and speak my words to them.
- 5 For you are not sent to a people of a strange speech and of a hard language, but to the house of Israel;
- 6 not to many peoples of a strange speech and of a hard language, whose words you can not understand. Surely, if I sent you to them, they would listen to you.
- 7 But the house of Israel will not listen to you; for they will not listen to me: for all the house of Israel are obstinate and hard-hearted.
- 8 Behold, I have made your face hard against their faces, and your forehead hard against their foreheads.
- 9 As an adamant harder than flint have I made your forehead: don't be afraid of them, neither be dismayed at their looks, though they are a rebellious house.
- 10 Moreover he said to me, Son of man, all my words that I shall speak to you receive in your heart, and hear with your ears.
- 11 Go to them of the captivity, to the children of your people, and speak to them, and tell them, Thus says ADONAI YAHWEH; whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear.
- 12 Then the Spirit lifted me up, and I heard behind me the voice of a great rushing,

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saying, Blessed be the glory of YAHWEH from his place.

13 I heard the noise of the wings of the living creatures as they touched one another, and the noise of the wheels beside them, even the noise of a great rushing.

14 So the Spirit lifted me up, and took me away; and I went in bitterness, in the heat of my spirit; and the hand of YAHWEH was strong on me.

15 Then I came to them of the captivity at Tel-Aviv, that lived by the river Chebar, and to where they lived; and I sat there overwhelmed among them seven days.

16 **. Ezekiel Is a Watchman. .**

It happened at the end of seven days, that the word of YAHWEH came to me, saying,

17 Son of man, I have made you a watchman to the house of Israel: therefore hear the word from my mouth, and give them warning from me.

18 When I tell the wicked, You shall surely die; and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at your hand.

19 Yet if you warn the wicked, and he doesn't turn from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul.

20 Again, when a righteous man does turn from his righteousness, and commit iniquity, and I lay a stumbling block before him, he shall die: because you have not given him warning, he shall die in his sin, and his righteous deeds which he has done shall not be remembered; but his blood will I require at your hand.

21 Nevertheless if you warn the righteous man, that the righteous not sin, and he does not sin, he shall surely live, because he took warning; and you have delivered your soul.

22 The hand of YAHWEH was there on me; and he said to me, Arise, go forth into the plain, and I will there talk with you.

23 Then I arose, and went forth into the plain: and behold, the glory of YAHWEH stood there, as the glory which I saw by the river Chebar; and I fell on my face.

24 Then the Spirit entered into me, and set me on my feet; and he spoke with me, and said to me, Go, shut yourself inside your house.

25 But you, son of man, behold, they shall lay bands on you, and shall bind you with them, and you shall not go out among them:

26 and I will make your tongue stick to the roof of your mouth, that you shall be mute, and shall not be to them a reprover; for they are a rebellious house.

27 But when I speak with you, I will open your mouth, and you shall tell them, Thus says ADONAI YAHWEH: He who hears, let him hear; and he who forbears, let him forbear: for they are a rebellious house.

Psalms 149.

1 **. Praise to ELOHIM for His Salvation and Judgment. .**

Praise YAH! Sing to YAHWEH a new song, his praise in the assembly of the holy ones.

2 Let Israel rejoice in him who made them. Let the children of Zion be joyful in their King.

3 Let them praise his name in the dance! Let them sing praises to him with tambourine and harp!

4 For YAHWEH takes pleasure in his people. He crowns the humble with salvation [yeshu`ah].

5 Let the holy ones rejoice in honor. Let them sing for joy on their beds.

6 May the high praises of El be in their mouths, and a two-edged sword in their hand;

7 To execute vengeance on the nations, and punishments on the peoples;

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8 To bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron;
9 to execute on them the written judgment. All his holy ones have this honor. Praise YAH!

Proverbs 17.

- 1 Better is a dry morsel with quietness, than a house full of feasting with strife.
- 2 A servant who deals wisely will rule over a son who causes shame, and shall have a part in the inheritance among the brothers.
- 3 The refining pot is for silver, and the furnace for gold, but YAHWEH tests the hearts.
- 4 An evildoer heeds wicked lips. A liar gives ear to a mischievous tongue.
- 5 Whoever mocks the poor reproaches his Maker. He who is glad at calamity shall not be unpunished.
- 6 Children's children are the crown of old men; the glory of children are their parents.
- 7 Arrogant speech isn't fitting for a fool, much less do lying lips fit a prince.
- 8 A bribe is a precious stone in the eyes of him who gives it; wherever he turns, he prospers.
- 9 He who covers an offense promotes love; but he who repeats a matter separates best friends.
- 10 A rebuke enters deeper into one who has understanding than a hundred lashes into a fool.
- 11 An evil man seeks only rebellion; therefore a cruel messenger shall be sent against him.
- 12 Let a bear robbed of her cubs meet a man, rather than a fool in his folly.
- 13 Whoever rewards evil for good, evil shall not depart from his house.
- 14 The beginning of strife is like breaching a dam, therefore stop contention before quarreling breaks out.
- 15 He who justifies the wicked, and he who condemns the righteous, both of them alike are an abomination to YAHWEH!
- 16 Why is there money in the hand of a fool to buy wisdom, since he has no understanding?
- 17 A friend loves at all times; and a brother is born for adversity.
- 18 A man void of understanding strikes hands, and becomes collateral in the presence of his neighbor.
- 19 He who loves disobedience loves strife. One who builds a high gate seeks destruction.
- 20 One who has a perverse heart doesn't find prosperity, and one who has a deceitful tongue falls into trouble.
- 21 He who becomes the father of a fool grieves. The father of a fool has no joy.
- 22 A cheerful heart makes good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.
- 23 A wicked man receives a bribe in secret, to pervert the ways of justice.
- 24 Wisdom is before the face of one who has understanding, but the eyes of a fool wander to the ends of the earth.
- 25 A foolish son brings grief to his father, and bitterness to her who bore him.
- 26 Also to punish the righteous is not good, nor to flog officials for their integrity.
- 27 He who spares his words has knowledge. He who is even tempered is a man of understanding.
- 28 Even a fool, when he keeps silent, is counted wise. When he shuts his lips, he is thought to be discerning.

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Ezekiel 4.

1 . The Siege of Jerusalem Portrayed. .

You also, son of man, take a tile, and lay it before yourself, and portray on it a city, even Jerusalem:

2 and lay siege against it, and build forts against it, and cast up a mound against it; set camps also against it, and plant battering rams against it all around.

3 Take for yourself an iron pan, and set it for a wall of iron between you and the city: and set your face toward it, and it shall be besieged, and you shall lay siege against it. This shall be a sign to the house of Israel.

4 Moreover lie on your left side, and lay the iniquity of the house of Israel on it; according to the number of the days that you shall lie on it, you shall bear their iniquity.

5 For I have appointed the years of their iniquity to be to you a number of days, even three hundred ninety days: so you shall bear the iniquity of the house of Israel.

6 Again, when you have accomplished these, you shall lie on your right side, and shall bear the iniquity of the house of Judah: forty days, each day for a year, have I appointed it to you.

7 You shall set your face toward the siege of Jerusalem, with your arm uncovered; and you shall prophesy against it.

8 Behold, I lay bands on you, and you shall not turn you from one side to the other, until you have accomplished the days of your siege.

9 Take for yourself also wheat, and barley, and beans, and lentils, and millet, and spelt, and put them in one vessel, and make bread of it; according to the number of the days that you shall lie on your side, even three hundred ninety days, you shall eat of it.

10 Your food which you shall eat shall be by weight, twenty shekels a day: from time to time you shall eat it.

11 You shall drink water by measure, the sixth part of a hin: from time to time you shall drink.

12 You shall eat it as barley cakes, and you shall bake it in their sight with dung that comes out of man.

13 YAHWEH said, Even thus shall the children of Israel eat their bread unclean, among the nations where I will drive them.

14 Then I said, Ah ADONAI YAHWEH! behold, my soul has not been polluted; for from my youth up even until now have I not eaten of that which dies of itself, or is torn of animals; neither came there abominable flesh into my mouth.

15 Then he said to me, Behold, I have given you cow's dung for man's dung, and you shall prepare your bread thereon.

16 Moreover he said to me, Son of man, behold, I will break the staff of bread in Jerusalem: and they shall eat bread by weight, and with fearfulness; and they shall drink water by measure, and in dismay:

17 that they may want bread and water, and be dismayed one with another, and pine away in their iniquity.

Ezekiel 5.

1 . A Sword Against Jerusalem. .

You, son of man, take a sharp sword; You shall take it as a barber's razor to you, and shall cause it to pass on your head and on your beard: then take balances to weigh, and divide the hair.

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2 A third part you shall burn in the fire in the midst of the city, when the days of the siege are fulfilled; and you shall take a third part, and strike with the sword around it; and a third part you shall scatter to the wind, and I will draw out a sword after them.

3 You shall take of it a few in number, and bind them in your skirts.

4 Of these again you shall take, and cast them into the midst of the fire, and burn them in the fire; from it shall a fire come forth into all the house of Israel.

5 Thus says ADONAI YAHWEH: This is Jerusalem; I have set her in the midst of the nations, and countries are around her.

6 She has rebelled against my ordinances in doing wickedness more than the nations, and against my statutes more than the countries that are around her; for they have rejected my ordinances, and as for my statutes, they have not walked in them.

7 Therefore thus says ADONAI YAHWEH: Because you are turbulent more than the nations that are around you, and have not walked in my statutes, neither have kept my ordinances, neither have done after the ordinances of the nations that are around you;

8 therefore thus says ADONAI YAHWEH: Behold, I, even I, am against you; and I will execute judgments in the midst of you in the sight of the nations.

9 I will do in you that which I have not done, and whereunto I will not do any more the like, because of all your abominations.

10 Therefore the fathers shall eat the sons in the midst of you, and the sons shall eat their fathers; and I will execute judgments on you; and the whole remnant of you will I scatter to all the winds.

11 Therefore, as I live, says ADONAI YAHWEH, surely, because you have defiled my sanctuary with all your detestable things, and with all your abominations, therefore will I also diminish you; neither shall my eye spare, and I also will have no pity.

12 A third part of you shall die with the pestilence, and with famine shall they be consumed in the midst of you; and a third part shall fall by the sword around you; and a third part I will scatter to all the winds, and will draw out a sword after them.

13 Thus shall my anger be accomplished, and I will cause my wrath toward them to rest, and I shall be comforted; and they shall know that I, YAHWEH, have spoken in my zeal, when I have accomplished my wrath on them.

14 Moreover I will make you a desolation and a reproach among the nations that are around you, in the sight of all that pass by.

15 So it shall be a reproach and a taunt, an instruction and an astonishment, to the nations that are around you, when I shall execute judgments on you in anger and in wrath, and in wrathful rebukes; (I, YAHWEH, have spoken it;)

16 when I shall send on them the evil arrows of famine, that are for destruction, which I will send to destroy you: and I will increase the famine on you, and will break your staff of bread;

17 and I will send on you famine and evil animals, and they shall bereave you; and pestilence and blood shall pass through you; and I will bring the sword on you: I, YAHWEH, have spoken it.

Psalms 150.

1 . Let All Things Praise YAHWEH. .

Praise YAH! Praise El in his sanctuary! Praise him in his heavens for his acts of power!

2 Praise him for his mighty acts! Praise him according to his excellent greatness!

3 Praise him with the sounding of the shofar! Praise him with harp and lyre!

4 Praise him with tambourine and dancing! Praise him with stringed instruments and flute!

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- 5 Praise him with loud cymbals! Praise him with resounding cymbals!
6 Let everything that has breath praise YAH! Praise YAH!

Proverbs 18.

- 1 An unfriendly man pursues selfishness, and defies all sound judgment.
2 A fool has no delight in understanding, but only in revealing his own opinion.
3 When wickedness comes, contempt also comes, and with shame comes disgrace.
4 The words of a man's mouth are like deep waters. The fountain of wisdom is like a flowing brook.
5 To be partial to the faces of the wicked is not good, nor to deprive the innocent of justice.
6 A fool's lips come into strife, and his mouth invites beatings.
7 A fool's mouth is his destruction, and his lips are a snare to his soul.
8 The words of a gossip are like dainty morsels: they go down into a person's innermost parts.
9 One who is slack in his work is brother to him who is a master of destruction.
10 The name of YAHWEH is a strong tower: the righteous run to him, and are safe.
11 The rich man's wealth is his strong city, like an unscalable wall in his own imagination.
12 Before destruction the heart of man is proud, but before honor is humility.
13 He who gives answer before he hears, that is folly and shame to him.
14 A man's spirit will sustain him in sickness, but a crushed spirit, who can bear?
15 The heart of the discerning gets knowledge. The ear of the wise seeks knowledge.
16 A man's gift makes room for him, and brings him before great men.
17 He who pleads his cause first seems right; until another comes and questions him.
18 The lot settles disputes, and keeps strong ones apart.
19 A brother offended is more difficult than a fortified city; and disputes are like the bars of a castle.
20 A man's stomach is filled with the fruit of his mouth. With the harvest of his lips he is satisfied.
21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue; those who love it will eat its fruit.
22 Whoever finds a wife finds a good thing, and obtains favor of YAHWEH!
23 The poor plead for mercy, but the rich answer harshly.
24 A man of many companions may be ruined, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

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