

5-11-Dec Daily Reading (Prophets and Writings).

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Ezekiel 6.

1 . Judgment on Idolatrous Israel. .

The word of YAHWEH came to me, saying,

2 Son of man, set your face toward the mountains of Israel, and prophesy to them,
3 and say, You mountains of Israel, hear the word of ADONAI YAHWEH: Thus says ADONAI YAHWEH to the mountains and to the hills, to the watercourses and to the valleys: Behold, I, even I, will bring a sword on you, and I will destroy your high places.

4 Your altars shall become desolate, and your incense altars shall be broken; and I will cast down your slain men before your idols.

5 I will lay the dead bodies of the children of Israel before their idols; and I will scatter your bones around your altars.

6 In all your dwelling places the cities shall be laid waste, and the high places shall be desolate; that your altars may be laid waste and made desolate, and your idols may be broken and cease, and your incense altars may be cut down, and your works may be abolished.

7 The slain shall fall in the midst of you, and you shall know that I am YAHWEH!

8 Yet will I leave a remnant, in that you shall have some that escape the sword among the nations, when you shall be scattered through the countries.

9 Those of you that escape shall remember me among the nations where they shall be carried captive, how that I have been broken with their lewd heart, which has departed from me, and with their eyes, which play the prostitute after their idols: and they shall loathe themselves in their own sight for the evils which they have committed in all their abominations.

10 They shall know that I am YAHWEH: I have not said in vain that I would do this evil to them.

11 Thus says ADONAI YAHWEH: Strike with your hand, and stamp with your foot, and say, Alas! because of all the evil abominations of the house of Israel; for they shall fall by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence.

12 He who is far off shall die of the pestilence; and he who is near shall fall by the sword; and he who remains and is besieged shall die by the famine: thus will I accomplish my wrath on them.

13 You shall know that I am YAHWEH, when their slain men shall be among their idols around their altars, on every high hill, on all the tops of the mountains, and under every green tree, and under every thick oak, the places where they offered pleasant aroma to all their idols.

14 I will stretch out my hand on them, and make the land desolate and waste, from the wilderness toward Diblah, throughout all their habitations: and they shall know that I am YAHWEH!

Ezekiel 7.

1 . Judgment on Israel Is Near. .

Moreover the word of YAHWEH came to me, saying,

2 You, son of man, thus says ADONAI YAHWEH to Eretz-Israel, An end: the end has come on the four corners of the land.

3 Now is the end on you, and I will send my anger on you, and will judge you according to your ways; and I will bring on you all your abominations.

4 My eye shall not spare you, neither will I have pity; but I will bring your ways on you,

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and your abominations shall be in the midst of you: and you shall know that I am YAHWEH!

5 Thus says ADONAI YAHWEH: An evil, an only evil; behold, it comes.

6 An end has come, the end has come; it awakes against you; behold, it comes.

7 Your doom has come to you, inhabitant of the land: the time has come, the day is near, a day of tumult, and not of joyful shouting, on the mountains.

8 Now will I shortly pour out my wrath on you, and accomplish my anger against you, and will judge you according to your ways; and I will bring on you all your abominations.

9 My eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity: I will bring on you according to your ways; and your abominations shall be in the midst of you; and you shall know that I, YAHWEH, do strike.

10 Behold, the day, behold, it comes: your doom is gone forth; the rod has blossomed, pride has budded.

11 Violence is risen up into a rod of wickedness; none of them shall remain, nor of their multitude, nor of their wealth: neither shall there be eminency among them.

12 The time has come, the day draws near: don't let the buyer rejoice, nor the seller mourn; for wrath is on all its multitude.

13 For the seller shall not return to that which is sold, although they be yet alive: for the vision is touching the whole multitude of it, none shall return; neither shall any strengthen himself in the iniquity of his life.

14 They have blown the shofar, and have made all ready; but none goes to the battle; for my wrath is on all its multitude.

15 The sword is outside, and the pestilence and the famine within: he who is in the field shall die with the sword: and he who is in the city, famine and pestilence shall devour him.

16 But those of those who escape shall escape, and shall be on the mountains like doves of the valleys, all of them moaning, every one in his iniquity.

17 All hands shall be feeble, and all knees shall be weak as water.

18 They shall also clothe themselves with sackcloth, and horror shall cover them; and shame shall be on all faces, and baldness on all their heads.

19 They shall cast their silver in the streets, and their gold shall be as an unclean thing; their silver and their gold shall not be able to deliver them in the day of the wrath of YAHWEH: they shall not satisfy their souls, neither fill their bowels; because it has been the stumbling block of their iniquity.

20 As for the beauty of his ornament, he set it in majesty; but they made the images of their abominations and their detestable things therein: therefore have I made it to them as an unclean thing.

21 I will give it into the hands of the strangers for a prey, and to the wicked of the earth for a spoil; and they shall profane it.

22 My face will I turn also from them, and they shall profane my secret place; and robbers shall enter into it, and profane it.

23 Make the chain; for the land is full of bloody crimes, and the city is full of violence.

24 Therefore I will bring the worst of the nations, and they shall possess their houses: I will also make the pride of the strong to cease; and their holy places shall be profaned.

25 Destruction comes; and they shall seek peace, and there shall be none.

26 Mischief shall come on mischief, and rumor shall be on rumor; and they shall seek a vision of the prophet; but the Torah (teaching and instruction) shall perish from the priest, and counsel from the elders.

27 The king shall mourn, and the prince shall be clothed with desolation, and the hands of the people of the land shall be troubled: I will do to them after their way, and

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according to their own judgments will I judge them; and they shall know that I am YAHWEH!

Isaiah 40.

1 **. ELOHIM's People Are Comforted. .**

“Comfort, comfort my people,” says your ELOHIM!

2 “Speak comfortably to Jerusalem; and call out to her that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received of YAHWEH’s hand double for all her sins.”

3 The voice of one who calls out, “Prepare the way of YAHWEH in the wilderness! Make a level highway in the desert for our ELOHIM!

4 Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The uneven shall be made level, and the rough places a plain.

5 The glory of YAHWEH shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of YAHWEH has spoken it.”

6 The voice of one saying, “Cry!” One said, “What shall I cry?” “All flesh is like grass, and all its glory is like the flower of the field.

7 The grass withers, the flower fades, because YAHWEH’s breath blows on it. Surely the people are like grass.

8 The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our ELOHIM stands forever.”

9 You who tell good news to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who tell good news to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with strength. Lift it up. Don’t be afraid. Say to the cities of Judah, “Behold, your ELOHIM!”

10 Behold, ADONAI YAHWEH will come as a mighty one, and his arm will rule for him. Behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.

11 He will feed his flock like a shepherd. He will gather the lambs in his arm, and carry them in his bosom. He will gently lead those who have their young.

12 Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, and marked off the sky with his span, and calculated the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance?

13 Who has directed the Spirit of YAHWEH, or has taught him as his counselor?

14 Who did he take counsel with, and who instructed him, and taught him in the path of justice, and taught him knowledge, and showed him the way of understanding?

15 Behold, the nations are like a drop in a bucket, and are regarded as a speck of dust on a balance. Behold, he lifts up the islands like a very little thing.

16 Lebanon is not sufficient to burn, nor its animals sufficient for a burnt offering.

17 All the nations are like nothing before him. They are regarded by him as less than nothing, and vanity.

18 To whom then will you liken El? Or what likeness will you compare to him?

19 A workman has cast an image, and the goldsmith overlays it with gold, and casts silver chains for it.

20 He who is too impoverished for such an offering chooses a tree that will not rot. He seeks a skillful workman to set up an engraved image for him that will not be moved.

21 Haven’t you known? Haven’t you heard, yet? Haven’t you been told from the beginning? Haven’t you understood from the foundations of the earth?

22 It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them out like a tent to dwell in;

23 who brings princes to nothing; who makes the judges of the earth like meaningless.

24 They are planted scarcely. They are sown scarcely. Their stock has scarcely taken

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root in the ground. He merely blows on them, and they wither, and the whirlwind takes them away as stubble.

25 “To whom then will you liken me? Who is my equal?” says the Holy One.

26 Lift up your eyes on high, and see who has created these, who brings out their army by number. He calls them all by name. by the greatness of his might, and because he is strong in power, Not one is lacking.

27 Why do you say, Jacob, and speak, Israel, “My way is hidden from YAHWEH, and the justice due me is disregarded by my ELOHIM?”

28 Haven’t you known? Haven’t you heard? The everlasting ELOHIM, YAHWEH, The Creator of the ends of the earth, doesn’t faint. He isn’t weary. His understanding is unsearchable.

29 He gives power to the weak. He increases the strength of him who has no might.

30 Even the youths faint and get weary, and the young men utterly fall;

31 But those who wait for YAHWEH will renew their strength. They will mount up with wings like eagles. They will run, and not be weary. They will walk, and not faint.

Psalms 1.

1 **The Way of the Righteous and the End of the Un-holy.** The Psalms!

BOOK 1 Blessed is the man who doesn’t walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the way of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers;

2 but his delight is in YAHWEH’s Torah (teaching and instruction). On his Torah he meditates day and night.

3 He will be like a tree planted by the streams of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also does not wither. Whatever he does shall prosper.

4 The wicked are not so, but are like the chaff which the wind drives away.

5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

6 For YAHWEH knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked shall perish.

Proverbs 19.

1 Better is the poor who walks in his integrity than he who is perverse in his lips and is a fool.

2 It isn’t good to have zeal without knowledge; nor being hasty with one’s feet and missing the way.

3 The foolishness of man subverts his way; his heart rages against YAHWEH!

4 Wealth adds many friends, but the poor is separated from his friend.

5 A false witness shall not be unpunished. He who pours out lies shall not go free.

6 Many will entreat the favor of a ruler, and everyone is a friend to a man who gives gifts.

7 All the relatives of the poor shun him: how much more do his friends avoid him! He pursues them with pleas, but they are gone.

8 He who gets wisdom loves his own soul. He who keeps understanding shall find good.

9 A false witness shall not be unpunished. He who utters lies shall perish.

10 Delicate living is not appropriate for a fool, much less for a servant to have rule over princes.

11 The discretion of a man makes him slow to anger. It is his glory to overlook an offense.

12 The king’s wrath is like the roaring of a lion, but his favor is like dew on the grass.

13 A foolish son is the calamity of his father. A wife’s quarrels are a continual dripping.

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- 14 House and riches are an inheritance from fathers, but a prudent wife is from YAHWEH!
- 15 Slothfulness casts into a deep sleep. The idle soul shall suffer hunger.
- 16 He who keeps the commandment keeps his soul, but he who is contemptuous in his ways shall die.
- 17 He who has pity on the poor lends to YAHWEH; he will reward him.
- 18 Discipline your son, for there is hope; don't be a willing party to his death.
- 19 A hot-tempered man must pay the penalty, for if you rescue him, you must do it again.
- 20 Listen to counsel and receive instruction, that you may be wise in your latter end.
- 21 There are many plans in a man's heart, but YAHWEH's counsel will prevail.
- 22 That which makes a man to be desired is his kindness. A poor man is better than a liar.
- 23 The fear of YAHWEH leads to life, then contentment; he rests and will not be touched by trouble.
- 24 The sluggard buries his hand in the dish; he will not so much as bring it to his mouth again.
- 25 Flog a scoffer, and the simple will learn prudence; rebuke one who has understanding, and he will gain knowledge.
- 26 He who robs his father and drives away his mother, is a son who causes shame and brings reproach.
- 27 If you stop listening to instruction, my son, you will stray from the words of knowledge.
- 28 A corrupt witness mocks justice, and the mouth of the wicked gulps down iniquity.
- 29 Penalties are prepared for scoffers, and beatings for the backs of fools.

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

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Ezekiel 8.

1 . Abominations in the Temple. .

It happened in the sixth year, in the sixth month, in the fifth day of the month, as I sat in my house, and the elders of Judah sat before me, that the hand of ADONAI YAHWEH fell there on me.

2 Then I saw, and behold, a likeness as the appearance of fire; from the appearance of his waist and downward, fire; and from his waist and upward, as the appearance of brightness, as it were glowing metal.

3 He put forth the form of a hand, and took me by a lock of my head; and the Spirit lifted me up between earth and the sky, and brought me in the visions of ELOHIM to Jerusalem, to the door of the gate of the inner court that looks toward the north; where there was the seat of the image of jealousy, which provokes to jealousy.

4 Behold, the glory of the ELOHIM of Israel was there, according to the appearance that I saw in the plain.

5 Then he said to me, Son of man, lift up your eyes now the way toward the north. So I lifted up my eyes the way toward the north, and see, northward of the gate of the altar this image of jealousy in the entry.

6 He said to me, Son of man, do you see what they do? even the great abominations that the house of Israel do commit here, that I should go far off from my sanctuary? But you shall again see yet other great abominations.

7 He brought me to the door of the court; and when I looked, behold, a hole in the wall.

8 Then he said to me, Son of man, dig now in the wall: and when I had dug in the wall, behold, a door.

9 He said to me, Go in, and see the wicked abominations that they do here.

10 So I went in and saw; and see, every form of creeping things, and abominable animals, and all the idols of the house of Israel, portrayed around on the wall.

11 There stood before them seventy men of the elders of the house of Israel; and in their midst stood Jaazaniah the son of Shaphan, every man with his censer in his hand; and the odor of the cloud of incense went up.

12 Then he said to me, Son of man, have you seen what the elders of the house of Israel do in the dark, every man in his rooms of imagery? for they say, YAHWEH doesn't see us; YAHWEH has forsaken the land.

13 He said also to me, You shall again see yet other great abominations which they do.

14 Then he brought me to the door of the gate of YAHWEH's house which was toward the north; and see, there sat the women weeping for Tammuz.

15 Then he said to me, Have you seen this, son of man? You shall again see yet greater abominations than these.

16 He brought me into the inner court of YAHWEH's house; and see, at the door of the temple of YAHWEH, between the porch and the altar, were about twenty-five men, with their backs toward the temple of YAHWEH, and their faces toward the east; and they were worshipping the sun toward the east.

17 Then he said to me, Have you seen this, son of man? Is it a light thing to the house of Judah that they commit the abominations which they commit here? for they have filled the land with violence, and have turned again to provoke me to anger: and behold, they put the branch to their nose.

18 Therefore will I also deal in wrath; my eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity; and though they cry in my ears with a loud voice, yet will I not hear them.

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Ezekiel 9.

1 **. The Wicked Are Slain. .**

Then he cried in my ears with a loud voice, saying, Cause those who are in charge of the city to draw near, every man with his destroying weapon in his hand.

2 Behold, six men came from the way of the upper gate, which lies toward the north, every man with his slaughter weapon in his hand; and one man in their midst clothed in linen, with a writer's inkhorn by his side. They went in, and stood beside the bronze altar.

3 The glory of the ELOHIM of Israel was gone up from the cherub, whereupon it was, to the threshold of the house: and he called to the man clothed in linen, who had the writer's inkhorn by his side.

4 YAHWEH said to him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark on the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry over all the abominations that are done in its midst.

5 To the others he said in my hearing, Go through the city after him, and strike: don't let your eye spare, neither have pity;

6 kill utterly the old man, the young man and the virgin, and little children and women; but don't come near any man on whom is the mark: and begin at my sanctuary. Then they began at the old men that were before the house.

7 He said to them, Defile the house, and fill the courts with the slain. Go forth! They went forth, and struck in the city.

8 It happened, while they were smiting, and I was left, that I fell on my face, and cried, and said, Ah ADONAI YAHWEH! will you destroy all the residue of Israel in your pouring out of your wrath on Jerusalem?

9 Then he said to me, The iniquity of the house of Israel and Judah is exceedingly great, and the land is full of blood, and the city full of perversion: for they say, YAHWEH has forsaken the land, and YAHWEH doesn't see.

10 As for me also, my eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity, but I will bring their way on their head.

11 Behold, the man clothed in linen, who had the inkhorn by his side, reported the matter, saying, I have done as you have commanded me.

Isaiah 41.

1 **. Israel Assured of ELOHIM's Help. .**

"Keep silent before me, islands, and let the peoples renew their strength. Let them come near, then let them speak. Let's meet together for judgment.

2 Who has raised up one from the east? Who called him to his foot in righteousness? He hands over nations to him, and makes him rule over kings. He gives them like the dust to his sword, like the driven stubble to his bow.

3 He pursues them, and passes by safely, Even by a way that he had not gone with his feet.

4 Who has worked and done it, calling the generations from the beginning? I, YAHWEH, the first, and with the last, I am he."

5 The islands have seen, and fear. The ends of the earth tremble. They approach, and come.

6 Everyone helps his neighbor. They say to their brothers, "Be strong!"

7 So the carpenter encourages the goldsmith. He who smoothes with the hammer encourages him who strikes the anvil, saying of the soldering, "It is good;" and he fastens it with nails, that it might not totter.

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- 8 “But you, Israel, my servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, the seed of Abraham my friend,
9 You whom I have taken hold of from the ends of the earth, and called from its corners, and said to you, ‘You are my servant, I have chosen you and not cast you away;’
10 Don’t you be afraid, for I am with you. Don’t be dismayed, for I am your ELOHIM! I will strengthen you. Yes, I will help you. Yes, I will uphold you with the right hand of my righteousness.
11 Behold, all those who are incensed against you will be disappointed and confounded. Those who strive with you will be like nothing, and shall perish.
12 You will seek them, and won’t find them, even those who contend with you. Those who war against you will be as nothing, as a non-existent thing.
13 For I, YAHWEH your ELOHIM, will hold your right hand, saying to you, ‘Don’t be afraid. I will help you.’
14 Don’t be afraid, you worm Jacob, and you men of Israel. I will help you,” says YAHWEH, “and your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel.
15 Behold, I have made you into a new sharp threshing instrument with teeth. You will thresh the mountains, and beat them small, and will make the hills like chaff.
16 You will winnow them, and the wind will carry them away, and the whirlwind will scatter them. You will rejoice in YAHWEH! You will glory in the Holy One of Israel.
17 The poor and needy seek water, and there is none. Their tongue fails for thirst. I, YAHWEH, will answer them. I, the ELOHIM of Israel, will not forsake them.
18 I will open rivers on the bare heights, and springs in the midst of the valleys. I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water.
19 I will put cedar, acacia, myrtle, and oil trees in the wilderness. I will set fir trees, pine, and box trees together in the desert;
20 that they may see, know, consider, and understand together, that the hand of YAHWEH has done this, and the Holy One of Israel has created it.

21 **. The Futility of Idols. .**

- Produce your cause,” says YAHWEH! “Bring forth your strong reasons,” says the King of Jacob.
22 “Let them announce, and declare to us what shall happen. Declare the former things, what they are, that we may consider them, and know the latter end of them; or show us things to come.
23 Declare the things that are to come hereafter, that we may know that you are false-gods. Yes, do good, or do evil, that we may be dismayed, and see it together.
24 Behold, you are of nothing, and your work is of nothing. He who chooses you is an abomination.
25 “I have raised up one from the north, and he has come; from the rising of the sun, one who calls on my name; and he shall come on rulers as on mortar, and as the potter treads clay.
26 Who has declared it from the beginning, that we may know? And before, that we may say, ‘He is right?’ Surely, there is no one who declares. Surely, there is no one who shows. Surely, there is no one who hears your words.
27 I am the first to say to Zion, ‘Behold, look at them;’ and I will give one who brings good news to Jerusalem.
28 When I look, there is no man; even among them there is no counselor who, when I ask of them, can answer a word.
29 Behold, all of them, their works are vanity and nothing. Their molten images are wind and confusion.

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Psalm 2.

1 **. The Messiah's Triumph and Kingdom. .**

- Why do the nations rage, and the peoples plot a vain thing?
2 The kings of the earth take a stand, and the rulers take counsel together, against YAHWEH, and against his Anointed, saying,
3 "Let's break their bonds apart, and cast their cords from us."
4 He who sits in the heavens will laugh. ADONAI will have them in derision.
5 Then he will speak to them in his anger, and terrify them in his wrath:
6 "Yet I have set my King on my holy hill of Zion."
7 I will tell of the decree. YAHWEH said to me, "You are my son. Today I have become your father.
8 Ask of me, and I will give the nations for your inheritance, the uttermost parts of the earth for your possession.
9 You shall break them with a rod of iron. You shall dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."
10 Now therefore be wise, you kings. Be instructed, you judges of the earth.
11 Serve YAHWEH with fear, and rejoice with trembling.
12 Give sincere homage to the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath will soon be kindled. Blessed are all those who take refuge in him.

Proverbs 20.

- 1 Wine is a mocker, and beer is a brawler. Whoever is led astray by them is not wise.
2 The terror of a king is like the roaring of a lion. He who provokes him to anger forfeits his own life.
3 It is an honor for a man to keep aloof from strife; but every fool will be quarreling.
4 The sluggard will not plow by reason of the winter; therefore he shall beg in harvest, and have nothing.
5 Counsel in the heart of man is like deep water; but a man of understanding will draw it out.
6 Many men claim to be men of unfailing love, but who can find a faithful man?
7 A righteous man walks in integrity. Blessed are his children after him.
8 A king who sits on the throne of judgment scatters away all evil with his eyes.
9 Who can say, "I have made my heart pure. I am clean and without sin?"
10 Differing weights and differing measures, both of them alike are an abomination to YAHWEH!
11 Even a child makes himself known by his doings, whether his work is pure, and whether it is right.
12 The hearing ear, and the seeing eye, YAHWEH has made even both of them.
13 Don't love sleep, lest you come to poverty. Open your eyes, and you shall be satisfied with bread.
14 "It's no good, it's no good," says the buyer; but when he is gone his way, then he boasts.
15 There is gold and abundance of rubies; but the lips of knowledge are a rare jewel.
16 Take the garment of one who puts up collateral for a stranger; and hold him in pledge for a wayward woman.
17 Fraudulent food is sweet to a man, but afterwards his mouth is filled with gravel.
18 Plans are established by advice; by wise guidance you wage war!
19 He who goes about as a tale-bearer reveals secrets; therefore don't keep company

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with him who opens wide his lips.

20 Whoever curses his father or his mother, his lamp shall be put out in blackness of darkness.

21 An inheritance quickly gained at the beginning, won't be blessed in the end.

22 Don't say, "I will pay back evil." Wait for YAHWEH, and he will save you.

23 YAHWEH detests differing weights, and dishonest scales are not pleasing.

24 A man's steps are from YAHWEH; how then can man understand his way?

25 It is a snare to a man to make a rash dedication, then later to consider his vows.

26 A wise king winnows out the wicked, and drives the threshing wheel over them.

27 The spirit of man is YAHWEH's lamp, searching all his innermost parts.

28 Love and faithfulness keep the king safe. His throne is sustained by love.

29 The glory of young men is their strength. The splendor of old men is their gray hair.

30 Wounding blows cleanse away evil, and beatings purge the innermost parts.

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

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Ezekiel 10.

1 . The Glory Departs from the Temple. .

Then I looked, and see, in the expanse that was over the head of the cherubim there appeared above them as it were a sapphire stone, as the appearance of the likeness of a throne.

2 He spoke to the man clothed in linen, and said, Go in between the whirling wheels, even under the cherub, and fill both your hands with coals of fire from between the cherubim, and scatter them over the city. He went in as I watched.

3 Now the cherubim stood on the right side of the house, when the man went in; and the cloud filled the inner court.

4 The glory of YAHWEH mounted up from the cherub, and stood over the threshold of the house; and the house was filled with the cloud, and the court was full of the brightness of YAHWEH's glory.

5 The sound of the wings of the cherubim was heard even to the outer court, as the voice of ELOHIM Almighty when he speaks.

6 It came to pass, when he commanded the man clothed in linen, saying, Take fire from between the whirling wheels, from between the cherubim, that he went in, and stood beside a wheel.

7 The cherub stretched forth his hand from between the cherubim to the fire that was between the cherubim, and took of it, and put it into the hands of him who was clothed in linen, who took it and went out.

8 There appeared in the cherubim the form of a man's hand under their wings.

9 I looked, and behold, four wheels beside the cherubim, one wheel beside one cherub, and another wheel beside another cherub; and the appearance of the wheels was like a beryl stone.

10 As for their appearance, the four of them had one likeness, like a wheel within a wheel.

11 When they went, they went in their four directions: they didn't turn as they went, but to the place where the head looked they followed it; they didn't turn as they went.

12 Their whole body, and their backs, and their hands, and their wings, and the wheels, were full of eyes all around, even the wheels that the four of them had.

13 As for the wheels, they were called in my hearing, the whirling wheels.

14 Every one had four faces: the first face was the face of the cherub, and the second face was the face of a man, and the third face the face of a lion, and the fourth the face of an eagle.

15 The cherubim mounted up: this is the living creature that I saw by the river Chebar.

16 When the cherubim went, the wheels went beside them; and when the cherubim lifted up their wings to mount up from the earth, the wheels also didn't turn from beside them.

17 When they stood, these stood; and when they mounted up, these mounted up with them: for the spirit of the living creature was in them.

18 The glory of YAHWEH went forth from over the threshold of the house, and stood over the cherubim.

19 The cherubim lifted up their wings, and mounted up from the earth in my sight when they went forth, and the wheels beside them: and they stood at the door of the east gate of YAHWEH's house; and the glory of the ELOHIM of Israel was over them above.

20 This is the living creature that I saw under the ELOHIM of Israel by the river Chebar; and I knew that they were cherubim.

21 Every one had four faces, and every one four wings; and the likeness of the hands of a

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man was under their wings.

22 As for the likeness of their faces, they were the faces which I saw by the river Chebar, their appearances and themselves; they went every one straight forward.

Ezekiel 11.

1 . Judgment on Wicked Counselors. .

Moreover the Spirit lifted me up, and brought me to the east gate of YAHWEH's house, which looks eastward: and see, at the door of the gate twenty-five men; and I saw in their midst Jaazaniah the son of Azzur, and Pelatiah the son of Benaiah, princes of the people.

2 He said to me, Son of man, these are the men who devise iniquity, and who give wicked counsel in this city;

3 who say, The time is not near to build houses: this city is the caldron, and we are the flesh.

4 Therefore prophesy against them, prophesy, son of man.

5 The Spirit of YAHWEH fell on me, and he said to me, Speak, Thus says YAHWEH: Thus you have said, house of Israel; for I know the things that come into your mind.

6 You have multiplied your slain in this city, and you have filled its streets with the slain.

7 Therefore thus says ADONAI YAHWEH: Your slain whom you have laid in its midst, they are the flesh, and this city is the caldron; but you shall be brought out of its midst.

8 You have feared the sword; and I will bring the sword on you, says ADONAI YAHWEH!

9 I will bring you forth out of its midst, and deliver you into the hands of strangers, and will execute judgments among you.

10 You shall fall by the sword; I will judge you in the border of Israel; and you shall know that I am YAHWEH!

11 This city shall not be your caldron, neither shall you be the flesh in its midst; I will judge you in the border of Israel;

12 and you shall know that I am YAHWEH: for you have not walked in my statutes, neither have you executed my ordinances, but have done after the ordinances of the nations that are around you.

13 It happened, when I prophesied, that Pelatiah the son of Benaiah died. Then fell I down on my face, and cried with a loud voice, and said, Ah ADONAI YAHWEH! will you make a full end of the remnant of Israel?

14 . ELOHIM Will Restore Israel. .

The word of YAHWEH came to me, saying,

15 Son of man, your brothers, even your brothers, the men of your relatives, and all the house of Israel, all of them, are they to whom the inhabitants of Jerusalem have said, Go far away from YAHWEH! This land has been given to us for a possession.

16 Therefore say, Thus says ADONAI YAHWEH: Whereas I have removed them far off among the nations, and whereas I have scattered them among the countries, yet will I be to them a sanctuary for a little while in the countries where they have come.

17 Therefore say, Thus says ADONAI YAHWEH: I will gather you from the peoples, and assemble you out of the countries where you have been scattered, and I will give you Eretz-Israel.

18 They shall come there, and they shall take away all the detestable things of it and all its abominations from there.

19 I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them a heart of flesh;

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20 that they may walk in my statutes, and keep my ordinances, and do them: and they shall be my people, and I will be their ELOHIM!

21 But as for them whose heart walks after the heart of their detestable things and their abominations, I will bring their way on their own heads, says ADONAI YAHWEH!

22 Then the cherubim lifted up their wings, and the wheels were beside them; and the glory of the ELOHIM of Israel was over them above.

23 The glory of YAHWEH went up from the midst of the city, and stood on the mountain which is on the east side of the city.

24 The Spirit lifted me up, and brought me in the vision by the Spirit of ELOHIM into Kasdimah, to them of the captivity. So the vision that I had seen went up from me.

25 Then I spoke to them of the captivity all the things that YAHWEH had shown me.

Isaiah 42.

1 . The Servant of YAHWEH. .

“Behold, my servant, whom I uphold; my chosen, in whom my soul delights I have put my Spirit on him. He will bring justice to the nations.

2 He will not shout, nor raise his voice, nor cause it to be heard in the street.

3 He won’t break a bruised reed. He won’t quench a dimly burning wick. He will faithfully bring justice.

4 He will not fail nor be discouraged, until he has set justice in the earth, and the islands will wait for his Torah (teaching and instruction).”

5 Thus says El YAHWEH, he who created the heavens and stretched them out, he who spread out the earth and that which comes out of it, he who gives breath to its people and spirit to those who walk in it.

6 “I, YAHWEH, have called you in righteousness, and will hold your hand, and will keep you, and make you a covenant for the people, as a light for the nations;

7 to open the blind eyes, to bring the prisoners out of the dungeon, and those who sit in darkness out of the prison.

8 “I am YAHWEH! That is my name. I will not give my glory to another, nor my praise to engraved images.

9 Behold, the former things have happened, and I declare new things. I tell you about them before they come up.”

10 . Praise to YAHWEH. .

Sing to YAHWEH a new song, and his praise from the end of the earth, you who go down to the sea, and all that is therein, the islands and their inhabitants.

11 Let the wilderness and its cities raise their voices, with the villages that Kedar inhabits. Let the inhabitants of Sela sing. Let them shout from the top of the mountains!

12 Let them give glory to YAHWEH, and declare his praise in the islands.

13 YAHWEH will go out like a mighty man. He will stir up zeal like a man of war. He will raise a war cry. Yes, he will shout aloud. He will triumph over his enemies.

14 . Promise of YAHWEH's Help. .

“I have been silent a long time. I have been quiet and restrained myself. Now I will cry out like a travailing woman. I will both gasp and pant.

15 I will destroy mountains and hills, and dry up all their herbs. I will make the rivers islands, and will dry up the pools.

16 I will bring the blind by a way that they don’t know. I will lead them in paths that they

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don't know. I will make darkness light before them, and crooked places straight. I will do these things, and I will not forsake them.

17 "Those who trust in engraved images, who tell molten images, 'You are our gods' will be turned back. They will be utterly disappointed.

18 "Hear, you deaf, and look, you blind, that you may see.

19 Who is blind, but my servant? Or who is as deaf as my messenger whom I send? Who is as blind as he who is at peace, and as blind as YAHWEH's servant?

20 You see many things, but don't observe. His ears are open, but he doesn't listen.

21 **. Israel's Obstinate Disobedience. .**

It pleased YAHWEH, for his righteousness' sake, to magnify the Torah (teaching and instruction), and make it honorable.

22 But this is a robbed and plundered people. All of them are snared in holes, and they are hidden in prisons. They have become a prey, and no one delivers; and a spoil, and no one says, 'Restore them!'

23 Who is there among you who will give ear to this? Who will listen and hear for the time to come?

24 Who gave Jacob as plunder, and Israel to the robbers? Didn't YAHWEH, he against whom we have sinned? For they would not walk in his ways, and they disobeyed his Torah (teaching and instruction).

25 Therefore he poured the fierceness of his anger on him, and the strength of battle; and it set him on fire all around, but he didn't know; and it burned him, but he didn't take it to heart."

Psalms 3.

1 **. A Psalm of David when he fled from Absalom his son.. .**

A Psalm by David, when he fled from Absalom his son. YAHWEH, how my adversaries have increased! Many are those who rise up against me.

2 Many there are who say of my soul, "There is no help for him in ELOHIM!" Selah.

3 But you, YAHWEH, are a shield around me, my glory, and the one who lifts up my head.

4 I cry to YAHWEH with my voice, and he answers me out of his holy hill. Selah.

5 I laid myself down and slept. I awakened; for YAHWEH sustains me.

6 I will not be afraid of tens of thousands of people who have set themselves against me on every side.

7 Arise, YAHWEH! Save me, my ELOHIM! For you have struck all of my enemies on the cheek bone. You have broken the teeth of the wicked.

8 Salvation belongs to YAHWEH! Your blessing be on your people. Selah.

Proverbs 21.

1 The king's heart is in YAHWEH's hand like the watercourses. He turns it wherever he desires.

2 Every way of a man is right in his own eyes, but YAHWEH weighs the hearts.

3 To do righteousness and justice is more acceptable to YAHWEH than sacrifice.

4 A high look, and a proud heart, the lamp of the wicked, is sin.

5 The plans of the diligent surely lead to profit; and everyone who is hasty surely rushes to poverty.

6 Getting treasures by a lying tongue is a fleeting vapor for those who seek death.

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- 7 The violence of the wicked will drive them away, because they refuse to do what is right.
- 8 The way of the guilty is devious, but the conduct of the innocent is upright.
- 9 It is better to dwell in the corner of the housetop, than to share a house with a contentious woman.
- 10 The soul of the wicked desires evil; his neighbor finds no mercy in his eyes.
- 11 When the mocker is punished, the simple gains wisdom. When the wise is instructed, he receives knowledge.
- 12 The Righteous One considers the house of the wicked, and brings the wicked to ruin.
- 13 Whoever stops his ears at the cry of the poor, he will also cry out, but shall not be heard.
- 14 A gift in secret pacifies anger; and a bribe in the cloak, strong wrath.
- 15 It is joy to the righteous to do justice; but it is a destruction to the workers of iniquity.
- 16 The man who wanders out of the way of understanding shall rest in the assembly of the dead.
- 17 He who loves pleasure shall be a poor man. He who loves wine and oil shall not be rich.
- 18 The wicked is a ransom for the righteous; the treacherous for the upright.
- 19 It is better to dwell in a desert land, than with a contentious and fretful woman.
- 20 There is precious treasure and oil in the dwelling of the wise; but a foolish man swallows it up.
- 21 He who follows after righteousness and kindness finds life, righteousness, and honor.
- 22 A wise man scales the city of the mighty, and brings down the strength of its confidence.
- 23 Whoever guards his mouth and his tongue keeps his soul from troubles.
- 24 The proud and haughty man, “scoffer” is his name; he works in the arrogance of pride.
- 25 The desire of the sluggard kills him, for his hands refuse to labor.
- 26 There are those who covet greedily all day long; but the righteous give and don't withhold.
- 27 The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination: how much more, when he brings it with a wicked mind!
- 28 A false witness will perish, and a man who listens speaks to eternity.
- 29 A wicked man hardens his face; but as for the upright, he establishes his ways.
- 30 There is no wisdom nor understanding nor counsel against YAHWEH!
- 31 The horse is prepared for the day of battle; but victory is with YAHWEH!

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

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Ezekiel 12.

1 . Judah's Captivity Portrayed. .

The word of YAHWEH also came to me, saying,

2 Son of man, you dwell in the midst of the rebellious house, who have eyes to see, and don't see, who have ears to hear, and don't hear; for they are a rebellious house.

3 Therefore, you son of man, prepare your stuff for moving, and move by day in their sight; and you shall move from your place to another place in their sight: it may be they will consider, though they are a rebellious house.

4 You shall bring forth your stuff by day in their sight, as stuff for moving; and you shall go forth yourself at even in their sight, as when men go forth into exile.

5 Dig through the wall in their sight, and carry your stuff out that way.

6 In their sight you shall bear it on your shoulder, and carry it forth in the dark; you shall cover your face, so that you don't see the land: for I have set you for a sign to the house of Israel.

7 I did so as I was commanded: I brought forth my stuff by day, as stuff for removing, and in the even I dug through the wall with my hand; I brought it forth in the dark, and bore it on my shoulder in their sight.

8 In the morning came the word of YAHWEH to me, saying,

9 Son of man, has not the house of Israel, the rebellious house, said to you, What are you doing?

10 Say to them, Thus says ADONAI YAHWEH: This burden concerns the prince in Jerusalem, and all the house of Israel among whom they are.

11 Say, I am your sign: like as I have done, so shall it be done to them; they shall go into exile, into captivity.

12 The prince who is among them shall bear on his shoulder in the dark, and shall go forth: they shall dig through the wall to carry out thereby: he shall cover his face, because he shall not see the land with his eyes.

13 My net also will I spread on him, and he shall be taken in my snare; and I will bring him to Babylon to the land of the Kasdim; yet shall he not see it, though he shall die there.

14 I will scatter toward every wind all who are around him to help him, and all his bands; and I will draw out the sword after them.

15 They shall know that I am YAHWEH, when I shall disperse them among the nations, and scatter them through the countries.

16 But I will leave a few men of them from the sword, from the famine, and from the pestilence; that they may declare all their abominations among the nations where they come; and they shall know that I am YAHWEH!

17 . Judgment Not Postponed. .

Moreover the word of YAHWEH came to me, saying,

18 Son of man, eat your bread with quaking, and drink your water with trembling and with fearfulness;

19 and tell the people of the land, Thus says ADONAI YAHWEH concerning the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and Eretz-Israel: They shall eat their bread with fearfulness, and drink their water in dismay, that her land may be desolate, and despoiled of all that is therein, because of the violence of all those who dwell therein.

20 The cities that are inhabited shall be laid waste, and the land shall be a desolation; and you shall know that I am YAHWEH!

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- 21 The word of YAHWEH came to me, saying,
22 Son of man, what is this proverb that you have in Eretz-Israel, saying, The days are prolonged, and every vision fails?
23 Tell them therefore, Thus says ADONAI YAHWEH: I will make this proverb to cease, and they shall no more use it as a proverb in Israel; but tell them, The days are at hand, and the fulfillment of every vision.
24 For there shall be no more any false vision nor flattering divination within the house of Israel.
25 For I am YAHWEH; I will speak, and the word that I shall speak shall be performed; it shall be no more deferred: for in your days, rebellious house, will I speak the word, and will perform it, says ADONAI YAHWEH!
26 Again the word of YAHWEH came to me, saying,
27 Son of man, behold, they of the house of Israel say, The vision that he sees is for many day to come, and he prophesies of times that are far off.
28 Therefore tell them, Thus says ADONAI YAHWEH: None of my words shall be deferred any more, but the word which I shall speak shall be performed, says ADONAI YAHWEH!

Ezekiel 13.

1 **. Woe to Foolish Prophets. .**

- The word of YAHWEH came to me, saying,
2 Son of man, prophesy against the prophets of Israel who prophesy, and say to those who prophesy out of their own heart, Hear the word of YAHWEH:
3 Thus says ADONAI YAHWEH, Woe to the foolish prophets, who follow their own spirit, and have seen nothing!
4 Israel, your prophets have been like foxes in the waste places.
5 You have not gone up into the gaps, neither built up the wall for the house of Israel, to stand in the battle in the day of YAHWEH!
6 They have seen falsehood and lying divination, who say, YAHWEH says; but YAHWEH has not sent them: and they have made men to hope that the word would be confirmed.
7 Haven't you seen a false vision, and haven't you spoken a lying divination, in that you say, YAHWEH says; but I have not spoken?
8 Therefore thus says ADONAI YAHWEH: Because you have spoken falsehood, and seen lies, therefore, behold, I am against you, says ADONAI YAHWEH!
9 My hand shall be against the prophets who see false visions, and who divine lies: they shall not be in the council of my people, neither shall they be written in the writing of the house of Israel, neither shall they enter into Eretz-Israel; and you shall know that I am ADONAI YAHWEH!
10 Because, even because they have seduced my people, saying, Peace; and there is no peace; and when one builds up a wall, behold, they plaster it with whitewash:
11 tell those who plaster it with whitewash, that it shall fall: there shall be an overflowing shower; and you, great hailstones, shall fall; and a stormy wind shall tear it.
12 Behold, when the wall has fallen, shall it not be said to you, Where is the plaster with which you have plastered it?
13 Therefore thus says ADONAI YAHWEH: I will even tear it with a stormy wind in my wrath; and there shall be an overflowing shower in my anger, and great hailstones in wrath to consume it.
14 So will I break down the wall that you have plastered with whitewash, and bring it down to the ground, so that its foundation shall be uncovered; and it shall fall, and you shall be consumed in its midst: and you shall know that I am YAHWEH!

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- 15 Thus will I accomplish my wrath on the wall, and on those who have plastered it with whitewash; and I will tell you, The wall is no more, neither those who plastered it;
- 16 to wit, the prophets of Israel who prophesy concerning Jerusalem, and who see visions of peace for her, and there is no peace, says ADONAI YAHWEH!
- 17 You, son of man, set your face against the daughters of your people, who prophesy out of their own heart; and prophesy against them,
- 18 and say, Thus says ADONAI YAHWEH: Woe to the women who sew pillows on all elbows, and make kerchiefs for the head of persons of every stature to hunt souls! Will you hunt the souls of my people, and save souls alive for yourselves?
- 19 You have profaned me among my people for handfuls of barley and for pieces of bread, to kill the souls who should not die, and to save the souls alive who should not live, by your lying to my people who listen to lies.
- 20 Therefore thus says ADONAI YAHWEH: Behold, I am against your pillows, with which you there hunt the souls to make them fly, and I will tear them from your arms; and I will let the souls go, even the souls whom you hunt to make them fly.
- 21 Your kerchiefs also will I tear, and deliver my people out of your hand, and they shall be no more in your hand to be hunted; and you shall know that I am YAHWEH!
- 22 Because with lies you have grieved the heart of the righteous, whom I have not made sad; and strengthened the hands of the wicked, that he should not return from his wicked way, and be saved alive:
- 23 Therefore you shall no more see false visions, nor practice divination. I will deliver my people out of your hand; and you shall know that I am YAHWEH!

Isaiah 43.

1 . The Redeemer of Israel. .

- But now thus says YAHWEH who created you, Jacob, and he who formed you, Israel: “Don’t be afraid, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by your name. You are mine.
- 2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they will not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned, and flame will not scorch you.
- 3 For I am YAHWEH your ELOHIM, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I have given Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in your place.
- 4 Since you have been precious and honored in my sight, and I have loved you; therefore I will give people in your place, and nations instead of your life.
- 5 Don’t be afraid; for I am with you. I will bring your seed from the east, and gather you from the west.
- 6 I will tell the north, ‘Give them up!’ and tell the south, ‘Don’t hold them back! Bring my sons from far, and my daughters from the ends of the earth
- 7 everyone who is called by my name, and whom I have created for my glory, whom I have formed, yes, whom I have made.”
- 8 Bring out the blind people who have eyes, and the deaf who have ears.
- 9 Let all the nations be gathered together, and let the peoples be assembled. Who among them can declare this, and show us former things? Let them bring their witnesses, that they may be justified; or let them hear, and say, “That is true.”
- 10 “You are my witnesses,” says YAHWEH, “With my servant whom I have chosen; that you may know and believe me, and understand that I am he. Before me there was no ELOHIM formed, neither will there be after me.
- 11 I myself am YAHWEH; and besides me there is no savior.
- 12 I have declared, I have saved, and I have shown; and there was no strange false-god

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among you. Therefore you are my witnesses,” says YAHWEH, “and I am El!

13 Yes, since the day was I am he; and there is no one who can deliver out of my hand. I will work, and who can hinder it?”

14 Thus says YAHWEH, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: “For your sake, I have sent to Babylon, and I will bring all of them down as fugitives, even the Kasdim, in the ships of their rejoicing.

15 I am YAHWEH, your Holy One, the Creator of Israel, your King.”

16 Thus says YAHWEH, who makes a way in the sea, and a path in the mighty waters;

17 who brings forth the chariot and horse, the army and the mighty man (they lie down together, they shall not rise; they are extinct, they are quenched like a wick):

18 “Don’t remember the former things, and don’t consider the things of old.

19 Behold, I will do a new thing. It springs forth now. Don’t you know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.

20 The animals of the field shall honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; because I give water in the wilderness and rivers in the desert, to give drink to my people, my chosen,

21 the people which I formed for myself, that they might set forth my praise.

22 . Pleading with Unfaithful Israel. .

Yet you have not called on me, Jacob; but you have been weary of me, Israel.

23 You have not brought me of your sheep for burnt offerings; neither have you honored me with your sacrifices. I have not burdened you with offerings, nor wearied you with frankincense.

24 You have bought me no sweet cane with money, nor have you filled me with the fat of your sacrifices; but you have burdened me with your sins. You have wearied me with your iniquities.

25 I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake; and I will not remember your sins.

26 Put me in remembrance. Let us plead together. Set forth your case, that you may be justified.

27 Your first father sinned, and your teachers have transgressed against me.

28 Therefore I will profane the princes of the sanctuary; and I will make Jacob a curse, and Israel an insult.”

Psalms 4.

1 . To the Chief Musician. With stringed instruments. A Psalm of David..

2

For the Chief Musician; on stringed instruments. A Psalm by David. Answer me when I call, ELOHIM of my righteousness. Give me relief from my distress. Have mercy on me, and hear my prayer.

2 You sons of men, how long shall my glory be turned into dishonor? Will you love vanity, and seek after falsehood? Selah.

3 But know that YAHWEH has set apart for himself him who is holy: YAHWEH will hear when I call to him.

4 Stand in awe, and don’t sin. Search your own heart on your bed, and be still. Selah.

5 Offer the sacrifices of righteousness. Put your trust in YAHWEH!

6 Many say, “Who will show us any good?” YAHWEH, let the light of your face shine on us.

7 You have put gladness in my heart, more than when their grain and their new wine are increased.

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8 In peace I will both lay myself down and sleep, for you, YAHWEH alone, make me live in safety.

Proverbs 22.

1 A good name is more desirable than great riches, and loving favor is better than silver and gold.

2 The rich and the poor have this in common: YAHWEH is the maker of them all.

3 A prudent man sees danger, and hides himself; but the simple pass on, and suffer for it.

4 The result of humility and the fear of YAHWEH is wealth, honor, and life.

5 Thorns and snares are in the path of the wicked: whoever guards his soul stays from them.

6 Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.

7 The rich rule over the poor. The borrower is servant to the lender.

8 He who sows wickedness reaps trouble, and the rod of his fury will be destroyed.

9 He who has a generous eye will be blessed; for he shares his food with the poor.

10 Drive out the mocker, and strife will go out; yes, quarrels and insults will stop.

11 He who loves purity of heart and speaks gracefully is the king's friend.

12 The eyes of YAHWEH watch over knowledge; but he frustrates the words of the unfaithful.

13 The sluggard says, "There is a lion outside! I will be killed in the streets!"

14 The mouth of an adulteress is a deep pit: he who is under YAHWEH's wrath will fall into it.

15 Folly is bound up in the heart of a child: the rod of discipline drives it far from him.

16 Whoever oppresses the poor for his own increase and whoever gives to the rich, both come to poverty.

17 . Sayings of the Wise. .

Turn your ear, and listen to the words of the wise. Apply your heart to my teaching.

18 For it is a pleasant thing if you keep them within you, if all of them are ready on your lips.

19 That your trust may be in YAHWEH, I teach you today, even you.

20 Haven't I written to you thirty excellent things of counsel and knowledge,

21 To teach you truth, reliable words, to give sound answers to the ones who sent you?

22 Don't exploit the poor, because he is poor; and don't crush the needy in court;

23 for YAHWEH will plead their case, and plunder the life of those who plunder them.

24 Don't befriend a hot-tempered man, and don't associate with one who harbors anger;

25 lest you learn his ways, and ensnare your soul.

26 Don't you be one of those who strike hands, of those who are collateral for debts.

27 If you don't have means to pay, why should he take away your bed from under you?

28 Don't move the ancient boundary stone, which your fathers have set up.

29 Do you see a man skilled in his work? He will serve kings. He won't serve obscure men.

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

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Ezekiel 14.

1 . Idolatry Will Be Punished. .

Then came certain of the elders of Israel to me, and sat before me.

2 The word of YAHWEH came to me, saying,

3 Son of man, these men have taken their idols into their heart, and put the stumbling block of their iniquity before their face: should I be inquired of at all by them?

4 Therefore speak to them, and tell them, Thus says ADONAI YAHWEH: Every man of the house of Israel who takes his idols into his heart, and puts the stumbling block of his iniquity before his face, and comes to the prophet; I YAHWEH will answer him therein according to the multitude of his idols;

5 that I may take the house of Israel in their own heart, because they are all estranged from me through their idols.

6 Therefore tell the house of Israel, Thus says ADONAI YAHWEH: Return, and turn yourselves from your idols; and turn away your faces from all your abominations.

7 For everyone of the house of Israel, or of the strangers who live in Israel, who separates himself from me, and takes his idols into his heart, and puts the stumbling block of his iniquity before his face, and comes to the prophet to inquire for himself of me; I YAHWEH will answer him by myself:

8 and I will set my face against that man, and will make him an astonishment, for a sign and a proverb, and I will cut him off from the midst of my people; and you shall know that I am YAHWEH!

9 If the prophet is deceived and speak a word, I, YAHWEH, have deceived that prophet, and I will stretch out my hand on him, and will destroy him from the midst of my people Israel.

10 They shall bear their iniquity: the iniquity of the prophet shall be even as the iniquity of him who seeks to him;

11 that the house of Israel may go no more astray from me, neither defile themselves any more with all their transgressions; but that they may be my people, and I may be their ELOHIM, says ADONAI YAHWEH!

12 . Judgment on Persistent Unfaithfulness. .

The word of YAHWEH came to me, saying,

13 Son of man, when a land sins against me by committing a trespass, and I stretch out my hand on it, and break the staff of its bread, and send famine on it, and cut off from it man and animal;

14 though these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, they should deliver but their own souls by their righteousness, says ADONAI YAHWEH!

15 If I cause evil animals to pass through the land, and they ravage it, and it be made desolate, so that no man may pass through because of the animals;

16 though these three men were in it, as I live, says ADONAI YAHWEH, they should deliver neither sons nor daughters; they only should be delivered, but the land should be desolate.

17 Or if I bring a sword on that land, and say, Sword, go through the land; so that I cut off from it man and animal;

18 though these three men were in it, as I live, says ADONAI YAHWEH, they should deliver neither sons nor daughters, but they only should be delivered themselves.

19 Or if I send a pestilence into that land, and pour out my wrath on it in blood, to cut off from it man and animal;

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20 though Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, as I live, says ADONAI YAHWEH, they should deliver neither son nor daughter; they should but deliver their own souls by their righteousness.

21 For thus says ADONAI YAHWEH: How much more when I send my four severe judgments on Jerusalem, the sword, and the famine, and the evil animals, and the pestilence, to cut off from it man and animal!

22 Yet, behold, therein shall be left a remnant that shall be carried forth, both sons and daughters: behold, they shall come forth to you, and you shall see their way and their doings; and you shall be comforted concerning the evil that I have brought on Jerusalem, even concerning all that I have brought on it.

23 They shall comfort you, when you see their way and their doings; and you shall know that I have not done without cause all that I have done in it, says ADONAI YAHWEH!

Ezekiel 15.

1 . The Outcast Vine. .

The word of YAHWEH came to me, saying,

2 Son of man, what is the vine tree more than any tree, the vine-branch which is among the trees of the forest?

3 Shall wood be taken of it to make any work? or will men take a pin of it to hang any vessel thereon?

4 Behold, it is cast into the fire for fuel; the fire has devoured both its ends, and its midst is burned: is it profitable for any work?

5 Behold, when it was whole, it was meet for no work: how much less, when the fire has devoured it, and it is burned, shall it yet be meet for any work!

6 Therefore thus says ADONAI YAHWEH: As the vine tree among the trees of the forest, which I have given to the fire for fuel, so will I give the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

7 I will set my face against them; they shall go forth from the fire, but the fire shall devour them; and you shall know that I am YAHWEH, when I set my face against them.

8 I will make the land desolate, because they have committed a trespass, says ADONAI YAHWEH!

Isaiah 44.

1 . ELOHIM's Blessing on Israel. .

Yet listen now, Jacob my servant, and Israel, whom I have chosen.

2 This is what YAHWEH who made you, and formed you from the womb, who will help you says: "Don't be afraid, Jacob my servant; and you, Jeshurun, whom I have chosen.

3 For I will pour water on him who is thirsty, and streams on the dry ground. I will pour my Spirit on your seed, and my blessing on your offspring:

4 and they will spring up among the grass, as willows by the watercourses.

5 One will say, 'I am YAHWEH's;' and another will be called by the name of Jacob; and another will write with his hand 'to YAHWEH,' and honor the name of Israel."

6 . There Is No Other ELOHIM. .

This is what YAHWEH, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, YAHWEH of Hosts, says: "I am the first, and I am the last; and besides me there is no ELOHIM!

7 Who is like me? Who will call, and will declare it, and set it in order for me, since I established the ancient people? Let them declare the things that are coming, and that will happen.

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8 Don't fear, neither be afraid. Haven't I declared it to you long ago, and shown it? You are my witnesses. Is there an ELOHIM besides me? Indeed, there is not. I don't know any other Rock."

9 **. Idolatry Is Foolishness. .**

Everyone who makes an engraved image is vain. The things that they delight in will not profit. Their own witnesses don't see, nor know, that they may be disappointed.

10 Who has fashioned a false-god, or molds an image that is profitable for nothing?

11 Behold, all his fellows will be disappointed; and the workmen are mere men. Let them all be gathered together. Let them stand up. They will fear. They will be put to shame together.

12 The blacksmith takes an axe, works in the coals, fashions it with hammers, and works it with his strong arm. He is hungry, and his strength fails; he drinks no water, and is faint.

13 The carpenter stretches out a line. He marks it out with a pencil. He shapes it with planes. He marks it out with compasses, and shapes it like the figure of a man, with the beauty of a man, to reside in a house.

14 He cuts down cedars for himself, and takes the cypress and the oak, and strengthens for himself one among the trees of the forest. He plants a fir tree, and the rain nourishes it.

15 Then it will be for a man to burn; and he takes some of it, and warms himself. Yes, he burns it, and bakes bread. Yes, he makes a false-god, and worships it; he makes it an engraved image, and falls down to it.

16 He burns part of it in the fire. With part of it, he eats meat. He roasts a roast, and is satisfied. Yes, he warms himself, and says, "Aha! I am warm. I have seen the fire."

17 The rest of it he makes into a false-god, even his engraved image. He bows down to it and worships, and prays to it, and says, "Deliver me; for you are my false-god!"

18 They don't know, neither do they consider: for he has shut their eyes, that they can't see; and their hearts, that they can't understand.

19 No one thinks, neither is there knowledge nor understanding to say, "I have burned part of it in the fire. Yes, I have also baked bread on its coals. I have roasted meat and eaten it. Shall I make the rest of it into an abomination? Shall I bow down to a tree trunk?"

20 He feeds on ashes. A deceived heart has turned him aside; and he can't deliver his soul, nor say, "Isn't there a lie in my right hand?"

21 **. Israel Is Not Forgotten. .**

Remember these things, Jacob and Israel; for you are my servant. I have formed you. You are my servant. Israel, you will not be forgotten by me.

22 I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, your transgressions, and, as a cloud, your sins. Return to me, for I have redeemed you.

23 Sing, you heavens, for YAHWEH has done it! Shout, you lower parts of the earth! Break out into singing, you mountains, O forest, all of your trees, for YAHWEH has redeemed Jacob, and will glorify himself in Israel.

24 **. Judah Will Be Restored. .**

Thus says YAHWEH, your Redeemer, and he who formed you from the womb: "I am YAHWEH, who makes all things; who alone stretches out the heavens; who spreads out the earth by myself;

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- 25 who frustrates the signs of the liars, and makes diviners mad; who turns wise men backward, and makes their knowledge foolish;
- 26 who confirms the word of his servant, and performs the counsel of his messengers; who says of Jerusalem, 'She will be inhabited;' and of the cities of Judah, 'They will be built,' and 'I will raise up its waste places;'
- 27 who says to the deep, 'Be dry,' and 'I will dry up your rivers;'
- 28 Who says of Cyrus, 'He is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure,' even saying of Jerusalem, 'She will be built;' and of the temple, 'Your foundation will be laid.'"

Psalms 5.

1 . To the Chief Musician. With flutes. A Psalm of David..

- For the Chief Musician, with the flutes. A Psalm by David. Give ear to my words, YAHWEH! Consider my meditation.
- 2 Listen to the voice of my cry, my King and my ELOHIM; for to you do I pray.
- 3 YAHWEH, in the morning you shall hear my voice. In the morning I will lay my requests before you, and will watch expectantly.
- 4 For you are not an El who has pleasure in wickedness. Evil can't live with you.
- 5 The arrogant shall not stand in your sight. You hate all workers of iniquity.
- 6 You will destroy those who speak lies. YAHWEH abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man.
- 7 But as for me, in the abundance of your loving kindness I will come into your house. I will bow toward your holy temple in reverence of you.
- 8 Lead me, YAHWEH, in your righteousness because of my enemies. Make your way straight before my face.
- 9 For there is no faithfulness in their mouth. Their heart is destruction. Their throat is an open tomb. They flatter with their tongue.
- 10 Hold them guilty, ELOHIM! Let them fall by their own counsels; Thrust them out in the multitude of their transgressions, for they have rebelled against you.
- 11 But let all those who take refuge in you rejoice, Let them always shout for joy, because you defend them. Let them also who love your name be joyful in you.
- 12 For you will bless the righteous. YAHWEH, you will surround him with favor as with a shield.

Proverbs 23.

- 1 When you sit to eat with a ruler, consider diligently what is before you;
- 2 put a knife to your throat, if you are a man given to appetite.
- 3 Don't be desirous of his dainties, since they are deceitful food.
- 4 Don't weary yourself to be rich. In your wisdom, show restraint.
- 5 Why do you set your eyes on that which is not? For it certainly sprouts wings like an eagle and flies in the sky.
- 6 Don't eat the food of him who has a stingy eye, and don't crave his delicacies:
- 7 for as he thinks about the cost, so he is. "Eat and drink!" he says to you, but his heart is not with you.
- 8 The morsel which you have eaten you shall vomit up, and lose your good words.
- 9 Don't speak in the ears of a fool, for he will despise the wisdom of your words.
- 10 Don't move the ancient boundary stone. Don't encroach on the fields of the fatherless:
- 11 for their Defender is strong. He will plead their case against you.
- 12 Apply your heart to instruction, and your ears to the words of knowledge.

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- 13 Don't withhold correction from a child. If you punish him with the rod, he will not die.
- 14 Punish him with the rod, and save his soul from Sheol.
- 15 My son, if your heart is wise, then my heart will be glad, even mine:
- 16 yes, my heart will rejoice, when your lips speak what is right.
- 17 Don't let your heart envy sinners; but rather fear YAHWEH all the day long.
- 18 Indeed surely there is a future hope, and your hope will not be cut off.
- 19 Listen, my son, and be wise, and keep your heart on the right path!
- 20 Don't be among ones drinking too much wine, or those who gorge themselves on meat:
- 21 for the drunkard and the glutton shall become poor; and drowsiness clothes them in rags.
- 22 Listen to your father who gave you life, and don't despise your mother when she is old.
- 23 Buy the truth, and don't sell it. Get wisdom, discipline, and understanding.
- 24 The father of the righteous has great joy. Whoever fathers a wise child delights in him.
- 25 Let your father and your mother be glad! Let her who bore you rejoice!
- 26 My son, give me your heart; and let your eyes keep in my ways.
- 27 For a prostitute is a deep pit; and a wayward wife is a narrow well.
- 28 Yes, she lies in wait like a robber, and increases the unfaithful among men.
- 29 Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has strife? Who has complaints? Who has needless bruises? Who has bloodshot eyes?
- 30 Those who stay long at the wine; those who go to seek out mixed wine.
- 31 Don't look at the wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup, when it goes down smoothly.
- 32 In the end, it bites like a snake, and poisons like a viper.
- 33 Your eyes will see strange things, and your mind will imagine confusing things.
- 34 Yes, you will be as he who lies down in the midst of the sea, or as he who lies on top of the rigging:
- 35 "They hit me, and I was not hurt! They beat me, and I don't feel it! When will I wake up? I can do it again. I can find another."

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

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Ezekiel 16.

1 . ELOHIM's Love for Jerusalem. .

Again the word of YAHWEH came to me, saying,

2 Son of man, cause Jerusalem to know her abominations;

3 and say, Thus says ADONAI YAHWEH to Jerusalem: Your birth and your birth is of the land of the Canaanite; the Amorite was your father, and your mother was a Hittite.

4 As for your birth, in the day you were born your navel was not cut, neither were you washed in water to cleanse you; you weren't salted at all, nor swaddled at all.

5 No eye pitied you, to do any of these things to you, to have compassion on you; but you were cast out in the open field, for that your person was abhorred, in the day that you were born.

6 When I passed by you, and saw you wallowing in your blood, I said to you, Though you are in your blood, live; yes, I said to you, Though you are in your blood, live.

7 I caused you to multiply as that which grows in the field, and you increased and grew great, and you attained to excellent ornament; your breasts were fashioned, and your hair was grown; yet you were naked and bare.

8 Now when I passed by you, and looked at you, behold, your time was the time of love; and I spread my skirt over you, and covered your nakedness: yes, I swore to you, and entered into a covenant with you, says ADONAI YAHWEH, and you became mine.

9 Then washed I you with water; yes, I thoroughly washed away your blood from you, and I anointed you with oil.

10 I clothed you also with embroidered work, and shod you with sealskin, and I dressed you about with fine linen, and covered you with silk.

11 I decked you with ornaments, and I put bracelets on your hands, and a chain on your neck.

12 I put a ring on your nose, and earrings in your ears, and a beautiful crown on your head.

13 Thus you were decked with gold and silver; and your clothing was of fine linen, and silk, and embroidered work; you ate fine flour, and honey, and oil; and you were exceeding beautiful, and you prospered to royal estate.

14 Your renown went forth among the nations for your beauty; for it was perfect, through my majesty which I had put on you, says ADONAI YAHWEH!

15 . Jerusalem's Harlotry. .

But you trusted in your beauty, and played the prostitute because of your renown, and poured out your prostitution on everyone who passed by; his it was.

16 You took of your garments, and made for yourselves high places decked with various colors, and played the prostitute on them: the like things shall not come, neither shall it be so.

17 You also took your beautiful jewels of my gold and of my silver, which I had given you, and made for yourself images of men, and played the prostitute with them;

18 and you took your embroidered garments, and covered them, and set my oil and my incense before them.

19 My bread also which I gave you, fine flour, and oil, and honey, with which I fed you, you even set it before them for a pleasant aroma; and thus it was, says ADONAI YAHWEH!

20 Moreover you have taken your sons and your daughters, whom you have borne to me, and you have sacrificed these to them to be devoured. Was your prostitution a small

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matter,

21 that you have slain my children, and delivered them up, in causing them to pass through the fire to them?

22 In all your abominations and your prostitution you have not remembered the days of your youth, when you were naked and bare, and were wallowing in your blood.

23 It has happened after all your wickedness, (woe, woe to you! says ADONAI YAHWEH),

24 that you have built for yourselves a vaulted place, and have made yourselves a lofty place in every street.

25 You have built your lofty place at the head of every way, and have made your beauty an abomination, and have opened your feet to everyone who passed by, and multiplied your prostitution.

26 You have also committed sexual immorality with the Egyptians, your neighbors, great of flesh; and have multiplied your prostitution, to provoke me to anger.

27 See therefore, I have stretched out my hand over you, and have diminished your ordinary food, and delivered you to the will of those who hate you, the daughters of the Philistines, who are ashamed of your lewd way.

28 You have played the prostitute also with the Assyrians, because you were insatiable; yes, you have played the prostitute with them, and yet you weren't satisfied.

29 You have moreover multiplied your prostitution to the land of merchants, to Kasdimah; and yet you weren't satisfied with this.

30 How weak is your heart, says ADONAI YAHWEH, since you do all these things, the work of an impudent prostitute;

31 **. Jerusalem's Adultery. .**

in that you build your vaulted place at the head of every way, and make your lofty place in every street, and have not been as a prostitute, in that you scorn pay.

32 A wife who commits adultery! who takes strangers instead of her husband!

33 They give gifts to all prostitutes; but you give your gifts to all your lovers, and bribe them, that they may come to you on every side for your prostitution.

34 You are different from other women in your prostitution, in that no one follows you to play the prostitute; and whereas you give hire, and no hire is given to you, therefore you are different.

35 **. Jerusalem's Lovers Will Abuse Her. .**

Therefore, prostitute, hear the word of YAHWEH:

36 Thus says ADONAI YAHWEH, Because your filthiness was poured out, and your nakedness uncovered through your prostitution with your lovers; and because of all the idols of your abominations, and for the blood of your children, that you gave to them;

37 therefore see, I will gather all your lovers, with whom you have taken pleasure, and all those who you have loved, with all those who you have hated; I will even gather them against you on every side, and will uncover your nakedness to them, that they may see all your nakedness.

38 I will judge you, as women who break wedlock and shed blood are judged; and I will bring on you the blood of wrath and jealousy.

39 I will also give you into their hand, and they shall throw down your vaulted place, and break down your lofty places; and they shall strip you of your clothes, and take your beautiful jewels; and they shall leave you naked and bare.

40 They shall also bring up a company against you, and they shall stone you with stones, and thrust you through with their swords.

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41 They shall burn your houses with fire, and execute judgments on you in the sight of many women; and I will cause you to cease from playing the prostitute, and you shall also give no hire any more.

42 So will I cause my wrath toward you to rest, and my jealousy shall depart from you, and I will be quiet, and will be no more angry.

43 Because you have not remembered the days of your youth, but have raged against me in all these things; therefore, behold, I also will bring your way on your head, says ADONAI YAHWEH: and you shall not commit this lewdness with all your abominations.

44 . More Wicked than Samaria and Sodom. .

Behold, everyone who uses proverbs shall use this proverb against you, saying, As is the mother, so is her daughter.

45 You are the daughter of your mother, who loathes her husband and her children; and you are the sister of your sisters, who loathed their husbands and their children: your mother was a Hittite, and your father an Amorite.

46 Your elder sister is Samaria, who dwells at your left hand, she and her daughters; and your younger sister, who dwells at your right hand, is Sodom and her daughters.

47 Yet have you not walked in their ways, nor done after their abominations; but, as if that were a very little thing, you were more corrupt than they in all your ways.

48 As I live, says ADONAI YAHWEH, Sodom your sister has not done, she nor her daughters, as you have done, you and your daughters.

49 Behold, this was the iniquity of your sister Sodom: pride, fullness of bread, and prosperous ease was in her and in her daughters; neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy.

50 They were haughty, and committed abomination before me: therefore I took them away as I saw good.

51 Neither has Samaria committed half of your sins; but you have multiplied your abominations more than they, and have justified your sisters by all your abominations which you have done.

52 You also, bear you your own shame, in that you have given judgment for your sisters; through your sins that you have committed more abominable than they, they are more righteous than you: yes, be also confounded, and bear your shame, in that you have justified your sisters.

53 I will turn again their captivity, the captivity of Sodom and her daughters, and the captivity of Samaria and her daughters, and the captivity of your captives in their midst;

54 that you may bear your own shame, and may be ashamed because of all that you have done, in that you are a comfort to them.

55 Your sisters, Sodom and her daughters, shall return to their former estate; and Samaria and her daughters shall return to their former estate; and you and your daughters shall return to your former estate.

56 For your sister Sodom was not mentioned by your mouth in the day of your pride,

57 before your wickedness was uncovered, as at the time of the reproach of the daughters of Syria, and of all who are around her, the daughters of the Philistines, who do despite to you all around.

58 You have borne your lewdness and your abominations, says YAHWEH!

59 For thus says ADONAI YAHWEH: I will also deal with you as you have done, who have despised the oath in breaking the covenant.

60 . An Everlasting Covenant. .

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Nevertheless I will remember my covenant with you in the days of your youth, and I will establish to you an everlasting covenant.

61 Then you shall remember your ways, and be ashamed, when you shall receive your sisters, your elder sisters and your younger; and I will give them to you for daughters, but not by your covenant.

62 I will establish my covenant with you; and you shall know that I am YAHWEH;

63 that you may remember, and be confounded, and never open your mouth any more, because of your shame, when I have forgiven you all that you have done, says ADONAI YAHWEH!

Isaiah 45.

1 . Cyrus, ELOHIM's Instrument. .

Thus says YAHWEH to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have held, to subdue nations before him, and strip kings of their armor; to open the doors before him, and the gates shall not be shut:

2 "I will go before you, and make the rough places smooth. I will break the doors of brass in pieces, and cut apart the bars of iron.

3 I will give you the treasures of darkness, and hidden riches of secret places, that you may know that it is I, YAHWEH, who call you by your name, even the ELOHIM of Israel.

4 For Jacob my servant's sake, and Israel my chosen, I have called you by your name. I have surnamed you, though you have not known me.

5 I am YAHWEH, and there is none else. Besides me, there is no ELOHIM! I will strengthen you, though you have not known me;

6 that they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that there is none besides me. I am YAHWEH, and there is no one else.

7 I form the light, and create darkness. I make peace, and create calamity. I am YAHWEH, who does all these things.

8 Distil, you heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness. Let the earth open, that it may bring forth salvation, and let it cause righteousness to spring up with it. I, YAHWEH, have created it.

9 Woe to him who strives with his Maker a clay pot among the clay pots of the earth! Shall the clay ask him who fashions it, 'What are you making?' or your work, 'He has no hands?'

10 Woe to him who says to a father, 'What have you become the father of?' or to a mother, 'To what have you given birth?'

11 Thus says YAHWEH, the Holy One of Israel, and his Maker: "You ask me about the things that are to come, concerning my sons, and you command me concerning the work of my hands!

12 I have made the earth, and created man on it. I, even my hands, have stretched out the heavens; and I have commanded all their army.

13 I have raised him up in righteousness, and I will make straight all his ways. He shall build my city, and he shall let my exiles go free, not for price nor reward," says YAHWEH of Hosts.

14 . YAHWEH, the Only Savior. .

Thus says YAHWEH: "The labor of Egypt, and the merchandise of Ethiopia, and the Sabeans, men of stature, shall come over to you, and they shall be yours. They will go after you. They shall come over in chains; and they will bow down to you. They will make supplication to you: 'Surely El is in you; and there is none else. There is no other

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Elohim.

15 Most certainly you are an El who hidden yourself, ELOHIM of Israel, the Savior.”

16 They will be disappointed, yes, confounded, all of them. Those who are makers of idols will go into confusion together.

17 Israel will be saved by YAHWEH with an everlasting salvation. You will not be disappointed nor confounded to ages everlasting.

18 For thus says YAHWEH who created the heavens, the ELOHIM who formed the earth and made it, who established it and didn't create it a waste, who formed it to be inhabited: "I am YAHWEH; and there is no other.

19 I have not spoken in secret, in a place of the land of darkness. I didn't say to the seed of Jacob, 'Seek me in vain.' I, YAHWEH, speak righteousness. I declare things that are right.

20 "Assemble yourselves and come. Draw near together, you who have escaped from the nations. Those have no knowledge who carry the wood of their engraved image, and pray to a false-god that can't save.

21 Declare and present it. Yes, let them take counsel together. Who has shown this from ancient time? Who has declared it of old? Haven't I, YAHWEH? There is no other ELOHIM besides me, a just ELOHIM and a Savior; There is no one besides me.

22 "Look to me, and be saved, all the ends of the earth; for I am El, and there is no other.

23 I have sworn by myself, the word has gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and will not return, that to me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall take an oath.

24 They will say of me, "There is righteousness and strength only in YAHWEH!" Even to him shall men come; and all those who were incensed against him shall be disappointed.

25 In YAHWEH shall all the seed of Israel be justified, and shall glory.

Psalms 6.

1 . To the Chief Musician. With stringed instruments. On an eight-stringed harp. A Psalm of David.. .

For the Chief Musician; on stringed instruments, upon the eight-stringed lyre. A Psalm by David. YAHWEH, don't rebuke me in your anger, neither discipline me in your wrath.

2 Have mercy on me, YAHWEH, for I am faint. YAHWEH, heal me, for my bones are troubled.

3 My soul is also in great anguish. But you, YAHWEH how long?

4 Return, YAHWEH! Deliver my soul, and save me for your loving kindness' sake.

5 For in death there is no memory of you. In Sheol, who shall give you thanks?

6 I am weary with my groaning. Every night I flood my bed. I drench my couch with my tears.

7 My eye wastes away because of grief. It grows old because of all my adversaries.

8 Depart from me, all you workers of iniquity, for YAHWEH has heard the voice of my weeping.

9 YAHWEH has heard my supplication. YAHWEH accepts my prayer.

10 May all my enemies be ashamed and dismayed. They shall turn back, they shall be disgraced suddenly.

Proverbs 24.

1 Don't be envious of evil men; neither desire to be with them:

2 for their hearts plot violence, and their lips talk about mischief.

3 Through wisdom a house is built; by understanding it is established;

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- 4 by knowledge the rooms are filled with all rare and beautiful treasure.
5 A wise man has great power; and a knowledgeable man increases strength;
6 for by wise guidance you wage your war; and victory is in many advisors.
7 Wisdom is too high for a fool: he doesn't open his mouth in the gate.
8 One who plots to do evil will be called a schemer.
9 The schemes of folly are sin. The mocker is detested by men.
10 If you falter in the time of trouble, your strength is small.
11 Rescue those who are being led away to death! Indeed, hold back those who are staggering to the slaughter!
12 If you say, "Behold, we didn't know this;" doesn't he who weighs the hearts consider it? He who keeps your soul, doesn't he know it? Shall he not render to every man according to his work?
13 My son, eat honey, for it is good; the droppings of the honeycomb, which are sweet to your taste:
14 so you shall know wisdom to be to your soul; if you have found it, then there will be a reward, your hope will not be cut off.
15 Don't lay in wait, wicked man, against the habitation of the righteous. Don't destroy his resting place:
16 for a righteous man falls seven times, and rises up again; but the wicked are overthrown by calamity.
17 Don't rejoice when your enemy falls. Don't let your heart be glad when he is overthrown;
18 lest YAHWEH see it, and it displease him, and he turn away his wrath from him.
19 Don't fret yourself because of evildoers; neither be envious of the wicked:
20 for there will be no reward to the evil man; and the lamp of the wicked shall be snuffed out.
21 My son, fear YAHWEH and the king. Don't join those who are rebellious:
22 for their calamity will rise suddenly; the destruction from them both who knows?

23 . Further Sayings of the Wise. .

- These also are sayings of the wise. To show partiality in judgment is not good.
24 He who says to the wicked, "You are righteous;" peoples shall curse him, and nations shall abhor him
25 but it will go well with those who convict the guilty, and a rich blessing will come on them.
26 An honest answer is like a kiss on the lips.
27 Prepare your work outside, and get your fields ready. Afterwards, build your house.
28 Don't be a witness against your neighbor without cause. Don't deceive with your lips.
29 Don't say, "I will do to him as he has done to me; I will render to the man according to his work."
30 I went by the field of the sluggard, by the vineyard of the man void of understanding;
31 Behold, it was all grown over with thorns. Its surface was covered with nettles, and its stone wall was broken down.
32 Then I saw, and considered well. I saw, and received instruction:
33 a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep;
34 so your poverty will come as a robber, and your want as an armed man.

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Ezekiel 17.

1 . The Eagles and the Vine. .

The word of YAHWEH came to me, saying,

2 Son of man, put forth a riddle, and speak a parable to the house of Israel;

3 and say, Thus says ADONAI YAHWEH: A great eagle with great wings and long feathers, full of feathers, which had various colors, came to Lebanon, and took the top of the cedar:

4 he cropped off the topmost of the young twigs of it, and carried it to a land of traffic; he set it in a city of merchants.

5 He took also of the seed of the land, and planted it in a fruitful soil; he placed it beside many waters; he set it as a willow tree.

6 It grew, and became a spreading vine of low stature, whose branches turned toward him, and its roots were under him: so it became a vine, and brought forth branches, and shot forth sprigs.

7 There was also another great eagle with great wings and many feathers: and behold, this vine bent its roots toward him, and shot forth its branches toward him, from the beds of its plantation, that he might water it.

8 It was planted in a good soil by many waters, that it might bring forth branches, and that it might bear fruit, that it might be a goodly vine.

9 Say, Thus says ADONAI YAHWEH: Shall it prosper? shall he not pull up its roots, and cut off its fruit, that it may wither; that all its fresh springing leaves may wither? and not by a strong arm or many people can it be raised from its roots.

10 Yes, behold, being planted, shall it prosper? shall it not utterly wither, when the east wind touches it? it shall wither in the beds where it grew.

11 Moreover the word of YAHWEH came to me, saying,

12 Say now to the rebellious house, Don't you know what these things mean? tell them, Behold, the king of Babylon came to Jerusalem, and took its king, and its princes, and brought them to him to Babylon:

13 and he took of the seed royal, and made a covenant with him; he also brought him under an oath, and took away the mighty of the land;

14 that the kingdom might be base, that it might not lift itself up, but that by keeping his covenant it might stand.

15 But he rebelled against him in sending his ambassadors into Egypt, that they might give him horses and many people. Shall he prosper? shall he escape who does such things? shall he break the covenant, and yet escape?

16 As I live, says ADONAI YAHWEH, surely in the place where the king dwells who made him king, whose oath he despised, and whose covenant he broke, even with him in the midst of Babylon he shall die.

17 Neither shall Pharaoh with his mighty army and great company help him in the war, when they cast up mounds and build forts, to cut off many persons.

18 For he has despised the oath by breaking the covenant; and behold, he had given his hand, and yet has done all these things; he shall not escape.

19 Therefore thus says ADONAI YAHWEH: As I live, surely my oath that he has despised, and my covenant that he has broken, I will even bring it on his own head.

20 I will spread my net on him, and he shall be taken in my snare, and I will bring him to Babylon, and will enter into judgment with him there for his trespass that he has trespassed against me.

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21 All his fugitives in all his bands shall fall by the sword, and those who remain shall be scattered toward every wind: and you shall know that I, YAHWEH, have spoken it.

22 . Israel Exalted at Last. .

Thus says ADONAI YAHWEH: I will also take of the lofty top of the cedar, and will set it; I will crop off from the topmost of its young twigs a tender one, and I will plant it on a high and lofty mountain:

23 in the mountain of the height of Israel will I plant it; and it shall bring forth boughs, and bear fruit, and be a goodly cedar: and under it shall dwell all birds of every wing; in the shade of its branches shall they dwell.

24 All the trees of the field shall know that I, YAHWEH, have brought down the high tree, have exalted the low tree, have dried up the green tree, and have made the dry tree to flourish; I, YAHWEH, have spoken and have done it.

Isaiah 46.

1 . Dead Idols and the Living ELOHIM. .

Bel bows down, Nebo stoops; their idols are on the animals, and on the livestock: the things that you carried about are made a load, a burden to the weary.

2 They stoop, they bow down together; they could not deliver the burden, but themselves have gone into captivity.

3 "Listen to me, house of Jacob, and all the remnant of the house of Israel, that have been borne from their birth, that have been carried from the womb;

4 and even to old age I am he, and even to gray hairs will I carry you. I have made, and I will bear; yes, I will carry, and will deliver.

5 "To whom will you liken me, and make me equal, and compare me, that we may be like?

6 Some pour out gold from the bag, and weigh silver in the balance. They hire a goldsmith, and he makes it a false-god. They fall down yes, they worship.

7 They bear it on the shoulder, they carry it, and set it in its place, and it stands, from its place it shall not move: yes, one may cry to it, yet it can not answer, nor save him out of his trouble.

8 "Remember this, and show yourselves men; bring it again to mind, you transgressors.

9 Remember the former things of old: for I am El, and there is none else; I am ELOHIM, and there is none like me;

10 declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done; saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure;

11 calling a ravenous bird from the east, the man of my counsel from a far country; yes, I have spoken, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed, I will also do it.

12 Listen to me, you stout-hearted, who are far from righteousness:

13 I bring near my righteousness, it shall not be far off, and my salvation shall not wait; and I will place salvation in Zion for Israel my glory.

Psalms 7.

1 . A Meditation of David, which he sang to YAHWEH concerning the words of Cush, a Benjamite. . .

A meditation by David, which he sang to YAHWEH, concerning the words of Cush, the Benjamite. YAHWEH, my ELOHIM, I take refuge in you. Save me from all those who pursue me, and deliver me,

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- 2 lest they tear apart my soul like a lion, ripping it in pieces, while there is none to deliver.
- 3 YAHWEH, my ELOHIM, if I have done this, if there is iniquity in my hands,
- 4 if I have rewarded evil to him who was at peace with me (yes, if I have delivered him who without cause was my adversary),
- 5 let the enemy pursue my soul, and overtake it; yes, let him tread my life down to the earth, and lay my glory in the dust. Selah.
- 6 Arise, YAHWEH, in your anger. Lift up yourself against the rage of my adversaries. Awake for me. You have commanded judgment.
- 7 Let the congregation of the peoples surround you. Rule over them on high.
- 8 YAHWEH administers judgment to the peoples. Judge me, YAHWEH, according to my righteousness, and to my integrity that is in me.
- 9 Oh let the wickedness of the wicked come to an end, but establish the righteous; their minds and hearts are searched by the righteous ELOHIM!
- 10 My shield is with ELOHIM, who saves the upright in heart.
- 11 ELOHIM is a righteous judge, yes, an El who has indignation every day.
- 12 If a man doesn't relent, he will sharpen his sword; he has bent and strung his bow.
- 13 He has also prepared for himself the instruments of death. He makes ready his flaming arrows.
- 14 Behold, he travails with iniquity. Yes, he has conceived mischief, and brought forth falsehood.
- 15 He has dug a hole, and has fallen into the pit which he made.
- 16 The trouble he causes shall return to his own head. His violence shall come down on the crown of his own head.
- 17 I will give thanks to YAHWEH according to his righteousness, and will sing praise to the name of YAHWEH Most High.

Proverbs 25.

- 1 These also are proverbs of Solomon, which the men of Hezekiah king of Judah copied out.
- 2 It is the glory of ELOHIM to conceal a thing, but the glory of kings is to search out a matter.
- 3 As the heavens for height, and the earth for depth, so the hearts of kings are unsearchable.
- 4 Take away the dross from the silver, and material comes out for the refiner;
- 5 Take away the wicked from the king's presence, and his throne will be established in righteousness.
- 6 Don't exalt yourself in the presence of the king, or claim a place among great men;
- 7 for it is better that it be said to you, "Come up here," than that you should be put lower in the presence of the prince, whom your eyes have seen.
- 8 Don't be hasty in bringing charges to court. What will you do in the end when your neighbor shames you?
- 9 Debate your case with your neighbor, and don't betray the confidence of another;
- 10 lest one who hears it put you to shame, and your bad reputation never depart.
- 11 A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver.
- 12 As an earring of gold, and an ornament of fine gold, so is a wise reprover to an obedient ear.
- 13 As the cold of snow in the time of harvest, so is a faithful messenger to those who send him; for he refreshes the soul of his masters.
- 14 As clouds and wind without rain, so is he who boasts of gifts deceptively.

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- 15 By patience a ruler is persuaded. A soft tongue breaks the bone.
- 16 Have you found honey? Eat as much as is sufficient for you, lest you eat too much, and vomit it.
- 17 Let your foot be seldom in your neighbor's house, lest he be weary of you, and hate you.
- 18 A man who gives false testimony against his neighbor is like a club, a sword, or a sharp arrow.
- 19 Confidence in someone unfaithful in time of trouble is like a bad tooth, or a lame foot.
- 20 As one who takes away a garment in cold weather, or vinegar on soda, so is one who sings songs to a heavy heart.
- 21 If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat. If he is thirsty, give him water to drink:
- 22 for you will heap coals of fire on his head, and YAHWEH will reward you.
- 23 The north wind brings forth rain: so a backbiting tongue brings an angry face.
- 24 It is better to dwell in the corner of the housetop, than to share a house with a contentious woman.
- 25 Like cold water to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country.
- 26 Like a muddied spring, and a polluted well, so is a righteous man who gives way before the wicked.
- 27 It is not good to eat much honey; nor is it honorable to seek one's own honor.
- 28 Like a city that is broken down and without walls is a man whose spirit is without restraint.

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