Ezekiel 12, 13, Isaiah 43, Psalms 4, Proverbs 22.

Day 343. 8-December Daily Reading (Prophets and Writings).

Ezekiel 12.

Judah's Captivity Portrayed...

The word of YHWH 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 YHWH 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 YHWH: 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 YHWH, 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 YHWH!

. Judgment Not Postponed. .

Moreover the word of YHWH 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 YHWH 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 YHWH!

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- 21 The word of YHWH came to me, saving,
- 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 YHWH: 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 YHWH; 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 YHWH!
- 26 Again the word of YHWH 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 YHWH: None of my words shall be deferred any more, but the word which I shall speak shall be performed, says ADONAI YHWH!

Ezekiel 13.

. Woe to Foolish Prophets. .

The word of YHWH 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 YHWH:
- 3 Thus says ADONAI YHWH, 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 YHWH!
- 6 They have seen falsehood and lying divination, who say, YHWH says; but YHWH 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, YHWH says; but I have not spoken?
- 8 Therefore thus says ADONAI YHWH: Because you have spoken falsehood, and seen lies, therefore, behold, I am against you, says ADONAI YHWH!
- 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 YHWH!
- 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 YHWH: 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 YHWH!
- 15 Thus will I accomplish my wrath on the wall, and on those who have plastered it with

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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 YHWH!

- 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 YHWH: 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 YHWH: 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 YHWH!
- 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 YHWH!

Isaiah 43.

. The Redeemer of Israel. .

But now thus says YHWH 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 YHWH 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 YHWH, "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 YHWH; 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 among you. Therefore you are my witnesses," says YHWH, "and I am El!

Ezekiel 12, 13, Isaiah 43, Psalms 4, Proverbs 22.

- 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 YHWH, 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 YHWH, your Holy One, the Creator of Israel, your King."
- 16 Thus says YHWH, 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..

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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 YHWH has set apart for himself him who is holy: YHWH 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 YHWH!
- 6 Many say, "Who will show us any good?" YHWH, 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.
- 8 In peace I will both lay myself down and sleep, for you, YHWH alone, make me live in safety.

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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: YHWH 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 YHWH 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 YHWH 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 YHWH'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.

. 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 YHWH, 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 YHWH 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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