

9-Dec Daily Reading (Prophets and Writings).

Ezekiel 14, 15, Isaiah 44, Psalms 5, Proverbs 23.

Day 344. 9-December Daily Reading (Prophets and Writings).

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 YHWH 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 YHWH: 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 YHWH 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 YHWH: 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 YHWH 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 YHWH!

9 If the prophet is deceived and speak a word, I, YHWH, 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 YHWH!

12 . Judgment on Persistent Unfaithfulness. .

The word of YHWH 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 YHWH!

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 YHWH, 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 YHWH, 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 YHWH, they should deliver neither son nor daughter; they should but deliver their own souls by their righteousness.

21 For thus says ADONAI YHWH: 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 YHWH!

Ezekiel 15.

1 . The Outcast Vine. .

The word of YHWH 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 YHWH: 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 YHWH, when I set my face against them.

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

Isaiah 44.

1 . ELOHIM's Blessing on Israel. .

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

2 This is what YHWH 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 YHWH's;' and another will be called by the name of Jacob; and another will write with his hand 'to YHWH,' and honor the name of Israel."

6 . There Is No Other ELOHIM. .

This is what YHWH, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, YHWH 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 YHWH has done it! Shout, you lower parts of the earth! Break out into singing, you mountains, O forest, all of your trees, for YHWH has redeemed Jacob, and will glorify himself in Israel.

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

Thus says YHWH, your Redeemer, and he who formed you from the womb: "I am YHWH, 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, YHWH! Consider my meditation.

2 Listen to the voice of my cry, my King and my ELOHIM; for to you do I pray.
3 YHWH, 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. YHWH 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, YHWH, 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. YHWH, 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 YHWH 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!
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