

12-18-Dec Daily Reading (Prophets and Writings).

347. 12-December Daily Reading (Prophets and Writings).

Ezekiel 18.

1 . A False Proverb Refuted. .

The word of YAHWEH came to me again, saying,

2 What do you mean, that you use this proverb concerning Eretz-Israel, saying, The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge?

3 As I live, says ADONAI YAHWEH, you shall not have occasion any more to use this proverb in Israel.

4 Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins, he shall die.

5 But if a man is just, and does that which is legal and right,

6 and has not eaten on the mountains, neither has lifted up his eyes to the idols of the house of Israel, neither has defiled his neighbor's wife, neither has come near to a woman in her impurity,

7 and has not wronged any, but has restored to the debtor his pledge, has taken nothing by robbery, has given his bread to the hungry, and has covered the naked with a garment;

8 he who has not given forth on interest, neither has taken any increase, who has withdrawn his hand from iniquity, has executed true justice between man and man,

9 has walked in my statutes, and has kept my ordinances, to deal truly; he is just, he shall surely live, says ADONAI YAHWEH!

10 If he fathers a son who is a robber, a shedder of blood, and who does any one of these things,

11 and who does not any of those duties, but even has eaten on the mountains, and defiled his neighbor's wife,

12 has wronged the poor and needy, has taken by robbery, has not restored the pledge, and has lifted up his eyes to the idols, has committed abomination,

13 has given forth on interest, and has taken increase; shall he then live? he shall not live: he has done all these abominations; he shall surely die; his blood shall be on him.

14 Now, behold, if he fathers a son, who sees all his father's sins, which he has done, and fears, and does not such like;

15 who has not eaten on the mountains, neither has lifted up his eyes to the idols of the house of Israel, has not defiled his neighbor's wife,

16 neither has wronged any, has not taken anything to pledge, neither has taken by robbery, but has given his bread to the hungry, and has covered the naked with a garment;

17 who has withdrawn his hand from the poor, who has not received interest nor increase, has executed my ordinances, has walked in my statutes; he shall not die for the iniquity of his father, he shall surely live.

18 As for his father, because he cruelly oppressed, robbed his brother, and did that which is not good among his people, behold, he shall die in his iniquity.

19 . Turn and Live. .

Yet you say, Why doesn't the son bear the iniquity of the father? When the son has done that which is legal and right, and has kept all my statutes, and has done them, he shall surely live.

20 The soul who sins, he shall die: the son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son; the righteousness of the righteous shall be on him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be on him.

12-18-Dec Daily Reading (Prophets and Writings).

- 21 But if the wicked turn from all his sins that he has committed, and keep all my statutes, and do that which is legal and right, he shall surely live, he shall not die.
- 22 None of his transgressions that he has committed shall be remembered against him: in his righteousness that he has done he shall live.
- 23 Have I any pleasure in the death of the wicked? says ADONAI YAHWEH; and not rather that he should return from his way, and live?
- 24 But when the righteous turns away from his righteousness, and commits iniquity, and does according to all the abominations that the wicked man does, shall he live? None of his righteous deeds that he has done shall be remembered: in his trespass that he has trespassed, and in his sin that he has sinned, in them shall he die.
- 25 Yet you say, The way of ADONAI is not equal. Hear now, house of Israel: Is my way not equal? Aren't your ways unequal?
- 26 When the righteous man turns away from his righteousness, and commits iniquity, and dies therein; in his iniquity that he has done shall he die.
- 27 Again, when the wicked man turns away from his wickedness that he has committed, and does that which is legal and right, he shall save his soul alive.
- 28 Because he considers, and turns away from all his transgressions that he has committed, he shall surely live, he shall not die.
- 29 Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of ADONAI is not fair." House of Israel, aren't my ways fair? Aren't your ways unfair?
- 30 Therefore I will judge you, house of Israel, everyone according to his ways, says ADONAI YAHWEH! Return, and turn yourselves from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall not be your ruin.
- 31 Cast away from you all your transgressions, in which you have transgressed; and make yourself a new heart and a new spirit: for why will you die, house of Israel?
- 32 For I have no pleasure in the death of him who dies, says ADONAI YAHWEH: therefore turn yourselves, and live.

Isaiah 47.

1 . The Humiliation of Babylon. .

- "Come down, and sit in the dust, virgin daughter of Babylon; sit on the ground without a throne, daughter of the Kasdim: for you shall no more be called tender and delicate.
- 2 Take the millstones, and grind meal; remove your veil, strip off the train, uncover the leg, pass through the rivers.
- 3 Your nakedness shall be uncovered, yes, your shame shall be seen: I will take vengeance, and will spare no man."
- 4 Our Redeemer, YAHWEH of Hosts is his name, the Holy One of Israel.
- 5 "Sit in silence, and go into darkness, daughter of the Kasdim; for you shall no more be called the mistress of kingdoms.
- 6 I was angry with my people, I profaned my inheritance, and gave them into your hand: you showed them no mercy; on the aged you have very heavily laid your yoke.
- 7 You said, 'I shall be a mistress forever;' so that you did not lay these things to your heart, nor did you remember the latter end of it.
- 8 "Now therefore hear this, you who are given to pleasures, who sit securely, who say in your heart, 'I am, and there is none else besides me; I shall not sit as a widow, neither shall I know the loss of children:'
- 9 but these two things shall come to you in a moment in one day, the loss of children, and widowhood; in their full measure shall they come on you, in the multitude of your sorceries, and the great abundance of your enchantments.
- 10 For you have trusted in your wickedness; you have said, No one sees me; your wisdom

12-18-Dec Daily Reading (Prophets and Writings).

and your knowledge, it has perverted you, and you have said in your heart, I am, and there is none else besides me.

11 Therefore evil will come on you; you won't know when it dawns: and mischief will fall on you; you will not be able to put it away: and desolation shall come on you suddenly, which you don't know.

12 "Stand now with your enchantments, and with the multitude of your sorceries, in which you have labored from your youth; if so be you shall be able to profit, if so be you may prevail.

13 You are wearied in the multitude of your counsels: let now the astrologers, the stargazers, the monthly prognosticators, stand up, and save you from the things that shall come on you.

14 Behold, they shall be as stubble; the fire shall burn them; they shall not deliver themselves from the power of the flame: it shall not be a coal to warm at, nor a fire to sit before.

15 Thus shall the things be to you in which you have labored: those who have trafficked with you from your youth shall wander everyone to his quarter; there shall be none to save you.

Psalms 8.

1 . To the Chief Musician. On the instrument of Gath. A Psalm of David..

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For the Chief Musician; on an instrument of Gath. A Psalm by David. YAHWEH, our ADONAI, how majestic is your name in all the earth, who has set your glory above the heavens!

2 From the lips of babes and infants you have established strength, because of your adversaries, that you might silence the enemy and the avenger.

3 When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have ordained;

4 what is man, that you think of him? What is the son of man, that you care for him?

5 For you have made him a little lower than ELOHIM, and crowned him with glory and honor.

6 You make him ruler over the works of your hands. You have put all things under his feet:

7 All sheep and cattle, yes, and the animals of the field,

8 The birds of the sky, the fish of the sea, and whatever passes through the paths of the seas.

9 YAHWEH, our ADONAI, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Proverbs 26.

1 Like snow in summer, and as rain in harvest, so honor is not fitting for a fool.

2 Like a fluttering sparrow, like a darting swallow, so the undeserved curse doesn't come to rest.

3 A whip is for the horse, a bridle for the donkey, and a rod for the back of fools!

4 Don't answer a fool according to his folly, lest you also be like him.

5 Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own eyes.

6 One who sends a message by the hand of a fool is cutting off feet and drinking violence.

7 Like the legs of the lame that hang loose: so is a parable in the mouth of fools.

8 As one who binds a stone in a sling, so is he who gives honor to a fool.

12-18-Dec Daily Reading (Prophets and Writings).

- 9 Like a thornbush that goes into the hand of a drunkard, so is a parable in the mouth of fools.
- 10 As an archer who wounds all, so is he who hires a fool or he who hires those who pass by.
- 11 As a dog that returns to his vomit, so is a fool who repeats his folly.
- 12 Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him.
- 13 The sluggard says, "There is a lion in the road! A fierce lion roams the streets!"
- 14 As the door turns on its hinges, so does the sluggard on his bed.
- 15 The sluggard buries his hand in the dish. He is too lazy to bring it back to his mouth.
- 16 The sluggard is wiser in his own eyes than seven men who answer with discretion.
- 17 Like one who grabs a dog's ears is one who passes by and meddles in a quarrel not his own.
- 18 Like a madman who shoots torches, arrows, and death,
- 19 is the man who deceives his neighbor and says, "Am I not joking?"
- 20 For lack of wood a fire goes out. Without gossip, a quarrel dies down.
- 21 As coals are to hot embers, and wood to fire, so is a contentious man to kindling strife.
- 22 The words of a whisperer are as dainty morsels, they go down into the innermost parts.
- 23 Like silver dross on an earthen vessel are the lips of a fervent one with an evil heart.
- 24 A malicious man disguises himself with his lips, but he harbors evil in his heart.
- 25 When his speech is charming, don't believe him; for there are seven abominations in his heart.
- 26 His malice may be concealed by deception, but his wickedness will be exposed in the assembly.
- 27 Whoever digs a pit shall fall into it. Whoever rolls a stone, it will come back on him.
- 28 A lying tongue hates those it hurts; and a flattering mouth works ruin.

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

12-18-Dec Daily Reading (Prophets and Writings).

348. 13-December Daily Reading (Prophets and Writings).

Ezekiel 19.

1 . Israel Degraded. .

Moreover, take up a lamentation for the princes of Israel,
2 and say, What was your mother? A lioness: she couched among lions, in the midst of the young lions she nourished her cubs.
3 She brought up one of her cubs: he became a young lion, and he learned to catch the prey; he devoured men.
4 The nations also heard of him; he was taken in their pit; and they brought him with hooks to the land of Egypt.
5 Now when she saw that she had waited, and her hope was lost, then she took another of her cubs, and made him a young lion.
6 He went up and down among the lions; he became a young lion, and he learned to catch the prey; he devoured men.
7 He knew their palaces, and laid waste their cities; and the land was desolate, and its fullness, because of the noise of his roaring.
8 Then the nations set against him on every side from the provinces; and they spread their net over him; he was taken in their pit.
9 They put him in a cage with hooks, and brought him to the king of Babylon; they brought him into strongholds, that his voice should no more be heard on the mountains of Israel.
10 Your mother was like a vine, in your blood, planted by the waters: it was fruitful and full of branches by reason of many waters.
11 It had strong rods for the scepters of those who bore rule, and their stature was exalted among the thick boughs, and they were seen in their height with the multitude of their branches.
12 But it was plucked up in fury, it was cast down to the ground, and the east wind dried up its fruit: its strong rods were broken off and withered; the fire consumed them.
13 Now it is planted in the wilderness, in a dry and thirsty land.
14 Fire is gone out of the rods of its branches, it has devoured its fruit, so that there is in it no strong rod to be a scepter to rule. This is a lamentation, and shall be for a lamentation.

Isaiah 48.

1 . Israel Refined for ELOHIM's Glory. .

“Hear this, house of Jacob, you who are called by the name of Israel, and have come forth out of the waters of Judah; who swear by the name of YAHWEH, and make mention of the ELOHIM of Israel, but not in truth, nor in righteousness
2 (for they call themselves of the holy city, and stay themselves on the ELOHIM of Israel; YAHWEH of Hosts is his name):
3 I have declared the former things from of old; yes, they went forth out of my mouth, and I showed them: suddenly I did them, and they happened.
4 Because I knew that you are obstinate, and your neck is an iron sinew, and your brow brass;
5 therefore I have declared it to you from of old; before it came to pass I showed it to you; lest you should say, ‘My idol has done them, and my engraved image, and my molten image, has commanded them.’
6 You have heard it; see all this; and you, will you not declare it? “I have shown you

12-18-Dec Daily Reading (Prophets and Writings).

new things from this time, even hidden things, which you have not known.

7 They are created now, and not from of old; and before this day you didn't hear them; lest you should say, 'Behold, I knew them.'

8 Yes, you didn't hear; yes, you didn't know; yes, from of old your ear was not opened: for I knew that you dealt very treacherously, and was called a transgressor from the womb.

9 For my name's sake will I defer my anger, and for my praise will I refrain for you, that I not cut you off.

10 Behold, I have refined you, but not as silver; I have chosen you in the furnace of affliction.

11 For my own sake, for my own sake, will I do it; for how should my name be profaned? I will not give my glory to another.

12 **. ELOHIM's Ancient Plan to Redeem Israel. .**

"Listen to me, O Jacob, and Israel my called: I am he; I am the first, I also am the last.

13 Yes, my hand has laid the foundation of the earth, and my right hand has spread out the heavens: when I call to them, they stand up together.

14 "Assemble yourselves, all you, and hear; who among them has declared these things? He whom YAHWEH loves shall perform his pleasure on Babylon, and his arm shall be on the Kasdim.

15 I, even I, have spoken; yes, I have called him; I have brought him, and he shall make his way prosperous.

16 "Come near to me and hear this: "From the beginning I have not spoken in secret; from the time that it was, there am I." Now ADONAI YAHWEH has sent me, with his Spirit.

17 Thus says YAHWEH, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: I am YAHWEH your ELOHIM, who teaches you to profit, who leads you by the way that you should go.

18 Oh that you had listened to my commandments! then your peace would have been like a river, and your righteousness like the waves of the sea:

19 your seed also had been as the sand, and the offspring of your body like its grains: his name would not be cut off nor destroyed from before me.

20 Go forth from Babylon, flee from the Kasdim; with a voice of singing declare, tell this, utter it even to the end of the earth: say, YAHWEH has redeemed his servant Jacob.

21 They didn't thirst when he led them through the deserts; he caused the waters to flow out of the rock for them; he split the rock also, and the waters gushed out.

22 "There is no peace," says YAHWEH, "for the wicked."

Psalms 9.

1 **. To the Chief Musician. To the tune of Death of the Son. A Psalm of David. .**

For the Chief Musician. Set to "The Death of the Son." A Psalm by David. I will give thanks to YAHWEH with my whole heart. I will tell of all your marvelous works.

2 I will be glad and rejoice in you. I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.

3 When my enemies turn back, they stumble and perish in your presence.

4 For you have maintained my just cause. You sit on the throne judging righteously.

5 You have rebuked the nations. You have destroyed the wicked. You have blotted out their name forever and ever.

6 The enemy is overtaken by endless ruin. The very memory of the cities which you have overthrown has perished.

12-18-Dec Daily Reading (Prophets and Writings).

- 7 But YAHWEH reigns forever. He has prepared his throne for judgment.
8 He will judge the world in righteousness. He will administer judgment to the peoples in uprightness.
9 YAHWEH will also be a high tower for the oppressed; a high tower in times of trouble.
10 Those who know your name will put their trust in you, for you, YAHWEH, have not forsaken those who seek you.
11 Sing praises to YAHWEH, who dwells in Zion, and declare among the people what he has done.
12 For he who avenges blood remembers them. He doesn't forget the cry of the afflicted.
13 Have mercy on me, YAHWEH! See my affliction by those who hate me, and lift me up from the gates of death;
14 that I may show forth all your praise. In the gates of the daughter of Zion, I will rejoice in your salvation.
15 The nations have sunk down in the pit that they made. In the net which they hid, their own foot is taken.
16 YAHWEH has made himself known. He has executed judgment. The wicked is snared by the work of his own hands. Meditation. Selah.

17 **. Meditation. Selah . .**

- The wicked shall be turned back to Sheol, even all the nations that forget ELOHIM!
18 For the needy shall not always be forgotten, nor the hope of the poor perish forever.
19 Arise, YAHWEH! Don't let man prevail. Let the nations be judged in your sight.
20 Put them in fear, YAHWEH! Let the nations know that they are only men. Selah.

Proverbs 27.

- 1 Don't boast about tomorrow; for you don't know what a day may bring forth.
2 Let another man praise you, and not your own mouth; a stranger, and not your own lips.
3 A stone is heavy, and sand is a burden; but a fool's provocation is heavier than both.
4 Wrath is cruel, and anger is overwhelming; but who is able to stand before jealousy?
5 Better is open rebuke than hidden love.
6 Faithful are the wounds of a friend; although the kisses of an enemy are profuse.
7 A full soul loathes a honeycomb; but to a hungry soul, every bitter thing is sweet.
8 As a bird that wanders from her nest, so is a man who wanders from his home.
9 Perfume and incense bring joy to the heart; so does earnest counsel from a man's friend.
10 Don't forsake your friend and your father's friend. Don't go to your brother's house in the day of your disaster: better is a neighbor who is near than a distant brother.
11 Be wise, my son, and bring joy to my heart, then I can answer my tormentor.
12 A prudent man sees danger and takes refuge; but the simple pass on, and suffer for it.
13 Take his garment when he puts up collateral for a stranger. Hold it for a wayward woman!
14 He who blesses his neighbor with a loud voice early in the morning, it will be taken as a curse by him.
15 A continual dropping on a rainy day and a contentious wife are alike:
16 restraining her is like restraining the wind, or like grasping oil in his right hand.
17 Iron sharpens iron; so a man sharpens his friend's countenance.
18 Whoever tends the fig-tree shall eat its fruit. He who looks after his master shall be honored.
19 As water reflects a face, so a man's heart reflects the man.

12-18-Dec Daily Reading (Prophets and Writings).

- 20 Sheol and Abaddon are never satisfied; and a man's eyes are never satisfied.
21 The crucible is for silver, and the furnace for gold; but man is refined by his praise.
22 Though you grind a fool in a mortar with a pestle along with grain, yet his foolishness will not be removed from him.
23 Know well the state of your flocks, and pay attention to your herds:
24 for riches are not forever, nor does even the crown endure to all generations.
25 The hay is removed, and the new growth appears, the grasses of the hills are gathered in.
26 The lambs are for your clothing, and the goats are the price of a field.
27 There will be plenty of goats' milk for your food, for your family's food, and for the nourishment of your servant girls.

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

12-18-Dec Daily Reading (Prophets and Writings).

349. 14-December Daily Reading (Prophets and Writings).

Ezekiel 20.

1 . The Rebellions of Israel. .

It happened in the seventh year, in the fifth month, the tenth day of the month, that certain of the elders of Israel came to inquire of YAHWEH, and sat before me.

2 The word of YAHWEH came to me, saying,

3 Son of man, speak to the elders of Israel, and tell them, Thus says ADONAI YAHWEH: Is it to inquire of me that you have come? As I live, says ADONAI YAHWEH, I will not be inquired of by you.

4 Will you judge them, son of man, will you judge them? Cause them to know the abominations of their fathers;

5 and tell them, Thus says ADONAI YAHWEH: In the day when I chose Israel, and swore to the seed of the house of Jacob, and made myself known to them in the land of Egypt, when I swore to them, saying, I am YAHWEH your ELOHIM;

6 in that day I swore to them, to bring them forth out of the land of Egypt into a land that I had searched out for them, flowing with milk and honey, which is the glory of all lands.

7 I said to them, Cast away every man the abominations of his eyes, and don't defile yourselves with the idols of Egypt; I am YAHWEH your ELOHIM!

8 But they rebelled against me, and would not listen to me; they each didn't throw away the abominations of their eyes, neither did they forsake the idols of Egypt. Then I said I would pour out my wrath on them, to accomplish my anger against them in the midst of the land of Egypt.

9 But I worked for my name's sake, that it should not be profaned in the sight of the nations, among which they were, in whose sight I made myself known to them, in bringing them forth out of the land of Egypt.

10 So I caused them to go forth out of the land of Egypt, and brought them into the wilderness.

11 I gave them my statutes, and showed them my ordinances, which if a man does, he shall live in them.

12 Moreover also I gave them my Sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am YAHWEH who sanctifies them.

13 But the house of Israel rebelled against me in the wilderness: they didn't walk in my statutes, and they rejected my ordinances, which if a man keep, he shall live in them; and my Sabbaths they greatly profaned. Then I said I would pour out my wrath on them in the wilderness, to consume them.

14 But I worked for my name's sake, that it should not be profaned in the sight of the nations, in whose sight I brought them out.

15 Moreover also I swore to them in the wilderness, that I would not bring them into the land which I had given them, flowing with milk and honey, which is the glory of all lands;

16 because they rejected my ordinances, and didn't walk in my statutes, and profaned my Sabbaths: for their heart went after their idols.

17 Nevertheless my eye spared them, and I didn't destroy them, neither did I make a full end of them in the wilderness.

18 I said to their children in the wilderness, Don't walk in the statutes of your fathers, neither observe their ordinances, nor defile yourselves with their idols.

19 I am YAHWEH your ELOHIM: walk in my statutes, and keep my ordinances, and do them;

20 and make my Sabbaths holy; and they shall be a sign between me and you, that you may know that I am YAHWEH your ELOHIM!

12-18-Dec Daily Reading (Prophets and Writings).

21 But the children rebelled against me; they didn't walk in my statutes, neither kept my ordinances to do them, which if a man do, he shall live in them; they profaned my Sabbaths. Then I said I would pour out my wrath on them, to accomplish my anger against them in the wilderness.

22 Nevertheless I withdrew my hand, and worked for my name's sake, that it should not be profaned in the sight of the nations, in whose sight I brought them forth.

23 Moreover I swore to them in the wilderness, that I would scatter them among the nations, and disperse them through the countries;

24 because they had not executed my ordinances, but had rejected my statutes, and had profaned my Sabbaths, and their eyes were after their fathers' idols.

25 Moreover also I gave them statutes that were not good, and ordinances in which they should not live;

26 and I polluted them in their own gifts, in that they caused to pass through the fire all that opens the womb, that I might make them desolate, to the end that they might know that I am YAHWEH!

27 Therefore, son of man, speak to the house of Israel, and tell them, Thus says ADONAI YAHWEH: In this moreover have your fathers blasphemed me, in that they have committed a trespass against me.

28 For when I had brought them into the land, which I swore to give to them, then they saw every high hill, and every thick tree, and they offered there their sacrifices, and there they presented the provocation of their offering; there also they made their pleasant aroma, and they poured out there their drink offerings.

29 Then I said to them, What does the high place where you go mean? So its name is called Bamah to this day.

30 Therefore tell the house of Israel, Thus says ADONAI YAHWEH: Do you pollute yourselves in the way of your fathers? and do you play the prostitute after their abominations?

31 and when you offer your gifts, when you make your sons to pass through the fire, do you pollute yourselves with all your idols to this day? and shall I be inquired of by you, house of Israel? As I live, says ADONAI YAHWEH, I will not be inquired of by you;

32 and that which comes into your mind shall not be at all, in that you say, We will be as the nations, as the families of the countries, to serve wood and stone.

33 **. ELOHIM Will Restore Israel. .**

As I live, says ADONAI YAHWEH, surely with a mighty hand, and with an outstretched arm, and with wrath poured out, will I be king over you:

34 and I will bring you out from the peoples, and will gather you out of the countries in which you are scattered, with a mighty hand, and with an outstretched arm, and with wrath poured out;

35 and I will bring you into the wilderness of the peoples, and there will I enter into judgment with you face to face.

36 Like as I entered into judgment with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so will I enter into judgment with you, says ADONAI YAHWEH!

37 I will cause you to pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant;

38 and I will purge out from among you the rebels, and those who disobey against me; I will bring them forth out of the land where they live, but they shall not enter into Eretz-Israel: and you shall know that I am YAHWEH!

39 As for you, house of Israel, thus says ADONAI YAHWEH: Go, serve everyone his idols, and hereafter also, if you will not listen to me; but my holy name you shall no more profane with your gifts, and with your idols.

12-18-Dec Daily Reading (Prophets and Writings).

40 For in my holy mountain, in the mountain of the height of Israel, says ADONAI YAHWEH, there shall all the house of Israel, all of them, serve me in the land: there will I accept them, and there will I require your offerings, and the first fruits of your offerings, with all your holy things.

41 As a pleasant aroma will I accept you, when I bring you out from the peoples, and gather you out of the countries in which you have been scattered; and I will be sanctified in you in the sight of the nations.

42 You shall know that I am YAHWEH, when I shall bring you into Eretz-Israel, into the country which I swore to give to your fathers.

43 There you shall remember your ways, and all your doings, in which you have polluted yourselves; and you shall loathe yourselves in your own sight for all your evils that you have committed.

44 You shall know that I am YAHWEH, when I have dealt with you for my name's sake, not according to your evil ways, nor according to your corrupt doings, you house of Israel, says ADONAI YAHWEH!

45 . Fire in the Forest. .

The word of YAHWEH came to me, saying,

46 Son of man, set your face toward the south, and drop your word toward the south, and prophesy against the forest of the field in the South;

47 and tell the forest of the South, Hear the word of YAHWEH: Thus says ADONAI YAHWEH, Behold, I will kindle a fire in you, and it shall devour every green tree in you, and every dry tree: the flaming flame shall not be quenched, and all faces from the south to the north shall be burnt thereby.

48 All flesh shall see that I, YAHWEH, have kindled it; it shall not be quenched.

49 Then I said, Ah ADONAI YAHWEH! they say of me, Isn't he a speaker of parables?

Isaiah 49.

1 . The Servant, the Light to the Gentiles. .

Listen, islands, to me; and listen, you peoples, from far: YAHWEH has called me from the womb; from the bowels of my mother has he made mention of my name:

2 and he has made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand, he has hidden me: and he has made me a polished shaft; in his quiver has he kept me close:

3 and he said to me, "You are my servant; Israel, in whom I will be glorified."

4 But I said, "I have labored in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely the justice due to me is with YAHWEH, and my reward with my ELOHIM!"

5 Now says YAHWEH who formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob again to him, and that Israel be gathered to him (for I am honorable in the eyes of YAHWEH, and my ELOHIM has become my strength);

6 yes, he says, "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give you for a light to the nations, that you may be my salvation to the end of the earth."

7 Thus says YAHWEH, the Redeemer of Israel, and his Holy One, to him whom man despises, to him whom the nation abhors, to a servant of rulers: "Kings shall see and arise; princes, and they shall worship; because of YAHWEH who is faithful, even the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

8 Thus says YAHWEH, "In an acceptable time have I answered you, and in a day of salvation have I helped you; and I will preserve you, and give you for a covenant of the people, to raise up the land, to make them inherit the desolate heritage:

12-18-Dec Daily Reading (Prophets and Writings).

9 saying to those who are bound, 'Come out!'; to those who are in darkness, 'Show yourselves!' "They shall feed in the ways, and on all bare heights shall be their pasture.
10 They shall not hunger nor thirst; neither shall the heat nor sun strike them: for he who has mercy on them will lead them, even by springs of water he will guide them.
11 I will make all my mountains a way, and my highways shall be exalted.
12 Behold, these shall come from far; and behold, these from the north and from the west; and these from the land of Sinim."
13 Sing, heavens; and be joyful, earth; and break forth into singing, mountains: for YAHWEH has comforted his people, and will have compassion on his afflicted.

14 **. ELOHIM Will Remember Zion. .**

But Zion said, "YAHWEH has forsaken me, and ADONAI has forgotten me."
15 "Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? Yes, these may forget, yet I will not forget you!
16 Behold, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; your walls are continually before me.
17 Your children make haste; your destroyers and those who made you waste shall go forth from you.
18 Lift up your eyes all around, and see: all these gather themselves together, and come to you. As I live," says YAHWEH, "you shall surely clothe yourself with them all as with an ornament, and dress yourself with them, like a bride.
19 "For, as for your waste and your desolate places, and your land that has been destroyed, surely now you shall be too small for the inhabitants, and those who swallowed you up shall be far away.
20 The children of your bereavement shall yet say in your ears, The place is too small for me; give place to me that I may dwell.
21 Then you will say in your heart, 'Who has conceived these for me, since I have been bereaved of my children, and am solitary, an exile, and wandering back and forth? Who has brought up these? Behold, I was left alone; these, where were they?'"
22 Thus says ADONAI YAHWEH, "Behold, I will lift up my hand to the nations, and set up my banner to the peoples; and they shall bring your sons in their bosom, and your daughters shall be carried on their shoulders.
23 Kings shall be your nursing fathers, and their queens your nursing mothers: they shall bow down to you with their faces to the earth, and lick the dust of your feet; and you shall know that I am YAHWEH; and those who wait for me shall not be disappointed."
24 Shall the prey be taken from the mighty, or the legal captives be delivered?
25 But thus says YAHWEH, "Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken away, and the prey of the terrible shall be delivered; for I will contend with him who contends with you, and I will save your children.
26 I will feed those who oppress you with their own flesh; and they shall be drunken with their own blood, as with sweet wine: and all flesh shall know that I, YAHWEH, am your Savior, and your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob."

Psalms 10.

1 **. A Song of Confidence in ELOHIM's Triumph over Evil. .**

Why do you stand far off, YAHWEH? Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble?
2 In arrogance, the wicked hunt down the weak. They are caught in the schemes that they devise.
3 For the wicked boasts of his heart's cravings. He blesses the greedy, and condemns

12-18-Dec Daily Reading (Prophets and Writings).

YAHWEH!

- 4 The wicked, in the pride of his face, has no room in his thoughts for ELOHIM!
- 5 His ways are prosperous at all times. He is haughty, and your Torah (teachings and instructions) are far from his sight. As for all his adversaries, he sneers at them.
- 6 He says in his heart, "I shall not be shaken. For generations I shall have no trouble."
- 7 His mouth is full of cursing, deceit, and oppression. Under his tongue is mischief and iniquity.
- 8 He lies in wait near the villages. From ambushes, he murders the innocent. His eyes are secretly set against the helpless.
- 9 He lurks in secret as a lion in his ambush. He lies in wait to catch the helpless. He catches the helpless, when he draws him in his net.
- 10 The helpless are crushed. They collapse. They fall under his strength.
- 11 He says in his heart, "El has forgotten. He hides his face. He will never see it."
- 12 Arise, YAHWEH! ELOHIM, lift up your hand! Don't forget the helpless.
- 13 Why does the wicked person condemn ELOHIM, and say in his heart, "ELOHIM won't call me into account?"
- 14 But you do see trouble and grief. You consider it to take it into your hand. You help the victim and the fatherless.
- 15 Break the arm of the wicked. As for the evil man, seek out his wickedness until you find none.
- 16 YAHWEH is King forever and ever! The nations will perish out of his land.
- 17 YAHWEH, you have heard the desire of the humble. You will prepare their heart. You will cause your ear to hear,
- 18 to judge the fatherless and the oppressed, that man who is of the earth may terrify no more.

Proverbs 28.

- 1 The wicked flee when no one pursues; but the righteous are as bold as a lion.
- 2 In rebellion, a land has many rulers, but order is maintained by a man of understanding and knowledge.
- 3 A needy man who oppresses the poor is like a driving rain which leaves no crops.
- 4 Those who forsake the Torah praise the wicked; but those who keep the Torah contend with them.
- 5 Evil men don't understand justice; but those who seek YAHWEH understand it fully.
- 6 Better is the poor who walks in his integrity, than he who is perverse in his ways, and he is rich.
- 7 Whoever keeps the Torah is a wise son; but he who is a companion of gluttons shames his father.
- 8 He who increases his wealth by excessive interest gathers it for one who has pity on the poor.
- 9 He who turns away his ear from hearing the Torah, even his prayer is an abomination.
- 10 Whoever causes the upright to go astray in an evil way, he will fall into his own trap; but the blameless will inherit good.
- 11 The rich man is wise in his own eyes; but the poor who has understanding sees through him.
- 12 When the righteous triumph, there is great glory; but when the wicked rise, men hide themselves.
- 13 He who conceals his sins doesn't prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.
- 14 Blessed is the man who always fears; but one who hardens his heart falls into trouble.

12-18-Dec Daily Reading (Prophets and Writings).

- 15 As a roaring lion or a charging bear, so is a wicked ruler over helpless people.
- 16 A tyrannical ruler lacks judgment. One who hates ill-gotten gain will have long days.
- 17 A man who is tormented by life blood will be a fugitive until death; no one will support him.
- 18 Whoever walks blamelessly is kept safe; but one with perverse ways will fall suddenly.
- 19 One who works his land will have an abundance of food; but one who chases fantasies will have his fill of poverty.
- 20 A faithful man is rich with blessings; but one who is eager to be rich will not go unpunished.
- 21 To show partiality is not good; yet a man will do wrong for a piece of bread.
- 22 A stingy man hurries after riches, and doesn't know that poverty waits for him.
- 23 One who rebukes a man will afterward find more favor than one who flatters with the tongue.
- 24 Whoever robs his father or his mother, and says, "It's not wrong." He is a partner with a destroyer.
- 25 One who is greedy stirs up strife; but one who trusts in YAHWEH will prosper.
- 26 One who trusts in himself is a fool; but one who walks in wisdom is kept safe.
- 27 One who gives to the poor has no lack; but one who closes his eyes will have many curses.
- 28 When the wicked rise, men hide themselves; but when they perish, the righteous thrive.

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12-18-Dec Daily Reading (Prophets and Writings).

350. 15-December Daily Reading (Prophets and Writings).

Ezekiel 21.

1 . Babylon, the Sword of ELOHIM. .

The word of YAHWEH came to me, saying,

2 Son of man, set your face toward Jerusalem, and drop your word toward the sanctuaries, and prophesy against Eretz-Israel;

3 and tell Eretz-Israel, Thus says YAHWEH: Behold, I am against you, and will draw forth my sword out of its sheath, and will cut off from you the righteous and the wicked.

4 Seeing then that I will cut off from you the righteous and the wicked, therefore shall my sword go forth out of its sheath against all flesh from the south to the north:

5 and all flesh shall know that I, YAHWEH, have drawn forth my sword out of its sheath; it shall not return any more.

6 Sigh therefore, you son of man; with the breaking of your thighs and with bitterness you will sigh before their eyes.

7 It shall be, when they tell you, Why do you sigh? that you shall say, Because of the news, for it comes; and every heart shall melt, and all hands shall be feeble, and every spirit shall faint, and all knees shall be weak as water: behold, it comes, and it shall be done, says ADONAI YAHWEH!

8 The word of YAHWEH came to me, saying,

9 Son of man, prophesy, and say, Thus says YAHWEH: Say, A sword, a sword, it is sharpened, and also furbished;

10 it is sharpened that it may make a slaughter; it is furbished that it may be as lightning: shall we then make mirth? the rod of my son, it condemns every tree.

11 It is given to be furbished, that it may be handled: the sword, it is sharpened, yes, it is furbished, to give it into the hand of the killer.

12 Cry and wail, son of man; for it is on my people, it is on all the princes of Israel: they are delivered over to the sword with my people; strike therefore on your thigh.

13 For there is a trial; and what if even the rod that condemns shall be no more? says ADONAI YAHWEH!

14 You therefore, son of man, prophesy, and strike your hands together; and let the sword be doubled the third time, the sword of the deadly wounded: it is the sword of the great one who is deadly wounded, which enters into their rooms.

15 I have set the threatening sword against all their gates, that their heart may melt, and their stumblings be multiplied: ah! it is made as lightning, it is pointed for slaughter.

16 Gather yourselves together, go to the right, set yourselves in array, go to the left, wherever your face is set.

17 I will also strike my hands together, and I will cause my wrath to rest: I, YAHWEH, have spoken it.

18 The word of YAHWEH came to me again, saying,

19 Also, you son of man, appoint two ways, that the sword of the king of Babylon may come; they both shall come forth out of one land: and mark out a place, mark it out at the head of the way to the city.

20 You shall appoint a way for the sword to come to Rabbah of the children of Ammon, and to Judah in Jerusalem the fortified.

21 For the king of Babylon stood at the parting of the way, at the head of the two ways, to use divination: he shook the arrows back and forth, he consulted the teraphim, he looked in the liver.

22 In his right hand was the divination for Jerusalem, to set battering rams, to open the mouth in the slaughter, to lift up the voice with shouting, to set battering rams against

12-18-Dec Daily Reading (Prophets and Writings).

the gates, to cast up mounds, to build forts.

23 It shall be to them as a false divination in their sight, who have sworn oaths to them; but he brings iniquity to memory, that they may be taken.

24 Therefore thus says ADONAI YAHWEH: Because you have made your iniquity to be remembered, in that your transgressions are uncovered, so that in all your doings your sins appear; because you have come to memory, you shall be taken with the hand.

25 You, deadly wounded wicked one, the prince of Israel, whose day has come, in the time of the iniquity of the end,

26 thus says ADONAI YAHWEH: Remove the turban, and take off the crown; this shall be no more the same; exalt that which is low, and abase that which is high.

27 I will overturn, overturn, overturn it: this also shall be no more, until he come whose right it is; and I will give it him.

28 . A Sword Against the Ammonites. .

You, son of man, prophesy, and say, Thus says ADONAI YAHWEH concerning the children of Ammon, and concerning their reproach; and say, A sword, a sword is drawn, for the slaughter it is furbished, to cause it to devour, that it may be as lightning;

29 while they see for you false visions, while they divine lies to you, to lay you on the necks of the wicked who are deadly wounded, whose day has come in the time of the iniquity of the end.

30 Cause it to return into its sheath. In the place where you were created, in the land of your birth, will I judge you.

31 I will pour out my indignation on you; I will blow on you with the fire of my wrath; and I will deliver you into the hand of brutish men, skillful to destroy.

32 You shall be for fuel to the fire; your blood shall be in the midst of the land; you shall be remembered no more: for I, YAHWEH, have spoken it.

Ezekiel 22.

1 . Sins of Jerusalem. .

Moreover the word of YAHWEH came to me, saying,

2 You, son of man, will you judge, will you judge the bloody city? then cause her to know all her abominations.

3 You shall say, Thus says ADONAI YAHWEH: A city that sheds blood in the midst of her, that her time may come, and that makes idols against herself to defile her!

4 You have become guilty in your blood that you have shed, and are defiled in your idols which you have made; and you have caused your days to draw near, and have come even to your years: therefore have I made you a reproach to the nations, and a mocking to all the countries.

5 Those who are near, and those who are far from you, shall mock you, you infamous one and full of tumult.

6 Behold, the princes of Israel, everyone according to his power, have been in you to shed blood.

7 In you have they set light by father and mother; in the midst of you have they dealt by oppression with the foreigner; in you have they wronged the fatherless and the widow.

8 You have despised my holy things, and have profaned my Sabbaths.

9 Slandrous men have been in you to shed blood; and in you they have eaten on the mountains: in the midst of you they have committed lewdness.

10 In you have they uncovered their fathers' nakedness; in you have they humbled her who was unclean in her impurity.

12-18-Dec Daily Reading (Prophets and Writings).

11 One has committed abomination with his neighbor's wife; and another has lewdly defiled his daughter-in-law; and another in you has humbled his sister, his father's daughter.

12 In you have they taken bribes to shed blood; you have taken interest and increase, and you have greedily gained of your neighbors by oppression, and have forgotten me, says ADONAI YAHWEH!

13 Behold, therefore, I have struck my hand at your dishonest gain which you have made, and at your blood which has been in the midst of you.

14 Can your heart endure, or can your hands be strong, in the days that I shall deal with you? I, YAHWEH, have spoken it, and will do it.

15 I will scatter you among the nations, and disperse you through the countries; and I will consume your filthiness out of you.

16 You shall be profaned in yourself, in the sight of the nations; and you shall know that I am YAHWEH!

17 **. Israel in the Furnace. .**

The word of YAHWEH came to me, saying,

18 Son of man, the house of Israel has become dross to me: all of them are brass and tin and iron and lead, in the midst of the furnace; they are the dross of silver.

19 Therefore thus says ADONAI YAHWEH: Because you have all become dross, therefore, behold, I will gather you into the midst of Jerusalem.

20 As they gather silver and brass and iron and lead and tin into the midst of the furnace, to blow the fire on it, to melt it; so will I gather you in my anger and in my wrath, and I will lay you there, and melt you.

21 Yes, I will gather you, and blow on you with the fire of my wrath, and you shall be melted in its midst.

22 As silver is melted in the midst of the furnace, so you will be melted in its midst; and you will know that I, YAHWEH, have poured out my wrath on you.

23 **. Israel's Wicked Leaders. .**

The word of YAHWEH came to me, saying,

24 Son of man, tell her, You are a land that is not cleansed, nor rained on in the day of indignation.

25 There is a conspiracy of her prophets in its midst, like a roaring lion ravening the prey: they have devoured souls; they take treasure and precious things; they have made her widows many in its midst.

26 Her priests have done violence to my Torah (teaching and instruction), and have profaned my holy things: they have made no distinction between the holy and the common, neither have they caused men to discern between the unclean and the clean, and have hidden their eyes from my Sabbaths, and I am profaned among them.

27 Her princes in its midst are like wolves ravening the prey, to shed blood, and to destroy souls, that they may get dishonest gain.

28 Her prophets have plastered for them with whitewash, seeing false visions, and divining lies to them, saying, Thus says ADONAI YAHWEH, when YAHWEH has not spoken.

29 The people of the land have used oppression, and exercised robbery; yes, they have troubled the poor and needy, and have oppressed the foreigner wrongfully.

30 I sought for a man among them, who should build up the wall, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found none.

12-18-Dec Daily Reading (Prophets and Writings).

31 Therefore have I poured out my indignation on them; I have consumed them with the fire of my wrath: their own way have I brought on their heads, says ADONAI YAHWEH!

Isaiah 50.

1 **. The Servant, Israel's Hope. .**

Thus says YAHWEH, "Where is the bill of your mother's divorce, with which I have put her away? or which of my creditors is it to whom I have sold you? Behold, for your iniquities were you sold, and for your transgressions was your mother put away.

2 Why, when I came, was there no man? when I called, was there none to answer? Is my hand shortened at all, that it can't redeem? or have I no power to deliver? Behold, at my rebuke I dry up the sea, I make the rivers a wilderness: their fish stink, because there is no water, and die for thirst.

3 I clothe the heavens with blackness, and I make sackcloth their covering."

4 ADONAI YAHWEH has given me the tongue of those who are taught, that I may know how to sustain with words him who is weary: he wakens morning by morning, he wakens my ear to hear as those who are taught.

5 ADONAI YAHWEH has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, neither turned away backward.

6 I gave my back to the strikers, and my cheeks to those who plucked off the hair; I didn't hide my face from shame and spitting.

7 For ADONAI YAHWEH will help me; therefore I have not been confounded: therefore have I set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be disappointed.

8 He is near who justifies me; who will bring charges against me? Let us stand up together: who is my adversary? Let him come near to me.

9 Behold, ADONAI YAHWEH will help me; who is he who shall condemn me? Behold, all they shall wax old as a garment, the moth shall eat them up.

10 Who is among you who fears YAHWEH, who obeys the voice of his servant? He who walks in darkness, and has no light, let him trust in the name of YAHWEH, and rely on his ELOHIM!

11 Behold, all you who kindle a fire, who adorn yourselves with torches around yourselves; walk in the flame of your fire, and among the brands that you have kindled. You shall have this of my hand; you shall lie down in sorrow.

Psalms 11.

1 **. To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David.. .**

For the Chief Musician. By David. In YAHWEH, I take refuge. How can you say to my soul, "Flee as a bird to your mountain!"

2 For, behold, the wicked bend their bows. They set their arrows on the strings, that they may shoot in darkness at the upright in heart.

3 If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?

4 YAHWEH is in his holy temple. YAHWEH is on his throne in heaven. His eyes observe. His eyes examine the children of men.

5 YAHWEH examines the righteous, but the wicked and him who loves violence his soul hates.

6 On the wicked he will rain blazing coals; fire, sulfur, and scorching wind shall be the portion of their cup.

7 For YAHWEH is righteous. He loves righteousness. The upright shall see his face.

12-18-Dec Daily Reading (Prophets and Writings).

Proverbs 29.

- 1 He who is often rebuked and stiffens his neck will be destroyed suddenly, with no remedy.
- 2 When the righteous thrive, the people rejoice; but when the wicked rule, the people groan.
- 3 Whoever loves wisdom brings joy to his father; but a companion of prostitutes squanders his wealth.
- 4 The king by justice makes the land stable, but he who takes bribes tears it down.
- 5 A man who flatters his neighbor spreads a net for his feet.
- 6 An evil man is snared by his sin, but the righteous can sing and be glad.
- 7 The righteous care about justice for the poor. The wicked aren't concerned about knowledge.
- 8 Mockers stir up a city, but wise men turn away anger.
- 9 If a wise man goes to court with a foolish man, the fool rages or scoffs, and there is no peace.
- 10 The bloodthirsty hate a man of integrity; and they seek the life of the upright.
- 11 A fool vents all of his anger, but a wise man brings himself under control.
- 12 If a ruler listens to lies, all of his officials are wicked.
- 13 The poor man and the oppressor have this in common: YAHWEH gives sight to the eyes of both.
- 14 The king who fairly judges the poor, his throne shall be established forever.
- 15 The rod of correction gives wisdom, but a child left to himself causes shame to his mother.
- 16 When the wicked increase, sin increases; but the righteous will see their downfall.
- 17 Correct your son, and he will give you peace; yes, he will bring delight to your soul.
- 18 Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; but one who keeps the Torah is blessed.
- 19 A servant can't be corrected by words. Though he understands, yet he will not respond.
- 20 Do you see a man who is hasty in his words? There is more hope for a fool than for him.
- 21 He who pampers his servant from youth will have him become a son in the end.
- 22 An angry man stirs up strife, and a wrathful man abounds in sin.
- 23 A man's pride brings him low, but one of lowly spirit gains honor.
- 24 Whoever is an accomplice of a thief is an enemy of his own soul. He takes an oath, but dares not testify.
- 25 The fear of man proves to be a snare, but whoever puts his trust in YAHWEH is kept safe.
- 26 Many seek the ruler's favor, but a man's justice comes from YAHWEH!
- 27 A dishonest man detests the righteous, and the upright in their ways detest the wicked.

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12-18-Dec Daily Reading (Prophets and Writings).

351. 16-December Daily Reading (Prophets and Writings).

Ezekiel 23.

1 . Two Harlot Sisters. .

The word of YAHWEH came again to me, saying,

2 Son of man, there were two women, the daughters of one mother:

3 and they played the prostitute in Egypt; they played the prostitute in their youth; there were their breasts pressed, and there was handled the bosom of their virginity.

4 Their names were Oholah the elder, and Oholibah her sister: and they became mine, and they bore sons and daughters. As for their names, Samaria is Oholah, and Jerusalem Oholibah.

5 . The Older Sister, Samaria. .

Oholah played the prostitute when she was mine; and she doted on her lovers, on the Assyrians her neighbors,

6 who were clothed with blue, governors and rulers, all of them desirable young men, horsemen riding on horses.

7 She bestowed her prostitution on them, the choicest men of Assyria all of them; and on whoever she doted, with all their idols she defiled herself.

8 Neither has she left her prostitution since the days of Egypt; for in her youth they lay with her, and they handled the bosom of her virginity; and they poured out their prostitution on her.

9 Therefore I delivered her into the hand of her lovers, into the hand of the Assyrians, on whom she doted.

10 These uncovered her nakedness; they took her sons and her daughters; and her they killed with the sword: and she became a byword among women; for they executed judgments on her.

11 . The Younger Sister, Jerusalem. .

Her sister Oholibah saw this, yet was she more corrupt in her doting than she, and in her prostitution which were more than the prostitution of her sister.

12 She doted on the Assyrians, governors and rulers, her neighbors, clothed most gorgeously, horsemen riding on horses, all of them desirable young men.

13 I saw that she was defiled; they both took one way.

14 She increased her prostitution; for she saw men portrayed on the wall, the images of the Kasdim portrayed with vermilion,

15 dressed with girdles on their waists, with flowing turbans on their heads, all of them princes to look on, after the likeness of the Babylonians in Kasdim, the land of their birth.

16 As soon as she saw them she doted on them, and sent messengers to them into Kasdimah.

17 The Babylonians came to her into the bed of love, and they defiled her with their prostitution, and she was polluted with them, and her soul was alienated from them.

18 So she uncovered her prostitution, and uncovered her nakedness: then my soul was alienated from her, like as my soul was alienated from her sister.

19 Yet she multiplied her prostitution, remembering the days of her youth, in which she had played the prostitute in the land of Egypt.

20 She doted on their paramours, whose flesh is as the flesh of donkeys, and whose issue is like the issue of horses.

12-18-Dec Daily Reading (Prophets and Writings).

21 Thus you called to memory the lewdness of your youth, in the handling of your bosom by the Egyptians for the breasts of your youth.

22 . **Judgment on Jerusalem.** .

Therefore, Oholibah, thus says ADONAI YAHWEH: Behold, I will raise up your lovers against you, from whom your soul is alienated, and I will bring them against you on every side:

23 the Babylonians and all the Kasdim, Pekod and Shoa and Koa, and all the Assyrians with them; desirable young men, governors and rulers all of them, princes and men of renown, all of them riding on horses.

24 They shall come against you with weapons, chariots, and wagons, and with a company of peoples; they shall set themselves against you with buckler and shield and helmet all around; and I will commit the judgment to them, and they shall judge you according to their judgments.

25 I will set my jealousy against you, and they shall deal with you in fury; they shall take away your nose and your ears; and your residue shall fall by the sword: they shall take your sons and your daughters; and your residue shall be devoured by the fire.

26 They shall also strip you of your clothes, and take away your beautiful jewels.

27 Thus will I make your lewdness to cease from you, and your prostitution brought from the land of Egypt; so that you shall not lift up your eyes to them, nor remember Egypt any more.

28 For thus says ADONAI YAHWEH: Behold, I will deliver you into the hand of them whom you hate, into the hand of them from whom your soul is alienated;

29 and they shall deal with you in hatred, and shall take away all your labor, and shall leave you naked and bare; and the nakedness of your prostitution shall be uncovered, both your lewdness and your prostitution.

30 These things shall be done to you, because you have played the prostitute after the nations, and because you are polluted with their idols.

31 You have walked in the way of your sister; therefore will I give her cup into your hand.

32 Thus says ADONAI YAHWEH: You will drink of your sister's cup, which is deep and large; you will be ridiculed and held in derision; it contains much.

33 You shall be filled with drunkenness and sorrow, with the cup of astonishment and desolation, with the cup of your sister Samaria.

34 You shall even drink it and drain it out, and you shall gnaw the broken pieces of it, and shall tear your breasts; for I have spoken it, says ADONAI YAHWEH!

35 Therefore thus says ADONAI YAHWEH: Because you have forgotten me, and cast me behind your back, therefore you also bear your lewdness and your prostitution.

36 . **Both Sisters Judged.** .

YAHWEH said moreover to me: Son of man, will you judge Oholah and Oholibah? then declare to them their abominations.

37 For they have committed adultery, and blood is in their hands; and with their idols have they committed adultery; and they have also caused their sons, whom they bore to me, to pass through the fire to them to be devoured.

38 Moreover this they have done to me: they have defiled my sanctuary in the same day, and have profaned my Sabbaths.

39 For when they had slain their children to their idols, then they came the same day into my sanctuary to profane it; and behold, thus have they done in the midst of my house.

40 Furthermore you have sent for men who come from far, to whom a messenger was

12-18-Dec Daily Reading (Prophets and Writings).

sent, and behold, they came; for whom you did wash yourself, paint your eyes, and decorate yourself with ornaments,

41 and sit on a stately bed, with a table prepared before it, whereupon you set my incense and my oil.

42 The voice of a multitude being at ease was with her: and with men of the common sort were brought drunkards from the wilderness; and they put bracelets on their hands twain, and beautiful crowns on their heads.

43 Then I said of her who was old in adulteries, Now will they play the prostitute with her, and she with them.

44 They went in to her, as they go in to a prostitute: so went they in to Oholah and to Oholibah, the lewd women.

45 Righteous men, they shall judge them with the judgment of adulteresses, and with the judgment of women who shed blood; because they are adulteresses, and blood is in their hands.

46 For thus says ADONAI YAHWEH: I will bring up a company against them, and will give them to be tossed back and forth and robbed.

47 The company shall stone them with stones, and dispatch them with their swords; they shall kill their sons and their daughters, and burn up their houses with fire.

48 Thus will I cause lewdness to cease out of the land, that all women may be taught not to do after your lewdness.

49 They shall recompense your lewdness on you, and you shall bear the sins of your idols; and you shall know that I am ADONAI YAHWEH!

Isaiah 51.

1 . YAHWEH Comforts Zion. .

“Listen to me, you who follow after righteousness, you who seek YAHWEH: look to the rock you were cut from, and to the hold of the pit you were dug from.

2 Look to Abraham your father, and to Sarah who bore you; for when he was but one I called him, and I blessed him, and made him many.

3 For YAHWEH has comforted Zion; he has comforted all her waste places, and has made her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of YAHWEH; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody.

4 “Attend to me, my people; and give ear to me, my nation: for a Torah (teaching and instruction) shall go forth from me, and I will establish my justice for a light of the peoples.

5 My righteousness is near, my salvation is gone forth, and my arms shall judge the peoples; the islands shall wait for me, and on my arm shall they trust.

6 Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look on the earth beneath; for the heavens shall vanish away like smoke, and the earth shall wax old like a garment; and those who dwell therein shall die in the same way: but my salvation shall be forever, and my righteousness shall not be abolished.

7 “Listen to me, you who know righteousness, the people in whose heart is my Torah (teaching and instruction); don’t fear the reproach of men, neither be dismayed at their insults.

8 For the moth shall eat them up like a garment, and the worm shall eat them like wool; but my righteousness shall be forever, and my salvation to all generations.”

9 Awake, awake, put on strength, arm of YAHWEH; awake, as in the days of old, the generations of ancient times. Isn’t it you who cut Rahab in pieces, who pierced the monster?

10 Isn’t it you who dried up the sea, the waters of the great deep; who made the depths of

12-18-Dec Daily Reading (Prophets and Writings).

the sea a way for the redeemed to pass over?

11 The ransomed of YAHWEH shall return, and come with singing to Zion; and everlasting joy shall be on their heads. They shall obtain gladness and joy. Sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

12 “I, even I, am he who comforts you: who are you, that you are afraid of man who shall die, and of the son of man who shall be made as grass;

13 and have forgotten YAHWEH your Maker, who stretched forth the heavens, and laid the foundations of the earth; and fear continually all the day because of the fury of the oppressor, when he makes ready to destroy? and where is the fury of the oppressor?

14 The captive exile shall speedily be freed; and he shall not die and go down into the pit, neither shall his bread fail.

15 For I am YAHWEH your ELOHIM, who stirs up the sea, so that its waves roar: YAHWEH of Hosts is his name.

16 I have put my words in your mouth, and have covered you in the shadow of my hand, that I may plant the heavens, and lay the foundations of the earth, and tell Zion, ‘You are my people.’”

17 . ELOHIM's Fury Removed. .

Awake, awake, stand up, Jerusalem, that have drunk at the hand of YAHWEH the cup of his wrath; you have drunken the bowl of the cup of staggering, and drained it.

18 There is none to guide her among all the sons whom she has brought forth; neither is there any who takes her by the hand among all the sons who she has brought up.

19 These two things have happened to you. Who will bemoan you? Desolation and destruction, and the famine and the sword; how shall I comfort you?

20 Your sons have fainted, they lie at the head of all the streets, as an antelope in a net; they are full of the wrath of YAHWEH, the rebuke of your ELOHIM!

21 Therefore hear now this, you afflicted, and drunken, but not with wine:

22 Thus says your ADONAI YAHWEH, and your ELOHIM who pleads the cause of his people, “Behold, I have taken out of your hand the cup of staggering, even the bowl of the cup of my wrath; you shall no more drink it again:

23 and I will put it into the hand of those who afflict you, who have said to your soul, ‘Bow down, that we may walk over you;’ and you have laid your back as the ground, and as the street, to those who walk over.”

Psalms 12.

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

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For the Chief Musician; upon an eight-stringed lyre. A Psalm of David. Help, YAHWEH; for the godly man ceases. For the faithful fail from among the children of men.

2 Everyone lies to his neighbor. They speak with flattering lips, and with a double heart.

3 May YAHWEH cut off all flattering lips, and the tongue that boasts,

4 who have said, “With our tongue we will prevail. Our lips are our own. Who is master over us?”

5 “Because of the oppression of the weak and because of the groaning of the needy, I will now arise,” says YAHWEH; “I will set him in safety from those who malign him.”

6 The words of YAHWEH are flawless words, as silver refined in a clay furnace, purified seven times.

12-18-Dec Daily Reading (Prophets and Writings).

- 7 You will keep them, YAHWEH! You will preserve them from this generation forever.
8 The wicked walk on every side, when what is vile is exalted among the sons of men.

Proverbs 30.

1 . The Wisdom of Agur. .

The words of Agur the son of Jakeh, the oracle: the man says to Ithiel, to Ithiel and Ucal:

- 2 “Surely I am the most ignorant man, and don’t have a man’s understanding.
3 I have not learned wisdom, neither do I have the knowledge of the Holy One.
4 Who has ascended up into heaven, and descended? Who has gathered the wind in his fists? Who has bound the waters in his garment? Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is his name, and what is his son’s name, if you know?
5 “Every word of ELOHIM is flawless. He is a shield to those who take refuge in him.
6 Don’t you add to his words, lest he reprove you, and you be found a liar.
7 “Two things I have asked of you; don’t deny me before I die:
8 Remove far from me falsehood and lies. Give me neither poverty nor riches. Feed me with the food that is needful for me;
9 lest I be full, deny you, and say, ‘Who is YAHWEH?’ or lest I be poor, and steal, and so dishonor the name of my ELOHIM!
10 “Don’t slander a servant to his master, lest he curse you, and you be held guilty.
11 There is a generation that curses their father, and doesn’t bless their mother.
12 There is a generation that is pure in their own eyes, yet are not washed from their filthiness.
13 There is a generation, oh how lofty are their eyes! Their eyelids are lifted up.
14 There is a generation whose teeth are like swords, and their jaws like knives, to devour the poor from the earth, and the needy from among men.
15 “The leach has two daughters: ‘Give, give.’ “There are three things that are never satisfied; four that don’t say, ‘Enough.’
16 Sheol, the barren womb; the earth that is not satisfied with water; and the fire that doesn’t say, ‘Enough.’
17 “The eye that mocks at his father, and scorns obedience to his mother: the ravens of the valley shall pick it out, the young eagles shall eat it.
18 “There are three things which are too amazing for me, four which I don’t understand:
19 The way of an eagle in the air; the way of a serpent on a rock; the way of a ship in the midst of the sea; and the way of a man with a maiden.
20 “So is the way of an adulterous woman: she eats and wipes her mouth, and says, ‘I have done nothing wrong.’
21 “For three things the earth tremble, and under four, it can’t bear up:
22 For a servant when he is king; a fool when he is filled with food;
23 for an unloved woman when she is married; and a handmaid who is heir to her mistress.
24 “There are four things which are little on the earth, but they are exceedingly wise:
25 the ants are not a strong people, yet they provide their food in the summer.
26 The conies are but a feeble folk, yet make they their houses in the rocks.
27 The locusts have no king, yet they advance in ranks.
28 You can catch a lizard with your hands, yet it is in kings’ palaces.
29 “There are three things which are stately in their march, four which are stately in going:
30 The lion, which is mightiest among animals, and doesn’t turn away for any;
31 the greyhound, the male goat also; and the king against whom there is no rising up.

12-18-Dec Daily Reading (Prophets and Writings).

32 “If you have done foolishly in lifting up yourself, or if you have thought evil, put your hand over your mouth.

33 For as the churning of milk brings forth butter, and the wringing of the nose brings forth blood; so the forcing of wrath brings forth strife.”

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12-18-Dec Daily Reading (Prophets and Writings).

352. 17-December Daily Reading (Prophets and Writings).

Ezekiel 24.

1 . Symbol of the Cooking Pot. .

Again, in the ninth year, in the tenth month, in the tenth day of the month, the word of YAHWEH came to me, saying,

2 Son of man, write the name of the day, even of this same day: the king of Babylon drew close to Jerusalem this same day.

3 Utter a parable to the rebellious house, and tell them, Thus says ADONAI YAHWEH, Set on the caldron, set it on, and also pour water into it:

4 gather its pieces into it, even every good piece, the thigh, and the shoulder; fill it with the choice bones.

5 Take the choice of the flock, and also a pile of wood for the bones under the caldron; make it boil well; yes, let its bones be boiled in its midst.

6 Therefore thus says ADONAI YAHWEH: Woe to the bloody city, to the caldron whose rust is therein, and whose rust is not gone out of it! take out of it piece after piece; No lot is fallen on it.

7 For her blood is in the midst of her; she set it on the bare rock; she didn't pour it on the ground, to cover it with dust.

8 That it may cause wrath to come up to take vengeance, I have set her blood on the bare rock, that it should not be covered.

9 Therefore thus says ADONAI YAHWEH: Woe to the bloody city! I also will make the pile great.

10 Heap on the wood, make the fire hot, boil well the flesh, and make thick the broth, and let the bones be burned.

11 Then set it empty on its coals, that it may be hot, and its brass may burn, and that its filthiness may be molten in it, that its rust may be consumed.

12 She has wearied herself with toil; yet her great rust doesn't go forth out of her; her rust doesn't go forth by fire.

13 In your filthiness is lewdness: because I have cleansed you and you weren't cleansed, you shall not be cleansed from your filthiness any more, until I have caused my wrath toward you to rest.

14 I, YAHWEH, have spoken it: it shall happen, and I will do it: I will not go back, neither will I spare, neither will I repent; according to your ways, and according to your doings, shall they judge you, says ADONAI YAHWEH!

15 . The Prophet's Wife Dies. .

Also the word of YAHWEH came to me, saying,

16 Son of man, behold, I will take away from you the desire of your eyes with a stroke: yet you shall neither mourn nor weep, neither shall your tears run down.

17 Sigh, but not aloud, make no mourning for the dead; bind your headdress on you, and put your shoes on your feet, and don't cover your lips, and don't eat men's bread.

18 So I spoke to the people in the morning; and at even my wife died; and I did in the morning as I was commanded.

19 The people said to me, Won't you tell us what these things are to us, that you do so?

20 Then I said to them, The word of YAHWEH came to me, saying,

21 Speak to the house of Israel, Thus says ADONAI YAHWEH: Behold, I will profane my sanctuary, the pride of your power, the desire of your eyes, and that which your soul pities; and your sons and your daughters whom you have left behind shall fall by the sword.

12-18-Dec Daily Reading (Prophets and Writings).

22 You shall do as I have done: you shall not cover your lips, nor eat the bread of men.

23 Your tires shall be on your heads, and your shoes on your feet: you shall not mourn nor weep; but you shall pine away in your iniquities, and moan one toward another.

24 Thus Ezekiel shall be a sign to you; according to all that he has done, you will do.

When this comes, then you will know that I am ADONAI YAHWEH!

25 You, son of man, shall it not be in the day when I take from them their strength, the joy of their glory, the desire of their eyes, and that whereupon they set their heart, their sons and their daughters,

26 that in that day he who escapes shall come to you, to cause you to hear it with your ears?

27 In that day your mouth will be opened to him who has escaped, and you shall speak, and be no more mute: so you will be a sign to them; and they shall know that I am YAHWEH!

Isaiah 52.

1 . ELOHIM Redeems Jerusalem. .

Awake, awake, put on your strength, Zion; put on your beautiful garments, Jerusalem, the holy city: for henceforth there shall no more come into you the uncircumcised and the unclean.

2 Shake yourself from the dust! Arise, sit up, Jerusalem! Release yourself from the bonds of your neck, captive daughter of Zion!

3 For thus says YAHWEH, "You were sold for nothing; and you shall be redeemed without money."

4 For thus says ADONAI YAHWEH, "My people went down at the first into Egypt to live there: and the Assyrian has oppressed them without cause.

5 "Now therefore, what do I do here," says YAHWEH, "seeing that my people are taken away for nothing? Those who rule over them mock," says YAHWEH, "and my name continually all the day is blasphemed.

6 Therefore my people shall know my name. Therefore they shall know in that day that I am he who speaks; behold, it is I."

7 How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of good, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your ELOHIM reigns!"

8 The voice of your watchmen! they lift up the voice, together do they sing; for they shall see eye to eye, when YAHWEH returns to Zion.

9 Break forth into joy, sing together, you waste places of Jerusalem; for YAHWEH has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem.

10 YAHWEH has made bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our ELOHIM!

11 Depart, depart, go out from there, touch no unclean thing! Go out of the midst of her! Cleanse yourselves, you who bear the vessels of YAHWEH!

12 For you shall not go out in haste, neither shall you go by flight: for YAHWEH will go before you; and the ELOHIM of Israel will be your rear guard.

13 . The Sin-Bearing Servant. .

Behold, my servant shall deal wisely, he shall be exalted and lifted up, and shall be very high.

14 Like as many were astonished at you (his appearance was marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men),

12-18-Dec Daily Reading (Prophets and Writings).

15 so shall he sprinkle many nations; kings shall shut their mouths at him: for that which had not been told them shall they see; and that which they had not heard shall they understand.

Psalms 13.

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

For the Chief Musician. A Psalm by David. How long, YAHWEH? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me?

2 How long shall I take counsel in my soul, having sorrow in my heart every day? How long shall my enemy triumph over me?

3 Behold, and answer me, YAHWEH, my ELOHIM! Give light to my eyes, lest I sleep in death;

4 Lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed against him;" Lest my adversaries rejoice when I fall.

5 But I trust in your loving kindness. My heart rejoices in your salvation.

6 I will sing to YAHWEH, because he has been good to me.

Proverbs 31.

1 . The Words of King Lemuel's Mother..

The words of king Lemuel; the oracle which his mother taught him.

2 "Oh, my son! Oh, son of my womb! Oh, son of my vows!

3 Don't give your strength to women, nor your ways to that which destroys kings.

4 It is not for kings, Lemuel; it is not for kings to drink wine; nor for princes to say, 'Where is strong drink?'

5 lest they drink, and forget the decree, and pervert the justice due to anyone who is afflicted.

6 Give strong drink to him who is ready to perish; and wine to the bitter in soul:

7 Let him drink, and forget his poverty, and remember his misery no more.

8 Open your mouth for the mute, in the cause of all who are left desolate.

9 Open your mouth, judge righteously, and serve justice to the poor and needy."

10 . The Virtuous Wife..

Who can find a worthy woman? For her price is far above rubies.

11 The heart of her husband trusts in her. He shall have no lack of gain.

12 She does him good, and not harm, all the days of her life.

13 She seeks wool and flax, and works eagerly with her hands.

14 She is like the merchant ships. She brings her bread from afar.

15 She rises also while it is yet night, gives food to her household, and portions for her servant girls.

16 She considers a field, and buys it. With the fruit of her hands, she plants a vineyard.

17 She arms her waist with strength, and makes her arms strong.

18 She perceives that her merchandise is profitable. Her lamp doesn't go out by night.

19 She lays her hands to the distaff, and her hands hold the spindle.

20 She opens her arms to the poor; yes, she extends her hands to the needy.

21 She is not afraid of the snow for her household; for all her household are clothed with scarlet.

22 She makes for herself carpets of tapestry. Her clothing is fine linen and purple.

23 Her husband is respected in the gates, when he sits among the elders of the land.

12-18-Dec Daily Reading (Prophets and Writings).

- 24 She makes linen garments and sells them, and delivers sashes to the merchant.
25 Strength and dignity are her clothing. She laughs at the time to come.
26 She opens her mouth with wisdom. Faithful instruction is on her tongue.
27 She looks well to the ways of her household, and doesn't eat the bread of idleness.
28 Her children rise up and call her blessed. Her husband also praises her:
29 "Many women do noble things, but you excel them all."
30 Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain; but a woman who fears YAHWEH, she shall be praised.
31 Give her of the fruit of her hands! Let her works praise her in the gates!

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12-18-Dec Daily Reading (Prophets and Writings).

353. 18-December Daily Reading (Prophets and Writings).

Ezekiel 25.

1 . Proclamation Against Ammon. .

The word of YAHWEH came to me, saying,

2 Son of man, set your face toward the children of Ammon, and prophesy against them:
3 and tell the children of Ammon, Hear the word of ADONAI YAHWEH: Thus says
ADONAI YAHWEH, Because you said, Aha, against my sanctuary, when it was profaned;
and against Eretz-Israel, when it was made desolate; and against the house of Judah,
when they went into captivity:

4 therefore, behold, I will deliver you to the children of the east for a possession, and
they shall set their encampments in you, and make their dwellings in you; they shall eat
your fruit, and they shall drink your milk.

5 I will make Rabbah a stable for camels, and the children of Ammon a resting place for
flocks: and you shall know that I am YAHWEH!

6 For thus says ADONAI YAHWEH: Because you have clapped your hands, and stamped
with the feet, and rejoiced with all the despite of your soul against Eretz-Israel;

7 therefore, behold, I have stretched out my hand on you, and will deliver you for a spoil
to the nations; and I will cut you off from the peoples, and I will cause you to perish out
of the countries: I will destroy you; and you shall know that I am YAHWEH!

8 . Proclamation Against Moab. .

Thus says ADONAI YAHWEH: Because Moab and Seir say, Behold, the house of Judah
is like all the nations;

9 therefore, behold, I will open the side of Moab from the cities, from his cities which are
on his frontiers, the glory of the country, Beth Jeshimoth, Baal Meon, and Kiriathaim,
10 to the children of the east, to go against the children of Ammon; and I will give them
for a possession, that the children of Ammon may not be remembered among the
nations.

11 and I will execute judgments on Moab; and they shall know that I am YAHWEH!

12 . Proclamation Against Edom. .

Thus says ADONAI YAHWEH: Because Edom has dealt against the house of Judah by
taking vengeance, and has greatly offended, and revenged himself on them;

13 therefore thus says ADONAI YAHWEH, I will stretch out my hand on Edom, and will
cut off man and animal from it; and I will make it desolate from Teman; even to Dedan
shall they fall by the sword.

14 I will lay my vengeance on Edom by the hand of my people Israel; and they shall do in
Edom according to my anger and according to my wrath; and they shall know my
vengeance, says ADONAI YAHWEH!

15 . Proclamation Against Philistia. .

Thus says ADONAI YAHWEH: Because the Philistines have dealt by revenge, and have
taken vengeance with despite of soul to destroy with perpetual enmity;

16 therefore thus says ADONAI YAHWEH, Behold, I will stretch out my hand on the
Philistines, and I will cut off the Cherethites, and destroy the remnant of the sea coast.

17 I will execute great vengeance on them with wrathful rebukes; and they shall know
that I am YAHWEH, when I shall lay my vengeance on them.

Ezekiel 26.

1 . Proclamation Against Tyre. .

It happened in the eleventh year, in the first day of the month, that the word of YAHWEH came to me, saying,

2 Son of man, because Tyre has said against Jerusalem, Aha, she is broken: the gate of the peoples; she is turned to me; I shall be replenished, now that she is laid waste:

3 therefore thus says ADONAI YAHWEH, Behold, I am against you, Tyre, and will cause many nations to come up against you, as the sea causes its waves to come up.

4 They shall destroy the walls of Tyre, and break down her towers: I will also scrape her dust from her, and make her a bare rock.

5 She shall be a place for the spreading of nets in the midst of the sea; for I have spoken it, says ADONAI YAHWEH; and she shall become a spoil to the nations.

6 Her daughters who are in the field shall be slain with the sword: and they shall know that I am YAHWEH!

7 For thus says ADONAI YAHWEH: Behold, I will bring on Tyre Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, king of kings, from the north, with horses, and with chariots, and with horsemen, and a company, and many people.

8 He shall kill your daughters in the field with the sword; and he shall make forts against you, and cast up a mound against you, and raise up the buckler against you.

9 He shall set his battering engines against your walls, and with his axes he shall break down your towers.

10 By reason of the abundance of his horses their dust shall cover you: your walls shall shake at the noise of the horsemen, and of the wagons, and of the chariots, when he shall enter into your gates, as men enter into a city in which is made a breach.

11 With the hoofs of his horses shall he tread down all your streets; he shall kill your people with the sword; and the pillars of your strength shall go down to the ground.

12 They shall make a spoil of your riches, and make a prey of your merchandise; and they shall break down your walls, and destroy your pleasant houses; and they shall lay your stones and your timber and your dust in the midst of the waters.

13 I will cause the noise of your songs to cease; and the sound of your harps shall be no more heard.

14 I will make you a bare rock; you shall be a place for the spreading of nets; you shall be built no more: for I YAHWEH have spoken it, says ADONAI YAHWEH!

15 Thus says ADONAI YAHWEH to Tyre: shall not the islands shake at the sound of your fall, when the wounded groan, when the slaughter is made in the midst of you?

16 Then all the princes of the sea shall come down from their thrones, and lay aside their robes, and strip off their embroidered garments: they shall clothe themselves with trembling; they shall sit on the ground, and shall tremble every moment, and be astonished at you.

17 They shall take up a lamentation over you, and tell you, How you are destroyed, who were inhabited by seafaring men, the renowned city, who was strong in the sea, she and her inhabitants, who caused their terror to be on all who lived there!

18 Now shall the islands tremble in the day of your fall; yes, the islands that are in the sea shall be dismayed at your departure.

19 For thus says ADONAI YAHWEH: When I shall make you a desolate city, like the cities that are not inhabited; when I shall bring up the deep on you, and the great waters shall cover you;

20 then will I bring you down with those who descend into the pit, to the people of old time, and will make you to dwell in the lower parts of the earth, in the places that are

12-18-Dec Daily Reading (Prophets and Writings).

desolate of old, with those who go down to the pit, that you be not inhabited; and I will set glory in the land of the living:

21 I will make you a terror, and you shall no more have any being; though you are sought for, yet you will never be found again, says ADONAI YAHWEH!

Isaiah 53.

1 Who has believed our message? To whom has the arm of YAHWEH been revealed?

2 For he grew up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of dry ground. He has no good looks or majesty. When we see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.

3 He was despised, and rejected by men; a man of suffering, and acquainted with disease. He was despised as one from whom men hide their face; and we didn't respect him.

4 Surely he has borne our sickness, and carried our suffering; yet we considered him plagued, struck by ELOHIM, and afflicted.

5 But he was pierced for our transgressions. He was crushed for our iniquities. The punishment that brought our peace was on him; and by his wounds we are healed.

6 All we like sheep have gone astray. Everyone has turned to his own way; and YAHWEH has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

7 He was oppressed, yet when he was afflicted he didn't open his mouth. As a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and as a sheep that before its shearers is mute, so he didn't open his mouth.

8 He was taken away by oppression and judgment; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living and stricken for the disobedience of my people?

9 They made his grave with the wicked, and with a rich man in his death; although he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.

10 Yet it pleased YAHWEH to bruise him. He has caused him to suffer. When you make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed. He shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of YAHWEH shall prosper in his hand.

11 After the suffering of his soul, he will see the light and be satisfied. My righteous servant will justify many by the knowledge of himself; and he will bear their iniquities.

12 Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he poured out his soul to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

Psalms 14.

1 . "To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David.. .

For the Chief Musician. By David. The fool has said in his heart, "There is no ELOHIM!" They are corrupt. They have done abominable works. There is none who does good.

2 YAHWEH looked down from heaven on the children of men, to see if there were any who understood, who sought after ELOHIM!

3 They have all gone aside. They have together become corrupt. There is none who does good, no, not one.

4 Have all the workers of iniquity no knowledge, who eat up my people as they eat bread, and don't call on YAHWEH?

5 There they were in great fear, for ELOHIM is in the generation of the righteous.

6 You frustrate the plan of the poor, because YAHWEH is his refuge.

12-18-Dec Daily Reading (Prophets and Writings).

7 Oh that the salvation [yeshuat] of Israel would come out of Zion! When YAHWEH restores the fortunes of his people, then Jacob shall rejoice, and Israel shall be glad.

Proverbs 1.

1 **. The Beginning of Knowledge. . Proverbs!**

The proverbs of Solomon, the son of David, king of Israel:

2 to know wisdom and instruction; to discern the words of understanding;

3 to receive instruction in wise dealing, in righteousness, justice, and equity;

4 to give prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the young man:

5 that the wise man may hear, and increase in learning; that the man of understanding may attain to sound counsel:

6 to understand a proverb, and parables, the words and riddles of the wise.

7 The fear of YAHWEH is the beginning of knowledge; but the foolish despise wisdom and instruction.

8 **. Shun Evil Counsel. .**

My son, listen to your father's instruction, and don't forsake your mother's teaching:

9 for they will be a garland to grace your head, and chains around your neck.

10 My son, if sinners entice you, don't consent.

11 If they say, "Come with us, Let's lay in wait for blood; let's lurk secretly for the innocent without cause;

12 let's swallow them up alive like Sheol, and whole, like those who go down into the pit.

13 We'll find all valuable wealth. We'll fill our houses with spoil.

14 You shall cast your lot among us. We'll all have one purse."

15 My son, don't walk in the way with them. Keep your foot from their path,

16 for their feet run to evil. They hurry to shed blood.

17 For in vain is the net spread in the sight of any bird:

18 but these lay wait for their own blood. They lurk secretly for their own lives.

19 So are the ways of everyone who is greedy for gain. It takes away the life of its owners.

20 **. The Call of Wisdom. .**

Wisdom calls aloud in the street. She utters her voice in the public squares.

21 She calls at the head of noisy places. At the entrance of the city gates, she utters her words:

22 "How long, you simple ones, will you love simplicity? How long will mockers delight themselves in mockery, and fools hate knowledge?"

23 Turn at my reproof. Behold, I will pour out my spirit on you. I will make known my words to you.

24 Because I have called, and you have refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no one has paid attention;

25 but you have ignored all my counsel, and wanted none of my reproof;

26 I also will laugh at your disaster. I will mock when calamity overtakes you;

27 when calamity overtakes you like a storm, when your disaster comes on like a whirlwind; when distress and anguish come on you.

28 Then will they call on me, but I will not answer. They will seek me diligently, but they will not find me;

29 because they hated knowledge, and didn't choose the fear of YAHWEH!

30 They wanted none of my counsel. They despised all my reproof.

12-18-Dec Daily Reading (Prophets and Writings).

31 Therefore they will eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own schemes.

32 For the backsliding of the simple will kill them. The careless ease of fools will destroy them.

33 But whoever listens to me will dwell securely, and will be at ease, without fear of harm.”

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

12-18-Dec Daily Reading (Prophets and Writings).

**!! End of This Weeks Daily Reading from the PROPHETS AND WRITINGS!
Praise Yah!!**

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