

## ~PUBLIC READING (320)

[Greek, *a-na-gi-no'sko*]

.. In The Synagogues

.. In The Christian Congregation

- Reading aloud for a group of persons to hear. In the Jewish synagogues there was a public reading of a portion of the Law on the Sabbath. Similarly, at meetings of the Christian congregation, there was public reading of the inspired Scriptures.
- The Greek word *a-na-gi-no'sko*, which basically means, well know.
- For we are really not writing you things except those which you **well know** or also recognize, and which I hope you will continue to recognize to the end. (2 Corinthians 1:13)
- Is rendered, **read** or **read aloud**, and is used with reference to both private and **public reading** of the Scriptures.
- He said to them; Have you not read what David did when he and the men with him got hungry? (Matthew 12:3)
- And he came to Nazareth, where he had been reared, and, according to his custom on the Sabbath day, he entered into the synagogue, and he stood up to read. (Luke 4:16)
- But he was returning and was sitting in his chariot and reading aloud the prophet Isaiah. (Acts of Apostles 8:28)
- For the inhabitants of Jerusalem and their rulers did not know this One, but, when acting as judges, they fulfilled the things voiced by the Prophets, which things are **read aloud** every Sabbath. (Acts of Apostles 13:27)
- The noun form *a-na'gno-sis* is rendered, **public reading**.
- After the **public reading** of the Law and of the Prophets the presiding officers of the synagogue sent out to them, saying; Men, brothers, if there is any word of encouragement for the people that you have, tell it. (Acts of Apostles 13:15)
- While I am coming, continue applying yourself to **public reading**,

to exhortation, to teaching. (1 Timothy 4:13)

- **Public reading** was an important means that Yehowah used to instruct and educate his covenant people concerning his purposes and requirements. Such reading is first mentioned at;
- Finally he took the book of the covenant and **read** it in the **ears of the people**. Then they said; All that Yehowah has spoken we are willing to do and be obedient. (**Exodus 24:7**)
- Where Moses read from the book of the covenant in the ears of all the people. The Israelites were thereby enabled to enter intelligently into an agreement with Yehowah to keep the Law. Relatively few copies of Scripture were available in the days of ancient Israel, so the Levite priests were commanded.
- Then Moses wrote this Law and gave it to the priests the sons of Levi, the carriers of the ark of Yehowah's covenant, and to all the older men of Israel. (**Deuteronomy 31:9**)
- And Moses went on to command them, saying; At the end of every seven years, in the appointed time of the year of the release, in the festival of booths. (**Deuteronomy 31:10**)
- When all Israel comes to see the face of Yehowah your God in the place that he will choose, you will **read this Law in front of all Israel in their hearing**. (**Deuteronomy 31:11**)
- Congregate the people, the men and the women and the little ones and your alien resident who is within your gates, in order, that they may listen and in order, that they may learn, as they must fear Yehowah your God and take care to carry out all the words of this law. (**Deuteronomy 31:12**)
- After Israel entered the Promised Land, Joshua **read** aloud to the people all the words of the Law, the blessing and the malediction.
- And all Israel and their older men and the officers and their judges were standing on this side and on that side of the Ark in front of the priests, the Levites, carrying the ark of the covenant of Yehowah, the alien resident as well as the native, one half of them in front of Mount Gerizim and the other half of them in front of Mount Ebal, just as Moses the servant of Yehowah had commanded, to bless the people of Israel first of all. (**Joshua**

**8:33)**

- And after this he **read aloud** all the words of the Law, the blessing and the malediction, according to all that is written in the book of the Law. (**Joshua 8:34**)
- There proved to be not a word of all that Moses had commanded that Joshua did not read aloud in front of all the congregation of Israel, together with the women and the little ones and the alien residents who walked in their midst. (**Joshua 8:35**)
- **King Jehoshaphat dispatched princes, Levites, and priests to teach in the cities of Judah.**
- And in the third year of his reigning he sent for his princes, namely, Ben-hail and Obadiah and Zechariah and Nethanel and Micaiah, to teach in the cities of Judah. (**2 Chronicles 17:7**)
- And with them the Levites, Shemaiah and Nethaniah and Zebadiah and Asahel and Shemiramoth and Jehonathan and Adonijah and TobiYah and Tob-Adonijah the Levites, and with them Elishama and Jehoram the priests. (**2 Chronicles 17:8**)
- And they began **teaching** in Judah, and with them there was the book of Yehowah's Law, and they kept going around through all the cities of Judah and teaching among the people. (**2 Chronicles 17:9**)
- Which teaching no doubt included **public reading**. Centuries later Josiah **read** in the hearing of all the people the book of Yehowah's Law by the hand of Moses that Hilkiah the priest found during temple repair work, doubtless the original book of the Law written by Moses.
- After that the king went up to the house of Yehowah, and also all the men of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem with him, and also the priests and the prophets and all the people, from small to great, and he began to read in their ears all the words of the book of the covenant that had been found in the house of Yehowah. (**2 Kings 23:2**)
- Now while they were bringing out the money that was being brought to the house of Yehowah, Hilkiah the priest found the book of Yehowah's Law by the hand of Moses. (**2 Chronicles 34:14**)

- The result was a national purge of demon worship. After the return from exile, Ezra, with Governor Nehemiah's support, **read the Law to the people from daybreak until noon**. Along with the reading, an explanation, or the sense, was given.
- And he continued to read aloud from it before the **public square** that is before the Water Gate, from daybreak till midday, in front of the men and the women and the other intelligent ones, and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the Law. (**Nehemiah 8:3**)
- And they continued **reading aloud from the book**, from the Law of the true God, it being expounded, and there being a putting of meaning into it, and they continued giving understanding in the reading. (**Nehemiah 8:8**)

**See Also HEBREW 2 (When Did Hebrew Begin to Wane?)**

## **.. In The Synagogues**

- It was Jesus custom to do **public reading** in the synagogue on the Sabbath, then he aided his listeners by explaining what he had read.
- And he came to Nazareth, where he had been reared, and, according to his custom on the Sabbath day, he entered into the synagogue, and he **stood up to read**. (**Luke 4:16**)
- This had been done for many years. For from ancient times Moses has had in city after city those who preach him, because he is **read aloud** in the synagogues on every Sabbath.
- For from ancient times Moses has had in city after city those who preach him, because he is **read aloud** in the synagogues on every Sabbath. (**Acts of Apostles 15:21**)
- Such **public reading** of the Law and Prophets was the synagogue custom and, according to rabbinic sources, followed this program: First, the Shema, or what amounted to the Jewish confession of faith, taken from
- Listen, O Israel; Yehowah our God is one Yehowah. (**Deuteronomy 6:4**)

- **And you must love Yehowah your God with all your heart and all your soul and all your vital force. (Deuteronomy 6:5)**
- **And these words that I am commanding you today must prove to be on your heart. (Deuteronomy 6:6)**
- **And you must inculcate them in your son and speak of them when you sit in your house and when you walk on the road and when you lie down and when you get up. (Deuteronomy 6:7)**
- **And you must tie them as a sign upon your hand, and they must serve as a frontlet band between your eyes. (Deuteronomy 6:8)**
- **And you must write them upon the doorposts of your house and on your gates. (Deuteronomy 6:9)**
- **Faith, taken from,**
- **And it must occur that if you will without fail obey my commandments that I am commanding you today so as to love Yehowah your God and to serve him with all your heart and all your soul. (Deuteronomy 11:13)**
- **I also shall certainly give rain for your land at its appointed time, autumn rain and spring rain, and you will indeed gather your grain and your sweet wine and your oil. (Deuteronomy 11:14)**
- **And I shall certainly give vegetation in your field for your domestic animals, and you will indeed eat and be satisfied. (Deuteronomy 11:15)**
- **Watch out for yourselves for fear your heart may be enticed, and you do turn aside and worship other gods and bow down to them. (Deuteronomy 11:16)**
- **And Yehowah's anger does blaze against you, and he does shut up the heavens so that no rain will occur and the ground will not give its produce and you have to perish speedily from off the good land that Yehowah is giving you. (Deuteronomy 11:17)**
- **And you must apply these words of mine to your heart and your soul and bind them as a sign upon your hand, and they must serve as a frontlet band between your eyes. (Deuteronomy 11:18)**

- You must also teach them to your sons, so as to speak of them when you sit in your house and when you walk on the road and when you lie down and when you get up. (**Deuteronomy 11:19**)
- And you must write them upon the doorposts of your house and on your gates. (**Deuteronomy 11:20**)
- In order, that your days and the days of your sons may be many on the soil that Yehowah swore to your forefathers to give to them, as the days of the heavens over the earth. (**Deuteronomy 11:21**)
- And Yehowah went on to say this to Moses. (**Numbers 15:37**)
- Speak to the sons of Israel, and you must say to them that they must make for themselves fringed edges upon the skirts of their garments throughout their generations, and they must put a blue string above the fringed edge of the skirt. (**Numbers 15:38**)
- And it must serve as a fringed edge for you, and you must see it and remember all the commandments of Yehowah and do them, and you must not go about following your hearts and your eyes, which you are following in immoral intercourse. (**Numbers 15:39**)
- The purpose is that you may remember and may certainly do all my commandments and indeed prove to be holy to your God. (**Numbers 15:40**)
- I am Yehowah your God, who have brought you out of the land of Egypt in order to prove myself your God. I am Yehowah your God. (**Numbers 15:41**)
- Next came the **reading** of a portion of the Torah or Law, the Pentateuch, which in most cases was covered in one year. Finally, excerpts from the Prophets or **haftarahs were read**, along with appropriate exposition.
- At the conclusion of the **public reading**, a discourse or exhortation was given. After such a **public reading** in a synagogue in Antioch in Pisidia, Paul was invited to speak and gave a discourse or exhortation and encouragement to those assembled.
- After the **public reading** of the Law and of the Prophets the

presiding officers of the synagogue sent out to them, saying; Men, brothers, if there is any word of encouragement for the people that you have, tell it. (**Acts of Apostles 13:15**)

## · In The Christian Congregation

- In the **First Century**, few possessed copies of the many scrolls of the Bible, making **public reading** essential. The apostle Paul commanded **public reading** of his letters at the meetings of the Christian congregations and ordered them to be exchanged with his letters to other congregations so that these also might be **read**.
- And when this letter has been **read** among you, arrange that it also be **read** in the congregation of the Laodiceans and that you also **read** the one from Laodicea. (**Colossians 4:16**)
- I am putting you under the solemn obligation by the Lord for this letter to be **read to all the brothers**. (**1 Thessalonians 5:27**)
- Paul counseled the young Christian overseer Timothy to apply himself to **public reading**, to exhortation, to teaching.
- While I am coming, continue applying yourself to **public reading**, to exhortation, to teaching. (**1 Timothy 4:13**)
- **Public reading** should be done with fluency.
- And Yehowah proceeded to answer me and to say; Write down the vision, and set it out plainly upon tablets, in order, that the one **reading** aloud from it may do so fluently. (**Habakkuk 2:2**)
- Since **public reading** is for the education of others, a **public reader** must thoroughly discern what he is **reading** and have a clear understanding of the writers intention, being careful in **reading** to avoid giving the wrong idea or impression to the listeners. According to;
- Happy is he who **reads aloud** and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and who observe the things written in it, for the appointed time is near. (**Revelation 1:3**)
- Those who **read** that prophecy **aloud**, as well as those who hear the words and observe them, will be happy.

