

SIDRA OF THE WEEK : האזינו

THE SONG OF HAAZINU — שירת האזינו

(The words of Mosheh, our Teacher:)

31 : 1	Give ear, you Heavens, and I will speak, and hear, you Earth, the words of my mouth:	הָאָזִינוּ הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֲדַבְּרָה וּתְשָׁמַע הָאָרֶץ אִמְרֵי פִי :	לא : א
2	Let my teaching drop like the rain, my speech flow like the refreshing dew, like storm showers upon the herbage, and like the downpours upon the grass.	יֵעֲרֹף כַּמָּטָר לְקַחֵי תֵּזַל כַּטַּל אִמְרָתִי כַּשְּׁעִירִים עָלֵי דְשָׂא וּכְרִיבִים עָלֵי עֵשֶׂב :	ב
3	When I proclaim HaShem's fame — you all, then, acknowledge the greatness of our G-d:	כִּי שֵׁם יי אֶקְרָא הִבּוּ גְדֹל לֵא-לֵהִינוּ :	ג
4	The Rock, the Mighty One, perfect is His work, for all His ways are just: G-d is faithful and not unfair: righteous and correct is He.	הַעֲזֹר תָּמִים פֶּעֱלוּ כִּי כָּל דְּרָכָיו מִשְׁפָּט א-ל אֱמוּנָה וְאֵין עָוֹל צַדִּיק וְיָשָׁר הוּא :	ד
5	Not His is the corruption but any blemish is His children's — a generation crooked and twisted.	שָׁחַת לוֹ לֵא בְּנָיו מוֹמִם דֹּר עֲקָשׁ וּפְתֻלָּתַל :	ה
6	Ha! Is this how you repay HaShem? o foolish people and not wise! is He not your Father Who acquired you, is He not the One Who has made you and established you?	ה לֵי תִגְמְלוּ זֹאת עִם נָבָל וְלֵא חָכֵם הֲלוֹא הוּא אָבִיךָ קָנֶךָ הוּא עֲשָׂךָ וַיְכַנְּנֶךָ :	ו
7	Remember the days of yore, consider the years of each past generation: ask your father and he will relate it to you, your elders, and they will explain to you —	זְכוֹר יָמֹת עוֹלָם בֵּינוּ שָׁנוֹת דֹּר וְדֹר שְׁאַל אָבִיךָ וַיְגִדֶךָ זְקֵנֶיךָ וַיֹּאמְרוּ לָךְ :	ז

- 8 How when HaShem, the Most High G-d, ח בְּהִנָּחַל עֲלֵיוֹן גּוֹיִם
 gave to the nations their inheritances,
 how when He separated the בְּהִפְרִידוֹ בְּנֵי אָדָם
 sons of Man into different peoples,
 how when He set the boundaries of the nations — יֵצֵב גְּבֻלַת עַמִּים
 it was all according to the destiny לְמִסְפָּר בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל :
 of the Children of Israel, still so few.
- 9 For the portion of HaShem is His People, ט כִּי חֶלֶק יי עַמּוֹ
 Yaakov is his measured inheritance. יַעֲקֹב חֶבֶל נִחְלָתוֹ :
So, I ask again: Is this how you repay HaShem?
- 10 He found him in a desert land י יִמְצָאֵהוּ בְּאַרְץ מִדְבָּר
 and in the wastes of howling desolation; וּבְתַהוֹ יֵלֵל יִשְׁמֵן
 He protectively surrounded him; He instructed him; יִסְבְּבֵנְהוּ יְבוֹנְנֵהוּ
 He watched over him like the apple of His eye. יִצְרְנֵהוּ כְּאִישׁוֹן עֵינוֹ :
- 11 As an eagle awakens its nest, יא כְּנֶשֶׁר יַעִיר קִנּוֹ
 as it hovers over its fledglings; עַל גּוֹזְלָיו יִרְחֹף
 as it spreads out its wings and takes them — יִפְרֹשׁ כְּנָפָיו יִקְחֵהוּ
 as it bears them upon its pinions — יִשָּׂאֵהוּ עַל אַבְרָתוֹ :
- 12 so does HaShem lead His people all alone יב יי בָּדָד יִנְחֵנּוּ
 and next to Him there is no strange power. וְאֵין עִמּוֹ אֵל נָכַר :
Again I ask: Is this how you repay HaShem?
- 13 He made them ride the high places of the earth יג יִרְכַּבְהוּ עַל בְּמוֹתַי אֲרָץ
 and that they should eat the good produce of the field: וַיֹּאכְל תְּנוּבַת שְׂדֵי
 He made them suck fruit rich with honey וַיִּנְקְהוּ דְבַשׁ מִסְּלַע
 even out of soil dry like rock, וְשֶׁמֶן מִחֶלְמִישׁ צוּר :
 and olive oil produced from earth
 even as hard as the flinty stone.
- 14 The cream of kine and the milk of sheep יד חֶמְאָת בָּקָר וְחֵלֶב צֹאן
 and also the best meat of lambs, עִם חֵלֶב כְּרִים
 and of rams of the Bashan breed, and of he-goats וְאֵילִים בְּנֵי בָשָׁן וְעֵתוּדִים
 with the best kidney-sized wheat kernels, עִם חֵלֶב בְּלִיּוֹת חֹטָה
 and to drink wine, the blood of the grape. וְדָם עֵגֶב תִּשְׁתֶּה חֶמֶר :
So, is this how you repay HaShem?

- 15 But Yeshurun waxed fat and kicked out
— for when you are fat,
you become obese and overcome by fat —
and the Nation forsook G-d its Maker
and spurned the Mighty One Who is its support.
- טו וישמן ישראל ויבעט
שמנת עבית כשית
ויטש א-לוה עשהו
וינבל צור ישעתו :
- 16 They provoked His jealousy with strange things,
with abominations they angered Him;
- טז יקנאהו בזרים
בתועבת יכעסוהו :
- 17 they sacrificed to demons that have no power,
to powers unknown,
to novel things, newly come,
that your forefathers dreaded not.
- יז יזבחו לשדים לא אלה
אלהים לא ידעום
חדשים מקרב באו
לא שערום אבותיכם :
- 18 The Mighty One that begot you, you forsook,
and you forgot the Powerful One Who formed you!
And I ask again: Is this how you repay HaShem?
- יח צור ילדך תשי
ותשכח אל מחלףך :
- 19 When HaShem saw all this He was greatly upset
out of grief for His sons and daughters.
- יט וירא יי וינאץ
מבעס בניו ובנותיו :
- 20 He said:
(The words of HaShem:)
I will hide My face from them,
and see what will be with them later;
they are but a fickle generation
children in whom there is no faith.
- כ ויאמר
אסתירה פני מהם
אראה מה אחרייתם
כי דור תהפכת המה
בנים לא אמן בם :
- 21 They provoke Me with things that have no power,
they grieve Me with their nothingnesses:
So I will anger them with those that are not a people,
with a despicable nation will I grieve them!
- כא הם קנאוני בלא אל
כעסוני בהבליהם
ואני אקניאם בלא עם
בגוי נבל אכעיסם :
- 22 But when the fire is kindled in My anger
it burns unto the lowest regions of the depths,
it will consume the Land and its produce
and set ablaze the very foundations of mountains!
- כב כי אש קדחה באפי
ותיקד עד שאול תחתית
ותאכל ארץ ויבלה
ותלהט מוסדי הרים :

- 23 I will heap troubles upon them,
these, My arrows, I will exhaust against them: כג אֶסְפָּה עָלֵימוּ רְעוֹת
חֲצֵי אַבְלָה בָּם :
- 24 The emaciation of famine and burning fever,
and bitter, sudden, horrific death.
Even the teeth of tame animals
will I incite against them כד מְזֵי רָעַב וְלַחְמֵי רֶשֶׁף
וְקֹטֵב מְרִירֵי
וְשֵׁן בְּהֵמַת אֲשַׁלַּח בָּם
עִם חֲמַת זֹחֲלֵי עֶפֶר :
- 25 From outside — the sword will destroy,
robbing parents of their children,
and indoors — terror!
Both, young man and maiden will be struck down,
the suckling child with the old man! כה מַחוּץ תִּשְׁכַּל חֶרֶב
וּמִחֲדָרִים אֵימָה
גַּם בַּחוּר גַּם בְּתוּלָה
יוֹנֵק עִם אִישׁ שִׁיבָה :
- 26 (Considering their great potential for good and
how they have disappointed Me) I said further: כו אָמַרְתִּי
אֶפְאַיְהָם
אֲשַׁבֵּיתָה מֵאֲנוּשׁ זְכָרִים :
I should really isolate them in a corner
and let their remembrance cease from among Mankind!
- 27 Were it not that the enemy of My children
swells My anger even more than they do,
therefore I will not vent my full anger against them,
lest their oppressors misunderstand,
lest they say: “It is our hand that is superior!”
or, “It is not G-d Who has done all this!” כז לוֹלֵי בַעַס אוֹיֵב אָגוּר
פֶּן יִנְכָרוּ צָרִימוּ
פֶּן יֵאמְרוּ יְדַנוּ רָמָה
וְלֹא ” פָּעַל כָּל זֹאת :
- 28 For My children’s enemies are
a people void of any good sense כח כִּי גוֹי אַבְדַּ עֲצוֹת הֵמָּה
וְאֵין בָּהֶם תְּבוּנָה :
and neither is there any understanding to be found in them!
- 29 For if only they were in the least wise כט לוֹ חֲכָמוֹ יִשְׁכִּילוּ זֹאת
they would consider this
and they would then understand also their own end! יְבִינּוּ לְאַחֲרֵיתָם :
- 30 Let them consider: How come ל איכָה יִרְדֵּף אֶחָד אֶלֶף
that one man chases a thousand
and two men put ten thousand to flight? —
If not that I, their Mighty One, had handed them over,
and if not that I, G-d Himself, had trapped them! וְשִׁנַּיִם יְנִיסוּ רַבְבָּה
אִם לֹא כִי צוּרִם מְכָרִים
וַיִּי הַסְגִּירָם :

(The words of Mosheh our Teacher:)

31 For they know that not like our Mighty One is their god, לא כִּי לֹא כְּצוּרֵנוּ צוּרִים
indeed, our enemies know enough to judge this themselves! וְאֵיבֵינוּ פְּלִילִים :

32 Ah! But they harm G-d's People because their vine לב כִּי מִגֶּפֶן סֶדֶם גִּפְנִים
comes from the vineyards of selfish Sdom, וּמִשְׁדֵּמַת עַמְרָה
from the plains and fields of cruel Amora: עֲנַבְמוּ עֲנַבֵי רוּשׁ
and when He comes to punish them for harming His children, אֲשֶׁבֶלֶת מְרֹרֶת לָמוּ :
the punishment will be to them like grapes of poison —
how the clusters will be bitter to them!

33 How like the venom of dragons will be their wine! לג חֶמֶת תַּנִּינִים יִינֵם
How like the cruel poison of asps! וְרֹאשׁ פְּתָנִים אֶבְזָר :

(The words of HaShem:)

34 Is not all this future retribution as sure as if לד הֲלֹא הוּא כְּמַס עֲמָדֵי
it was laid up in store with Me? חֲתוּם בְּאוֹצְרוֹתַי :
Do they not then know that it is sealed up,
as sure as done, in My storehouses?

35 Mine is vengeance and retribution: לה לִי נֶקֶם וְשִׁלֵּם
At the appointed time their foot will slip. לְעֵת תְּמוּט רַגְלָם
and then, when the day of their calamity is at hand כִּי קָרוֹב יוֹם אֵיִדָם
I will hastily bring these future troubles upon them! וְחָשׁ עֲתֵדֶת לָמוּ :

(The words of Mosheh our Teacher:)

36 For HaShem will indeed take up the cause of His People לו כִּי יִדִּין יי עֲמוֹ
and He will reconcile Himself with His servants: וְעַל עֲבָדָיו יִתְנַחֵם
when He sees how all their self-power is gone כִּי יִרְאֶה כִּי אֶזְלַת יָד
and they have no helper and they are abandoned. וְאֶפֶס עֲצוּר וְעֹזֹב :

37 And He will then call out to them: לז וְאָמַר

(The words of HaShem:)

Where are My children's gods? אי אֱלֹהֵימוֹ
Where is the might in which they trusted? צוּר חֲסִיוֹ בּוֹ :

38 Where are those gods לח אֲשֶׁר חֲלָב זִבְחֵימוֹ יֹאכְלוּ
that consumed the best of their offerings?

Where are those gods יִשְׁתּוּ יַיִן נְסִיכֵם
that drank down the wine of their libations?

- Let them rise up and help you!
 Let that imagined power be your protection!
- 39 You see now that it is I — it is I Who is G-d
 and there is no other power with Me!
 I cause death — but I bring back to life again;
 I have wounded — but I do heal
 and there is none that can escape from My Hand!
- 40 At that time I will lift up My hand to heaven and swear
 and I will proclaim:
(The words of HaShem on the Day of Judgement:)
 I was G-d in times past as I am in the present,
 and I will be G-d in the future, too — I am forever!
- 41 Now, if I were to whet my flashing sword
 and deal according to strict justice;
 were I to mete out just vengeance to My People's oppressors
 and repay those that so fiercely hated My children —
- 42 Then I would have to make My arrows drunk with blood
 and My sword to devour flesh!
 Fearsome will be the punishment for the blood
 of the slain and of the captives —
 and terrible will be the retribution
 which I will bring upon their enemies!
- (The words of Mosheh our Teacher:)*
- 43 Therefore, o you Nations,
 make the lot of His People a happy one
 for He will avenge the blood of His servants;
 and will bring upon their adversaries due retribution
 when He will pacify His People and their Land.
- 44 Mosheh came and spoke all the words of this
 poem while the People listened attentively, he
 and Hoshay'a the son of Nune.
- יקומו ויעזרכם
 יהי עליכם סתרה :
 לט ראו עתה כי אני הוא
 ואין אלהים עמדי
 אני אמת ואחיה
 מחצתי ואני ארפא
 ואין מידי מציל :
 מ כי אשא אל שמים ידי
 ואמרת
 חי אנכי לעולם :
 מא אם שנותי ברק חרבי
 ותאחו במשפט ידי
 אשיב נקם לצרי
 ולמשנאי אשלם :
 מב אשכיר חצי מדם
 וחרבי תאכל בשר
 מדם חלל ושביה
 מראש פרות אויב :
 מג הרנינו גוים עמו
 כי דם עבדיו יקום
 ונקם ישיב לצריו
 וכפר אדמתו עמו :
 מד ויבא משה וידבר את כל דברי
 השירה הזאת באזני העם הוא
 והושע בן נון :

- 45 Then, when Mosheh had finished speaking all these words to all the Jewish People מדה
 ויכל מֹשֶׁה לְדַבֵּר אֶת כָּל הַדְּבָרִים
 הָאֵלֶּה אֶל כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל :
- 46 he said to them: “Concentrate with all your heart upon all the things about which I warn you this day, and command your children likewise, to take heed and to do all the words of this Torah. מו
 ויאמר אֱלֹהִים שִׁימוּ לְבַבְכֶם לְכָל
 הַדְּבָרִים אֲשֶׁר אֲנִי מְעִיד בְּכֶם הַיּוֹם
 אֲשֶׁר תִּצְוֶם אֶת בְּנֵיכֶם לִשְׁמֹר
 לַעֲשׂוֹת אֶת כָּל דְּבָרֵי הַתּוֹרָה הַזֹּאת :
- 47 “For it is not to be to you an empty thing but it is your very life and it is only through this Torah that you will prolong your days on the Land which you go over the River Yardayn to possess.” מז
 כִּי לֹא דָבָר רֶק הוּא מִכֶּם כִּי
 הוּא חַיֵּיכֶם וּבְדָבַר הַזֶּה תִּאָּרִיכוּ
 יָמִים עַל הָאָדָמָה אֲשֶׁר אַתֶּם
 עֹבְרִים אֶת הַיַּרְדֵּן שְׂמָה לְרִשְׁתָּהּ :
- 48 Then HaShem spoke to Mosheh on that very day, saying: מח
 וידבר יי אל מֹשֶׁה
 בְּעֶצֶם הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה לֵאמֹר :
- 49 “Go up this Mountain of the Passes, to Mount Nevo, which is in the country of Mo’av, facing Yericho, and see the Land of Kenaan which I am giving to the Children of Israel as their possession. מט
 עֲלֵה אֶל הַר הָעֹבְרִים הַזֶּה הַר נָבוֹ
 אֲשֶׁר בְּאֶרֶץ מוֹאָב אֲשֶׁר עַל פְּנֵי
 יַרְחוֹ וּרְאֵה אֶת אֶרֶץ כְּנָעַן אֲשֶׁר
 אֲנִי נֹתֵן לְבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לְאֻחֻזָּה :
- 50 “And you will die in that mountain that you go up and you will be gathered to your people, just as Aharon your brother died on Mount Hor and he, too, was gathered to his people. נ
 וּמַת בְּהָר אֲשֶׁר אַתָּה עֹלֶה שְׂמָה
 וְהֶאֱסַף אֶל עַמִּיךָ כְּאֲשֶׁר מַת אַהֲרֹן
 אַחִיךָ בְּהַר הָהָר וַיֶּאֱסַף אֶל עַמּוּי :
- 51 “This is because you both trespassed against My command, in the midst of the Jewish People at the incident of the Waters of Strife at Kodesh in the Wilderness of Tsin — because you both did not greatly sanctify Me then in the midst of the Jewish People. נא
 עַל אֲשֶׁר מְעַלְתֶּם בִּי בְּתוֹךְ
 בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּמִי מְרִיבַת קֹדֶשׁ
 מְדַבֵּר צֵן עַל אֲשֶׁר לֹא קִדְשְׁתֶּם
 אוֹתִי בְּתוֹךְ בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל :
- 52 Therefore from a distance you shall see the Land but you shall not come there — to that Land which I give to the Jewish People. נב
 כִּי מִמְּגֵד תִּרְאֶה אֶת הָאָרֶץ
 וְשָׂמָּה לֹא תָבוֹא אֶל הָאָרֶץ
 אֲשֶׁר אֲנִי נֹתֵן לְבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל :