

Ha'azinu

Deuteronomy 32:1-32:52

Chapter 32

1 Give ear, O heavens, let me speak;
Let the earth hear the words I utter!
2 May my discourse come down as the rain,
My speech distill as the dew,
Like showers on young growth,
Like droplets on the grass.
3 For the name of the Lord I proclaim;
Give glory to our God!

4 The Rock! - His deeds are perfect,
Yea, all His ways are just;
A faithful God, never false,
True and upright is He.

5 Children unworthy of Him -
That crooked, perverse generation -
Their baseness has played Him false.

6 Do you thus requite the Lord,
O dull and witless people?
Is not He the Father who created you,
Fashioned you and made you endure!

7 Remember the days of old,
Consider the years of ages past;
Ask your father, he will inform you,
Your elders, they will tell you:

8 When the Most High gave nations their homes
And set the divisions of man,
He fixed the boundaries of peoples
In relation to Israel's numbers.

9 For the Lord's portion is His people,
Jacob His own allotment.

10 He found him in a desert region,
In an empty howling waste.
He engirded him, watched over him,
Guarded him as the pupil of His eye.

11 Like an eagle who rouses his nestlings,
Gliding down to his young,
So did He spread His wings and take him,
Bear him along on His pinions;
12 The Lord alone did guide him,
No alien god at His side.

13 He set him atop the highlands,
To feast on the yield of the earth;
He fed him honey from the crag,
And oil from the flinty rock,
14 Curd of kine and milk of flocks;
With the best of lambs,
And rams of Bashan, and he-goats;
With the very finest wheat -
And foaming grape-blood was your drink.

15 So Jeshurun grew fat and kicked -
You grew fat and gross and coarse -
He forsook the God who made him
And spurned the Rock of his support.
16 They incensed Him with alien things,
Vexed Him with abominations.
17 They sacrificed to demons, no-gods,
Gods they had never known,
New ones, who came but lately,
Who stirred not your fathers' fears.
18 You neglected the Rock that begot you,
Forgot the God who brought you forth.

19 The Lord saw and was vexed
And spurned His sons and His daughters.

20 He said:
I will hide My countenance from them,
And see how they fare in the end.
For they are a treacherous breed,
Children with no loyalty in them.

21 They incensed Me with no-gods,
Vexed Me with their futilities;
I'll incense them with a no-folk,
Vex them with a nation of fools.

22 For a fire has flared in My wrath
And burned to the bottom of Sheol,
Has consumed the earth and its increase,

Eaten down to the base of the hills.

23 I will sweep misfortunes on them,

Use up My arrows on them:

24 Wasting famine, ravaging plague,

Dedly pestilence, and fanged beasts

Will I let loose against them,

With venomous creepers in dust.

25 The sword shall deal death without,

As shall the terror within,

To youth and maiden alike,

The suckling as well as the aged.

26 I might have reduced them to naught,

Made their memory cease among men,

27 But for fear of the taunts of the foe,

Their enemies who might misjudge

And say, "Our own hand has prevailed;

None of this was wrought by the Lord!"

28 For they are a folk void of sense,

Lacking in all discernment.

29 Were they wise, they would think upon this,

Gain insight into their future:

30 "How could one have routed a thousand,

Or two put ten thousand to flight,

Unless their Rock had sold them,

The Lord had given them up?"

31 For their rock is not like our Rock,

In our enemies' own estimation.

32 Ah! The vine for them is from Sodom,

From the vineyards of Gomorrah;

The grapes for them are poison,

A bitter growth their clusters.

33 Their wine is the venom of asps,

The pitiless poison of vipers.

34 Lo, I have it all put away,

Sealed up in My storehouses,

35 To be My vengeance and recompense,

At the time that their foot falters.

Yea, their day of disaster is near,

And destiny rushes upon them.

36 For the Lord will vindicate His people

And take revenge for His servants,

When He sees that their might is gone,
And neither bond nor free is left.
37 He will say: Where are their gods,
The rock in whom they sought refuge,
38 Who ate the fat of their offerings
And drank their libation wine?
Let them rise up to your help,
And let them be a shield unto you!
39 See, then, that I, I am He;
There is no god beside Me.
I deal death and give life;
I wounded and I will heal:
None can deliver from My hand.
40 Lo, I raise My hand to heaven
And say: As I live forever,
41 When I whet My flashing blade
And My hand lays hold on judgment,
Vengeance will I wreak on My foes,
Will I deal to those who reject Me.
42 I will make My arrows drunk with blood -
As My sword devours flesh -
Blood of the slain and the captive
From the long-haired enemy chiefs.

43 O nations, acclaim His people!
For He'll avenge the blood of His servants,
Wreak vengeance on His foes,
And cleanse the land of His people.

44 Moses came, together with Hosea son of Nun, and recited all the words of this poem in the hearing of the people.

45 And when Moses finished reciting all these words to all Israel, 46 he said to them: Take to heart all the words with which I have warned you this day. Enjoin them upon your children, that they may observe faithfully all the terms of this Teaching. 47 For this is not a trifling thing for you: it is your very life; through it you shall long endure on the land that you are to possess upon crossing the Jordan.

48 That very day the Lord spoke to Moses: 49 Ascend these heights of Abarim to Mount Nebo, which is in the land of Moab facing Jericho, and view the land of Canaan, which I am giving the Israelites as their holding. 50 You shall die on the mountain that you are about to ascend, and shall be gathered to your kin, as your brother Aaron died on Mount Hor and was gathered to his kin; 51 for you both broke faith with Me among the Israelite people, at the waters of Meribath-kadesh in the wilderness of Zin, by

failing to uphold My sanctity among the Israelite people. 52 You may view the land from a distance, but you shall not enter it - the land that I am giving to the Israelite people.

Haftarah for Ha'azinu

II Samuel 22:1-51

Chapter 22

1 David addressed the words of this song to the Lord, after the Lord had saved him from the hands of all his enemies and from the hands of Saul. 2 He said:

O Lord, my crag, my fastness, my deliverer!
3 O God, the rock wherein I take shelter:
My shield, my mighty champion, my fortress and refuge!
My savior, You who rescue me from violence!

4 All praise! I called on the Lord,
And I was delivered from my enemies.

5 For the breakers of Death encompassed me,
The torrents of Belial terrified me;
6 The snares of Sheol encircled me,
The toils of Death engulfed me.

7 In my anguish I called on the Lord,
Cried out to my God;
In His Abode He heard my voice,
My cry entered His ears.

8 Then the earth rocked and quaked,
The foundations of heaven shook -
Rocked by His indignation.

9 Smoke went up from His nostrils,
From His mouth came devouring fire;
Live coals blazed forth from Him.

10 He bent the sky and came down,
Thick cloud beneath His feet.

11 He mounted a cherub and flew;
He was seen on the wings of the wind.

12 He made pavilions of darkness about Him,
Dripping clouds, huge thunderheads;

13 In the brilliance before Him

Blazed fiery coals.

14 The Lord thundered forth from heaven,
The Most High sent forth His voice;

15 He let loose bolts, and scattered them;
Lightning, and put them to rout.

16 The bed of the sea was exposed,
The foundations of the world were laid bare
By the mighty roaring of the Lord,
At the blast of the breath of His nostrils.

17 He reached down from on high, He took me,
Drew me out of the mighty waters;

18 He rescued me from my enemy so strong,
From foes too mighty for me.

19 They attacked me on my day of calamity,
But the Lord was my stay.

20 He brought me out to freedom,
He rescued me because He was pleased with me.

21 The Lord rewarded me according to my merit,
He requited the cleanness of my hands.

22 For I have kept the ways of the Lord
And have not been guilty before my God;

23 I am mindful of all His rules
And have not departed from His laws.

24 I have been blameless before Him,
And have guarded myself against sinning -

25 And the Lord has requited my merit,
According to my purity in His sight.

26 With the loyal You deal loyally;
With the blameless hero, blamelessly.

27 With the pure You act in purity,
And with the perverse You are wily.

28 To humble folk You give victory,
And You look with scorn on the haughty.

29 You, O Lord, are my lamp;
The Lord lights up my darkness.

30 With You, I can rush a barrier,
With my God, I can scale a wall.

31 The way of God is perfect,
The word of the Lord is pure.

He is a shield to all who take refuge in Him.

32 Yea, who is a god except the Lord,

Who is a rock except God -
33 The God, my mighty stronghold,
Who kept my path secure;
34 Who made my legs like a deer's,
And set me firm on the heights;
35 Who trained my hands for battle,
So that my arms can bend a bow of bronze!
36 You have granted me the shield of Your protection
And Your providence has made me great.
37 You have let me stride on freely,
And my feet have not slipped.
38 I pursued my enemies and wiped them out,
I did not turn back till I destroyed them.
39 I destroyed them, I struck them down;
They rose no more, they lay at my feet.
40 You have girt me with strength for battle,
Brought low my foes before me,
41 Made my enemies turn tail before me,
My foes - and I wiped them out.
42 They looked, but there was none to deliver;
To the Lord, but He answered them not.
43 I pounded them like dust of the earth,
Stamped, crushed them like dirt of the streets.
44 You have rescued me from the strife of peoples,
Kept me to be a ruler of nations;
Peoples I knew not must serve me.
45 Aliens have cringed before me,
Paid me homage at the mere report of me.
46 Aliens have lost courage
And come trembling out of their fastnesses.

47 The Lord lives! Blessed is my rock!
Exalted be God, the rock
Who gives me victory;
48 The God who has vindicated me
And made peoples subject to me,
49 Rescued me from my enemies,
Raised me clear of my foes,
Saved me from lawless men!
50 For this I sing Your praise among the nations
And hymn Your name:
51 Tower of victory to His king,
Who deals graciously with His anointed,
With David and his offspring evermore.

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