

Stollen Moments – Ha’azinu – September 23, 2023

PARASHA SUMMARY FROM WWW. REFORMJUDAISM.ORG

- Moses sings his last song, a love poem to God and a chastisement of the people, who are not worthy of Adonai. (32:1–6)
- The poem recounts the blessings that God has bestowed on the Israelites, the wicked deeds they have committed, and the punishments that God then inflicted upon them. (32:7–43)
- God tells Moses to begin his ascent of Mount Nebo, from where he will see the Land of Israel from a distance but will not be allowed to enter it. (32:45–52)

Deuteronomy 32

וְהָאֲזִינוּ הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֲדַבְרָה וְתִשְׁמַע הָאָרֶץ אִמְרֵי־פִי:

1 Give ear, O heavens, that I may speak, hear, O earth, the utterance of my mouth.

יִעְרַף כַּמָּטֶר לִקְחוֹי תִגַּל כַּטֹּל אִמְרֹתַי כַּשֶּׁעֵירִם עַל־יַדְשָׁא וְכַרְבִּיבִים עַל־יַעֲשׂוּב:

2 Let my teaching drip like rain, let my words flow like dew, like droplets on new-growth, like showers on grass.

כִּי שֵׁם יְהוָה אֶקְרָא הִבּוּ גִדְל לֹאֱלֹהֵינוּ:

3 For the name of YHWH I proclaim, give greatness to our God!

הַצֹּרֵר תַּמִּים פְּעֻלוֹ כִּי כָל־דַּרְכָּיו מִשְׁפָּט אֵל אֲמוּנָה וְאֵין עָוֹל צַדִּיק וְיֹשֵׁר הוּא:

4 The Rock, whole-and-perfect are his deeds, for all his ways are just. A God steadfast, [with] no corruption, equitable and upright is he.

שִׁחַת לוֹ לֹא בָנָיו מוֹמִים דּוֹר עַקֹּשׁ וּפְתִילֶתֶל:

5 His children have wrought-ruin toward him—a defect in them, a generation crooked and twisted!

ה לִיהִנֶּה תִגְמְלוּ־זֹאת עִם נָבֵל וְלֹא חֲכָם הִלּוּ־הוּא אָבִיהָ קָנָה הוּא עָשָׂה וְיִלְכָנָה:

6 [Is it] YHWH whom you [thus] pay back, O people foolish and not wise? Is he not your father, your creator, he [who] made you and established you?

זְכַר יָמוֹת עוֹלָם בָּיָנו שָׁנוֹת דַּר־נֶדֶר שִׂאֵל אָבִיךָ וַיִּגְדֶּה זְקֵנֶיךָ וַיֹּאמְרוּ לָךְ:

7 Regard the days of ages-past, understand the years of generation and generation [ago]; ask your father, he will tell you, your elders, they will declare it to you:

בְּהִנָּחַל עַל־יוֹן גּוֹלִים בְּהַפְרִידוֹ בְּגֵי אֲדָם יִצַּב גְּבֻלַת עַמִּים לְמִסְפַּר בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל:

8 when the Most-High gave nations [their] inheritances, at his dividing the human-race, he stationed boundaries for peoples by the number of the gods.

כִּי תִלַּק יְהוָה עַמּוֹ יַעֲקֹב תִּכָּל נַחֲלָתוֹ:

9 Indeed, the portion of YHWH became his people, Yaakov, the lot of his inheritance.

יִמְצְאוּהוּ בְּאֶרֶץ מִדְבָּר וּבְתֵהוּ יִלַּל יִשְׁמֹן יִסְבְּכָנְהוּ יִבּוֹנְנְהוּ יִצְרָנְהוּ כְּאִישׁוֹן עֵינָיו:

10 He found him in a wilderness land, in chaos, a howling desert. He surrounded him, he paid-him-attention, he guarded him like the pupil of his eye;

כְּנֹשֵׁר יַעִיר קִבּוֹ עַל־גּוֹזְלָיו יִרְחַף יִפְרֹשׁ כַּנְּפִיר יִקְחֵהוּ יִשְׂאֵהוּ עַל־אֲבָרְתָּו:

11 like an eagle protecting its nest, over its young-birds hovering, he spread out his wings, he took him, and bore him on his pinions.

יְהוָה בְּדָד יִנְהַנּוּ וְאִין עִמּוֹ אֵל נֶכֶד:

12 YHWH alone did lead them, not with him any foreign god!

יִרְכְּבֵהוּ עַל־[בְּמַתִּי] (בַּמּוֹתִי) אֶרֶץ וַיֵּאכַל תְּנוּבֹת שְׂדֵי וַיִּנְקֵהוּ דָבַשׁ מִסֹּלֶעַ וַיִּשְׁמֵן מִחֶלְמִישׁ צִוּר:

13 He had them mount on the high-places of the land, he fed them the crops of the field; he suckled them with honey from a boulder, with oil from a flinty rock;

חֶמְצָת בְּקֹר וְחֶלֶב צֹאן עִם־חֶלֶב פְּרִים וְאֵילִים בְּגִי־בָשָׁן וְעִתּוּלִים עִם־חֶלֶב כִּלְיוֹת חֲטָה וְדָם־עֵגֶב תִּשְׁתֶּה־חֶמֶר:

14 on curds of cattle and milk of sheep, along with the milk of lambs and rams, of the young of Bashan and he-goats, along with the kidney fat of wheat, and blood of the grapes, you drank fermented [wine].

וַיִּשְׁמֵן יִשְׁרוּן וַיִּבְעֹט שְׂמֵנָה עֲבִית כְּשֵׁית וַיִּטֹּשׂ אֱלֹהֵי עֲשָׂהוּ וַיִּנְבֹּל צִוּר יִשְׁעָתוֹ:

15 But Yeshurun grew fat and kicked, you were fat, you were gross, you were gorged, he forsook the God that made him, and treated-like-a-fool the Rock of his deliverance.

יִקְנֹאֵהוּ בְּזָרִים בְּתוֹעֵבֹת יִכְעִיסֵהוּ:

16 They enraged him with alien [gods], with abominations they provoked him.

וַיִּזְבְּחוּ לַשְׂדִּיִּם לֹא אֱלֹהִים אֲלֵהֶם לֹא יָדְעוּם חֲדָשִׁים מִקְרֹב בָּאוּ לֹא שִׁעְרוּם אֲבַתִּיכֶם:

17 They sacrificed to demons, no-gods, gods they had not known; new-ones from nearby came, of whom your fathers had no idea.

צִוּר יִלְדֶּה תִּשִׁי וַתִּשְׁכַּח אֵל מַחֲלָלָה:

18 The Rock that birthed you, you neglected, you forgot the God that produced-you-in-labor.

בִּיֵּרָא יְהוָה וַיִּנְאֹץ מִכַּעַס בְּגִיו וּבְנִתּוֹ:

19 YHWH saw, and he spurned [you], out of the provocation of his sons and daughters.

וַיֵּאמֶר אֶסְתִּירָה פְּנֵי מַהֶם אֶרְאֶה מָה אַחֲרֵיהֶם כִּי דוֹר תַּהֲפֹכֹת הִמָּה בְּנִים לֹא־אִמְנוּ בָּם:

20 He said: I will conceal my face from them, I will see what is their future. Indeed, a generation of overturning are they, children in whom one cannot trust.

הֵם קִנְאוּנִי בְּלֹא־אֵל כַּעֲסוּנִי בְּהַבְלִיָּהֶם וְאֲנִי אֶקְנִיאֶם בְּלֹא־עֵם בְּגִוִי נִבֵּל אֶכְעִיסֶם:

21 They aroused my zealous-rage with a no-god, provoked me with their nothingnesses; so I will arouse their rage with a no-people, with a nation of fools I will provoke them!

כִּי־אֵשׁ קִדְתָּהּ בְּאִפִּי וַתִּיקַד עַד־שָׂאוֹל תַּחֲתֵית וַתֵּאכַל אֶרֶץ וַיִּבְלָה וַתִּלְהַט מִוֹסְגֵי תְרִים:

22 For fire is kindled in my nostrils, it burns [down] to Sheol, below, it devours the earth and its yield, and sets-ablaze the hills' foundations.

אֶסְפֶּה עֲלֵימוֹ רַעוֹת חֲצֵי אֶכְלֶה־בָּם:

23 I will sweep them away with evils, my arrows I will spend against them.

מִגִּי רַעַב וּלְחָמִי רִשׁוֹף וְקִטְבַּת מְרִירִי וְשׁוֹן־בְּהֵמַת אֲשַׁלַּח־בָּם עִם־חֲמַת זֹחֲלֵי עֲפָר:

24 Drained by famine, deprived-of-food by fiery-plague and bitter pestilence; the teeth of beasts I will send out against them, along with the hot-venom of crawlers in the dust.

מחול תשכל־תִּקְרַב ומתְדַרְרִים אִימָה גַם־בַּחֹרֶר גַּם־בַּתּוֹלָה יוֹנֵק עַם־אִישׁ שִׁיבָה:

25 Outside, the sword bereaves, in rooms-within, Terror! [Destroying] young-man and virgin alike, the nurseling along with the gray-haired man.

אֲמַרְתִּי אֶפְאַיֶהֶם אֲשַׁבִּיתָהּ מֵאֲנוּשׁ זָכָרָם:

26 I would have said: I will cleave-them-in pieces, I will make their memory cease from mortals,

לֹאֲלִי בָעַס אֹיֵב אֲגִיד פֶּן־יִנְפְּרוּ צַדִּיקִים פֶּן־יֵאֱמְרוּ יִדְבְּנוּ רָמָה וְלֹא יִהְיֶה פֶּעַל כָּל־זֹאת:

27 —except that I feared the provocation from the enemy, lest their foes misconstrue, lest they say: Our hand is raised high—; not YHWH wrought all this!

כִּי־גֹי אֲבִד עֲצוֹת הַמָּה וְאֵין בָּהֶם תְּבוּנָה:

28 For a nation straying from counsel are they, in them there is no understanding.

לֹו חֲקָמוּ יִשְׁפִּילוּ זֹאת יִבְיִנוּ לֹא־חֲרִיתָם:

29 If [only] they were wise, they would contemplate this, they would understand their future!

אֵיכָה יִרְדֹּף אֲחֵד אֶלְפֵי וְשִׁנַּיִם יִגִּיסוּ רִבְבָה אִם־לֹא כִּי־צוּרָם מְכַלֵּם וַיִּהְיֶה הַסִּגְיָרָם:

30 How can one pursue a thousand, two put a myriad to flight, unless their Rock had sold them out, YHWH had handed them over?

כִּי לֹא כְצוּרָנוּ צוּרָם וְאֵיבֵינוּ פְּלִילִים:

31 For not like their rock is our Rock, though our enemies [so] assess it;

כִּי־מִגֶּפֶן סֹדֶם גִּפְנִים וּמִשְׂדֵּמֶת עֲמֹרָה עֲנַבְמֹו עֲנַב־רֹשׁ אֲשַׁכֵּלֶת מְרֹת לָמוּ:

32 indeed, from the vine of Sodom is their vine, from the fields of Amora, their grapes are grapes of poison, clusters bitter for them,

חֲמַת תְּנִינִים יִיגַם וְרֹאשׁ פְּתָנִים אֲכָזָר:

33 the hot-venom of serpents their wine, the cruel poison of vipers.

הֲלֹא־הוּא כְּמַס עֲמֹדֵי חֲתוּם בְּאוֹצְרוֹתָי:

34 Is this not laid up in store with me, sealed up in my treasuries:

לִי נֶקֶם וְשִׁלְמִים לְעַת תְּמוּט רַגְלָם כִּי קְרוֹב יוֹם אֵינָם וְחַשׁ עֲתֵדֶת לָמוּ:

35 mine are vengeance and payback, at the time when their foot slips, for near is the day of their calamity, making haste, the things impending for them.

כִּי־יִגְדִין יִהְיֶה עֲמוֹ וְעַל־עֲבָדָיו יִתְנַחֵם כִּי יִרְאֶה כִּי־אֲזַלֶּת לְדָ וְאֶפֶס עֲצוּר וְעֹזֹב:

36 But YHWH will judge [in favor of] his people, regarding his servants he will repent, when he sees that strength-of-hand is gone, naught [left] of [even] fettered and forsaken.

וְאָמַר אֵי אֱלֹהֵימוּ צוּר חֲסִיו בּוֹ:

37 He will say: Where are its gods, the rock in whom it sought-refuge,

אֲשֶׁר תִּלְבַּז זְבַחֵימוּ יֵאָכְלוּ יִשְׁתּוּ יִין גְּסִיכָם יִקְוִמוּ וַיַּעֲזְרוּכֶם יְהִי עֲלֵיכֶם סִתְרָה:

38 that devoured the fat of their sacrifices, drank the wine of their poured-offerings? Let them rise up and help you, let them be over you a shelter!

רָאוּ וַעֲמָהּ כִּי אֲנִי הוּא וְאִין אֱלֹהִים עִמָּדִי אֲנִי אֲמִית וְאֶחָיָהּ מִחַצְתִּי וְאֲנִי אֲרַפָּא וְאִין מִזְדִּי מִצָּיִל:

39 See now that I, I am he, there is no god beside me; I myself bring-death, bestow-life, I wound and I myself heal, and there is from my hand no rescuing!

כִּי-אֲשָׂא אֶל-שָׁמַיִם יָדִי וְאֶמְרָתִי תִּי אֲנֹכִי לַעֲלֹם:

40 For I lift up my hand to the heavens, and say: As I live, for the ages—

אִם-שָׁנוּתִי בְּרַק חֲרָפִי וְתֹאתוֹ בְּמִשְׁפָּט יָדִי אֲשִׁיב נֶקֶם לְצָרָי וְלִמְשֹׁנָי אֲשַׁלֵּם:

41 when I sharpen my lightning sword, my hand seizes judgment, I will return vengeance on my foes, and those who hate me, I will pay back.

אֲשַׁפֵּיר חֲצִי מִדָּם וְחֲרָפִי תֹאכַל בְּשָׂר מִדָּם חָלָל וְשִׁבְיָהּ מִרֹאשׁ פְּרַעוֹת אֲנִיב:

42 I will make my arrows drunk with blood, my sword devour flesh, with the blood of the slain and the captives, from the head thick-with-locks of the enemy.

הִרְגִּינוּ גֹזֵם עִמּוֹ כִּי דָם-עֲבָדָיו יִקּוּם וְנֶקֶם יֵשִׁיב לְצָרָיו וְכִפֹּר אֶדְמָתוֹ עִמּוֹ: {פ}

43 Give a ringing-cry, O nations, [over] his people, for the blood of his servants he will avenge. Vengeance he will return upon his foes, effecting-atonement for the land of his people!

וַיָּבֹא מֹשֶׁה וַיְדַבֵּר אֶת-כָּל-דִּבְרֵי הַשִּׁירָה-הַזֹּאת בְּאָזְנֵי הָעָם הוּא וְהוֹשֶׁע בֶּן-נּוּן:

44 Moshe came and spoke all the words of this song in the hearing of the people, he and Hoshe'a son of Nun.

וַיְקַל מֹשֶׁה לְדַבֵּר אֶת-כָּל-הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה אֶל-כָּל-יִשְׂרָאֵל:

45 [When] Moshe had finished speaking all these words to all Israel,

וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים עִימּוֹ לְבַבְכֶם לְכָל-הַדְּבָרִים אֲשֶׁר אֲנִי מַעֲיִד בְּכֶם הַיּוֹם אֲשֶׁר תִּצְנֹב אֶת-בְּנֵיכֶם לְשִׁמֹּר לַעֲשׂוֹת אֶת-כָּל-דִּבְרֵי הַתּוֹרָה הַזֹּאת:

46 he said to them: Set your hearts toward all these words which I call-as-witness among you today, that you may command your children to take care to observe all the words of this Instruction.

כִּי לֹא-דָבָר רֵק הוּא מִכֶּם כִּי-הוּא חַיִּיכֶם וּבִדְבַר הַזֶּה תִּאָּרִיכוּ יָמֵיכֶם עַל-הָאָדָמָה אֲשֶׁר אֲתֶם עֹבְרִים אֶת-הַיַּרְדֵּן שָׁמָּה לְרִשְׁתָּהּ: {פ}

47 Indeed, no empty word is it for you, indeed, it is your [very] life; through this word you shall prolong [your] days upon the land that you are crossing over the Jordan to possess.

וַיְדַבֵּר יְהוָה אֶל-מֹשֶׁה בְּעֶצֶם הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה לֵאמֹר:

48 YHWH spoke to Moshe on that same day, saying:

עֲלֵה אֶל-הַר הָעֵבְרָיִים הַזֶּה הַר-רֵבּוֹ אֲשֶׁר בְּאֶרֶץ מוֹאָב אֲשֶׁר עַל-פְּנֵי יַרְדֵּן וַיִּרְאֶה אֶת-אֶרֶץ כְּנָעַן אֲשֶׁר אֲנִי נֹתֵן לְבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לְאִתְּנָהּ:

49 Go up these heights of Avarim/The-Region-Across, Mount Nevo that is in the land of Moav, that faces Jericho, and see the land of Canaan that I am giving to the Children of Israel for a holding.

וְמָת בְּהַר אֲשֶׁר אִתָּהּ עֲלֵה שָׁמָּה וְהִאֲסַף אֶל-עַמִּי כְּאֲשֶׁר-לָמַת אַהֲרֹן אֶחָיָהּ בְּהַר הַהָר וַיִּאֲסַף אֶל-עַמּוֹ:

50 You are to die on the mountain that you are going up, and are to be gathered to your kinspeople, as Aharon your brother died on Hill's Hill and was gathered to his kinspeople

עַל אֲשֶׁר מְעַלְתֶּם בִּי בַתּוֹךְ בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּמִי-מְרִיבַת קַדְשׁ מִדְּבַר-צִוְי עַל אֲשֶׁר לֹא-קִדְשַׁתֶּם אוֹתִי בַתּוֹךְ בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל:

50 —because you [both] broke-faith with me in the midst of the Children of Israel at the waters of Merivat Kadesh, in the Wilderness of Tzyn, because you did not treat-me-as-holy in the midst of the Children of Israel.

כִּי מִבְּגַד תִּירְאֶה אֶת-הָאֶרֶץ וְשָׁמָּה לֹא תָבוֹא אֶל-הָאֶרֶץ אֲשֶׁר-אֲנִי נֹתֵן לְבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל: {פ}

51 Indeed, at a distance you shall see the land, but there you shall not enter, the land that I am giving to the Children of Israel.