

Portion Haazinu Deuteronomy - Devarim (32.1-32.52)

After Moses' last speech to the children of Israel, God tells Moses to write down a song to teach to the Israelites how God's prophecies come true. God says, "Let the people sing this song to remember My words. Let this song be a witness to the future. You will see that when the people settle in the land that flows with milk and honey, they will eat and be satisfied and become fat. They will turn to other gods and serve them, mocking Me and My covenant every chance they get. Tell them to listen to this song when the evils and troubles come. Listen O, Israel to this song:

"Listen heaven and earth hear My words so
My Teaching may penetrate like a rain
breaking up the soil so that My promise may
flow gently like the dew. Great is our God. All
God's ways are just.

God of trust and no violence, righteous and
upright is God. But the children of God are so
persistent in their crookedness,
they are so corrupt,
stealing, lying, cheating and killing as if no-
One was looking.

Ask yourself, "Is this how you repay God? Did
God not form you when God gave you your
purpose?
Don't you remember the days of old when
God made you a people belonging to God,
when the Israelites became the pupil of God's
eye,
when God taught Israel
to suckle honey from the rock.

Then Israel became fat forsaking God the
Creator,
angering God
by making offerings to other gods
rejecting God and Godliness.
God will judge God's people
and at the appointed time
Israel's foot will slip
and God's decree will change. I will cause
them grief through a withered nation. I will let
evil upon evil come upon them.

Sing this song, Hear My voice O'Israel
I kill and restore life,
I inflict wounds and heal them.
I am God eternal, living forever.
All nations
make God's people's lot a happy one,

for God will
those who hurt God's servants
and God will turn in anger upon God's enemies,
and God's people will atone for God's world."

Moses taught this song to the people and then said, "Learn the words to this song so you may carry its Teachings to your children. These words are not empty -- it is your very life, and with it you will prolong your days in the Promised Land."

On that same day, God spoke to Moses saying, "Go up to this Mountain of Transitions, to Mount Nebo, which is in the land of Moab, facing Jericho, and see the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the sons of Israel as a possession. Die on the mountain and be gathered there to your people, as your brother Aaron died on Mount Hor and was gathered to his people. You must die because you did not honor Me among the sons of Israel at the waters of contention in Kadesh. Only from a distance shall you see the Land, Moses. You will not go to the land that I am giving to the sons of Israel."

Questions: 1) Does this song still serve as a "witness" to the Jews today? How? 2) Describe the "children of Israel" in this song. Is this true today? 3) Describe "God" in this song. Is your perception of God different or the same as in this song?

Illustration ideas: Moses singing this song on the banks of the Jordan River...the children of Israel learning to sing the song...the mountain where Moses will die...the promised land across the river