

Haazinu Deuteronomy - Devarim (32.1-32.52)

Before he dies, Moses predicts the satisfied Children of Israel who live in the land of their inheritance will forget God and God's Teachings and evil and trouble will invade their life. So Moses proclaimed this song to the entire assembly of Israel.

“Listen heaven and earth
hear My words so My Teaching
may flow down like rain.
When I call out God's Name, praise God
for God is Great, Rock solid.
All God's ways are just.

God of trust and no violence
righteous and upright is God.
It is the children in the twisted generation
who stray in their crooked ways
who bring upon the troubles, not God.

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?
Ask your parent or grandparent and they will explain it.

When God gave the nations their heritages,
God made you a people belonging to God.
When God guarded you and Alone guided you,
God granted you wisdom
and let you suckle honey from a rock.

But you will become obese and rebellious
forsaking God the Creator
dismissing God's Teachings
angering God
by making offerings to new deities
by ignoring Almighty God who bore you,
by forgetting God who delivered you.

God will hide and see what will be their end.
A twisted untrustworthy generation
with no gratitude
will provoke God and
God's decree will change.

God will cause grief and let troubles befall them.
God will plague them with famine and fever and evil.
Let the wise ponder this to understand what their end will be.

When it is time
God will take up the cause of God's people and comfort God's servants
for God will reveal their deities have no power
and say, "It is I! I am the One and Only.
I kill and restore life,
I inflict wounds and heal them.
I am God Eternal,
living forever.

So all nations
make God's people's lot a happy one,
for God will hurt those who hurt God's servants
and turn in anger upon God's enemies,
and God's people will reconcile with God's Land."

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

On that very 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) How do you repay God?

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