

OCTOBER 11, 2019

Parashat Haazinu

Deuteronomy 31:1-30

Taught By:

Ilan & Eden

### SUMMARY

*Ha'azinu* is the second-to-last Torah portion and almost the whole thing is a song or poem that Moshe recites to the Israelites. The poem reminds us of God's justice and patience even when Israel does things that are wrong. The words of the poem are written in the Torah scroll two columns.

Moshe also tells the Israelites to remember their history and their connections--through their families--with God. After Moshe recites the poem God tells Moshe to go up on top of Mount Nebo so Moshe can see the land of Israel--even though God will not let him enter it.



**1) Moshe begins some of his last words of inspiration and guidance--in the form of a poem--by saying:**

הָאָזִינוּ הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֲדַבְרָה וְתִשְׁמַע הָאָרֶץ אִמְרֵי-פִי:

***Give ear, heavens, and I will speak; Listen, land, to the sayings of my mouth.***

**Why might Moshe begin this way?**

**Why ask the heavens and earth to hear instead of saying, Shema Yisrael, or something like that?**

**EDEN:** It makes sense to me that he wants to make sure he has everyone's attention before he starts talking. In class, when I have an important question for my teacher, I want to make sure that she is listening before I ask.

**ILAN:** Maybe saying listen up heaven and earth is a poetic way of saying that he wants EVERYONE, heaven to earth, top to bottom, to listen.

**2) After Moshe asks for attention, the next thing he does is ask for G!d's help with his words, saying, "Let my teaching drip like rain, let my words flow like dew, like droplets on new-growth, like showers on grass." He talks a lot about water. Why do you think he would compare his words to water--asking for them to drip like rain, flow like dew, be like droplets on new growth and like showers on grass?**

**ILAN**: I imagine that when he is speaking Moshe might be standing above people and he wants his words to fall on them and for them to catch and sink into their minds.

**EDEN**: Maybe Moshe knows his words are Torah and he wants his words to cause life--for his words to be like water to the people who are like thirsty grass.

### **3) How can Torah be like water?**

**EDEN**: Weekly *parashiyot* are like little drops of Torah, and when we hear someone chant or teach it can feel like water falling on us.

**ILAN**: Like water, Torah spreads. Also it is meant to sink into peoples' minds like water. Last week Ari & Annika taught that each person is responsible for writing their own *Torah* scroll which could be one way that Torah could sink in for someone.

