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האזינו Ha'Azinu

Deuteronomy 32:1-52

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- 1 Give ear, O heavens, let me speak; Let the earth hear the words I utter!

הֶאֱזִינוּ הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶדְבָּרָה וְתִשְׁמַע הָאָרֶץ אִמְרֵי־פִי:
- 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. *May my discourse ... on the grass I.e., may my words be received eagerly; cf. Job 29.22–23.

כִּטְל אִמְרָתִי כְשֶׁעִירָם עַל־דָּשָׁא וְכַרְבִּיבִים עַל־עֵשֶׂב: יֵעָרֶף כַּמָּטָר לִקְחֵי תִזֹּל
- 3 For the name of יהוה I proclaim; Give glory to our God!

כִּי שֵׁם יְהוָה אֶקְרָא הִבּוּ גֹדֶל לֵאלֹהֵינוּ:
- 4 The Rock!—whose deeds are perfect, Yea, all God's ways are just; A faithful God, never false, True and upright indeed.

כִּלְדִּרְכָּיו מִשְׁפָּט אֶל אֱמוּנָה וְאֵין עֹל צְדִיק וְיֵשֶׁר הוּא: הַצּוֹר תָּמִים פָּעָלוֹ כִּי
- 5 *Meaning of verse uncertain. Unworthy children—That crooked, perverse generation—Their baseness has played God false.

שֹׁחַת לוֹ לֹא בָנָיו מוֹמָם דּוֹר עֶקֶשׁ וּפְתִילָתַל:
- 6 Do you thus requite יהוה, O dull and witless people? Is not this the Father? *Father A poetic figure that takes as a given the ancient Near Eastern status and gender hierarchy: a promise of legitimacy, protection, and sustenance in return for obedience. See further the Dictionary under "father." who created you—Fashioned you and made you endure!

נָבֵל וְלֹא חֲכָם הֲלוֹא־הוּא אֲבִיךָ קִלְךָ הוּא עֹשֶׂה וְיִכְנָנְךָ: תִּימָן הַלִּיהוָה בְּתִיבָה אַחַת (תִּנְמְלוּ־זֹאת עִם הַלִּיהוָה*) בַּסִּפְרִי
- 7 Remember the days of old, Consider the years of ages past; Ask your parent, who will inform you, Your elders, who will tell you:

בִּינּוּ שָׁנוֹת דֶּרֶךְ־זָכוֹר שֶׁאֵל אֲבִיךָ וְיִגְדֶּךָ זְקֵנֶיךָ וְיֹאמְרוּ לְךָ: זְכוֹר יָמֹת עוֹלָם
- 8 When the Most High gave nations their homes And set the divisions of humanity, [God] fixed the boundaries of peoples In relation to Israel's numbers.

בְּנֵי אָדָם יֵצֵב גְּבֻלַּת עַמִּים לְמִסְפַּר בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל: בְּהִנָּחֵל עֲלֵיוֹן גּוֹלָם בְּהַפְרִידוֹ
- 9 For יהוה's portion is this people; Jacob, God's own allotment.

כִּי חֶלֶק יְהוָה עַמּוֹ יַעֲקֹב חֶבֶל נַחֲלָתוֹ:
- 10 [God] found them in a desert region, In an empty howling waste. [God] engirded them, watched over them, Guarded them as the pupil of God's eye.

יָלַל יִשְׁמֹן יִסְבְּגָנָהוּ יְבוּנָהוּ יִצְרָנָהוּ כְּאִישׁוֹן עֵינָו: יִמְצָאָהוּ בָּאָרֶץ מִדְבָּר וּבְתֵהוּ
- 11 Like an eagle who rouses its nestlings, Gliding down to its young, So did [God] spread wings and take them, Bear them along on pinions;

עַל־גּוֹזְלָיו יִרְחֹף יִפְרֹשׁ כַּנְפָּיו יִקְחָהוּ יִשְׂאָהוּ עַל־אֲבָרְתּוֹ: כְּנֶשֶׁר יַעִיר קִנּוֹ
- 12 יהוה alone did guide them, No alien god alongside.

יְהוָה בֶּדֶד יִנְחֵנּוּ וְאֵין עִמּוֹ אֵל נָכַר:

- 13 [God] set them atop the highlands, To feast on the yield of the earth; Nursing them with honey from the crag, And oil from the flinty rock,
- 14 Curd of kine and milk of flocks; With the best*best Lit. "fat." of lambs, And rams of Bashan, and he-goats; With the very finest*very finest Lit. "kidney fat of." wheat—And foaming grape-blood was your drink.
- 15 So Jeshurun grew fat and kicked—You grew fat and gross and coarse*coarse Meaning of Heb. kasitha uncertain. —They forsook the God who made them And spurned the Rock of their support.
- 16 They incensed [God] with alien things, Vexed [God] with abominations.
- 17 They sacrificed to demons, no-gods, Gods they had never known, New ones, who came but lately, Who stirred not your forebears' fears.*Who stirred not your forebears' fears Meaning of Heb. uncertain; Arabic sha'ara suggests the rendering "Whom your forebears did not know."
- 18 You neglected the Rock who begot you, Forgot the God who labored to bring you forth.
- 19 וירא יהוה וינאץ מִכַּעַס בָּנָיו וּבָנֹתָיו: saw and was vexed And spurned these sons and daughters.
- 20 [God] 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;*futilities I.e., idols. 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, Deadly 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.
- תְּנוּבַת שָׂדֵי וַיִּנְקְהוּ דְּבַשׁ מִסֻּלֶּע וּשְׁמֵן מִחִלְמִישׁ צוּר: יִרְכְּבֻהוּ עַל- [בְּמַתִּי] בַּמּוֹתִי אֶרֶץ וַיֹּאכֵל
- כִּלְיֹת חֲטָה וְדָם-עֹנֵב תִּשְׁתֶּה חֶמֶר: כְּרִים וְאַיִלִים בְּנֵי-בִשְׁוֹן וְעִתּוּלִים עִם-חֶלֶב חֶמְאָת בָּקָר וְחֶלֶב צֹאן עִם-חֶלֶב
- עֲבִית כְּשִׂית וַיִּטֵּשׁ אֱלֹהִים עֲשָׂהוּ וַיִּנְבֵּל צוּר יִשְׁעָתוֹ: וַיִּשְׁמֹן יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיִּבְלֹט שְׁמֹנֶת
- יִקְנָאָהוּ בְּזָרִים בְּתוֹעֵבָת יַכְעִיסָהוּ: לֹא יָדְעוּם חֲדָשִׁים מִקֶּרֶב בָּאוּ לֹא שָׁעָרוּם אֲבֹתֵיכֶם: יִזְבְּחוּ לַשִּׂדִּים לֹא אֱלֹהִים אֱלֹהִים
- צוּר יִלְדֶךָ תִּשְׁי וְתִשְׁכַּח אֶל מִחֻלְלֶךָ: וַיֵּרָא יְהוָה וַיִּנְאֹץ מִכַּעַס בָּנָיו וּבָנֹתָיו:
- אֶחָרִיתָם כִּי דֹר תִּהְפָּכֶת הִמָּה בָנִים לֹא-אֱמָן בָּם: וַיֹּאמֶר אֶסְתִּירָה פָנַי מֵהֶם אֶרְאֶה מָה
- בְּהַבְלִיהֶם וְאֲנִי אֶקְנִיאֶם בְּלֹא-עֹם בְּגוֹי נָבֵל אֶכְעִיסֶם: הֵם קִנְאוּנִי בְּלֹא-אֵל כְּעִסְוִנִי
- תִּחַתִּית וְתֹאכֵל אֶרֶץ וַיִּבְלֶה וְתִלְהֹט מוֹסְדֵי הָרִים: כִּי-אֵשׁ קִדְחָהּ בְּאֶפֶי וְתִיקַד עַד-שְׂאֹל
- אֶסְפָּה עֲלֵימוֹ רַעוֹת חֲצִי אֶכְלֶה-בָּם: מְרִירִי וּשְׁוֹן-בְּהֶמָּה אֶשְׁלַח-בָּם עִם-חֲמַת זֹחֲלֵי עֶפֶר: מִזֵּי רָעַב וּלְחָמִי רֶשֶׁף וְקֶטֶב
- אֵימָה גִּם-יִבְחֹר גִּם-יִבְתּוֹלָה יוֹנֵק עִם-אִישׁ שְׂיִבָּה: מִחוּץ תִּשְׁכַּל-חֶרֶב וּמִחוּדָרִים

- 26 אִמְרָתִי אֶפְאַיֵּהֶם אֲשַׁכְּתֶהּ מֵאַנּוּשׁ וְכָרֶם:
I might have reduced them to naught,*I might have reduced them to naught Lit. "I said, I will reduce..."; meaning of Heb. 'aph'ehem uncertain. Made their memory cease among humankind,
- 27 צָרִימוּ פְּרִיאֲמָרוּ יִדְּנוּ לָמָּה וְלֹא יִהְיֶה פֶּעַל כָּל־זֹאת:
לֹאִי כָעַס אוֹיֵב אֲגֹר פְּרִינְכָרוּ
But for fear of the taunts of the foe,Their enemies who might misjudgeAnd say, "Our own hand has prevailed;None of this was wrought by יהוה!"
- 28 כִּי־נֹוֹי אֲבָד עֲצוֹת הָמָּה וְאִין בָּהֶם תְּבוּנָה:
*Here, apparently, Moses is the speaker; God resumes in v. 32. For they are a folk void of sense,Lacking in all discernment.
- 29 לֹו חֲכָמוּ יִשְׁכְּכִילוּ זֹאת יִבְיִנוּ לְאַחֲרֵיתָם:
Were they wise, they would think upon this,Gain insight into their future:
- 30 יִנִּיסוּ רִבְבָּהּ אִם־לֹא כִי־צוּרָם מְכָלָם נִיהוּהָ הַסִּגְיָרָם:
אֵיכָּה יִרְדֹּף אֶחָד אֶלְף וּשְׁנָיִם
"How could one have routed a thousand,Or two put ten thousand to flight,Unless their Rock had sold them, יהוה had given them up?"
- 31 כִּי לֹא כְצוּרָנוּ צוּרָם וְאִיבֵינוּ פְּלִילִים:
For their rock is not like our Rock,In our enemies' own estimation.*In our enemies' own estimation I.e., as everyone must admit. For Heb. pelilim ("own estimation") see Exod. 21.22; cf. Gen. 48.11.
- 32 עֲמָרָה עֲנַב־יִרְוֹשׁ אֲשַׁכְּלֶת מִרְרָתָ לָמוּ:
כִּי־מִנְפֶּן סָדֶם גִּפְלָם וּמִשְׁדָּמָת
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 חֲמַת תַּנִּינִים יֵינָם וְרָאשׁ פִּתְנִים אֲכֹר:
Their wine is the venom of asps,The pitiless poison of vipers.
- 34 הֲלֹא־הוּא כְמַס עֲמָדֵי חֲתוּם בְּאוֹצְרוֹתֵי:
Lo, I have it all put away,Sealed up in My storehouses,
- 35 תָּמוּט רַגְלָם כִּי קָרוֹב יוֹם אִיָּלָם וְחֵשׁ עֲתֹדֶת לָמוּ:
לִי נֶקֶם וְשִׁלְמָ לָעֵת
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 יִתְנַחֵם כִּי יִרְאֶה כִי־אֲזִילֶת יָד וְאָפֶס עֲצוּר וְעֹזוֹב:
כִּי־יִדְּיִן יִהְיֶה עֲמֹו וְעַל־עֲבָדָיו
For יהוה will vindicate God's peopleAnd take revenge for*And take revenge for Cf. Isa. 1.24. Others "and repent Himself concerning." God's servants,Upon seeing that their might is gone,And neither bond nor free is left.
- 37 וְאָמַר אֵי אֱלֹהֵימוּ צוּר חֲסִיו בּוֹ:
[God] will say: Where are their gods,The rock in whom they sought refuge,
- 38 יִשְׁתּוּ יֵין נְסִיכָם יִקְוּמוּ וַיַּעֲזְרֵלָם יְהִי עֲלֵיכֶם סִתְרָה:
אֲשֶׁר חֲלָב וּבְחֵימוּ יֵאָכְלוּ
Who ate the fat of their offeringsAnd drank their libation wine?Let them rise up to your help,And let them be a shield unto you!
- 39 אֲמִית וְאֶחָדָה מִחֻצְתִּי וְאֲנִי אֶרְפָּא וְאִין מִיָּדִי מִצִּיל:
רָאוּ | עֲתָה כִּי אֲנִי אֲנִי הוּא וְאִין אֱלֹהִים עֲמָדִי אֲנִי
See, then, that I, I am the One;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 כי־אֶשָּׂא אֶל־שָׁמַיִם יָדִי וְאִמָּרְתִּי חִי אֲנֹכִי לְעֹלָם: Lo, I raise My hand to heaven And say: As I live forever,
- 41 בְּמִשְׁפָּט יָדִי אֶשְׂיֵב נֶקֶם לְצָרִי וְלִמְשַׁנְאִי אֶשְׁלֵם: אִם־שִׁנּוּתִי בְּרֶקֶת חֲרָבִי וְתֹאחֲזוּ 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 תֹּאכַל בְּשָׂר מִדָּם חָלַל וְשִׁבְלָה מִרֹאשׁ פְּרָעוֹת אוֹיֵב: אֶשְׁכִּיר חֲצִי מִדָּם וְחֲרָבִי 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 דַּם־עַבְדֵּי יְקֹוֹם וְנֶקֶם יֵשֵׁיב לְצָרָיו וְכֹפֶר אֲדַמְתּוּ עִמּוֹ: הֲרִנְיִנוּ גוֹיִם עִמּוֹ כִּי O nations, acclaim God's people! For He'll avenge the blood of His servants, Wreak vengeance on His foes, And cleanse His people's land.* And cleanse His people's land Cf. Num. 35.33. Meaning of Heb. uncertain; Ugaritic 'udm't "tears" suggests the rendering "And wipe away His people's tears." Cf. Isa. 25.8.
- 44 אֶת־כָּל־דִּבְרֵי הַשִּׁירָה־הַזֹּאת בְּאָזְנִי הָעָם הוּא וְהוֹשַׁע בֶּן־נֹון: וַיִּבְּא מֹשֶׁה וַיְדַבֵּר And Moses came, together with Hosea son of Nun, and recited all the words of this poem in the hearing of the people.
- 45 וַיְכַל מֹשֶׁה לְדַבֵּר אֶת־כָּל־הַדְּבָרִים הָאֵלֶּה אֶל־כָּל־יִשְׂרָאֵל: And when Moses finished reciting all these words to all Israel,
- 46 תִּצְוֶם אֶת־בְּנֵיכֶם לִשְׁמֹר לַעֲשׂוֹת אֶת־כָּל־דִּבְרֵי הַתּוֹרָה הַזֹּאת: שְׁמִימוּ לִבְבְּכֶם לְכָל־הַדְּבָרִים אֲשֶׁר אֲנֹכִי מַעֲיִד בְּכֶם הַיּוֹם אֲשֶׁר וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵהֶם 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 יָמִים עַל־הָאָדָמָה אֲשֶׁר אַתָּם עֹבְרִים אֶת־הַיַּרְדֵּן שְׂמָה לְרִשְׁתָּהּ: כִּי לֹא־דָבָר רָק הוּא מַלְּכֶם כִּי־הוּא חַיִּיכֶם וּבִדְבַר הַזֶּה תֵּאָרִיכוּ 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 וַיְדַבֵּר יְהוָה אֶל־מֹשֶׁה בַּעֲצָם הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה לֵאמֹר: That very day הוהי spoke to Moses:
- 49 יָרָחוּ וּרְאֹה אֶת־אֶרֶץ כְּנָעַן אֲשֶׁר אֲנִי נֹתֵן לְבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לְאֻחֲזָה: אֶל־הַר הָעֵבְרִים הַזֶּה הָרִנְבוֹ אֲשֶׁר בְּאֶרֶץ מוֹאָב אֲשֶׁר עַל־פְּנֵי עֵלָה 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 אֶל־עַמְיִיךָ כְּאֲשֶׁר־מָת אַהֲרֹן אֲחִיךָ בְּהָר הַהוּא וַיֵּאסֶף אֶל־עַמּוֹ: וּמָת בְּהָר אֲשֶׁר אֵתָּה עֵלָה שְׂמָה וְהֵאסֶף 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 קִדַּשׁ מִדְּבָרְצֶן עַל אֲשֶׁר לֹא־קִדַּשְׁתָּם אוֹתִי בְּתוֹךְ בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל: עַל אֲשֶׁר מָעַלְתָּם בִּי בְּתוֹךְ בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּמִי־מְרִיבָת 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 וְשָׂמָה לֹא תִבּוֹא אֶל־הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר־אֲנִי נֹתֵן לְבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל: כִּי מִנְּגִיד תִּרְאֶה אֶת־הָאָרֶץ You may view the land from a distance, but you shall not enter it—the land that I am giving to the Israelite people.