

This week's parsha is פרשת האזינו, the famous song of the Torah, contains the entire history of the world. It is להבדיל the DNA of the whole world. There's an interesting story about the רמב"ן and his תלמיד whose name was Avner which illustrates this amazing point.

The רמב"ן had a תלמיד named Avner who went off the דרך. He denied the teachings of the Torah, became משומד, and became a high official in the court of Spain. On יום כיפור, this משומד, apostate, sent for the רמב"ן and ordered him to come at once. When the רמב"ן, his former rebbi, came before him, this man took a pig, slaughtered it, cooked it, and ate it.

Then he asked, how many עבירות did I just commit? The רמב"ן replied "Four. What has brought you to deny the Torah of your fathers and act this way?" "You", said Avner, pointing an accusing finger at the רמב"ן. "You once taught us that all of the מצוות of the Torah were hinted at in the פרשה of האזינו, if one knew how to look for them. You said that this פרשה contains everything, past, present, and future, even all the secrets of science and nature. I couldn't believe this. How could one little פרשה be so full of knowledge? Your statement brought me eventually to deny the entire Torah."

"I do not take back what I said" the רמב"ן responded. "I still maintain that everything, all human knowledge, all of the laws of science, all past and future history, everything is contained in האזינו. If you don't believe me, ask me a question. I will show you. Challenge me with anything." "Very well", the former disciple challenged, "Show me where I am. Show me where Avner is in האזינו."

Hashem endowed the רמב"ן with רוח הקודש and without hesitating he quoted the אֲמַרְתִּי אֶפְאַיֶקֶם אֶשְׁבִּיתָהּ, which is in פרק ל"ב פסוק כ"ו, האזינו. If you look at the third letter of every word, you see the name Avner. You know what this pasuk means? It means that Hashem will wipe your memory off the face of the earth."

Avner turned a deathly white. He realized that not only did the verse include his name, it also prophesied his future. Avner ran away. He left his country and his position of wealth and power. They say he went upon a ship and no trace was ever found of him. His memory truly was wiped off the face of the earth.

It's an interesting idea that this little פרשה contains all of the knowledge that is known to mankind and all the history of mankind. And yet, we can't really understand so many things in the Torah. Hashem in his חסד has given us tools to help us understand things in the Torah. The cell phone, you talk here and you can be heard anywhere in the world. All of the technology that we have, all of the insights we've gotten into science are only designed to do one thing: to help reinforce our אמונה in Hashem. Not all the other things that they do.

As a final thought, comparable to what I just said, who would have ever thought that four little nucleic acids, C, T, A, and G can make up DNA and make up all of the information for all living creatures on this world. Four little nucleic acids, four letters, and every single created being, created item, plants, animals, are all in this little genetic code. It just tells us how great the בורא is. And if anybody wants to get אמונה, just look around you and you'll find אמונה, as Rav Avigdor Miller always said, there's more knowledge in one blade of grass than in the Encyclopedia Britannica.

