

# HA'AZINU - GIVE EAR

*Written by Rabbi Philip Hammond.. Posted in Reconciliation Parashah*

## **RECONCILIATION TEACHINGS FROM THE WEEKLY PARASHAH.**

Our next teaching comes from parashah **HA'AZINU – GIVE EAR.**

Devarim/Deuteronomy 32:1-52; 2Samuel 22:18-25.

*32 "Give ear, O heavens, and let me speak; And let the earth hear the words of my mouth. 2 "Let my teaching drop as the rain, My speech distill as the dew, As the droplets on the fresh grass And as the showers on the herb. 3 "For I proclaim the name of the LORD; Ascribe greatness to our God! 4 "The Rock! His work is perfect, For all His ways are just; A God of faithfulness and without injustice, Righteous and upright is He. 5 "They have acted corruptly toward Him, They are not His children, because of their defect; But are a perverse and crooked generation. 6 "Do you thus repay the LORD, O foolish and unwise people? Is not He your Father who has bought you? He has made you and established you. 7 "Remember the days of old, Consider the years of all generations. Ask your father, and he will inform you, Your elders, and they will tell you." Deuteronomy 32:1-7 [NASB]*

What a heading we have before us – Give ear!

It doesn't matter who such an order is addressed to, if it comes from HaShem then that "who" would be well advised to take notice. This is the essence of this commandment. It means incline your ear. In other words lean towards the speaker and listen with intent. It is worth noting that we have two witnesses mentioned here, that is heaven and earth. Heaven is above and earth is below. In this mix we have rain mentioned in verse 2. Rain comes down from above and penetrates the earth. Without rain there is no growth or life.

However it doesn't end there. The Creator has created such an array of different flora and fauna, that there are different requirements of when and how much rain is needed to produce growth and life. What is perfect for one set of Flora and Fauna may destroy another set of Flora and Fauna. Also in this mix is the change of "needs" for different periods of growth and life. An example is the ability of a mature plant or animal to withstand conditions that may kill a very young plant or animal. Then we have conditions that will kill older species, but the younger species may withstand. All in all we have different requirements for different species, and those same species will require their requirements to be altered as the journey of life is undertaken.

So what has the above got to do with this week's Parashah and the Children of Israel? I would say much. The Children of Israel are a "living species" and we have our own requirements, and these requirements must come from HaShem. We must receive our nourishment from above, as every good and perfect gift comes from above.

*"Every good gift and every perfect gift comes from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning." James 1:17 [NKJV]*

Just as all flora and fauna need rain, so do we [the Children of Israel] need "rain". Without rain from heaven we are as parched earth, where growth declines and eventually dies.

We must understand the foundation of our problem. HaShem created the heavens and the earth, and when he had finished we are told, "And God saw all that He had made, and behold it was very good....." Genesis 1:31a. After this came the "fall" of mankind and that which was very good became infected and began to perish. Instead of growth and life being the order of the day, decline and death

set in. This became so bad that HaShem brought forth the “Great Flood”. Yet that which grew out of the survivors were still infected with the disease of the “fall”. Please do not be deceived, the world that we presently live in is dying. It is dying due to lack of “rain” from above. If we do not receive the gift of life from above, then we will die, there will be no life.

Everything dies in a severe drought, because of lack of rain. There is no escape from such, unless HaShem intervenes. It is He we must all rely upon, as HaShem holds all the gifts in His Hand. If HaShem does not dispense His gifts from above we are finished, there is no future; there is no hope. In such a world we are in desperate need of hope. I believe this is the message Moshe was trying to get through to the Children of Israel. He was pleading with the people to absorb the “rain” from above, hence from HaShem. Just as the earth absorbs the natural rain, so must the Children of Israel absorb the “rain” from our Father. Moshe was saying, if you refuse to do this you will surely perish just as the wilderness generation perished.

Due to the condition caused by the “fall”, HaShem gave a gift to sustain the nation of Israel.

*“And I have given the Levites as a gift to Aaron and his sons from among the children of Israel, to do the work for the children of Israel in the tabernacle of meeting, and to make atonement for the children of Israel, that there be no plague among the children of Israel when the children of Israel come near the sanctuary.” Numbers 8:19 [NKJV]*

The Levites were the priests of the nation and were responsible for issuing the “rain” from HaShem. The High Priest performed the duties on Yom HaKippurim that were instrumental in the atonement of the whole nation. I would venture to say, without the gift of the Levites Israel would have perished as a nation. The Levites and the people had to “give ear” to what HaShem was telling them, so they could prepare and receive these precious gifts from above. The great news for Israel is that HaShem has always been willing to dispense His “rain/gifts” from above. HaShem appointed Moshe as one to bring the “rain” from above to the people of Israel. Moshe says in the opening words of this Parashah.

*“Let my teachings drop as rain, my speech distills as the dew, as raindrops on the tender herb, and as showers on the grass.” Deuteronomy 32:2 [NKJV]*

The teachings and speech of Moshe were the reflection of the teachings and speech of HaShem. Moshe was encouraging the people to absorb the teachings of HaShem, to drink it in as the parched earth drinks in the rain. Yet in this verse of Moshe’s song we have a hint of what I was trying to explain earlier; the importance of type on type. Dew on some, drops on another and showers on others. This is crucial when we consider the position of the Children of Israel today. We are a broken House, with so many bruises, sores and broken limbs to attend too. We need different applications of HaShem’s “rain” to bring us back to life. Each House [Judah and Ephraim] have their own requirements, and the communities and individuals within those Houses have different requirements that are applicable to their particular situation. None the less there is One gift from above that is applicable for all peoples and all situations, the gift both Houses need in order to bring life into their midst and of course that is none other than HaMoshiach Yeshua. Without HaMoshiach there is no life or hope for Israel, and if there is no life or hope for Israel, then there is no life or hope for any, as we [Israel] are to be a light to the nations. Yeshua left little doubt as to His “ability” to give life and hope. Not only did He heal, those that couldn’t be healed, but He gave hope through the many statements He made.

*“Yeshua said to him, ‘I am the way, the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father, but through Me.’” John 14:6 [NASB]*

*“And Yeshua said to them, ‘Truly I say to you, that you who have followed Me, in the regeneration when the Son of Man will sit on His glorious throne, you also shall sit upon twelve thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or farms for My name’s sake, shall receive many times as much, and shall inherit eternal life.’” Matthew 19:28-29 [NASB]*

*“And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; that whoever believes may in Him have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that He*

*gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.” John 3:14-16 [NASB]*

*“For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him, may have eternal life; and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.” John 6:40 [NASB]*

*“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread which comes down out of heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he shall live forever; and the bread also which I shall give for the life of the world is My flesh.” John 6:47-51 [NASB]*

*“These things Yeshua spoke; and lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said, ‘Father, the hour has come; glorify Thy Son, that the Son may glorify Thee, even as Thou gavest Him authority over all mankind, that to all whom Thou hast given Him, He may give eternal life. And this is eternal life, that they may know Thee, the only true God, and Yeshua HaMoshiach whom Thou hast sent. I have glorified Thee on the earth, having accomplished the work which Thou hast given Me to do. John 17:1-4 [NASB]*

*“He who overcomes shall thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father, and before His angels. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the assemblies.” Revelation 3:5-6 [NASB]*

As a nation, we need to “Give ear” to what HaShem has done, is doing and what He will do. We must fully understand Who HaMoshiach Yeshua is and what He has given, what He is giving and what He will give to our nation Israel. We must absorb the instructions of our Father, as His instructions are gifts from above. It is instruction from HaShem that gives life to the nation of Israel, and we must give ear to these instructions, leaning forward to hear every last Word that comes from the Father. The instructions of the Father are those that sent HaMoshiach Yeshua. These same instructions explain His work. The full Torah of HaShem includes HaMoshiach Yeshua, and it is the full undiluted Torah of HaShem that is truly the rain that comes down from above. This rain gives life to all living things, and without it, the House of Judah and the House of Ephraim will not survive!

We serve a wonderful God, as there is no God like the God of Israel, and no nation like the nation of Israel, and no land like Eretz Yisrael.

Blessings to all citizens of biblical Israel,  
Rabbi Philip Hammond.