



Kids Parsha Packet

פֿאַרשע לילדיִם

Parshat Haazinu

What is a song?

Do you like to sing? We hear songs everywhere we go. There are songs that we learn in school, songs that we sing during davening, songs on the radio or at home, and more. Do you know what is special about songs? It is easier to remember songs by heart than anything else. Why? Songs are generally written in short rhymes, are not lengthy, and are accompanied by music, and these things help us remember. Hashem tells Moshe to write a song for Bnei Yisrael. Why? Hashem wants to tell Bnei Yisrael some important things that they need to remember for future generations, and as we know, songs help us remember. Of course there is the Torah that we learn all the time and read at shul every week, but Hashem wants to give Bnei Yisrael a very important message before they enter Eretz Yisrael. The message is about the future and how Bnei Yisrael will behave, the other nations of the world, and the ways of Hashem.

"וידבר משה באזני כל

קהל ישראל את דברי

השירה הזאת"

(פרשת וילך, ל"א, ל')

"Moses spoke into the ears of the entire congregation of Israel, the words of this song" (Parshat Vayeilech 31,30)



Activity How many songs do you know by heart?

Those that have been around the longest...

The song begins by turning to the heaven and earth, and asking them listen to the words of the song. Can heaven and earth actually listen? Of course not! They do not have ears, they are the sky and the ground... But remember that this is a song? In a song you can convey all sorts of messages if you write them in a certain way. For example, if you want to say “I am very tired” you can write instead: “my mind feels like a whale swimming endlessly through the ocean” (think of some examples of your own)... This song starts by turning to heaven and earth and asking them to listen to the song that they are about to hear. Heaven and earth have existed since the time of creation. They “witnessed” a lot of things since they were created. Because the song teaches Bnei Yisrael about their behavior and the ways of Hashem in the world, Hashem wants the oldest witnesses in the world to listen to the song, so that they can also come and remind the Jewish people what it says.

הָאֲדָמָה וְהַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֵדְבָרָה

וְתִשְׁמַע הָאָרֶץ אֶפְרִי פִי

(ל"ב, א')

“Give ear, O heavens,
and I will speak: and
may the earth hear the
words of
my mouth”

(32,1)



Do you prefer the sky or the earth? Why?

Activity

“Parables” – Create all sorts of sentences that express specific feelings. Everyone else needs to guess what you are referring to (for example, “I feel like a camel that walked in the desert for forty years” means “I am thirsty”)

The best defense

Have you ever seen an eagle? An eagle is a bird of prey, and is one of the largest birds in nature. Some people call it “the king of birds”. The song explains to us that the eagle guards its young eaglets, protects them as it hovers, and spreads its wings to carry them with it as it flies. Why does the song mention an eagle? We are talking about Bnei Yisrael! Remember we said that in songs we bring examples from all different contexts to express things in a more interesting way? Hashem is speaking about his connection with Bnei Yisrael. Hashem guarded Bnei Yisrael in the desert for forty years, protected them from their enemies, guided them with miracles along the way and took care of all of their needs. The eagle carries its young on its wings to protect them from all different predators that can come and snatch them away; the eagle takes them with it wherever it goes and protects them. The songs emphasizes how much Hashem took care of Bnei Yisrael, and reminds them that Hashem will always protect them and that they need to obey him and keep his commandments.

“Like an eagle arousing his nest hovering over his young”
(32,11)



כנשר יעיד קנו
על גוזליו ירחף
(ל"ב, י"א)



When do you feel that you need protection and help?

Activity

“King of the birds” – See who can hug everybody and protect everyone in your family.

Looking ahead...

Did someone ever tell you to do something and you did not do it? Or maybe you were asked not to do something and you did it anyway? It happens to all of us. We do not always listen to what other people say, and do not always do what they ask. Most people do not like to be told what to do. Most of us like to be independent... Hashem writes the song, and shows Bnei Yisrael that he knows exactly what will happen in the future. They will enter Eretz Yisrael and stop listening to Hashem. Bnei Yisrael will receive harsh punishments, but there is also hope. Hashem will take care of Bnei Yisrael, return them to their land and fight all of their enemies. Hashem repeats again and again that he knows that it is hard for them to obey him, but he will be with them always. There will be times when they will feel like Hashem left them, but they feel that way only because he is hidden from them. In fact he will always be with them.

"וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים
שִׁמּוּ לִבְבְּכֶם לְכָל
הַדְּבָרִים אֲשֶׁר אֲנִי
בְּעִיד בְּכֶם הַיּוֹם"
(ל"ב, ג'ו')

"Apply your
heart to all the
words that I
testify against
you today"
(32,46)



If you could find out what will happen to you in the future, what would you want to know?

Next week we will celebrate Sukkot!

Shabbat Shalom!

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