



TORAH 4 TEENS

BY TEENS

NCSY ISRAEL



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From Galut to Geulah

שִׁירַת הַאֲזִינוּ בְּפִיהֶם לְמַעַן תִּהְיֶה לִּי הַשִּׁירָה הַזֹּאת לְעַד בְּבִנְיֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל:

In last week's parsha we are told that there is something very significant about Shirat Haazinu. Throughout the Torah there is a theme that continuously repeats itself: Bnei Yisrael messes up, G-d gets angry, we do some version of Teshuva, and then this cycle repeats itself. This theme gets very frustrating for many of us! We find ourselves wondering how is it that the Jewish people continue messing up over and over again?! But in this week's Parsha, Hashem finally tells us what we need in order to break out of this cycle. It is Shirat Haazinu. The Torah describes this song as a witness to Bnei Yisrael that will enable them to break out of this habit.

But what is so special about this song that it has this unique capability?

Rabbi David Fohrman points out how at first glance, we can learn from Haazinu that our actions are the reason Hashem's presence feels like it has disappeared. But as Rabbi Fohrman points out, all this does is make us feel lousy inside! So, what are we supposed to do?

There are 2 parts to this song. First, Haazinu gives a description of the past and then it gives a description of the future. The purpose of this song according to Rabbi Fohrman is to enable the story of Parshat Hateshuva to come alive. Parsha Hateshuva speaks about how the people that suffer so much are also going to be the ones that participate in the ingathering of exiles. This was very true during the times of the establishment of the State of Israel and I believe it may be very true today as well. As things across the globe today are far from perfect, we should see the history of our nation as inspiration to realize that *davka* we have the potential to bring our redemption. It is specifically the people that go through hardship, that oftentimes have the most potential for growth. ■



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If you open up the Torah you can see that this Parsha is structured differently. There is a long column of words on each side and most of the Parsha is written as a song.

Moshe stands in front of Bnei Yisrael as they are about to enter Israel without him. For forty years he had been with them and guided them, but now he needs to leave them, and as we know, he is not allowed to enter Israel.

Moshe is worried about them, and wants to give them one last piece of advice. Instead of giving them a normal speech like always, he decides to talk to them through a song, giving over his message in a unique way.

He tells them to, "Believe, go by the Torah, and safeguard the mitzvot."

This is a very interesting decision which makes us wonder why he chose to communicate in this way.

In my opinion he chose a song because it was easier for him to say his last goodbyes through a song and more importantly when people sing we tend to listen more.

We want to listen more and automatically do. Singing is beautiful. I think Moshe knew that Bnei Yisrael would listen and have deeper intent if he made it into a song.

We can connect this idea to Judaism even today. Singing is a big part of being a Jew; we are always singing, that's how we pray and connect.

Moshe was able to express his love for Hahsem and His people through a song.

May we all be able to find depth of spirituality and connection to the Torah through the power of singing.

Shabbat shalom! ■

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