

Parshas Ha'azinu

Parshas Ha'azinu is Moshe's final speech to the Jews before he handed them over and entrusted them to the leadership of Yehoshua. Moshe's final speech is poetic and is full of reference to keep the Jews on the path of Hashem, and to follow His ways. When the nation strays from believing in Hashem and Torah, we have the final words of support from Moshe to remind us how to stay and not give up hope.

In that theme, the Haftora from Shmuel 2 22:1-51 David Hamelech's parting words, but also words of thanks to Hashem for all the miracles that befell David during his lifetime. Much like Moshe's words it is called a Shira- song, as it is poetic in design.

Moshe calls for the Heavens to stand witness to his testimony for the eternality of the connection between Hashem and the Jewish people (Rashi/Ibn Ezra). Much like the Torah begins all the way in Bereishis, telling us (through Rashi) that Hashem created the world for the Jews and the Torah and Mitzvos to be kept. Rashi on the word Ha'azinu where he explains Moshe's choice in words shows this connection.

Moshe is direct, stern, and caring all in one final speech. To make this final point, before he left the physical dimension of his existence.

We read this parsha between the end of Yom Kippur and Sukkos. It is after all the last read parsha in shul before Simchas Torah where we read V'Zos Habracha and begin Bereishis right away. We don't take a break as the Torah never ends, it just begins once again, with our enthusiasm renewed. There

is a plethora of reasons of how and why our calendar is structured as it is. But our "new year" begins at a different time than the months renew. This gives us a chance during a Jewish calendar year to renew ourselves additionally with new enthusiasm, and Cheshbon Nefesh, not just a once-a-year event.

Good Shabbos