

# OR HAMIDBAR

SPIRITUAL JUDAISM IN THE DESERT

Parshat Ha'azinu, 5781 – Deut. 32:1-18

וְתִשְׁמַע הָאָרֶץ אִמְרֵי־יָי  
תִּזְלַל כַּטֹּל אִמְרֹתַי  
וְכַרְבִּיבִים עֲלִיעֹשֵׁב:  
הֲבוּ גִדְלֵל יֵאלֹהֵינוּ:

הָאֲזִינוּ הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֲדַבְרָה  
יַעֲרֹף כַּמָּטֵר לְקֹחֵי  
כִּשְׂעִירֵם עֲלֵי־דָשָׁא  
כִּי שֵׁם ה' אֶקְרָא

1-3

Give ear, O heavens that I may speak,  
Let my teaching drop like rain,  
like showers on the green,  
For the name of the LORD do I call.

and let the earth hear my mouth's utterances.  
my saying flow like dew.  
and like cloudbursts on the grass.  
Hail greatness to our God.

כִּי כָל־דַּרְכָּיו מִשְׁפָּט  
צַדִּיק וְיָשָׁר הוּא:  
דָּוָר עֲקֹשׁ וּפְתִלְתֵּל:  
עִם נָבֵל וְלֹא חָכָם  
הוּא עֲשָׂה וְיִכַנְנֵה:

הַצֹּר תָּמִים פְּעֻלוֹ  
אֵל אֲמוּנָה וְאִין עֹל  
שִׁחַת לוֹ לֹא בָּנִיו מוֹמָם  
הֲלֹהִי תִגְמְלוּ־אֵת  
הַלֹּא־הוּא אֲבִיד קִנְיָה

4-6

**The Rock**, His acts are perfect,  
A steadfast God without wrong,  
Did He act ruinously? No, his sons' the fault -  
To the Lord will you requite thus,  
Is he not your father, your shaper,

for all His ways are justice.  
true and right is He.  
A perverse and twisted brood.  
base and unwise people?  
He made you and set you unshaken?

בֵּינוּ שָׁנוֹת דֹּר־וְדֹר  
זְקֵנֶיךָ וְלֹא־מְרוֹ לָךְ:  
בְּהַפְרִידוֹ בְּנֵי אָדָם  
לְמִסְפָּר בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל:  
יַעֲקֹב חִבֵּל נַחֲלָתוֹ:

זְכֹר יָמוֹת עוֹלָם  
שָׂאֵל אֲבִיךָ וְיִגְדֶּךָ  
בְּהַנְחִיל עֲלִיוֹן גּוֹיִם  
יַצַּב גְּבֻלַת עַמִּים  
כִּי חִלַּק ה' עַמּוֹ

7-9

Remember the days of old,  
Ask your father, that he may tell you,  
When Elyon gave estates to the nations,  
He set out the boundaries of peoples,  
Yes, the Lord's portion is His people,

give thought to the years of ties past.  
your elders, that they may say to you.  
when he split up the sons of man.  
**by the number of the sundry gods.**  
Jacob the parcel of His estate.

## Septuagint 32:8

When the Most High was apportioning nations, as he scattered Adam's sons, he fixed boundaries of nations according to the **number of divine sons**.

## Dead Sea Scrolls, 4Q37 – 4Q Deutj

בהנחיל[ל עליון גוים בהפרידו בני אדם יצב גבלת עמים למספר] בני א-לוהים

וּבְתָהוּ יִלֵּל יְשָׁמוֹן  
יִצְרָנָהוּ כְּאִישׁוֹן עֵינָו׃  
עַל־גּוֹזְלָיו יִרְחֹף  
שָׁאַהוּ עַל־אַבְרָתוֹ׃  
וְאִין עֲמוֹ אֵל נֹכַר׃

יִמְצָאָהוּ בְּאַרְץ מִדְבָּר  
יִסְבְּבָנָהוּ יְבוֹנְנָהוּ  
כְּנֹשֶׁר יַעִיר קִנּוֹ  
יִפְרֹשׁ כְּנִפְיוֹ יִקְחָהוּ  
יְהוָה בְּדָד יִנְחֵנוּ׃

10-12

He found him in the wilderness land,  
He encircled him, gave mind to him,  
Like and eagle who rouses his nest,  
He spread His wings, He took him.  
The Lord did lead him,

in the waste of howling desert.  
watched him like the apple of His.  
over his fledglings he hovers,  
He bore him on His pinion.  
no alien God by His side.

וַיֹּאכַל תְּנוּבַת שְׂדֵי  
וְשֶׁמֶן מִחִלְמֵי־שָׂוֶר׃  
עִם־חֶלֶב כְּרִים  
עִם־חֶלֶב כְּלִיֹּת חֲטָה

יִרְכְּבֵהוּ עַל־בְּמַתֵּי אֲרָץ  
וַיִּנְקֵהוּ דָבֶשׁ מִסֹּלַע  
חֲמַאֲת בָּקָר וְחֶלֶב צֹאן  
וְאֵילִים בְּגִיבִשׁוֹ וְעֵתוֹדִים  
וְדַם־עֵגֶב תִּשְׁתֶּה־חֶמֶר׃

13-14

He set him down on the heights of the land,  
He suckled him honey from the crag  
Cattle's curd and milk of the flocks  
And rams of Bashan and he-goats  
And the blood of the grape you drank as mead.

and he ate the bounty of the field.  
and oil from the flinty stone.  
with the fat of lambs  
with the fat of kernels of wheat,

שָׁמְנָת עֲבִית כְּשֵׁית  
וַיִּנְבֵּל צֹוֹר יִשְׁעָתוֹ׃  
בְּתוֹעֵבֹת יִכְעִיסָהוּ׃  
אֱלֹהִים לֹא יִדְעוּם  
לֹא שְׁעָרוּם אֲבֹתֵיכֶם׃  
וַתִּשְׁכַּח אֵל מְחַלְלָהּ׃

וַיִּשְׁמֹן יִשְׁרוּן וַיִּבְעֹט  
וַיִּטֹּשׁ אֱלֹהִים עֲשָׂהוּ  
יִקְנֹאָהוּ בְּזָרִים  
יִזְבַּחוּ לִשְׂדֵי־לֹא אֱלֹהִים  
חֲדָשִׁים מִקְרֹב בָּאוּ  
צֹוֹר יִלְדֶּה תְּשִׁי

15-18

And Jeshurun fattened and kicked –  
and abandoned the God who had made him  
He provoked Him with strangers,  
They sacrificed to the demons, the ungod,  
new ones just come lately,  
**The Rock** your bearer you neglected

you fattened, you thickened, grew gross –  
and despised **the Rock** of his rescue.  
with abhorrences he did vex Him.  
gods they had not known,  
whom their fathers had not feared.  
you forgot the God who gave you birth.