

PARSHAT HA'AZINU
6 TISHREI 5781/24 SEPTEMBER 2020
SHABBAT SHUVAH



Jeremiah 23:29
By Mark Lawrence

BETWEEN A ROCK AND A HARD PLACE

1. “The Rock! God’s deeds are complete (*tamim*).” (Deuteronomy 32:4)
2. “The Eternal lives! Praised be my Rock! God is exalted, the Rock of my salvation.” (II Samuel 22:47, haftarah for Parshat Ha’azinu)
3. “Behold, My word is like fire, like a hammer that shatters rock.” (Jeremiah 23:29)
4. “Listen, O heavens, and I shall speak” (Deuteronomy 32:1). This refers to the Ten Commandments. “Let earth hear the words of My mouth” (Deuteronomy 32:1). This refers to the ten utterances of Creation. That is the oral Torah. God gave the Torah so that Israel would repair all that had been created by the ten utterances. Torah is thus a commentary or interpretation of Creation itself. (Sefat Emet)
5. “Do not remove this book of the Torah from your mouth; recite it day and night” (Joshua 1:8).
6. שאלות “God is in the question” (Elie Wiesel)
7. “Moses came together with Joshua son of Nun and recited all the words of this shirah in the hearing of the people” (Deuteronomy 32:44)

8. That is why this Ha'azinu shirah was sung by Moses and Joshua together, joining the written Torah to the oral Torah. It says: "May my teaching drop as rain" (Deuteronomy 32:2); for the purpose of Torah is to bring forth into reality all that which God has hidden in the world, just as the rain brings the fruits of the soil forth from the earth. (Sefat Emet)