

# Deuteronomy 32:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Give ear, O ye heavens, and I will speak; and hear, O earth,  
the words of my mouth.

## Analysis

**Give ear, O ye heavens, and I will speak; and hear, O earth, the words of my mouth** הָאִזְנֵנוּ פְּשָׁמִים וְאַדְבָּרָה וְתִשְׁמַע בָּאָרֶץ אַמְרֵי-פִּי) ha'azinu hashamayim va'adabberah vetishma ha'arets imre-fi)—Moses invokes heaven and earth as covenant witnesses, echoing ancient Near Eastern treaty language where cosmic elements bore witness to binding agreements. Ha'azin (give ear) and shema (hear) create poetic parallelism, calling all creation to attend to God's covenant lawsuit against Israel.

This introduction to the Song of Moses (Deuteronomy 32:1-43) establishes the poem as prophetic testimony transcending time. Heaven and earth, which witnessed the covenant's establishment (Deuteronomy 4:26, 30:19), now witness Israel's predicted apostasy and God's faithful restoration. Isaiah (1:2) and Micah (6:1-2) later employ identical juridical language—creation itself testifies to God's righteousness and Israel's rebellion. Jesus echoed this imagery when declaring that stones would cry out if humans remained silent (Luke 19:40). The Song functions as perpetual witness, preserved in writing so future generations would hear God's prophetic word.

## Historical Context

The Song of Moses was composed circa 1406 BC in Moses' final month before death. Deuteronomy 31:19-22 records God's command that Moses write this song and teach it to Israel as prophetic testimony against their future apostasy. The

Song was to be memorized and recited, ensuring its preservation across generations. This poetic structure aided memorization in pre-literate culture. The Song accurately predicted Israel's cycle of rebellion, judgment, and restoration throughout the conquest, monarchy, exile, and return—a span of over 1,000 years.

## Related Passages

---

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

---

1. How does calling heaven and earth as witnesses emphasize the cosmic significance of covenant faithfulness?
2. What role does memorizing and reciting Scripture play in preserving God's truth across generations?

## Interlinear Text

---

אֶתְנָרִי	פָּאָרֶץ	וְתָשַׁמְּעַ	עַ	וְאָדַבְּ בָּהּ	בְּהַשְׁמָהִ מִ	בַּאֲזֵי יְכוֹן
the words	O earth	and hear	and	I will speak	and	Give ear
H561	H776	H8085	H1696	H8064	H238	

גַּיִּים

of my mouth

H6310

## Additional Cross-References

---

**Isaiah 1:2** (Parallel theme): Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the LORD hath spoken, I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me.

**Deuteronomy 4:26** (Parallel theme): I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that ye shall soon utterly perish from off the land whereunto ye go

over Jordan to possess it; ye shall not prolong your days upon it, but shall utterly be destroyed.

**Jeremiah 22:29** (Word): O earth, earth, earth, hear the word of the LORD.

**Psalms 50:4** (Parallel theme): He shall call to the heavens from above, and to the earth, that he may judge his people.

**Jeremiah 6:19** (Word): Hear, O earth: behold, I will bring evil upon this people, even the fruit of their thoughts, because they have not hearkened unto my words, nor to my law, but rejected it.

**Deuteronomy 30:19** (Parallel theme): I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:

**Deuteronomy 31:28** (Word): Gather unto me all the elders of your tribes, and your officers, that I may speak these words in their ears, and call heaven and earth to record against them.

**Psalms 49:1** (Parallel theme): Hear this, all ye people; give ear, all ye inhabitants of the world:

**Jeremiah 2:12** (Parallel theme): Be astonished, O ye heavens, at this, and be horribly afraid, be ye very desolate, saith the LORD.