

# Deuteronomy 32:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distil as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass:

## Analysis

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**My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distil as the dew**—Moses uses four nature metaphors for God's teaching: rain (matar), dew (tal), small rain (se'irim, light showers), and showers (rebibim, heavy rain). The verb ya'arof ("drop/drip") suggests gentle, life-giving penetration rather than violent downpour.

This imagery portrays divine revelation as essential, pervasive, and productive—like water in an arid land. **The tender herb** (deshe') and **grass** (eseb) represent receptive hearts: young, growing vegetation drinks deeply from moisture. The Song of Moses begins not with judgment but with the premise that God's word brings life when received properly. Isaiah 55:10-11 echoes this hydraulic metaphor: God's word accomplishes its purpose like rain ensuring harvest.

The parallelism between "doctrine" (leqach, teaching/instruction) and "speech" ('imrah, utterance/word) emphasizes both the content and delivery of divine truth. Moses presents God's law not as burdensome regulation but as life-sustaining revelation.

## Historical Context

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The Song of Moses (Deuteronomy 32:1-43) is one of Scripture's oldest poetic compositions, written circa 1406 BCE as Moses' final prophetic testimony before his death. Ancient Near Eastern treaties often concluded with songs or poetic

summaries, making this covenant renewal liturgically appropriate. The agricultural imagery would resonate powerfully with an audience transitioning from nomadic wilderness life to settled farming in Canaan, where water scarcity made rain precious. This opening verse establishes the song as wisdom literature—comparing divine instruction to water reflects Proverbs' portrayal of wisdom as life-giving (Proverbs 3:18-20).

## Related Passages

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**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. How does viewing Scripture as 'life-giving rain' rather than 'burdensome law' transform your approach to Bible reading?
2. What conditions make your heart like 'tender herb' that drinks deeply versus hardened ground that rejects God's word?

## Interlinear Text

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אָמְתָת	כְּפָט	לְקַח	תַּפְלֵל	כְּפָט	אָמְתָת
shall drop	as the rain	My doctrine	shall distil	as the dew	my speech
H6201	H4306	H3948	H5140	H2919	H565

עַל	כַּרְבִּיב	יְמִ	עַל	כַּשְׁעִיר	מִ
upon	the	tender	herb	and	as
the	small	rain	H5921	the	showers
H8164	H5921	H1877		H7241	H5921

עַשְׁבָּה:  
upon the grass

H6212

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 72:6** (Parallel theme): He shall come down like rain upon the mown grass: as showers that water the earth.

**Micah 5:7** (Parallel theme): And the remnant of Jacob shall be in the midst of many people as a dew from the LORD, as the showers upon the grass, that tarrieth not for man, nor waiteth for the sons of men.

**Hebrews 6:7** (Parallel theme): For the earth which drinketh in the rain that cometh oft upon it, and bringeth forth herbs meet for them by whom it is dressed, receiveth blessing from God:

**Zechariah 10:1** (Parallel theme): Ask ye of the LORD rain in the time of the latter rain; so the LORD shall make bright clouds, and give them showers of rain, to every one grass in the field.

**Hosea 6:4** (Parallel theme): O Ephraim, what shall I do unto thee? O Judah, what shall I do unto thee? for your goodness is as a morning cloud, and as the early dew it goeth away.

**Hosea 14:5** (Parallel theme): I will be as the dew unto Israel: he shall grow as the lily, and cast forth his roots as Lebanon.

**2 Samuel 23:4** (Parallel theme): And he shall be as the light of the morning, when the sun riseth, even a morning without clouds; as the tender grass springing out of the earth by clear shining after rain.

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