

We Must Conquer the Giant of Anger

"Jacob called his sons and said to them: Gather together so that I can tell you what will happen to you in the last days (that which shall befall you in the last days, KJV).² Be assembled and listen (sh'ma), sons of Jacob, and listen to Israel your father...⁵ Simeon and Levi are brothers; instruments of violence are their knives" (Gen. 49:5)

Scripture records that King David fought against five giants in his lifetime (See *2 Sam 21:15-22* and *1 Chr. 20:1, 4-8*). They were all related in that the Interlinear Bible translates *1 Sam. 21:16* as: "*Ishbi-Benob of the sons of Rapha the giant.*" *Raphah* comes from the same root (רפא), that when used in the proper context means healing or curing (the vowels are different, e.g., רפא, *Ropheh*, meaning physician, but there are no vowels in the Torah). Evidently the *hey* and *aleph* endings change the meaning of the root. In the KJV the word (רפה) is translated giant (see Strong's 7497).

Jacob is on his deathbed and declares "*that which shall befall you in the last days.*" The casual reader wanders when and where you find that "*Simeon and Levi brothers related by weapons of violence?*" (KJV) The answer is in today's reading *Parashat Vayishlach*. We see the actions of *Levi* and *Simeon*, the second and third born sons of *Jacob*, in reaction to the *Dinah* and *Shechem* incident (*Gen. 34*). In particular we learn why *Levi* was not granted a geographical inheritance among the tribes of Israel because *Jacob* prophesies this, specifically. This is 400+ years before the *Torah* was given in Sinai in *Exodus 19-24*. He also specified the same discipline for the descendants of *Simeon*. These two tribes were granted *unspecified* land within the allotment to *Judah* – in other words it is left up to *Judah*. {Isn't that the way it is with us? If it weren't for the Lion of the Tribe of *Judah*, where and what would our inheritance be?} On May 29, 2021, I shared a message entitled *Get Rid of All Anger* based on the fact that Scripture tells us in no uncertain terms to *"³¹Get rid of all bitterness and rage and anger and quarreling and slander, along with all malice" (Eph. 4:31)*. Anger is a giant we must get rid of (completely conquer).

God gives His special grace (i.e., His desire and His power) to conquer giants during youth ("*I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one*" *1 John 2:15*). However, unconquered giants in our youth will attack later in life, especially when we are weak. David picked up five stones and with one stone killed the first giant. But what happened to the other 4 stones? In Scripture, later in life, after David had buried Saul (his foe for over 12 years), when he was weary, four Philistine foes (the four sons of *Raphah* the giant) came back to attack him. The difference is that now David is older, he has been a man of war all the years after the death of Goliath, and he can no longer fight these giants. You will note that each one of these four giants was slaughtered not by David, but by his servants (a typology of children!) How are we to conquer the sons of *Raphah*?

The first giant was Goliath (and the rest of them are all related!). Goliath means to reveal, advertise/disclose in a shameful/disgraceful sense, gossip, revile, verbally abuse. To conquer the tongue is to "*bridle the whole body*" (*James 3:2*). This means that we must understand how important every word we speak is because every word, every idle word, will be judged by *Messiah Yeshua*. Scripture refers to the tongue as: a sword, a sharp arrow, a venom, and poison, in other words a weapon. What was David's secret to victory against Goliath? He sized up the battle correctly: Goliath was *reviling* God and not Israel. God will take care of His enemies! He learned skills in the area of the spirit (meditation), the soul (melodious music) and the body (protection with his hands) and prepared for the battle in his youth and as a youth, he was victorious. But how do we respond to verbal abuse? Being reviled (sneered at, poked fun at, mocked), like *Yeshua*, we bless and curse not. How? By telling the person who is cursing you how God is using what they said to change you for the better! (If nothing comes to mind, certainly verbal abuse should make you want to seek God more, and in seeking Him, there is great benefit). Therefore, being persecuted (thrown under the bus) we suffer and being defamed we entreat (no anger/reaction). We can

conquer Goliath through meditation on Scripture: *“How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to your word” (Ps 119:9).*

In my May 29, 2021, message I shared: Anger carries a very high price tag: it damages both the health of the person who is angry and those to whom it is directed. Anger brought leprosy to Miriam the sister of Moses (*Nu. 12:1*), and it is a major destroyer of relationships. It damages vital relationships, results in financial loss, and *results* in unwise judgment and destructive behavior. Further, anger causes: *Heart Disease, Atherosclerosis, Hypertension, Kidney Damage & High Cholesterol*. Anger is one of the common denominators among juvenile delinquents and broken marriages. It is a chief contributor to health problems and a major factor in loss of productivity, accidents, and turnover in the workplace. When a husband expresses anger, he damages the spirit of their marriage: *“¹⁹Husbands, love your wives and do not become harsh toward them [be not bitter, KJV]” (Col. 3:19)*. When a father is angry, he destroys the children’s trust in him: *“²¹Fathers, do not provoke your children, so they will not become discouraged” (Col. 3:21)*. When an employer expresses anger, he decreases the employee’s desire to achieve, and productivity **WILL** go down. Anger is a calamity we seldom talk about in mixed company or from the pulpit. Anger is not limited to one age group, culture, race, economic level, social status, educational background, or any other classification. It is a universal problem. When ten thousand men across the US were asked if they had a problem with anger, 95% admitted they did. This is not just a problem in our day, it has been here since Genesis. It was the *first evidence* of the Fall of Man, which resulted in the *first murder*. Therefore, unresolved anger is a giant (a *Goliath*) that *Every Person Must Conquer*. Anger is a *Deep-Rooted Problem*; therefore, it is no small task to help a person resolve anger: *“A violent-tempered person will be punished; if you try to save him from it, you make things worse” (Proverbs 19:19, CJB)*. The only hope of resolving anger is to get at the root of its cause and deal with anger and wrath in a wise and effective way. In my June 26, 2021, message entitled *Devastation as a Result of Unresolved Anger* I shared steps that can be taken to completely resolve anger since unresolved anger turns to wrath and bitterness, leading to problems that are much, much bigger than we are.

We in *Kol Simcha* must deal with and conquer anger, in whatever form, in order to accomplish our mission. Should I ignore it and let this silent giant continue in our congregation? Most Believers never hear about this from American pulpits because as some say: *we need to leave well enough alone*. Many in our congregation exhibit signs of anger in your voice, in your correction of your own children or spouses or other family members. You are so used to it you do not even know you exhibit the consequences of anger, and you continue to pass it on to anyone nearby and to your own future generations. This week we buried Marilyn’s brother Rocky whose earthly life was shattered by the anger from his biological as well as from his subsequent stepfather. Rocky went on to be with *Yeshua*, but did he ever live a *hard life* according to his own biological brother who so aptly preached his funeral. Is it going to be said of you that *instruments of violence are your knives? Shabbat Shalom!*