

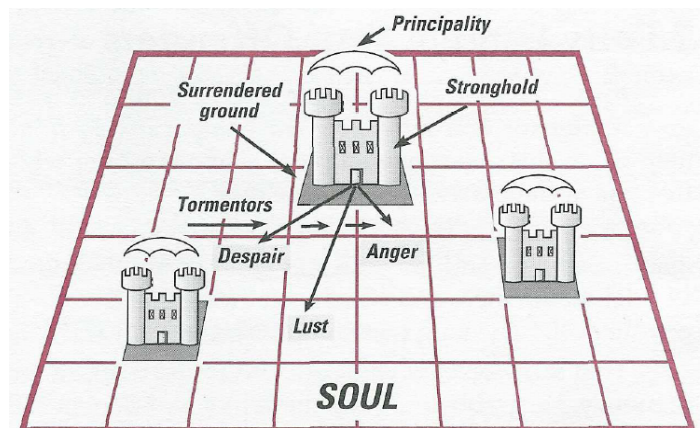
## He Restoreth My Soul

*"He restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for His Name's sake (Psalm 23:3)*

In today's *Torah* reading, *Parashat Chukat-Balak*, when the king of Moab saw the huge host of Israelites coming out of Egypt, he tried to hire a prophet named Balaam to curse Israel. As Balaam was traveling, his donkey suddenly stopped and refused to go forward. Balaam became furious and, in a rage, began beating his donkey with a rod. Since anger is a result of accumulated tension, what accumulated tension do you suppose caused Balaam's anger? Consider that when Balaam first asked permission to go curse Israel, God forbade him. However, when King *Balak* sent a more impressive delegation, Balaam again asked the Lord if he could go. In this case, *"Adonai gave him (them) his (their) request; but sent leanness into his (their) soul"* (*Psalm 106:15*). This leanness produced guilt, and peradventure this was expressed in beating his donkey. Also, we saw that Moses lost his temper & lost his chance to enter the Promised Land.

Consequences: when anger is allowed to turn into wrath, it becomes an immense spiritual problem. Willpower is no longer sufficient; we have to engage in *Spiritual Warfare* in order to overcome. The same book that warns us not to go to bed angry (*"Be angry, but don't sin - don't let the sun go down before you have dealt with the cause of your anger; otherwise you leave room (a foothold) for the Adversary"*) also says, *"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the worldly forces of this darkness, and against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places"* (*Ephesians 4:26-27, 6:12*).

Every time we allow the sun to go down *upon our wrath* (*"before you have dealt with the cause of your anger"*), the consequence is that we give *ground* to Satan. The Greek word translated *ground (foothold)* actually means *jurisdiction*, that is, a legal right to squat on the ground. On his footholds the Adversary has legal rights to build strongholds of false ideas on his ground and use it as a base of operation to torment our souls in multiple areas with destructive emotions such as unfounded fears, tension, depression, pride, habits, unexplained anger, wrath, lust, self-rejection, insomnia, HBP, heart disease, etc.



Many Believers are completely unaware (clueless?) of *Adonai's method* to recover this yielded or surrendered ground to the enemy. Firstly, is the surrendered ground recoverable? Yes! (*Psalm 23:3*) But the problem is that removing the enemy from given jurisdiction requires a *legal procedure*. Let us review this Biblical Five-Step procedure in the hope that many of our people will become free from destructive habits and gain genuine freedom in *Messiah Yeshua*:

### 1. Confess the sins that caused the anger

For this step, we must stop thinking about the reasons we got angry and stop blaming the one who caused the anger. We must trace the anger back to the initial sins (root) that produced the tension and guilt. It is precisely those sins that we must confess. Then we will be able to put away all anger, wrath, and malice and show kindness to one another with forgiveness. It is good to be specific because *Adonai* promises, *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness"* (*1 John 1:9*).

## 2. Claim the power of the Blood of Messiah Yeshua

Because we are all guilty of breaking *Adonai's* commandments with anger, lust, and other related sins, we are deserving of the eternal judgment of *Torah*. However, *Adonai* Who created us loved us so much that He sent His Son, *Messiah Yeshua*, to pay the price for our sin with His death (*redeem us*). His *redemption* for us is effective only if we receive it. We can do that by confessing to *Adonai* that we cannot save ourselves but that we are now receiving His Son as our full payment for our sin (*redemption*) (See *John 3:16*). *Adonai* will hear this prayer and grant you eternal life. Then as His very own child, you can claim the blood of *Yeshua* for the specific sins that gave and yielded ground to Satan in our soul. The Bible states: *"They [believers] overcame him [the Adversary] by the blood of the Lamb [Yeshua] and by the word of their testimony..."* (*Revelation 12:11*)

## 3. Ask *Adonai* to Recover the ground that was surrendered.

As a Believer, you claim the *Messiah Yeshua* for the *specific sins* that gave ground to Satan. Then, Satan will have no more legal authority over that ground, however, he will continue to operate on it until you ask God to take back the ground and give you the wisdom to tear down the *false ideas (strongholds)* that Satan constructed on that portion of your soul. With such a prayer, you are *effectively resisting* Satan and His Word promises: *"...Resist the devil, and he will flee from you"* (*James 4:7*). It is important to remember that WE cannot take back this ground, but *Adonai* can. *Psalm 23:3* gives the assurance that, *"He [Adonai Roi] restoreth my soul..."* Repeat Steps 1-3 with each and every area of ground that we surrendered to Satan.

## 4. Tear Down the Strongholds of Satan & Replace with Obedience of Messiah

Scripture assures us that we can *tear down the strongholds* of Satan and replace them with *obedience to Messiah*: *"<sup>4</sup>For the weapons of our warfare are not fleshly but powerful through God for the tearing down of strongholds. We are tearing down false arguments <sup>5</sup>and every high-minded thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God. We are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Messiah"* (*2 Cor 10:4-5*)

## 5. Memorize & Quote *Rhemas* (Personalized Scripture) against the Enemy

Scripture contains many promises for us His Children as Believers. Often the Holy Spirit (as you go through these steps) will give you Scripture that *jumps out of the page* (a *Rhema*) and becomes personal. Here is an example: *"<sup>1</sup>Therefore you are without excuse, O man—every one of you who is judging. For by whatever you judge another, you condemn yourself. For you who judge practice the same things"* (*Romans 2:1*). The personalized Scripture becomes: *"Therefore Tony, you are without excuse, yes you and every one who is judging. For by whatever measure Tony, you judge another, Tony, you condemn yourself. For you, Tony, judge others while practicing the same things"* Here is another: *"What shall we say then? Is Tony to continue in sin so that grace may abound? <sup>2</sup> God Forbid! How can Tony who died to sin still live in sin?"* (*Romans 6:1-2*). *"I (Tony) can do all things through Messiah Yeshua who strengthens me."* So that *"when the enemy appears to come in like a flood, the Spirit of God will raise up a standard against him"*, and *Scriptural Rhemas* are among those standards! *Shabbat Shalom!*