

WORDS OF WISDOM.

Chapter Twenty Nine.

From the Desk of Rabbi Yochanan Hammond

There are times when we are required to have an injection of courage so that we can stand against extreme challenges that come our way. These challenges can be those we choose to engage in or they can be challenges that are thrust upon us due to an array of circumstances.

It can be very intimidating to reach into the “bag” of courage, as it usually requires a sacrifice from our self. Doubt can plague our minds, weighing up the outcome becomes an important aspect, knowing what, when and how to apply courage is crucial to a healthy outcome. Sometimes no matter what course one takes the results can be difficult to accept. It can appear that there is no good road to travel and it is at these times an injection of courage is needed. These are opportunities to draw closer to the Holy One of Israel, blessed be His Name.

“Put your hope in Yahweh, be strong, let your heart be bold, put your hope in Yahweh.” Psalm 27:14 [NJB]

“Be brave, take heart, all who put your hope in Yahweh.” Psalm 31:24 [NJB]

It is when we put our hope in The Almighty that we gain the courage needed to face and navigate the circumstances that challenge us beyond our own strength and capabilities. We are encouraged by the words of the Master Yeshua.

“I have told you all this so that you may find peace in me. In the world you will have hardship but be courageous: I have conquered the world.” John 16:33 [NJB]

We are constantly warned of the many hardships that will come our way, as Children of The Almighty. We need only look back throughout history that is

both recorded in the bible and books of history to witness the truth behind this statement. It is the belief of this author that we Children of Israel are going to face challenges perhaps beyond what we can imagine and picture. Please keep in mind the depravity that “man” is capable of. We witness this every day on our media outlets and unless you have experienced this kind of wickedness you will not fully absorb the evil that some have to experience. It may sound histrionic and theatrical, but it would appear our world is fast becoming increasingly impacted by demonic influence. This is disturbing to say the least, yet it is written in the Holy Bible and therefore we should not be shocked or taken by surprise. The standard of living as given to us by God [the Torah] is under attack from every quarter. The very life style Yeshua HaMoshiach lived and commanded us to live by, is derided and laughed at by the masses. It is becoming so bad in many areas that human laws are being created to incarcerate anyone who would question the anti-Messiah system and espouse the beauty of HaShem, Torah and Yeshua HaMoshiach.

Countries that have been blessed by employing the foundations found in Judaism and Christianity are now controlled by leaders and groups who want to destroy that system. Not only that, but they are embracing a system that is totalitarian to the extreme and offers nothing but heartache, death, and ruin. Talk about the blind leading the blind.

If you decide to swim against this tide, then you will need plenty of courage to stand. The fact of the matter is that you will never be able to stand against this opposing force alone. We can only gain the strength and courage to do so with the helping Hand of HaShem. **There is no other way!** When Israel faced the might of Goliath and the Philistine armies, they froze with dismay and fear. They could see no way to defeat Goliath and the Philistines. Yet we know from the account there was one who knew Goliath could and would be defeated. It was the same one who was described as a man “after God’s own heart”.

“Then they demanded a king, and God gave them Saul son of Kish, a man from the tribe of Benjamin. After forty years, he deposed him and raised up David to be king, whom he attested

with these words, ‘I found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart; who will perform my entire will’”. Acts 13:21-22
[NJB]

“But now your sovereignty will not last; Yahweh has discovered a man after his own heart and designated him as leader of his people.....” 1Samuel 13:14a [NJB]

When faced with a challenge that appears to have a “Goliath” onside backed by an aggressive army we would be wise to do as David did. David acknowledged that this threat was made against Israel, the chosen nation of The Almighty. Then he asked, “Who is this uncircumcised Philistine, to challenge the armies of the living God?” David had an unrelenting trust in the Holy One of Israel. David was confident the one true Living God could easily deal with this uncircumcised Philistine. Goliath may have seemed like a giant in the eyes of the doubtful, but David knew Goliath was as an ant in the eyes of HaShem. When we view this account in 1Samuel 17, our attention should be drawn to some valuable points. Firstly, David took off the man made armour that Saul gave him. It did not fit well, and David was used to relying on the armour of HaShem, not the armour of man. David collected five smooth stones from the river bed with which he would use to topple the great Goliath. David spoke some very bold words.

“David retorted to the Philistine, ‘You come to me with sword, spear and scimitar, but I come to you in the name of Yahweh Sabaoth, God of the armies of Israel, whom you have challenged. Today, Yahweh will deliver you into my hand; I shall kill you, I shall cut off your head; today, I shall give your corpse and the corpses of the Philistine army to the birds of the air and the wild beasts, so that the whole world may know that there is a God in Israel, and this whole assembly know that Yahweh does not give victory by means of sword and spear – for Yahweh is lord of the battle and he will deliver you into our power.’” 1Samuel 17:45-47
[NJB]

Please understand that for the Children of Israel, victory comes through the Arm of The Almighty – the Holy One of Israel. It is Yeshua and the Torah that we use as our armour. Therefore David took five smooth stones, that represent the five books of the Torah and it took only one stone, the Torah made flesh, Yeshua HaMoshiach, to fall the Philistine hero - Goliath.

I cannot emphasise enough the importance of employing the same tactics as David employed to defeat the “Philistines”. Our only hope and protection is found under the “wings” of our Master. It is He and He alone that provide us Godly victories, any other will be short lived and exposed for what it is, one without merit. A word of caution! Never underestimate the power of the enemy, do not mistake your own confidence and strength, as authority from HaShem. Many have made this fatal mistake, going where angels indeed fear to tread. Our power, confidence and authority must come from our Father in heaven, through the nail scarred hand of HaMoshiach Yeshua and the Holy Torah. We will have our troubles and tribulations and I believe they will ever increase until the return of Yeshua HaMoshiach as Lord and King.

As many know I have a farming back ground, and one of the sayings we had as farmers was, **“If you had live animals, unfortunately you will have dead ones”**. The same goes for us. If we are alive we will have troubles and challenges. Yet with all this we must not allow the “dead animals” to rob us of the joy we have with “live animals”. One of my favourite promises in the bible is:

“Make no mistake about this, my dear brothers: all that is good, all that is perfect, is given us from above; it comes down from the Father of all light; with him there is no such thing as alteration, no shadow caused by change.” James 1:16-17

Our Father shines a Light on all darkness. He has a recipe to heal us of our hardened sick hearts. Without these blessings from above we will never withstand the attacks coming from the enemy. Without the healing hand of Yeshua we are in no condition to resist our enemies. It takes courage to stand up against a rampant enemy that is crushing all before it. Such an enemy can appear as a huge tidal wave that will drown all before it.

However, we have One who controls all “tidal waves” and there is nothing or no one who can change His plans or promises. We can be confident that nothing takes HaShem by surprise and He is more than capable to give us the courage and strength we need to stand against the enemy. This does not mean we will escape injury on this present earth, but it does mean we can handle whatever comes our way, if we are faithful to The Almighty, the Holy One of Israel blessed be He. No matter what my friends stay connected to the nail scarred Hand of Yeshua HaMoshiach and never let go. He will see us through to the end and we will reside with Him for evermore. Baruch HaShem.

May the grace, love, and wisdom of HaShem and Yeshua HaMoshiach be with you!