

Facing the Giants

(Deut. 9:1-6; I Samuel 17: 45-50)

To take possession of the Promised Land, Israel had to destroy the giants of the land. The Lord warned them that they were great and tall, they were the sons of Anakim, of whom they had heard, Who can stand before the sons of Anak?

(Deut. 9:2). When Moses sent spies from every tribe to spy the land they came with a frightening report: There we saw the Nephilim [or giants], the sons of Anak, who come from the giants; and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight (Num. 13:33). In the days of Joshua, he cut off the Anakim from the hill country; from Hebron, from Debir, from Anab, and from all the hill country of Judah and the hill country of Israel. Joshua destroyed them utterly with their cities. None of the Anakim were left in the land of the Israelites; only in Gaza, Gath and Ashdod did some remain (Josh. 11:21-22).

In the days of David, the Philistines came to fight with Israel with their giant, Goliath of Gath. This giant stood almost ten feet tall. His heavy armor was even more impressive and intimidating. Israel's army was dismayed and very afraid of him. Israel came to battle in their strength; all they saw was the giant before them. They forgot what God had done in the past, but there was someone who had the faith and the courage to face this giant. The mountain Israel perceived to be was just a mole hill to David. In fact all he needed was a stone and a sling and bam, the giant was done and gone!

When He confronted Goliath he declared to the giant: **I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the ranks of Israel, Whom you have defied; this day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will smite you and cut off your head... (I Sam. 17: 45b-46a).** David had it right when he declared that the battle was the Lord's. He was facing the giant in the name of the Lord of Hosts. No matter how intimidating and frightful he appeared. The Lord guided David's hand in a single shot of a stone. Miraculously it happened! The Lord did it! The battle was indeed the Lord's!

The word giant is a word with strong cognition. When we hear the word giant we think great size and strength. We then try to run away, or be discouraged. Comparing David's attitude and that of Israel's, we gather that faith delivered

Israel from the hand of Goliath, not fear and intimidation. I believe had David not come, Israel would have been defeated and many lives been destroyed that day. David was a simple shepherd young man. He did not show the physical strength to intimidate the giant, but he had spiritual strength and faith in His God. As a result all the earth came to know that there was a God in Israel that day as David declared. His declaration was made before the victory. That is faith in action. Believing that it will happen before it does is faith with results. What we think in our heart and declare it will be.

Before Israel entered the Promised Land the Lord warned them of existing giants in the Land. He also promised them that He was the One Who was going before them as a devouring fire; He was going to destroy them and bring them down before Israel; and commanded them to dispossess them and make them perish quickly... (Deut. 9:1-3). Joshua, as the new leader of Israel, did what the Lord commanded and got rid of the giants in the Land.

On the way to the Promised Land, the believer faces many giants in his life's experiences. Of course, they are not the kind Israel faced, but nevertheless they are considered giants. They are emotional, physical and spiritual giants. In many cases we create our own giants due to life style and addiction habits. These are consequential behaviors; soon or later we will have to face them as enemies and in the form of giants. The sins we do not deal with will certainly hold us prisoners to them. The word of God commands us to deal with them and get rid of them. It says, burn them and cast them away. Moses told Israel after they committed the sin of idolatry, "I took your sin, the calf which you had made and burned it with fire and crushed it, grinding it very small until it was as fine as dust; and I cast it into the brook that came down out of the mountain."

Whatever sin that is controlling you, be it of idolatry, pornography, unforgiveness, and more, they will come to bite you sooner or later, if you will not deal with them. They will come to you as giants. The only way to deal with these giants is to repent and renounce them and burn them to the ground, as Moses did with the Israelites' sin of idolatry. Even if you must carry their consequences, you will be no more under their condemnation. You have been vindicated by the Lord. These are the giants of sowing and reaping. Paul tells us, "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap" (Gal. 6:7). There are other consequential giants due to bad decisions we make. The word of God tells

us to acknowledge Him in all our ways and He will direct and make straight and plain our paths; be not wise in our own eyes; fear and worship the Lord and turn away from evil (Prov. 3:6-7). In another point and time King David became victim of his own sins and had to face them as giants. This time it was not a physical giant, but one of spiritual dimension, for he committed the sin of adultery and homicide. But even after his repentance and confession to the Lord, acknowledging his sins, he still suffered the consequences and had to face the giants of his sins.

The giants that plagued Job were finances, disease, and friends. But Job was not guilty of anything wrong that he had done. He faced them in integrity of his faith. He remained faithful and steadfast in what he believed. The Christians of yesterday and today are suffering under the mighty evil powers of the giant called the devil. They too have not deserved the attacks in persecution and death. But in faithfulness, they are facing the giants of their faith with strength that translates love for their God. They continued and continue in persistent faith in God, knowing that the glory that will be reviewed to them is not to be compared with the suffering they are facing in this earth in the hands of the giants and enemy of God, as Paul so well expressed: "Therefore we do not become discouraged, though our outer man is decaying and wasting away, yet our inner self is being renewed day after day; for our light momentary affliction is ever more and more abundantly preparing and producing and achieving for us an everlasting weight of glory! Since we consider and look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen; for the things that are visible are temporal, but the things that are invisible are deathless and everlasting" (II Cor. 4: 16-18). Facing the giants with enduring faith is worthy the weight of glory.

Facing our giants is a difficult thing to do when we try to do on our own strength. There is a place however where we can run to and be delivered. It is in the courts of heaven. Take yourself there and the situation you are facing in humbleness of heart and ask God forgiveness, if they are result of sin in your life; if not, ask Him to show you the root cause and ask YAHSHUA to vindicate you from the accusations Satan has against you. There are no giants greater than our God, Who is willing to forgive and deliver His saints in times of need. Arm yourself with the word of God and let faith be the victory that will overcome your giants.

He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall remain stable and fixed under the shadow of the Almighty. For He will deliver him from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence; He will cover him with His pinions, and under His wings shall he trust and find refuge; His truth and His faithfulness are a shield and a buckler; he shall not be afraid of the terror of the night, nor of the arrow that flies by day, nor of the pestilence that stalks in darkness, nor of the destruction and sudden death that surprise and lay waste at noonday; a thousand may fall at his side, and ten thousand at his right hand, but it shall not come near him; only a spectator shall he be as he witness the reward of the wicked; because he has made the Lord his refuge, and the Most High his dwelling place, there shall no evil befall him, nor any plague or calamity come near his tent, for He will give His angels charge over him to accompany and defend and preserve him in all his ways. They shall bear him up on their hands, lest he dash his foot against a stone; he shall tread upon the lion and the adder; the young lion and the serpent shall him trample underfoot, because he has set his love upon Me, therefore will I deliver him; I will set him on high, because he knows and understands My name; He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him, I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him; with long life will I satisfy him and show him My salvation (Psalm 91).

The best place to face your giants is in the secret place of the Most High.