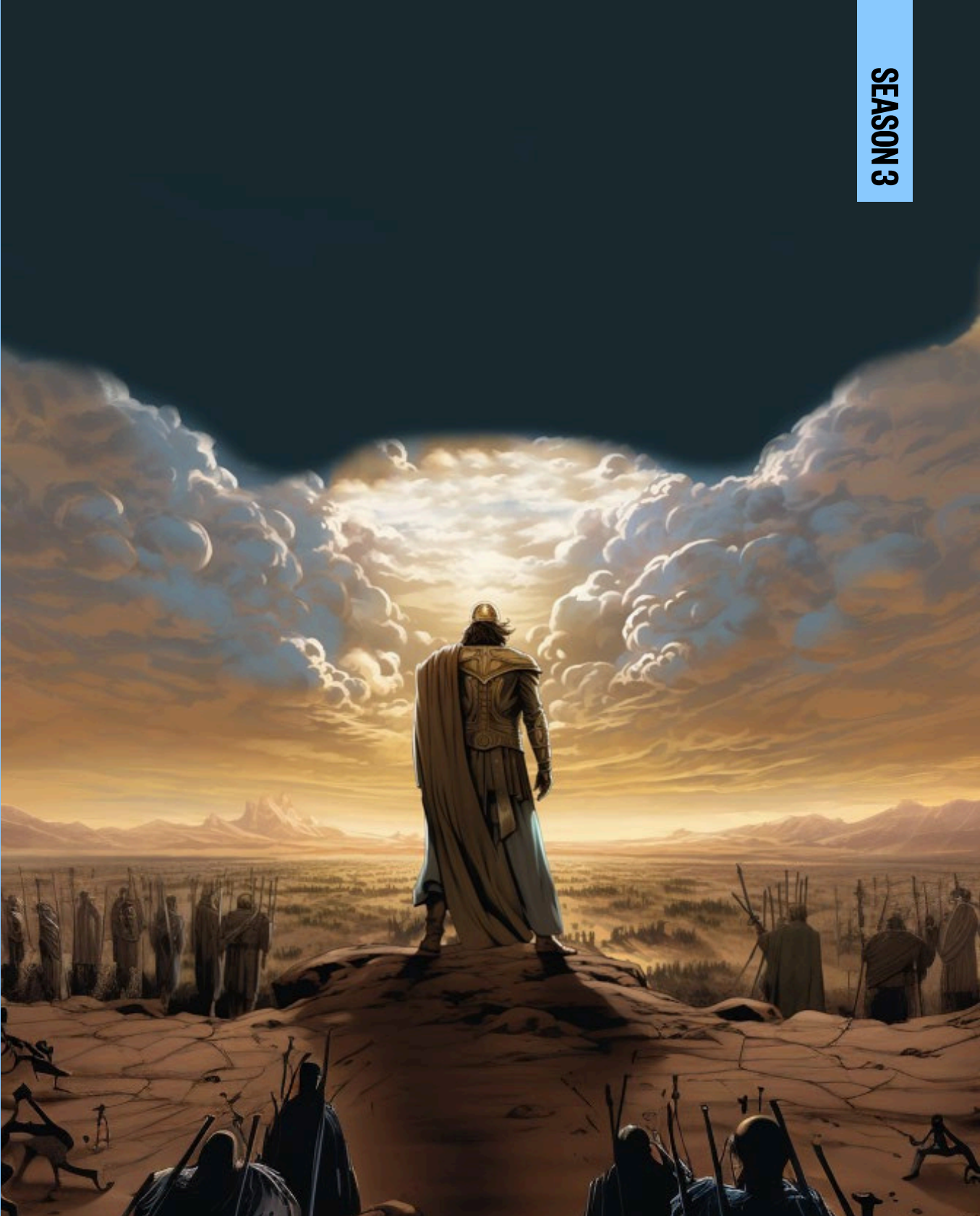


SEASON 3



OLAMI MENTORSHIP

SESSION 9: DAVID AND GOLIATH

BEYOND THE BATTLE

Dear Mentor and Mentee,

Congratulations on starting season three of mentorship!

It is both humbling and thrilling at the same time, that the two of you have found value in getting to know one another, and that you continue to benefit from your regular meetings. In conjunction with Sinai50, we are pleased to present you with amazing resources for season three. We are grateful to Rabbi Raphael Butler, the mastermind of Sinai50; an initiative that is ensuring that Jews around the world have an opportunity to reclaim Torah wisdom and knowledge, and make it their own. The great news is that these resources are but a small component of the 50 sessions that Rabbi Butler and Sinai50 have curated. We would be thrilled to provide additional resources when you have completed these initial sessions.

You know, when you purchase a new car, typically there is an owner's manual in the glove compartment. If you are a savvy and responsible automobile owner, you will take the time to familiarize yourself with the content of the manual to ensure maximum output and productivity for your new vehicle. And while an owner's manual for a new car is imperative in getting to understand the complexities of your ride, isn't life not infinitely more complex than a four-wheeled machine? If so, shouldn't life come with an owner's manual for life?!

The good news is that it 'does'. The manual is called the Torah, and through its retelling of our history, its many directives for moral living, and our studying and following the Torah, we can ensure optimal performance and elevated living. In this season, through Sinai50, we endeavor to provide you with a "top 10" list of the Torah's wisdom for living, in an effort to share the beauty and richness of the Torah's narratives and experiences.

You will have an opportunity to examine the age-old issue of anti-Semitism from the conflict of Jacob and Esau, analyze dealing with trials - and then triumph - from Abraham, understand our unique mission as Jews, and so much more!

Mentorship that includes Torah wisdom and inspiration is taking mentorship to a whole new level, as studying and analyzing Torah together connects the soul of two Jews.

It is our hope that through this journey of practical Torah wisdom, the two of you will continue to thrive alongside one another and further enhance the special relationship that you have begun.

We are honored to provide personal guidance or assistance if necessary. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us directly. To reach the Director of Community Mentorship, Rabbi Shlomo Landau, please call 908.770.0056 or email slandau@olami.org. To reach the Associate Director of Community Mentorship, Jordana Baruchov, please call 973.370.0414 or email jbaruchov@olami.org.

Wishing you the best of luck on this journey! The OLM Team

BEYOND THE BATTLE: THE ENDURING IMPACT OF DAVID AND GOLIATH

The story of David and Goliath, one of the most famous episodes in Jewish history, showcases the triumph of faith, courage, and determination against all odds. It resonates with contemporary life, offering valuable lessons that can empower us in facing challenges and embracing our unique strengths.

THE STORY

For many years, the Philistines and Israelites were locked in tense conflict. The battlefield shifted to the Valley of Elah, where the mighty Philistine champion, Goliath, taunted the fearful Israelite army daily, challenging them to single combat. Their reluctance allowed Goliath to mock them for 40 days.

During this time, a young shepherd named David was sent by his father to deliver food to his brothers in King Saul's army. His brothers mocked him for leaving the flock, but David was deeply disturbed by Goliath's taunts and volunteered to face the giant. Initially, King Saul hesitated to let David fight, but David's account of killing lions and bears with his bare hands to protect his flock revealed his genuine faith and reliance on God's protection.



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Rejecting Saul's cumbersome armor, David took his slingshot and five smooth rocks from the riverbed as his weapons. His decision to rely on the simple slingshot was not just a matter of practicality but a testament to his steadfast faith in God's guidance and power.

This testimony moved Saul to grant David the opportunity to confront Goliath.

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Goliath, towering over David, ridiculed the young challenger. Fearless and armed with faith in the living God, David skillfully hurled a rock from his slingshot, striking Goliath and defeating him. Witnessing their champion's fall, the Philistine army fled, and the Israelites pursued and plundered them.

As a result of his victory, David earned a place in King Saul's royal court and formed a deep bond with Jonathan, Saul's son. Their friendship transcended the battlefield, leading to a lasting impact on David's life. While Goliath's defeat seemed to mark the end of the story, it was only the beginning of David's remarkable journey towards the throne of kingship.

RELEVANCE TO CONTEMPORARY LIFE

The story of David and Goliath holds immense significance in our lives today, offering profound insights:



EMBRACING OUR UNIQUE STRENGTHS:

The tale of David and Goliath teaches us the importance of embracing our individual strength and use them to the fullest. Each of us has unique qualities that can lead to extraordinary outcomes, even in the face of formidable challenges.

Triumph through Simplicity:
David's choice of a simple slingshot illustrates that success often lies in resourcefulness rather than relying solely on external tools. It reminds us to look within ourselves for the strength to overcome challenges creatively.

TRUSTING IN OURSELVES AND TAKING ACTION:

David's victory over Goliath inspires us to trust in ourselves and take action in the face of injustice or challenges. Even isolated events can lead to unforeseen opportunities and lasting impacts, propelling us towards greater achievements.

THE POWER OF AUTHENTIC RELATIONSHIPS:

The bond between David and Jonathan exemplifies the power of authentic relationships in shaping our paths. Meaningful connections can influence our journeys, helping us navigate through life's complexities with support and encouragement.

LESSONS LEARNED:

The story of David and Goliath teaches us that not everyone's armor fits for everyone. Each of us possesses unique strengths empowering us to succeed.

In contemporary life, our plans and strategies may vary, but unwavering faith in our mission, God can give us the courage to overcome even the most daunting challenges.

David's remarkable victory against Goliath teaches us to trust in ourselves and our abilities. Embracing self-confidence and recognizing our potential enables us to confront adversity with determination, knowing that we can make a difference.

David refused to remain on the sidelines. Do not remain passive bystanders when faced with injustice or challenges in our communities. By taking action and stepping forward, we can contribute to positive change.

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POINTS TO PONDER:

REFLECT ON THE SIGNIFICANCE

of embracing our individuality and strengths. How can we leverage our distinct qualities and tap into our well of inner strength to carve out our unique paths in life?

CONSIDER THE IMPACT OF AUTHENTIC RELATIONSHIPS.

How can the bonds of friendship influence our journey through life?

WHAT IS MY SUPERPOWER

—My slingshot—and how can I use it most effectively?

REFLECT ON HOW ISOLATED EVENTS

can lead to unforeseen opportunities and lasting impacts; the unknown ripple effect of all that we do. How can we recognize and seize such moments to propel ourselves forward?

Special thanks to Ari Levine for guiding the development of this study.



What is my superpower—my slingshot— and how can I use it most effectively?

SINAI 50

50 VITAL JEWISH TEXTS THAT EVERY JEW SHOULD KNOW

This Sinai50 volume is dedicated in loving memory of

SEYMOUR AND HELEN MARGOLIN

שמואל בן לייבש ז"ל

חנה בת אריה ליב ע"ה

SINAI50

The Sinai50 Project comprises a collection of 50 vital Jewish texts that every Jew should know and that are of immense significance for our daily lives. These texts have been carefully selected to provide clarity and understanding to all those who read them. With the texts being made accessible both online and offline, this project ensures that these invaluable resources are readily available to Jews worldwide, fostering a deeper connection to their heritage and offering relevant insights for navigating everyday challenges.

In cooperation with

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