

The Heart of YAHWEH

The book of Genesis chapter three reports the greatness of YAHWEH'S love to mankind, when Adam and Eve sinned. In Genesis 3:25 we find the first promise of redemption: to the serpent YAHWEH said, I will put hostility between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He will strike your head, and you will strike his heel (Gen. 3:15). The seed of the woman is YAHSHUA, Who by His death stroke the serpent's head and victoriously purchased men for God. The first lamb had to be killed to clothe Adam and Eve and free them from shame and guilt. This was symbolic of His Son coming to the world many years later as the Lamb of YAHWEH, to redeem man with His blood. For without the shedding of blood there is no redemption of sin, says the Word of YAHWEH.

The greatness of YAHWEH'S heart is beyond human measure. In holiness His heart is rigid; but in mercy and compassion it embraces the world with salvation and deliverance; in love He gave Himself in the person of His Son to redeem man from eternal condemnation. His heart is a heart of a good shepherd; He leads and protects, He restores the soul; He calls His own to fellowship with Him; He takes them through the valleys and deserts, and walks with them to the end.

As a heart of a father He disciplines for the good of His own, so that we may become sharers in His own holiness (Heb. 12:10b). The heart of YAHWEH is represented in the parable of the Prodigal Son. The father was full of compassion and forgiveness toward his son when he returned home. At the words of his prodigal son, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight; I am no longer worthy to be called you son" the father said to his bond servants, Bring quickly the best robe and put it on him; and give him a ring for this hand and sandals for his feet. And bring out that [wheat-fattened calf and kill it; and let us revel and feast and be happy and make merry, because this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found! And they began to revel and feast and make merry (Luke 15:21-23). That's the heart of YAHWEH toward man. In Matthew YAHSHUA asks the question: Or what man is there of you, if your son asks him for a loaf of bread, will hand him a stone? Or is he asks for a fish, will hand him a serpent? If you then, evil as you are, know how to give good and advantageous gifts to your children, how much more will your Father Who is in heaven give good and advantageous things to those who keep on asking Him (Matt. 7:9-11)!

No one can understand the depth of the heart of YAHWEH. In spite of our sinful nature He continues loving us; even when we are against Him by the act of disobedience He still reaches out to us with forgiveness; just like the prodigal son's father, he no longer remembers the past sins we committed against Him. The Psalmist said, For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great are His mercy and loving-kindness toward those who reverently and worshipfully fear Him; as far as the east is from the west, so far He removed out transgressions from us (Psalm. 103: 11-12). His heart is always forgiving! Through the life of His Son, His heart was shed for the world in agony and pain of separation from the Father, so we would no longer suffer the separation from Him in hell. His heart is like a garden of spices from where all the sweet fragrances and aromas flow to everyone's heart. The beating of His heart is felt throughout the

world sharing the warmth of life to all, that is, whosoever will accept Him; the joy that flows from His heart gives each of us strength. To as many as did receive and welcome Him, He gave the authority to become the children of God, that is, to those who believe in His name (John 1:12). As John said, Out of His fullness we have all received one grace after another and spiritual blessing upon spiritual blessing and even favor upon favor and gift upon gift (John 1:16).

His heart shares His own life with us through His Holy Spirit; He is our Counselor, Teacher, Helper, Advocate, Intercessor and Strengthener (John 16:26). The faithfulness of His heart is seen everywhere, as well as in the lives of those who love Him. His heart fills heaven and earth with goodness, love, faith, grace, compassion, mercy, joy peace patient, kindness, and faithfulness. For our heart to experience His heart's beating we must have the fruit of His Holy Spirit. Having His fruit is to be filled with His presence and in communion with Him.

Israel experienced the love from His heart through all the history of the Old Testament. The time will come when His plan will be complete in them, for He never stopped loving His people. Once again they will be His people and He will be their God; they will represent Him by obedience in love; the world then will see and understand YAHWEH'S heart toward His people. The heart of Israel's people will someday return to the heart of YAHWEH in repentance and mourning; they will finally experience the greatness of YAHWEH'S heart for them. YAHWEH'S heart has reconciled Jews and Gentiles to His Son through His death. It was a beautiful picture, if one could only see with naked eyes what was happening in those hours of YAHSHUA'S death! Paul said, It was God in Christ, reconciling and restoring the world to favor with Himself, not counting up and holding against their trespasses and committing to us the message of reconciliation (II Cor. 5: 19-20).

There is no lack of room for all of us in the heart of YAHWEH. His heart never fails to love, to shelter and to deliver us from our trials. Jeremiah, when recalling his sufferings, he concluded: But this I recall and therefore have I hope and expectation: It is because of the Lord's mercy and loving-kindness that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not; they are new every morning; great and abundant is Your stability and faithfulness; though He causes grief, yet will He be moved to compassion according to the multitude of His loving-kindness and tender mercy; for He does not willingly and from His heart afflict or grieve the children of men (Lam. 3:21-23; 32-33).

Moses, the leader of Israel, experienced the heart of YAHWEH more than any men alive. YAHWEH talked to him face to face, as a man speaks to his friend (Exodus 33:11a). He experienced Him forty days and forty nights, not one time, but two times. There in His presence, Moses neither suffered hunger nor thirst. When he came down the mountain and found Israel committing the sin of idolatry, he went to intercede for them, for YAHWEH was angry at them. He said to Moses, Depart, go up from here, you and the people whom you have brought from the land of Egypt, to the land which I swore to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, saying To your descendants I will give it; I will send an angel before you. . . However Moses pleaded with him saying, For by what shall it be known that I and Your people have found favor in Your

sight? Is it not in You going with us so that we are distinguished, I and your people, from all the other people upon the face of the earth? And the Lord said to Moses, I will do this thing also that you have asked, for you have found favor, loving-kindness and mercy in My sight and I know you personally and by name (Exodus 33:16,-17). YAHWEH's heart touched Moses' heart, for he had found favor with Him; He also blessed him with his requested to see His glory.

Today, the heart of YAHWEH is not touching our heart because we are too busy with our electronics and other seemly more important things, than to be in His presence, to experience His loving-kindness. Today, our heart is cold and indifferent to His heart, while He keeps calling us to experience His heart in His presence from where joy, love, faith, hope, kindness overflow. It is a wonderful thing to hear from Him, "Because I know you personally and by name you have found favor with Me, I will do the thing you have asked". To find favor with YAHWEH is like heaven opening its door to receive us. Nothing should matter for the believer more than to have a relationship with the Father and experience His heart in the space of time He has given us to live on earth.