

**The Touch of YAHWEH      (Part 1)**  
**(I Kings 18; 19:1-13;)**

“May the gods punish me and do so severely, if I don’t make your life one of them by this time tomorrow” (I Kings 19:2)! Elijah felt the power of fear coming from these words that Jezebel uttered against him after his battle against the false prophets at Mount Carmel, where he had killed all of them. He had summoned all the Israelites and gathered the prophets at Mount Carmel to challenge them: “How long will you hesitate between two opinions? He asked, If YAHWEH is Elohim, follow Him; but is Baal, follow him but the people didn’t answer him a word (I Kings 18:20-21). Elijah then put Baal to the test and ordained his prophets, 450 of them and the rest of the people: let two bulls be given to us; they are to choose one bull for themselves, cut it in pieces, and place it on the wood but not light the fire. I will prepare the other bull and place it on the wood but not light the fire; then you will call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of YAHWEH. The God who answers with fire, He is God” (Kings 18: 20-24). So they did as Elijah commanded; they took the bull that he gave them, prepared it, and they called on the name of Baal from morning until noon, saying, “Baal, answer us!” But there was no sound; no one answered. Then they did their lame dance around the altar they had made (Vs.26). Elijah then called the people near him and repaired the altar of the Lord that had been torn down; he took 12 stones according to the number of the tribes of Israel and he built an altar with the stones in the name of YAHWEH. He made sure that there was enough water around the altar until it ran all around it, for the time had come to prove Israel that YAHWEH was ELOHIM! Then he approached the altar and said, “Lord God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, today let it be known that You are God in Israel and I am Your servant and that at Your word I have done all these things. Answer me, Lord so that this people will know that You, YAHWEH, are God and that You have turned their hearts back.” Then YAHWEH’S fire fell and consumed the burnt offering, the wood the stones and the dust and it licked up the water that was in the trench. When the people saw it, they fell face down and said, “YAHWEH, He is God! YAHWEH, He is God” (Vs.30-49)!

Elijah ordered the prophets of Baal be seized; then he brought them down to the Wadi Kishon and slaughtered them there (VS. 40) in the power of the living YAHWEH. The echo of the voices confessing YAHWEH to be the only ELOHIM still resounding in his ears, the powerful manifestation of YAHWEH by fire still in his mind, didn’t seem to be enough for Elijah to face Jezebel with courage and trust in his YAHWEH. After this tremendous victory, Elijah falls prey to the words from a Baal worshiper, Jezebel. He was courageous to face 450 prophets of Baal, but afraid of one woman! Fearful at the words, May the gods punish me and do so severely if I didn’t make your life like the life of one of them by this time tomorrow! He now fears the powerless gods he had defeated at Mount Carmel, because he had forgotten his mountain top experience with the true YAHWEH. He was now at the valley of fear, being pushed down. In his running away, he came to the wilderness and there, tired and depressed, he prayed to die before he had fallen asleep under a broom tree. At the moment of Elijah’s darkness, YAHWEH’S touch came to him through a touch of an angel, who said, “Get up and eat.” Then he looked and there at his head was a loaf of bread baked over hot stones and a jug of water; he ate and drunk and lay down again; then the angel of the Lord returned a second time and touched him

and said, "Get up and eat, or the journey will be too much for you" (Vs.4-7). YAHWEH had come to him with a touch of physical sustenance of food and water.

The touch of YAHWEH on Elijah's life was a touch of spiritual sustenance also; Elijah had been in the desert needing the manna from heaven – the bread of life; and the water- the Living water- his restoration. These two things were to carry him forty days and forty nights as he walked the desert to meet YAHWEH at the top of His Mountain. YAHWEH took him from the valley of fear and was bringing him back to the mountain top where he had experienced His power and victory. However he had to walk forty days and forty nights sustained only by bread and water. Arriving at the Mountain of the Lord, he found himself a place in a cave to hide himself, but the Lord called him out to the top of the Mountain so he could be in His presence. As the Lord passed by, nature responded with a mighty wind, with an earthquake and with fire; these three elements of judgment were not where He was at that time; He had come this time with His gentle voice, as in a whisper to comfort and give Elijah assignments; Elijah, recognizing His tender presence, wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. And there the Lord spoke to him in a whisper, a gentle voice and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" Elijah reported to Him his concerns and concluded, "The Israelites have abandoned Your covenant, torn down Your altars and killed Your prophets; I alone am left and they are looking to take my life." After the Lord gave him instructions, He comforted him with the promise that He would leave 7,000 in Israel whose knee would not bow to Baal and every mouth that would not kiss him" (vs.8-18). Elijah experienced the calmness that flowed from that whisper and there he stood still before the holiness of YAHWEH with his face covered.

When tired and discouraged, Elijah asked YAHWEH for death, but He gave him another journey to experience Him on the top of the mountain from where he had fallen. Without the sustenance of bread and water-YAHWEH'S touch, his journey through the desert for forty days and forty nights would have never been possible. YAHWEH never calls us without the provision necessary to fulfill the call. Elijah's long and lonely desert's journey of forty days and forty nights was well supplied. We all know how hard and unfriendly the life of the desert is: hot and dry, thirst; a place of unfriendly surroundings, where temptation is strong and faith is small in view of all it offers; it is a place where doubt is strong, where discouragement abounds and fear takes the reins. Many of us, while in the journey through the desert, miss the touch of YAHWEH and die there. But that was not the case of Elijah; when weak and tired, he accepted the bread of life and the living water, which strengthened him and by their strength he reached the Mountain of YAHWEH! YAHSHUA, the Bread of Life and His SPIRIT, the Living Water were gifts given us to be with us all through our pilgrimage in the desert; we have His Word available to instruct us and to firm our feet where we must travel; but we must eat this Bread of Life for our sustenance in the desert and drink the Living Water to satisfy the thirst and hunger spiritual to reach heaven.

YAHWEH wants to touch us while on our journey, as He touched Elijah. He wants to lift us up from the desert of spiritual hunger and spiritual thirst and take us to the mountain top where e His tender voice of comfort will satisfy our spiritual hunger and thirst. He calls us to be still, to hear His voice and feel His touch of mercy as we follow Him to the place where we can rest in

His presence by the still waters and be restored from all the challenges of the desert. How close is your walk with the Shepherd, close enough to hear His voice, or have you distanced yourself from Him when journeying through the desert? Have you accepted the Bread of Life and the Living Water offered you to sustain you in the desert? Hear His voice today, Eat and drink of Me for the journey will be hard for you without Me. Let the balm of Gilead touch your hurts; Your battle will be His battle when you confess and renounce your sins, when you deny yourself of self-pity, and take your cross to follow Him. **BE STILL AND KNOW THAT YAHWEH IS THE TRUE ELOHIM!**