

The Touch of YAHWEH
(Daniel 8:18; 9:21; 10:10-18; 6:16-28; Isaiah 6:10-18)

(Part 2)

When the administrators and satraps, under the reign of Darius of Babylon could not find corruption on Daniel's life they decided to go against him concerning the law of his YAHWEH by suggesting the king a decree prohibiting prayer to any god except to king Darius. When Daniel heard that the document had been signed he did as usual, with the window opened toward Jerusalem and three times a day he got down on his knees; he prayed and gave thanks to his God (Daniel 6:4-11). The life of Daniel was in danger when he was found praying to his YAHWEH, in the time when a decree had been signed by the king that no one was to pray to other gods beside him. Those found doing otherwise were to be thrown to the lions which were ready and famish. But to Daniel his YAHWEH was the YAHWEH of the lions and fear didn't take hold of him to deny his Lord. When this idea was suggested to him, the king, he was displeased and he set his mind on rescuing Daniel. When nothing in regard to Daniel could be changed, he went to his palace and spent the night fasting, and he could not sleep. However, at the light of dawn, he got up and hurried to the lions 'den, he cried out in anguish to Daniel, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God whom you serve continually been able to rescue you from the lions? Then Daniel spoke with the king: May the king live forever. My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths. They haven't hurt me, for I was found innocent before Him. Also, I have not committed a crime against you my king (vs. 16-22).

Nothing in the course of time was going to turn this servant of YAHWEH away to denying Him. He had achieved a position of great respect in the kingdom of Babylon under several kings and that had caused great jealousy among the people in the administration. His dedication to the Lord was to the point of risking his life; as was the dedication of his friends when they did not bow before the gold statue Nebuchadnezzar had made. King Nebuchadnezzar was a proud and self-exalted king forcing all to worship his statue, although at the his command to bow down and worship his statue, the three friends of Daniel refused to deny their God saying, If the God we serve exists, then He can rescue us from the furnace of blazing fire, and He can rescue us from the power of you, the king. But even if He does not rescue us, we want you as king to know that we will not serve your gods or worship the gold statue you set up (Daniel 3:15-18).

These young people spoke words of faith not knowing if YAHWEH would rescue them or not; they didn't know YAHWEH'S purpose for them in that hour; one thing was very important however: their faithfulness to their YAHWEH even unto death. In the moment of their trial when they were thrown into the furnace with blazing fire, YAHWEH touched them with the presence of an angel, who had come to stay with them in their ordeal and to rescue them from the burning fire. At the unexpected scene of deliverance of these young men the king marveling at what he had seen said, Didn't we throw three men, bound, into the fire? Look! I see four men, not tied, walking around in the fire unharmed; and the fourth looks like a son of the gods (vs.25). The touch of our YAHWEH in the lives of these faithful servants caused confusion, in the mind of the king, but at the same time it was to him a testimony of the veracity of the work of the true YAHWEH that Daniel's friends worshiped. Compelled by that testimony, he signed a decree that anyone of any people, nation, or language who says anything offensive against the

God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego will be torn limb from limb and his house made a garbage dump; for there is no other god who is able to deliver like this. Their faithfulness was rewarded and the king rewarded them in his kingdom (vs.29-30).

Many years ago when Israel had been taken captive to Babylon, Daniel and his friends were among them. He had learned through the prophecy of Jeremiah that the captivity was to last seventy years; reason why at the end of the seventy years, Daniel sought the Lord for answers, as we read in chapter nine, In the first year of Darius reign, he said, I Daniel, understood from the books according to the word of the Lord to Jeremiah that the number of years for the desolation of Jerusalem would be seventy years. So I turned my attention to the Lord God to seek Him by prayer and petitions, with fasting, sackcloth and ashes. I prayed to the Lord God and confessed (Daniel 9:1-4). He sought the Lord God for answers, with a true humble heart on behalf of his nation. His concerns were that the Word of YAHWEH be fulfilled in his nation and city. After confession of his own sins and the sins of the nation he interceded for her saying, Lord in keeping with all Your righteous acts, may Your anger and wrath turn away from Your city Jerusalem, Your holy mountain; hear the prayer and the petitions of Your servant; show Your favor to Your desolate sanctuary for the Lord's sake; listen, my God, and hear. Open your eyes and see our desolation and the city called by Your name, for we are not presenting our petitions before You based on our righteous acts, but based on You abundant compassion. Lord, hear! Lord, forgive! Lord, listen and act! My God, for Your own sake, do not delay, because You city and Your people are called by Your name (Daniel 9:15-19).

The prayer of intercession of Daniel reached the heart of YAHWEH, because his heart was contrite before Him and because He was bringing to remembrance the deliverance of Israel in the frame of the time of seventy years that had been promised in the prophecy of Jeremiah. He was in harmony and in agreement with YAHWEH and His Word. Yes, the answer had come to him finally and this time it had come with prophecies beyond the time of those seventy years. He relates, While I was praying, Gabriel, the man I had seen in the first vision, came to me in my extreme weariness, about the time of the evening offering .He said to Daniel, At the beginning of your petitions an answer went out, and I have come to give it, for you are treasured by God (Vs. 20-23).

Daniel had touched the heart of YAHWEH, Who in return touched His. To him was reviewed the future that was going to affect his people. God continued giving him prophetic visions later which included the revelation of a great conflict, or tribulation; as he understood this vision, he mourned for three weeks at that particular time of this specific vision. At the end of the three weeks he had another vision, while he was standing on the bank of the great river, the Tigris, he said, I looked up, and there was a man dressed in linen, with a belt of gold from uphaz around his waist. His body was like topaz, his face like the brilliance of lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and feet like the gleam of polished bronze, and the sound of his words like the sound of a multitude. At the sight of this vision, no strength was left on him, his face grew deathly pale, and he was powerless; at the sound of his words, Daniel fell into a deep sleep, with his face to the ground; suddenly, a hand touched me and raised me to my hands and knees (10:1-10). After three weeks the answer had come to Daniel in such magnificent presence, such

power and holiness that no human being could stand before it. But Daniel once again was touched by YAHWEH and was given strength to hear the message sent for him to write.

When we seek our YAHWEH with a heart like that of Daniel, He will touch us with answers to our prayers, with hope, mercy and love. His answer might be hindered as Daniel's was, however, our attitude must be that of a continuous attitude of submission to His will. Daniel sought YAHWEH with confession, fasting, sackcloth and ashes, humbling himself to his YAHWEH and he was heard.

When the Lord appeared to King Solomon a second time, after the dedication of the temple after he had prayed a prayer of intercession for the people, the Lord said to him, I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for Myself as a temple of sacrifice, If I close the sky so there is no rain, or if I command the grasshopper to consume the land, or if I send pestilence on My people, and **My people who are called by My name humble themselves, pray and seek My face, and turn from their evil ways then I will hear from heaven, forgive their sin, and heal their land (II Chronicles 7:12-14)**. Here we have the secrets how to touch the heart of YAHWEH: Humbleness, and the turning from evil ways. That's the beginning of a relationship that will always turn His ears to hear our prayers and touch us with answers.

The touch of YAHWEH comes to us in many forms: sometimes His touch comes in the form of judgment and in discipline; sometimes it comes through correction for sanctification; sometimes it comes with blessings. We are familiar with several characters in Bible history that have been affected with His touch one way or the other. Take, for example, the life of King Saul, a king who refused to obey YAHWEH and was touched with an evil spirit and died rejected by the Lord; but not so with Isaiah, who being a sinner, recognized his sins and was touched with cleansing and forgiveness of his sins. The heart that bends toward YAHWEH for cleansing will never be denied of its request and more will be given to him from the abundance of YAHWEH'S blessings, just like Daniel at the lion's den and his friends in the blazing fire. Our YAHWEH is the same yesterday, today and will always be the same. We, however, must have a changed heart before Him.