

“Behold What Manner of Love!”

Part One – A Glimpse of Heaven’s Love

By Adaryahu Lockett

When the Messiah was asked which is the greatest commandment, He exalted the command of love above all others:

And one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, and perceiving that he had answered them well, asked him, Which is the first commandment of all? And YHUH Saviour answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; YHUH our Eloheem is one YHUH: And thou shalt love YHUH thy Eloheem with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these. And the scribe said unto him, Well, Master, thou hast said the truth: for there is one Eloheem; and there is none other but he: And to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love his neighbour as himself, is more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices. And when YHUH Saviour saw that he answered discreetly, he said unto him, Thou art not far from the kingdom of Eloheem . And no man after that durst ask him any question. Mark 12:28-34

This passage teaches love is the greatest command and that those who truly understand this are not far from the kingdom of Eloheem. The question we want to ask ourselves then is, do we truly know what this love is? And is it happening in our lives?

Love is hard to define. Is it a feeling? A principle? A thought? Added to the difficulty of defining it, we also have to dissociate it from the wrong meanings in our society. Love is passed off as sex, marriages kept together “no matter what”, infatuation, belonging to a church or giving money to a charity. No doubt we must wonder if it is possible to rightly understand this most important word.

Let’s look at what Scripture tells us about love.

First, it's important to note that even though the first command is to love YHUH, we can't truly love Him unless we love our brother as well, for we are told:

If a man say, I love Eloheem, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love Eloheem whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth Eloheem love his brother also.
1John 4:20, 21

It doesn't make sense to state that we could actually love someone we can't see if we don't love whom we can see. So how do we get this love between Eloheem, our brother and ourselves?

Scripture clearly shows that love starts in heaven with YHUH's love towards us: “We love Him, because He first loved us” 1John 4:19

When we first begin to experience YHUH's love, hopefully our hearts will long to love Him back. His response to our desire to love Him is:

If ye love me, keep my commandments. John 14:15

YHUH Saviour answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me. Joh 14:23-24

As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.
Joh 15:9-10

When someone seeks to understand and obey YHUH's commandments, including the Messiah's words, they begin to feel out of place with the rest of the world. They must give up their love for the things, activities and social life of the world in order to completely obey YHUH as He shows them the standards of heaven. The process of learning these standards teaches them patience, self-sacrifice, discipline, humility and other important virtues necessary for them to be fit for the kingdom of heaven

Only through this process of obedience to YHUH can we ever claim to know YHUH:

And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of Eloheem perfected: hereby know we that we are in him. 1Jn 2:3-5

Those who choose this path often experience an increasing loneliness they hope will be replaced with perfect fellowship in heaven. As others go about seeming to be happy in loving the things and people of the world, they determine they will seek a higher joy and love that only heaven can offer. So they press on in obedience to YHUH.

However, as I read Scripture, I think they have a surprise coming. Heaven's reward may be closer than we think. John tells us of a bestowal of love that is manifested to YHUH's obedient children now:

Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons (children) of Eloheem: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. 1John 3:1

We have perhaps read this text and thought "us" referred to the world since the Father demonstrated His love by sending His Son to die for the world. But the verse correlates this love with only the ones who are called the children of Eloheem, not the entire world. The fact this love is given only to a specific group and not the whole world is confirmed by "the world knoweth us not..." So what is this manner of love the Father wants His children to behold?

Astounding texts in Scripture give us a clue to understanding the magnificence of this special love bestowed on YHUH's children. I've often struggled with these texts because they seemed to say too much. They promised complete victory over sin, YHUH's love being perfected in us, the re-birth experience, a continual abiding in the light, and a passage from death to life in which our joy is made full. How could these things actually happen to a person on earth now? As badly as I wanted them to apply here and now, I sadly concluded they must refer to some miraculous time in the future. But after beholding the love bestowed from heaven, I'm convinced these texts are promises for us now, in this life:

We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death. 1John 3:14

As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments,

and abide in his love. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full. This is my commandment, that ye love one another, as I have loved you. John 15:9,10

He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now. He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him. 1 John 2:9-10.

Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of Eloheem; and every one that loveth is born of Eloheem, and knoweth Eloheem. 1 John 4:7

Whosoever is born of Eloheem doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of Eloheem. 1 John 3:9

Beloved, if Eloheem so loved us, we ought also to love one another. No man hath seen Eloheem at any time. If we love one another, Eloheem dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us. 1John 4:11,12

According to these texts the love between the “Beloved” is connected to our rebirth. Everyone who has this love is born again. This love also enables us to know Eloheem. Can you imagine a love experience here on earth between the Beloved that is so heavenly our Creator will dwell in us because of that love? Yet this is the case, and because this love makes it possible for YHUH to dwell in us He then perfects His love in us so that we no longer stumble and stop sinning!

Obviously this love of the “Beloved” must be powerful since YHUH perfects us with it. As I read these texts I became hungry for even just a taste of this love. Perhaps I’ve never really known the love of the “Beloved” as I’ve been programmed to define love by what I see on earth. But this love from heaven is different. It’s powerful beyond anything earth can show us. In fact it is one of only two characteristics that differentiate the children of Eloheem from the children of the devil:

In this the children of Eloheem are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of Eloheem, neither he that loveth not his brother. 1John 3:9-10

Doing righteousness and loving the brethren proves who are the real children of the Messiah. Since the devil calls that which is good evil he seeks to lead those who fail to understand this righteousness and love to speak evil of it. Those who do righteousness are then falsely accused as being self-righteous and proud. Likewise, as they love the brethren their love will be falsely portrayed as a carnal and evil thing.

We need to make sure we are not influenced by the world to think of heaven’s love in a bad light either. For example, if a Beloved sister and a Beloved brother start feeling the powerful love of heaven for each other, is that wrong? We can see the possibility of this being perceived as wrong in John’s loving letter to the elect lady as he writes:

The elder unto the elect lady and her children, whom I love in the truth; and not I only, but also all they that have known the truth;...And now I beseech thee, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment unto thee, but that which we had from the beginning, that we love one another...Having many things to write unto you, I would not *write* with paper and ink: but I trust to come unto you, and speak face to face, that our joy may be full. 2 John 1:1,5,12.

This verse shows John confessing his love for a woman who is obviously not his wife. It is probable she is someone else's wife since she has children and no mention is made of her being a widow. The fact he felt the need to beseech her “that they love one another” suggests she was struggling with

whether it was right or not for them to do this. He goes on to show how strong his love is for her by stating his hopes that he can see her face to face, claiming this would make their joy full.

It is easy to see how a close, loving relationship between opposite sexes can be misunderstood or misrepresented as a carnal relationship or affair. Are we willing to be falsely accused that our heavenly love is carnal and that believers are having affairs, as possibly John and the Elect Lady were accused? Are we prepared for our families to turn against us and for our reputations to be ruined? I'm not saying this will for sure happen, but I don't put anything past what the adversary, the accuser of the brethren, will do to try to make that which is good look evil and cause us to doubt the goodness of YHUH's gift from heaven. Is having YHUH's bestowal of love important enough to risk ruining our reputations this way?

Aren't we told to avoid the appearance of evil? This was Paul's counsel to the Thessalonians, but if we were to make that our guiding principle, then so much of what we do would not be done because of how the world calls that which is good evil.

As I weighed the possible cost I've concluded that nothing on earth can compare to the love from heaven. I see the love bestowal from heaven is not love as we know it. Earth's love is not love; it's lust and is about loving the people and things that bring personal pleasure, yet is empty and unsatisfying in the end. But heaven's love is not about getting, but rather about giving because those who receive it must give it to those whom they were meant to share it with. So it is as the world tempts man to satisfy his own feelings and desires and calls that love, heaven offers a bestowal of love that is genuine and has no lust, temptation or selfishness in it. You can see this comparison in James one:

Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of Eloheem: for Eloheem cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. Do not err, my beloved brethren. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. James 1:13-17.

Here we see something the Beloved are warned not to err on. The temptation of lust is compared with every "good gift and perfect gift" that is from above. The word "perfect" actually means "completeness". So YHUH is giving a completeness gift, that perfect love gift He bestows upon the Beloved. There is no temptation in YHUH's gift, while temptation is abundant in the lust of mankind. As lust leads to death, YHUH's gift of love is a passage from death to life. Even though the two are opposites, the warning not to err here shows it is easy to confuse the two.

The more I studied this love the more I could see how wonderful and powerful it is and realized I didn't want to miss any of it. even if I am falsely accused. But I also feared worldly influences on my own heart and mind could easily corrupt this love so it became lust, which I definitely didn't want to happen. If YHUH bestowed on me love for another woman like he did John for the elect lady, then I wanted to be sure I would love her only with the pure love of heaven. I concluded we must have discernment between heavenly love and earthly lust, and we also must have purified hearts and minds in order to receive the love of heaven without corrupting it.

Therefore heaven's love brings to mankind the closest test of all because love is a heart test. Man can hide what is in his heart from others, but not from YHUH. Once this heart test is passed, YHUH can then give witness to the pure hearts of His servants with the gift of the Ruach Qadosh (Holy Spirit) even as He did with the Gentiles in the days of the Apostles:

And when there had been much disputing, Peter rose up, and said unto them, Men and brethren, ye know how that a good while ago Eloheem made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe. And Eloheem, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us; And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith. Act 15:7 -9

YHUH's servants who long for the gifts of heaven will plead for YHUH to search their hearts and show them anything that is wrong:

Search me, O Eloheem, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. Psa 139:23, 24

This heart work will qualify them to be brought to YHUH's banqueting house with YHUH's love banner placed over them:

He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love. Song of Songs 2:4

We cannot pretend to have a pure heart before YHUH. We must live in conscious innocence as YHUH reads our hearts. Is there lust or covetousness there? Or are our thoughts pure and full of His words? If YHUH doesn't like what He sees in our hearts, then He will not give us His Ruach Qadosh or bring us to His banqueting table or put His banner of love over us. But if He does like what He sees, then He will gather these trusted hearts together under His banner of love where He will feed them from His banqueting table.

What happens to those who do not pass the heart test so they can eat at YHUH's banqueting table? They eat at a different table, even though they may not realize what is happening. This table, we are told, is filled with vomit and filthiness by the spiritual leaders who are drunk on the wine of Babylon:

But they also have erred through wine, and through strong drink are out of the way; the priest and the prophet have erred through strong drink, they are swallowed up of wine, they are out of the way through strong drink; they err in vision, they stumble in judgment. For all tables are full of vomit and filthiness, so that there is no place clean. Isaiah 28:7,8.

It is imperative the heart and mind be kept pure in order for the banner of love to unite in a right way. The ability of a person to control such a thing as their own thoughts, something so secret and easy to sin with and feel unnoticed, is the closest test of true conversion. What a man does in secret is truly the greatest evidence of who that man is, and what more secret place is there than in the mind? For those who have controlled themselves, even bringing their thoughts into obedience to the word of YHUH, the reward is the bestowal of love from heaven between the "Beloved" that gives complete victory over sin, perfects YHUH's love in them, completes the birth experience, makes it so they abide in the light, and is a passage from death to life in which their joy is made full. This is explained in the following amazing texts:

We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death. 1John 3:14

He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now. He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him. 1 John 2:9-10.

As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full. This is my commandment, that ye love one another, as I have loved you. John 15:9,10

Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of Eloheem; and every one that loveth is born of Eloheem, and knoweth Eloheem. 1 John 4:7

Whosoever is born of Eloheem doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of Eloheem. 1 John 3:9

This love experience between the Beloved takes place before we are gathered into the kingdom. We know this because YHUH Saviour said:

By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another. John 13:35.

This is obviously the most powerful gift YHUH gives His people, and this must be why we are commanded to "Behold" it. YHUH Himself is love, so in this bestowal His people are receiving the power of YHUH Himself in their lives. No doubt our enemy will hate this love more than any other doctrine or gift and will demonstrate his hatred in disparaging it and seeking to prevent it and falsely accuse it to the best of his most heinous abilities.

Do you want this most prized love gift from heaven to be bestowed on you? Then you must do two things – you must make sure you are living according to YHUH's instructions through study, prayer, obedience and close scrutiny of even your most intimate thoughts so YHUH will see your heart and mind are truly devoted to Him as you keep His law and have His testimony; and second, you must count the cost. Are you prepared for the obloquy of the enemy as you receive this gift from heaven? Remember, "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love." 1 John 4:18.

This study is only the tip of an iceberg as it is the beginning of a discovery into a profound yet hidden truth that takes us back to when life began on earth. Part two of this study will examine exactly what this special love for the "Beloved" is, and how this bestowal from heaven is actually YHUH's dream come true.

In closing I wish to give you a glimpse of the impact this love has on a person's life. Following is a portion of an email I received from a woman who was beginning to experience the bestowal of this love in her life. I hope this depiction of her experience will be as inspiring to you as it was to me.

"As I try to find words to describe what I'm experiencing it seems I was examining an exceedingly wonderful box with mounting excitement. As I began opening this treasure box the most wonderful and exhilarating fragrance came out, like air with sweet life in it, awakening in me a feeling as if I was passing from death to life. This breath of fragrance caused my longings to understand and experience the contents of the treasure box to be so strong that it was as if a great secret from heaven was inside and every fiber in my being was focused in rapt attention to discover it. As I carefully tried to look into this amazing box it appeared to have no bottom, and was full of promises, beautiful emotions, amazing discoveries, power and capacity that our language lacks the words to describe. Others looking at me must have detected the excitement I was experiencing and wondered what was happening. If they were to ask me, I would be at a loss for words. Perhaps I could tell them another seed from the kingdom of heaven is in my heart and is leavening the whole lump. But it seems not to be just another seed, but the most exquisite and powerful seed of all.

Yet it's even more than that. It's as if something is inside me, while I am inside something. When I look inside I see something wonderful happening in my heart. And when I look outside I see something wonderful happening in my world. The grey is gone, the dark clouds disappeared, the sky is blue and the sun is shining everywhere. Everything has a happiness about it that before I seemed always to be hoping for. I knew someday the reality of heaven would come, but I didn't know it could come now. As the joy in my heart links with the joy in my world, my cup surely runneth over. Can this really last? I feel it not only will last, but will deepen and widen and get higher and bigger and stronger as the Messiah manifests Himself through those who obey Him and bestow on them this love that He asks us to "Behold."

When the love evidence of the Messiah's disciples convinces the world of who the Messiah is, surely this sign will be magnificent beyond comprehension. As I'm anticipating this event, I feel the heartbeat of abiding in the Messiah is taking my life to a new level. Every passage I read in Scripture seems to be breathing now, instead of static words with instructions and information coded in them, marvelous as it was even before they seemed to breathe. My mind and heart race to breathe deeper and quicker so I can take it all in. And with each breath I want to do more and be more for the effect of this fragrance seems to quicken all my faculties. Oh, how I wish my words were adequate to describe what is happening.”

As I mentioned earlier, what I have shared here is just a glimpse of this love. Part two will take this subject further by describing this love bestowed on the Beloved in more detail. I will also show how this subject is especially about YHUH's dream come true. I anticipate you feeling as excited as I did as the reality of what YHUH longs for comes into focus. May we each prepare ourselves for the fulfillment of YHUH's dream.