

Jehovah–Rapha The Lord Our Healer

The Names of God, Part 6
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Last week we learned about Jehovah-Shalom (*The Lord is my peace*). Peace is ours when we put our trust in Him and walk in obedience to His word. God's peace replaces our fears, give us courage to do His will and directs us in our every day decisions. He will give peace in every situation as we will pray and give Him our thankful praise.

This week we will learn about Jehovah-Rapha, the God who heals us body, mind and soul.

5.) Jehovah–Rapha, The Lord our healer

רָפָא *râphâ'*, A primitive root; properly to *mend* (by stitching), that is, (figuratively) to *cure*:—cure, (cause to) heal, physician, repair, thoroughly, make whole.

Exodus 15:26 He said, "If you listen carefully to the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD, who heals you."

• From joyous victory to murmuring despair

The Israelites have just crossed the Red Sea. They watched as Jehovah swallowed up the Egyptian chariots Moses sings a new song of God's deliverance. Miriam takes a tambourine and leads the women in dance singing, "*Sing ye to the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea*" (Ex. 15:1-21).

Now Moses leads the people three days across the dry desert of Shur. Hot, dusty and dry the people follow Moses with expectations of water. When they did find water, it was undrinkable. With dashed expectations they went from victory to defeat, from worship and faith to grumbling against Moses and doubt of God's ability.

"God allows trials for the purpose of teaching us faith. Our joys and sorrows very often lie close to each other. We often discover that after our joys from a great deliverance, we find ourselves standing beside the bitter waters of disappointment and pain. What happens to our faith in God in the time of trial is a true test of Christian character. It is easy to respond in faith and songs of praise after a deliverance but the true test will be when sorrow comes, when you are thirsty and, stooping down to drink, you discover that the water is bitter. Then if you can still praise God and trust His love and power, you prove yourself in Christian discipleship."

—Explorers Bible Study, Early History of Israel, Workbook 5, Lesson 7

• The judicial decree of Jehovah-Rapha

Exodus 15:25-26 Then Moses cried out to the LORD, and the LORD showed him a piece of wood. He threw it into the water, and the water became sweet. There the LORD made a decree and a law for them, and there he tested them. ²⁶He said, "If you listen carefully to the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD, who heals you."

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It's very important that we take note the sequence of events.

- a.) He delivered them from Egyptian bondage
- b.) He destroys their enemies
- c.) He gives them the decree and the law

God didn't say, while they were captives, obey my word and be saved. He said obey my word, because you have been saved! It's not by our works or adherence to the law, rather by God's grace that we are saved and delivered from all our enemies. It's because of the grace we received that we now have an obligation to walk in obedience to the Word of God.

• **Covenant obedience brings covenant blessing**

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Exodus 23:25 –26 Worship the LORD your God, and his blessing will be on your food and water. I will take away sickness from among you, ²⁶and none will miscarry or be barren in your land. I will give you a full life span.

Deuteronomy 7:12, 15 If you pay attention to these laws and are careful to follow them, then the LORD your God will keep his covenant of love with you, as he swore to your forefathers. ¹⁵ The LORD will keep you free from every disease. He will not inflict on you the horrible diseases you knew in Egypt, but he will inflict them on all who hate you.

Proverbs 4:20-22 My son, pay attention to what I say; listen closely to my words. ²¹Do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your heart; ²²for they are life to those who find them and health to a man's whole body.

• **The Lord our healer**

As God made provision for the bitter waters of Marah to be transformed, so has He made provision for His people to be healed from sickness and disease. The phrase **I am the LORD who heals you** testifies to the mercy and power of God.

Isaiah 53:5 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.

Psalm 103:1-3 Praise the LORD, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. ²Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits—³who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases,

Psalm 107:19-21 Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress. ²⁰ He sent forth his word and healed them; he rescued them from the grave. ²¹Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unending love and his wonderful deeds for men.

Psalm 30:2 O LORD my God, I called to you for help and you healed me.

• **The same yesterday, today and forever**

Hebrews 13:8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Matthew 4:23 Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.

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Matthew 15:29-31 Jesus left there and went along the Sea of Galilee. Then he went up on a mountainside and sat down. ³⁰Great crowds came to him, bringing the lame, the blind, the crippled, the mute and many others, and laid them at his feet; and he healed them. ³¹The people were amazed when they saw the mute speaking, the crippled made well, the lame walking and the blind seeing. And they praised the God of Israel. (comp. Acts 10:38)

Mark 16:17-18 And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; ¹⁸they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well.”

1 Cor. 12:9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit,

James 5:14-16 Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. ¹⁶Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

- **Jehovah-Rapha is ready to forgive and to heal**

Isaiah 57:15-19 (NLT) The high and lofty one who inhabits eternity, the Holy One, says this: “I live in that high and holy place with those whose spirits are contrite and humble. I refresh the humble and give new courage to those with repentant hearts. ¹⁶For I will not fight against you forever; I will not always show my anger. If I did, all people would pass away—all the souls I have made. ¹⁷I was angry and punished these greedy people. I withdrew myself from them, but they went right on sinning. ¹⁸I have seen what they do, but I will heal them anyway! I will lead them and comfort those who mourn. ¹⁹Then words of praise will be on their lips. May they have peace, both near and far, for I will heal them all,” says the LORD.

Hosea 6:1 "Come, let us return to the LORD. He has torn us to pieces but he will heal us; he has injured us but he will bind up our wounds.

Psalms 41:4 I said, "O LORD, have mercy on me; heal me, for I have sinned against you."

Psalms 147:3 He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

Jeremiah 17:14 Heal me, O LORD, and I will be healed; save me and I will be saved, for you are the one I praise.

I want to be sensitive to those who would ask, Why are there are times when God chooses not to heal or delays his healing? Due to the lack of time we can not answer that today. I would encourage you to read the following scripture (Job 2:7; Daniel 8:27; John 11:1; Acts 9:37; Philip. 2:27; 2 Tim. 4:20; Heb. 11:39-40; Rev. 21:4).

Next week we will look at **Jehovah—Tsidkenu** “The Lord our righteousness.”