

Midweek Study

Dr. Josh Franklin • Senior Pastor

OUR GREAT GOD

THE NAMES OF GOD

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יהוה רפא

Jehovah Rapha – The Lord Our Healer

*“I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians.
For I am the LORD Who heals you.” (Exodus 15:26b)*

I. You can be in the will of God and go through a test.

Exodus 15:22, 25 (NKJV) - ²² So Moses brought Israel from the Red Sea; then they went out into the Wilderness of Shur. And they went three days in the wilderness and found no water...²⁵ **And there He tested them.”**

- Three days before this event, God showed Israel His power over water at the Red Sea (Exodus 15). God had taught them a lesson about His power, and now He would test them at Marah, where the water was bitter. God was giving Israel a water test – would they trust that God was greater than the water?
- Tony Evans writes, “You could be in a dry land even while being in God’s will. You could be in God’s will and not have a job. You could be in God’s will and not experience perfect physical health. You could be in God’s will and have relational difficulties. You could be in God’s will and still run into a dry spell, just as the Israelites had done. God often uses these situations to administer a test.”^a

II. The test can either make us bitter or better.

Exodus 15:23-24 (NKJV) - ²³ Now when they came to Marah, they could not drink the waters of Marah, for they *were* bitter. Therefore the name of it was called Marah. ²⁴ And the people **complained** against Moses, saying, “What shall we drink?”

- Marah means “bitter.” Though God tested Israel to see if they would still believe He could be their ultimate Source, the water being bitter could symbolize the way you and I respond to tests today.

^a Tony Evans, *The Power of God’s Names* (Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 2014), under: “Jehovah Rapha”.

- Though God had miraculously delivered them three days prior at the Red Sea, Israel was already complaining. **Their complaining was really against God**, not Moses. **Exodus 16:8** says, **“Your complaints are not against us but against the LORD.”**
- 1 Corinthians 10, citing this Exodus 15 story, God puts complaining among a list of four sins for us not to follow Israel in: 1) idolatry (1 Cor. 10:7); 2) sexual immorality (1 Cor. 10:8); 3) tempt Christ (1 Cor. 10:9); 4) complain (1 Cor. 10:10). **Philippians 2:14** – **“Do all things without complaining and disputing,”**
- **Hebrews 12:15 (Living)** – **“...Watch out that no bitterness takes root among you, for as it springs up it causes deep trouble, hurting many in their spiritual lives.”**

III. God can use miraculous means and medical means to heal us.

Exodus 15:26 – **“and [God] said, ‘If you diligently heed the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. **For I am the LORD who heals you’.**”**

- **One could say “Rophe” or “Rapha” and the word means “to restore, to heal, to cure or to mend”.** It is used frequently to describe physical healing. It has also been used in **2 Chronicles 7:14** to refer to healing the land. God can also heal someone relationally, emotionally, spiritually or in some other area as well. God revealed Himself to Israel as the Covenant Keeper (“Lord”) Who is the Only source of restoration and wholeness.
- In the OT, **Numbers 12:13** – God healed Miriam’s leprosy; **2 Kings 5:8-14** – God healed Naaman’s leprosy. In the NT, **Matthew 4:23** – Jesus said His ministry would be teaching, preaching and healing. He healed the centurion’s servant (Luke 7), the demon-possessed Gerasene (Luke 8), and Jarius’s daughter (Luke 8).
- **Acts 28:8-9 (NKJV)** - ⁸And it happened that the father of Publius lay sick of a fever and dysentery. Paul went in to him and prayed, and he laid his hands on him and **healed him [Gk “iasato”: miraculous healing].** ⁹So when this was done, the rest of those on the island who had diseases also came and were **healed [Gk “therapeuo”: medical healing].** (ESV says “cured” for therapeuo)

Ann Spangler says, “Physical healing is a temporary remedy for mortal bodies. Ultimately, God’s healing work on this earth points to the healing all of us will receive in heaven, where there will be no such thing as birth defects, cancer, heart disease, arthritis, AIDS, strokes, depression, diabetes, leukemia, hemophilia, asthma, or even the common cold. Yet healing in the here and now is a great blessing, one that can come as the result of faith and prayer. In this world, where “pain” is still a constant part of our vocabulary, we need to hold fast to Yahweh Rophe, asking him to reveal himself as “the Lord who heals us.”^b

^b Ann Spangler, *Praying the Names of God* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2008), under “Yahweh Rophe”.