

Jehovah-Rophe,
The LORD Who Heals

Exodus 15:22-27

2 Corinthians 4:7-18

Exodus 15:22-26

Then Moses made Israel set out from the Red Sea, and they went into the wilderness of Shur. They went three days in the wilderness and found no water. ²³ When they came to Marah, they could not drink the water of Marah because it was bitter; therefore it was named Marah. ²⁴ And the people grumbled against Moses, saying, “What shall we drink?” ²⁵ And he cried to the LORD, and the LORD showed him a log, and he threw it into the water, and the water became sweet.

Exodus 15:22-26, cont

There the LORD made for them a statute and a rule, and there he tested them, ²⁶ saying, “If you will diligently listen to the voice of the LORD your God, and do that which is right in his eyes, and give ear to his commandments and keep all his statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you that I put on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD, your healer.”

The meaning of the name:

*Yahweh-Rophe depicts God as the Lord
who redeems us from the effects of sin
and brings life, wholeness, and salvation
to us*

The Biblical View of Healing

- Wholistic world view – not compartmentalized
- Pre-scientific – but not ignorant. They had no class of physicians but were proactive in treating sicknesses.
- Rural – farm animals – common sicknesses were skin infections
- Sickness meant an absence of wholeness
- Healing meant wholeness – Rapa and Rophe in Hebrew

Healing in the Old Testament

- Diseases – Psalm 103:3, “Who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases.”
- The earth, farm land – 2 Chron. 7:14, “And heal their land.” *Aretz* refers to the land, Aretz Israel.
- The Salt Sea (Dead Sea) – Ezek. 47:8, “The waters there become fresh.” *Rapha* is used.
- The broken-hearted – Psalm 147:3, “He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.”
- Preventive Healing – Exodus 15:25-26, “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.”

Healing in the Old Testament

- Spiritual Healing – Psa. 41:4, “Heal me, for I have sinned against you”;
- Isaiah 6:10: “Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed.”
- Also Isaiah 1:5-6; 6:10; 30:26; 53:4-5; Jeremiah 3:22; 8:22; 30:12-17;
- Hosea 6:1; 14:4, “I will heal their waywardness and love them freely.”
- Heavenly Healing – Ezekiel 47:11-12:

Healing in the New Testament

- Broad meaning – wholeness: Matthew 4:24, “People brought to him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed, and he healed them.”
- Spiritual problems – Mark 2:17, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”
- Gifts of healing – 1 Corinthians 12:9
- Heavenly healing – Revelation 22:2, “And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be any curse...”

In the wilderness...

- Disappointment at Marah: after deliverance from Egypt they experienced disappointment in the Wilderness
- Deliverance – healing: despite the bitterness of the water, God made it sweet and drinkable
- Identity – a new name of God was given: Yahweh-Rophe or the LORD who heals.

1. The Disappointments of Life



- Deliverance from Egypt did not prevent bitter experiences in the wilderness.
- After salvation, how do we get rid of the bitterness of our soul?

What do we do with our disappointments?

- The Blame Game – you, him, them?
- The Spiritual Shopping Trip – trying to find a better offer
- Go back to Egypt? Forsaking Christ? Can we return to our lost condition?
- The Internalization of Bitterness – stiff upper lip and a hard bitter heart
- Is someone supposed to make us happy?

2. The Healing of the Waters



- Moses cried out to the LORD, in faith
- A piece of wood, an image of the cross
- When Christ is brought into the picture, God can bring healing

Israel's Deliverance and Healing

Israel

- Deliverance from enslavement in Egypt
- Healing and provision in the wilderness wanderings
- Final victory as they entered the Promised Land

Us today

- Delivered from Sin at Salvation
- Wilderness Wanderings depict the carnal Christian life
- Final Victory is the life of surrender
- Heb 4:3,9-11

3. A New Name was given

- Moses and the nation of Israel had a new understanding of God. He not only delivers but He heals.
- God is always relevant for our lives
- The question is whether our lives are relevant to the plans and purposes of God

How to receive God's inner healing

- All God's healing is mediated by Christ and achieved by the cross. Sufficient grace is available to cover the sins of the whole world.
- Faith is required on our part.
- Inner healing is the victory of God over our hurts, our wounds, our fears, our worries.
- Some healing experiences take time to be completely received and experienced.

Healing through resting in Him

- Healing of resting in Him: Matthew 11:28, “and you will find rest for your souls.” Rest was one of the main ways people were treated for illnesses.
- We can find soul rest and soul health through ceasing to struggle to impress God or to earn His love, and trust in His love for us and in His salvation offered for us through grace.

Healing through holiness in our lives

- “...and give ear to his commandments and keep all his statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you...”
- 1 Peter 3:10-11: “Whoever would love life and see good days must keep their tongue from evil and their lips from deceitful speech. They must turn from evil and do good; they must seek peace and pursue it.”

Healing through forgiving others

- James 5:16: “Therefore 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.”
- Forgive others, and ask for their forgiveness. Confess your faults to others. Stubbornness in our hearts causes soul sickness and often physical sickness.
- And Pray – the exercise of prayer is one of the most helpful things we can do for our spiritual health.

Healing through giving

- Luke 6:38: “Give and it shall be given unto you.”
- 2 Corinthians 8:7: “Just as you excel in everything – in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us – see that you also excel in this grace of giving.”
- 2 Cor. 9:11: “You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion.”

A lesson from John D...



- World's first Billionaire at 43 years of age!
- At 53 years of age his health was so bad he lived on crackers and milk. He enjoyed nothing.
- Ida Tarbell wrote, "He was the oldest man I have ever seen."
- He changed his purpose in life from getting to giving.

A lesson from John D

- “Turn your thoughts upon the higher things of life. Be of service to humanity. Turn your thoughts into channels of usefulness; look forward to a determination that something useful shall come out of your success...Do everything you can for the betterment of your fellow-men and in doing this you will enjoy life the better.”
- He lived to be 97 years old.