

# 3. Divine Healing in God's Covenant

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Subtitle: Jehovah Rapha – the Lord our Healer

We are journeying through a series of messages & take a fresh look at divine healing in the covenant that God's has established with us.

As Bible-believing Christians we believe in the full redemptive acts of Jesus Christ that He achieved through His sacrificial suffering & death on the Cross.

God makes covenants with His people. He enshrines certain blessings within those covenants, so we can have faith, confidence & certainty about His promises, including His promises on healing.

God does not heal people at random - He heals people based on His covenant promises.

## 1. Jehovah Rapha – the Lord our Healer

**Exodus 15:22–25 (NKJV)** *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. 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?” 25 So he cried out to the Lord, and **the Lord showed him a tree. When he cast it into the waters, the waters were made sweet.** There He made a statute and an ordinance for them, and there He tested them,*

- After crossing the Red Sea, the Israelites came to the springs of Marah where the water was bitter (unpalatable, brackish & potentially poisonous)
- Moses prayed to the Lord, and God showed him a particular tree
- As Moses threw the tree into the water, the water was “healed”, and turned from bitter to sweet (sweet - fresh, palatable and drinkable)
- (It wasn't the tree that turned the water from bitter to sweet, but Moses' symbolic faith action of throwing the tree into the water)
- Galatians 3:13 tells us that Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law by being hung on a tree
- This tree that Moses threw into the water was symbolic of Jesus Christ who died on a tree (cross)

- It is Jesus Christ who is able to heal humanity of its poisonous sin, and make us “sweet” and acceptable to the Father
- Furthermore, He is able to heal our body from sickness and disease

**Exodus 15:26 (NKJV)** *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.**”*

- ... *For I am the Lord who heals you* = I am “Jehovah Rapha”
- “Jehovah Rapha” is a compound name that reveals:
  - part of God’s nature (God is a healing God)
  - one of God’s redemptive functions (Healing is part of redemption)
- God says: This is who I Am, and this is what I do

## **2. A whole nation without sickness and disease**

**Exodus 23:25–26 (NKJV)** *So you shall serve the Lord your God, and He will bless your bread and your water. And **I will take sickness away from the midst of you.** 26 **No one shall suffer miscarriage or be barren in your land; I will fulfill the number of your days.***

- God is again affirming His covenant with them. He said:
- ... *you shall serve the Lord your God, & He will bless your bread & your water*
- ... *I will take sickness away from the midst of you...*
- ... **No one** *shall suffer miscarriage or be barren in your land ...*
- ... *I will fulfill the number of your days.*

It was God’s plan & intention that as a nation of people, the Israeites were all strong & healthy, and not experience any sickness, disease or other calamity.

**Psalm 105:37 (GNB)** *Then he led the Israelites out; they carried silver and gold, and **all of them were healthy and strong.***

- Notice: ... *all of them were healthy and strong.*
- God healed them all at the waters of Marah, where He revealed Himself as Jehovah Rapha
- Conservative Bible scholars estimate the population of Israel at the time of the Exodus at two to three million people

- Others estimate it around six million, incl. the mixed multitude (Ex. 12:38)
- Imagine, a population the size of New Zealand, with not a single sick person among them
- All this was available under the old covenant (old Testament)

### **3. We have a better covenant, established on better promises**

**Hebrews 8:6 (NLT)** *But now Jesus, our High Priest, has been given a ministry that is far superior to the old priesthood, for **he is the one who mediates for us a far better covenant with God, based on better promises.***

- Jesus Christ is the mediator of the new covenant, which is a better covenant, established on better promises
- If healing was freely available under the old covenant, than it must surely be freely available under the new and better covenant

**Acts 10:38 (NASB)** *You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how He went about doing good, **and healing all who were oppressed by the devil;** for God was with Him.*

- This is Peter's summary statement about Jesus Christ earthly ministry
- God had anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit and with power, to, among other things, heal all who were oppressed of the devil
- **Here, the Bible calls sickness & disease an 'oppression of the devil'**

### **4. We are God's holy nation, God's very own possession**

**1 Peter 2:7–10 (NLT)** *Yes, you who trust him recognize the honor God has given him. But for those who reject him, "The stone that the builders rejected has now become the cornerstone." **8** And, "He is the stone that makes people stumble, the rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they do not obey God's word, and so they meet the fate that was planned for them. **9** But you are not like that, for **you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession.** As a result, **you can show others the goodness of God,** for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light. **10** "Once you had no identity as a people; **now you are God's people.** Once you received no mercy; **now you have received God's mercy."***

- Jesus Christ is called the Chief Cornerstone (Eph. 2:20)
  - He is also the Rock of offence that makes the disobedient fall
  - Vs. 9 .. *But you ... are a chosen people*
  - ... *You are royal priests*
  - ... *You are ... a holy nation*
  - ... *You are ... God's very own possession*
  - ... *God called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light*
  - ... *now you are God's people*
  - ... *now you have received God's mercy*
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- God intended that Christians would be the most blessed people on the face of the earth
  - The most healed ...
  - The most prosperous ...
  - Etc.