



Kingdom Center - JUSTIN HERNANDEZ

JEHOVAH RAPHA (The LORD who heals)

- I. The name of God we're going to look at this week focuses specifically on God's power to heal. [Jehovah Rapha]
 - A. The revelation of this strong name comes on the heels of a great miracle. The backdrop of this name is found in the book of Exodus
 - Exodus 15:22
 1. Now we are familiar (and can probably guess) what just happened with the Red Sea and the difference between the people of Israel from those in Egypt.
 - God parted the Red Sea, He dried up the ground, and allowed the Israelites to pass through to the other side. When the Egyptians tried coming after them, God closed the walls of water, and drowned the Egyptian army.
 - As expected, the Israelites broke out into praise and worship following this miraculous intervention by God.
 - Exodus 15:1-3
 - The Israelites were on an emotional and spiritual high, they had an increase in confidence in God as He just demonstrated Himself before them.
 - Then after all the praising and singing we get to verse 22
 - Having just come out of the water, after crossing the Red Sea, they hit very dry land. The wilderness isn't exactly an exciting place to be, but it was the only way they could get to where God was taking them.
 - In other words— the only way to get from Egypt (the land they were enslaved and delivered FROM) to Canaan (where they were being delivered TO; the place of their promise and destiny) was through the wilderness.
 2. A key for our study today is to understand this principle: often the only way to get from where you are, to where you need to go is through the wilderness.
 - Unfortunately for the Israelites, their wilderness literally had no water. Scripture tells us they did not have water for three days, and when they eventually found water, it was undrinkable.
 - Exodus 15:22-23 The Israelites faced a physical need for healing and refreshment. The Israelites did what we normally do when things don't workout the way we want them to— they complained



- Exodus 15:24
- 3. The Israelites' situation in Marah teaches us an important principle to remember when we are facing a problem: God has a purpose for your pain.
 - God had a reason for allowing the Israelites to go through the difficult situation
 - Exodus 15:25
 - This verse tells us that he used it as a test. In other words, water wasn't a problem, rather, water was a test.
- B. God was leading Moses and Moses had taken Israel straight into their test. It is important to know that he had not led them outside of God's will.
 1. You could be in dry land while still being in God's will. God often uses these situations to administer a test.
 - This is because tests, or trials, are designed to do two things: demonstrate whether we have been paying attention to the lessons we learned, and give God opportunities to reveal something new about Himself to us. This develops our character and strengthens our faith.
 2. This is a concept that troubles some Christians. We seem to think that christianity is supposed to be a life of smooth sailing. This is not one bit true.
 - Working through tests in life from beginning to end is much easier if we understand that God has a purpose for our problems.
 - God understands that the process is as important as the arrival to the promised land. This is why He sometimes doesn't deliver us from certain situations but allows us to face them.
 - One way to recognize that you are failing the test is that you begin complaining.
 - As we read earlier that when the Israelites reached the waters at Marah, they grumbled. They said Amen and Hallelujah on Sunday at the Red Sea , but they hit rock bottom on Wednesday and began to complain.
 - You can go to church every week, sing worship songs, memorize bible verses, serve on a variety of committees, and assume that your heart, faith, and soul are strong.
 - We can even come saying the words "I love you God, You are so good. I'll follow you to the ends of the Earth, I'll do whatever You say, whatever You ask of me."
 - But He tests you and me because He wants what is best for us. He tests us because He is getting ready to do something amazing in our lives, He tests



us to reveal whether or not we are truly looking to Him as our source or if we're looking elsewhere.

- God is omniscient. The test doesn't show God anything new but rather reveals to you what is truly in your heart and what your true motives have been.
3. Often people will say this statement "God will not put on me more than I can bare"
- Let us debunk that myth: 2 Corinthians 1:8
 - Yes the Bible speaks on temptation not being more than we can handle but temptation is different from a test or trial and we must be clear on that.
 - Paul reveals a key principle in his next statement
 - 2 Corinthians 1:9-10
 - Now maybe we are thinking is God mean? No, God is good!! We may think that He is being mean while we are in the midst of these difficult situations but you must know He is actually taking you deeper in Him.
 - At the Red Sea, the Israelites apparently had not learned that God is greater than water, so God decided to teach them again at Marah.
 - Exodus 15:25
 - Tossing a log into polluted water is most definitely an unorthodox way to purify it, but then again, raising a staff is an unnatural way to part a body of water.

II. The Lord who heals

A. After the second miracle in just three days, God discloses to the Israelites the meaning behind the test- He gives them a deeper glimpse into who He is.

1. Once He got their individual attention, He told them more about Himself.
 - Exodus 15:25-26
 - God used the water to teach the Israelites a lesson about his name Jehovah Rapha.
 - The Israelites couldn't drink the water because it was bitter, and the bitterness was an indication of something much worse. The water had somehow become polluted, diseased, or bacterially infected
 - Why did God put all of the diseases on the Egyptians while the Israelites were living in the land? Because the Egyptians did not seek Him as their one true God. Rather they worshipped idols, resulting in impure hearts.



- These impure hearts likewise resulted in the ten plagues, which no doubt brought illness, disease, and emotional issues on those affected.
2. At Marah, God was telling the Israelites they could experience the pain of the unrighteous when they adopt the lifestyle and mindset of the unrighteous.
- The LORD reminded them just who was the source of all healing, all provision, and all life, first through the parting of water and now through the purification of the water.
 - Before we go further I want to emphasize that the name Jehovah Rapha is not a guarantee that no one will ever get sick. If that were the case, pure-hearted followers of Jesus Christ would never die. This is not what this name refers to.
 - The Bible almost always ties healing to the sin that caused the problem. We see this connection in various passages.
 - Psalm 103:2-3
 - Isaiah 1:5-6
 - James 5:14-15
 - Sometimes people get sick simply because of old age, or because of pollutants in the air, or because of what they eat... but that isn't the sickness God is speaking of when He reveals himself as Jehovah Rapha.
 - The Israelites needed protection from the disease-carrying water of Marah, and God provided a tree to make the water sweet.
 - In other words, healing comes when you do the things God has instructed you to do— not because it makes any sense at all, but because it doesn't have to make sense. After all, He is God.
3. Too many Christians want to come to church, read their Bibles, or say their prayers without yielding to God/without surrendering to His rule in their lives.
- Yet the same people wonder why their hearts, minds, and bodies aren't healed.
 - The reason is clear: they're not fully experiencing God's healing touch because they have not yielded to His control.
 - God says if you want to be in charge, you'll have to suffer the consequences. You'll have fight the diseases and disasters on your own.
 - The key to your healing is having faith that if you submit to God's divine authority, He will address every need in your life. When you do this, God restores your health and heals your wounds
 - Jeremiah 30:13-17



4. God's ways of addressing the bitter situations in life won't always makes sense. Just as God instructed Moses to throw a log into the water, He may instruct you to do something that doesn't seem to add up.
- But when you align your thoughts and actions under His ordinances and statutes, you will discover that He can turn anything into something far better than you could have ever imagined.
 - This is why I love the ending to the narrative in which we discover the name Jehovah Rapha. Because, it demonstrates that when you align yourself under God in order to live in the light of His healing power, He can give you more than enough.
 - Exodus 15:27
 - Here we have gone from no water, to bitter water, then to purified water, and finally to plenty of water. A spring is not a pool of water, rather it's a continual flow of fresh and pure water.
 - When Naaman obeyed God, he received healing in his body (2 Kings 5). When Daniel obeyed God, he became healthier than all the other youths (Daniel 1).
 - Doing life God's way is the secret to healing and freedom from the trappings that often weigh us down.
 - Even in the midst of our struggles, hurts, bitterness, and pain, God has a way to sweeten the water and heal our bodies, souls, and spirits. He can use the pain and the suffering to make us stronger. HE IS JEHOVAH RAPHA