

HEALTH & HEALING



Jehovah Rapha

1. God Heals

Introduction

In John's third letter, which was sent to his friend Gaius, he writes, "I pray that you may enjoy good health." Everyone wants to be healthy. And this is God's will for us. In fact we will discover that the Word of God has much to say about healthy living, but it also reveals that God is our Healer. Let's begin by seeing that this is literally the meaning of one of God's names.

- ☐ What promise does God make to His people in Exodus 15:26? What conditions did they need to fulfil in order to receive this promise? What does the Lord tell us about Himself in this verse?

(The promise is that God will not bring any of the diseases He brought on the Egyptians on His people. The condition was that they listened to His voice and obeyed His commands. It shows us that God is the One who heals us.)

When God says that He is the Lord who heals us, He is telling us one of His redemptive names. In Hebrew it is 'Jehovah Rapha'.

- ☐ There are many similar Hebrew names for God in the Old Testament beginning with 'Jehovah'. Can you think of some?

*(Jehovah Jireh – the Lord who provides
Jehovah Nissi – the Lord our banner
Jehovah Shalom – the Lord our peace, are some examples)*

The first part of these names 'Jehovah' is the name God gave when He spoke to Moses at the burning bush. It means, "I will be all that I will be". God is saying that He is the unchanging One. The word 'Jehovah' is then linked with some need of man, showing us that God will be all that His people ever need Him to be. For example, Jehovah Rapha is His name connected to our need for healing, and so He is telling us that He is the One who heals.

- ☐ Read Psalm 103:1-5. What are the benefits we receive when we belong to the Lord? There are 6 given.

Notice what the Word of God says: "who forgives ALL your sins and heals ALL your diseases." There is no sin too big for God to forgive, nor is there any sickness too difficult for God to heal.

- ☐ Who was the prophecy in Isaiah 53:4-6 written about and how do we know that?

(It was written about Jesus. This is clearly stated in the New Testament.)

- ☐ What do these verses in Isaiah tell us Jesus was going to accomplish through His death?

Isaiah 53 tells us that Jesus was going to carry our sin and our iniquities, our sorrows and our infirmities. Do you think these verses are only referring to mental or emotional sorrows, or does it include our bodies? Let's turn to the New Testament and see how the Apostles understood these scriptures.

- ☐ Read Matthew 8:1-3, 5-7, 14-17. Why do you think Matthew quoted the prophet Isaiah in these verses? Is there any difference between Isaiah and Matthew in your translation of the Bible?

(The Gospel of Matthew shows that Jesus was fulfilling the prophecies given by Isaiah. In some translations there is a difference between Isaiah and Matthew, however they mean the same. The word 'sorrows' in the Old Testament means 'pain'. Pain can be emotional or physical, but Jesus heals both.)

- ☐ Has anyone experienced God's healing power in their life? Could you share with us briefly.

Conclusion

One of the names that God has given us for Himself is Jehovah Rapha, meaning 'I am the God who heals you.' When Jesus was on earth He revealed to us what God is like by healing the sick, the blind, the mute and the lame. No-one was turned away. And as believers we have been given the privilege and authority to use His name, the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, to also pray for the sick. Let's use that name for His glory!

(If there is anyone in the group who is in need of healing, it would be good to pray for them.)