

THE NAME JEHOVAH

2. Jehovah Rapha

Leader's Notes



INTRODUCTION

Often people choose names for their children that have a special meaning. In the Bible different names are used for God, each one revealing something of who God is. One of those names is Jehovah or Yahweh, and we have discovered that this name is linked to seven titles that reveal God's covenant with man. The first of these names is Jehovah Jireh, 'The Lord who Provides'. We will now look at the second name, Jehovah Rapha, 'The Lord who Heals.'

Scripture Reading: Exodus 15:22-26

- ✧ The People of Israel had experienced a miraculous deliverance at the Red Sea three days earlier. How did they respond when the only water they could find was undrinkable? V24
(The people grumbled against Moses.)
- ✧ In contrast to the people, Moses cried out to the Lord! How did Moses demonstrate his faith, and what happened as a result. V25.
(Moses demonstrated his faith by responding to what God was showing him, even though it may not have seemed logical. When he threw the wood into the water it became sweet or drinkable.)

It is so easy to grumble when we face challenges, and forget what God has done for us in the past. Let's remember it is better to pray than complain! It required faith for Moses to obey God, but his faith opened the way for a healing miracle to take place.

- ✧ God used the healing of this bitter water to teach his people a wonderful truth about himself. What was that truth? V26b
(That God is the One who heals his people.)

The word translated 'healer' is the Hebrew word used for physical healing. In modern Hebrew it is the word used for doctor. This means we can translate the phrase, 'I am the Lord your Healer', as 'I am the Lord (Jehovah) your Doctor.'

- ✧ What was the basic requirement for healing that God gave to his people? V26a
(The basic requirement was that they listen carefully to God's voice, do what was right and obey his commands.)
- ✧ Spend some time thinking about v26. Discuss what this means to you?

In our previous study we saw God's covenant commitment was to provide for his people, and this was ultimately fulfilled in Jesus. The same is true of God's commitment to heal.

- ✧ What prophecy did Jesus fulfil according to Matthew 8:16-17?
(Jesus fulfilled the prophecy given by Isaiah which said: "He took up our infirmities and carried our diseases".)

The piece of wood, or tree (In Hebrew it is the same word) that Moses threw into the water was the instrument that God used to bring healing to the water. In the same way, a cross, made of wood, became the instrument of Jesus' death, so he could bring healing to all who believe in him. See Acts 5:30, 10:39.

- ✧ What blessings do we receive through the death of Christ? Galatians 3:13-14, 1 Peter 2:24
(We receive all the blessings given to Abraham, through the Spirit, and this includes healing.)
- ✧ Share a time when you experienced Jesus as your Healer.

CONCLUSION

Jesus is the fulfillment of the healing covenant God made with his people. On the cross he bore our sins, and he also took our sicknesses and diseases. His provision for us is both spiritual and physical. This provision, made for God's people under the Old Covenant, is the same as his provision for us through Jesus Christ. He is our Healer, he is our Doctor. Hallelujah! Let's remember to turn to him first, before seeking help from anyone else.