



The Lord Our Healer

I had migraine headaches until I was thirty years old, the kind of migraines that inflicted unbearable pain and stole many, many hours of my time. Every year, our family went to the Orange Festival parade, and every year, I had a migraine. If something important or exciting was happening, I was always struggling with symptoms and pain. Then, one day at age thirty, I was baptized in the Holy Spirit and began to speak with tongues. From that day forward, I never had another migraine.

Now don't misunderstand me. I have passed by many opportunities to have another headache. At times, early symptoms of distress have come upon me, but clinging to the Scripture, God has always blessed me with relief. Over and over again, I have experienced the greatest blessing of God's healing presence long before the symptoms would come to full bloom.

JEHOVAH RAPHA

The Word of God reveals that our great and

mighty God is Jehovah Rapha, the Lord our Healer. This name identifies one aspect of His character. It tells us of His healing provision for all who believe. Every person is called by many different names. I am *Mother* to my children, *Mema* to my granddaughter, *Aunt Becky* to my nieces and *Sister Becky* to many church friends. Each designation

He is still the Lord, our Physician!

highlights a different relationship and communicates the various characteristics of that relationship.

In this same way, God is often revealed by seven redemptive names. Each of these names is a blessing to us because of the death and Resurrection of our Lord. Thus, they are called redemptive names. Although the word "redemption" is seldom used in modern vocabulary, it discloses a very important scriptural truth. It means to be released by the payment of a ransom.¹ When Jesus died, He suffered the punishment for our sin, releasing us or delivering us from sin and every consequence of sin. He was the

ransom that set us free from sin's onslaught. We were purchased by His blood.²

According to the Scripture, sin and sickness is the work of our enemy Satan. First, we know that sin does not originate in God. Man chooses sin when he yields to Satan's evil influence. The wages of man's wayward choice is spiritual death, or separation from God. But, Jesus came! He paid the price for man's sin, and all who confess Him as Savior and Lord are free from sin and condemnation.

Like sin, sickness is also the work of the devil. When Jesus healed the woman with the spirit of infirmity, He said, "Ought not this woman being a daughter of Abraham whom Satan hath bound, lo, this eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath. day?"³ These words from our Lord leave no doubt that Satan was the author of her illness.

Another reference that confirms this truth comes from a sermon delivered by the apostle Peter at the house of Cornelius. He declared that Jesus "went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil."⁴ This word from the Holy Scripture again assures us that Satan is the culprit who oppresses, overpowers and tyrannizes with sickness and disease.

These two scriptures confirm that Satan is the author of sickness. They open our heart to the work of our great God who is Jehovah Rapha, the Lord our Physician. As we walk the dusty roads of Israel with our Lord, observing the greatness of God's healing power, we rejoice because He is the Lord our God and He cannot change. He is still the Lord our Physician!

THE BIBLE SPEAKS

The proof of this is far beyond the space provided in this newsletter. Yet, we will give a few examples. In Genesis, God healed Abimelech and his wife as Abraham prayed for them.⁵ When Hezekiah turned toward God, God healed him and extended his life fifteen years.⁶ Job was healed and prospered as he prayed for his friends.⁷ The Psalmist highlighted forgiveness and healing as

benefits of God.⁸

In the New Testament, our Lord healed every kind of sickness and disease. He touched the blind, deaf, and lame with God's healing power. He cast out devils, bringing the demonized to life and health. But, the record of our healing Father does not end there. Throughout the book of Acts, God continues to heal the sick. Many signs and wonders were done by the apostles after the Lord returned

JEHOVAH SHAMMAH
SHALOM • RA-AH • JIREH
NISSI • TSIDKENU • RAPHA

to heaven.⁹ The apostle Paul also delivered God's healing power to many.

Beyond the inspired writings of God's Word, the historical evidence continues! Men and women of every century have declared the work of Jehovah Rapha and evidenced God's hand extended to the sick. God heals today just as He did yesterday. He is the Lord our Healer.

THE QUESTION

Here then is the question we must ask. How can we receive God's healing power? The answer to this inquiry was given by Jesus Himself. He said, "Have faith in God."¹⁰ He also stated, "All things are possible to him that believeth."¹¹ Certainly, when He said "all things", this included healing. Therefore, healing is one of the many things available to us through our faith in God. If we believe that God is the Lord our Healer, His Word begins to work in our spirit and it will manifest in our flesh.

But, will you believe this? Can you believe it? I know I can because I have already proved Him faithful. He is my Healer! Be healed today in Jesus' name.

¹G629, Strong's Exhaustive Concordance ²Act 20:28 ³Lk 13:16
⁴Act 10:38 ⁵Ge 20:17 ⁶Is 38:1-5 ⁷Job 42:10 ⁸Ps 103:3 ⁹Act 5:12
¹⁰Mk 11:22 ¹¹Mk 9:23