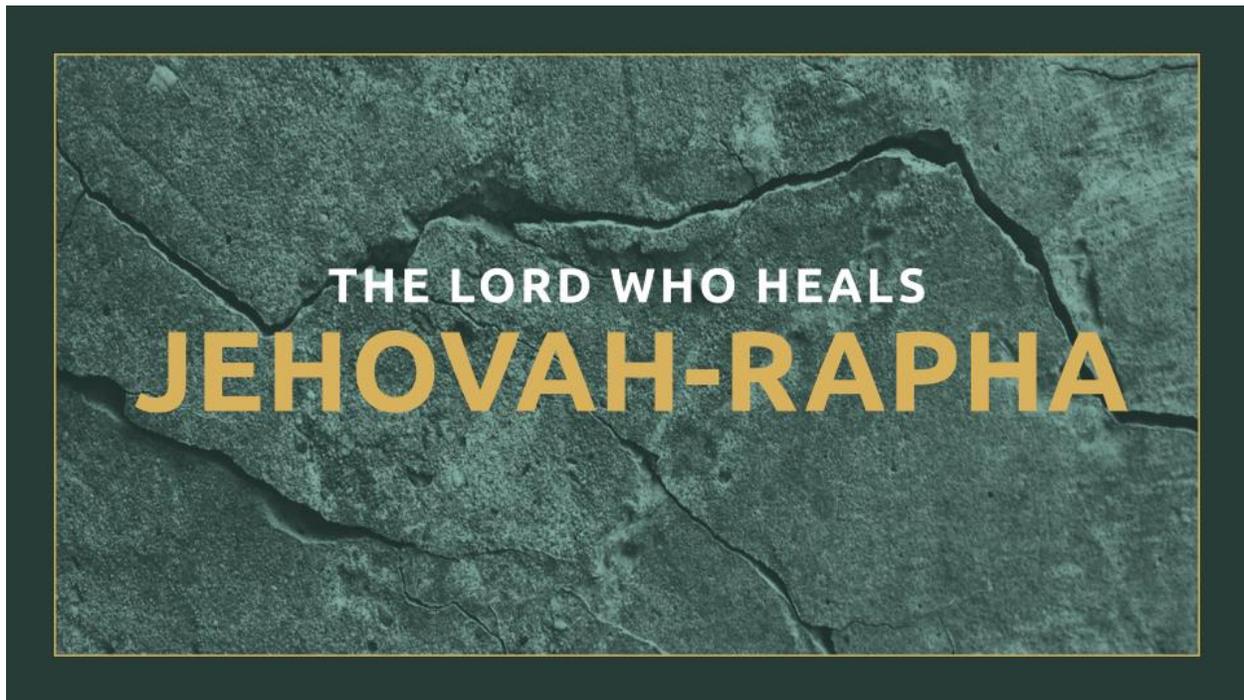


JEHOVAH-RAPHA

“The LORD [Our] Healer” gives and takes our physical health for spiritual purposes.

SCRIPTURE*	MUSIC†
Exodus 15 Exodus 15:22–27 Psalm 103:1–4 Hosea 6:1–2 Luke 4:16–30 Luke 5:17–26 John 9 Acts 9:1–19 2 Corinthians 12:1–10 Ephesians 2:1–10; 4:17–19	A Garment of Praise (Lopez) SATB Ask Ye What Great Thing I Know Be Unto Your Name (Giardiniere) SATB Come, Come Unto Me (Dosso) SATB Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy Gentle Voice (Dengler) SATB & SSA Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah Just as I Am Praise to the Lord, the Almighty Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven Sing Praise to God The Cleansing Wave The King of Love My Shepherd Is There Is a Fountain Whiter Than Snow



NORTHWEST VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

nwvbc.org | 623-581-3115 | 4030 W Yorkshire Drive, Glendale, AZ 85308

* Daily preparatory readings shown in **bold**.

† Published choral and vocal music shown in **bold**.

PRESENTING & PROMOTING THIS THEME

“HE ALWAYS HEALS, SIR.”

Exodus 15:26 | *Pastor will relate the story of talking with Jo Purdy about God’s healing. Jesus was known as a Healer during His ministry, working in an unusual, attention-getting way among God’s people. But His healing encompassed more than the physical body. Jesus’ death and resurrection fulfills healing to every part of us, physical and spiritual (“by His stripes you are healed”). Even when it seems that He has not healed – when we lose a loved one to death, for instance – we can be assured that He does. The ultimate destination for every believer is complete healing.*

LORD OF THE PANDEMIC

Exodus 15:22-27 | *During a health crisis, people look to their leaders for answers. In this time of Covid, we have heard conflicting advice from doctors and professionals. Shut down, don’t shut down, quarantine, don’t quarantine, wear a mask, don’t wear a mask, Do this, don’t do this, trust the science—but which science? There is an underlying arrogance coming from leadership that says, “This is what you should be doing. Do this and you’ll be OK. We can defeat this if we try hard enough.” But no one has all the answers, except God. This was not an accident to Him. We need to respond to Him in humility since He is the only one who has the power to allow sickness and heal. Our relationship to Him makes a difference. He is the Lord of this pandemic, and He is Jehovah Rapha, our Healer.*

Jehovah Raphah – “The LORD that healeth thee.” We find this phrase in Exodus 15, which rehearses the story of the children of Israel and their desperate need for water. Three days into the desert and they had found no water source, until they came to the Waters of Marah, but those waters were bitter, undrinkable.

Moses cried out to God for a healing of the waters. And God answered. He led Moses to throw a tree into the waters, and the waters were healed. Later on in the chapter, God tells Moses that “I am the Lord that healeth thee.” I not only heal waters, I heal people.

Regarding the subject of healing, we surely have something front and center before us today – COVID-19. It is a problem – over much of the world. I read missionary letters on Wednesday night in our prayer fellowship and almost all missionaries, no matter their field, are dealing with COVID-19 issue. Solomon Raju, our missionary to India, has lost three pastor friends to COVID-19. What is the answer? Or perhaps an even bigger question - *Who* has the answer?

No one can agree on who has the answer, or what will heal, or what will protect.

Some say “Quarantine—don’t quarantine. Mask, no mask. Vaccine, no vaccine.”

Who has the answer? God has the answer. Will He heal everyone? Well, no. Did Paul find physical healing for his thorn in the flesh? No. God allowed Paul’s thorn in the flesh to remain for a greater spiritual purpose.

Let me move away from the subject of physical healing. I suspect today that more of you are in need of emotional and mental healing.

Wounds from the past, emotional hurts from your past sin or from the sin of others? Can you find healing for your soul today? Who has the answer? God has the answer.

Pastor Kris mentioned that several of our teenagers made public decisions to follow God during the ACA’s recent week of special chapels. And those teens talked about what they were struggling with. Around 60% of those 12-18 year olds are struggling with a past hurt, bitterness. The answer for those kids is God’s healing touch.

If you are hurting today, God is your answer. He is your Jehovah Raphah. He is, let me put it this way, the perfect, all wise expert, who knows EXACTLY what your soul’s disease is. And he knows what is needed to heal. He is not puzzled. He does not need to do more research. He does not need to gather a group of people to give him advice. He knows the answer.

Go to Him today. He is the Lord that heals. (Pastor Mark French)

WATERS AT MARAH

In this account, the bitter (diseased) water at Marah was made sweet (healed) so that the Israelites could drink it. The Israelites had just passed through the Red Sea and surely would have had the plagues that God had sent on Egypt in mind as they realized that the water at Marah was diseased. Maybe they even thought that God would use the water to punish them as He had punished the Egyptians. But God promises that if the Israelites obey Him, He will not send diseases on them but rather will heal them. Like the Israelites, we need God to be our Healer every day as we function in this diseased society where many choices we have to make would seem to lead to spiritual toxicity. We must maintain a right relationship with God, or we will be spiritually sick.

In the healthcare profession, doctors spend many hours using their knowledge and skills to help heal people who are ill. Christians doctors recognize that God is ultimately the One Who grants healing from our physical and spiritual sicknesses. There are many different places in the Bible that talk about God as the Healer. One such account is found in Exodus 15.

In this account, the children of Israel had just come through the Red Sea to a place called Marah. When they arrived there, they found that the water was “bitter,” or diseased. If they had drunk this water, they would have become sick. Since the Israelites had come so recently from Egypt, they surely would have had the plagues that God had sent on Egypt in mind as they realized that the water at Marah was diseased. Maybe they even thought that God would use the water to punish them as He had punished the Egyptians. But that wasn’t what God did at all. Instead, He healed the water, allowing His children to be able to drink freely from it. As the Israelites enjoyed the water that was now sweet and pure, God made them a promise. He promised that if the Israelites would obey Him, He would not send diseases on them but rather would heal them, just as He had miraculously healed the water.

Like the Israelites, we need God to be our Healer every day. He heals us from physical illness, even though many times we take this healing for granted. He also grants us spiritual healing. Our current society is certainly diseased spiritually, and sometimes we encounter situations that would seem to lead to spiritual toxicity. In these times, we must depend upon God to continually heal our souls. Maintaining a right relationship with Him protects us from becoming spiritually sick. We can rejoice that God knows the diseases that plague our bodies and our souls and that He acts in love and wisdom as our great Healer. (Amy Tilson)