

**The Names of God IV: YHWH Ropheyka, “Jehovah who Heals,” An Exposition of  
Exodus 15:22-27, part 1 of 2 on God the Healer  
Desert Light Christian Church, April 7, 2019**

To know someone it always helps to know their name, in God’s case, His names, for each has a meaning. Exodus 15:26 speaks of God’s name he calls Himself, “Jehovah Ropheyka,” meaning, “Yahweh who heals *you*.”

Israel, after being saved from the Egyptians wandered 3 days in the desert without water. They went to a place they called Marah, in Hebrew, *bitter*. The water was undrinkable, bitter. Moses threw a wood log (a preview of the cross) into it and it turned sweet. The Old Testament was written to teach saints in the New Covenant, ***“Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come.”*** (1 Corinthians 10:11). Exodus 15:22-27 can change how we see bitter things in life, make what is bitter sweet by the cross, and know the healing power of God who says, ***“I am the Lord your healer.”*** This message on healing based upon God’s name as ***“Your Healer”*** is from the passage that God’s name as the healer came from. Notice that before God called Himself healer, he made Israel remove what was bitter from them. I do believe that living in bitterness can be the biggest hindrance to God’s healing in our lives, be it physical healing, emotional, or spiritual. This is the first step in learning how God heals.

**Turn bitterness into sweetness and be healed.**

**1. Life can bring great bitterness, but don’t be bitter.**

***22 Then Moses made Israel set out from the Red Sea, and they went into the wilderness of Shur. They went three days in the wilderness and found no water. 23 When they came to Marah, they could not drink the water of Marah because it was bitter; therefore it was named Marah. 24 And the people grumbled against Moses, saying, “What shall we drink?”***



What happens when all life has to offer is bitter water? God led Israel from Egypt and they had to pass through dryness in the way, a picture of many a believer. Spiritual dryness is part of the journey for believers. The way to the promised land forced Israel to look to God because He provided their food and water supernaturally.



At Marah, 3 days from the Red Sea rather than finding refreshment, they encountered bitter water, they became bitter and criticized their leader, Moses. Bitterness of soul and spirit is poisonous to a spiritual relationship with God *and causes physical disease*. Common wisdom accepts that bitterness is horrible. A few quotes: “When other people treat you poorly, don’t let someone else’s bitterness change the person you are.” “Choose to be better instead of bitter.” “The bitter heart eats its owner.” “Should you find yourself a victim of people’s bitterness, smallness, ignorance, and insecurity, remember this: Things could be much worse You could be one of them.” “Bitterness is the result of clinging to negative experiences. It does you no good and allows the past to rob your future.” “Unforgiveness is choosing to stay in the jail cell of bitterness, doing time for someone else’s crime.” “Never trust your tongue when your heart is bitter.”

The bible is clear on this, and says to make a priority of dealing with bitterness among believers, ***“See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no “root of bitterness” springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled”*** (Hebrews 12:15).



***Defiled*** is a picture word that means to stain or dye, and that everything it touches or passes through it will also be stained. Put printer cartridge powder on your hand and touch others, stroke a cheek, shake a hand, pat a back, you will pass stains on everywhere.

One has to wash well to get it off. When you're mad and bitter it will spread! That happens with bitterness. Negativity, lack of Christ's love, and unforgiveness moves from person to person.



The picture of bitterness is a root. It can go very deep and must be yanked. Woodrow Kroll said, "When the root is bitterness, imagine what the fruit might be." Resentment or bitterness is the seed that grows into roots of hatred. It's a form of spiritual bullying. If I can't get you back I will push you around by my

resentment. It makes anger a friend, yes a lover, and cuddles and coddles it by justifying that since I was treated wrong, *this is my medicine*. Unfortunately it has shown itself quite the opposite, poison causing physical sickness and death. According to psychologist Dr. Charsten Wrosch, "Persistent bitterness may result in global feelings of anger and hostility that, when strong enough, could affect a person's physical health. When harbored for a long time bitterness may forecast patterns of biological dysregulation (a physiological impairment that can affect metabolism, immune response or organ function) and physical disease." Yes, bitterness even defiles the body and often mistakes the blame. Bitterness is believing the lie that those who anger us, are in control, not God.

## **2. The work of the cross makes what was bitter, sweet.**

***25 And he cried to the LORD, and the LORD showed him a log, and he threw it into the water, and the water became sweet.***



This is unmistakable prophecy. The wood into the bitterness is a picture of the cross into the bitter water of sin. The step to get rid of bitterness is to be forgiven. When the believer sees her or his sin, one need not be bitter at others, but can realize one's own transgressions equal the punishment due. Conviction of sin is

feeling the pain and bitterness of one's offense against God. The cross removes that bitterness with the sweet water of forgiveness. What Christ did on the cross is the way to be free of unforgiveness, resentment, hate, envy, and bitterness. The price was paid in full when the spikes went down into the wood. How can one demand payment for that which is already paid for?

## **3. He is our healer.**

***There the LORD made for them a statute and a rule, and there he tested them, 26 saying, “If you will diligently listen to the voice of the LORD your God, and do that which is right in his eyes, and give ear to his commandments and keep all his***

***statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you that I put on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD, your healer.”***

If we take this in context, obedience to the Lord protects from diseases of sin, like the Egyptians' diseases. God's healing is from obedience, by not catching sin diseases! The wood healed bitterness but also brought a promise of physical health against *certain* diseases. Verse 26 is a conditional promise of physical healing for obedience. **“None of these diseases”** and **“I am the Lord your healer.”** That still applies. It's not the magical, “name it claim it” faith healing, but those who live lives that trust God will be healthier.

We live in a fallen world, our genes are weakened, and circumstance may bring some medical issues generally the Christian will be free from and have none of the diseases that committed sinners get like cirrhosis of the liver, STD s, COPD, diseases of excess eating or wrong eating, and many diseases caused by the stress hormone cortisol, diseases from envy, **“a tranquil heart gives life to the flesh, but envy makes the bones rot”** (Proverbs 14:30). Medical science has proven that bitter envy affects the bone marrow's ability to produce white blood cells. Or how about, **“A joyful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones”** Proverbs 17:22). Greater health for the follower of Christ for lack of putting dangerous substances in the body. But there is the supernatural. God heals miraculously at His pleasure. Also, He uses physicians. Luke the bible author was also **“the beloved physician”** (Colossians 4:14). All healing is from God, whether by lifestyle, miracle, medicine, or the body's recuperation. He is our healer.

***27 Then they came to Elim, where there were twelve springs of water and seventy palm trees, and they encamped there by the water.***



The picture of the place named Elim is a metaphor of what happens when bitterness turns sweet because of the love of God in the work of the cross. Forgiveness at the cross turns every bitter thing into something sweet. Elim could mean, “gods” but most likely means, “sticking out.” That would be a better application because it should be dry and dead but has palm trees sticking out because of springs. 12 is the number for God's people (12 tribes, apostles) as a source of refreshment to a hot and dry world. 70 is 7 for complete and 10 for testing, meaning “completely proven.” The world is bitter. Come to the cross of Christ and see the most bitter turn sweet and begin the process of healing.

**The Names of God IV: The 2<sup>nd</sup> Message of YHWH Ropheyka, “Jehovah who Heals,”  
An Exposition of Exodus 15:22-27, part 1 of 2 on God the Healer  
Desert Light Christian Church, April 28, 2019**

To know someone one must know their name, in God’s case, His names. Each one has a meaning. We have covered God as Elohim, a title of God, but in the plural. It shows from the first verse of the Bible that our God is one God with 3 persons. God’s name YHWH, is a mystery name that may be a form of the verb, “to be” but the letters preach the cross, saying, “a hand, look! A nail, look!” Genesis 22:1-19 reveal YHWH Jireh, or the provider from the story of when Abraham offered up Isaac. It means that when one does God’s will, God will provide for or literally “see to” what is needed to do it. Exodus 15:26 speaks of God’s name he calls Himself, “Jehovah Ropheyka,” meaning, “Yahweh who heals *you all*.” In the first message we looked at the passage in Exodus 15 where God turned the bitter water sweet with the wood, a picture of the cross of Christ healing our bitterness. It was a promise of healing from Egyptian diseases by obedience to God, avoiding behavior that destroys the body.

**My own experiences help me to always pray for miracles and healing with faith.**

I was a professor at Antioch Seminary in Brazil We had a speaker, Adonai Leiva a faith healer Messianic Jew. I didn’t trust him. I saw him as a leg lengthening showman. His message was impossible to follow. I was skeptical. After preaching, he began ministry time and I expected he’d claim word of knowledge, call people forward, lay hands, and they’d say they were ok and the next week they’d be just as before. I thought I knew the routine. At the time, I felt crippled by pain in my lower back but expected nothing from Adonai Leiva. He said, “Someone here has a back pain.” I thought, that’s easy to pick in a crowd of 500.” No one stood. I surely did not. He pointed to the right side of the building and said, “Over there.” No one. Then he pointed to where I was by the entrance, “Right there you have a back problem!” My students knew this and they were staring at me. I went forward. He prayed, the pain went away. He asked, “How do you feel?” I said, “OK now, but let’s see next week!” He prophesied that God would bear me on eagle’s wings to many nations. Adonai had faith for my healing, I had no faith. He won. It worked.

**Pray for healing, with faith!**

**1 . Physical healing and faith go together, pray for healing**

Faith facilitates miracles. It’s absence hindered Jesus in His hometown of Nazareth, “*And he could do no mighty work (miracle) there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and healed them. And he marveled because of their unbelief*” (Mark 6:5-6). Faith facilitates healing, “*Paul, looking intently at him, and seeing that he had faith to be made well*” (Acts 14:9).

Jesus told blind Bartimaeus outside of Jericho, (Mark 10:52, Luke 18:42) and the woman with the issue of blood, “*Your faith has made you well.*” (Matthew 9:22, Mark 5:34, Luke 8:48).

James 5:14-15 connects faith to physical healing, “*Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with*

*oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.*” Healing and miracles are spiritual gifts in a chain of gifts, *“faith...healing...the working of miracles”* (1 Corinthians 12:9-10). It’s no accident that faith precedes the others. Faith alone doesn’t heal, God heals. Exodus 15:26 speaks of “Jehovah Ropheya,” meaning, “Yahweh who heals *you all*.” By the way, the Spanish name Raphael, is directly from Hebrew, “God healed,” Ralph in English.

Faith in God can produce physical healing when it’s what God decides to do. Ecclesiastes 3:3 says, *“a time to heal.”* God heals by miracle or medicine, or lets the body do its own restoration. Illness may be a trial one has to endure. These mortal bodies will expire, whether life was long and healthy or short and racked with infirmity. When Jesus returns all will receive an immortal, indestructible, incorruptible, and resurrected body. Our world is corrupted by sin, disease is a reality. But Apostle John desired people to be healthy, and and prayed for it. So should we, *“Beloved, I pray that all may go well for you and that you may be in good health, as it goes well with your soul”* (3 John 3). Like John did and James told us to, we should pray for health and healing.

## Gifts of Healing

### 2. Gifts of healing.

Healing gifts are plural, supernatural healing, those who work in the mental health field, and also those in health care. *“Do all have gifts of healing?”* (1 Corinthians 12:30). These gifts are God’s blessing to those in pain. God is our healer, (Exodus 15:26). He heals all diseases (Psalm 103:3). At times faith and healing go together (Mark 10:52, Acts 14:9). Those who are filled with the Spirit pray for God to heal (Acts 4:30-31). We can expect God to heal. Paul ministered healing to a crippled man Acts 14:10, in Ephesus using handkerchiefs, Acts 19:12, and raised Eutychus from death, Acts 20:9-10. But healing is not at will, not at our command. Examples: Paul’s thorn in his flesh (2 Corinthians 12:8-9), his ailment (Galatians 4:13-14), Timothy’s stomach (1 Timothy 5:23), Epaphroditus (Philippians 2:26-27), Trophimus (2 Timothy 4:20). If God decides not to heal by medicine or miracle, He will be real in the pain. The gift of healing not only heals bodies, but also emotions, even death at times, and spiritual healing is from the Cross of Christ healing the disease of sin. Those with the gifts to heal can do it as mental health specialists, medicine, or by miracles.

### 3 . Spiritual healing is the highest form of healing, pray for healing.

Spiritual healing is greater than physical. 4 men dropped their crippled friend through a roof in front of Jesus. Jesus said to him, *“your sins are forgiven.”* Only after forgiveness did he heal (Mark 5:1-12). His point was that sin is a greater and more serious ailment than physical infirmity.

The KJV says from Isaiah 53:4-6, *“Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.”*

Many faith healers use that text to say physical healing is guaranteed in the cross. But the context of verse 4-6 names the ailments, ***“griefs... sorrows... transgressions... iniquities... astray... iniquity.”*** The healing in the cross is for sin.

1 Peter 2:24-25 repeats Isaiah 53, and says healing is for sin and straying from God, ***“He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.”***

Spiritual healing comes from turning to the Lord but so sadly, some want to stay sick ***“their eyes they have closed; lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them.”*** (Acts 28:27).

### **Final and Forever Healing**

The person who turns to Jesus will be healed, of sin, death, disease, and anything else... in a forever healing and that without racism, nationalism or any prejudice except faith in Jesus Christ, ***“Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever”*** (Revelation 22:1-5).

Rise and be healed in the name of Jesus, let faith arise in your soul. Rise and be healed in the name of Jesus, He will cleanse you and make you whole.