

THE NAME OF THE LORD LXII

JEHOVAH RAPHA – THE LORD WHO HEALS

¹⁰ *Who [is] among you that feareth the LORD, that obeyeth the voice of his servant, that walketh [in] darkness, and hath no light? let him trust in the name of the LORD, and stay upon his God. ¹¹ Behold, all ye that kindle a fire, that compass [yourselves] about with sparks: walk in the light of your fire, and in the sparks [that] ye have kindled. This shall ye have of mine hand; ye shall lie down in sorrow.*

Isaiah 50:10,11 KJV

⁷ *Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God.*

Psalms 20:7 NIV

²⁰ *Then Miriam the prophet, Aaron's sister, took a timbrel in her hand, and all the women followed her, with timbrels and dancing. ²¹ Miriam sang to them: "Sing to the LORD, for he is highly exalted. Both horse and driver he has hurled into the sea." ²² Then Moses led Israel from the Red Sea and they went into the Desert of Shur. For three days they traveled in the desert without finding water. ²³ When they came to Marah, they could not drink its water because it was bitter. (That is why the place is called Marah.) ²⁴ So the people grumbled against Moses, saying, "What are we to drink?" ²⁵ Then Moses cried out to the LORD, and the LORD showed him a piece of wood. He threw it into the water, and the water became fit to drink. There the LORD issued a ruling and instruction for them and put them to the test. ²⁶ He said, "If you*

listen carefully to the LORD your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD, who heals you.”²⁷ Then they came to Elim, where there were twelve springs and seventy palm trees, and they camped there near the water.

Exodus 15:20-27 NIV

I. JEHOVAH RAPHA (yah-WEH ro-FEH)

- A. The God who heals restores, mends, and repairs.
- B. “Most people read the benefits promised in God’s words, but fail to read the conditions attached to them.”
(Lester Sumrall)
- C. In Exodus 15:26 there are four conditions for healing.
 - * They were to listen to God’s voice.
 - * They were to do what was right in His eyes.
 - * They were to obey his commands.
 - * They were to keep his decrees.
- D. If all of these conditions were met, God would not actively bring upon His children what the Egyptians cumulative sins had demanded. (Throughout the history of the Old Testament they would not meet these conditions, and therefore ran into self-imposed calamity after calamity.)
- E. Healing wasn’t a “name it and claim it” promise of unconditional entitlement. It was always conditioned upon obedience.

II. Great successes in life are often followed by failure.

A. God solves Israel's water problem. / Red Sea

²¹ *Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the LORD drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided,*
²² *and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left.* ²³ *The Egyptians pursued them, and all Pharaoh's horses and chariots and horsemen followed them into the sea.* ²⁴ *During the last watch of the night the LORD looked down from the pillar of fire and cloud at the Egyptian army and threw it into confusion.* ²⁵ *He jammed the wheels of their chariots so that they had difficulty driving. And the Egyptians said, "Let's get away from the Israelites! The LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."* ²⁶ *Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters may flow back over the Egyptians and their chariots and horsemen."* ²⁷ *Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at daybreak the sea went back to its place. The Egyptians were fleeing toward it, and the LORD swept them into the sea.* ²⁸ *The water flowed back and covered the chariots and horsemen--the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed the Israelites into the sea. Not one of them survived. (Exodus 14:21-28 NIV)*

B. 72 hours later

III. Great services in life are often followed by forgetfulness.

²² *"...For three days they traveled in the desert without finding water. ..."* ²³ *When they came to Marah, they could not drink its water because it was bitter.* ²⁴ *So the people*

grumbled against Moses, saying, “What are we to drink?”
(Exodus 15:22-24 NIV)

- A. Three days later, total amnesia.
- B. The journey of God’s people is rarely a straight path of constant comfort. The ups and downs of life are assured to all of God’s people.
- C. The question is, will we trust in the name of the Lord?
- D. 72 hours. That’s the interval between the greatest song in Israel’s history and their first act of murmuring.
- E. “Marah means bitterness, not difficulty or scarcity, bitterness. That specific compound of disappointment and unmet expectation, the taste that lingers when something that was supposed to nourish you, does not.” (Bob Wood)
- F. The children of Israel, dying of thirst, see a body of water and their expectation of satisfaction is peaked until they taste it!
- G. What is the greatest expectation of your life that failed? Bitterness is a catastrophe only the cross of Christ can sweeten.

²⁵ Then Moses cried out to the LORD, and the LORD showed him a piece of wood. He threw it into the water, and the water became fit to drink. There the LORD issued a ruling and instruction for them and put them to the test.
(Exodus 15:25 NIV)

¹⁵ See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many. (Hebrews 12:15 NIV)

H. A.H.E.N.—anger, hurt, expectation, need /

A.F.E.N.—anger, fear, expectation, need.

V. Great shortages in life are often followed by fullness. / From Marah to Elim

²⁷ Then they came to Elim, where there were twelve springs and seventy palm trees, and they camped there near the water.
(Exodus 15:27 NIV)

A. Elim means “Big trees”

B. Palm trees. “The palm wants the desert sun. It will not grow in the rich black soil. It wants the desert because it grows up and it grows down; it strikes its roots below the sand heap; and it sends its succulent leaves up, and if there is a breath of moisture, the palm tree can suck it in. And so God says that we are to be like palm trees in this, that we can grow in the hardest soil,” (A.B. Simpson)

C. 12 Traits of the palm tree.

1. Resilience
2. Peace
3. Tranquility
4. Victory
5. Renewal
6. Bends, but doesn't break
7. Joy
8. Versatility
9. Strength
10. Abundance

11. Adaptability

12. Life-giving properties

- D. Elim is the place where the children of Israel camped and recovered. Elim marks the healing place, where all the wounds of failed expectations in life can be healed.
- E. Sit with the healing name of Elim. Don't rush past it!
- F. 12 wells, 70 palms. The numbers are not accidental. 12 is the number of the tribes of Israel. 70 is the number associated with the nations of the world, the tables of people in Genesis 10.
- G. "Jehovah Rapha is revealed in fullness. Not healing as a removal of difficulty, but healing as the transformation of it. Not deliverance from bitterness, but the introduction into bitterness of the only one whose presence can change its nature. The waters remain, the location remains, but something has been cast into them, and they will never be the same again." (Bob Wood)
- H. We are on our way to Elim!