

Names of God from the Bible

7 – YHWH Rophe

Every name of God is an eternal Name; consequently, God is able and willing to heal today.

Reading: Exodus 15:22-27

We are fickle, self-centred and fearful; God is merciful, kind, loving and gracious. God rescued the Hebrews from Egypt through His amazing display of splendour, power and might.

For the moment, the people were in awe of God and Moses, and were happy to be led in celebration by Miriam. However, their enthusiasm seemed to last only for a short time. Within three days of walking in the desert, the people began grumbling that they had no water to drink and when they eventually found an oasis, the water turned out to be bitter. Moses cried out to God. God told Moses to throw some wood into the water, which he did, and the water immediately became 'sweet'.

I understand that it is thought that the waters of Marah were bitter because of a high level of manganese, and drinking sufficient volumes of the water would have purified their digestive system and cleansed them from the parasites that were endemic in the Egyptian lifestyle.

God used this event to test the people to see whether they would trust Him. God then told them that if they would listen to Him and be obedient to His commands, He would keep them free from all the diseases that the Egyptians experienced. God ended His promise with these eternal words – I am YHWH Rophe; I am the Lord who heals you.

God is the Healer. Whether God chooses to heal us naturally, miraculously, or through the services of the medical profession and/or medication, the fundamental truth is God is our healer. We also need to recognise the fact that we suffer sickness through the normal frailty of human life as well as through the careless, unwise and harmful actions of ourselves and others.

We are also 'born in sin' and so, as a direct result of the Fall, as recorded in Genesis 3, we are naturally vulnerable to sickness and disease. However, we need to remember that all sickness is not directly attributable to wrong-doing. When people criticised the man born blind (John 9), Jesus was direct in pointing out that his condition was not a result of his or his parents' sin, but that the power of God be witnessed.

Nevertheless, God wants us to live in health. We can be saved from experiencing many diseases and physical discomforts through a life of obedience to God. When we ignore His ways or turn our backs to Him, we encounter physical and psychological sicknesses God never intended us to face.

Through the entire Bible, both the Old and New Testaments, we see evidence of the miraculous healing power of God. Consequently, we can be confident that God still longs for us to live in health and He is also able to heal miraculously today.

Each of us has the right to pray to God for healing, both for ourselves and others. Indeed, particularly over the last 15 years whilst ministering on Alpha courses, I have had the very special privilege of praying for healing for hundreds of people, and seen immediate and miraculous answers. I am not the healer, God is. I just pray and God, in His mercy, answers.

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Does everyone get miraculously healed, immediately? No. Not everyone does, although many do. As I said in the beginning, whether we are healed through natural means, miracles or through the actions of the medical profession – God is our Healer. Yes, sometimes despite all of our and the medical profession's best efforts, people do not experience the healing we or they long for.

Can I explain that? No. If I could I would be God! All I know is that God is YHWH Rophe, the Lord who heals us.

What does that name mean for us today

We have the right and privilege as children of God to pray for people to be healed and to expect God to heal them immediately. Whether or not He heals is within His Sovereign will, not ours.

Prayer

Father, thank You so much that we can pray to You and see ourselves and others healed. Thank you that You are the same yesterday, today and forever. Please increase my faith to believe You can do more than I ask or think. Amen

Additional Readings

- 2 Kings 5:1-18
- Isaiah 52:13–53:6
- James 5:13-20

Questions

1. Why does God allow suffering?
2. Have you ever experienced miraculous healing as a result of prayer? What happened and when?
3. How does Jesus fulfil that name?