

Jehovah-Ropheka — The Lord our Healer

Part One

Reading: Exodus 15:22-27 - Exodus 15:26 - ...for I am **the LORD that healeth thee.**

- To understand the application of Exodus 15:22 to our lives, we need to understand how New Testament truths are often pictured by Old Testament examples.
1 Co 10:11 - *Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition...* See also Hebrews 8:5; 9:23

Moses – A type of Christ

The blood on the doorposts - Salvation by faith

Egypt, the wilderness – The world

Leaving Egypt - Separated from the lost

Crossing the Red Sea – Our union with Christ in His death and resurrection

Entering the wilderness– Entering a new life in Christ

The cloud and pillar of fire – Presence of God with us

Manna – The Word of God

Water from the rock – The Holy Spirit

Wilderness experiences – Learning to live by faith

Crossing Jordon – Entering into a mature life of faith

Battles in the Promised Land – Spiritual battles of a conquering, victorious Christian

Blessings of Canaan – Claiming our inheritance—an abundant Christian life, riches of God's grace

- Both salvation and all we become spiritually are a matter of grace. Galatians 3:1-3
- Israel rejoiced at God's deliverance at the Red Sea (Exodus 15:22) and 3 days later were found complaining in the wilderness. "Three days" speaks of resurrection, to walk in newness of life. Israel expected no problems or difficulty, much as a new Christian imagines salvation means never having a problem again!.
- Our sinful human hearts are revealed when difficulties come, as well as God's sufficient power, provision and mercy as God meets our needs and disciplines us as a parent his child..
Deuteronomy 8:2-4 - *And thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no. And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live. Thy raiment waxed not old upon thee, neither did thy foot swell, these forty years.*
- God allows difficulties that He might show His power and His character as well as His abiding relationship with us.
Ps 50:15 - *And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me.*

- God always has our ultimate good in view—that He “*may do thee good at the latter end...*” Deut. 6:18
- When we walk with Christ, we experience the world as a desolate wilderness, a place that holds no allure and a place we are passing through. The believer is a stranger and pilgrim, looking for a city, whose builder and maker is God (Heb. 11:10,13).
- They “found no water.” Nothing in this life satisfies our thirst for God or refreshes our soul.

Psalm 63:1 - *O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is; To see thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary.*

Psalm 73:25 - *Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee.*

- They came to Marah, and found bitter water. The people got what they wanted, water, but found it bitter. We often want something found in the world and obtain it only to find it empty, unsatisfying and “bitter.” Disappointment and discouragement are often the result.
 - Murmuring results when we no longer have our focus on Christ. Israel complained, blamed Moses and saw their difficulty, but not its purpose. or something allowed by God for their good.
 - Moses prayed as they should have (verse 25) and God delivered them. Christ “ever liveth to make intercession for us.” (Heb 7:25)
- Psalm 107:19-21 - *Then they cry unto the LORD in their trouble, and he saveth them out of their distresses. He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions. Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!*
- The water was made sweet by a tree, the provision of God’s grace. The person and work of Christ on the cross sweetens every “bitter water” encountered in this life. SS 2:3, 1 Peter 2:24, Phil 3:10
 - **Now let’s look again at our key verse -**
- Exodus 15:26 - *And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee.*
- Many of God’s blessings are dependent upon our obedience to his commands. Grace is not lawlessness! The law has nothing to do with salvation, but everything to do with our relationship with Christ.
 - When we walk with Christ we do not experience the fatal “diseases” or sorrows of the world in the way the lost do. Our God keeps us from the destructions of those who rebel against His commands, and heals us when we come to Him in repentance.
- Jeremiah 3:22 - *Return, ye backsliding children, and I will heal your backslidings. Behold, we come unto thee; for thou art the LORD our God.*
- Our God heals our wounded hearts and uses every trial for our good and His glory—a promise the world does not have.

Psalm 147:3 - *He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds.*