

Jehovah-Ropheka – The Lord our Healer

Part Two

- Luke 4:16-21 – Jesus opened his public ministry by choosing to read Isaiah 61:1-2.
- Isaiah 61:1-2 – *“The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD...”* At this place in the passage, Jesus closed the scroll and did not finish the sentence, *“and the day of vengeance of our God;”* but sat down and told the people, *“This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.”*
- The little “and” separates the first coming of Christ, in which He came to seek and to save that which was lost, and the second coming of Christ, when He will come as a judge with vengeance and will establish His kingdom on earth. In verses 1 and 2, Christ is speaking of a present event, His coming to accomplish His work of redemption that brings the healing of salvation to Israel and the world. Isaiah didn’t see that there was a space of time between Christ’s first and second coming, but Christ, knowing God’s plan stopped reading at the place where an interval takes place and then speaks of a future restoration of Christ’s kingdom on earth. We have a present comfort and present healing and another comfort and healing yet to come when Christ will rule and reign in the millennium time and we who have been redeemed, along with Him.

vs. 3 - to comfort all that mourn; to appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he might be glorified.

- Christ has come to comfort those who mourn because of the effects of sin, which is at the root of all suffering. Redemption produces a whole new outlook on our sin, our life here on earth, our future with Christ, and how we experience sorrow and grief.
- In Christ, the effects of grief are greatly diminished in light of the “Comforter” (Holy Spirit) who now dwells in the hearts of believers. In the future, they will be completely taken away forever.
- Mature believers suffer grief here on earth– it is not a sign of weakness or unspiritual to grieve or express sorrow.
- Jesus suffered grief and, in fact, was called a “man of sorrows.” (Isa. 53:11; Mat. 26:37-44; Mark 14:34-42; Luke 22:42-44) Job suffered grief and was never rebuked by God for his sorrow. The widow of Nain grieved for the loss of her son, and Jesus in compassion raised him from the dead. God noticed and expressed compassion for Hagar’s sorrow. (Gen 21:17-20) He expressed compassion for Israel’s sorrow (Ex. 3:7-10), for Hannah’s sorrow (1 Sam 1:15), for David’s sorrow in the death of Absalom (2Sam. 18:33), for Martha and Mary’s sorrow (John 11:19-40) and for Jeremiah’s sorrow (Lam. 1:12).

- Grief that is not coupled with hope and faith results in sorrow without hope (depression). 1 Thes. 4:13 Those who do not know Christ cannot hope. Isa. 38:18.
- Hope is found in Christ alone on the merit of His love and work on our behalf. Isa. 53:4 – Christ has borne all our sorrows. Isa. 51:11 – Christians look forward to a day when sorrow will flee away. Rev. 21:4 – Christians look forward to the time when there will be no more sorrow or sickness or pain or death, or sin to contend with!
- When our hearts are overwhelmed or when those we love are sinking in the slough of despond, we have only to cry out to the “Rock” that is higher than we. (Psa. 61:2)
- He has promised to hear our cries and be our refuge. (Psa. 62:8)
- Others who have fled to Jesus for comfort testify, *“In the day when I cried thou answeredst me, and strengthenedst me with strength in my soul.* (Psa. 138:3)
- He assures our hearts that He is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart. (Psa. 34:18) *18 The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit. 19 Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.*
- He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds. (Psa. 147:3) *3 He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds.*
- We are to call upon Him in times of trouble and when we do, He promises, *“I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me.”* (Psa. 50:15)
- Testimony after sorrow had subsided – Ps. 116
- Isa 51:12 - *12 I, even I, am he that comforteth you: who art thou, that thou shouldst be afraid of a man that shall die, and of the son of man which shall be made as grass; And forgettest the LORD thy maker, that hath stretched forth the heavens, and laid the foundations of the earth; and hast feared continually every day because of the fury of the oppressor, as if he were ready to destroy? and where is the fury of the oppressor? The captive exile hasteneth that he may be loosed, and that he should not die in the pit, nor that his bread should fail. But I am the LORD thy God, that divided the sea, whose waves roared: The LORD of hosts is his name. And I have put my words in thy mouth, and I have covered thee in the shadow of mine hand, that I may plant the heavens, and lay the foundations of the earth, and say unto Zion, Thou art my people.*
- 2 Corinthians 1:4 - *Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.*
- 2 Corinthians 7:6 - *Nevertheless God, that comforteth those that are cast down, comforted us by the coming of Titus;*
- 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17 - *Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given [us] everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.*