

# EXODUS

**Our God Who Heals**  
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*sermon study summary*  
February 4 / 5, 2023

## INTRODUCTION

Exodus is a powerful depiction of God's redemption story. Passover is a picture of salvation. Passing through the Red Sea is a picture of baptism, which signifies the defeat and the crushing of our enemies – Sin, Satan and Death.

Exodus chapter 15 opens with a praise and worship service. God had parted the Red Sea and annihilated the Egyptians. The Israelites were jubilant. They sang praises to God. It is easy to shout "Hallelujah!" when you're on a spiritual high. But God was going to test them to see how they would respond to a trial.

God led the Israelites not directly to the Promised Land but into the wilderness. There they were tested, so they would learn to depend on God. Similarly, we walk through the wilderness to reach our land of promise – heaven. After salvation, God works on our sanctification—shaping us, molding us, strengthening us.

God let the Israelites travel for three days without water. When they finally found water, they could not drink it because it was bitter. What a disappointment! To find water but not be able to drink it! God was saying, "If I came through for you before, can I not do it again? Will you trust me?" They didn't have faith that God could do another miracle.

The Israelites defaulted to grumbling. How do you handle disappointments?

The problem at Marah was not the bitter water. The problem was the bitterness in the hearts of God's people. The Israelites had endured years of slavery, and the oppression had seared their hearts. When they were provoked, the bitterness spilled out.

Then God did yet another miracle. God asked Moses to throw a piece of wood (literal translation 'tree') into the water. When Moses did, the bitter water turned sweet. This points to yet another tree in the Bible. Jesus "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" (1 Peter 2:24, ESV). The cross became God's agent of healing! When Jesus died on the cross, He paid for our sins; and when He took care of our sins, He also took care of our sicknesses. By His wounds we are healed.

Along with the test, the Lord issued a ruling and revealed a new name (v.26). "If you listen carefully to the LORD your God and do what is right in his eyes, ... I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD, who heals you."

The promise is not that the Israelites will never fall sick, but that they will not be judged or suffer from plagues that the Egyptians brought upon themselves by their refusal to believe.

The name Jehovah Rapha, the Lord who heals, reveals God's character as healer. That healing is both spiritual and physical. Doctors can treat, but God is the ultimate healer.

When we come to faith in Christ, we sometimes carry deep wounds from the past. We need to bring those hurts to the cross. The good news is – God is Jehovah Rapha, our healer. When Jesus sets you free you are free indeed! This freedom may happen instantly or may be a process. God decides when He is going to dispense healing – now or when we meet Jesus face to face. Healing is ultimately a foretaste of heaven. Physical healing now points to the day when there will be no more sorrow, no more pain, no more sickness, no more death. That's the day we all eagerly look forward to!



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## sermon study guide

### IN – PURSUE RELATIONSHIP

1. How do you prepare for an exam? What has been your most memorable exam situation? E.g., driver's test, post-secondary exam, pop quiz?
2. How easy or hard is it for you to believe that God heals today? Share why.

### UP – PURSUE GOD

3. Quickly skim and note the main events of Ex 12-15, then read Exodus 15:22-27. How could the Israelites go from prison to praise to protest so quickly? What was the essence of the test at Marah? What was the Lord teaching His people about themselves? About Him?
4. Read Matthew 4:23, 1 Peter 2:24, and Isaiah 53:5. In what ways does Jesus reveal Himself as Jehovah Rapha (the LORD who heals)?

### OUT – PURSUE MISSION

5. What purpose does God have in testing His people? How have you scored on recent tests? How does recognizing that tests come from the Lord help us to respond rightly during testing and disappointment?
6. Jesus invites us to come to Him with our burdens. What role might the Body of Christ play in healing? In your gathering, break into smaller groups and pray for one another's needs, be it physical, emotional, relational or spiritual.

#### For Personal Reflection / Prayer:

**Take a heart check. In which areas of your life do you need healing? Consider entering the Freedom Session program or attending the Feb 16th class 'Does God Heal Today?'**

### THE WORD (NIV)

#### **Exodus 15:22-27**

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. <sup>23</sup> When they came to Marah, they could not drink its water because it was bitter. (That is why the place is called Marah.) <sup>24</sup> So the people grumbled against Moses, saying, "What are we to drink?" <sup>25</sup> 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. <sup>26</sup> 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." <sup>27</sup> Then they came to Elim, where there were twelve springs and seventy palm trees, and they camped there near the water.

**Matthew 4:23** Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.

**1 Peter 2:24 ESV** 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.

**Isaiah 53:5** But he was pierced because of our rebellion, crushed because of our iniquities; punishment for our peace was on him, and we are healed by his wounds.

This week's writers:

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