

## Glimpses of God - part 2 – Healing Peace

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### **BIG IDEA – God IS healing and IS peace.**

#### **scripture focus - Isaiah 57:19b-21 NLT**

**“May they have abundant peace, both near and far,” says the Lord, who heals them. “But those who still reject me are like the restless sea, which is never still but continually churns up mud and dirt. There is no peace for the wicked,” says my God.”**

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**This week we look at two more names of God, and these names address some real pain points in our life.** In a world that is filled with broken things and broken people, it is a struggle to find answers to life's most difficult questions. Why is there sickness and disease? Why am I always down and depressed, or worried and stressed? **God declares Himself to you and me as Jehovah Rapha and Jehovah Shalom, I Am... I am healer and I am peace. Not, I was, but always will be!**

Remember, we are exploring the 9 names (Yahweh) of God and look at those characteristics of God as **displayed in the words, behaviors, or miracles of Jesus.**

**Let's first look at the name God, again, told Moses in the Sinai desert.**

**Jehovah Rapha, God Healer** – From the Israelites making their way through the desert with no food, no water anywhere in site, an immersive object lesson of where we find ourselves traveling through life at times. Of course, there are complaints of a lack of water. I have never been stranded on the ocean or lost in the desert, but I have gone on backpacking trips in the mountains and on hikes in Joshua Tree – I always packed plenty of water and snacks. And I panicked when someone in our group didn't prepare, and we realized we would have to share our precious reserves! I was so mad at them!

It was in one of these historical object lessons that God reveals one of His names, He is Jehovah Rapha! You'll find the story in **Exodus 15:22-27. They traveled in this desert for three days without finding any water.** When they came to the oasis.

They had just left a massive body of water at the Red Sea, but it was saltwater, not freshwater. **There on the horizon they see an oasis. They see a spring in the Sinai Peninsula.** They assume they are saved.

When some brave souls run and plunge their face into the pool, **they discover it's brackish**, that's why it's called [Marah](#). The pattern of not just complaining, but blaming Moses began, "people complained and turned against Moses."

Moses cried out to the Lord for help, and **the Lord showed him a piece of wood (a tree, in fact). Moses threw it into the water, and this made the water good to drink.**

**Exodus 15:25**, "It was there at Marah that the Lord **set before them the following decree as a standard to test their faithfulness to him.** He said, "If you will listen carefully to the voice of the Lord your God and do what is right in his sight, obeying his commands and keeping all his decrees, then I will not make you suffer any of the diseases I sent on the Egyptians; **for I am the Lord who heals you.**"

**Interestingly enough**, God didn't just heal the water at Marah, they went a little further and found abundant springs of living water! "After leaving Marah, the Israelites traveled on to the oasis of Elim (a day's travel), where they found twelve springs and seventy palm trees. They camped there beside the water."

## **Jehovah Rapha - God heals. I Am healer.**

Keeping that characteristic of God in mind, let's see where it is **displayed in the words, behaviors, or miracles of Jesus.**

In the New Testament, where Jesus lived, spoke and behaved in a physical expression of this name of God. **Can you think of a remark, action or story that links this particular name of God to Jesus in the gospels?**

**Think about it. Where did Jesus display the fact that God heals?**

**There are many stories and occasions, right? Which is your favorite?**

**This sermon series, like most of our series are not meant to be exhaustive.** We are not going to give you everything you need to understand and engage with all the names of God in five weeks. **No, these are introductions to help you dig in for yourself. To get the notes, explore on your own or with friends in Life Groups.**

**God declared His names in the Old Testament and Jesus lived out each and every one of them in the gospels. This not only proves Jesus is God but demonstrates who God is and how we can continue to know Him, follow Him, and point others to Him.**

**I choose to highlight the story of Jesus healing the man who was paralyzed. I love it because the man's friends care about him enough to bring him to Jesus, **tearing through Peter's mother-in-law's clay-thatched roof to make it happen.****

Three of the gospels ([Matthew](#), [Mark](#) and [Luke](#)) write about this miracle.

**I'm using Luke's story.** Many of you are familiar with this story, but maybe some have not read it for themselves. I encourage you to do so.

### **Luke 5:17-26 NLT**

**Luke tells us that Jesus was teaching and that there were religious leaders sitting nearby. Luke notes that the "Lord's healing power was strongly with Jesus,"**

Some local men came to bring a friend, who was paralyzed, to Jesus. They had problems getting inside the house because of the crowds packed in tight, listening to Jesus. The friends decided to lift their friend up onto the roof of the house and dig their way through the clay-thatched roof to lower him, on his bed-mat, now used as a stretcher, into the room with Jesus.

Luke writes, "**Jesus, seeing their faith,**" the friends' faith that is, speaks to the young man. **Jesus says, "your sins are forgiven."** This is another reason I love this story and how it displays God's name and character in Jesus' life.

**Sin is destructive and devastating in everyone's life.** And to only focus on physical abnormalities and the pain that sin causes, would be missing the point – **God is the healer of soul and body!**

Jesus addressing the most important issue in this man's life shows the priority of eternity! **A walking man can still be lost, without hope and never know the love and forgiveness of a savior!**

**Working legs are not a prerequisite to enter heaven, but forgiveness of sin is!**

**The Pharisees and religious lawyers flipped out over Jesus' audaciousness! "Who does this guy think he is... God?"**

**Jesus knew what they were thinking and said,** "Why do you question this in your hearts? Is it easier to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or 'Stand up and walk'?"

**I will prove to you that the Son of Man has the authority on earth to forgive sins."**

Then Jesus turned to the paralyzed man and said, "Stand up, pick up your mat, and go home!"

Jesus didn't just prove He was God by forgiving sin, he proved it by physically healing the paralyzed man!

**Think about this, God isn't the God who used to heal, because of Jesus, we see He is the God who heals now! Jehovah Rapha – I Am that heals now is here today.**

**Our second name of God today is Jehovah Shalom, God is Peace.**

**Judges 6:24** And **Gideon built an altar to the LORD there and named it Yahweh-Shalom** (which means "the LORD is peace"). The altar remains in Ophrah in the land of the clan of Abiezer to this day.

Backstory:

Judges 6:1-6 NLT

"The Israelites did evil in the Lord's sight. So the Lord handed them over to the Midianites for seven years. The Midianites were so cruel that the Israelites made hiding places for themselves in the mountains, caves, and strongholds. Whenever the Israelites planted their crops, marauders from Midian, Amalek, and the people of the east would attack Israel, camping in the land and destroying crops as far away as Gaza. They left the Israelites with nothing to eat, taking all the sheep, goats, cattle, and donkeys. These enemy hordes, coming with their livestock and tents, were as thick as locusts; they arrived on droves of camels too numerous to count. And they stayed until the land was stripped bare. So Israel was reduced to starvation by the Midianites. Then the Israelites cried out to the Lord for help."

**The Israelites quit obeying and following God and just did whatever they pleased, including having multiple affairs with foreign idols.**

The Bible says that God had enough and handed them over to an enemy – in this case, the [Midianites](#). Look them up for more info. They were cruel and relentless, so Israelites had been hiding out in the mountains, in caves to stay alive. There were tribal raiders, like desert pirates, who came in and stole everything just as the people were beginning to build up their livestock and grain. Israel was helpless to stop them.

Ah, but then, as the story goes, it took **STARVATION** for Israel realize they've been naughty.

“So Israel was reduced to starvation by the Midianites. Then the Israelites cried out to the Lord for help.” **Judges 6:6 NLT**

First, God sent a prophet to set them straight, then Jesus himself showed up as noted “the Angel of the Lord,” a phrase meaning a [Christophany](#) took place.

“Then the angel of the Lord came and sat beneath the great tree at Ophrah, which belonged to Joash of the clan of Abiezer. Gideon son of Joash was threshing wheat at the bottom of a winepress to hide the grain from the Midianites. **The angel of the Lord appeared to him and said, “Mighty hero, the Lord is with you!”**” **Judges 6:11-12 NLT**

**Jesus and Gideon have a back-and-forth discussion about God’s assignment for Gideon. Gideon has doubts, God assures him. Gideon wants proof using the ol’ fleece technique, God makes the impossible happen convincing Gideon that he’s THE guy God wants to lead Israel into battle against the Midianite Pirates.**

You’ve got to read the story for yourself, it’s amazing! And so inspirational.

It’s well into the story that Gideon begins to understand what’s really going on. He’s not been talking with a religious man, nor an angel sent by God to deliver a message. Nope. **Gideon figures out that he’s been talking and bargaining with God himself and realizes he should be dead – but he’s not dead.** God the Father told Moses in Exodus 33:20, “You cannot see My face, for no one can see Me and live.”

**“When Gideon realized that it was the angel of the Lord, he cried out, “Oh, Sovereign Lord, I’m doomed! I have seen the angel of the Lord face to face!” “It is all right,” the Lord replied. “Do not be afraid. You will not die.”** And Gideon built an altar to the Lord there and named it **Yahweh-Shalom** (which means “the Lord is peace”). The altar remains in Ophrah in the land of the clan of Abiezer to this day.” **Judges 6:22-24 NLT**

It’s after checking himself and looking around, he still standing and wants to make an altar, a memory-stone stacking to mark the moment he talked with God, saw Jesus’ face, and LIVED!

In this name declaration of God, Gideon sets the record straight – God is peace – Jehovah Shalom is not striving nor warring against humans, but instead is for them.

God is not in **battled conflict WITH you**. He is **not against you**. **Jehovah Shalom is FOR you! I Am is PEACE.**

# Jehovah Shalom - God is peace. I Am peace.

Keeping that characteristic of God in mind, let's see where it is **displayed in the words, behaviors, or miracles of Jesus.**

First, let me remind us of this tender verse that John writes, quoting Jesus talking to his disciples towards the end of his journey on earth. Jesus says, in John 14:27 **"I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid."**

**Here's the most powerful miracle of peace amidst chaos!**

**The most powerful display of God's peace is seen in a miracle over nature, takes place in the middle of the Sea of Galilee – this huge lake that was big enough to host its own hurricanes! Peace! Be still!**

**Mark 4:39-41 ESV**

**"And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. He said to them, "Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?" And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?""**

**Jesus was sound asleep taking a power nap when the guys woke him up. I'm not saying Jesus was grumpy, but after what happened, I wouldn't be waking him from naps anytime soon!**

Jesus wakes up and censures, rebukes, or warns the wind – **the word epitimaó is to measure out a warning.** He directly chastised the wind as though it were a misbehaving child and spoke to the water the word that we often need in our life – it's another word for peace in the New Testament- **SILENCE! Jesus said.**

**It is not uncommon for winds to die down quickly, even suddenly. But it is impossible to stop the motion of the waves in the water! The sea itself, immediately flattened in silence** (Vincent: The sea sank to rest as if exhausted by its own beating).

**The disciples were understandably afraid because they saw the power of God physically speaking peace into chaos and having it obey!**

**Can we answer the disciple's question today? Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?**

## Answer: Jesus is peace!

These two names of God remind me that He HEALS and IS PEACE.

Are you physically suffering? God is healing.

Are you stressed, depressed, fearful, and anxious? God is peace.

**Lift your voice and call on the name of Jesus! Call on the name that is above all other names. Call on the God who is healing, who is peace.**

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## NOTES

### Scriptures

**Isaiah 57:19b-21 NLT** “**May they have abundant peace**, both near and far,” says the Lord, who heals them. “But those who still reject me are like the restless sea, which is never still but continually churns up mud and dirt. **There is no peace for the wicked**,” says my God.”

**Exodus 15:26 NLT** “He said, “If you will listen carefully to the voice of the Lord your God and do what is right in his sight, obeying his commands and keeping all his decrees, then I will not make you suffer any of the diseases I sent on the Egyptians; for **I am the Lord who heals you.**””

**Genesis 20:17** - God healed Abimelech, his wife, and his female servants, so they could have children.

**Numbers 12:13** - So Moses cried out to the LORD, “O God, I beg you, please heal her!”

**Deuteronomy 32:29** - Look now; I myself am he! There is no other god but me! I am the one who kills and gives life; **I am the one who wounds and heals**; no one can be rescued from my powerful hand! [God tells Moses just how angry and frustrated he is with the people].

**2 Kings 20:5** - Go back to Hezekiah, the leader of my people. Tell him, ‘This is what the LORD, the God of your ancestor David, says: I have heard your prayer and seen your tears. **I will heal you**, and three days from now you will get out of bed and go to the Temple of the LORD.

**2 Chronicles 7:14** - if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will **forgive their sin and will heal their land.**

**Psalm 103:3** - He forgives all my sins and **heals all my diseases**.

**Luke 5:17-26 NLT** "One day while Jesus was teaching, some Pharisees and teachers of religious law were sitting nearby. (It seemed that these men showed up from every village in all Galilee and Judea, as well as from Jerusalem.) And the Lord's healing power was strongly with Jesus. Some men came carrying a paralyzed man on a sleeping mat. They tried to take him inside to Jesus, but they couldn't reach him because of the crowd. So they went up to the roof and took off some tiles. Then they lowered the sick man on his mat down into the crowd, right in front of Jesus. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the man, "Young man, your sins are forgiven." But the Pharisees and teachers of religious law said to themselves, "Who does he think he is? That's blasphemy! Only God can forgive sins!" Jesus knew what they were thinking, so he asked them, "Why do you question this in your hearts? Is it easier to say 'Your sins are forgiven,' or 'Stand up and walk'? So I will prove to you that the Son of Man has the authority on earth to forgive sins." Then Jesus turned to the paralyzed man and said, "Stand up, pick up your mat, and go home!" And immediately, as everyone watched, the man jumped up, picked up his mat, and went home praising God. Everyone was gripped with great wonder and awe, and they praised God, exclaiming, "We have seen amazing things today!"

**The Bitter Water at Marah - Exodus 15:22-27 NLT**

"Then Moses led the people of Israel away from the Red Sea, and they moved out into the desert of Shur. They traveled in this desert for three days without finding any water. When they came to the **oasis of Marah, the water was too bitter to drink. So they called the place Marah (which means "bitter")**. Then the people complained and turned against Moses. "What are we going to drink?" they demanded. So Moses cried out to the Lord for help, and **the Lord showed him a piece of wood. Moses threw it into the water, and this made the water good to drink**. It was there at Marah that the Lord **set before them the following decree as a standard to test their faithfulness to him**. He said, "If you will listen carefully to the voice of the Lord your God and do what is right in his sight, obeying his commands and keeping all his decrees, then I will not make you suffer any of the diseases I sent on the Egyptians; **for I am the Lord who heals you**." After leaving Marah, the Israelites traveled on to the oasis of Elim, where they found twelve springs and seventy palm trees. They camped there beside the water."

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## **Questions**

- Q: Are you going through sickness or stress right now? Talk about it.
- Q: What was God testing in the Israelites in the desert?
- Q: What is your favorite healing miracle Jesus performed in the New Testament?
- Q: Has God ever asked you to do something you didn't feel qualified to do?
- Q: How did you respond?
- Q: Have you ever felt that God was against you or mad at you?
- Q: What do you think about God speaking peace into chaos?

## **Diving Deeper into God's Word**

### **God's Yahweh names**

YAHWEH-RAPHA [yah-way-raw-faw]: "The Lord Who Heals" (**Exodus 15:26**) – "I am Jehovah who heals you" both in body and soul. In body, by preserving from and curing diseases, and in soul, by pardoning iniquities. Roof, pool, lepers

YAHWEH-SHALOM [yah-way-shah-lohm]: "The Lord Our Peace" (**Judges 6:24**) – the name given by Gideon to the altar he built after the Angel of the Lord assured him, he would not die as he thought he would after seeing Him.

### Strong's Concordance

Rapha (רָפָא): to heal, cure, physician, repair, thoroughly, make whole.

Shalom (שָׁלוֹם): completeness, soundness, welfare, peace.

### Cambridge Bible for Schools and Colleges

Exodus 15,26. The thought seems to be suggested by the incident of v. 25a: **unwholesome or bitter water that has been made sweet** is sometimes spoken of as 'healed' (2 Kings 2:21-22, Ezekiel 47:8).

Mark 4:39. As a rule, after a storm the waves continue to heave and swell for hours, **but here** at the word of the Lord of Nature **there was a "great calm.**

### Gil's Exposition of the Entire Bible

**Exodus 15:26** for I am the Lord that healeth thee; both in body and soul; in body, by preserving from diseases, and by curing them when afflicted with them; and in soul, by pardoning their iniquities, which, in Scripture, is sometimes signified by healing, see Psalm 103:3.

### Jamieson-Fausset-Brown Bible Commentary

**Exodus 15:25.** the Lord showed him a tree, which when he had cast into the waters, the waters were made sweet—Some travellers have pronounced this to be the Elvah of the Arabs—a shrub in form and flower resembling our hawthorn; others, the berries of the Ghurkhud—a bush found growing around all brackish fountains. But neither of these shrubs are known by the natives to possess such natural virtues. **It is far more likely that God miraculously endowed some tree with the property of purifying the bitter water—a tree employed as the medium, but the sweetening was not dependent upon the nature or quality of the tree, but the power of God** (compare Joh 9:6). And hence the "statute and ordinance" that followed, which would have been singularly inopportune if no miracle had been wrought. There he proved them—God now brought the Israelites into circumstances which would put their faith and obedience to the test (compare Ge 22:1).

### Keil and Delitzsch Biblical Commentary on the Old Testament

Exodus 15,25 The word עֵץ "wood" (see only Numbers 19:6), alone, without anything in the context to explain it, does not point to a "living tree" in contrast to the "dead stick." And if any contrast had been intended to be shown between the punishment of the Egyptians and the training of the Israelites, this intention **would certainly have been more visibly and surely accomplished by using the staff with which Moses not only brought the plagues upon Egypt, but afterwards brought water out of the rock.** If by עֵץ we understand a tree, with which וַיִּשְׁלַךְ, however, hardly agrees, it would be **much more natural to suppose that there was an allusion to the tree of life, especially if we compare Genesis 2:9 and Genesis 3:22 with Revelation 22:2, "the leaves of the tree of life were for the healing of the nations,"** though we cannot regard this reference as established. All that is clear and undoubted is, that by employing these means, Jehovah made Himself known to the people of Israel as their Physician, and for this purpose appointed the wood for the healing of the bitter water, which

threatened Israel with disease and death (2 Kings 4:40). **[Glenn - the tree that brought healing would also be compared to the cross (the tree) in which Jesus paid for our sins, thus healing us completely.]**

### MacLaren's Expositions

**Judges 6:24** Gideon was a plain, rude man, with no very deep religious experience. Apparently up to the moment of this vision he had been contentedly tolerating the idolatrous practices which had spread over all the country. He had heard of 'Jehovah.' It was a name, a tradition, which his fathers had told him. That was all that he knew of the God of Israel. Into this hearsay religion, as in a flash, while Gideon is busy about his threshing floor, thinking of his wheat or of the misery of his nation, there comes, all at once, this crushing conviction, - 'the hearsay God is beside you, speaking to you! You have personal relations to Him, He is nearer you than any human being is, He is no mere Name, here He stands!'

And whenever the lightning edge of a conviction like that cuts its way through the formalisms and traditionalisms and hearsay repetitions of conventional religion, then there comes what came to Gideon, the swift thought, 'And if this be true, if I really do touch, and am touched by, that living Person whose name is Jehovah, what is to become of me? Shall I not shrivel up when His fiery finger is laid upon me? I have seen Him face to face, and I must die.'

### Bengel's Gnomes

Mark 4:39 Σιώπα, be silent) cease from roaring.—πεφίμωσο, be still) cease from violence [i.e., the σιώπα refers to the noise; πεφίμωσο, to the furious violence of the waves].—γαλήνη, a calm) **of the sea; which, under other circumstances, would have continued in a troubled state even after the wind had lulled.**

### Vincent's Word Studies

#### Ceased (ἐκόπασεν)

From κόπος meaning, 1, beating; 2, toil; 3, weariness. A beautiful and picturesque word. **The sea sank to rest as if exhausted by its own beating.**