

GETTING TO KNOW

GOD

A study of His names & divine nature

BAND of BROTHERS

SPRING SERIES 2025 – WEEK 3

JEHOVAH-RAPHE

“If you will diligently listen to the voice of the LORD your God, and do that which is right in his eyes, and give ear to his commandments and keep all his statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you that I put on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD, your healer.”

– Exodus 15:26 ESV

- **Last week**

- *Jehovah-Jireh* – “The LORD Will Provide”

- **This week:**

- *Jehovah-Raphe* – “The LORD Our Healer”

Then Moses made Israel set out from the Red Sea, and they went into the wilderness of Shur. They went three days in the wilderness and found no water. When they came to Marah, they could not drink the water of Marah because it was bitter; therefore it was named Marah. – Exodus 15:22-23 ESV

- A journey of discovery
 - *Jehovah* has delivered them from slavery
 - 3 days earlier...
 - ...they crossed the Red Sea on dry ground
 - ...*Jehovah* destroyed the Egyptian army
 - ...and His deliverance made an impression

*Israel saw the great power that the Lord used against the Egyptians, so the people feared the LORD [*Jehovah*], and they believed in the LORD [*Jehovah*] and in his servant Moses. – Exodus 14:31 ESV*

- And they praised
"I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously..." – Ex 15:4

*"The LORD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation..." – Ex 15:4
 ESV*

*"Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness,
 awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?" – Ex 15:11*

*"You have led in your steadfast love the people whom you have redeemed; you have
 guided them by your strength to your holy abode." – Ex 15:13*

*"At the blast of your nostrils the waters piled up; the floods stood up in a heap; the
 deeps congealed in the heart of the sea." – Ex 15:8*

- 3 days later...
*Moses made Israel set out from the Red Sea, and they went into the wilderness of
 Shur. They went three days in the wilderness and found no water. – Exodus 15:22 ESV*

- **From ecstasy to agony**

- The waters of the Red Sea were **impassable**
 - Causing the people to complain
 - But **Elohim** parted the waters
- At Marah, the waters were **im potable**
 - Causing the people to complain

*Then the people complained and turned against Moses. "What are we going to drink?"
 they demanded. – Exodus 15:24 ESV*

- Moses and the moody masses
 - This pattern of worship and whining goes all the way back to Egypt
 - When Moses arrived, they rejoiced

*Then Moses and Aaron returned to Egypt and called all the elders of Israel together.
 Aaron told them everything the Lord had told Moses, and Moses performed the
 miraculous signs as they watched. Then the people of Israel were convinced that the
 Lord had sent Moses and Aaron. When they heard that the Lord was concerned about
 them and had seen their misery, they bowed down and worshiped. – Exodus 4:31 NLT*

- But Pharaoh bowed up
 - ~ He refused to let them go
 - ~ And increased their workload
 - ~ And they blamed Moses and Aaron

“May the LORD [Jehovah] judge and punish you for making us stink before Pharaoh and his officials. You have put a sword into their hands, an excuse to kill us!” – Exodus 5:21 NLT

- They used the name Elohim gave to Moses
 - ~ But they didn’t call on that name
 - ~ Or ask Him to provide
 - ~ Or view Him as present
 - ~ Instead, they complained to Moses
 - ~ And blamed him for their predicament

- But it was Elohim who was leading them
***God [Elohim] led the people around by the way of the wilderness toward the Red Sea.** – Exodus 13:18 ESV*

***The LORD [Jehovah] went ahead of them. He guided them during the day with a pillar of cloud, and he provided light at night with a pillar of fire. This allowed them to travel by day or by night.** – Exodus 13:21 ESV*

When they came to Marah, they could not drink the water of Marah because it was bitter... – Exodus 15:23 ESV

- **The mystery of Marah**

- Why did *Jehovah* lead them there?
 - Did He not know the water was bitter?
 - Couldn’t He see they were out of water?
 - Was He deaf to their cries of thirst?
 - Was He blind to their need?
- He knew exactly what they needed
 - And **bitter water** wasn’t their problem
 - They needed an attitude adjustment
 - They needed a dose of **living water**

*“...my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, **the fountain of living waters**, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water.” – Jeremiah 2:13 ESV*

*You feed them from the abundance of your own house, letting them drink from **your river of delights**. For you are **the fountain of life**, the light by which we see. – Psalm 36:8-9 NLT*

***“What are we going to drink?” they demanded.** – Exodus 15:24 NLT*

- Bitter hearts and bitter tongues
 - They didn’t trust Moses

- They had their doubts about *Elohim*
- And they demanded a **solution**
- **The unhealthy habit of unhappiness**
 - This was an ongoing problem for them
 - They made a habit out of complaining
 - They didn't recognize *Elohim* as **Jehovah-Jireh** ("The LORD Will Provide")

"If only we had died by the LORD's hand in the land of Egypt!" they said. "There we sat by pots of meat and ate our fill of bread, but you have brought us into this desert to starve this whole assembly to death!" – Exodus 16:2-3 NLT

But the people thirsted for water there, and they grumbled against Moses: "Why have you brought us out of Egypt—to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?" – Exodus 17:2-3 NLT

"Oh, for some meat!" they exclaimed. "We remember the fish we used to eat for free in Egypt. And we had all the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions, and garlic we wanted. But now our appetites are gone. All we ever see is this manna!" – Numbers 11:4-6 NLT

- **The balm for bitterness**
 - Moses had a problem on his hands
 - *Elohim* had a **solution** in mind
 - So Moses turned to the One who...
 - ...is always present
 - ...knows all
 - ...sees everything
 - ...and is always ready to provide

And he cried to the LORD [Jehovah], and the LORD showed him a log, and he threw it into the water, and the water became sweet. – Exodus 15:25 ESV

- He cried out to *Jehovah*, the great "I Am"
 - "I Am here!" "I Am loving!"
 - "I Am aware!" "I Am powerful!"
 - "I Am listening!" "I Am sufficient!"

- **A miraculous transformation**
 - *Jehovah* performed a miracle
 - Using a **man** and a **tree**
 - ...to make what was bitter – **sweet**
 - ...to make what was unhealthy – **whole**
 - ...to make what was deadly – **life-giving**

...the LORD [Jehovah] showed him a log... – Exodus 15:25 ESV

log – Hebrew: ‘ēṣ – (pronounced “eights”)
- “wood, tree, timber”

*...out of the ground **the LORD God** made to spring up every **tree** [‘ēṣ] that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The **tree** [‘ēṣ] of life was in the midst of the garden, and the **tree** [‘ēṣ] of the knowledge of good and evil. – Genesis 2:9 ESV*

*“And if a man has committed a crime punishable by death and he is put to death, and you hang him on a **tree** [‘ēṣ], his body shall not remain all night on the **tree** [‘ēṣ], but you shall bury him the same day, for a hanged man is cursed by God. – Deuteronomy 21:22-23 ESV*

*Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us — for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a **tree** [‘ēṣ]”— so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith. – Galatians 3:13-14 ESV*

*“The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom **you killed by hanging him on a tree**. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.” – Acts 5:30-31 ESV*

*“They put him to death by **hanging him on a tree**, but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear.” – Acts 10:39-40 ESV*

*“And when they had carried out all that was written of him, **they took him down from the tree** and laid him in a tomb. But God raised him from the dead.” – Acts 13:29-30 ESV*

- **Jehovah had a tree prepared**

- Because *Jehovah* had a plan in place
 - He **knew** the water was bitter
 - He was the one who **sent them** there
- **Bitter water** wasn’t their problem
 - It was their **bitter hearts**
- They didn’t trust **Jehovah**

*...and he threw it into the water, and **the water became sweet**. – Exodus 15:25 ESV*

- They got what they wanted
 - Their physical thirst was **quenched**
 - But their bitter hearts were **unchanged**
 - Their temporary desire was **satisfied**
 - But their long-term need was **unmet**
- The woman at the well

Jesus said to her, “**Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.**” – John 4:13-14 ESV

- **Their greatest need was Jehovah**

- He met their **physical need**
- But He was more concerned about their **spiritual deficiency**

There **the LORD** made for them a statute and a rule, and there he tested them, saying, “If you will diligently **listen** to the voice of the LORD [Jehovah] your God [Elohim], and **do that which is right** in his eyes, and **give ear to his commandments** and **keep all his statutes**. I will put none of the diseases on you that I put on the Egyptians, for I am **the LORD** [Jehovah], **your healer** [raphe].” – Exodus 15:25-26 ESV

“God wasn’t content to satisfy their craving for water. He wanted to teach them a lesson about faithfulness and trust. He knew they would get thirsty again. Temporary solutions to temporal problems never produce eternal results. As long as they focused their attention on their physical needs they would never learn the spiritual lessons God wanted them to learn.” – Ken Miller, *Devotionary™ on the Names of God*

“Little did the Israelites know that the water was a symbol of their own spiritual condition. Despite all God had done to set them free from their bondage in Egypt, they were a bitter and discontented people. In a sense, they were unusable. Instead of displaying gratitude for all that God had done, they quickly resorted to anger and blame, and their blatant displays of dissatisfaction were evidence that their hearts were bitter and in need of change.” – Ken Miller, *Devotionary™ on the Names of God*

- **Jehovah-Raphe (the LORD Who Heals)**

- Healed the bitter waters
- He made it life-giving and sustaining
- He made it beneficial, not harmful
- The “tree of life” was the key

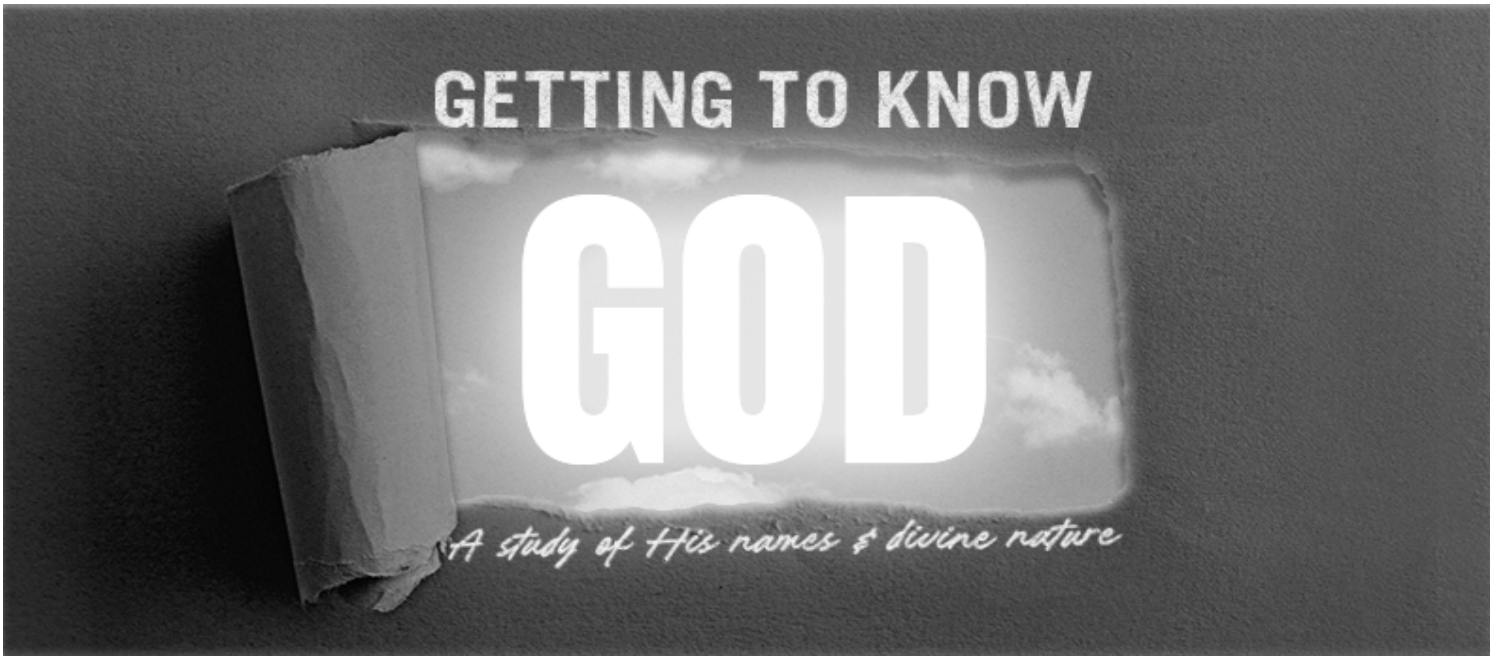
*He himself bore our sins in his body **on the tree**, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. **By his wounds you have been healed.*** – 1 PETER 2:24 ESV

- **Discussion questions**

According to Peter, what have we been healed from and what should be the result? How has then been true in your life?

Why do we tend to put a higher priority on physical healing than spiritual transformation?

Discuss the following quote: “Temporary solutions to temporal problems never produce eternal results.”



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SPRING SERIES 2025 – WEEK 4 HOMEWORK

WEEK 4 – *Jehovah-Nissi*: The LORD My Banner

The name **Jehovah-Nissi** is used in **Exodus 17:15** and is translated as "The Lord is My Banner." This name reveals a significant aspect of God's character and His role as a protector and source of victory for His people. The name **Jehovah-Nissi** is introduced in the context of the battle against the Amalekites in **Exodus 17**. After the Israelites were led out of Egypt and had begun their journey in the wilderness, they encountered the Amalekites in battle. Moses, with the help of Joshua and his arms raised in prayer to God, saw the Israelites achieve victory. When the battle was won, Moses built an altar and named it "Jehovah-Nissi," signifying that it was God who gave them the victory. For believers, the name Jehovah-Nissi serves as a reminder that God is the ultimate source of strength and victory. Just as the Israelites relied on God for victory over their enemies, Christians are encouraged to trust in God's leadership and sovereignty in every area of life.

- Read pages 27-32 of Ken's Devotionary™ on the names of God. Write down any key thoughts or insights you got from considering the name **Jehovah-Rapha**.

- As background for the context of this name, read Exodus 16. Briefly summarize the high points in your own words.

What do you think their attitude toward God should have been after all He had done?

- Now read Exodus 17:1-8. What was the first thing the people did when they arrived at Rephidim?

What similarities do you see between this event and the one recorded in Exodus 15?

What lesson had they failed to learn

What did God end up doing for them and what was their response in verse 7?

- Read verses 9-16. This time, the problem was not a lack of food or water, but the presence of a formidable enemy. Based on all that God had done for them, what should their attitude toward Him have been at this point?

This is their first encounter with actual battle. Why would God allow this more powerful enemy to threaten the lives of His chosen people? What lesson was He trying to teach them that they had not yet learned?

What is the significance of the actions of Moses, Aaron, and Hur in verses 11-13? What lessons could you take away from this?

What was the result?

But based on verse 14, was this the last the Israelites would see of the Amalekites? Were they no longer going to be a problem?

- Read the following quote and write down any thoughts you may have:
“God didn’t wipe out the Amalekites at Rephidim, but He did prove to the Israelites that, with His help, they could be victorious. When Moses named the altar The LORD our Banner, he was making a statement about the ongoing presence and power of God. The staff he held in his hand throughout the battle was a symbol of God’s leadership, power, and provision. It had turned water into blood, produced water from a rock, and victory over the Amalekites.”