

## ***Jehovah Ropha***

In Exodus 15 the Lord told Moses that He was Jehovah Ropha, the Lord who heals. Read the account in Exodus 15: 22f. The pillar of fire or cloud had led around the Children of Israel for several days after the Red Sea crossing. They had not been wandering aimlessly. But for three days they found no water. For this many people and animals the hardship must have been very intense. Were they in God's will? Will God lead you into difficult struggles?

In Gen 20 Abraham prayed for a king who was then healed as well as his household, so Abraham knew God as the healer. Moses knew Jehovah Ropha, the Lord his health- see Deut.34:7 He knew Jehovah Ropha when he prayed for his sister Miriam. Numbers 12:9-15. David knew Jehovah Ropha – Psalm 103:1-3. Do you remember the story of Hezekiah? The prophet Isaiah was sent to tell him he would die of his illness. Hezekiah did not have an heir and so he cried out to the Lord for more time. Isaiah was sent back to tell him he was granted 15 more years.

Is He the same God today? Heb 13:8 Of course. Jim Weingartner could tell us He is the same God that heals today. Jesus told us we are to lay our hands on the sick and pray for them.

Jesus wants to heal us from the disease of sin, the pains of life, and physical afflictions. Lk 4:18,19 In Is 53 it says the Lord carries our griefs and our sorrows. We don't need to hang onto them, but we do need to cast them on his shoulders. If He is willing to bear them so we don't have to, why should we not give them to him? When Jesus was on the cross he was offered myrrh which would have deadened the pain, but He refused. He went all the way, carried all the pain, bore every sorrow for us. Don't let it be in vain. "With his stripes we are healed."

In the Song of Songs Jesus is compared to a bundle of myrrh. Myrrh was used as a dried plant or ground to powder and added to oil, sacrifices, incense, or put in clothes to add a nice fragrance. SoS 1:13 says "A bundle of myrrh is my well beloved unto me; he shall lie all night betwixt my breasts." He isn't just a drop of oil or a pinch of this herb but a whole bundle for every illness in your life. Remember El Shaddai? More than enough! His presence in the difficulty brings his own fragrance. Remember the men cast into the fiery furnace. They had to be asked to come out because Jesus was there with them. The Scripture says they came out without the smell of smoke. They had been with Jesus.

Stop for a second and think of your difficulty. Is there the smell of smoke, still complaining and telling others what a tough time you had? Bring Jehovah Ropha into the situation and that smell will change to his own sweet fragrance.

Jer 8:22 Gilead means praise. The answer to the question is YES, there is healing balm in praise. When by faith we thank God even for being with us in the difficulty, his presence brings a sweetness of grace to come through without the smell of smoke. Jer 30:17, Is 30:26, Mt 4:23