Jehovah-Rapha, The Lord, Our Healer

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Speaker: C. Elijah Bronner

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Transcribed by Tech-Synergy
C. Elijah Bronner: If you listen to his voice, God will always lead you to the very thing that you need for divine health.

Female: You are listening to BrothersoftheWord.com. This is the sermon titled, “Jehovah-Rapha, The Lord, Our Healer” by C. Elijah Bronner. This sermon is number 7861.

(Music Playing: 00:00:19 - 00:00:31)

Female: And now for, Jehovah-Rapha, The Lord, Our Healer Part 1.

C. Elijah Bronner: Thank you for joining Brothers of the Word because, brother, you need the word.

We welcome all of you joining us by television and those of you joining us online at BrothersoftheWord.com or one of our social media channels. We welcome you and thank you for tuning in to join us. I would like to share just a little humor.

While on a road trip, an elderly couple stopped at a roadside restaurant for lunch and after finishing their meal, they left the restaurant and resumed their trip. Unfortunately, the elderly woman had left her glasses on the table and she didn’t miss them until after they had been driving about 30 minutes. Then, to add to the aggravation, they had to travel quite a distance farther before they could find a place to turn around. On the way back, the elderly husband fussed and scolded his wife. They finally arrived at the restaurant and as the woman got out of the car and hurried inside to retrieve her glasses, the husband yelled to her, “While you're in there, you might as well get my hat, too.”

We’ve been sharing and abiding(ph) in the word for several months and we got to a portion where I was talking about establishing your heart, establishing your heart with God's word, and we stopped off at a particular subject, which was Psalms 91. I thought that with so much that was going on in the world, with so many outbreaks and so much fear that was happening in the world that it was a good time to teach on Psalms 91 and so we did a four-part series there entitled “Psalms 91: Living Under God's Protection.” Living Under God’s Protection.
So as we were talking about establishing your heart, I said that’s a great subject, to establish your heart or to establish your heart with Psalms 91 not knowing that things would escalate out in the world because they were kind of mild back when we started but things escalated and so I said, “Wow, that was perfect timing to really get Psalms 91 in our hearts and to really learn it, to meditate on it, to exercise our faith in it and to walk in God’s protection.”

And then I said, “Well, the next area that’s good to establish your heart in, especially in light of today’s circumstances, is the area of healing.” It is good to have your heart established with God’s word on healing because the time will come where you’ll even need for yourself or someone that you love, somebody that you know, that’s close to you. God’s word concerning healing is a great subject to have that established in your heart and so I just wanted to speak from the subject.

Actually as we were in Psalms 91, we got to the portion in Psalms 91 where it said, “Those that know my name --” And one of the seven main covenant redemptive names of God is Jehovah-Rapha, the Lord, our healer. So that’s the name that we’ll talk about today, Jehovah-Rapha, the Lord, our healer. And I just think it’s a great time to establish our hearts on healing. I have preached on healing for a number of years. It’s probably what I’m most known for. But faith doesn’t come by having heard, faith comes by hearing. We need to be refreshed and I feel like if there was ever a time to be refreshed, now is a good time to be refreshed on healing and divine health that God provides.

So God, one of his covenant redemptive names is Jehovah-Rapha which means the Lord that healeth thee, the Lord our healer. Actually, if you look at the word in Hebrew, one of his participles comes from the word rofe and in Hebrew, it actually means doctor. So the Lord is our physician. The Lord is our physician. Jehovah-Rapha. The Lord is our physician. So we’re talking about Jehovah-Rapha, the Lord, our healer. He’s literally our physician. He’s our doctor. He’s our doctor. You know, the children of Israel, they had God as their doctor and the bible records that when he brought them out of Egypt that there was not one feeble among them, no one was weak, no one was sick,
not one feeble among them. God was their physician. He kept them supernaturally well. God kept them supernaturally well and there was not one feeble among them.

Now, we live under a better covenant. We live under a better covenant than they had and so God is our healer. God has revealed himself to us as our healer. I believe that God as our healer, he is able to use any resource, any manner, any person, anything he wants to bring you healing. So God can heal you supernaturally, divinely without any other intervention at all. God can just heal you on his own without any intervention, but then there are other times when he’ll use other means or he’ll use other methods and we find several of them in the word.

They took handkerchiefs and aprons from Paul’s body, laid them on the sick and that healing anointing from the cloth was transmitted by cloth and then brought healing to people’s bodies. And there were other times where Isaiah took a poultice of figs, laid it on Hezekiah and God was able to use those figs there to bring healing. He had some type of -- we’re not quite sure what he had, but he had some type of boil in his body and he had a death sentence and that poultice of figs and God’s supernatural power brought healing to him. So God uses different things. Naaman, it was his obedience, dipping seven times in the Jordan River, that brought him healing. There were times Jesus simply sent the word brought him healing. God has various means, various methods.

Even in the church today, we can lay hands and heal or we can anoint you with oil, we can pray, you can fast and be healed. You can be healed strictly by the word. You can get your healing strictly by the word, strictly by the word, strictly by the word. The word is life to us and health to all our flesh. So just getting the word in your heart and once it penetrates in your heart and get down in your spirit, it spills over into the body. So the word itself brings healing. So God has various means. There’s healing anointing. There are various means, various methods. You can get healed from worship, praise. There’s something called a praise cure. Just worshiping God can get you well. Have you ever noticed that when you worship God you feel better, you feel better after worshiping God? Well, that’s something called a praise cure. So you can just rejoice in God and be healed. So there are various means God can heal you. He can heal you in so many different ways.
I was healed one time and I saw the divine, sovereign hand of God when I look back on it. But one day, I had a really bad cold and I was scheduled to go to a seminar the next day and I was in such bad shape -- because the seminar was going to be probably about a two-hour drive away and I was in such bad shape, I was like, "Man, I may not be able to make that pastoral seminar." I just felt awful. Well, a friend of mine, that same day, he called me, he wanted to meet me for lunch and I agreed to meet him and we met at this restaurant and while we were at this restaurant, I just noticed that they had a drink and it was a ginger drink and it had pineapple juice, it had honey, and it had lemon and so I just got a bottle of that drink to go with my lunch. I want you to know that as I ate my lunch and I drank that juice, I was completely healed. It was miraculous. I said, "I'm completely well," and I was able to go the next day to my seminar and I was perfectly fine.

And so I saw God heal me there simply by guiding my steps. God knew the juice I needed at the time and he had my friend to call me to meet me. If we haven’t had met at that restaurant, I wouldn’t have the juice and so I saw the hand of God and my friend only called me to go to that restaurant because he happened to be on that side of town because he was doing some transactions on that side of town. So I saw all of the orchestration. I said, "Man, if all of those things haven’t had lined up, I never would’ve gotten the juice and the juice brought me my healing.” God can orchestrate, he can order your steps to lead you to the right method or the right person or the right substance.

In fact, I was going to look at a scripture. You can flip over in your bible, you’ll see this Exodus Chapter 15. Exodus Chapter 15. Praise God. Exodus Chapter 15. Actually, we’ll read them beginning -- Exodus Chapter 15. We’ll actually read that, we’ll start at verse 23, Exodus Chapter 15 and verse 23. Notice what it says there. It says, “When they came--” Actually, back up to verse 22. It says, “Moses brought Israel from the Red Sea and they went out into the wilderness of Shur; and they went three days in the wilderness, and found no water.” Verse 23, “When they came to Marah, they could not drink of the waters of Marah
for they were bitter. Therefore, the name of it was called Marah.” Marah actually means bitter.

And then verse 24, “The people murmured against Moses saying, ‘What shall we drink?’ He cried unto the Lord and the Lord showed him a tree.” Notice that. I want you to underline the word showed. God showed him a tree. So, what I'm saying, God can use any substance, anything, any person, he can use whatever he wants to bring healing to us because God knows what’s already available in the earth and he knows where it's located and he knows how to get it to us. Notice, the Lord showed him a tree in verse 25, which when he had cast into the waters, the waters were made sweet. So, the waters were healed. After he put the tree in --

Now, scholars don’t know whether or not this tree had a special resin or substance or if it was the bark or the leaves or the roots. The scholars don't know if there were some special properties that this tree had that was able to turn the waters from bitter to sweet, or they don't know if this was simply the power of God that used the tree just as a symbol, just as a tool. It's not really clear, but God showed him a tree. God showed him something there that would get the job done.

God knows how to get us healed. God knows how to get us healed and he knows the right substance, the right place, the right time, the right people. He knows how to put his imposition, so that's why healing can come in a variety of methods, means and operations and so here, God showed him a tree. God showed him a tree and the tree did the job. I want you to notice that Moses had to put the tree in the water. He had to put the tree in the bitter water and then the water was made sweet and they were able to drink it.

Then, drop down to verse 26, and this is where God declares himself as Jehovah-Rapha, the Lord, our healer and said, “If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the Lord that healeth thee.” I'm Jehovah-Rapha, I'm the Lord, your healer. So God introduces himself as Israel’s physician during this account. Notice the typology here,
this tree is now Calvary’s tree – Calvary’s tree being put into the bitter waters of disease bring healing to us today.

Moses had to put the tree in. We have to appropriate by faith the redemptive work that was done at Calvary's tree and when we apply it to our bodies, it brings sweet healing where there was bitter disease. Praise God.

So God gives us the picture, he gives us the picture of Calvary. There’s a tree that has healing in it. He’s given the picture of the tree of Calvary. Praise God. It wasn't time to send Jesus into earth back then, so God just took a picture. In fact, he just gave them a picture of Calvary’s tree. Praise God. That tree was placed into the bitter waters and they were made sweet. Praise God. The tree made the waters sweet. When we receive Christ, our bitter life of sin is now made sweet with righteousness, sweet with holiness, sweet with soundness, sweet with life. Praise God. So the bitter is made sweet.

There was a man who was a chemist and he had been working in the lab with some different resins, some tars and different resins, and he washed up and he went home for lunch and as he ate lunch, he tasted his tea and the tea was so sweet. It tasted about 10 times sweeter than sugar, so he didn't understand what had happened. And then he had a piece of toast, so he said, “I'm going to bite some of the toast to relieve the sweetness from this tea,” and he said when he bit the toast, “The toast tasted like cake.” It was sweet as cake and then he wondered, he said, “Am I just sweetness?” He realized, he himself was the sweetness. It wasn't the tea and it wasn't the toast, the sweetness was coming out of him. Well, the resin he had been working with in the lab had gotten into his lungs and throat and lips and so forth and so everything he tasted was sweet.

That's what happens to us when Christ becomes our savior, everything is made sweet. Everything is made sweet. Everything in life is made sweet because of the tree of Calvary’s Cross. So here, we get this wonderful picture where God healed his people. And I want you to notice then in verse 27, “They came to Elim, where there were 12 wells of water and threescore and 10 palm trees and they encamped there by the waters.” So Marah, the bitter water, also represents complaining and
griping and groaning. They were complaining and griping and groaning. That represented the bitter water. And then just a short while later, notice the provision God brought them into in verse 27, they were brought to a place where there were 12 wells of water, 70 palm trees. They were able to camp out there and just have a wonderful time.

So that just reminds us that sometimes we’re complaining and griping, yet God already has a wonderful provision for us, if we could just wait a little while longer before we complain. Sometimes we complain too soon. If we would just hold back on the complaining, he already has a provision waiting. So that bitterness was there – the bitter attitude that they had. There was a bitter attitude and God already had a provision there for them. So in verse 26, “If thou wilt diligently hearken --” Here’s our covenant here, verse 26, “If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the Lord that healeth thee.”

So notice just the first part of that. If you just diligently hearken to his voice, God will lead you to divine health. He will lead you to divine health if you listen to his voice. You’ve heard Pastor Nathaniel said that God told him, “You work out six days a week, you'll never be sick.” Well, that’s listening to his voice. God knows exactly what it takes to keep us well, to keep us in sound health.

I remember one time, I was -- this was years ago, but I was eating a lot of potato chips, I was just eating a whole big bag just about every day, and this was before my wife knew how to kick. So we were just making deli sandwiches every day and so as a result, I was eating a whole bag of potato chips with my deli sandwiches every day. The Lord, he laid it on my heart, he said, “Son, you need to cut back on those chips.” God knew what I needed for health, if only I would listen to his voice. If you listen to his voice, he will lead you.

My mother has given her testimony, how one morning she woke up and she said she had anointing. She knew it was a divine prompting that she needed to exercise, she needed to walk, and she got out and started walking.
So notice that if you listen to his voice, God will always lead you to the very thing that you need for divine health for your health. Often, they are just practical things that you need to do or need to stop doing that will promote life and health and wellbeing in your body and soul. God’s voice, it always leads us. It always leads us toward life and health. Listen to his voice. Listen to his voice. I have so many testimonies.

00:20:22

I believe God heals in three primary ways. God, himself, he can heal you supernaturally, and that includes through his word and/or instant manifestation, just by the spirit of God. I believe that God can lead you, just as I just spoke about, how God can lead you to have you at the right place, the right time, doing the right thing. God can give you instruction that will bring you healing. And then I believe that God works through medical science. And so I believe that you need to seek God before any of them, though. So don’t just subject yourself to medical science. You need to pray before you go to the doctor. You need to pray to ask God to let you go to the right doctor. You need to pray to ask God to let the right doctor give you the right treatment and right medication.

You need God involved no matter which type of healing it is, but I believe that God heals through man. I believe God heals through various methods and I believe that there is supernatural healing that God can do just from himself or through his word and through the power, through the spirit, through the anointing. But I believe that those are the three primary ways that God heals.

I'm out of time. I'm out of time. I want you all to stand on your feet and we’ll pick it up next time. I just wanted to introduce the subject and we’ll pick it up next time. Praise God. Praise God. Those of you joining us live on television, I would like for you to go to BrothersoftheWord.com. You can listen to this message in its entirety, absolutely free or chare. You can also email it to a friend. And those of you joining us on social media, thank you for spending some time with us and we invite you to go to iwanttogive.com if you’d like to sow a seed to help the ministry. We are so grateful for you and we pray God’s richest blessings upon you.
Let’s pray. Father, we just thank you so much, Lord. Thank you for your healing provision. Thank you for being our healer, Jehovah-Rapha, Lord. We thank you for life and we thank you for health. Father, we thank you for your protection. We thank you, Lord, for divinely protecting us and we thank you for divine health and we walk in divine health, holiness, and soundness. Thank you for being our physician. Father, we just pray right now, even over the world as there are a lot of chaos and a lot of uncertainty and a lot of things going on, a lot of fear and panic, Father, we just pray that it’d be an opportunity for the world to seek you and search for you to search for the right, search for something that’s steady and stable and someone who can be trusted and dependent on. We pray, Lord, that they look to put their faith in you and may we as the body of Christ be a witness. May we be vessels, Lord, to share your love, to share your glory, to share the gospel, to bring peace and to bring comfort, and to bring healing to a broken world and this in Jesus’ mighty name, we pray. Let every heart says, “Amen.”

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Female: Listen to BrothersoftheWord.com often because brother, you’ll need the Word.

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