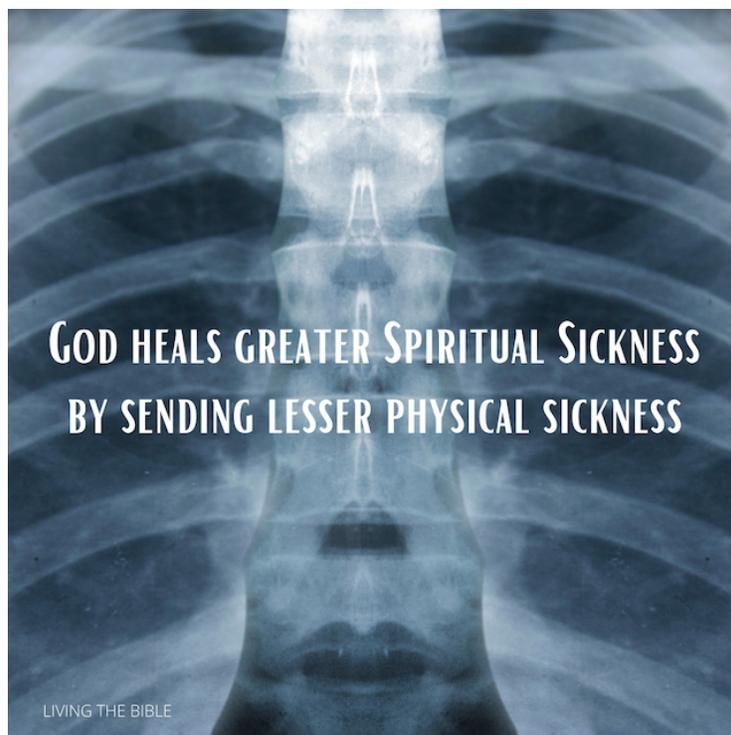

THE GOD WHO HEALS

EXODUS 15:22-27



My 81-year-old Dad died a couple of days ago. He had suffered a number of strokes over the years and deteriorated rapidly in the last few weeks. Sickness, disease, and death cast a long shadow over our lives. I'm only in my fifties, but I've already had a number of illnesses. Sickness, disease, and death cast a long shadow over our lives. We worry about getting sick. We struggle to see any purpose in it. And even with the marvels of modern medicine, we can't get over it. It's a dark shadow. So let's take the light of God's word and lighten it by looking at what God teaches about his sovereignty over sickness in Exodus 15:22-27.

- **GOD HEALS BY PREVENTING SICKNESS**
- **GOD HEALS BY TESTING WITH SICKNESS**
- **GOD HEALS BY REMOVING SICKNESS**

LEARNING

GOD HEALS BY PREVENTING SICKNESS

After the Red Sea, the Israelites started walking in the wilderness. After three days without water, they eventually found some at Marah. When they drank it, though, they discovered it was bitter water and started complaining. Moses prayed to the Lord, and God told Moses to throw a log into the water, sweetening it, and making it drinkable (22-25).

Using this as a teachable moment, God draws out a principle for Israel from this test: **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"** (26). God teaches them that he is in control of sickness and disease, and heals at times by preventing it and preventing sin. In this sense God can say, **"I am the Lord, your healer"** (26).

**PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE
BUT BOTH ARE IN GOD'S HANDS**

"Does that mean that all sickness is a punishment for sin?" No, God also uses sickness to test us.

GOD HEALS BY TESTING WITH SICKNESS

There he tested them (25). God sets tests to help his people learn. Just as God turned the bitter waters into sweet waters, God can turn our bitter experiences into sweet experiences by using them to educate us and therefore sanctify us. In this sense, God can say, **"I am the Lord, your healer"** (26).

GOD HEALS GREATER SPIRITUAL SICKNESS
BY SENDING LESSER PHYSICAL SICKNESS

"So God can prevent sickness, and improve us with sickness, but how about removing it?"

GOD HEALS BY REMOVING SICKNESS

God can and may remove sickness at times, and he did that at Marah. He healed the water and their sickness. In this sense God can say, **"I am the Lord, your healer"** (26).

God does not heal all sickness on this earth. But, for his people, he will heal all sickness eventually and eternally. When his people die, he cures them of all soul-sickness. When their bodies are resurrected and reunited with their souls, he forever heals them of all bodily sickness too. In this sense God can say, **"I am the Lord, your healer"** (26). Israel got a foretaste, a sip of that, at the end of this chapter where we read, **They came to Elim, where there were twelve springs of water and seventy palm trees, and they encamped there by the water** (27).

GOD WILL HEAL ALL HIS PEOPLE,
SOME IN TIME, ALL IN ETERNITY

LOVING

We love the Old Testament healings of the Lord our healer. But we love the New Testament healings even more. There we see Jesus healing multiple sick people of multiple diseases and sicknesses. And of course, he heals the bitterest and most painful disease of all, the disease of sin. **And when Jesus heard it, he said to them, Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance** (Mark 2:17). **He took our illnesses and bore our diseases** (Matthew 8:17). We are able to drink the sweet water of salvation because he tasted the bitter dregs of sin's judgment. **With his wounds we are healed** (Isa. 53:5).

LIVING

Ask God to prevent, use, and heal sickness, especially the sickness of sin.
