

I AM THE LORD THAT HEALETH THEE

BY ANDREW MURRAY

GOD SAID to the Israelites, “. . . *I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the Lord that healeth thee.*” Exodus 15:26.

How often we have read these words without daring to take them for ourselves and without expecting that the Lord would fulfill them to us. We have seen in them the promise that the people of God would be exempted from the diseases inflicted upon the Egyptians, but we have thought that this promise applied only to the Old Testament, and that we who live in New Testament times cannot expect to be kept from sickness or healed by the direct intervention of the Lord. And yet we were obliged to recognize the superiority of the New Covenant—and so we have come, in our ignorance, to allege that sickness often brings great blessings, and that God had done well to withdraw what He had formerly promised, “*I am the Lord that healeth thee.*”

But in our day we see the Church awakening and acknowledging her mistake. She sees that it is under the New Covenant that the Lord Jesus acquired the title of Healer by all His miraculous healings. She is beginning to see that in charging His Church to preach the gospel to every creature, He has promised to be with her, ***“always, even unto the end of the world”*** (Matthew 28:20), and that, as proof of His presence, His disciples should have the power to lay hands on the sick and be assured that the sick should be healed (Mark 16:15-18).

She sees, moreover, that in the days of the apostles the miraculous pouring out of the Holy Spirit was accompanied by miraculous healings, which were evident proof of the blessings brought about by the power from on high (Acts 3:16, 5:12, 9:40).

There is nothing in the Bible to make her believe that the promise made to Israel has been retracted, and she hears from the apostle James this new promise, ***“And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up.”*** (James 5:15). She knows that at all times it has been unbelief which has limited (or restricted) the Holy One of Israel (Psalm 78:41), and she asks herself if it is not unbelief which prevents the manifestation of the power of God in these days.

Who can doubt it? It is not God or His Word which are to blame here; it is our unbelief which prevents the Lord from healing as in past times. Let our faith awake; let it recognize and adore in

Christ the omnipotence of Him who says, ***“I am the Lord that healeth thee.”*** It is by the works of God that we can best understand what His Word tells us. The healings which are responding to the prayer of faith today confirm and illustrate the truth of His promise.

Let us see in the risen Jesus the Divine Healer, and let us receive Him as such. Now in order that I may recognize in Jesus my justification, my strength, and my wisdom, I must grasp by faith that He is really all this to me. Similarly, when the Bible tells me that Jesus is the sovereign Healer, I must personally appropriate this truth and say, “Yes, Lord, it is Thou who art my Healer.” And why may I hold Him as such? It is because He gives Himself to me and makes me ***“in the likeness of his resurrection”*** (Romans 6:5b), so that, inseparably united with Him, I possess His healing strength. It is because His love is pleased to load His beloved with His favors, and to communicate Himself with all His heart to all who desire Him.

Let us believe that He is ready to extend the treasure of His blessing contained in the name Jehovah-Raphah, ***“The Lord that healeth thee”*** to all who know Him and who trust in this divine name. This is the treatment for the sick indicated by the law of His kingdom. When I bring my sickness to the Lord, I do not depend on what I see, or what I feel, or what I think, but on what He says. Even when everything appears to be contrary to the expected healing, and even if my

healing should not take place at the time or in the way that I had expected, and even when my symptoms seem only to be aggravated, my faith should cling immovably to this word which has gone out of the mouth of God, ***“I am the Lord that healeth thee.”***

God is ever seeking to make us true believers. Healing and health are of little value if they do not glorify God, and do not serve to unite us more closely with Him. Thus in the matter of healing our faith must always be put to the test, and it may even be strengthened by waiting.

He who counts on the name of his God, and who can hear Jesus saying to him, ***“Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?”*** (John 11:40) will have the joy of receiving from God Himself the healing of the body, and of seeing it take place in a manner worthy of God’s power and in conformity with His promises.

When we read these words, ***“I am the Lord that healeth thee,”*** let us with confidence boldly say, “Yes, Lord, Thou art the Lord that healeth me.”

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