

Thursday, 12/30/10 (R)

THE NAMES OF GOD

JEHOVAH ROPHE-- "JEHOVAH HEALS"

Isaiah 60:1-7, Matthew 11:1-6

The name Jehovah ROPHE arises out of one of Israel's earliest experiences in the wilderness as told in Exodus 15:22-26. Verse 23 describes Marah, where they could not drink of the waters because they were bitter. God directed Moses to a certain tree, which, when cast into the waters turned them from bitter to sweet. The people were then enabled to drink the water, being refreshed and strengthened. Their murmuring and complaining turned to praise and their confidence in Jehovah was renewed. The old and new testaments are filled with examples of physical, mental, and spiritual healings. King Hezekiah, King Saul, Naaman, the woman with the issue of blood, the demon possessed man, Lazarus, just to name a few.

It is God's design, intent and purpose for righteous people to be healed. Exodus 15:26 says "If thou wilt hearken diligently to the voice of Jehovah thy God, and wilt do that which is right in His sight.... I will put thee out of these diseases upon thee which I have brought upon the Egyptians: I am Jehovah that healeth thee (Jehovah "*rophecha*"). It is noteworthy that the word Rophe appears seventy times in the Old Testament – always meaning to *restore, to heal, to cure, to act as a(doctor) physician...* not only in the physical sense of healing but in the more and spiritual sense also.