Introduction: How would you describe God? Think of His attributes: omniscience, omnipotent, omnipresent, etc. We can think of His characteristics: love, justice, mercy, vengeance, etc. In the Bible numerous phrases are used to describe God. **Exodus 15.22-26** tells us He is the God of healing (Jehovah-Rapha). What does this mean and do we need healing today?

**I) The God Of Healing**

**A) Why is healing necessary?**

1. Usually when healing occurs it is because something is wrong. Something has been damaged, broken, sick, injured, been abused, etc.

2. We have numerous examples in the Old Testament of God healing people.

a. Naaman the leper, **2 Kings 5.**

b. Shunammite woman's son, **2 Kings 4.**

3. In these cases there were physical problems. We understand physically we need healing when we are sick, hurt, been abused, etc.

4. Healing is the process by which we get better.

**B) Spiritual healing, Deut. 32.39**

1. Healing is connected in many passages to sin and the consequences of sin. Sin brings about death, pain, suffering, etc. Uzziah, **2 Chron. 26.20** "The Lord had stuck him"

2. When man turns to God for forgiveness, he receives healing, **Psalm 41.1-4.**

a. Israel had sinned against God was driven off their land into captivity. God had torn them off the land.

b. The call was for the people to return back to God, **Hosea 6.1**

3. One of the great passages of healing in the Old Testament is **Isaiah 61.1.**

4. Again healing is a natural process when one turns to God.

**II) We Live in A World of Sin, Death, Trouble, and Pain**

**A) How many people do you know who are suffering right now?**

1. We can think of people who are physically hurting. In those times of trials we can ask God to help them, to help those who are tending to them, to restore their health if it according to His will.

2. We can think of people who are spiritually hurting. Sometimes the physical is related to the spiritual.

a. Woman who found her father after he committed suicide. She turned to drugs, a promiscuous lifestyle. As she had children she wanted to give them a better life but she became abusive as she used drugs. Her husband committed suicide. At the age of 30 she was washed up. She had lost her children, was a drug addict, and without hope.

b. Can we see the connection between the physical problems and the spiritual problems? She needed spiritual healing.

**B) Where can we turn to for such healing?**

1. Where or who can we turn to when a marriage has hit the rocks?

2. Where can we turn when we are destroying ourselves?

3. Where can we turn to when sin is ruining our lives?

**III) Jesus The Great Physician**

**A) Jesus healed many people**

1. An overview of healings:

a. Lepers, **Mark 1.40-42**

b. Woman who's daughter was demon possessed, **Matthew 15.28**

c. Woman who bleed continuously, **Matthew 9.20ff**

d. Peter's mother-in-law, **Matthew 8.14ff**

e. Jairus' daughter was raised from the death, **Luke 8.41ff**

f. The blind could see, deaf could hear, **Matthew 12.22**

g. The lame could walk, **Matthew 9.6**

2. Jesus healed physically to prove He could heal them spiritually, **Mark 2.8-11.**

a. Physical healing is great but temporary. Eventually we die.

b. Spiritual healing prepares us for eternity.

3. Jesus came to fulfill the prophesy of Isaiah, **Luke 4.18ff**

**B) Spiritual healing**

1. Jesus came because we needed Him, **Mark 2.17 (the church is not a hotel but a hospital)**

2. If you are a sinner you need Jesus.

a. forgiveness of your sins

b. We need strength

c. We need food

d. We need exercise

e. We need rest

3. Jesus provides all those things to us.

a. By His stripes (death on the cross) our sins can be forgiven, **Isaiah 53.4-6**

b. He promises to help those who are weighted down by sin and to give us rest, **Matthew 11.29**

c. He gives us spiritual food, **John 6.63; 1 Peter 2.1-3**

d. exercise, **Matthew 7.21**

Conclusion: The greatest doctor cannot help the patient who will not listen. We must listen to what Jesus says. We must understand the process of healing. Sins can be forgiven but sometimes the spiritual pain and suffering continues for a while but we can overcome. Jesus came to heal everyone from every nation, **Revelation 22.1-2.**