



December 12

Rapha...Nissi...

(Continuation of Dec 11)

Reading: Luke 1:26-37

"With God nothing will be impossible" (Lk 1:37)

The purpose of the incarnation of Jesus was to put a fullstop for fear. Let us meditate today how His birth drives away fear caused by enemies and diseases.

Jehovah-Rapha

The diseases the Lord brought upon Egypt against Pharaoh were awful. The suffering the Egyptians underwent was fresh in the minds of the Israelites who had just then exited from the land of bondage. Obviously there were fears within. But the Lord encouraged His people by a performance and a promise. He sweetened the bitter waters of Marah. And He said to them, "I am the Lord who heals you" (Ex 15:23-26).

The birth of Christ was a twin miracle—spiritual and physiological. God became man. That was a spiritual wonder. A virgin conceived without a man. That was a physiological impossibility. Therefore in Jesus we have both salvation for our souls and healing for our bodies. His blood cleanses us, and His stripes heal us (1 Jn 1:7; Isa 53:5). People thronged Jesus because they experienced healing in His presence (Mt 8:16,17). He is still the same today. Isn't healing the children's bread? (Mt 15:26).

Jehovah-Nissi

To commemorate the victory over Amalek, Moses built an altar and called its name, Jehovah-Nissi, meaning, "The Lord is my Banner." Herod's plot to kill Baby Jesus was defeated. It's God's promise that no weapon that's formed against us shall prosper (Isa 54:17). The battle is not ours but the Lord's (Ex 14:14).

The enemy may be too strong for us but what is he before our God? The Lord who indwells us is greater than the one who inhabits the world. The name prophesied for the Child Jesus was "Mighty God." The government is upon His shoulder. He is the King. There is no superceding of His rule (Isa 9:6,7). The Lord will thwart all the plans of the enemy against us. A child of God need not fear any sorcery or witchcraft. For us it is never, "See, what Satan has done!" It is always, "Oh, what God has done!" (Num 23:23). Let's confess, "The Lord is my Helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?" (Heb 13:5,6).

*From victory unto victory His army shall He lead,
Till every foe is vanquished, and Christ is Lord indeed!
(George R. Duffield, 1818-1888)*
