

# Jeremiah 17:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Heal me, O LORD, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved: for thou art my praise.

## Analysis

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Jeremiah's prayer shifts from prophetic proclamation to personal petition. "Heal me, O LORD, and I shall be healed" employs emphatic repetition—the verb rapha (אָרֶפָה) appears twice, underscoring that only divine healing is effective and complete. The parallel "save me, and I shall be saved" uses yasha (עִשָּׂה), the root from which we get "Jesus" (Yeshua)—salvation, deliverance, rescue.

The phrases "I shall be healed" and "I shall be saved" express complete confidence that what God does is efficacious and permanent. Human healers and saviors may fail, but God's work is certain. "For thou art my praise" (tehillati, תְּהִלָּתִי) indicates that God Himself is the object and content of Jeremiah's worship—not merely that Jeremiah praises God, but that God is inherently praiseworthy and the source of all boasting (cf. 1 Cor 1:31).

This prayer models the Reformed understanding that salvation and spiritual health are entirely dependent on God's sovereign grace. We cannot heal or save ourselves; only God's intervention can transform our desperately wicked hearts (v. 9). Christ the Great Physician came not for the healthy but for the sick (Luke 5:31-32), offering the healing and salvation that Jeremiah longed for.

## Historical Context

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Prophets often faced personal crises as they bore God's word to rebellious people. Jeremiah's ministry was marked by persecution, imprisonment, and rejection (Jer

11:18-23, 20:1-6, 37-38). His prayers of lament (11:18-20, 15:15-18, 20:7-18) reveal the emotional and spiritual toll of prophetic ministry. This petition for healing likely refers to both physical affliction and spiritual anguish caused by opposition and the burden of his message.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

## Study Questions

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1. What areas of your life need divine healing that human resources cannot provide?
2. How does Jeremiah's confidence in God's healing challenge modern self-sufficiency and therapeutic approaches?
3. In what ways is Christ the ultimate fulfillment of the healing and salvation Jeremiah seeks?

## Interlinear Text

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אָשֵׁשׁ עָה	אָנָּא בְּפֵא	יְהִי אָנָּא בְּפֵא	Heal	me O LORD	Heal	me and I shall be saved
			H7495	H3068	H7495	H3467

אָשֵׁשׁ עָה	בְּ	תְּהִלָּתִי	אָתָּה:
me and I shall be saved	H3588	for thou art my praise	H859
		H8416	

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 6:2** (References Lord): Have mercy upon me, O LORD; for I am weak: O LORD, heal me; for my bones are vexed.

**Psalms 106:47** (Salvation): Save us, O LORD our God, and gather us from among the heathen, to give thanks unto thy holy name, and to triumph in thy praise.

**Deuteronomy 32:39** (Parallel theme): See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god with me: I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand.

**Deuteronomy 10:21** (Resurrection): He is thy praise, and he is thy God, that hath done for thee these great and terrible things, which thine eyes have seen.

**Luke 4:18** (References Lord): The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,

**Psalms 109:1** (Resurrection): Hold not thy peace, O God of my praise;

**Jeremiah 15:20** (Salvation): And I will make thee unto this people a fenced brasen wall: and they shall fight against thee, but they shall not prevail against thee: for I am with thee to save thee and to deliver thee, saith the LORD.

**Psalms 6:4** (Salvation): Return, O LORD, deliver my soul: oh save me for thy mercies' sake.

**Jeremiah 31:18** (References Lord): I have surely heard Ephraim bemoaning himself thus; Thou hast chastised me, and I was chastised, as a bullock unaccustomed to the yoke: turn thou me, and I shall be turned; for thou art the LORD my God.

**Matthew 14:30** (Salvation): But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.