

# IS THERE NO BALM IN GILEAD?

Text: Jeremiah 8:21 – 9:1

## Introduction:

1. We live in a world that is well acquainted with sickness and suffering.
2. However, we also live in a time where medicine and treatments are readily available and highly effective.
3. But, there is an illness from which all need a cure – sin.
4. Is there a remedy? Is there a balm in Gilead?

## I. The Balm in Gilead

- A. Gilead was located on the east side of the Jordan River, between the Sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea.
  1. It was not just a city, but a region – much like Galilee or Samaria.
  2. It was the birthplace of Elijah.
- B. Gilead was known for aromatic spices and, especially, for its balm.
  1. These were exported to other nations (Genesis 37:25).
  2. It also made Gilead a home for doctors who would produce and apply the balm to the wounded and sick.
- C. It seems that this balm was made from the sap of native trees, likely the Terebinth.
- D. What a blessing it must have been to have a place like Gilead to go for healing!

## II. The Beauty of the Gospel

- A. Since the time of Adam and Eve, this world has been plagued by sin and death (Romans 3:23; 6:23).
- B. Jesus came into this world as the Great Physician, to bring the cure for humanity's ills (Mark 2:15-17).
- C. His blood is the remedy for sin!
  1. Sin is put away [*cancelled*] (Hebrews 9:26; John 1:29; 1 John 3:5).
  2. We are healed (1 Peter 2:24; Isaiah 53:5).
  3. We are redeemed (Hebrews 9:12; Galatians 3:13).
  4. We are delivered (1 Thessalonians 1:10).
  5. We are saved (Matthew 1:21; Acts 4:12; Hebrews 7:25).
  6. We are justified (Romans 5:8-9).
  7. We are reconciled (Romans 5:10; Ephesians 2:13; 1 John 1:7).
  8. We have peace (Colossians 1:20).
  9. We are forgiven (Acts 5:31).
  10. We are purified (Titus 2:14; Revelation 1:5).
- D. Truly, the Gospel is Good News!

## III. The Pain of the Remedy

- A. Often, medicine or treatment causes pain before it brings about healing.
- B. This is true of the Gospel, as well.

1. As a mirror to the soul, it reflects an accurate image (James 1:21-25).
  2. Sometimes, it is painful to see ourselves as we really are.
- C. The Gospel is eye salve – it enables us to see things as God sees them (Revelation 3:17-18).
1. The true nature of sin
    - a. Revelation 3:17 – Sinners are wretched, afflicted, miserable
    - b. Revelation 3:17 – Sinners are miserable – to be pitied
    - c. Revelation 3:17 – Sinners are poor, lacking, destitute
    - d. Revelation 3:17 – Sinners are blind – thus, lost
    - e. Revelation 3:17 – Sinners are naked – thus, shamed
    - f. Revelation 3:16 – Sinners make God sick
    - g. 2 Peter 2:22 – Sin is disgusting
    - h. Isaiah 1:6 – Sin is a putrefying sore (Psalm 38:3-5)
    - i. John 8:34 – Sin enslaves (Romans 6:16)
    - j. James 1:14-15 – Sin kills (Romans 6:23; Ezekiel 18:4)
  2. The truth of our soul’s condition
    - a. Consider what the Laodiceans thought vs. what they were.
    - b. Romans 3:9-18; Ephesians 2:1-3, 12
  3. The truth of our eternal destiny
    - a. The cross demonstrates the punishment
    - b. History demonstrates God’s faithfulness (Genesis 6:6-7; Jeremiah 44:22).
    - c. Hell awaits the sinner (Revelation 21:8).
- D. Repentance – the most difficult command and one’s greatest decision

#### IV. The Peril of Rejection

- A. Judah’s problem was not the lack of a doctor or a cure, but a rejection of their remedy (Jeremiah 7:1 – 8:22).
- B. The Savior has come with healing for sin (Malachi 4:2).
- C. Yet, too many still reject Him.
  1. To continue in sin
  2. Due to habit or addiction
  3. Out of pride and arrogance
  4. Because of deception and error
- D. How can anyone reject the Christ of the cross?

#### Conclusion:

1. Is there a balm in Gilead?
2. Yes! There is a balm in Gilead!
3. Will you allow God to heal you of sin by obeying His will?