

Are we healed by His Stripes ?Isaiah 53

(A study dedicated to the 'class of 2022 Broken to Beautiful course')

1. Jesus was scourged *by the Romans* (John 19:1) just before His crucifixion . There is no reason to believe that the Romans would follow a Jewish tradition. Scourging was the punishment ordered for Jesus by Pontius Pilate: He was to be flogged (Matthew 27:26) but not killed in that way. His death was to be carried out by crucifixion after the scourging.

2. The Bible does not directly indicate *how many* lashes Jesus received.

3. Deuteronomy 25:3 states that a criminal should not receive more than forty lashes. In order to avoid possibly accidentally breaking this command, the Jews would only give a criminal 39 lashes. The Apostle Paul mentioned this practice in 2 Corinthians 11:24, "five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one."

4. The Hebrew word, chaburah (or chaburah), from Isaiah:53:5 is translated "stripes" in the KJV, in the Hebrew, the word itself is actually **singular. It means "wound"—singular.** Every Hebrew teacher will confirm it. Anyone who denies it is not a Hebrew teacher.

It is a noun, feminine, singular. Plural would end in "oth" or "ot." If it were "his wounds"—plural—the Hebrew would be, in the plural, *chaburatav*.

The following references all confirm that it is singular: *Brown, Driver, Briggs Hebrew Lexicon; Davidson's Analytical Hebrew Lexicon; Englishman's Hebrew-Chaldee Concordance; The Greek Old Testament Septuagint.*

But knowing the Hebrew is really not even required (the Bible repeats the truth) -

It is obvious contextually from Matthew 8:16 that Matthew 8:17 (the very next verse) speaks of the healings by Jesus before He went to the cross. Matthew specifically quotes Isaiah 53:4 **and not verse 5.**

Verse 5 is however quoted by Peter (Scripture explains Scripture) in 1 Peter 2:24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being **dead to sins**, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripe (**wound**) ye were healed 25 For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls. So verse 5's fulfilment was at the cross!

We just simply cannot infer from Isaiah 53 that disease can be categorized into 39 (plural) sections and therefore all our sicknesses were borne on the cross, nor to say that we should stand on the promises that we have already been healed (at the cross) from all sickness .It is just not founded on Scripture.

It is just symbolic conjecture and in this case - dangerous doctrine that brings condemnation to those suffering from cancer (of which there are actually people taking this course) and even undermines the faith of those true believers that died with cancer (also actual family members of people taking this course). The belief is that Christ bore a stripe for every disease known to man, so they could be healed from them is a concept popularized when it was published in the AMA by Dr. Dale A.

Robbins. There is no list currently available that I can find, that says what the 39 categories of disease are. See attached for the classifications recognized officially by the ICP.

This doctrine is taught by the 'name it and claim it' prosperity gospel (perhaps re-packaged to make it a bit more palatable) and it is dangerous. Just because Joshua made a declaration that he and his house would serve the Lord does not necessarily mean that they all did.

How can we possibly claim this as our promise? Joshua could not speak and cause things to come into being. He was just a man and **only God/Jesus** can speak things into being/creation like at the creation of the world itself, not to mention it's destruction and then in so many other verses but here are just a few : Romans 4:17, Hebrews 11:3, Ez 12:25, Is. 55:11.

Our spiritual infirmity is the basis for Christ's suffering, not our physical diseases. The shedding of Christ's atoning blood was to cleanse our Adamic sin and to usher us into a new spiritual dimension where our enmity with God is removed forever – Romans 5:8. There is no greater healing than the redemption of the human soul.

The miracles Jesus did on earth were only a proof-accompaniment to the true message which was CHRIST HIMSELF. He obliged people knowing that they needed a sign – in compassion and mercy, when really they should have believed without it! He did not come to heal people of temporary ailments.

We as believers oftentimes suffer and die from earthly disease. This is not a reflection of our relationship with God, our measure of faith nor the condition of our heart.

God of course heals sickness and performs miracles today but it remains of the utmost importance to underscore the Biblical significance of the **atoning works** of Christ and to put them into their appropriate theological and sound doctrinal perspective.

People can really get hurt when healing does not come. We are fallen beings, with physical bodies prone to disease and illness. Some sickness is simply a result of the natural course of things in this world. It makes me think of the movie you sent us also. Some people never made it out of that prison, were never healed from their sicknesses. Many great missionaries lost their lives in service to sickness also.

It is undeniable though, that God sometimes intentionally allows or even causes sickness to accomplish His sovereign purposes. While sickness is not directly addressed in the passage, Hebrews 12:5-11 describes God disciplining us to "produce a harvest of righteousness" (verse 11). Sickness can be a means of God's loving discipline. It is difficult for us to comprehend why God would work in this manner. But, believing in the sovereignty of God, there is no other option than suffering being something God allows and/or causes.

The clearest example of this in Scripture is found in Psalm 119. Notice the progression through verses 67, 71, and 75 - "Before I was afflicted I went astray, but

now I obey your word...It was good for me to be afflicted so that I might learn your decrees...I know, O LORD, that your laws are righteous, and in faithfulness you have afflicted me." The author of Psalm 119 was looking at suffering from God's perspective. It was good for him to be afflicted. It was faithfulness that caused God to afflict him. The result of the affliction was that he learned God's decrees and obeyed His Word.

We should be willing to go through *anything* including cancer, imprisonment, persecution and a death sentence etc if that will accomplish His purpose and if His name will be glorified through it. Asking that God's will be done (even after the cross) is a demonstration of our trust that He knows what is best. It is a statement of submission to God's ways and His plans. We ask for our will to be conformed to His. No more curse and no more death will come in Revelation 21—22 only . This is the hope of the story of the Bible: God's domain and our domain will one day completely unite. All things will be made new. Death will be replaced with life. The whole earth will be a recreation of the garden, and the glory of the temple will cover it. Every nation will be blessed through the power of the resurrected Jesus, and God's own personal presence will permeate every square inch of the new creation.

"Thy will be done" is by no means an impassive prayer of resignation. Jesus' prayer in Gethsemane was not passive or fatalistic in the least; He bore His heart before the Father and revealed His ultimate desire: for God's will to be accomplished. Praying, "Thy will be done," acknowledges that God has more knowledge than we do and that we trust His way is best. And it is a commitment to actively work to further the execution of God's will.

If wisdom is another thing that we shouldn't be praying for (that we already have) as Carol states ,then why does Paul pray for the wisdom and knowledge of the Ephesians ? "...that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him..." (**Ephesians 1:17**)

By faith, we know that praying, "Thy will be done," is the best thing we can ask for. "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen" (Ephesians 3:20–21).

Always remember : a little leaven unfortunately ruins the whole batch – especially on these crucial issues.