
Healing in the Atonement



Individuals not having a revelation of what Jesus accomplished for us is a barrier to receiving healing.

This subject is vast and to adequately deal with, we would need to dig in the Word of God from cover to cover. The goal of this article is not to do that, rather to highlight one very significant aspect of Jesus' accomplishment on our behalf.

It is widely accepted that Isaiah is a book that prophesies in advance the work that Jesus would do for us.

As a summary, look at some of the words revealed.

Surely our griefs He Himself bore, and our sorrows He carried; Yet we esteemed Him smitten of God and afflicted.

But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, and by His scourging we are healed.

Isaiah 53:4-5

For most, we strongly accept the fact that Jesus paid the price for our sin and the penalty that we deserve. The words, "He was pierced through for our transgressions" and "He was crushed for our iniquities"

are widely accepted that Jesus' payment for our sin is for all who will receive.

It is a fact; our eternal destination is the greatest and most important provision that Jesus made payment for. Any earthly and temporal benefit that we gain from Jesus' work will still fall away upon our departure from the earth.

With that fact said, we do not want to make light of, lessen or miss what Jesus did for us.

In the Psalms we read,

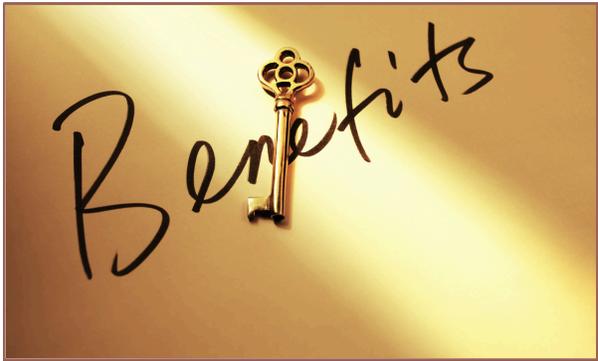
Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget none of His benefits.

Who pardons all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases.

Who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with lovingkindness and compassion.

Who satisfies your years with good things, so that your youth is renewed like the eagle.

Psalms 103:2-5



God's Word tells us, "And forget none of His benefits." Is there a benefit to receiving Jesus as Lord and Saviour and all that He has done for us.

Yes, 100%! There is the eternal benefit of where we will live out our everlasting existence. That is the most important benefit. But the benefits don't stop there. We all know that as God works in us, He changes us, and we become better to the world around us. That is a benefit. As we learn to walk in the peace and joy that comes from the Lord, that will transform how we live our daily life. We can go on and on as we reflect on the benefits of receiving what Jesus did for us concerning our sin. Our life and relationships should improve as a benefit of receiving what Jesus has done for us.

But in this passage, we are told, He also, "Heals our diseases", "Redeems our life from the pit", "Crowns us with His love," "Satisfies our years with good things".

We are told to not forget these things! That is an incredible command. But you can't forget something that you don't know you have.

Whether you know this or not, God is our healer, redeemer, lover and giver of good things. If you don't know this about God, then you don't need to worry about forgetting any of these benefits.

Why? Because you can't forget what you don't know.

For many, this is the God that they need to get to know. This barrier of not knowing what God has provided must be removed as a first step to receiving the benefits that are available.

Notice that it says, "He pardons all our iniquities and heals all our diseases."

Back to my main point. The body of Christ knows Jesus as the one who has paid for our sin. We know reasonably well that our salvation only comes from receiving what He has done for us. That is wonderful. However, alongside that promise, God tells us that He is also our healer.

This is like crossing an imaginary line. For many, God provided salvation, but it is a huge leap to consider that God provided our healing as well.

Many have done well to rationalize this out of being true for us today. That is sad that we could miss something amazing that God says we are not to forget.

Back to Isaiah.

In the prophetic announcement of what Jesus was going to do, it says, "Our griefs He Himself bore."

The word “*griefs*” is a Hebrew word that means weakness, sickness and affliction.

The word “*bore*” is a Hebrew word that means, suffering the punishment for something, substitute, lift up and remove.

As a starting point in announcing what Jesus was going to do, we see that He was going to become our substitute and make the payment for the weakness and sickness that came into our life due to sin’s condition. He was going to take this punishment, lift it off us and take it away. Wow, that is a benefit that we don’t want to miss.

Then Isaiah says,

“And our sorrows He carried.”

The word sorrow is a Hebrew word that means pain. Included in His work, He was going to pay the penalty on our behalf.

Sickness and pain were not part of God’s creation or His intentions for mankind. As Jesus was prepared to go to the cross, He was going to not only take on sin’s condition, but He was also taking on the fruit of sin entering the world and that is the sickness that invades our everyday world.



The Provision Seen

Now here is where the provision is identified.

In verse five in our Isaiah passage, it says,

“And by His scourging, we are healed.”

The word scourging is in reference to the beating that Jesus was going to endure before the cross. Before a criminal went to their death on the cross, soldiers would scourge them and, in some instances, they would die before they made it to their cross.

They would whip them on their backs and have on the ends of the whips, bone fragments or pieces of metal. As they whipped the individual, they would rip the body open. The whipping would extend around the body and catch the chest and face as the skin was annihilated by this beating.

It was foretold that Jesus would be scourged. Please note, this is before the cross that we typically place our attention upon.

In the Septuagint, the Greek translation of the Old Testament, the word scourging is the Greek word, molopi. This word is a singular rather than a plural word. Why is this important?

First, consider the definition of this word. Many translations say scourging, stripes or wounds. None of those are incorrect. But there is a point that can be missed.

Another translation is bruise. That might seem insignificant. But consider this. If the original language word was molopsi, the plural form, then we would read that we are healed by the many bruises that were on Jesus' back. But that is not the word here in Isaiah.

Why? Because Jesus was beaten so severely that the entirety of His back was one singular bruise. He did not have many bruises with spaces separating them. He had one bruise that revealed the horrific annihilation that He suffered and what became of His back.

In Isaiah 50 we read,

I gave My back to those who strike Me, and My cheeks to those who pluck out the beard, I did not cover My face from humiliation and spitting.

Isaiah 50:6



Jesus willfully yielded Himself to the horrific punishment that was due to sin and death's condition.

This played out before He went to the cross on our behalf.

Isaiah then said,

*“Yet we ourselves esteemed Him, smitten of God, and afflicted. But He was pierced through for **OUR** transgressions.” And He was “Crushed for **OUR** iniquities.”*

Isaiah 53:5

While the soldiers and leaders watched the beatings upon Jesus, they took delight in the punishment that He was receiving that they believed He deserved. When it says, “They esteemed Him stricken and smitten”, the word esteemed means to

think, regard or value. They thought, *“This man is so horrible, He deserves this punishment for His wrongdoing.”*

They believed that Jesus was *“Smitten by God”* for what He deserved.

Here is the irony. Because He was our substitute, He did deserve it. But He did not deserve this punishment for anything that He had done. He deserved it because He was taking the punishment for what we had done. It was for OUR condition and not His.

As our substitute, He deserved every whip, beating, mockery and humiliation. He took what we deserved as if it was His own.

As a reminder from a New Covenant perspective, Paul said, *“He (the Father) made Him (Jesus) who **knew no sin** to be sin for us that we might become the righteousness of God in Him” (1 Corinthians 5:21).*

He became our sin nature that we were all born with and paid the penalty as if it was His sin. As horrible as this is, it is the mercy, grace and a demonstration of God's love that none of us can fully fathom.



Why The One Bruise?

Let us return to the word molopi, the singular version that says there was one bruise upon His back.

Why did Jesus suffer and endure this horror?

Isaiah said, by His scourging, stripes, wounds, or now best said, *“one bruise”* we are healed. The singular usage of this word points to the travesty of what He endured until His back was one bruise or one piece of total annihilation by the time the beatings were completed.

But what was this for? We are told; this bruise was for our healing. By His stripes, scourging or ‘one bruise’ we are healed.

The word healing in the Hebrew is the word Rapha. You may have heard of one of the names of God as Jehovah Rapha.

For many, a well-known passage is found in Exodus.

We read where God said, *“... I the Lord am Your healer (rapha)” (Exodus 15:26).*

In the context of that verse, God was clearly talking about sickness when He made this promise as they were leaving Egypt.

In the passage in Psalm chapter one hundred and three we read, *“Who heals (rapha) all your diseases” (vs 3).*

This word is a word that directly speaks to sickness that hurts our physical bodies.

In our Isaiah passage, we are told that the one bruise, now understood as a beating beyond anything we can comprehend, this payment was for our healing.

Jesus endured this horrific experience as He took on the physical consequences of sin entering the world. He paid the price so that instead sickness being our inheritance, our Father Himself can now release healing back towards humanity.

Jesus' Earthly Ministry Confirmed This

As Jesus entered His earthly ministry before paying for our sin, we see a continuous demonstration of the sick being healed. The love of the Father was released through the human form of His Son and healing flowed as a normal constant reality to those in need.

In one such instance, we see Jesus ministering to Peter's Mother-in-Law. She was laying in bed, sick with a fever. For many, a fever or a cold is a simple inconvenience that we endure. With the help of the local pharmacy, we can even get help in our endurance. Cancers and other life debilitating illnesses, we for sure could consider that God may be interested in healing. But a simple fever or perhaps a cold, that is to many, getting extreme.

However, Jesus touched her and the fever left. She arose and made a meal and provided food for them.

Then, this testimony got out of the house and others who were sick and/or demonized were brought to Him. We are told that "He healed them all (Matthew 8:16).

Then we read this amazing statement.

Matthew says,

"This was to fulfill what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet: 'He Himself took our infirmities and carried away our diseases' (Matthew 8:17).



It was like Jesus was saying, "It was prophesied that I would do this, as proof I don't take a seemingly difficult or big sickness, rather I choose a simple inconvenience that most are accustomed to enduring and I deliver a woman from it".

I see God saying, if I care about a fever attacking a body, then what about a cancer, a paralysis, or another life altering sickness that destroys any healthy existence? God used a fever to show us that Isaiah's prophecy was being fulfilled so that nothing too small is removed from showing His heart to see people well.



Healing is Now Behind Us

We now understand that Jesus was scourged, and this resulted in a single bruise as His back was destroyed. We understand that this beating and suffering was done before the cross.

Then, we can recall that they put that heavy cross on the very back that was destroyed, and He had to endure its weight as He struggled to His place of death.

The agony of this bruise endured much longer than the beatings themselves.

That is the payment made for us. That is the Father and Son making a provision so Heaven can bring healing into our everyday world.

Now, as Peter reflects on truth that exist for us all, He said,

“(Jesus) who committed no sin, nor was any deceit in His mouth.

And while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously.

And He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds, you were healed.”

1 Peter 2:22-24

Do you see in the last verse, the word “wounds”? This word is the same Greek word *Molopi* that we saw in the Septuagint (Greek translation) of the Old Testament. This word here used by Peter, just like in Isaiah is in the singular form.

After the scourging and the full and completed payment made by Jesus, Peter is looking back on what transpired. While Isaiah was speaking to a day coming, Peter was reflecting now on what had fully transpired.

The severity of the beatings of Jesus produced one bruise or one wound that was a total desecration of His physical body. Peter looking back agreed with the prophesy that was looking ahead. Jesus was scourged or beaten as payment to lift away sickness that is a consequence of sin and death.

The Greek word *iaomai* translated “*Healed*” means to cure, heal and make whole. As seen with the fever, there is nothing too small that God is not interested in healing in our life.

As Peter reflected on this payment, notice the tense of his words. He said, “by His wounds, stripes (one entire bruise), you **WERE** healed.”

As he reflected on what was done, he presented it as it is. From heaven’s perspective, the payment was made, and healing has been provided from God now moving towards us. It is a finished work. This is something we can’t work up to earn, it is something that we must see that God did for us.

Read this again, read the Word repeatedly and again until you say, “I see it, He did it, and while He did it for others, He did it for me”. This may take some time, but it is time well spent to understand what Jesus accomplished on our behalf.

Second, take this truth and come before the Father. Don’t try to stir up anything. Simply begin to acknowledge and thank Him that the suffering of Jesus included our healing. Begin to speak the fact that the work done by Jesus is complete and just like salvation hovering over someone’s life, healing is hovering as well.

You have the right to begin to agree with God that He is your healer and in the heavenlies, healing has already happened. Now from this posture, we can learn just like being saved from our sin, we can learn how to receive what was done for us. Develop a thankful heart for what has been done and walk in this praise to God for the provision of healing that is available today.



Do we deserve this?

Can we earn this?



But here is what we must settle.

First, did Jesus do this and was it done for me? This must be settled within us. Not understanding this suffering and what He was paying for, means we can’t possibly receive the blessing that has been offered by God.

I pray that this will aid in your getting to know God and what He has done for you.

I pray that this will aid in helping you pick up something God has for you.

I pray that you will not forget this benefit of healing that God gives because of His immense love He has for our life.

God is Jehovah Rapha. He is your Healer.

