

“Saved From Our Sicknesses or Saved From Our Sins?”

James 5:14-15; 3 John 2

Isaiah 53:4

I. DID JESUS BEAR AWAY SICKNESSES?

- A. Isaiah seems to think so. **Isaiah 53:4** *Surely He has borne our griefs (sicknesses, weaknesses, and distresses) and carried our sorrows and pains [of punishment] (AMP)*
- B. He healed much throughout His sojourn in this world. **Matthew 4:23** He “...was going about in all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people.” or **Luke 6:17-19** And He descended with them, and stood on a level place; and [there was] a great multitude of His disciples, and a great throng of people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon, 18 who had come to hear Him, and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were being cured. 19 And all the multitude were trying to touch Him, for power was coming from Him and healing [them] all.
- C. But what was the reason for all of the miracles, signs and wonders? *{The Miracle is the work or act, the Sign is the purpose, and the Wonder is the result - AWE}*
1. Accreditation!
Acts 2:22 "Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know-- (NASB)
 2. They are evidential— and a very real part of the revelation!
John 10:37-38 "If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; 38 but if I do them, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in Me, and I in the Father."
 3. There has been no other revelation in the world of such a power.
Acts 4:10-12 ...let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead— by this [name] this man stands here before you in good health. 11 "He is the stone which was rejected by you, the builders, [but] which became the very corner [stone.] 12 "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved." (NASB).
- D. What was the purpose of this phenomena? “To give us life, not good health?”
John 20:30-31 Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.
Matthew 11:4-5 He said, “Go and report to John what you hear and see: 5 [the] blind receive sight and [the] lame walk, [the] lepers are cleansed and [the] deaf hear, and [the] dead are raised up, and [the] poor have the gospel preached to them.”
- E. Little wonder we find the fulfillment of the text above in **Matt. 8:14-17** When Jesus came into Peter's home, He saw his mother-in-law lying sick in bed with a fever. 15 He touched her hand, and the fever left her; and she got up and waited on Him. 16 When evening came, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed; and He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were ill. 17 *This was to fulfill what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet: "HE HIMSELF TOOK OUR INFIRMITIES AND CARRIED AWAY OUR DISEASES."*

II. THEN ARE WE SAVED FROM OUR SINS OR SICKNESSES?

- A. The angelic response to Joseph was thus:

Matt. 1:21 "She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."

- B. The prophets response to Israel was:

Isaiah 53:5 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 53:12 Therefore, I will allot Him a portion with the great, And He will divide the booty with the strong; Because He poured out Himself to death, And was numbered with the transgressors; Yet He Himself bore the sin of many, And interceded for the transgressors

- C. Our Lord testifies of Himself.

Luke 19:10 "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

Luke 9:55-56 But He turned and rebuked them, [and said, "You do not know what kind of spirit you are of; 56 for the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them."] And they went on to another village.

- D. Paul speaks the same language.

1 Tim. 1:15 It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost *of all*.

1 Cor 15:3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,

Gal 1:4 who gave Himself for our sins so that He might rescue us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father,

Rom 5:6 For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.

- E. Peter says the same thing.

1 Peter 2:24 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.

- D. So does John.

1 John 2:2 and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for *those of the whole world.* 1 John 4:10

Rev 1:5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood-- Rev. 5:9

III. IF JESUS CAME FOR OUR SOULS AND NOT OUR HEALTH, WHY AREN'T WE PRAYING AND WORKING TOWARD THAT END?

- A. The Savior rebuked His disciples for placing more interest in the flesh than necessary.

Luke 10:17-20 The seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name." 18 And He said to them, "I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning. 19 "Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing will injure you. 20 "Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven."

- B. How about praying this prayer when we are assembled:

Matt. 9:37-38 Then He *said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. 38 "Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."