

“God’s Healing Covenant”
April 22, 2018

CORE: One of the central themes of the Bible—SIN destroyed us—only God can restore us!

“Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned— ... death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those who had not sinned in the likeness of the offense of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come.” (Romans 5:12,14)

“DEATH REIGNED”- separation from God was the new atmosphere

- Living in His Presence was “LOST”
 - Dis-connect; Dis-order; Dis-ease in every realm—spiritually, emotionally, physically, relationally.
- Yet, from the beginning, GOD PROMISED TO RESTORE ALL THINGS

1. “Death reigned from Adam UNTIL MOSES” (Romans 5:14) (In Moses’ day—the tide began to turn)

- **With Moses (and Israel): A blood covenant through a “Passover Lamb” who will restore hearts to the LORD and cause sin’s destructive power to “pass over” them!**
- [NOTE: God’s covenant with Moses (i.e., “The Old Covenant”) was not a bad covenant—it’s just that the “New Covenant” thru Jesus’ blood is so much better!]
- **The OT was received as GOOD NEWS—from a God who cares about every area of their lives. (i.e., “His government & peace”)**
 - **“I AM the LORD, your Health.” (Exodus 15:26)** NOTE: 3 million people—severely beaten & poorly fed—left Egypt with “**not one weak or feeble among them!**” (Psalm 105:37)
 - **“You shall serve the LORD your God, and He will bless your bread and your water; and I will remove sickness from among you!” (Exodus 23:25)**
- **This covenant had SIMPLE TERMS to follow:**
 - **LOVE THE LORD (with all your heart, soul, mind & strength).** We were made to have our whole being engaged in worship—**This is the FOUNDATION of HEALTHY LIVING.**
 - **LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR.** Not allowing envy, unforgiveness, or hatred—to rob us of health!
 - **LOVE (AND TAKE CARE OF) YOURSELF (Ephesians 5:29- “Feed & care for your body”)** Lifestyle instructions in **Leviticus: wash your hands** (took scientific world centuries to discover this!), **eat healthy** (i.e., don’t eat scavengers—junk food)!

- **NOTE:** Though this was a **GOOD** covenant, it did **NOT** bring **them to the place of ULTIMATE HEALTH**. It worked toward reversing the curse, while pointing to the need for One to come and break the curse!

2. **JESUS—THE PROMISED MESSIAH** (*Lit.- “Expected King who would deliver & restore”*)

- He will come-** *“Do not fear. Your God will come...He will come to save you. The eyes of the blind will be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. The lame will leap like a deer, and the mute tongue will shout for joy!” (Isaiah 35:3-6)*
- He will come in both power & humility-** He will *“reveal the arm of the Lord”* (i.e., His power), yet He will grow up as a *“tender shoot”* in a spiritual desert (Isaiah 53:1,2)
- NOTE:** In the Talmud (written 500 years before the birth of Jesus): *“When the Messiah comes, He will sit among the poor and the suffering sick. He will be a Wounded Healer—One who will first carry our sicknesses in order to bring us healing.” (Sanhedrin 98a).*
- He will fully experience our need for Him-** *“He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows; and fully acquainted with grief.” (Isaiah 53:3)*
- He will heal and restore us-** Isaiah 53:4-5- *“Surely, He took up our infirmities (disease, sickness) and carried our sorrows (debilitating grief; depression)...He was pierced for our transgressions (actual sins) and He was crushed for our iniquities (“why” we sin; root cause—selfishness). The punishment that brought us peace (joy; well-being) was upon Him, and by His wounds we are healed (rapha—complete healing throughout).”*

CONCLUSION

- After Jesus healed Peter’s mother-in-law, then healed and delivered the townspeople from sickness and demonic oppression, He said *“This was done to fulfill what was spoken through Isaiah: ‘He took up our infirmities and bore our diseases.’” (Matthew 8:17)*
- *“Death reigned from Adam until Moses” (Romans 5:14)*
- In Moses’ covenant with God—death’s curse was **REVERSED**.
- In Jesus—*“the power of death was DESTROYED” (2 Timothy 1:10)!*

No single verse describes Jesus’ ministry quite like this:

“How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.” (Acts 10:38)

That’s why we pray for healing and expect miracles!