

“Why We Pray for Healing & Expect Miracles”

May 19, 2019

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

“DEATH REIGNED”- separation from God was the new atmosphere (Romans 5:12,14)

- Living in His Presence was “LOST”
- “All of creation groaning” (Romans 8:22)—*to experience a common calamity*
 - Dis-connect; Dis-order; Dis-ease in every realm—spiritually, emotionally, physically, relationally.
- Yet, from the beginning, GOD PROMISED TO RESTORE ALL THINGS

1. God made COVENANTS

(Agreements made via sacrifices & promises→ binding relationships)

- To Adam: “*The Seed will crush the enemy’s head (his authority)*” (Genesis 3:15)
- To Noah: “*The next time I judge the whole world’s sin—I will not bend the bow of judgment toward earth. I will bend it toward Heaven.*” (Genesis 9:13)
- To Abraham: “*In you all the families of the earth will be blessed.*” (Genesis 12:3)

2. “Death reigned from Adam UNTIL MOSES” (Romans 5:14)

- 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)
 - Walk in covenant obedience and “you will be blessed” (Deuteronomy 28).
Lit.- Provision and power in every area of your life!
 - “Your God will restore everything you lost!” (Deuteronomy 30:3)
- 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—spirit, emotions, thoughts, work, play, etc.—all unto Him. 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 (See Ephesians 5:29) 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!
3. JESUS—THE PROMISED MESSIAH (*Lit.- “Expected King who would deliver & restore”*)
- a. 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)*
 - b. 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)
 - c. 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).*
 - d. 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)*
 - e. 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

In Jesus—the “Word of God became flesh” (i.e., Every promise God ever made was fulfilled in Him!)

- Jesus said, “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.” (Matthew 5:17)
- After Jesus healed Peter’s mother-in-law, and the townspeople from sickness and demonic oppression, He said “This was done to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: ‘He took up our infirmities and bore our diseases.’” (Matthew 8:17)

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)