

Healing Throughout The Bible

(Is healing still for today?)

By Marcia Greenwood

When God brought the Israelites out of Egypt, He planned for them to be in good health and stay in good health. When they walked out of Egypt their bodies were healthy and they were not sick for the 40 years wandering in the wilderness.

God said "Oh, that their hearts would be inclined to fear (*respect & reverence*) me and keep all my commands always, so that it might go well with them and their children forever" (Duet. 5:29).

"So be careful to do what the Lord your God has commanded you; do not turn aside to the right or to the left. Walk in all the way that the Lord your God has commanded you, so that you may live and prosper and prolong your days in the land that you will possess" (Duet. 5:32-33).

"Worship the Lord your God, and His blessing will be on your food and water. *I will take away sickness* from you and none will miscarry or be barren in your land. I will give you a full life span" (Exodus 23:25-26).

Deuteronomy is the blessing and cursing chapter. God tells the Israelites that *if* they fully *obey* Him and carefully follow all His commands, then He will set them on high, above all the nations of the earth. All these blessings will come upon you if you obey Me.

The blessings include: (Duet. 28:1-13)

1. Blessings in the city and country.
2. Blessings of the fruit of your work, your crops and livestock.
3. Blessings of food.
4. Blessings going in and coming out.
5. Your enemies will be defeated.
6. Your harvests will be blessed.
7. Blessings on your land. Rain in due season.
8. Blessings of abundant prosperity.
9. You will lend and not borrow, you will be the head and not the tail.

The blessings were conditional on the Israelites obedience to God. (vs. 13) "If you pay attention to the commands of the Lord your God that I give you this day and carefully follow them."

"However, if you do not obey the Lord your God and do not carefully follow all His commands I am giving you then all these curses will come upon you and overtake you" (Duet. 28:15).

The rest of the chapter covers the curses for disobedience.

1. Cursed in the city and country.

2. Your basket and your kneading trough will be cursed.
3. The fruit of your womb will be cursed, and the crops of your land, and the calves of your herds and the lambs of your flocks.
4. Cursed when you come in and go out.
5. Your enemies will defeat you.
6. You will not eat of your harvests, others will eat of them.
7. You will receive many plagues, and wasting diseases.
8. There are many other curses included.

God wanted to bless the Israelites in every way; in health, prosperity, peace, and with all abundant overflowing blessings.

Healing During Jesus' Ministry

"Jesus went throughout Galilee, *teaching* in their synagogues, *preaching* the good news of the kingdom, and *healing every disease and sickness* among the people. News about Him spread all over Syria, and people brought to Him *all* who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed, *and He healed them*" (Matthew 4:23-24).

Jesus ministry on earth was to teach, preach and heal.

"...and He drove out the spirits with a word and *healed all the sick*. *This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah*: 'He took up our infirmities and carried our diseases'" (Mat 8:16-17).

"My daughter has just died. But come and put your hand on her, and she will live."

'When Jesus entered the rulers house and saw the flute players and the noisy crowd, He said, 'Go away.' 'The girl is not dead but asleep.' 'After the crowd had been put outside, He went in and took the girl by the hand, and she got up' " (Matthew 9:18 & 23-25).

So Jesus raised the dead! This was done many times throughout His ministry.

"When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, *He had compassion* on them and healed their sick" (Matthew 14:14).

Jesus was *full of compassion* and love for others, He didn't want them to suffer.

"Jesus had *compassion* on them and touched their eyes. Immediately they received their sight and followed Him" (Matthew 20:34).

A meaning of compassion is: *Sympathetic consciousness of others' distress, together with a desire to alleviate it.* (Webster's Seventh New Collegiate Dictionary)

A man with leprosy came to Jesus and while on his knees begged Him, *"If you are willing, you can make me clean. 'Filled with compassion, Jesus reached out His hand and touched the man.' 'I am willing,'* He said. 'Be clean' " (Mark 1:40-41).

"People brought all their sick to Him and begged Him to let the sick just touch the edge of His cloak and *all who touched Him were healed*" (Matthew 14:36).

The Holy Spirit was present with Jesus and it was through His power that people were healed.

"And the *power* of the Lord was present for Him to heal the sick" (Luke 5:17).

"Those that had evil spirits were cured and the people all tried to touch Him because *power* was coming from Him and healed them all" (Luke 6:18).

If God the Father didn't want people to be healed, but instead wanted them sick to learn a lesson or something, then Jesus would NEVER have healed anyone.

"My food, Jesus said 'is to do the will of Him who sent me' and to finish His work" (John 4:34).

"For I have come down from heaven not to do my own will *but to do the will of Him who sent me*" (John 6:38).

"My teaching is not my own, it comes from Him who sent me" (John 7:16).

When Jesus had compassion on the sick and healed the people it was because the Father also had compassion and love for the people. Jesus and the Father are one. They didn't want people sick or demon possessed.

Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil. Jesus didn't go against the Father's will and work against Him in any way. God the Father didn't make people sick and Jesus come in behind Him and heal them. God didn't have to ask Jesus "Just what do you think you're doing.?" I sent you to earth just to save people, nothing more. You are interfering with My plans. "NO" Jesus and the Father were of one mind. They were a perfect team. Jesus also didn't pick and choose who to heal, He's not a respecter of persons, He healed them all.

"And they took offense at Him. But Jesus said to them. 'Only in His hometown and in his own house is a prophet without honor.' And He did not do many miracles there because of their lack of faith' " (Matthew 13:57-58).

Many of these people knew Jesus from birth, or knew His family. They reasoned "how is he anything special," and they did not believe Him.

The Authority that Jesus Passed Onto The Disciples
(Healing for Today)

"He called His twelve disciples to Him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness" (Matthew 10:1).

"As you go, preach this message: 'The kingdom of heaven is near.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons" (Matthew 10:7-8).

Even a man, who was not one of the disciples was driving out demons in Jesus name. The disciples told him to stop but Jesus said "do not stop him." No one who does a miracle in my name can in the next moment say anything bad about me for whoever is not against us is for us (Mark 9:38).

While Jesus was still on earth, He gave authority to others and told them to follow in the same ministry He was doing; teaching, preaching and healing.

The last thing that Jesus told the disciples before His resurrection was to: "Go into all the world, preach the gospel to all creation, and he who believes will be saved and he who doesn't will be condemned. And these signs will follow them who believe:

- They will cast out demons in My name.
- They will speak in new tongues.
- If they drink poison it will not harm them.
- They will lay hands on the sick and the sick will be made well"
- (Mark 16:15-18).

"I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in Me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these because I am going to the Father" (John 14:12).

What did Jesus do? He went around *teaching, preaching and healing.*

How can we do even greater things than Jesus? Because, when we *believe* Jesus' Word then we will *act* on what He says and more of us will be laborers to gather people for His Kingdom, bringing the lost to accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior. We will teach others what their inheritance is that Jesus left them. We will be bold and lay hands on the sick, casting out demons from the sick and dying world that has been so deceived by Satan.

How can we do this? Because Jesus said we could, and His Word is true. It doesn't matter what you have been taught by other people. *If you believe, you will receive!*

Jesus said He came to destroy the power of the devil, and He did just that. (I Jn. 3:8)

John preached how God anointed Jesus 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).

"All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to

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obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:18).

The disciples used this authority, before and after Jesus was resurrected.

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you" (I John 3:19).

A cripple man was begging at the temple gate, and he asked Peter and John for money. Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk. Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong. He jumped to his feet and began to walk" (Acts 3:6-8).

Peter told the people that healing people was not through any power of their own, but God was glorifying His Son Jesus. It is by *faith in the name of Jesus*, that this man was healed. (Acts 3: 12-16)

Jesus even healed through Peter's shadow falling on people. Crowds gathered and the sick and those who had evil spirits were healed, all of them. (Acts 5:15-16)

The crowds heard Philip and saw the miraculous signs he did, delivering those with evil spirits and healing the crippled and paralytic. (Acts 8:6-8)

"God did extraordinary miracles through Paul, so that even handkerchiefs and aprons that he had touched were taken to the sick, and their illnesses were cured and the evil spirits left them" (Acts 19:11-12).

James was the last of the apostles, and he told the people about healing. "Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the *prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up*" (James 5:14-15).

God has not changed! He does not want anyone sick, depressed, or demon possessed. We are no different than those living in the Old Testament times. Actually we are better off, we have the authority of Jesus to continue to carry on His ministry on earth today.

He is in heaven watching that His Word is fulfilled. If you *believe* you will receive!

If you *believe* than *you can* carry on the ministry of Jesus, through teaching, preaching and healing to a lost world. What a wonderful privilege!

God and Jesus love you so much! Jesus left you a wonderful inheritance. Now it's up to you to take hold of that inheritance and live with all the blessings that were meant for you!