

We Have Been Healed: Past Tense

Sadly, we believe what we're taught, rather than researching for ourselves. Even worse, we don't even ask Father what he thinks about what we believe to be the truth (fact). Asking him is the only way we'll get to the truth, because he is Truth, just as all the members of the Trinity are.

One case in point, is "By his stripes we are healed". What does that really mean? Are we using it the right way? Furthermore, is it relevant to the New Covenant, seeing it's in the OT?

Here's the verse and it's surrounding text as it appears in the New English Translation:

Isaiah 53:4-6 (NET)¹ – "4 But he lifted up our illnesses, he carried our pain;² even though we thought he was being punished, attacked by God, and afflicted for something he had done.³ 5 He was wounded because of⁴ our rebellious deeds, crushed because of our sins; he endured punishment that made us well;⁵ because of his wounds we have been healed.⁶ 6 All of us had wandered off like sheep; each of us had strayed off on his own path, but the LORD caused the sin of all of us to attack him."⁷

Picture Language

The OT prophets spoke in picture language which the people of their time understood. They also spoke in riddles, like Jesus did. Knowing that, we can easily get their messages wrong, especially applying it to the 21st century. In the main, their messages were specifically for their generation, not for us. We do a disservice if we apply it inappropriately in any way, through making presumptions. That's why, in the case in the above quote, we need to do the interpretation correctly.

Footnotes

Read the footnotes below, supplied by the translation team. Notice that this quote is from a section about sin and its consequences. That understanding comes out in the context, which can be missed if verse 5 is quoted in isolation.

Sin

Interpreting the picture language (metaphors) of verse 5, according to the context, Jehovah was going to set up a system to deal with sin, through Messiah, so that the prosperity of his covenant with them could be restored. That's because sin, iniquity and transgression cancelled the benefits of the covenant, both for

1 – **NET Translation Footnotes**

2 – Isaiah 53:4 **sn** Illness and pain stand by metonymy (or perhaps as metaphors) for sin and its effects, as vv. 11-12 make clear.

3 – Isaiah 53:4 **tn** The words "for something he had done" are supplied in the translation for clarification. The group now realizes he suffered because of his identification with them, not simply because he was a special target of divine anger.

4 – Isaiah 53:5 **tn** The preposition מן (*min*) has a causal sense (translated "because of") here and in the following clause.

5 – Isaiah 53:5 **tn** *Heb* "the punishment of our peace [was] on him." שְׁלוֹמֵם (*shalom*, "peace") is here a genitive of result, i.e., "punishment that resulted in our peace."

6 – Isaiah 53:5 **sn** Continuing to utilize the imagery of physical illness, the group acknowledges that the servant's willingness to carry their illnesses (v. 4) resulted in their being healed. Healing is a metaphor for forgiveness here.

7 – Isaiah 53:6 **tn** Elsewhere the Hiphil of פָּגַע (*paga*) means "to intercede verbally" (Jer 15:11; 36:25) or "to intervene militarily" (Isa 59:16), but neither nuance fits here. Apparently here the Hiphil is the causative of the normal Qal meaning, "encounter, meet, touch." The Qal sometimes refers to a hostile encounter or attack; when used in this way the object is normally introduced by the preposition בְּ (*bet*, see Josh 2:16; Judges 8:21; 15:12, etc.). Here the causative Hiphil has a double object—the Lord makes "sin" attack "him" (note that the object attacked is introduced by the preposition בְּ. In their sin the group was like sheep who had wandered from God's path. They were vulnerable to attack; the guilt of their sin was ready to attack and destroy them. But then the servant stepped in and took the full force of the attack.

a person and the nation. That's what this section of OT prophesy is all about – permanent deliverance from the consequences of sin.

Past Tense

Notice the underlined text. **Everything has been done** – past tense. It's not present tense – “we are being”. It's also not, “because of what Jesus did we can be”.

Shalom

The Hebrew word *shâlôm* is translated in verse 5 as ‘healed’, which is different to the translations we’re used to quoting. That’s because the word has an inordinate number of uses. Shalom has the following connotations, not just ‘peace’.⁸

- (1) completeness, soundness, welfare, peace
 - (1a) completeness (in number)
 - (1b) safety, soundness (in body)
 - (1c) welfare, health, prosperity
 - (1d) peace, quiet, tranquillity, contentment
 - (1e) peace, friendship
 - (1e1) of human relationships
 - (1e2) with God especially in covenant relationship
 - (1f) peace (from war)
 - (1g) peace (as adjective)

The Messiah didn’t just provide us access into Heaven’s peace because he’s the Prince of Peace, there’s more.

New Covenant Implementation

Finally, how does his relate to us under the New Covenant (NC). For that, we must understand that we’re completely in the NC, as the Old Covenant (OC) is fully ‘dead’.

Shalom is the right word to use in the NC and it means that we have access to the wonderful life of Heaven, if we allow ourselves to receive it. That includes prosperity, the Kingdom way. That’s the reason why Jesus said he’d give his people abundant life (i.e. Kingdom life).

The deliverance from sin and its consequences came into effect with the NC. We are healed from the effects of sin, right now. It’s already done. Our sin has been dealt with, permanently, on the cross, in the past. We don’t live a life with the negative effects of sin, only with our poor choices and as a consequence of evil in the world. Covenantal prosperity in every area (Shalom) is ours, today, right now.

The same goes for healing. Under the NC regime, healing is one of our benefits. Therefore, it’s logical that we stick with the New Covenant regard to healing, not harking back to the OT and quoting from it. Again, although healing is ours under the NC, we only receive it if we choose to receive it Heaven’s way. That’s where living by faith, every moment of the day, comes in. We don’t need a faith healer to heal us. We can actually live in perfect health, if we learn to live life in the Kingdom as Jesus did.

We need to live fully as sons in the NC and in the Kingdom of Heaven on Earth. That requires a paradigm shift so that life’s situations and circumstances are irrelevant. If you think that’s impossible, just think of Jesus’ need to pay tax. When it was apparent that it needed to be done, the Kingdom supplied it as a coin in the mouth of a fish that his disciple caught.

8 – www.bibletools.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/Lexicon.show/ID/H7965/shalown.htm

Truly, we need to get our head out of the past and live life in the wonderful supply and conditions of the Kingdom NOW.

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(Readers will need to look up for themselves any scriptures alluded to in this document)