

## Sickness in the Bible

### Overview of the Bible's Teaching:

*The happy ending to the story of sickness - God is ending sickness.*

- Sickness leads to death. Death is the penalty for humanities' sin (Genesis 3:17; Romans 5:12; Romans 6:23).
- God came into our human community, suffered from sickness unto death to take away sickness forever for those who trust in His way of salvation. They enter His holy heaven free from sickness (Romans 5:18-20; Revelation 21:3-5; 22:3).

*The hard lesson of sickness - God uses sickness to bring us to Him.*

- God brings sickness as a result of the sins of a community or individual to encourage the community to come back to joyful fellowship with Him:
  - King David's child's sickness because of David's sin (2 Samuel 12:13-16)
  - King Jehohaz (2 Chronicles 21:17 – “So after all this the LORD smote him in his bowels with an incurable sickness”).
  - The warnings to obey the Law in Deuteronomy (Dt 28:58-59).
  - Repeated illnesses in Israel's history (Exodus 23:25; Micah 6:13).
  - King Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 4:28-37; as an example of many Gentile nations both in Old Testament and New Testament – Revelation)
  - Ananias and Saphira struck dead for lying to the Holy Spirit (Acts 5).
  - Those who partake of the Lord's Table in an unworthy manner (1 Corinthians 11:30).
- As the individual or community turns to Him, He removes the disease:
  - Solomon's appeal to continue to return to God in His prayer of dedication of the temple (2 Chronicles 6:12-28)

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- God's pleasant purpose of discipline (Hebrews 12:11-13)

*The comforting lesson of sickness – God removes sickness to show His sovereign power over all.*

- God has power to take away disease instantly. He does so to show His power and glory.
  - Elisha healing the widow's son (1 Kings 17:17-24)
  - Jesus' power to heal every disease and sickness (Matthew 4:23; Matthew 9:35; Luke 5:15 – even leprosy, Luke 17:11-18)
  - Jesus' disciples healing sickness (Matthew 10:1; Acts 5:15; Acts 19:12).
  - The elders of the church praying in faith for the sick to be healed and they are healed (James 5:14-15).
    - And, at times God does not take away the disease (Timothy 4:20; 2 Kings 13:14 also Phil 2:26).
- Satan loves to use disease to cause pain and sorrow in a community (Job 1-3; Genesis 1-3; Matthew 12:22-24).
- God supersedes Satan's use of sickness and pain to bring about ultimate good (2 Corinthians 12:7-11; John 11; Job).

*Other Biblical Principles about Sickness:*

- A broken spirit is worse than a sick body (Proverbs 18:4).
- Sickness is vexation and sadness from the perspective of a secular life - A life lived outside of the understanding of God and eternity (Ecclesiastes 5:16-17).
- Sickness is used figuratively of spiritual unhealthiness (Isiah 1:5, Jeremiah 17:9)
- As a Christian, we can boast in our sicknesses (2 Corinthians 11-12).
- As a Christian, as we visit the sick, we visit Jesus (Matthew 25:36-44).
- God's Law incorporated principles of social distancing (Ok, more like mandatory isolation Leviticus 13:45)

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