

CHAPTER 8

I WAS LOST BUT I WAS FOUND HE WAS SICK BUT HE WAS HEALED

“He was wounded for our transgressions... and by His stripes we are healed.” ~ Isaiah

When I think of Passover, I often think of my brother Larry. He was the oldest of four brothers and I was the youngest. My sister was nearly seven years younger. When I was 6 to 7 years old, my older brother Larry was 12. He began that age as a fine healthy lad with ruddy red hair. He was an athletic, but kind of lanky, young man. Unexpectedly, over a period of a few months Larry began to stumble. He stumbled more and more often. It was worse when he was going down stairs. Many times I heard the horrible noise of his tumbling down the stairs of our two story California home. It was even worse to see. Eventually this problem became more than just a nuisance. It became very painful. Larry’s stumbling could no longer be blamed on teenage “clumsiness.” Larry was not clumsy or just stumbling. His right knee would just give out and his leg would collapse! Concerned, my parents took my brother to the doctor’s office. Upon examining Larry, they found problems in his knee and immediately gave him braces similar to those worn by the young man in the movie “Forrest Gump.” I cried when I watched Forrest’s braces fall off before he began to run, because the story was too close to home for me.

I watched with sorrow as my mother would daily put salve on the blisters and abrasions the braces caused my brother where the braces attached at his hip. It was also saddening to see a strapping young man no longer able to play sports, climb a hill or ride a bicycle like all us boys loved to do. As Larry’s knee began to weaken further, the pain began to spread. Eventually the doctors found gangrene in his leg and scheduled an emergency operation to remove his leg from the hip down on the following week. It was horrifying for the whole family – but especially so for Larry and My father and mother.

Desperate, my blessed mother sought God for healing of her son's leg. She had heard of a Church of God and of their practice of anointing and praying for of the sick, but she had never attended one of their church services. Quickly she requested an anointing and prayer for Larry by telephone. They mailed her an anointed piece of cloth similar to the way the apostle Paul used to do when he could not come and anointed the sick in person (Acts 19:12). The cloth arrived just a day or two before the operation to remove Larry's leg was scheduled. On the morning the operation was to take place, I got on the bus to go to school and Larry went to the hospital. Surprisingly, Larry met me later that same day as I got off the school bus. He stood there holding himself up with his new crutches and a peculiar stare on his face that said, "Well, aren't you going to say anything."

"Do you notice anything different?" he asked me. I noticed his new crutches, but he wanted me to notice that he still had his leg! You see, upon the operating table the doctors were surprised and perplexed that they could no longer find any sign of gangrene. Further, all infections were gone and the muscle and bone seem to be healing. The doctors advised my parents that Larry should remove leg braces and begin to exercise his right leg until the muscle and leg grew back to be the same size as the left leg. We got a swimming pool so my brother could stand without crutches and exercise his newly healed leg. We had a lot of fun swimming and exercising in that pool. I suppose that was the beginning of my conversion in a sense, for I have never forgotten that incredible blessed day. All praise be to our wonderful God YHVH and His Son, our Messiah and Lord! Halleluiah!

I still cry when I remember those days. God so completely healed my brother's knee and leg that later as an adult, Larry worked in the woods as a "log choker setter" – climbing up and down the steep slopes of the Oregon Mountains. What does that true story have to do with Passover? Much, as you will see.

I have a beautiful painting in my office of a sheep dog standing over a lost sheep in the cold of snow. The dog is triumphantly calling out to his master with his neck stretched high, because he has found a lost sheep. God said there is Joy of Rejoicing in Heaven over even one lost sheep that returns to God through repentance (Luke 15:7). We are all lost sheep until we return to God humbly and repentantly. But thanks be to our Shepherd, for He seeks us until we return to Him. Once we are "found" He binds our wounds and healing us physically, mentally and most of all spiritually!

Notice the beautiful words of being lost but found – sick but healed – that the apostle Peter uses to describe being found and healed by our Shepherd and Passover:

1 Peter 2:23 who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed *Himself* to Him who judges righteously; 24 who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness — by whose stripes you were healed. 25 For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls. NKJV

Jesus set the example of humility – especially at Passover time. He did not revile back or fight back like the world does. He was a humble sacrifice. Sometimes we forget how humble Jesus was. He is our majestic powerful King. But **He also became an innocent vulnerable lamb**, so He could be beaten for our faults and taking our infirmities upon Himself – yes! Much more than only forgiving us of our sins, Yeshua was also bruised for our healing. Through the stripes of the whip that He endured on our behalf – we can have both physical and spiritual healing. Hallelujah, praise the LORD, for His mercy endures forever!

The prophet Isaiah foretold the sufferings of Messiah on our behalf long ago. The sacrifice of the Lamb of God exceeds our expectations, for His suffering did more than just forgive our sins.

Isa 53:4 Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. 5 But He *was* wounded for our transgressions, *He was* bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace *was* upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.

The word Hebrew word translated, “griefs,” is a noun meaning “sicknesses, diseases, illnesses,” while the word translated “sorrows” literally means “pains and sufferings.” The Passover sacrifice was a complete sacrifice. Jesus was beaten so we could be healed. He took upon Himself the sorrows of our hearts and the pains in our bodies, and through the whip and beatings He suffered for us, we can have healing. Healing is a big part of Passover!

The prophet Isaiah continues:

Isa 53:7 He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before the shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth.

Jesus, the Lamb of God, has born in His body our complete comfort, care and healing – as well as our forgiveness.

When Paul spoke of Passover to the Corinthians He reminded them not to treat the Passover cheaply and not to forget to properly discern the full purpose of all that the Lord had to endure in His body; for without the benefit of our stripes on our Lord's Body, many would die from their illnesses. Notice:

1 Cor 11:27 Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks *this* cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. 28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. 29 For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. 30 For this reason many *are* weak and sick among you, and many sleep.

It's like an additional benefit that we can lose out on if we don't properly discern the Lord's Body, for His Body was broken for our physical *AND* spiritual healing. This is part of the reason healing was such a big part of Messiah's 3 ½ year ministry. To treat that with disregard or lack of respect could be the cause of many being sick and even dying. Let's not do that. On the other hand, to appreciate with gratefulness and to respectfully and properly discern the Lord's Body is health to our bones and soul!

Matt 8:16 When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick, 17 that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: "*He Himself took our infirmities And bore our sicknesses.*"NKJV

Healing is one more wonderful benefit of Passover. This is why James, the Lord's brother, taught the church to come to the elders for an anointing with oil and prayer for the sick. He also tied healing together with forgiveness of sins, for the same Passover covers them both. Notice:

James 5:13 Is any among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms. 14 Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him in the name of the Lord. 15 And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.

It is interesting to compare the healing benefits to that of the first Passover when Israel was taken out of Egypt to the ministry of the Messiah that concluded with His becoming our Passover Lamb provided by the Father. Consider how many Israelites the LORD carried out of Egypt. Most scholars calculate approximately 4 million Israelites left Egypt after that great Passover. Have you ever seen a city of 400,000 without a hospital? How many are lame, feeble and sick in a city of 400,000? Typically, there would be several thousand. How many more in a city of 4 million? Simply multiply by a factor of ten or so.

What about a small city of only 4000? How many would be sick, feeble or lame in a small city of only 4000? Dozens at best! The point is this, after God's healing through the Passover, **THERE WERE NO ILL, LAME OR FEEBLE AMONG ANY ISRAELITES** during the great exodus out of Egypt!

Ps 105:36 He also destroyed all the firstborn in their land, the first of all their strength. 37 He also brought them out with silver and gold, and *there was **none feeble among His tribes***. 38 Egypt was glad when they departed,

Have you ever noticed that before? There was a great mass healing of all Israel as part of the Passover and Exodus out of Egypt. That is why God's Word says we are healed by Yeshua's stripes that He suffered Passover night. This is a precious truth.

Have you ever noticed how many times in the Gospel accounts, when Christ healed someone, He accompanied their healing with a statement like, "your sins are forgiven"? This is because healing and forgiveness is tied together.

Luke 5:23 ...Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Rise up and walk'? 24 But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins" — He said to the man who was paralyzed, "I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house."

This reminds me of that famous Psalm of King David;

Ps 103:2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His a benefits:
3 Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases

David tied forgiveness of sins in with healing, because he rightly discerned the Lord's Body – he understood the fullness of the Passover sacrifice. Do you?

Many trust God to forgive them of their sins through the blood of Messiah, but they do not trust Him for their healing. That's too bad, for healing is an additional benefit of Passover that we should avail ourselves of fully!

Remember, Passover was a day of judgment. For all who were not atoned by the blood of the lamb, it was judgment day. Even for those who do accept Yeshua as Messiah, there is still the judgment. But that penalty for that our judgment has been paid by the beatings and blood of the Lamb of God. Many of the sins of the world have led to many health problems. With forgiveness, ALL sins are forgiven, and Messiah takes the burden of our pains, griefs and sicknesses upon Himself as part of His Passover gift of reconciliation, forgiveness and healing. By His stripes we are healed!

There is another revealing example of a great Passover healing. Notice:

2 Chron 30:18 ...they ate the Passover contrary to what was written. But Hezekiah prayed for them, saying, "May the good LORD provide atonement for everyone 19 *who* prepares his heart to seek God, the LORD God of his fathers, though *he is not cleansed* according to the purification of the sanctuary."20 And the LORD listened to Hezekiah and healed the people. 21 So the children of Israel who were present at Jerusalem kept the Feast of Unleavened Bread seven days with great gladness;

At Hezekiah's prayer, the LORD forgave His people all who prepared their heart to seek Him at Passover and He healed them!

Friends', healing is a great truth that is part of Passover. Peter said, "by His stripes you were healed (2 Pet 2:24). It is a great gift. That healing includes physical healing. But it is also clearly the healing of the mind through the comfort of His Holy Spirit. We were lost, but now we are found. We were confused and had gone astray, but now we are at home with the LORD. We were in bondage, but now we are free. We were without hope, but now we are forgiven. We were slaves to sin, but now we have been made free. We

were sick, but now we are healed. Thanks be to God for giving us a Passover. But friends, where Passover is the beginning of salvation – the Feast of **Atonement is its completion** – for them we are completely AT-ONE with the Father and the Son, as we begin a new life in the Kingdom of God. But first we have a journey of learning, growing and overcoming. The next step in God’s wonderful plan is found through Pentecost – the Feast of Firstfruits, and the receiving of His Holy Spirit. God is lighting our path with His Holy Days (Ps 119:105). Let’s walk it!