

“But his form was ignoble, and inferior to that of the children of men; he was a man in suffering, and acquainted with the bearing of sickness, for his face is turned from us: he was dishonoured, and not esteemed.”

(Isaiah 53:3)

Bearing Of Sickness

The above verse is taken from the 1851 Septuagint version of the Bible.

This same verse is found in Isaiah 53:4 in most well known English versions of the Bible.

In the King James Version of the Bible, with which most of us are familiar, the verse reads “he has borne our griefs”.

On the well known web site “Bible Hub” which compares approximately twenty of the most well known English versions of the Bible, scripture by scripture the word “grief” is translated as sicknesses, illnesses, diseases, and infirmities in seven of the English versions..

Below are the verses to which we are referring.

Holman Christian Standard Bible

“Yet He Himself bore our sicknesses, and He carried our pains; but we in turn regarded Him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted.”

NET Bible

“But he lifted up our illnesses, he carried our pain; even though we thought he was being punished, attacked by God, and afflicted for something he had done.”

JPS Tanakh 1917

“Surely our diseases he did bear, and our pains he carried; Whereas we did esteem him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted.”

Jubilee Bible 2000

“Surely he has borne our sicknesses and suffered our pain: and we considered him stricken, smitten of God, and cast down.”

Douay-Rheims Bible

“Surely he hath borne our infirmities and carried our sorrows: and we have thought him as it were a leper, and as one struck by God and afflicted.”

World English Bible

“Surely he has borne our sickness, and carried our suffering; yet we considered him plagued, struck by God, and afflicted.”

Young's Literal Translation

“Surely our sicknesses he hath borne, And our pains -- he hath carried them, And we -- we have esteemed him plagued, Smitten of God, and afflicted.”

The question arises, was Jesus who was perfect and without sin ever sick?

Sickness is many times associated with sin but this is not always the case as the well known story about the man who had been blind from birth illustrates.

“As Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth. And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?

Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.” John 9:1-3

Paul in Hebrews 4:15 makes it very clear that:

"we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.” Hebrews 4:15

Paul makes it very clear that Jesus was touched by our infirmities, in other words he did experience sickness, yet without sin.

The following excerpt is from a book called “Secrets of Golgotha”.

What Kind of Sicknesses did Jesus Experience?

The reader of the Bible needs to know what kind of sicknesses Jesus experienced throughout his lifetime? Actually, the prophecy of the Suffering Servant (Jesus) is most important to inform us of this matter. If one will pay close attention to what the prophecy actually relates we can gain a great deal of information to illumine this subject for us. I now wish to refer to a book published in 1969 of an out-of-print volume first printed in 1877 which gives a rundown of Jewish interpretation over the past twenty-two centuries on the meaning of Isaiah 52 and 53 in regard to the Suffering Servant. It is titled The Fifty-Third Chapter of Isaiah by S.R. Driver and A. Neubauer. It is a remarkable work and is indispensable in gaining the Jewish understanding of Isaiah's prophecy about the Suffering Servant from the historical viewpoint. And almost all of these early Jewish scholars did not feel Jesus fit the role of the Suffering Servant because of what their Christian contemporaries were telling them about the experiences of Jesus while he was in the flesh.

What is significant is the fact that the majority of about 60 Jewish sources (which the authors referred to) claim that the prophecy could not refer to Jesus because, among other things, Isaiah said that the man of the prophecy would be sickly, while the Jewish scholars had been told over the centuries by their Christian counterparts that Jesus had never been sick a day in his life. And true enough, that is what most Christians erroneously have taught about Jesus. This has been one of the main (there are other very important main reasons as well. Ed.) reasons why Jewish scholars (who adhere to the simple teachings of Isaiah's prophecy about the Suffering Servant) fail to see Jesus in it. They have taken Christian professors at their word that this was what the New Testament taught.

The Errors of Traditional Christian Teaching

But in no way does the New Testament teach what most Christian interpreters have been stating over the centuries. If one will read carefully what the apostles wrote, it can be recognized that they were well aware that Jesus had been sickly during his life (Bearing the sicknesses and sins of mankind in his body), though he never sinned once. This is exactly what the author of the Book of Hebrews stated (Hebrews 4:15). The apostles (many of whom were eyewitnesses of Jesus' ministry) thought that he was precisely fulfilling Isaiah's prophecy of the Suffering Servant. The hometown people of Jesus were not uttering some kind of proverb when they said of him: “Physician heal yourself” (Luke 4:23). They knew that he needed healing himself. Secrets of Golgotha (Second Edition) pages 335-336 by Ernest L. Martin

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