

What The Bible Teaches on
HEALTH and HEALING
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Chapter 1: What causes ill-health and what is the cure?

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God declared that all He made at the time of creation was very good. Until Adam and Eve disobeyed God by eating the forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden, we have no reason to believe that they experienced any illness whatever.

(a) Sin and Satan bring pain and death

(1) Genesis 3:16-17

It would seem that the first act of human rebellion was responsible for turning on the gene responsible for disease, decay and death in human lives and introducing “pain” to human language and experience.

(2) Numbers 11:4-6, 18-34

The children of Israel grumbled against Moses and craved the food they left behind in Egypt. God sent them meat in unimaginable quantities but afflicted them with a plague in which thousands died.

(3) Job 2:1-10

Satan afflicted Job with painful sores from the crown of his head to the soles of his feet. All his friends believed it was in punishment for sin, but Job knew this was not the case. Satan expected him to deny God as a result, but Job held firm to his faith, and God honoured him in the end.

(4) John 10:10

Satan is the thief who came to steal, to kill and to destroy. Jesus Christ came to bring life.

(b) Punishment and healing

(1) Genesis 3:22-24

Man was driven out of the Garden so as not to touch the tree of life and so live for ever in a state of sin.

(2) Numbers 21:4-9

Unfortunately, the children of Israel had to learn the same lesson the same hard way on more than one occasion. Again they grumbled against God because of food, and this time He sent poisonous snakes among them. When they pleaded for mercy, He asked Moses to make a bronze snake and lift it up in the camp. Anyone who looked at the snake was immediately cured of the snakes' poison. This prefigured the crucifixion. In the same way that those who looked upon that bronze snake were saved, everyone who looked on Christ by faith would be cured from the poison of sin, (John 3:14-16).

(3) 2 Samuel 24: 1-17

God was displeased with the children of Israel and incited King David to take a census. He refused to heed the wise counsel of his military commander. At the end God gave him the choice of three disasters and he wisely chose to fall into the hands of God; and He

graciously decided to exercise mercy in the midst of the ensuing plague.

(4) Revelation 22:1-3

Significantly, the tree of life features in the New Jerusalem, where its leaves bring healing to the nations.