

What The Bible Teaches on
HEALTH and HEALING
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Chapter 3: How did God heal in the Old Testament?

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(1) Joshua 5:8

This passage refers to natural healing, following the circumcision of all the soldiers of Israel after crossing the River Jordan under Joshua.

(2) 1 Samuel 1:1-17

Hannah prayed in simple faith out of a burdened heart, and the Lord answered by healing her of her barrenness.

(3) 1 Samuel 6:1-3

The Philistines had captured the Ark, the main symbol of God's presence with Israel, when they killed King Saul and his son Jonathan in battle. Whatever city housed the Ark, God demonstrated His authority over their gods by afflicting the people with diseases. They finally called their pagan diviners to seek for advice and were told that they had to make sacrifices to the God of Israel and return the Ark to the Jews. This they did, and they were healed.

(4) 2 Kings 2:19-22

The prophets living in Jericho appealed to the prophet Elisha for help. The water was bad and the land was unproductive. Elisha used a bowl of salt to bring healing to both the spring and the land.

(5) 2 Kings 4: 8-17

A woman from Shunem was very kind in providing transit

accommodation to Elisha and his servant on their journeys. For her reward, the prophet prayed for her and she was healed of her barrenness.

(6) 2 Kings 4:18-37

This same child was taken suddenly ill and died. The prophet Elisha stretched himself on the dead child several times to warm up his body, and he was restored to life.

(7) 2 Kings 5:1-18

This is the remarkable story of the healing of the Syrian army commander, Naaman, from leprosy by the Prophet Elisha. The King had to wash himself seven times in the River Jordan before he was cured of his leprosy.

(8) 2 Kings 20:1-7, [Isaiah 38:1-6]

King Hezekiah was sick, and God sent the Prophet Isaiah to pronounce it as a terminal illness. When he pleaded with the Lord with bitter tears, the Lord healed him and added 15 years to his life. The boil which afflicted him was healed with normal medication in the form of a poultice of figs.

(9) Proverbs 12:18; 13:17; 15:4; 15:30; 16:24

References to healing in the Book of Proverbs are to spiritual, emotional and communal rather than physical healing, even when it mentions "healing to the bones."