

4th Servant Song

Isaiah 52:13–53:12

5 strophes of 3 verses each. The first line of each strophe is also a title and summary of what is in each strophe:

- 1 Behold my servant shall be successful (52:13-15)
2. Who has believed our report (53:1-3)
3. Surely He has borne our griefs (53:4-6)
4. He was oppressed and afflicted (53:7-9)
5. It pleased the Lord to crush Him (53:10-12).

Isaiah 53:5, “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.”

But He *was* wounded for our transgressions

But – contrast between the false conclusions of vs. 4 and the reality of what actually happened

He *was* wounded – wound (fatally), bore through, pierce

For – because of

our transgressions – rebellion

Isa. 1:2, “Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth!
For the LORD has spoken: ‘I have nourished and
brought up children, And they have rebelled against
Me.’ ”

Isa. 43:25, “I, *even* I, *am* He who blots out your
transgressions for My own sake; And I will not
remember your sins.”

See also Isaiah 53:8, 12

He was bruised for our iniquities;

bruised – be crushed, broken, beaten in pieces, destroyed

for our **iniquities** – iniquity, guilt, punishment, to distort,
to make crooked, to pervert

The verbs “pierced” and “crushed” are two of the strongest words in the Hebrew language to describe a violent and painful death.

Pierced conveys the idea of “pierced through or wounded to death” (cf. Deut. 21:1; Isa. 51:9; see also Ps. 22:16; Zech. 12:10; John 19:34). (The adjective form of this verb = slain in Isa. 22:2; 34:3; 66:16).

Crushed conveys the sense of “beaten in pieces, destroyed.”

The chastisement for our peace *was* upon Him,

Chastisement – discipline, punishment

for our **peace** – (Shalom) – safety, soundness,
welfare, peace

Here it is the removal of the sin barrier which creates enmity with God. See Rom. 5:1; Eph. 2:14–18; Col. 1:20.

was upon Him – again indicating the substitutionary bearing of sin and guilt.

And by His stripes we are healed.

Stripes – stripe, blow, bruise

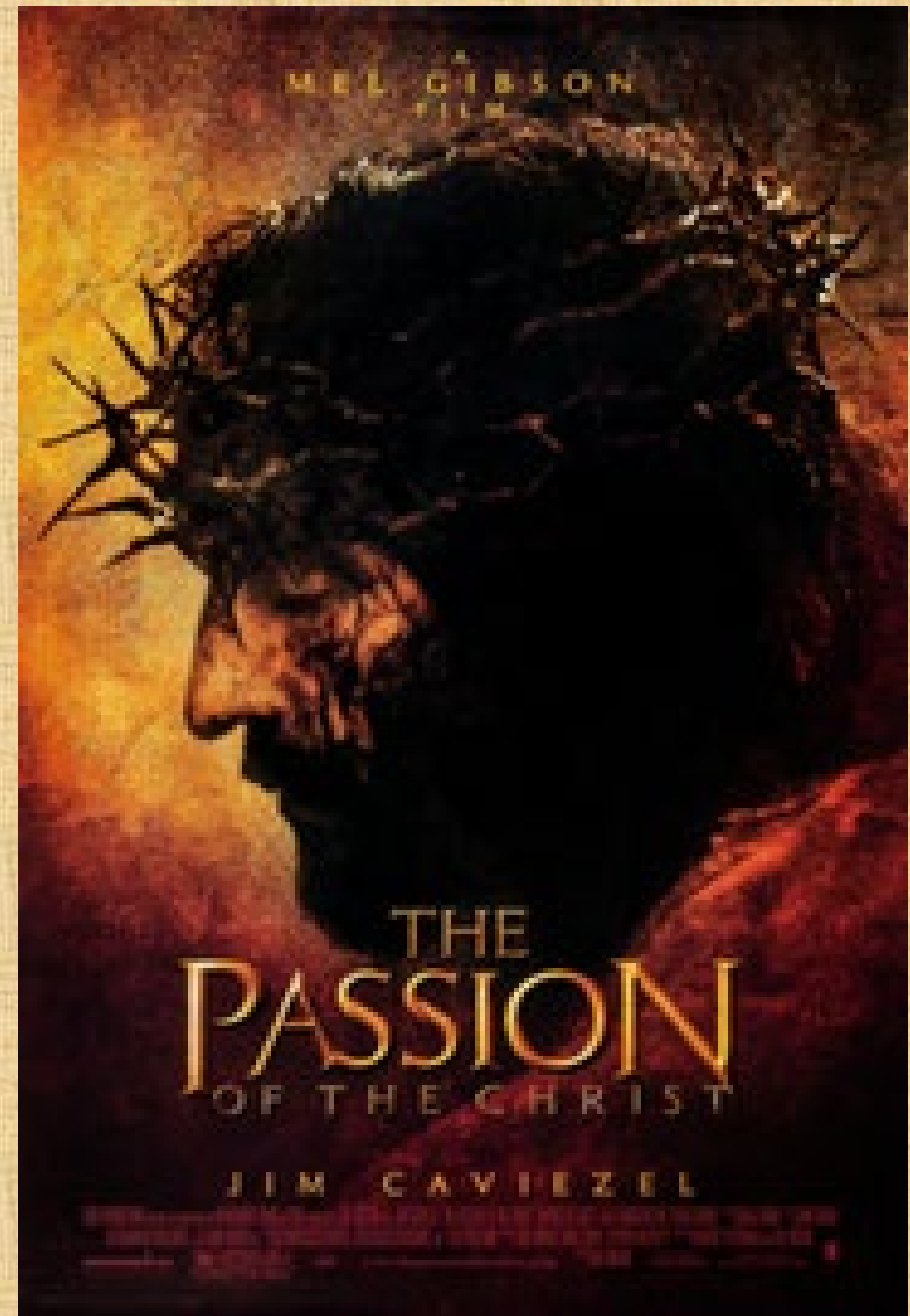
3rd person singular. Singular also in the Septuagint (LXX) and in Peter's quotation in 1 Peter 2:24.

The term “stripes” is a collective noun referring to the sum of His vicarious suffering in a general way.

The Passion of the Christ

The Passion is all about physical suffering. But this is not what provides salvation.

This will be brought out in Strophes 4–5. It is the substitutionary death of the Servant that provides salvation.



Notice the strong antithesis running through this verse: between the pronouns *he, him, his*, on the one hand, and *our, our, our, we*, on the other.

Notice also the strong contrast between the *wounding, bruising, chastisement, stripes* on the one hand, and the *peace and healing* on the other.

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By His bruise we are healed

Healed – heal, make healthful

The word can either be literal with regard to physical healing or figurative in the Old Testament.

Isaiah uses the word six times in this book. In each of the instances other than 53:5, it is always used in a figurative sense.

Isa. 6:10, “Make the heart of this people dull, And their ears heavy, And shut their eyes; Lest they see with their eyes, And hear with their ears, And understand with their heart, And return and be healed.”

Isa. 19:22, “And the LORD will strike Egypt, He will strike and heal it; they will return to the LORD, and He will be entreated by them and heal them.”

Isa. 30:26, “In the day that the LORD binds up the bruise of His people And heals the stroke of their wound.”

Isaiah 57:15-19, “For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: ‘I dwell in the high and holy place, With him who has a contrite and humble spirit, To revive the spirit of the humble, And to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

16 “For I will not contend forever, Nor will I always be angry; For the spirit would fail before Me, And the souls which I have made.

17 “For the iniquity of his covetousness I was angry and struck him; I hid and was angry, And he went on backsliding in the way of his heart.

18 “I have seen his ways, and will **heal** him; I will also lead him, And restore comforts to him And to his mourners.

19 “ ‘I create the fruit of the lips: Peace, peace to him who is far off and to him who is near,’ says the LORD, ‘And I will **heal** him.’ ”

Isaiah 53:5, “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.**”

In light of the figurative use by Isaiah of “pierced,” “crushed,” and “bruised,” it is reasonable to conclude that Isaiah intended the use of “healed” in Isaiah 53:5 to be figurative also.

Points about sickness and healing

1. Disease is not sin, but a consequence of sin.
2. Disease carries no penalty which must be paid for as sin does.
3. Disease does not interfere with a man's fellowship with God as sin does.
4. Christ was made sin and not sickness (2 Cor. 5:21).
5. Christ forgave sins, not sicknesses (1 John 2:12).

6. Christ gave Himself for sins and not for sicknesses (Gal. 1:3-4)
7. The Bible teaches that if a person is truly saved, he cannot die spiritually (John 5:24; 10:28–29; 11:26; Rom. 8:28–39; Jude 24), but all will die physically (Heb. 9:27; James 4:13-14).
8. Genuine believers have assurance of their salvation but have no guarantee concerning the quality of physical life or health.

“**All** we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us **all.**”