

## CHAPTER 9

# I WAS FOUND, I WAS HEALED

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*He was wounded for our transgressions...  
and by His stripes we are healed.*

—Isaiah

**W**HEN I THINK of Passover, I often think of my brother Larry. He was the oldest of us four boys. I was the youngest of the boys, but my sister was nearly seven years younger than I. When I was a boy of six, Larry was a healthy twelve-year-old. He was an athletic, lanky young man with ruddy hair. Unexpectedly, over a period of a few months, Larry began to stumble and lose his balance more and more often. His right knee was failing, and it was much worse when he went 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 around. 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, the doctor 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 when 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 where they contacted Larry's 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. Larry's life was in danger. Our whole family was horrified, but especially Larry and our 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 the sick. She had never attended one of their church services, but she requested an anointing and prayer for Larry by telephone. They mailed her an anointed piece of cloth similar to what the apostle Paul used to do when he could not come and anoint the sick in

person (Acts 19:12). The cloth arrived just a day or two before the operation 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. To my surprise, Larry met me later that same day as I got off the bus. He stood there holding himself up with his new crutches and a peculiar stare and grin on his face that said, “Hey, look at me. Aren’t you going to say something?”

“Do you notice anything different?” he asked. I noticed first his shiny, new, modern-looking metal crutches, instead of his old wooden ones. But he really wanted me to notice that he still had his leg! You see, Larry had been on the operating table, but 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 seemed to be healing. The doctors advised my parents that Larry should remove his 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 in the weightlessness of the water. He was able to exercise his newly healed leg quite effectively in the water. 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, our forgiving and healing God and His Son, our Messiah and Lord! Hallelujah!

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. He never wore crutches again and all stumbling stopped!

What does the above true story have to do with Passover? Much, as you will see.

### HIS SUFFERINGS, OUR HEALING

The prophet Isaiah foretold the sufferings of Messiah on our behalf long ago. The purpose exceeds our expectations, for His suffering did more than just forgive our sins. In chapter 53, verses 4–5, we read, “Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. 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 Hebrew word translated “griefs” is a noun meaning “sickness, disease, illness,” 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 of our bodies, and through the whip, we can have healing. Healing is a big part of Passover.

The prophet continues: “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” (Isa. 53:7).

Through His incredible act of being our Passover, Jesus, the Lamb of God, bore in His body our complete comfort, care, and healing, as well as our forgiveness through His blood.

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:

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. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this reason many *are* weak and sick among you, and many sleep.

—1 Cor. 11:27–30

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 three-and-a-half-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!

It is interesting to compare the healing benefits to that of the first Passover when Israel was taken out of Egypt. Consider how many Israelites the Lord carried out of Egypt. Most scholars calculate approximately four million Israelites left Egypt after that great Passover. Have you ever seen a city of four hundred thousand without a hospital? How many are lame, feeble, and sick in a city that size? Typically, there would be several thousand. How many more in a city of four million? Simply multiply by a factor of ten or so.

What about a small city of only four thousand? How many would be sick, feeble, or lame in a small city? 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! Psalm 105:36–38 says, "He also destroyed all the firstborn in their land, the first of all their strength. He also brought them out with silver and gold, and *there was none feeble among His tribes*. Egypt was glad when they departed" (emphasis added).

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 such as "Your sins are forgiven"? This is because healing and

forgiveness are tied together. For example, in Luke 5:23–24, we read, “Which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Rise up and walk’? 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: “Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: who forgives all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases” (Ps. 103:2).

David tied forgiveness of sins 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. Even for those who do accept Yeshua as Messiah, there is still the judgment. But that penalty for 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 our sins are forgiven, and our Messiah takes the burden of our pain, grief, and sicknesses upon Himself as part of His Passover gift of reconciliation, forgiveness, and healing. By His stripes we are healed!

Look now at another revealing example of a great Passover healing.

They ate the Passover contrary to what was written. But Hezekiah prayed for them, saying, “May the good LORD provide atonement for everyone 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.” And the LORD listened to Hezekiah and healed the people. So the children of Israel who were present at Jerusalem kept the Feast of Unleavened Bread seven days with great gladness.

—2 Chron. 30:18–21

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 whose [Yeshua’s] stripes you were healed” (1 Peter 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 and filled with hope. 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 the Passover. But, Passover (*Pesach*) is only the

beginning of salvation. The Day of Atonement (*Yom Kippur*) is salvation's completion, for only then are we completely "at one" with the Father and the Son as we begin our new life with them in our Father's kingdom. But first we have a journey of learning, growing, and overcoming. The next step in God's wonderful plan is found through counting and keeping Pentecost—the Feast of Firstfruits (*Shavuot*), and the receiving of His Holy Spirit. God is lighting our path with His Holy days (Ps. 119:105). Let's walk it!

