

All verses are copied from <https://biblehub.com/> in King James

In this chapter a healing will take place of a man that has been in an injured state for many years. This chapter will reveal not only Jesus's authority over sickness and health but over life both physical and spiritual. It will reveal a separation of those who Believe in Christ from those who refuse to Believe in Christ.

Jesus Heals at the Pool of Bethesda

1After this there was a feast of the Jews; and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

Anyone remember the Hebrew word of “after this”? Meta touta, after this or here-after. It signifies in the Greek that these events were not necessarily connected by the next day or next hour but an unknown amount of time transpired between the previous event and what is happening now.

So, to understand the phrase you have to go back to the previous chapter to see what Jesus had done. It is simply a matter of context. Jesus had physically healed from death the young child. We are not told how much time transpired between the healing and going to Jerusalem.

2Now there is at Jerusalem by the sheep *market* a pool, which is called in the Hebrew tongue Bethesda, having five porches.

The “sheep gate” in Nehemiah 3:1 was the first gate rebuilt after release from Babylon. Fitting that Jesus would enter at this gate, where the lambs were brought in for sacrifices.

The Hebrew word means Beth (house) chesed (mercy) so it meant the house of mercy.

Five has a numerology significance to God’s Grace. There were five porches that were used by those afflicted to be under shelter and await for what vs 3 tell us.

3In these lay a great multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered, waiting for the moving of the water. 4For an angel went down at a certain season into the pool, and troubled the water: whosoever then first after the troubling of the water stepped in was made whole of whatsoever disease he had.

Some of these afflicted folks would spend every day by the pool hoping to have an opportunity of healing.

5And a certain man was there, which had an infirmity thirty and eight years. 6When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time *in that case*, he saith unto him, Wilt thou be made whole?

Of course, God revealed to Jesus how long this man had been afflicted and the likely intense desire for healing. The man was focused on the only healing that he knew of and that was the pool. It was Jesus' question that got his attention but still his focus was on the pool of healing.

7The impotent man answered him, Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool: but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me.

The man's explanation had nothing to do with the real question but it was what the man's focus was on. During these times and for several thousands of years before healings were rarely reported in the Bible. Upon Jesus' arrival the idea of healing was spreading across Israel, people hearing of miracles. Either this man had not heard or was simply unaware of who was speaking to him.

8Jesus saith unto him, Rise, take up thy bed, and walk.

Not a lot of explanation to this man from Jesus as to who Jesus was, it was simply a command from the Creator "rise".

9And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked: and on the same day was the sabbath.

Jesus spoke and two things happened at once. The man was made whole (healed of a lifelong infirmity) AND the man obeyed

Jesus and immediately got up and walked. Similarly, we as Believers when we recognize God's Word, Jesus Voice in our hearts to do something our reaction should be immediate.

Timing to the Jewish religious system was a problem. The Jewish Religious system not to the Creator God. Man's interpretation of God's Law was and usually is flawed. To the Jewish Religious leaders, no work could be done on the sabbath including healing and if you were healed you could not pick up your bed and walk. All manmade stuff that conflicted with the God made stuff.

10The Jews therefore said unto him that was cured, It is the sabbath day: it is not lawful for thee to carry *thy* bed.

Man's heart vs God's Heart

11He answered them, He that made me whole, the same said unto me, Take up thy bed, and walk.

The man's response to religion, "I'm just doing what I was told by God."

12Then asked they him, What man is that which said unto thee, Take up thy bed, and walk? 13And he that was healed wist not who it was: for Jesus had conveyed himself away, a multitude being in *that* place.

Religious leaders of course wanted to identify the infidel who had told this man to violate their laws so he could be properly punished for healing this man. Makes all the sense in the world.

14Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee.

There were three things that Jesus told this man, we know that he did two of them immediately, but did he do the third.

What were the three things?

1. Rise up
2. Walk
3. Sin no more

15The man departed, and told the Jews that it was Jesus, which had made him whole.

Did Jesus seek out this man intentionally to tell him to “sin no more”? If so, was it a sin for this healed man to tell the Jews Who healed him?

It is not clear as the Bible does not tell us, but it strikes me as Jesus wanted the Jews to begin to learn who He Jesus was because it was that very knowledge that brought them fear. Enough fear to kill Him on the Cross.

It is apparent that the Jews were so entangled in the laws they wrote beyond what God had written that they could not see or did not want to see the Truth. They all knew that a Messiah was coming, could they not be moved by the miracles that Jesus was creating.

Can people today not be moved by the miracles of the Bible; the obvious protection God gives Israel. Israel today is surrounded by 400 million Arab/Muslims who have vowed their destruction “from the river to the sea”. Many nations have rekindled Antisemitism, even in the US on College campuses Jewish students are targeted with violence.

Is God bringing or allowing all this anti-Israeli hatred to build in order to force all who are of Israeli blood to return to Israel, the only safe place right now for Israel?

Things are likely to change in the world this coming January 20th, 2025. Trump has been the biggest supporter of Israel in my lifetime as President. Since the 1950's every president in America had the legal authority from Congress to move the US Embassy to Jerusalem. They all refused, even Reagan. All, except for Trump.

We don't know God's timing; we can only observe the times and seasons. Can we as Believers do as Jesus instructed this healed man to do; **“sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee.”**

The Father and the Son

16And therefore did the Jews persecute Jesus, and sought to slay him, because he had done these things

on the sabbath day. 17But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work.

John goes from a specific event involving the healing of this man on the Sabbath to the general view of what was going to happen to Jesus leading up to His crucifixion. That again verifies John's writing of this book years after these events. He like us have hindsight to see the events unfold showing the amazing walk of Christ as He carried out His God given mission to save mankind.

18Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God.

From Berean Bible Commentary (Strong's Concordance)

“the Jews

In the context of John's Gospel, "the Jews" often refers to the Jewish religious leaders and authorities who opposed Jesus. The Greek "οἱ Ἰουδαῖοι" (hoi Ioudaioi) (U di ezo) can denote the broader Jewish population, but here it specifically points to those in positions of power who felt threatened by Jesus' teachings and actions. This highlights the growing conflict between Jesus and the established religious order.” (enunciation added mine)

“began to persecute Him

The Greek verb "ἐδίωκον" (ediōkon) indicates a deliberate and sustained effort to oppose and harm Jesus. This persecution was not merely a reaction to a single event but part of a broader campaign against Him. The religious leaders saw Jesus as a threat to their authority and the stability of their traditions. This persecution foreshadows the increasing hostility that would

eventually lead to Jesus' crucifixion, underscoring the cost of His mission and the depth of His commitment to fulfilling the Father's will."

John now returns to 2nd person, again quoting Jesus. These next verses leave no doubt as to Who Jesus claims to be when talking to these Jews. Jesus knew how angry they were with Him when He healed a man on the Sabbath, this was going to move the anger needle substantially.

As a note, when Jesus uses the term "verily, verily" it is of extreme importance. No further explanation is needed, just read or listen and take in the words of our Lord and Savior.

19Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise. 20For the Father loveth the Son, and sheweth him all things that himself doeth: and he will shew him greater works than these, that ye may marvel. 21For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth *them*; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will. 22For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son: 23That all *men* should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him.

24Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

25Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.

“the dead” having a physical meaning and metaphorical meaning. Alive in the flesh but dead in the Spirit, or those already dead in the grave. That gives us a clue I had not seen before as to the condition of the “spirit” within man since Adam and Eve’s sin. It appears that Jesus is saying that the spirit is dead.

26For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself; 27And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man. 28Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, 29And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

Verses 28 and 29 unlike 25 identifies these as those who have died and are in the grave. 25 does not identify those “dead” as in the grave yet.

January 15, 2024

A thought on why we continue to show up and study God’s Word. So much of it we have repeatedly read and studied. Think back about when you first entered your French or Spanish language class in high school. Did you speak, read and write fluently in any

other language than English. Likely not, it took repetition, study and doing it over and over again. Same with Algebra, Trig and any other subject you studied. It takes years of studying the Bible to take what you first learned and apply it to new things you learn as you study. A great tool that I am not good at is memorization. Just small verses will add to your understanding and communication with God. Why do I say communication? Many times, God communicates with those that Love Him, through the Word's He has had written. We ask a question; He responds with verses we have learned. It helps us grow more deeply into His Word. So, preserver, I know it is what God wants of us.

2 Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

To recap where we are, Jesus is having a discussion with the Jewish leadership, about the Law. Actually, they are fiercely accusing Him of violating the Law and He is not just responding but calling them out on their hypocrisy. They are angry with Him for healing on a Sabbath.

30I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.

Jesus is so in tune with God the Father's Will that Jesus can do nothing but what God has asked Him to do. Jesus is telling us that

what He hears His Father say then that the measure that He judges by. The Creator God determines all the rules we live by and those rules are what we are judged by.

It is hard for us a mortal human to envision that level of communication and commitment let alone carry it out. However, that is our goal to be so tuned into God's Will that we live our lives as He tells us to live. I think if we were able to do what Jesus did would constitutes complete Sanctification. Fortunately, we are positionally sanctified through the blood of Christ and even though we won't achieve Jesus level of obedience to God the Father, God sees as attaining that through His Son's Sacrifice.

From Strong's Concordance "Sanctification"

"Pronunciation: hä-gē-ä'-zō

Phonetic Spelling: (hag-ee-ad'-zo)

Definition: To sanctify, to make holy, to consecrate, to set apart

Meaning: I make holy, treat as holy, set apart as holy, sanctify, hallow, purify.

Word Origin: Derived from ἅγιος (hagios), meaning "holy" or "sacred."

Corresponding Greek / Hebrew Entries: - **שָׁדָשׁ** (qadash) - Strong's Hebrew 6942, meaning to be holy, to consecrate, to sanctify.

Usage: The verb "hagiazó" primarily means to sanctify or make holy. It involves the act of setting something or someone apart for

a sacred purpose or dedicating them to God. In the New Testament, it is used to describe the process by which believers are made holy through the work of the Holy Spirit, aligning them with God's will and character. It also refers to the consecration of objects or places for divine use.

Cultural and Historical Background: *In the Jewish tradition, holiness was a central concept, with the Temple, priests, and sacrifices being set apart for God's service. The early Christian understanding of sanctification built upon this foundation, emphasizing the transformative work of the Holy Spirit in believers' lives. Sanctification was seen as both a positional reality, achieved through Christ's sacrifice, and a progressive process, as believers grow in holiness."*

God set up the level of judgement at the creation of the world.

There was a time when God said that there was no judgement for how man acted. It was a time that let man see how depraved he could become.

Romans 4:15 Because the law worketh wrath: for where no law is, there is no transgression.

There was a time before the flood that there was no law given.

Men would be held accountable due to God putting the moral law on their hearts. The Law was not written until Moses. Having the Law written would allow mankind to read and study the Law. We know that prior to the flood God tells us that man hearts were continually evil. Not a bit evil, not sometimes evil but continually locked into evil imagination of thoughts.

I don't think we can even compare today's evil with the evil of that time. What we can compare is the lack of awareness of millions living today that cannot see their need for a Savior. These will be swept away by God's Wrath just like the millions upon millions at the flood.

Genesis 6: [5](#)And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

Not only would Jesus show us the need to walk in righteousness as a sign of our love for Him as He did for God the Father, but Jesus would sacrifice Himself for us. He would do that out of obedience to His Father and His love for us.

Jesus's message to us today and all Believers:

John 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.

[31](#)If I bear witness of myself, my witness is not true. [32](#)There is another that beareth witness of me; and I know that the witness which he witnesseth of me is true.

There is no greater witness of Jesus than the Father, who declared:

Matthew 17:5 While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.

God would glorify the Son and the Son would glorify God.

John 12:28 Father, glorify Your name!” Then a voice came from heaven: “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.”

Just so we remember what started this conversation Jesus is having with Jewish leaders we need to go back to:

John 5:16And therefore did the Jews persecute Jesus, and sought to slay him, because he had done these things on the sabbath day. 17But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work.

The Jewish leadership and those who followed it were committed to abiding by not only the Law but their interpretation of the Law. Through their self-perceived power, they added to the Law of God, putting such pressure on the common man that they could do nothing outside man's expanded law. It was a means of gaining power over the masses.

Grace and Mercy were not part of their language, it was strict adherence to what they as men had written as additions to God's Law. Nowhere in God's Law is it written that a person could not be healed on the Sabbath. That was a Jewish mandate that interpreted God's Law of resting on the Sabbath that nothing could be done that was considered work in their eyes.

33Ye sent unto John, and he bare witness unto the truth.

The religious leaders had indeed sent some of their own to inquire of John the Baptist as to who he was and to who Jesus was. John the Baptist clearly identified Jesus as the Son of God. The Truth.

John 1: [29](#)The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. [30](#)This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me. [31](#)And I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water. [32](#)And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him.

[34](#)But I receive not testimony from man: but these things I say, that ye might be saved. [35](#)He was a burning and a shining light: and ye were willing for a season to rejoice in his light.

This again is a reference to John the Baptist. When he first started baptizing the religious leaders did not perceive him as a threat. Quite the contrary John the Baptist was getting people to recognize their sin and creating a desire to repent. Jesus declares that the religious leaders “rejoice in his light”. That is until the Truth, Jesus was recognized by John the Baptist, and he made it known as to who Jesus really was, the long-awaited Messiah.

Jesus will now lay the foundation for the conviction of religious leaders, for that time and now our time.

36But I have greater witness than *that* of John: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me.

37And the Father himself, which hath sent me, hath borne witness of me. Ye have neither heard his voice at any time, nor seen his shape. 38And ye have not his word abiding in you: for whom he hath sent, him ye believe not.

The world at the time of Jesus was filled with millions of non-believers both Jewish and Gentile. There were many gods and ideologies. The Nation of Israel had turned their back on their God and had taken on gods of wood and natural creation. The people then as they do now, worshipped the Creation and not the Creator.

Romans 1:25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

39Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

This was a two-edged sword for the Jews. They were of the belief that the salvation was in the scriptures and if they were diligent in their studies, they would learn how to be righteous before God and find salvation in that. To that they added over 700 regulations that they say clarified the Law. They were right and wrong. Salvation was clearly spelled out in the scriptures, but not

salvation of words or deeds but Salvation from God through His Only Begotten Son, the Messiah, Jesus the Christ.

40And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.

The implication of relying on any act of righteousness to achieve salvation is deeply flawed. We don't receive Salvation due to obedience; we seek obedience due to our Salvation that was a free gift from Jesus to us.

41I receive not honour from men. 42But I know you, that ye have not the love of God in you. 43I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive.

The fleshly conflict that Jesus is describing is man's desire for power. It seems then and now, man would rather have power in this finite world than everlasting life by serving the Creator God. These men in Jesus' time and in our time want to be served. They did not want to serve; it is now and was then, beneath them. Today they are called the "elites". The lost are in a far more vast group as God reminded us, ***"Broad is the way to destruction and many there are that find it"***.

44How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that *cometh* from God only?

How many awards programs can you name in today's US Society? It is the flesh that desires recognition. The idea to be recognized by your peers is a draw on the ego of all mankind. When we get to the point of being recognized by Jesus and know that that is all that matters, we are Saved. It's not that we know Jesus, the key is that He knows us.

*Matthew 7: [21](#)Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. [22](#)Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? [23](#)And then will I profess unto them, **I never knew you**: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. (emphasis mine)*

[45](#)Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father: there is one that accuseth you, even Moses, in whom ye trust.

Apparently in Heaven as God was speaking to Moses that Moses laid accusations against the religious leaders that he Moses himself was the head in Israel's walk with God.

[46](#)For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me.

Deuteronomy 18: 15 The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken;

[Acts 7:37](#)

This is the same Moses who told the Israelites, 'God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your

brothers.'

John 1:45

Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the One Moses wrote about in the Law, the One the prophets foretold—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

John 6:14

When the people saw the sign that Jesus had performed, they began to say, "Truly this is the Prophet who is to come into the world."

47But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?

We are told that a prophet would come to Israel from among his brothers and we were told to listen to Him. Are we listening or just going about business as usual until next Sunday?

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