

What Does the Bible Teach About Doctors and Diseases?

Questions Christians Ask

15 March 2024

Does the bible teach that it is wrong to go see a doctor?

1 Kings 15:23-24 King Asa died in his old age after his feet became diseased.

2 Chron 16:11-13 This parallel passage matches 1 Kings 15, but adds that “**he sought not to the LORD, but to the physicians.**” False teachers use this to teach that Asa died because he saw a doctor. Asa died because he was old, not because he saw a doctor.

Disease: the cause of pain or uneasiness, distemper, malady, sickness, disorder. Any state of a living body in which the natural functions of the organs are interrupted or disturbed either by defective action or action that is beyond normal without a disruption of parts by violence, which is called a wound. The first effect of disease is uneasiness or pain. And the ultimate effect is death.

2 Kings 1:2 The bible further defines disease and sickness to include injury or wounds.

2 Kings 8:7-15 Ben-hadad was sick, he inquired of the Lord through the prophet Elijah. Elijah told him he would recover of the disease, but then he would die. People die whether they seek the Lord or not.

Disease can be a judgment of God (2 Chronicles 21:14-19)

- God smote the people with “a great plague.” He told them they would “**have great sickness by disease.**” This ended up being an “**incurable disease.**”
 - In the end, we’ll all die of an incurable disease: old age.
 - If faith healers could really heal people, there would be no ailments from aging, and people could live longer. They’re all frauds.

Disease can be an attack of Satan (Job 30:17-19)

- You may not deserve it, you may love God and serve Him, and the devil may aim to devour you (1 Peter 5:8).

Disease can come as a result of your sin (Psalm 38:4—8; 41:8, 4).

- The sinner can “**receive in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet**” (Rom 1:27).
 - God isn’t trying to hurt you. Your own sin (sowing and reaping), and the sin in the world will hurt you.
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Old Testament Verses are often misapplied to the Christian.

- Exodus 15:26** This is a promise of good health to the children of Israel, not Christians.
- Deut 7:12, 15** The Lord is not speaking to New Testament Christians here. Rightly divide the word of truth.
- Deut 28:58-61** God promised the disobedient Israelites that He would hit them with known and unknown plagues. (See also Psalm 103).
- Ezek 34:1-5** God condemned the preachers of Israel for not preaching His word and telling the people they were sinning. Their sin had removed the blessing that would have prevented illness.

New Testament examples of godly people who suffered physical infirmities

- Gal 6:17** Paul the apostle was whipped and bore the marks of Christ in his body.
- 2 Cor 12:7-9** Paul had a thorn in the flesh. He asked God to remove it. God said His grace was sufficient.
- Php 2:26-27** Epaphroditus served God faithfully and became “**sick nigh unto death.**”
- 2 Tim 4:20** “**Trophimus have I left at Miletum sick.**”
- 1 Tim 5:23** “**Use a little wine for thy stomach’s sake and thine oft infirmities.**”

Compare: Old Testament Israelites: Becoming sick proved they were not obeying God.

New Testament Christians: Many faithful people became sick as an exercise of their faith so they will seek comfort and grace from God.

John 6:2 Multitudes followed Jesus because he healed “**them that were diseased.**” The multitudes disappeared after Jesus was crucified. Healing doesn’t make anyone a believer.

- Jesus gave the Church the Comforter because we will have pain and suffering.

2 Cor 1:3-5 God comforts us IN all our tribulation. He doesn’t remove the tribulations. We get comfort from God. Then we’re able to pass that comfort on to someone else who needs it.

Mat 9:12 Jesus said sick people need a physician. See also **Mark 2:17** and **Luke 5:31**.

Mark 5:25-26 Doctors in Jesus’ day were not always able to heal people. Sometimes they made it worse.

Col 4:14 Paul called Luke “**the beloved physician.**” It’s unscriptural to be anti-physician.

Titus 3:13 Paul was friends with “**Zenas the lawyer.**” It’s unscriptural to be anti-lawyer.
