



The Pool of Bethesda

John 5:1-16





Afterward 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.

(John 5:14)

It should not be concluded from this passage that sickness constitutes divine punishment for sin. The story of Job and the words of Jesus in regard to the blind man (ch. 9:2, 3) clearly indicate the danger in assuming such a connection. (*SDA BC*)

I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now
mine eye seeth thee. (Job 42:5)

John 9:2-3

To many of the afflicted ones who received healing, Christ said, “Sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee.” John 5:14. Thus He taught that disease is the result of violating God’s laws, both natural and spiritual. The great misery in the world would not exist had men from the beginning lived in harmony with the Creator’s plan. There are conditions to be observed by all who would preserve health. All should learn what these conditions are. The Lord is not pleased with ignorance in regard to His laws, either natural or spiritual. **We are to be workers together with God for the restoration of health to the body as well as to the soul. (CT 466.4)**

I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well. (Psalm 139:14)

To many of the afflicted ones who received healing, Christ said, “Sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee.” John 5:14. Thus He taught that disease is the result of violating God’s laws, both natural and spiritual. The great misery in the world would not exist did men but live in harmony with the Creator’s plan. (*DA* 824.2)

Christ had been the guide and teacher of ancient Israel, and He taught them that health is the reward of obedience to the laws of God. The Great Physician who healed the sick in Palestine had spoken to His people from the pillar of cloud, telling them what they must do, and what God would do for them. “If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord thy God,” He said, “and wilt do that which is right in His sight, and wilt give ear to His commandments, and keep all His statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the Lord that healeth thee.” Exodus 15:26. (*DA* 824.3)

These lessons are for us. There are conditions to be observed by all who would preserve health. All should learn what these conditions are. The Lord is not pleased with ignorance in regard to His laws, either natural or spiritual. **We are to be workers together with God** for the restoration of health to the body as well as to the soul.

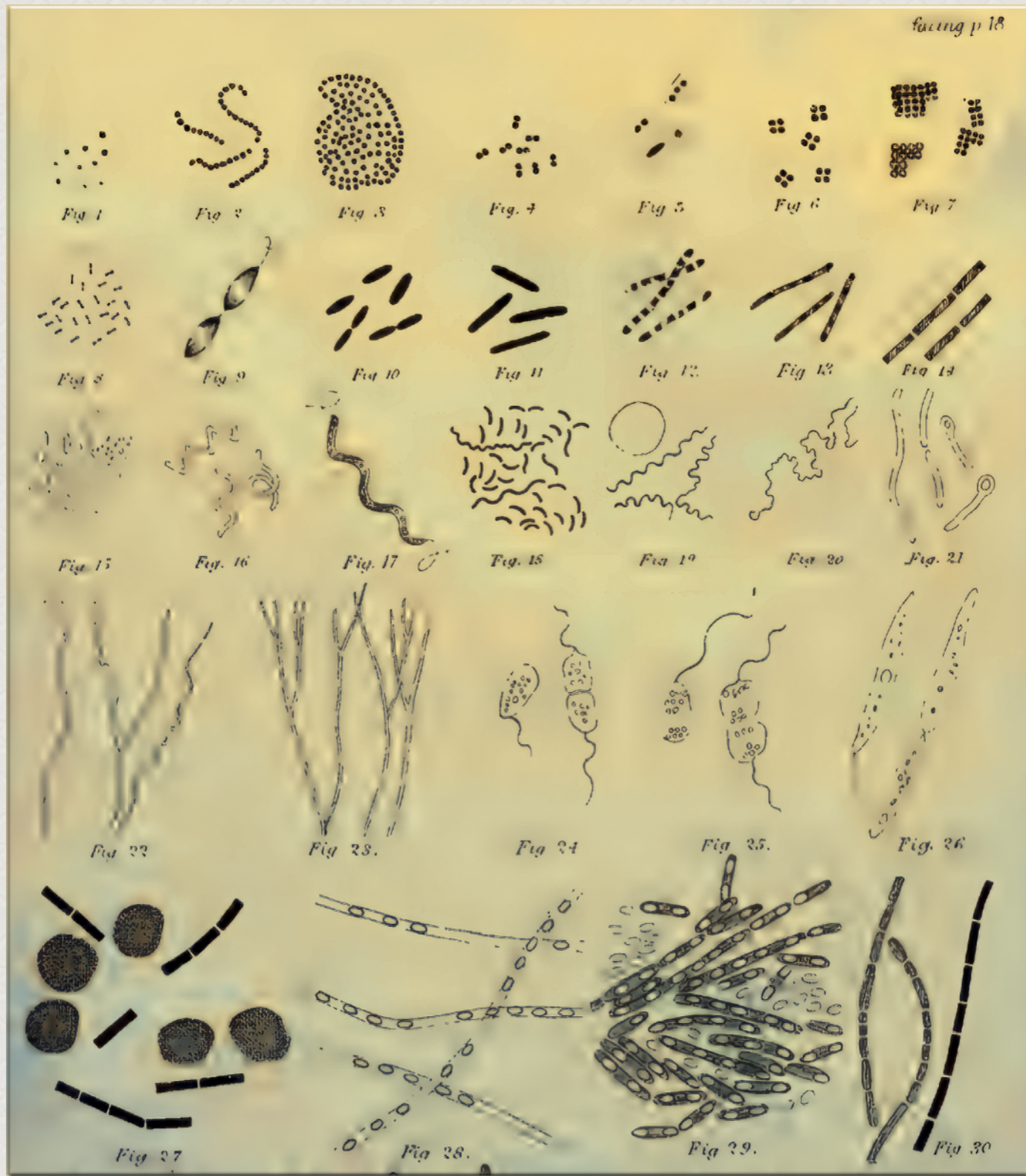
(DA 824.4)

Christ feels the woes of every sufferer. When evil spirits rend a human frame, Christ feels the curse. When fever is burning up the life current, He feels the agony. And He is just as willing to heal the sick now as when He was personally on earth. Christ's servants are His representatives, the channels for His working. He desires through them to exercise His healing power.

(DA 823.4)

- ✦ *DA*—published 1898
- ✦ The understanding of germs was developed between about 1850 and 1920.
- ✦ Joseph Lister and antiseptic surgery—1860s
- ✦ Robert Koch proved specific germs cause specific diseases—1870s
- ✦ Louis Pasteur and rabies—1885





Manual of Bacteriology 1890

Sin no more—John 5:14

- ✦ Sin—*hamartánō*—to act contrary to the will and law of God, to engage in wrong doing. Luke 15:18; Matthew 12:31. (Noun is *hamartia*.)
- ✦ John 8:11—sin no more
- ✦ 1 Corinthians 15:34—sin not

Does Jesus say how we sin no more?

- ✦ And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: (Matthew 6:13)
- ✦ Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go *and* sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come *and follow me*. (Matthew 19:21)
- ✦ Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any *man* will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and *follow me*. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. (Matthew 16:24-25)
- ✦ Following Jesus involves imitating the pattern.

How do we follow Jesus?

- ✦ Wrench yourself away from hurtful associations. Count the cost of following Jesus, and make it, with a determined purpose to cleanse yourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit. (*CE* 117.1)
- ✦ Forsaking all—So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple. (Luke 14:33)

He “that forsaketh not all that he hath,” says Jesus, “cannot be My disciple.” Whatever shall divert the affections from God must be given up. **Mammon** is the idol of many. Its golden chain binds them to Satan. **Reputation** and worldly **honor** are worshiped by another class. The life of **selfish ease** and freedom from responsibility is the idol of others. These are Satan’s snares, set for unwary feet. (5T 83.1)

But these slavish bands must be broken; the flesh must be crucified with the affections and lusts. We cannot be half the Lord's and half the world's. We are not God's people unless we are such entirely. Every weight, every besetting sin, must be laid aside. (*5T* 83.1)

Jesus also said:

- ✦ Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke *is* easy, and my burden is light. (Matthew 11:29–30)

- ✦ John 3:35—the Father loveth the son—
agapao
- ✦ John 5:20—the Father loveth the son—
phileo
- ✦ John 5:42—the love of God—*agápē*
- ✦ John 5:20—will shew him greater works

Dead—*Nekros*

- ✦ Most frequent use is death of the body
- ✦ But can also mean spiritually dead
- ✦ Matthew 8:22—let the dead bury their dead—*nekros* is used both times
- ✦ Ephesians 2:1—dead in trespasses and sins
- ✦ Colossians 2:13—dead in your sins
- ✦ Luke 15:24—prodigal son was dead

- ✦ Life—*zoe*—For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself; (John 5:26). This life is described by Ellen White in this way:
- ✦ In Christ is life, original, unborrowed, underived. (*DA* 530.3)

The life that is in the Son of God is the life the Father has given him, and this verse tells us it is the same kind of life the Father possesses. The Father's life is original and is unborrowed and underived from any source, and this is the kind of life he has given the Son. The Son's life is different in one sense in that it is derived, or comes, from the Father. The Father is the source, and his life is original. We do not understand how the Father has always been and how he has always had life, but we know from this verse that he gave this kind of life to his Son.

Trinitarian Seventh-day Adventists use the following statement about Christ's life as an example that Ellen White was trinitarian in belief: "In Christ is life, original, unborrowed, underived" (*DA* 530.3), but please note she did not say *Christ's life was original, unborrowed, underived*. Instead, she says that *in him* was life original, unborrowed, underived, and the Bible says this life came from the Father, i.e., he derived his life from the Father.

For more information about the context of the Ellen White statement, see *The Foundation of Our Faith*, page 85.