

Christ. This is clearly stated in Matthew 8:16-17, where it is said that His healing works were done "that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses."

In the last part of this verse, the observers confess their error. Even though they had seen His great miracles, they had completely misunderstood the situation when He was seized and killed. It grieved them that such a good man should be "stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted." This was doubtless the feeling of many who were later converted on the day of Pentecost. It was certainly true of the disciples on the road to Emmaus, as they told the Man whom they took for a stranger about their great sorrow over the death of the One whom they had seen work so many miracles and whom they had hoped would redeem Israel (Luke 24:18-21).

Jesus Himself pointed to His great miracles of healing as evidence of the truth of His claims. This is brought out clearly in John 5:36; 10:38; 14:11. Those who had seen His great miracles of healing had failed to put full confidence in His claims to be divine. Now, however, they realized that His death was not the result of divine displeasure but had an entirely different meaning, which is brought out in Isaiah 53:5.

Interpreters have sometimes read the atonement back into the first half of verse 4, translating "pains" and "diseases" in the general sense of grief, suffering, or sorrows. However, even if translated in this general way, "griefs" and "sorrows" are not a normal way of expressing the idea of sin. Many Bibles give marginal references here to Matthew 8:16-17 and 1 Peter 2:24. Actually, 1 Peter 2:24 has only one word in common with the first half of Isaiah 53:4 - the word "bore." The verse gives a clear statement of the atonement of Christ and quotes from Isaiah 53:5, but it is a mistake to think of it as also quoting from verse 4.

At this point another wrong interpretation must be mentioned. It is sometimes said that the first part of Isaiah 53 describes a leper and that this is evidenced by use of the word translated "stricken." ^39 It is true that this word is used in the