

Old Testament to describe a person stricken with leprosy, but it is also employed in connection with other afflictions or injuries. Many centuries after the Old Testament was written, it came to be specialized to refer only to leprosy, but this is not true of the biblical usage. In this connection, it has been said that the reference in the previous verse to "one from whom men hide their faces" points either to the desire of a leper to hide his disfigured face or to the desire of a leper's friends not to look in his direction. While the phrase could thus describe a leper, it could equally well apply to one suffering the humiliation of being crucified. Many of Jesus' disciples fled, and even Peter denied that he knew Him. There is no reference to leprosy in this passage.

The fifth verse gives the true explanation of His suffering. The fact of the vicarious atonement is presented four times in this verse. Four times "he" and "we" are contrasted. He suffered on account of our sins. As a result of His suffering, we are healed.

The first two statements in the verse give the reason the Servant of the LORD would suffer. It was on account of our transgressions that He was wounded; it was on account of our iniquities that He was bruised.

The last two statements give the results of His suffering. The chastisement that He took upon Himself gives us peace with God and produces peace in our hearts; the scourging that He suffered makes it possible for us to be healed.

The word translated "chastisement" ⁴⁰ is difficult to render in English. In the King James Version it is translated "chastening," "chastisement," or "correction" fourteen times, but is rendered as "instruction" thirty times. Once it is translated "discipline" (Job 36:10). The reader of Proverbs is told to apply his heart to instruction, to hear the instruction of his father, and not to despise the chastening of the Lord. Proverbs 4:13 says, "Take fast hold of instruction." Examination of these and other passages makes it clear that the word indicates not only something unpleasant administered by someone else, but also a discipline that one willingly takes upon himself. In our present