

John 5:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For 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.

Analysis

This verse (omitted in many manuscripts) explains the troubling of the water. Whether original or not, it reflects first-century beliefs about angelic intervention in natural phenomena. The theological point remains: people sought healing through ritual means, but Christ offers healing through relationship. Reformed theology emphasizes that ceremonies point beyond themselves to Christ.

Historical Context

Bethesda's pool had five porches where invalids waited for the water's movement, believing it brought healing. Archaeological excavations have confirmed the pool's existence and structure, validating John's geographical precision.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How do we sometimes trust in religious rituals or special moments rather than Christ Himself?
2. What does this passage teach about God's sovereignty over nature versus superstitious beliefs?

Interlinear Text

ἄγγελος γὰρ κατὰ καιρὸν κατέβαινεν ἐν τῇ
an angel For at a certain season went down into G3588
G32 G1063 G2596 G2540 G2597 G1722

κολυμβήθρᾳ, καὶ ἐτάρασσεν τὸ ὕδατος, ὁ οὖν
the pool and troubled of the water whosoever then G3767
G2861 G2532 G5015 G3588 G5204 G3588 G3767

πρῶτος ἐμβὰς μετὰ τὴν ταραχὴν τοῦ ὕδατος, ὁ γιὴς
first stepped in after G3588 the troubling G3588 of the water whole G5199
G4413 G1684 G3326 G5016 G5204 G5199

ἐγίνετο, ὡς δήποτε κατειχετο νοσήματι
was made of whatsoever he had disease G3553
G1096 G3739 G1221 G2722 G3553

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