

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	
κολυμβήθρα,	καὶ	ἐτάρασσεν	τὸ	ὕδατος,	ὃ	οὖν
the pool	and	troubled	G3588	of the water	G3588	whosoever then
G2861	G2532	G5015		G5204		G3767
πρῶτος	ἐμβὰς	μετὰ	τὴν	ταραχὴν	τοῦ	ὕδατος, ὅλης
first	stepped in	after	G3588	the troubling	G3588	of the water whole
G4413	G1684	G3326		G5016		G5204 G5199
ἐγίνετο,	ὧς	δήποτε	κατειχετο	νοσήματι		
was made	of	whatsoever	he had	disease		
G1096	G3739	G1221	G2722	G3553		

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