

Let us now turn to Hosea 4:17, where הַבְּרִי [HAVUR] is quite correctly translated "joined". Here, the vocalization given by the *Massorites* is essentially the same as in Isa. 53:5: no **daggesh** in the ה - and the required **hataf-patah** under the ב.

Conclusion. I am thus led to the inescapable - and to me, very logical - conclusion, that what the *Massorites* are telling us in the Isa. 53:5 passage is that "joined to Him" (or "in fellowship with Him" - strongly suggested by the root הַבְּרִ) are we healed.

[Healing, as well as forgiveness of sin, are thus clearly shown to be bound up in what Yeshua (Jesus) had accomplished on the cross - which He offers to those in fellowship with Him. There are also other passages in the Bible that show the interconnection between healing and forgiveness of sins, such as Psalm 103:3 and Matthew 9:2ff.]

Moreover, just as in the article "After the Order of?", here, too, the parallelism plays its role. Consider the following rendering of verse 5:

*But he was pierced for our transgressions,
he was crushed for our iniquities;
the chastisement for our wellbeing he bore -
and joined to him are we healed.*

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But what about I Peter 2:24-25, where the apostle quotes from Isa. 53:5 - "... by whose stripes you were healed" [NKJV]?

The original text had no punctuation nor verse separation. In his translation of the New Testament to Hebrew, done over 100 years ago, Prof. Franz Delitzsch - a German (gentile) theologian, a Hebrew scholar and rabbinic student - appears to disagree with the commonly accepted versification of this passage. I quote - my rendering into English - from the edition in my possession, with the Delitzsch versification:

"... and our sins He bore in His body on the cross [v.23]; that we might live to righteousness having been rid of sins [v.24]; in that הַבְּרִי [BAHAVURATTO]* you were healed, for you were as sheep gone astray but now are returned to the Shepherd (and) Custodian of your souls [v.25]."

* Delitzsch's versification strongly implies his understanding that this word means "joined to Him."

P.S. It is possible that Peter, dictating his letter to Silvanus, tells him to quote from Isa. 53:5 - which Silvanus does, quoting from the LXX, with which he is familiar.

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Final note. The word rendered - in English and other translations - "stripes" (or "wounds" or "bruises"), is rendered (correctly) in the **singular** in the LXX translation!