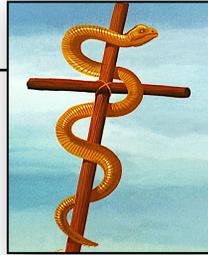


Numbers: Look & Live



“But the people grew impatient with the long journey, and they began to speak against God and Moses...” “So the LORD sent poisonous snakes among the people, and many were bitten and died...” “So Moses made a snake out of bronze and attached it to a pole. Then anyone who was bitten by a snake could look at the bronze snake and be healed.” Numbers 21:4-6, 9 NLT

God fulfilling His Covenant promises to Israel. (Ex. 23:20f)

Theme of Numbers: “The Book Of **MURMURINGS**.” God had to discipline Israel for 2 generations.

Question: Have you ever felt like God was disciplining you?

Proverbs 3:11-12 NLT *“My child, don’t reject the LORD’S discipline, and don’t be upset when He corrects you. For the LORD corrects those He loves, just as a father corrects a child in whom He delights.”* (See Heb. 12:7, 9-11)

Central Lesson

Beware of Unbelief! Look to God and be Saved!

I. **LISTEN TO ME! – BELIEVE MY PROMISES!**

“In a changing world we can rely on the unchanging TRUTH of God’s Word.”

A. **STOP YOUR GRUMBLING OVER TRAVEL!** Num. 21:1-3 (33:40)

1. **The Sin Of Self-Destructive PRIDE!**
2. **The Sin Of Impatient COMPLAINING!**
 - a. **Against GOD and MOSES.** 21:4
 - b. **Against the Environment!** 21:5

“Why have you brought us out of Egypt to die here in the wilderness?” Where did **this** come from?

3. **The Sin Of Refusing To Give God Their HEARTS!** *Psa. 78:7-8 Counsel given to all future generations based on Israel’s complaints.

“Don’t befriend angry people or associate with hot tempered people, or you will learn to be like them and endanger your soul.” Prov. 22:24-25 NLT, (Eph. 4:26f)

“The LORD will abandon you because you have abandoned the LORD.” Num. 14:43

4. **They Broke The 10th Commandment.** Ex. 20:17

The other nine are “Behaviors.” This is the only one about “Thought.” “Covet” means: to “own and control” what someone else has! They wanted control! Isa. 53:6

B. **STOP COMPLAINING ABOUT THE FOOD!**

“There is nothing to eat here and nothing to drink. And we hate this horrible manna!” 21:5 NLT (NIV “detest this horrible food!”)

1. **Manna Was God’s Survival Rations** Given: **Ex. 16:13-36;** Described: **Num. 11:7-8**
2. **Rejection was like spurning God’s grace!** *Jn. 6:32-33, Symbolizing Jesus, the Living Word!
- C. **STOP TESTING CHRIST!** *1 Cor. 10:9-13

They were “Putting God to the Test!”

“We start to grumble when our attention shifts from what we have, to what we don’t have. The people of Israel didn’t seem to value what God was doing for them – setting them free, making them a nation, giving them anew land – because they were so wrapped up in what God wasn’t doing for them.” (Life Application Bible, 1 Cor. 10:10)

II. **LOOK UP TO ME! – RECEIVE AND BE SAVED!** Num. 21:6-9

A. **Key Words:**

1. **“Fiery Snakes” = symbolize man’s SIN.**
No warning was given.
2. **“We have sinned” - confession of Sin.** 21:7

B. **Comparisons Of Bronze Snake With Christ**

Jesus said, *“And as Moses lifted up the bronze snake on a pole in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up (crucifixion), so that everyone who believes in Him will have eternal life.”* *Jn. 3:14-15 NLT

1. Snake was lifted up on the pole. **Jesus was lifted up on the cross** becoming “sin for us,” our sin-bearer. (2 Cor. 5:21; Rom. 8:3; Gal. 3:13; 1 Pet. 2:22-24; Isa. 53:6)
2. God provided no antidote for the venom.
3. **Jesus is the only mediator!** *Acts 4:12; 1 Tim. 2:5
4. Every Israelite had to look for himself, to be cured and live. *“God gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.”* Jn. 3:16b NLT
5. The invisible power of God healed the people. The invisible power of Christ’s sacrifice and life saves the soul who repents, receives, and trusts. Rev. 3:20
6. The bronze snake Moses made became an idol and was destroyed by King Hezekiah (2 Kgs. 18:4). A crucifix can be worshipped or a good luck charm.

III. **LEARN TO GLORIFY ME! – TRUST ME!**

Moses’ Reasons For God’s Use Of The Wilderness

1. **To HUMBLE Them**, so they wouldn’t become proud later in prosperity. Deut. 8:14-16
2. **To Remember WHO the LORD God Is.** Deut. 8:17-18; Phil. 4:19
3. **To Reinforce Their TRUST In God’s Power Alone!** Deut. 8:19-20 (*Psa. 37:5)

Central Lesson: **Beware of Unbelief! Look to God and be Saved!**

► Accept Christ as your Savior. ► As a Christian, dedicate your life to Christ. ► Invite someone to next Sunday’s study. ► Attend a small group. ► Read the Bible this week & journal meaningful verses. ► Pray for friends that need Jesus.