

A Serpent of Brass

Text: Numbers 21:4-9

- I. The Sin (Numbers 21:4-5)
 - A. Discouragement was the root of their sin.
 - B. Doubt followed on the heels of discouragement.
 - C. Disrespect was the result of their attitude.
 1. Paul says their sin was in tempting the Lord (1 Cor. 10:9).
 2. Moses explains this tempting (Exodus 17:2, 7).
 3. The idea of the Greek word is to tempt or try so as to exhaust the longsuffering of God (cf. Psalm 95:6-11; 78:12-41).

- II. The Serpents (Numbers 21:6)
 - A. As punishment for their sin, God sent fiery serpents among them.
 - B. The idea of “fiery” is that the poison of the bite burned with great pain throughout the body.
 - C. The result of being bitten was death.

- III. The Salvation (Numbers 21:7-9)
 - A. Salvation began with confession (acknowledgement) of sin.
 - B. Prayer followed their confession. *{Note that Moses prayed for them.}*
 - C. But, it was not until God told them what to do (and they obeyed His command) that healing was found.
 - a. God, by His grace, provided the means of salvation.
 - b. Man, by his obedient faith, achieved his healing.

- IV. The Savior (John 3:1-21)
 - A. Following these events, the Israelites made an idol out of the brazen serpent (2 Kings 18:4).
 - B. Sadly, they misunderstood who the Savior actually was.
 - C. The brazen serpent on a pole was a figure of the Christ.
 1. Man must realize his sinfulness.
 2. He must approach God to find out how to be saved.
 3. He must look to the cross – God’s means of forgiveness.
 4. He must obey the teaching of Jesus.

Conclusion:

1. It is still possible to sin against the God of Heaven.
2. The wages of sin is still a fiery death (Romans 6:23).
3. But, God has provided a means of deliverance – salvation.
4. With obedient faith, may we all look to the cross of Christ.