

## Introductory verses:

**Matthew 6:11** Jesus Christ provides our bread day by day.

**Matthew 5:45** God sends the sunlight and rain on the just and the unjust.

**Isaiah 55:8-11** God sends the rain and snow to water the earth and provide our food.

## Primary Text: Numbers 21:4-9

The God of the bible is described as being very balanced. He is a God of great love and compassion, supplying all our needs. But he is also proclaimed to be a God of wrath, anger, and judgment.

### ***What was the horrible sin committed by the Hebrew people which brought God's wrath upon them?***

- Not murder or kidnapping
- Not assault upon a woman
- Not theft.
- Not adultery
- ✓ **Unthankfulness and complaining was their crime.**

We try to estimate which sins are big and which sins are small. Our estimation will not match up with God's estimation of sin. ***The Hebrews were judged for their lack of appreciation for God's blessings.***

- Remember that next time you think, *"I'm not all that bad. Certainly, God wouldn't judge me."*
- We often overlook God's many blessings in our lives and become unsatisfied. This is sin.

### ***The Lord God provided a way of escape for those who would look to Him.***

- He didn't remove the serpents that were causing the torment and death.
- He DID provide a remedy: Look and live.
  - People were suffering and dying while Moses was preparing the solution.
  - The years recorded in the 39 books of the Old Testament correspond to the preparation time of creating the serpent on the pole.
    - The human race endured many hundreds of years of suffering from sin while God was preparing the solution, a way of salvation: Jesus Christ on Calvary's cross.
      - That time was necessary to convince man of the depth and certainty of his guilt before God.
        - Convincing men of their sin-guilt is very difficult. God's witnesses know it.
- God didn't speak directly to the people, giving them instructions for survival.
  - He utilized His servant, Moses, to tell them the way of life.
  - The people would be foolish to ignore Moses and try another way.
    - Rituals, religions, good works, baptism, sacraments, methods, etc.
    - The preparation time allowed people time to find out nothing else worked.
- ***"...if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived."*** (vs 9)
  - There was no power in the brass serpent.
    - Later, the brass serpent became part of the national treasury and was worshipped. King Hezekiah destroyed it (2 Kings 18:4).
  - The people were healed by God when they believed God and obeyed Him.

## Jesus makes the connection:

**John 3:14** “And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have eternal life.”

- What God had Moses do for Israel prefigured what Jesus would do for all mankind.
- The Hebrews had one advantage: they knew when they'd been bitten and would die.
- When ministers neglect to preach against sin, they leave people unaware of their tragic sin condition that leads to death.
- God blesses us and we complain at the slightest inconvenience. That is a sin! That is the serpent's bite. We need to look to Jesus and live. If you will look to Jesus, He will forgive your sins and save your soul.
  - *“That's too easy. That can never work.”*
    - It was easy to look at the serpent on the pole. No Israelite bitten by a serpent didn't at least try it.
      - When they looked, they didn't gradually begin to get better. They were instantly saved from death.
      - The moment you trust Jesus Christ as your Savior, you will be saved and have eternal life.

**John 3:15** “That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.”

- The moment you look to Jesus Christ in true faith, you have eternal life.

**The serpent was lifted up on a pole**

**Jesus Christ was lifted up on a cross**

Looking to the serpent was the only way to live after being bitten.

Looking to Jesus Christ is the only way to escape the wages of sin, which is death.

**Everyone who looked to the serpent in the wilderness was healed without condition.**

**Everyone who comes to Jesus Christ will be saved without condition.**

- **“Whoever”** is an unconditional term. No sinner is left without a way of salvation.
  - There are no “big sins” or “little sins.” All sin will condemn you to hell forever unless you look to the Savior.
  - You've been bitten. Sin is killing you and condemning you. Don't count on having *“time to get saved later.”* You don't know how much time you have. Why not get saved today?
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