

The background is a solid teal color. There are several decorative elements: a red vertical bar in the top right corner, and several semi-transparent teal circles of various sizes scattered across the page. The text is centered and written in a white, bold, sans-serif font.

Snakes On The Plain!

Numbers 21:4-9

- ▶ Throughout the centuries, God has always been proactive in His quest to secure a relationship with His children, BUT not on our terms

“If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and forgive their sins and will heal their land.” 2 Chronicles 7:14

**If God’s People Ever Needed To Be Humble, Pray,
Seek God, And Turn From Wickedness, It Is Now!
(God Intervenes For His Children)**

Observations

- ▶ Even though we sometimes seek to live lives that jeopardize our favor with Him, He still strives to save us through obedience to His crucified Son; John 3:14-15

“Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, even so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in Him.”

- ▶ Then Jesus verbalizes two of the most famous verses of the Bible, John 3:16-17

BUT WHAT ABOUT VERSE 14?

The Story Jesus Refers To Is In Numbers Chapter 21

- ▶ Israel had been delivered from Egypt, and they were being led by God through the directions of Moses to Canaan, the promised land
- ▶ In verses 1-3, the Bible says that they were attacked by a King of the Canaanite nation, and some of the Israelite people were actually taken as prisoners
- ▶ The Israelites then promised God, that if God would bless them with subduing the Canaanites and allow them to rescue their Israelite brethren, they would completely destroy the Canaanites

This Is How God Wanted His People To Deal With The Enemy! Deuteronomy 7:1-3

“When the Lord your God brings you into the land you are entering to possess and drives out before you many nations—the Hittites, Girgashites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites, seven nations larger and stronger than you—and when the Lord your God has delivered them over to you and you have defeated them, then you must destroy them totally. Make no treaty with them and show them no mercy.”

Observations

- ▶ The Israelites, God's people, were told to deal with the Enemy in the Old Testament like we are taught to DEAL WITH SIN (the archetype) in the New Testament
- ▶ Don't play around with it, don't compromise with it, and don't entertain sin in your life (don't PLAN to do it every now and then, or keep it saved on your cellphone or T.V.) (don't defeat it, then test yourself)
- ▶ Moses tells them that the reason they needed to destroy the enemy is the same reason we need to relinquish our seat next to the enemy (Verse 4)

“...for they will turn your children away (infect them) from following me to serve other gods, and the Lord's anger will burn against you and quickly destroy you.”

- ▶ Tolerating sin does not cause it to remain idle; James 1:13-16 (hanging around the sinful lifestyle doesn't improve you; it's infectious and poisonous like snake venom)

This Brings Us To Our Text For Today

- ▶ In Numbers 21 verses 4-5, God's people began to resent God's instructions on their journey and provisions
- ▶ They complained about the route, the geography in which they were travelling (like us) and grew impatient with Him. We complain about our path too: *"I've lost out on things since becoming a Christian"*

"Why is my hill/circumstance more difficult," "Why are my finances more scarce," "I was living better when I wasn't a Christian," "When I was gambling" "This church life is just not working out for me" (genie mentality)

- ▶ They complained about the scarcity of amenities that they had grown accustomed to, the food they called, *"horrible," "miserable," "worthless,"* and longed for their slavery days in Egypt. You see, leaning on God would be *sacrificial*
- ▶ In effect they were saying, *"If we could undo the miraculous plan of God's salvation and return to the oppression in Egypt, we would have it better."* (we want to go back to Egypt, bondage, a type of sin, immorality, selfishness, party life; Remember Romans 6:1-4;17)

Their Lack Of Faith Reminds Me Of Ours!

- ▶ Their faithfulness and relationship to God was only as good as “the next blessing” they would receive from God and not the previous ones
- ▶ Guys, ladies, imagine if your spouse’s love for you was only as good as “the next blessing,” “What have you done for me lately!” rather than your track record of past, consistent graciousness and love
- ▶ What if your marriage was based on “*the next trick you perform?*” (*performance based rather than grace-based*)
- ▶ What if your raise at work was always based on next year, as opposed to your last 10 years of loyalty?

The Point: Don't Hold God a Hostage For Your Love!

- ▶ Love Him and serve Him even more because of what He has already done for you (don't forget it)
- ▶ Wait on the Lord, like David, His servant did, (20 years from his anointing as king to being crowned)

You ever wait 20 years for your first promotion?

- ▶ Psalms 27:14, *“Wait on the Lord: be of good courage: and he shall strengthen thine heart.....”*

Isaiah 40:31, *“They that wait on the Lord shall renew their strength.....”*

So Now God Is Angry at the Impudence of the Israelites and Sends Poisonous Snakes Among the People

“Then the Lord sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died.” Verse 6

They got sick because they had sinned against God!



Die von giftigen Schlangen gebissenen Israeliten genesen beim Anblick der ehernen Schlange.
Mose eine eherner Schlange und richtete sie auf zum Zeichen, und wenn jemanden eine Schlange biss, so sah er die eherner Schlange an und lebte.
IV Mose. Cap. 21. v. 9.

Observations

- ▶ So the disciples in John 9 were not entirely out of line when asking Jesus about the man who had been blind from birth
- ▶ It was commonly observed that an illness could be the result of sin; Mark 2:5-12, Jesus told a paralyzed man as He healed him, *"Thy sins be forgiven thee,"* indicating a correlation in this man's history between his paralysis and his past
- ▶ We also know that many health issues are the result of our mistreatment of ourselves and others (C.O.P.D and smoking, some forms of Diabetes II, H.I.V., S.T.D.'s, Hepatitis B,C)
- ▶ On the other hand, the sinfulness in the fall of man justifies God's allowances of the miseries of life (Genesis 3:17-19)
- ▶ The fall of man initiated the aging process, man's deterioration and ultimate physical death (growing tired, struggling, wearing out of muscles, bone, tissues, brain, body)

Observations

▶ Would God punish his children by allowing illnesses to occur to them that would turn their hearts back toward Him?

▶ Look at what God had said to Israel in Exodus 15:26

“... If you listen carefully to the voice of the Lord your God and do what is right in His eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all of His decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the Lord who heals you.”

Question:

Has An Illness Ever Drawn You Closer To God?

**(Yours or your child's, parent's, spouse's,
sibling's, a pandemic)**

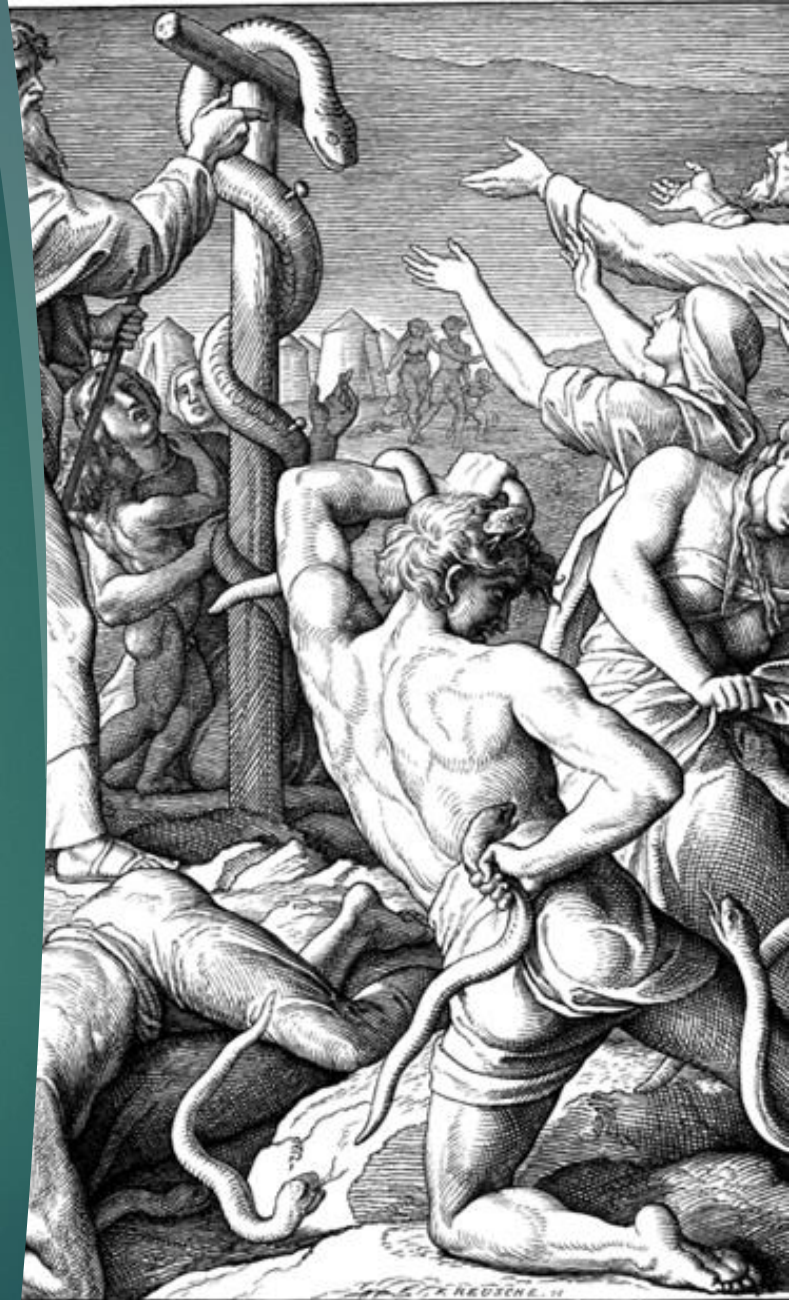


Sickness Can Have An Evangelical Effect!

(The Israelites diagnosed that their present condition was due to their *sin condition*, Numbers 21:7)

Snake Bite Consequences

- ▶ Local Tissue necrosis
inoculated tissue dies and needs to be removed
- ▶ Neuromuscular Junction
Paralysis (neurotoxin)
- ▶ Coagulopathy
Lose clotting ability and bleed to death
- ▶ Shock-vascular collapse



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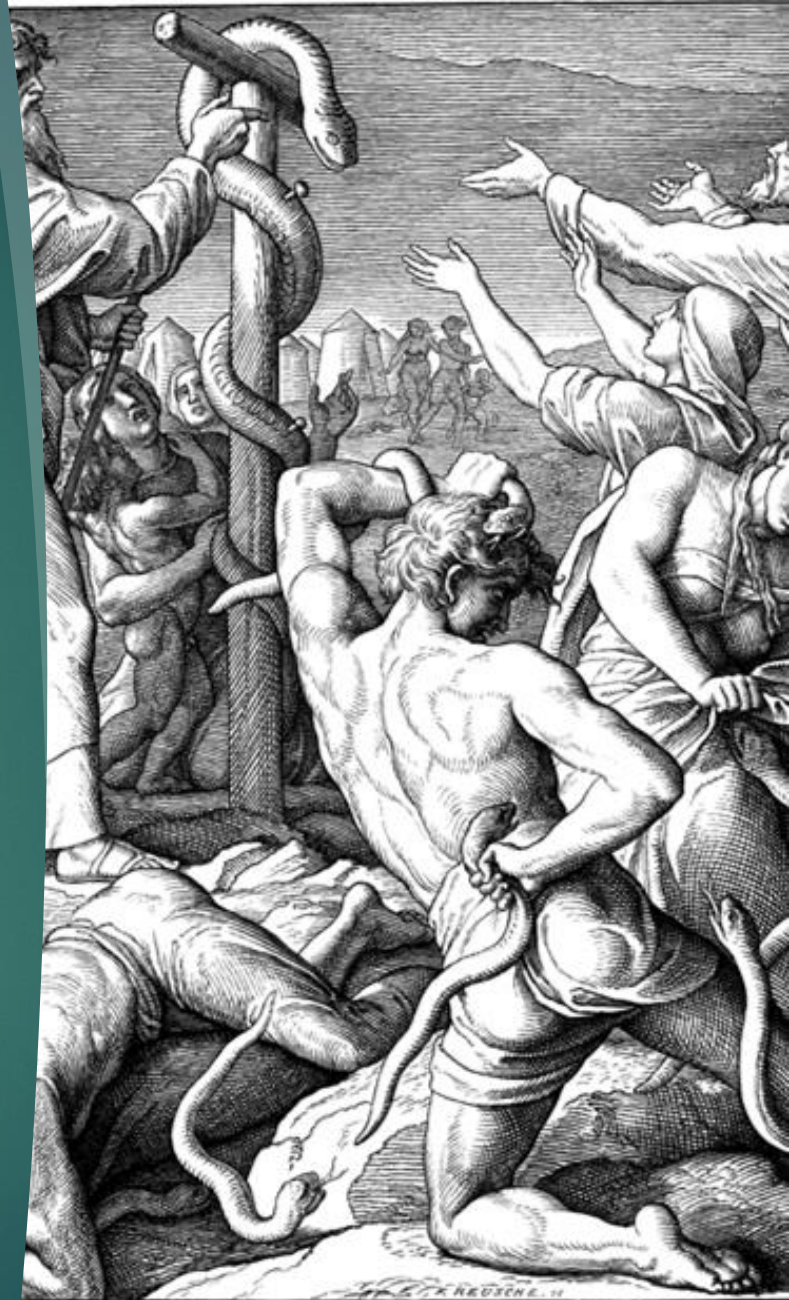
Observations: What Was the Cure? Numbers 21:7-9

Their Cure Was the Same as Ours For Sin!

#1 They had to admit their guilt (they did)

#2 They had to obey God's commands

The Lord said to Moses, "Make a Snake and put it up on a pole; Anyone who is bitten can look at it and live." So Moses made a bronze snake and put it on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived."



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The Cure for the Snakebite Venom Of Sin!

#1 We have to admit our guilt

Acts 2:37; 1John 1:9

#2 Be obedient to the Cross of Christ

Acts 2:38, Then Peter said unto Them, Repent, and be baptized, everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift Of the Holy Ghost."

".....as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up" John 3:14



The Plan Of Salvation

Hear the Gospel

1 Corinthians 15:1-4

Believe the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Repent of Sins

Acts 17:30

Confess Christ

Romans 10:9-10

Be Baptized

Acts 2:38