

IF I BE LIFTED UP
Part 2
The Staff and the Serpents
Numbers 21:1-9, John 3:1-17

Here is part two for the lesson series, “If I Be Lifted Up”. We will learn about the connection between Christ saving the world and the story he used where Moses saved the Israelites from venomous snakes.

BIBLICAL QUESTIONS

1.) Who approached Jesus? What did he say and how did Jesus answer?

John 3:1-3, 1 Peter 1:22-23

2.) How did the man respond to Christ? If you were in his situation, how would you respond as well?

John 3:4

3.) What did Jesus say to clarify His initial statement?

John 3:5-8, Matthew 3:13-17

4.) What did the man ask Jesus and what does Christ say as a response?

John 3:9-13

5.) What story did Jesus use to explain His mission and what plans does He have for all people?

John 3:14-17, Romans 5:6-8, Galatians 2:20, Galatians 4:4-8

6.) What event happened to the Israelites and what was the result from them asking God for help?

Numbers 21:1-3

7.) After the success, what did the Israelites do and what accusation did they make towards God and Moses?

Numbers 21:4-5

8.) Question 7 is an example from one of the multiple times the Israelites complained and spoke out against God and Moses. Read the scriptures below and next to each group of verses write the event and complaint given and how God remedy that situation.

A.) Exodus 14:10-22

B.) Exodus 16:1-4

C.) Exodus 17:1-7

D.) Numbers 13:27-14:4 & Numbers 14:26-34

E.) Numbers 20:2-13

9.) The last example from the question above cost Moses a chance to enter into the promise land. Still he was with them leading the way through their complaints from (Numbers 21:4-5). When this happened how did God respond to the people's behavior and words.

Numbers 21:6

10.) When looking at the serpents/snakes they are often referred to as fiery or poisonous. In reality snakes can be venomous or constrictors. Venom is different than poison in that venom has to be injected into the body where as poison can simply be applied or ingested. If you compare snake's venom to sin, what ultimately happens when people are in a sinful state?

Romans 6:20-23, Romans 1:28-32, Genesis 3:1-5

11.) What did the people say after the calamity and what was the solution to save them?

Numbers 21:7-9

PERSONAL QUESTIONS

A.) In what ways are we similar to the Israelites during Moses time?

B.) Jesus has a desire to save all people. How can we bring people to Christ so they can also have an opportunity to be saved?

C.) In this lesson snakes were used as means of correcting people from the sin of trying to overthrow God and His servant. Although this is one type of sin, in reality there are plethora of different types. Using the venom analogy there are four different types of venom that affects the body. Next to each one listed below, write out an example of sin that would fit that type of venom.

1.) Hemotoxic – venom that affects the heart and cardio system, which causes immediate and intense pain as well as inflammation and death. (Lashing out in anger over an incident – road rage.)

2.) Neurotoxic – venom that affects the nervous system, which may not be as painful due to the nerves shutting down. This will cause respiratory failure and death. (Planning a moment of adultery, or King David trying to take care of his sin with Bathsheba.)

3.) Cytotoxic – venom that affects cells, usually blood cells making them thin and non-clotting. This makes it easy to bleed from any cut or bruise. (Sins that take time grow over time until reprobate mind takes place.)

4.) Proteolytic – venom that affects the molecular structure of cells in the body usually infects the proteins. (Small sins that no one sees or knows about but it still affects your relationship with God.)

Just a Thought

Jesus wanted to use the story of the Bronze serpent to reveal to everyone that He is the ultimate savior for all people. He recognizes that people are in a sinful state but it is His desire save everyone. As you can see, there is a wide variety of venoms, which for this lesson means there are wide varieties of sins. No matter how great, small, painful, or personal they will all lead to death and damnation. However, that is not the end. God has a plan to save everybody. All we have to do is trust in Jesus Christ and those sins will not have the same affect in our lives. Knowing this is awesome, but now let's tell others about this grace saving love that Jesus is offering to all people.

Next week we're going to end the series by studying an example of a person who had an instant ministry of telling their community about Jesus Christ. (John 4:1-42)

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