

The Serpent In The Wilderness



Israel-



Num. 21:4-9

Jno. 3:14-15



Man-

I. The Malady: Bite Of Serpent-

- A. Serpent - Venom.
- B. Venom Spreads Thru Body.
- C. Widespread Throughout Camp.
- D. Bite Painful.
- E. Deadly Results. Num. 21:6.
- F. Incurable By Human Means.

II. The Remedy.

- A. Uplifted Serpent.
- B. Resemblance Of Cause + Cure.
- C. Published in Camp.

III. The Appropriation.

- A. Simplicity.
- B. Necessity.

I. The Malady: Sin-

- A. The Old Serpent - Sin
- B. Sin Poisons Whole Body. Matt. 15:18-19
- C. Widespread - Whole World. Rom. 3:23.
- D. Sin Brings Pain + Sorrow. Jas. 1:13-15.
- E. Sin Brings Death. Rom. 13:9; Ezek. 18:4.
- F. Sin Incurable By Human Means. Heb. 9:26.

II. The Remedy.

- A. Uplifted Christ. Jno. 3:14-16; 12:32.
- B. Resemblance Of Cause + Cure. Rom. 8:3;
1 Cor. 15:21; 2 Cor. 5:21; Heb. 7:26.
- C. Publish To World. Mt. 28:19; Mk. 16:15.

III. The Appropriation. Isa. 45:22.

- A. Simplicity. John 6:37.
- B. Necessity. John 3:18; Mt. 7:21.

THE SERPENT IN THE WILDERNESS

Num. 21:4-9

INTRO: Jesus in his personal teaching saw an analogy, or resemblance, or similarity between fallen Israel and the fallen human race. Read John 3:14-15.

I. THE MALADY (DISEASE) IN ISRAEL: BITE OF SERPENT.

- A. The Serpent would bite the Israelites, and impart its poisonous venom.
- B. Once the serpent struck, the venom soon spread through the person's body.
- C. This malady was widespread throughout the camp.
- D. The bite was painful. The term "fiery" probably refers to the burning caused by the venom. The bite of the "Fiery Serpent" burned and tormented the victim.
- E. This bite was dangerous and deadly in result. Num. 21:6.
- F. The malady was incurable by human means. Israel had no remedy for the serpent's venom.

II. THE MALADY IN MAN: SIN (Sin is the disease that destroys man's relationship with God. ISA. 59:1-2.)

- A. The Old Serpent, the Devil, communicated sin to man. (Communicate means "to make others partake of.") Satan tempts man and entices him to sin.
- B. Once sin enters the heart, the entire man is poisoned. Matt. 15:18-20.
- C. Sin is widespread; it is among all men, the whole world. Rom. 3:23. "For all have sinned."
- D. Sin brings pain and sorrow (sin the disease). James 1:13-15. "Let no man say when he is tempted."
- E. Sin brings death (disease brings separation). Hosea 13:9; Ezek. 18:4.
- F. Sin was incurable by human means. Heb. 9:26.

III. THE REMEDY (CURE) FOR ISRAEL: UPLIFTED SERPENT

- A. The uplifted serpent was the means of curing the malady for Israel. Num. 21:7-8.
- B. There was a resemblance in cause and cure. The brazen serpent looked like the fiery serpent, but the venom was not there. As sickness and death came by the fiery serpent, life and health came by the brazen serpent.
- C. The serpent of brass was published in all the camp. It was lifted up so all could see it; the cure was made known.

IV. THE REMEDY FOR MAN: UPLIFTED CHRIST.

- A. The uplifted Christ. Read John 3:14-16, 12:32. Both remedies were prescribed by God.

- B. There was again a resemblance of cause and cure. God sent His Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, but without sin. Rom. 8:3; 1 Cor. 15:21; 2 Cor. 5:21; Heb. 7:26.
 - C. This cure was published to whole world. Matt. 28:19; Mark 16-15.
- V. THE APPROPRIATION FOR ISRAEL.
- A. The Simplicity. Looking upon the serpent was something all could do, even the weakest.
 - B. The Necessity. If they refused to look, they were lost.
- VI. THE APPROPRIATION FOR MAN. Isa. 45:22
- A. The Simplicity. Coming to Christ as God commands is something even the weakest and most sinful can do. John 6:37.
 - B. The Necessity. Without faith and obedience there is no salvation. John 3:18; also Mt. 7:21.
- CONCL: When God provides the cure, man must take steps to obtain it; he must take the steps that God prescribes.