

## **Sin, a Serpent and a Savior      Numbers 21:4-9**

### **Sin, a Serpent and a Savior    Introduction**

- Read Numbers 21:4-9

### **Sin, a Serpent and a Savior**

21:4-5    The complaint is unfair.

- God provided them with manna.
- He provided water from the rock.
- They were discontent, not forsaken.
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21:6-7    Their sin had consequences.

- The consequences helped them to see their sin.
- They ask Moses to intercede.
- He did – again.
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21:8-9    God provided a remedy.

- Faith was required to receive its benefit.

### **Biblical Context**

- Genesis 3:1-19 as background music
- 2 Kings 18:1-4 as a later development
- John 3:14-15 for Christ's use of the story

### **The Crisis**

- The sin itself
  - A state of rebellion
  - A wrong attitude toward God and others
  - Separation from God
- Sin's consequences
  - Death by snakebite
  - God as an adversary
  - Guilt before God
- The sinner's hopeless condition
  - A state of physical suffering
  - Awareness of guilt
    - Not merely a feeling
    - Knowledge of facts
  - Helplessness in the midst of the crisis.
- *Sin is the Trojan horse out of which a whole troop of afflictions comes. ... [and] it embitters affliction. Guilt makes affliction heavy. A little water is heavy in a lead vessel – and a little affliction is heavy in a guilty conscience. – Thomas Watson (1620 – 1686)*

### **The Remedy**

- Moses prayed; God responded.
- God gave the remedy.
- The remedy was directly related to the affliction.
- The remedy required a response.
  
- There was only one choice.
- This choice remained the only choice.
- No new choices were added.
  
- *The bitten Israelite was shut up to the brazen serpent; for the brazen serpent was God's exclusive remedy for the bitten Israelite. To look anywhere else was to get nothing; to look at God's provision was to get life. – C. H. Mackintosh (1820 – 1896)*

### **Christ as Our Remedy**

- Romans 6:23
- 1 John 2:1-2
- 2 Corinthians 5:20-21

### **Sin, a Serpent and a Savior Conclusion**

- The unpopularity of "sin"
  - If morals are relative then sin disappears.
  - But morals are not relative.
- Individual sin and sin in general
  - People sin; so what?
  - I have sinned.
  
- The need to see our need
- The need to accept God's remedy
- The superabundant quality of the cure
  
- *Christ's redemption was so plenteous, that had God willed it, if all the stars of heaven had been peopled with sinners, Christ need not have suffered another pang to redeem them all — there was a boundless value in His precious blood. And, sinner, if there were so much as this, surely there is enough for thee. – Charles Spurgeon (1834 – 1892)*