

Numbers 21:7-9

Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD that He take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. Then the LORD said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and it shall be that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, shall live." So Moses made a bronze serpent, and put it on a pole; and so it was, if a serpent had bitten anyone, when he looked at the bronze serpent, he lived.

While going through the wilderness for forty years, the Children of Israel went through various trials, usually brought upon themselves. One of them is in today's verses where the Children of Israel started to question God and what He was doing through His servant, Moses.

† **Numbers 21:5-6** *And the people spoke against God and against Moses: "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and our soul loathes this worthless bread." So the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and many of the people of Israel died.*

We have all questioned God at one time or another, or even several times in our walk with Him over the years. But thanks be to Jesus that He does not send fiery serpents to kill us when we do. But we do go through trials and testing, some we bring upon ourselves, and some are to show us where we are at in our walk with the Lord, but when we go through things, we all cry out to the Lord, seeking Him to take away the trial or testing. Yet He does not always do that, and we see that in today's verses.

First the crying out to God:

† *"We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD that He take away the serpents from us."*

God, I am going through this major _____. (you fill in the blank) and like the children of Israel, we even tell God how to fix what we are going through, "**take away the serpents from us.**" Send the money, give me a new car, give me a new job, give me a _____ or do _____ for me?

Yet God does not need our advice on how He needs to deal with what we are going through, nor does He listen and do what we tell Him to do, just like He did not with Israel:

Second, God's solution:

† *Then the LORD said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and it shall be that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, shall live."*

We don't like these types of answers from God, and the reason we don't is if you will notice, God did NOT take away the fiery serpents, just like He will not always take away our trial or testing, but He will always make a way to get us through it, just like He did for Israel, "***Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and it shall be that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, shall live.***"

Finally comes obedience, even though it may sound strange or having to TRUST GOD (Like we say on our money, which we trust more than God sometimes). Just like Israel had to trust God and His instructions, which is our third thing:

† ***"So Moses made a bronze serpent, and put it on a pole; and so it was, if a serpent had bitten anyone, when he looked at the bronze serpent, he lived."***

If you think about it, God's way was quite simple, but effective! God says to look at the serpent and you will live, yet how many did not look at the serpent and died? Did they not look because they felt God did not fix it their way, or they thought that their way was better, so they tried their own way, yet ended up dying?

How many times do we not listen to God or even wait upon Him, and the end results is failure or bad decisions that put us deeper into problems? We have all done it, and we should learn from our mistakes. And we have learned, because we are told to look to Jesus for salvation, and for how long did we try it our own way and fail, and now that we did it God's way, we have salvation, and have eternal life, no longer eternal death.

We all have struggles in life, yet if God is our God, then we should not just quote this next verse, but believe God for it, then when we do, let's wait upon Him, and be obedient when He instructs us.

† ***Isaiah 55:8-9 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts."***

† ***Psalm 27:14 Wait on the LORD; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the LORD!***