

Numbers 21:7

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.

If you are not familiar with what's going on in today's verse, check out the verses right before it.

† **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.*

The children of Israel got prideful, cocky and arrogant and thought they knew better than God and Moses, so they attacked God and Moses verbally. And the results was God teaching them a lesson. *So the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and many of the people of Israel died.*

The people asked for the Lord to take away the serpents, but the Lord did not take away the serpents, but made a way for them to be healed instead.

How many times have you gone through something and asked the Lord to take it away, but He didn't? Maybe lots of times? It doesn't always mean that the Lord is angry or upset with you or even punishing you, sometimes it's simply to strengthen you and to help you grow.

Think of today's verse and also read the next two verses after it.

† **Numbers 21:8-9** *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.*

When I read that, do you know what I read? I read that there were those who refused to look at the serpent on the pole. *when he looks at it, shall live.* Simply, all they had to do was look at the serpent, but some may have been angry with God for not taking away the serpents, so in their rebellion, they refused to look up at the serpent, the one thing that would heal them (Yet it wasn't the serpent on the pole that healed them, but the Lord did the healing).

If you think about it, it would be them trying to determine how they would be saved from the serpents. But think of how many people today refuse God's way to salvation and try to make their own way. When they do that, we know the end results, the same as it is with not heeding God's way with the serpents, death.

† **Proverbs 14:12** *There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.*

Sometimes we get stubborn and too big for our britches (ok you can tell I'm old for saying that) so the Lord will allow something to happen in our lives, or we create it ourselves, then we cry out to the Lord, *"Please take this away from me"* But God usually doesn't, and it's because He has a different way for us to get through it. But in our pride and arrogance we stand there with our arms crossed and say, "no Lord" (A oxymoron), and walk off in a huff, trying some other means to get out of it, and it doesn't work, because we just make things worse.

But, if you think about it, it's all part of the learning and growing process. And as we grow and mature in the Lord, we learn from our mistakes to just listen to the Lord the first time, and simply be obedient to what He is telling us to do, even if we think we are right, which we never are.

One of the best ways I have found to not be arrogant or cocky with the Lord is to read the last five chapters of the book of Job. If that doesn't set you straight, the God may just find some other way to help you mature and stop being a brat, and do you really want Him to do that?

† **Job 38:2-3** *Who is this who darkens counsel By words without knowledge? Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me.*