

WHO WOULD DARE?

Numbers 21:4-9

NUMBERS: IT'S NOT ABOUT THE NUMBERS

- Bemidbar = in the desert of
- The desert was God's classroom / lab for the training and preparation of Israel for a great adventure.

REVIEW: 7 KEY PRINCIPLES

- #1 – God is our difference maker.
- #2 – God's grace is our protection.
- #3 – God's gifts are good.
- #4 – Choose the easy way.

REVIEW: 7 KEY PRINCIPLES

- #5 – Brokenness is good!
- #6 – Embrace grace then throw grace.
- #7 – **Trust God's Remedy (for snake bite)**

OUTLINE

- When Sin Bites (Num. 21:4-6)
- The Gift of Brokenness / A Sign of Progress (Num. 21:7)
- Looking to the Bronze Serpent (Num. 21:8-9)

When God shows Israel what to do if bitten by a serpent, His remedy is about way more than just snake-bite.

WHEN SIN BITES – 21:4-6

- *Then they set out from Mount Hor by the way of the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; and the people became impatient because of the journey. The people spoke against God and Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this miserable food.”*

WHEN SIN BITES – 21:4-6

- *The Lord sent fiery serpents among the people and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died.*

WHEN SIN BITES – 21:4-6

- “Recalculating” – route choice prolongs journey.
- This becomes a trigger for “expanded” grumbling!
- “We will die before we get there, there is no food and water, and we hate this food!”
- Moses and God are the grumble targets.
- All sin bites – it does not promote our good.

WHEN SIN BITES – 21:4-6

- This was the “first serpent’s” strategy – to sow the thought that “God is holding out on you!”
- In what ways are you being tempted to live on your terms (and not God’s) because you think your life will be better when you “have it your way?”
- This passage is designed to help us understand that all sin bites!

WHEN SIN BITES – 21:4-6

- *For the Lord God is a sun and shield; The Lord gives grace and glory; No good thing does He withhold from those who walk uprightly (Ps. 84:11).*
- *Your iniquities have turned these away, And your sins have withheld good from you (Jer. 5:25).*
- All sin will always work against our good.
- This may not be readily apparent!

FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT

- You will be less inclined to crave evil things when you see the object of your temptation as bait in the trap!
- Don’t think that because it looks desirable, that it is beneficial. Use Scripture to ID bait!
- You will make wise choices as you resist the urge to “correct God’s opinion!”

BROKENNESS IS PROGRESS – 21:7

- *So the people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned, because we have spoken against the Lord and you; intercede with the Lord, that He may remove the serpents from us.”*
- First time Israel replaces blame-casting with brokenness.

BROKENNESS IS PROGRESS – 21:7

- Here is an honest self-assessment: “We have spoken against the Lord and you.”
- God likes this: “*But to this one I will look, To him who is humble and contrite of spirit, and who trembles at My word*” (Isa. 66:2).
- Clarify: There are two kinds of people – those who are broken and ...

BROKENNESS IS PROGRESS – 21:7

- The people make an astute request: “intercede with the Lord.”
- We do not have any “leverage” with God – our only hope lies in intercession by another.
- So Moses interceded and God revealed His solution.
- This is the last grumble sighting!

LOOK TO THE SERPENT – 21:8-9

- *Then the Lord said to Moses, “Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a standard; and it shall come about, that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, he will live.” And Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on the standard; and it came about, that if a serpent bit any man, when he looked to the bronze serpent, he lived.”*

LOOK TO THE SERPENT – 21:8-9

- Death (snake-bite) is the consequence of sin.
- God provides a grace-based (no merit) remedy.
- The remedy involves something lifted up and placed in public view.
- This “serpent on a stick” depicts the consequence of sin. Stare at what you have done!

LOOK TO THE SERPENT – 21:8-9

- Those who look to this remedy with a believing heart are delivered from death.
- Those who do not look are not saved!
- By what foolishness would a man refuse to look?
- Trust not in your own efforts but in God’s remedy for your sin – it is but for you to look with the eyes of faith. God’s solution is enough!

AN AMAZING PREVIEW

- *For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life (John 3:16).*
- Most quoted, but do you know the previous two verses?

AN AMAZING PREVIEW

- *As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; so that whoever believes will in Him have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life (John 3:14-16).*

AN AMAZING PREVIEW

- How is Jesus like a serpent on a pole?
- Who of us would dare to come into the presence of God on our own? “*Their leader shall be one of them, And their ruler shall come forth from their midst; And I will bring him near and he shall approach Me; **For who would dare to risk his life to approach Me?**’ declares the Lord” (Jeremiah 30:21).*

AN AMAZING PREVIEW

- Jesus is the only one who is fit to stand in the presence of God.
- None of us would survive.
- How amazing that Jesus volunteered to stand before God in our place. He did so as us!
- Jesus as a serpent on a pole is depicting this stunning reality. Our actions produce snake bite.

AN AMAZING PREVIEW

- God gave Jesus as the ultimate sin remedy: *He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him (2 Cor. 5:21).*
- Dying men are saved by the dying man – but only if they look to Him as their sufficient remedy. **Have you?**