

I. Introduction. Num. 21:4-9 | Co. 10:9-11

II. You need deliverance from the venom of sin.

A. You have sinned.

1. The children of Israel sinned by grumbling against God. Num. 21:4-5
2. Grumbling is no small sin. I Co. 10:9 Phil. 2:14ff
3. Sin has infected every member of the human race. Rom. 3:23 1:21 5:12 Isa. 53:6

B. The venom of your sin is deadly. Ro. 6:23 | Co. 15:56a

1. God sent fiery serpents as judgement for Israel's sin. Num. 21:6
2. Physical death illustrates the judgment of spiritual death. II Th. 1:9 Mt. 25:46
Heb. 9:27

C. Some are bitten and don't even know it. Phil. 3:8-9

III. God has provided a remedy for your healing.

A. God graciously provided a way of deliverance for the Israelites. Num. 21:7-8

1. The people repent and cry out to God for relief. Num. 21:7
2. Moses mediates, interceding with the LORD on their behalf. Num. 21:7b
3. The Lord answers and provides a remedy. Num. 21:8

B. We too must cry out to God for a remedy. I Tim. 2:5 Heb. 8:6 9:15 12:24

1. We must repent.
2. We must look to the One who can intercede with the LORD on our behalf.
3. We need a divine remedy.

C. God's deliverance comes through the same agency as His judgment. 3:14

1. God chose a serpent (the agent of poisoning and death) as the means of Israel's deliverance.
2. God chose a man (though death came through a man) as the means by which those who were dead in sin can receive life. I Co. 15:21 Ro. 8:3 He. 2:14-17

D. As the serpent was lifted up, so the Son of Man must be lifted up. v. 14b

1. The Son had to be *lifted up* by wicked men upon a cross. 3:14 12:32-34 8:28 Mark 8:31 Luke 24:7 | Jo. 3:5 | Co. 5:21 Ga. 3:13 | Pe. 3:18 Isa. 53:4-5 | Cor. 15:55-57
2. The Son was also lifted up and exalted by God the Father in His resurrection and ascension. 20:17 17:5 6:62 Acts 2:33 5:31 Phil. 2:9 Eph. 1:20 Isa. 52:13
3. We continue to lift up the Son of Man. 12:32 .

IV. Look (believe) to the one God has lifted up and He will heal (save) you. v. 15 Nu. 21:9

A. God's remedy is simple.

1. All the Israelites needed to do was look.
2. There is nothing for you to do but look to Christ in faith. 3:15-16

- B. God's remedy is sufficient.
 - 1. God offered that any who would look upon the serpent would live.
 - 2. Christ's healing death is of infinite value and is freely offered to all. 3:16
I Cor. 6:9-11

- C. God's remedy is effective: all who look are saved. v. 15
 - 1. Every bitten Israelite who looked upon the brass serpent lived. Num. 21:9
 - 2. Every sinner who looks in faith upon Christ lives. 3:16 6:37b Ro. 10:9-13
Mt. 4:23-25 9:35 15:29-31

- D. God's remedy is exclusive. 14:6 Acts 4:12
 - 1. There was no other way for the Jews to be healed.
 - 2. Jesus Christ is the only way sin's sting can be removed. 14:6 Ro. 3:20 Phil. 3:8-9

- E. God's remedy is enduring. 6:37 10:28 11:25-26
 - 1. Those who looked to the bronze serpent did not die of snakebite.
 - 2. Those who look to Christ receive eternal life. v. 15b-17 5:26 11:25-26 1:4 10:28

- F. God's remedy is personal.
 - 1. Every bitten Israelite had to look for himself.
 - 2. You must look to Christ for yourself.

- G. God's remedy is urgently needed.
 - 1. Those in Israel who refused to look perished.
 - 2. You must look to Christ now.

V. Conclusion: We lift up Christ before you today. Look to Him and live!

- A. We lift up Christ to those of you who have not yet believed.
Why would anyone refuse to look? I Cor. 1:18ff 2:14

- B. We continue to lift up Christ before Christians: keep looking to Christ.

- C. Christians, keep lifting up the crucified and risen Lord! Jo. 12:32

Discussion questions

1. To what Old Testament text is Jesus referring?
2. What had the children of Israel done wrong to provoke God's judgment?
3. How is Moses like Christ?
4. How is the bronze serpent like Christ?
5. How is the cure for those who were bitten by the snakes similar to the way of salvation?
6. In what ways is the Son of Man lifted up?
7. Why do believers need to continue to look to Christ?
In what ways do we look to Christ?
8. How can you lift up Christ before the lost?