

Look and Live

Numbers 21:4-9

January 8, 2023 | John Henschen, Lay Pastor

Setting

Numbers 21:4-9 | 4 From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. 5 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 we loathe this worthless food." 6 Then the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. 7 And 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. 8 And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live." 9 So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

Sin

Numbers 21:5 | 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 we loathe this worthless food."

Fruits of Complaining

1. Destroys relationships
2. Rejects ministry
3. Forgets grace
4. Questions the Lord
5. Produces rebellion

1 Corinthians 10:13 | No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

Judgment

Numbers 21:6 | Then the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died.

Repentance

Numbers 21:7a | And the people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you.

Intercession

Numbers 21:7b | Pray to the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people.

Romans 8:34 | Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

Hebrews 7:25 | Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

Deliverance

Numbers 21:8-9 | 8 And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live.” 9 So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

Colossians 2:17 | These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ

“When you stand in the sun and look down, you can see your shadow. It looks a lot like you, but it isn’t you. The Old Testament is full of shadows. And when we look at these shadows, we can see something that looks a lot like Jesus. Just like we can’t see everything about ourselves in our own shadow, we don’t see everything about Jesus in his shadows, but we do see some things about who he will be, what he will do, and how he will save.” – *I See Jesus* by Nancy Guthrie

John 3:14-15 | And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

1 Corinthians 1:18 | For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

BIG IDEA: Look to Jesus and live.

Benediction

John 3:16 | For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.