

# THE CURSE AND THE CURE

## **Numbers 21:4–5 KJV**

***4 And they journeyed from mount Hor by the way of the Red sea, to compass the land of Edom: and the soul of the people was much discouraged because of the way. 5 And the people spake against God, and against Moses, Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? for there is no bread, neither is there any water; and our soul loatheth this light bread.***

We said to you last week that the reason they “spake against” God and Moses is because they were *discouraged*. However, what they did not expect is that God would respond to their complaining by sending fiery serpents among them!

## **Numbers 21:6, 7 KJV**

***6 And the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and much people of Israel died. 7 Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord, and against thee; pray unto the Lord, that he take away the serpents from us. And Moses prayed for the people.***

Notice, to their credit, when the people realized their error they repented. This is what we must do whenever we experience the curse—we must REPENT!

Unfortunately, this is not what most Christians do. Instead of seeing repentance as something we do when we experience trouble, repentance is associated with something sinners and backsliders do. However, the Bible teaches that Christians also need to repent. In fact, unless we repent we cannot be healed!

## **James 5:15–16 KJV**

***15 And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. 16 Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.***

## **Numbers 21:7 KJV**

***7 Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord, and against thee; pray unto the Lord, that he take away the serpents from us. And Moses prayed for the people.***

Notice how the people asked God to “take away” the serpents. The phrase “take away” can actually be translated “remove” as it is in the *Septuagint* translation.

**Numbers 21:7 SEPTUAGINT**

***7 And, after coming forward, the people said to Moses, “We have sinned because we spoke against the Lord and against you; entreat, therefore, the Lord, and have him remove from us the serpent.” And Moses prayed to the Lord for the people.***

The *Septuagint* is a Greek translation of the Old Testament. It was likely the translation that Jesus would have used and would have quoted from. The reason this is important is because Jesus uses the same phrase in **Mark 16!**

**Mark 16:17–18 KJV**

***17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; 18 They shall take up serpents***

Again, the phrase “take up” should be translated “remove.” Therefore, Jesus is not talking about *handling* serpents. He’s talking about *removing* serpents or REMOVING CURSES. Apparently, one of the signs that you are a true believer is you will be actively “removing” curses people acquired because of their sin!

**John 20:21–23 KJV**

***21 Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. 22 And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost: 23 Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained.***

Jesus “sent” or *commissioned* His disciples to ‘remit’ (forgive, remove) the guilt/curses that result from people’s sin. And they were given this permission, not because they were apostles, but because they had received the Holy Spirit!

Now, we should add that He *did not* give them permission to remit sins (remove curses) from those who wouldn’t repent and believe. This is because the only people who have a right to be healed and delivered from the curse are those who are *justified*. (To be justified you must repent and believe the gospel!)

We must understand that God is the one who sends the curse. (And the reason He sends the curse is to force men to repent and believe the gospel.) This means that the curse can’t be removed unless a person repents and believes!

**Deuteronomy 32:39 KJV**

***39 See now that I, even I, am he, And there is no god with me: I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: Neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand.***

It's hard for some people to hear this, especially when you've been taught that all sickness and all disease and all calamity is from the devil. However, we're confusing the devil's power with authority. The devil may have some POWER, but all AUTHORITY belongs to God!

**Matthew 5:25 KJV**

***25 Agree with thine adversary quickly, whiles thou art in the way with him; lest at any time the adversary deliver thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and thou be cast into prison.***

In this case, the “officer” (the one who administers punishment) represents the devil. Moreover, he operates according to the will of the judge. Therefore, the devil administers the curse that is handed down by God! When we understand this, we will realize a very important lesson: God brings **the curse and the cure!**

## THE CURSE AND THE CURE

**Numbers 21:7–8 KJV**

***7 Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord, and against thee; pray unto the Lord, that he take away the serpents from us. And Moses prayed for the people. 8 And the Lord said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live.***

Notice, the people wanted God to “take away” or remove the serpents (the curse). However, rather than remove the serpents (curse), God came up with a cure! This is what we have failed to recognize. God isn't necessarily removing the curse. Instead, He's providing a cure from the curse. What's the cure?

**Numbers 21:8–9 KJV**

***8 And the Lord said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live. 9 And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived.***

Still today, the universal symbol for healing is a serpent on a pole! But, why use a *serpent* as a method of healing and deliverance? First of all, it wasn't simply a serpent that brought deliverance. It was a brass serpent that was *burned in the fire*. This symbolized how the curse had been judged. Afterwards, this same serpent was fixed to a pole and lifted up so that all might see it. All this foreshadowed what Christ would one day do for us on the cross!

**John 3:14–15 KJV**

***<sup>14</sup> And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: <sup>15</sup> That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.***

This is the cure for every curse—to “look on” the Lord Jesus Christ and believing that the curse has been judged through His death on the cross!

**Galatians 3:13 KJV**

***<sup>13</sup> Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:***

Whatever issue (curse) you have been dealing with, understand that Christ has already judged it. And if you will simply look on Him today, you will be cured of it and freed from it.