

The Bronze Serpent – Look to Jesus and Live

Numbers 21:4–9

John 3:14–16

Introduction

The Israelites were on their journey to the Promised Land. They became impatient, complained against God and Moses, and poisonous snakes came among them. Many people died. God then provided a surprising way of salvation—a bronze serpent lifted on a pole. This event points directly to Jesus Christ.

1. Sin Brings Death

The people's rebellion opened the door to judgment. The snake bites brought death.

Numbers 21:5–6

Romans 6:23

> "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

James 1:15

"Sin... brings forth death."

The greatest danger is not physical death but spiritual separation from God because of sin.

2. God Provided One Way of Salvation

God instructed Moses to make a bronze serpent and lift it up. Anyone who looked at it in faith lived.

Numbers 21:8–9

Jesus said:

"Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up."

John 3:14–15

The bronze serpent did not heal because of its material; healing came through faith in God's provision. Likewise, salvation comes through faith in Christ.

God's answer to sin is Jesus Christ.

3. Jesus Was Lifted Up for Our Salvation.

At the cross, Jesus took our punishment so that we could receive eternal life.

John 3:16

Isaiah 53:5

1 Peter 2:24

Everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness and eternal life.

Conclusion

The Israelites had only one choice: look to God's provision and live.

Today, God gives the same invitation:

John 3:16

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son..."