

“The Serpent & The Savior”

Numbers Chapter 21

I) A BATTLE (v1-3)

(v1-3) The king of Arad attacks Israel on their journey, (*Arad* can mean wild mule, dragon or fugitive). Here we see the power of prayer, without prayer Israel was defeated, with prayer God hears and defeats their enemy; (*Hormah* means devoted or consecrated to God, utter destruction).

II) THE WAR (v4-9)

(v4-5) **Once again we see complaining, grumbling, no faith in God!**

(v6) **The sting of death is sin!** (1 Cor. 15:56) What sins have the people committed? Two specific sins: (1) they had spoken against God; (2) they had spoken against Moses. They broke two commandments, first, not loving God; second not loving their neighbor (Moses).

(v7) **Here we see the people repent and ask for Moses to intercede.** Our Lord Jesus Christ made intercession for us in John Ch. 17 and on the cross when He said, “*Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do*” (Luke 23:34).

(v8-9) **The serpent of brass represents Christ, who became sin for us!** In 2 Corinthians 5:21 we read, “*For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*” Also, **1 Corinthians 15:57** - *But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.* Brass is symbolic of judgment, and on the cross, Christ bore our judgment for us. We also noticed that Moses was required to put the brass serpent on a pole and lift it up for all to see, whereas, when someone was bitten they can look at it by faith and live! We see this same story reviewed by Jesus in **John Ch. 3; 8:28; 12:30-33** and its symbolism unveiled at the cross!

III) THE WORSHIP (v10-20)

➤ **Israel is brought to the water to drink and they SING A NEW SONG!**
When one comes to faith in Christ you are filled with the Holy Spirit, with living water (John 7:37-39 - *On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.*) **We will be filled with the Spirit to sing with JOY unto the Lord! (Ephesians 5:18-21** - *And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another in the fear of God.*)

IV) THE VICTORY (v21-35)

➤ **FAITH + WORSHIP = VICTORY!** (i.e. – Joshua, David, Daniel, Peter, Paul)
➤ **FAITH MUST OVERCOME FEAR!** **1 John 4:18-19** - *There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. We love Him because He first loved us.*