

YOUTH WORSHIP

28 June 2025

Text: Numbers 21:1-9

Title: "Make a fiery serpent"

¹ *The king of Arad, the Canaanite, who dwelt in the South, heard that Israel was coming on the road to Atharim. Then he fought against Israel and took some of them prisoners.*

² *So Israel made a vow to the LORD, and said, "If You will indeed deliver this people into my hand, then I will utterly destroy their cities."*

³ *And the LORD listened to the voice of Israel and delivered up the Canaanites, and they utterly destroyed them and their cities. So the name of that place was called Hormah.*

⁴ *Then they journeyed from Mount Hor by the Way of the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; and the soul of the people became very discouraged 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 our soul loathes this worthless bread."*

⁶ *So the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and many of the 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 you; pray to the LORD that He take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people.*

⁸ *Then the LORD said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and it shall be that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, shall live."*

⁹ *So Moses made a bronze serpent, and put it on a pole; and so it was, if a serpent had bitten anyone, when he looked at the bronze serpent, he lived.*

Numbers 21:1-9

INTRODUCTION

1. The children of Israel were met with strong resistance

a) Edom refused the children of Israel access to their land Numbers 20

b) The king of Arad, a Canaanite also resisted the children of Israel

2. The battle with the king of Arad

- a) Arad attacked Israel and took Israelite prisoners
- b) Israel's vow to God
 - i) "If You will indeed deliver this people into my hand"
 - ii) "Then I will utterly destroy their cities"
- c) God's response
 - i) And the Lord listened to the voice of Israel
 - ii) And delivered up the Canaanites
 - iii) And they utterly destroyed them and their cities
 - iv) So the name of that place was called Hormah

GREAT DISCOURAGEMENT

Then they journeyed from Mount Hor by the Way of the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; and the soul of the people became very discouraged on the way.

Numbers 21:4

1. Journey from Mount Hor

2. By way of the Red Sea

- a) Because Edom had refused to give permission to step into their land
- b) It was a longer route

3. The soul of the people became very discouraged

- a) War
- b) Weariness

SPEAKING AGAINST GOD AND MOSES

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 our soul loathes this worthless bread."

Numbers 21:5

1. Speaking against

- a) God
- b) Moses

2. Confrontational questions

- a) "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness?"
 - i) An old issue – The Exodus from Egypt
 - ii) Another old issue – Death in the wilderness
- b) "For there is no food and no water"
 - i) Not true
 - ii) God had given them water from the rock
- c) "And our soul loathes this worthless bread"
 - i) The manna from God was despised as "worthless"
 - ii) Loathing of manna was clearly articulated

GOD'S RESPONSE

So the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and many of the people of Israel died.

Numbers 21:6

1. Fiery serpents were sent by God
2. They bit the people and many people died from snake bite
3. This was unusual and most frightening

THE DESPERATE PLEA OF THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL

Therefore 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.

Numbers 21:7

1. Confession of sin was made
 - a) We have sinned
 - b) We have spoken against the Lord
 - c) And against you
2. Seeking Moses' help to pray to God
 - a) Pray to the Lord
 - b) That He would take the serpents away
3. Moses harkened
 - a) He prayed to the Lord
 - b) God would indeed hear his prayer

GOD'S WORD TO MOSES

⁸Then the LORD said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and it shall be that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, shall live."

⁹So Moses made a bronze serpent, and put it on a pole; and so it was, if a serpent had bitten anyone, when he looked at the bronze serpent, he lived.

Numbers 21:8-9

1. Instructions given
 - a) A fiery serpent was to be made and set on a pole
 - b) All who were bitten, when they look at the serpent, would live
2. Obedience to the Lord's word
 - a) A bronze serpent was made and put on a pole

b) All who obeyed were healed

VITAL LESSONS

1. The danger of having a complaining spirit
2. We will be inviting possible chastisement
3. We need to learn how to have a heart of faith and wisdom