

CURE FOR SNAKEBITE

Num 21:4-9 Jhn 3:14-17

INTRODUCTION:

- A. The salvation which God offers through Christ is compared to the cure for snakebite which God offered to the Israelites through Moses and the brazen serpent Jhn 3:14,15
- B. This event recorded in Num 21 bears a striking likeness to our salvation in Christ

DISCUSSION:

I. REBELLION – THEN AND NOW

- A. God was providing for the Israelites Num 21:5
 - 1. Were not content with God's way
 - a. Why have you brought us here to die
 - b. No bread or water
 - c. And our soul loatheth (hates) this light bread
 - 2. Rebellious against God's way
- B. God is still providing for his people Jhn 6:35
 - 1. Rebellion against God is still the problem
 - a. Man does not like God's provisions
 - b. Gave men the gospel to save Rom 1:16
 - 2. Yet men loath (hate) this bread - seek to have their own way Rom 10:3; Matt 15:2-9; 7:21;

II. A LIFTING UP

- A. People were dying because of sin Isa 59:2; Rom 3:23
- B. God had Moses to set a serpent on a pole as the means of their salvation
- C. Christ used this to show how he was to be lifted up on the cross
 - 1. Salvation was then extended on his terms
 - 2. If I be lifted up - will draw all men unto me Jhn 12:32
- D. No serpent lifted up - no healing -- No Christ crucified - no salvation
- E. No looking - no healing -- No obedience - no salvation

III. JUST ONE REMEDY

- A. One serpent lifted up
 - 1. Had to look on **THAT** brazen serpent
 - 2. No other provisions made - that or else
- B. One Saviour for us Matt 1:21
 - 1. Man is redeemed by the blood 1Pet 1:18,19
 - 2. Reaches that blood in obedience - being baptized into Christ Rom 6:1-5
- C. As there was just one serpent, there is only one Saviour
 - 1. Saved by his blood
 - 2. Saved are added to the church Acts 2:47
 - 3. Church is body - only one body Col 1:18,24; Eph 4:4

IV. GOOD NEWS = GOSPEL

- A. This remedy was good news for the Israelites
 - 1. No benefit till the news spread

- 2. Had to be told - it must have spread rapidly
- 3. A life or death matter

B. Likewise our Savior is good news Rom 1:16

- 1. No benefit unless it is spread
- 2. Commanded to spread it Matt 28:19,20
- 3. Should be eager to tell and receive it, because of what it can do for us and all that will hear

V. THERE WAS NO COMPULSION

- A. Israel free to look or not look
 - 1. Were not compelled to look
 - 2. Each one could decide for themselves
- B. Same is true of salvation in Christ Rom 6:16-18; Rev 3:20
 - 1. Hear and obey and be blessed Heb 5:8,9
 - 2. But not compelled to do so
 - 3. Each individual can and must choose for themselves

VI. FAITH HAS A ROLE

- A. Israelites had to believe enough to look
 - 1. Might has asked - how is a snake on a pole to help
 - 2. This completely out of the ordinary
- B. Not by faith only
 - 1. If believed God would heal them and had not looked
 - 2. They would have died of snakebite
- C. Salvation in Christ is by faith Heb 11:6; Jhn 3:14-17
 - 1. Not by faith only Jas 2:24
 - 2. Author of salvation to all who obey Heb 5:8,9

VII. GRACE ALSO HAS A ROLE

- A. Nowhere is grace more clearly shown
 - 1. Rebellious, not worthy of consideration
 - 2. God had already done so much for them
 - 3. God still willing to give remedy after repentance
- B. However it was not by grace alone
 - 1. Had to look to be cured
 - 2. Command to look did not nullify God's grace
- C. We are also recipients of God's grace Eph 2:8
- D. Still a salvation of grace even though obedience is required Rom 6:14-15

CONCLUSION:

- A. God's plan, then, was effective - likewise also is his plan today effective
- B. When Israelites looked, they were healed -- When people today obey God's plan they receive salvation Heb 5:8,9
- D. God's plan does not become ineffective even though many reject it and scoff at the salvation it offers
- E. The failure is in the people - not the plan