

**THE LIFE
OF MOSES**
EXPERIENCE THE
IMPOSSIBLE

**#28: WHEN A SNAKE
BECAME A SAVIOR**
NUMBERS 21 & JOHN 3
JIM HINTON

I. A SERIOUS SIN—NUMBERS 21:4-5

1. The toxic effects of constant complaining.

What you expect is what you look for.
What you look for is what you see.
And what you see is what you get.
Unknown

Do everything without complaining and arguing,
Philippians 2:14 (NLT)

2. The sin that motivated Israel's complaints:

- Impatience
- Criticism of God and Moses
- Griping about the food
- Unbelief

And who was it who rebelled against God, even though they heard his voice? Wasn't it the people Moses led out of Egypt? And who made God angry for forty years? Wasn't it the people who sinned, whose corpses lay in the wilderness? And to whom was God speaking when he took an oath that they would never enter his rest? Wasn't it the people who disobeyed him? So we see that because of their unbelief they were not able to enter his rest.

Hebrews 3:16-19 (NLT)

II. A SEVERE PUNISHMENT—NUMBERS 21:6-7

So the LORD sent poisonous snakes among the people, and many were bitten and died.
Numbers 21:6 (NLT)

III. A STRANGE REMEDY—NUMBERS 21:8-9

1. The cure: Mount a bronze snake on a pole and people who look it will be healed.

2. Why this seems so strange:

- Israel had been commanded not to make or worship any graven images.
- Most people fear and hate snakes.
- Snakes are a symbol of Satan.

3. However, snakes are also a symbol of sin.

This strange directive had power to heal and save because God said it would. The power was not in the snake or the pole—but in the gracious forgiveness of God and the people's obedience.

IV. A SIGNIFICANT MEANING FOR US—JOHN 3:14-16

1. We have all been bitten by the poison of sin.

Yes, all have sinned; all fall short of God's glorious ideal
Romans 3:23 (TLB)

For the wages of sin is death...
Romans 6:23 (NIV)

When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned.

Romans 5:12 (NLT)

2. We also have a strange—yet simple remedy.

Looking to God's Son—Jesus Christ—who was lifted up on the cross.

And as Moses lifted up the bronze snake on a pole in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life. "For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:14-16 (NLT)

The crucified Christ:

- **Became our sin so we could be right with God.**

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.
2 Corinthians 5:21 (NIV)

- **Looks like foolishness to the world**

The message about the cross doesn't make any sense to lost people. But for those of us who are being saved, it is God's power at work. As God says in the Scriptures, "I will destroy the wisdom of all who claim to be wise. I will confuse those who think they know so much."

1 Corinthians 1:18-20 (CEV)

- **Eternally heals and saves us.**

For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. Yet God, with undeserved kindness, declares that we are righteous. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins.

Romans 3:23-24 (NLT)

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Romans 6:23 (NIV)

When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned...Yes, Adam's one sin brings condemnation for everyone, but Christ's one act of righteousness brings a right relationship with God and new life for everyone.

Romans 5:13,18 (NLT)

3. Though the snakes of sin will still bite us—they cannot kill us.

For sin is the sting that results in death, and the law gives sin its power. But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:56 (NLT)