

THE BRAZEN SERPENT

(John 3:14-15)

- Introduction:
1. Many events that took place in the Old Testament were but shadows of events that stood in the distant future (Hebrews 10:1).
 2. Such was the case of the brazen serpent recorded in Numbers 21:4).
 3. Jesus paralleled what happened in Israel so long ago, to what was about to happen at His death.
 4. Let us examine some thoughts concerning this parallel.

I. SALVATION WAS FOR *ANYONE* LOOKING TO THE SERPENT

- A. It didn't matter how many times one had been bitten, life was being offered.
- B. While every Israelite was not bitten, we can be sure that all of us have been bitten and poisoned by the bite of sin (Romans 3:23).
- C. One cannot be bitten too many times to receive healing.
- D. No one needs to die.

II. THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN NO DELAY

- A. When news reached them, they would have moved.
- B. No one would have said, "*Great!, now I'll have to check my calendar.*"
- C. How foolish it would have been to remain sick and risk dying.
- D. It is even more foolish to risk dying in sin when the remedy is so available today (II Corinthians 6:2).

III. THEY WOULD HAVE HELPED EACH OTHER TO SEE

- A. Once being healed, they would have lifted, turned heads, and carried people to see this brazen serpent.
- B. I cannot imagine them returning to their tents and going about their daily routines when others around them were dying because of their lack of knowledge.
- C. (Luke 19:10) Jesus came to seek and save the lost.

IV. THERE WAS NO OTHER REMEDY

- A. If bitten, no salve, ointment, bathing of wounds, no bandage would bring healing.
- B. They had to look to the serpent.
- C. Apart from looking to the cross of Christ, there is no healing (John 14:6).
- D. No amount of sorrow for sin, good works, restitution, good resolutions will heal one from the poison of sin apart from the cross of Christ (Acts 4:12).

V. IT WAS NOT NECESSARY TO UNDERSTAND, JUST OBEY

- A. They did not have to understand the typology of the raised serpent - theirs was to obey.
- B. Likewise, we do not have to understand all the theological ramifications of the cross, ours is simply to trust and obey.
- C. (1 Samuel 3:10) Speak Lord, your servant hears.

- Conclusion:
- 1. We live in a world where serpents bite.
 - 2. The bite of sin has poisoned all of us, and continues to do so.
 - 3. Thus, we must continue to look to the cross for healing.
 - 4. A momentary glance will not suffice, but a focused life will.