



Keep Looking Unto Jesus

Numbers 21: 4-9 *The Bronze Snake*

*Then the people of Israel set out from Mount Hor, taking the road to the Red Sea to go around the land of Edom. **But the people grew impatient with the long journey, and they began to speak against God and Moses.** “Why have you brought us out of Egypt to die here in the wilderness?” they complained. “There is nothing to eat here and nothing to drink. And we hate this horrible manna!”*

So the Lord sent poisonous snakes among the people, and many were bitten and died. Then the people came to Moses and cried out, “We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you. Pray that the Lord will take away the snakes.” So Moses prayed for the people. Then the Lord told him, “Make a replica of a poisonous snake and attach it to a pole. All who are bitten will live if they simply look at it!” So Moses made a snake out of bronze and attached it to a pole. Then anyone who was bitten by a snake could look at the bronze snake and be healed!

As we are all travellers here on earth, journeying to meet our maker (God the Creator), there will be a time we are going to experience discouragement, and this is the time when we may feel tired of keeping God’s precepts, requirements, recommendations, commandments, laws, regulations, rules, plan, etc.

At this time, we may feel giving in by murmuring, carrying a spirit of ingratitude, but forgetting that this can result in the act of divine vengeance.

A new day may have dawned, but old habits are not eradicated. The people once again grumble about their food and are punished: this time by poisonous snakes. As an antidote, Moses makes a bronze snake, which cures anyone who looks at it.

Watch out what may trigger the discouragement of following Christ in your life:

1. **The difficulty of the Task:** **Nehemiah 4: 10** *Then the people of Judah began to complain, “The workers are getting tired, and there is so much rubble to be moved. We will never be able to build the wall by ourselves.”*
2. **The Prosperity of the Wicked:** **Psalms 73:2** *But as for me, I almost lost my footing. My feet were slipping, and I was almost gone.*
3. **The Delay in Fulfillment of Desires:** **Jeremiah 45: 3** *You have said, ‘I am overwhelmed with trouble! Haven’t I had enough pain already? And now the Lord has added more! I am worn out from sighing and can find no rest.’*

From verse 6, the Bible says that the Lord sent poisonous snakes among the people, and many were bitten and died. Then the people came to Moses and cried out, **“We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you. Pray that the Lord will take away the snakes.”** So Moses prayed for the people.

2 Corinthians 12: 8- 10 - *Three different times I begged the Lord to take it away. Each time he said, “My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness.” So now I am glad to boast*

about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me. That's why I take pleasure in my weaknesses, and in the insults, hardships, persecutions, and troubles that I suffer for Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Then the Lord told him, "Make a replica of a poisonous snake and attach it to a pole. All who are bitten will live if they simply look at it!" So Moses made a snake out of bronze and attached it to a pole. Then anyone who was bitten by a snake could look at the bronze snake and be healed!

Watch out what may trigger the discouragement of following Christ in your life.

What happened came into our lives because of our negative attitudes toward God and His work. We must cooperate to live with what has come upon us as His grace is sufficient for us as:

- **He will continue to supply all our needs in time of trouble:** In Elijah's life, God sent him to a widow who had almost nothing but was able to feed him as long the woman obeyed God's command through His servant. Both Elijah and the widow became aware of God's power to save and to supply more than they could have imagined. (1 Kings 17: 13)
- **He will continue to protect us in peril** - as the Bible says in **2 Kings 6: 16** - *Don't be afraid!* Elisha told him. *"For there are more on our side than on theirs!"*
- **He will continue to strengthen us in our weakness.** **Isaiah 41: 10** - *Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand.*
- **He will continue to be our true companionship in trial** - **Isaiah 43: 2** - *When you go through deep waters, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown. When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you.*

John 3: 14-15 - *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.*

The **crucifixion** of Jesus Christ is very **important** for Christians because that is the evidence by which we believe that God sacrificed **Jesus**, his only son, to atone for the sins of humanity.

The **bread represents** Jesus' body that was scourged and broken before and during His crucifixion, and the cup **represents** His shed blood.

Jesus implemented Holy **Communion** through the last supper He shared with His disciples.

1 Corinthians 11:23-25 New International Version (NIV)

23 For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, **24** and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." **25** In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.