

Timeline of Truth: God Sends Fiery Serpents and Gives Israel Victories (Numbers 21:1-9)

I. Israel at Mount Sinai (1-10:10)

II. Israel in the Wilderness (10:11-36:13)

1. The Israelites Move (10:11-36)
2. Israel Complains (11:1-35)
3. Aaron and Miriam Complain (12:1-16)
4. The Spies and their Reports (13:1-33)
5. The Nation is Punished (14:1-45)
6. Laws Concerning Offerings in the Land of Israel (15:1-31)
7. A Man Works on the Sabbath and Tassels on

Garments (15:32-41)

8. Men Challenge Moses (16:1-43)
9. Aaron's Rod Buds (17:1-13)
10. Responsibilities and Provisions for the Priests and Levites (18:1-32)
11. Uncleaness and Cleansing (19:1-22)
12. Moses Strikes the Rock (20:1-13)
13. Edom Refuses Israel and Aaron Dies (20:14-29)

<p>Numbers 21:1-3 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 <i>some</i> 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.</p>	<p>1. God gives Israel _____ Over the Canaanites.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The King of Arad fights Israel and takes prisoners b. Israel make a vow before the Lord <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If God delivers the people of Arad into the hands of Israel • Israel will destroy them and their cities c. God listened to the people of Israel and gave them victory
<p>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 <i>there is</i> no food and no water, and our soul loathes this worthless bread."</p>	<p>2. The People Become _____</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. This happened as they were going around Edom b. The people became discouraged Discouraged - קָצַר - <i>qatsar</i> - reap, harvest c. The people spoke against Moses and God d. The people complained the same complaints <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They complained about dying in the wilderness • They complained about the lack of food and water • They complained about the manna. Worthless - קִלְקִיל - <i>q'loqel</i> - contemptible.
<p>⁶ So the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and many of the people of Israel died.</p>	<p>3. God Sends _____</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. God punished the people with fiery serpents שָׂרָף - <i>saraph</i> - fiery serpent, usu. venomous; a flying serpent, or <i>dragon</i>. b. The serpents bit the people c. Many people died
<p>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.</p>	<p>4. The People _____ their Sin</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The people confess their sin to Moses b. The people asked for God to take the serpents away c. Moses prayed in behalf of the people
<p>⁸ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Make a fiery <i>serpent</i>, and set it on a pole; and it shall be that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, shall live."</p>	<p>5. God Commands Moses to _____ a Serpent</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Moses was to create a serpent which resembled the fiery serpents b. Whenever someone looks at this serpent, they would live.
<p>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.</p>	<p>6. Moses _____ a Bronze Serpent</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Moses made a bronze serpent and put it on the pole b. The Serpent did what god said it would do.

John 3:14-18 ¹⁴ "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ "that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁶ "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. ¹⁸ "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

7. The Bronze Serpent _____ Christ

- a. Jesus _____ Himself with the bronze serpent
 - As the serpent was lifted up so must Jesus be lifted up.
 - Jesus must be (δεῖ - *dei* - be necessary, must;) lifted up so that people can believe in Him.
 - "Whoever believes in Him" – lit. "all who are believing in Him"
 - Those who do believe have two benefits:
 - They will not perish
 - They will have everlasting life
- b. God, out of love for humankind, gave His Son so that people could be save by _____ in Him
- c. God did not send His Son into the world to _____ them.
 - Lit. "God did not send His Son to judge the world."
- d. God sent His Son into the world to _____ people.
- e. Our belief or lack thereof _____ whether we are saved or condemned.

8. _____ of this Illustration:

- a. Like the Israelites who did not have the bronzed serpent and were condemned to death, those without Jesus Christ are already condemned.
- b. The bronze serpent was lifted up so that when the people were to die they could look to it and be saved
- c. Jesus must be lifted up because we are all dead in our sin, and our only hope is to look to Jesus to be saved.
- d. The people had to believe that looking at the serpent would heal them (or they would not do it)
- e. We must believe that Jesus is the sufficient sacrifice for our sins and that only through His death on the cross we can be saved.
- f. An Israelite was not condemned because of the existence of the bronze serpent, but because he would not look to it.
- g. We are not condemned because the Son of God came into this world but because we have not believed in Jesus Christ
- h. It was the sin of the Israelites which was the problem; the bronze serpent was the solution.
- i. It is our sin that is the problem; Jesus is the solution.