

Numbers 21:4-9

FIERY SERPENTS AND THE BRAZEN SERPENT

1. God's trial.

1. "The soul of the people was much discouraged because of the way."
 2. In response to this God-given cross, the people "fell short" (literal of "discouraged").
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1. For them the way was too long for their endurance and for their desire, and they became short tempered.
 2. Reacting naturally (without faith) their tongues were not bridled.
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- God send fiery serpents as punishment to this generation.
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1. This part of the desert had many fiery ("burning") both for their color and more for their poisonous bite.
 2. The burning bites of the snakes resulting deaths speaks of a spiritual reality.
 3. But this severe chastisement produced the fruit of repentance!
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- God answers with the sign of a brazen serpent lifted up.
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1. At God's command Moses made a serpent out of brass, put it on a pole, lifted it up in the camp.
 2. Jesus teaches that the lifted up serpent of brass was a type of Himself being lifted up on the cross (John 3).
 3. Only through the means of faith are God's people saved – they must look, i.e., believe.
 4. The effect of compliance to God's call.