

Text: Review of Numbers 20:28-29  
Numbers 21:1-9

Words to define:

Worthless (21:5) \_\_\_\_\_

Fiery Serpents (21:6) \_\_\_\_\_

Numbers 20:28-29

1. Why was Moses to strip Aaron of his garments? (20:26)
2. Who did Moses put Aaron's garments on? (v28)
3. Aaron and his sons served as what? (Exodus 28:1)
4. What tribe were they from?
5. Read Exodus 28:4-5. What clothes did the high priest wear?
6. What was the name of the mountain Aaron died on? (20:27)

Numbers 21:1-9

7. Who was the king of Arad? (v1)
8. What promise did the Israelites make to the Lord? (v2)
9. Did the Lord listen? Did He let them defeat the Canaanites? (v2-3)
10. What was the place called where the Israelites destroyed the Canaanites? What is the meaning of this word? (v3)

11. Where did the Israelites journey to next? What country were they trying to avoid? (v4)

12. What did the Israelites murmur about next? (v5)

13. What did the Lord send because of their murmuring against Him? (v6)

14. What did the Israelites say to Moses? (v7)

15. What did the Lord tell Moses to do? (v8)

16. Did Moses obey the Lord? (v9)

17. What happened to the people who had been bit? (v9)

# 52. THE BRONZE SERPENT

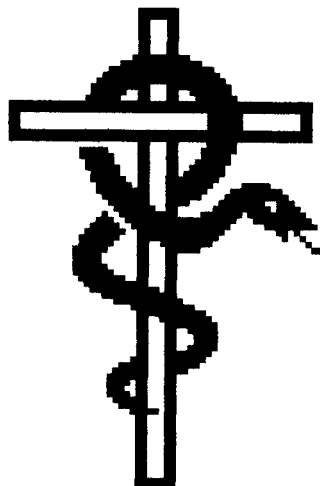
## (NUMBERS 21:4-9)

G E P R Z Z J Z B A J Q K S G C S F W D  
 M Y M X O M W E H U T T I S D C V L Q Y  
 B G B D W F D M F P R A Y E D H Y Y N S  
 P M R O D M Y E V U A H E I V R K H I M  
 M O B S H I J D N T A T P E V I L P S U  
 L Q O L Q Q S W I N U T I A D E K O O L  
 W H H K I S T C O T I R Y G B E W O V X  
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 G V S P O L E L S U N R B A E E W R U E  
 K G R V H V A I N E R W P Z C H W F A J  
 B B V J T P S T H D S A N F Z T Z Y D M  
 Y S R N Y S L A I Q Q O G U H A O X D G  
 K N N E O B E L U C R P M E K O A D W O  
 P B G W A Q P R A B P N P T D L K P T V  
 U P D E A D U B P L N K Y O K M M B L S  
 Y R P L V J T Z F E A B F M R Q N E A P  
 F O G V C I N Z F J N C O J E N U H O T  
 S J S D A C D N T N Y T J K N Y D T A W  
 T Q P D L T R K Q S Q D S G C M L L P B  
 G S P Z O C A O H M U W W H V A U U A H

BREAD  
 BRONZE  
 DISCOURAGED  
 LIVE

LOATHES  
 LOOKED  
 LORD  
 MOSES

POLE  
 PRAYED  
 SERPENTS  
 SINNED



Numbers 20:28-29, 21:1-9

III-8

Prayer

Memory Verse: Phil 2:14

Song: Lord, We Come Before Thee Now p. 332

We are going to review from our last lesson about the death of Aaron. Do you remember what the name of the mountain he died on? (Mt Hor) Can you imagine the procession that wended its way slowly up the mountainside? The brothers had stood together through all sorts of troubles and trials, and now they were separated by death. Who were the brothers? (Moses and Aaron) God told Moses the highly priestly robes should be taken off of Aaron and put on his son. What was his name? (Eleazar) So when they reached the base of the mountain, the garments were removed from Aaron and placed on Eleazar. God was probably showing the Israelites he had chosen Eleazar to take the place of his father as High Priest. Aaron died when he was 123 years old.

As Moses and Eleazar came down from the mountain alone without Aaron, the people saw Eleazar wearing the high priestly garments, and they know that God had appointed Aaron's son to take his place as High Priest. Do you remember how long the Israelites mourned for Aaron? (30 days)

Now we will pick up with our text for today's lesson. Just think the Israelites have been wondering in the wilderness for almost forty years. The older generation was almost gone. You would think the sons and daughters and grandchildren would look forward to entering the Promised Land, but what did they do? They became discouraged and started murmuring again and forgot about God. What do we do when we get discouraged? Do we consume ourselves in our self pity and forgot about God? Discouragement is the opposite of faith, and it usually leads to the sin of murmuring.

Review Map - Lesson 4 Israelites journey

If you remember, the Edomites had refused to let them pass through the land of Edom, and so they detoured south toward Mount Hor to circle round the land of Edom. Do you remember where the Edomites came from? (Esau) What happened at Mt Hor? (Aaron died) As they journeyed from Mt Hor the people became discouraged because of the long way they had to go.

The Israelites murmur again 4-2

Well, the Israelites started complaining and grumbling about everything again not going their way. They blamed Moses for the long and tiring journey. Do you think Moses was losing his patience? They kept asking Moses, "Why have you brought us out of Egypt to die in the desert?" over and over again. What had they forgotten? They had forgotten what

the Lord had done for them: delivering them from the Pharaoh, bringing them through the Red Sea, leading them by a pillar of cloud during the day and a pillar of fire by night, and feeding them manna every day.

#### 5-1 God sends fiery serpents

So, do you think God had to teach them a lesson once again? What did he send to the people? Fiery serpents-snakes- the bit many of the people, causing them to die. I wonder how so many people got bit. These snakes probably crawled into the Israelites tents, into their bedding, and into their food supplies. What happened to the people when they were bitten? They died. Do you think the Israelites thought they were going to die? The kept trying to kill them, but that didn't work, more kept coming. The snakes would leave a red, swollen and feverish wounds that led to death.

Who did they beg for the snakes to stop? Moses They admitted to Moses they had sinned and were sorry. Did God answer their prayer? Did he answer it in a way they thought he would? Did God get rid of the serpents? He instructed Moses to do a very strange thing.

#### 5-2 Moses makes a brass serpent

What did God tell Moses to make? A brass image of one of these serpents, wrap it around the top of a tall pole, put it in the center of the camp and tell the people who have been bitten and are dying to simply look at the brass serpent, and they will live.

Did Moses do as he was commanded? Do you think the mood of the camp changed? Yes it did, they were singing and shouting, "I'm cured" Dying people found themselves completely healed when they looked upon the brass serpent. Why did God have them look at the brass serpent? The people were learning the power of faith in the Word of God. Now, it wasn't the brass serpent that cured them, but when they did exactly what God told them, and looked at the serpent, their faith made them whole and brought the cure. They didn't have to touch the serpent, but simply look at it.

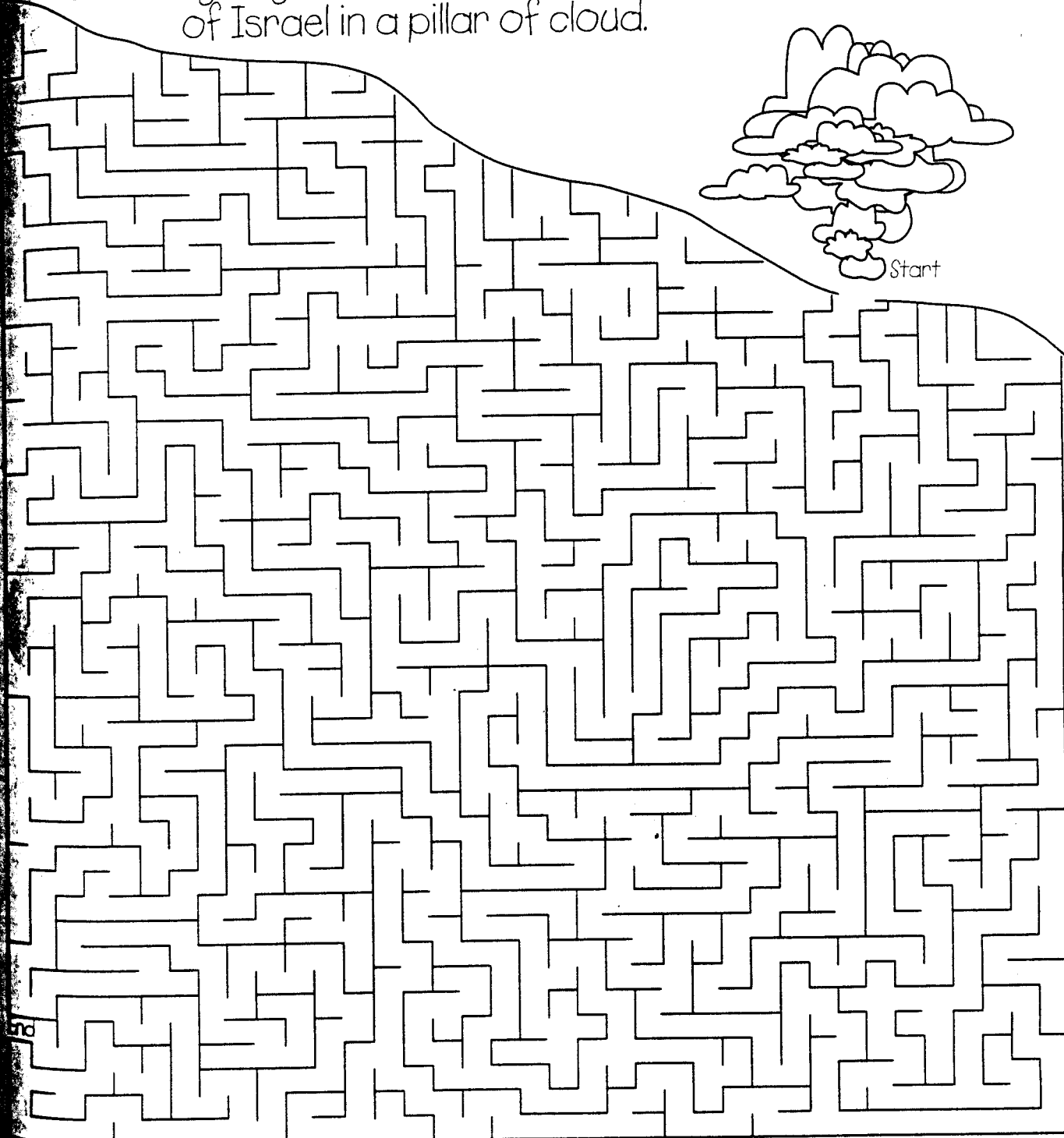
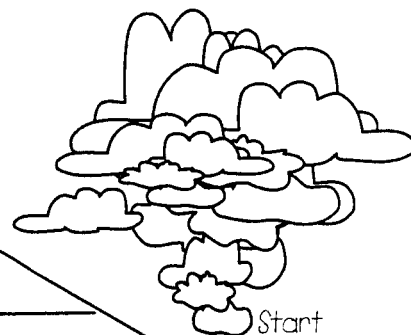
#### 5-3 The serpent pictures the cross

This reminds us of Jesus dying on the cross. Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, the Son of Man, be lifted up, be put on the cross to die. There he bore our sins. And just as all the people in the desert bitten by the serpents were sure to die, so those who are bitten by sin must eternally die. If they do not do what? - steps of salvation



# "Pillar of Smoke"

By day the Lord went before the children of Israel in a pillar of cloud.



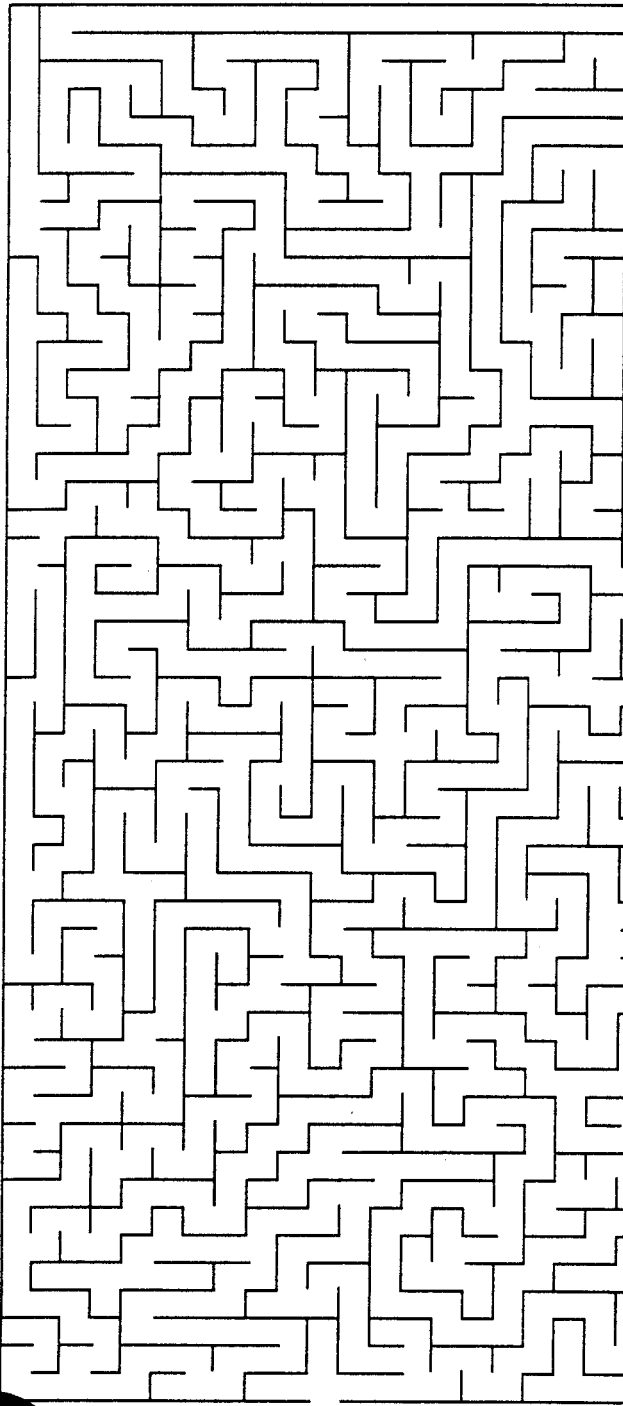
Cool Things to Know

Exodus 13•21 also says that God watched over them by night from a pillar of fire.

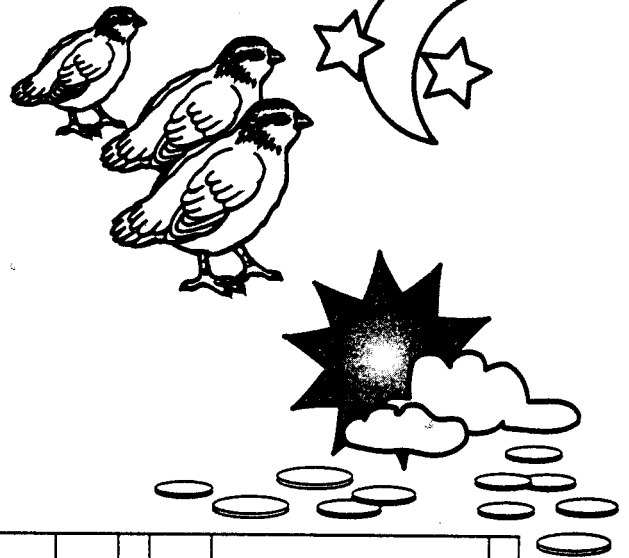


# "Manna from Heaven"

Every day God's people would go out and gather Manna in the morning. In the evening the Lord brought Quail.

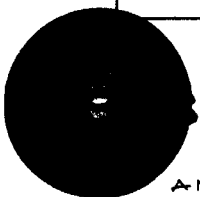


End



Start

Exodus 16 • 2-13



#16

## Eleazar

111-8

H	O	O	S	D	E	P	P	I	H	S	R	O	W	T	D
H	C	N	H	B	S	S	S	E	R	V	I	C	E	S	C
W	O	Z	I	W	E	C	E	R	E	M	O	N	I	E	S
X	N	R	K	B	C	Y	P	D	R	I	H	T	W	I	D
E	T	M	O	U	N	T	L	E	E	A	Q	S	Z	R	U
F	I	R	K	L	A	U	T	I	R	D	Z	S	O	P	T
U	N	R	T	Y	V	D	S	N	M	F	N	A	F	B	I
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F	E	S	A	A	E	M	N	E	C	X	F	R	T	L	S
I	D	S	D	T	S	I	E	R	R	O	A	A	M	T	E
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L	I	C	T	N	O	L	T	T	R	U	S	O	T	R	D
E	G	C	I	G	N	C	S	A	S	J	R	U	P	E	K
D	H	U	O	I	O	E	E	N	A	A	F	P	M	N	D
N	O	S	N	D	V	R	V	C	A	D	E	V	R	E	S
E	G	A	T	I	R	E	H	E	C	L	E	R	I	C	D

Solution is on page 99

AARON (father)

ATTENDED

CEREMONIES

CLERIC

CONTINUED

DIGNITARY

DUTIES

ELEAZAR

EXALTED

FAMILY

FULFILLED

HERITAGE

HIGH (priest)

HOR

INHERITANCE

MOUNT

OBSERVANCES

PERFORMED

PRIEST

RECLAIMED

RESUMED

RITUAL

ROBES

SERVED

SERVICES

SON

STATUS

SUCCESSOR (of

Aaron)

THIRD (son of Aaron)

TRADITION

TRIBE

VESTMENTS

WORSHIPPED

AFFLICT

ASH

BOILS

CAMEL

COMFO

FAITHF

FAULT

FEAR

FINE

GRIEVI

GROAN

HARSH

HATE

HOLY

HONOR

JOB

KILLED

LAND

LOATH

LORD

LOST (

PLAGU

RIPPED

SAD

SATAN

SCORC

SERVE

SICK



After wandering in the wilderness for almost forty years, the older generation of the Israelites were almost gone. You would think that their sons and daughters and grandchildren would look forward to soon entering the Promised Land, but instead they were filled with fears and discouragement. Rather than remembering God's promises, they focused their thoughts on their problems and how impossible it was for them to solve them.

**MD 4-1 (Use again) Review Map**

The Edomites had refused to let them pass through the land of Edom, and so they detoured south toward Mount Hor to circle round the land of Edom. At Mount Hor, Aaron died and was buried. As they journeyed from Mount Hor, "the soul of the people was much discouraged because of the way."

Discouragement is probably the most effective weapon Satan can use against God's people. When things don't go our way, instead of having more faith in God, we are so apt to become discouraged, and discouragement is never of God. Jesus said, "Let not your heart be troubled." Discouragement is always the opposite of faith, and it usually leads to the sin of murmuring.

**MD 4-2 (Use again) The Israelites murmur again**

And this is exactly what happened to the people of Israel. They again started complaining and grumbling about everything. They blamed Moses for the long, tiring journey through the wilderness following a God they could not see with their eyes. They continually whined, "Why have you brought us out of Egypt to die in this wilderness? In Egypt there is plenty to eat!" They had forgotten all the Lord had done in delivering them from the cruel Pharaoh, bringing them through the Red Sea, leading them by a pillar of cloud during the day and a

pillar of fire by night, and feeding them with manna every day. They constantly threatened to go back to slavery in Egypt!

**MD 5-1 God sends fiery serpents**

God had to speedily teach them some bitter lessons for their complaining and murmuring spirits. So the Lord sent fiery serpents—snakes—that bit many of the people, causing them to die. Thousands of these snakes crawled into the Israelites' tents, into their bedding, and into their food supplies, and all who were bitten by the snakes died. It looked as though the whole camp of Israelites would die from these fiery serpents. They tried to kill the serpents, but more serpents kept coming, causing red, swollen, and feverish wounds that led to death. Children cried, and the men and the women groaned.

At last, the people came to Moses and begged for help. "We have sinned, and we are sorry. We have complained and murmured against God and against you; please pray that the Lord will take away the snakes from us." God answered their prayer, but not in the way they expected. He did not tell Moses how to get rid of the serpents. Instead, He instructed Moses to do a very strange thing so that the people who had been bitten would be healed.

**MD 5-2 Moses makes a brass serpent**

God told Moses, "Make a brass image of one of these serpents, wrap it around the top of a tall pole, put it in the center of the camp, and tell the people who have been bitten and are dying to simply look at the brazen (brass) serpent, and they will live!"

Moses did as he was commanded, and the good news was spread throughout the camp. A wonderful thing happened! From every part of the encampment came happy cries of, "I'm cured; I'm well!" Dying people found

themselves completely healed as they obeyed the word of the Lord and *looked* at the brazen serpent! A desperately worried mother held her little dying boy in her arms and frantically cried, "Look, my son, only look at the brass snake and you will live!" Slowly the boy lifted up his head and looked. The pain was gone, the swelling disappeared, and he was well! All over the camp this was happening. The people were learning the power of faith in the Word of God. Of course, it wasn't the brazen serpent that healed them. Not at all. But when they did exactly what God told them, and *looked* at the serpent, their faith made them whole and brought the cure. They didn't have to crawl to within three feet of the pole, climb the pole, or touch the serpent; they simply had to *look and live!* This was God's remedy from death.

#### MD 5-3 The serpent pictures the Cross

Hundreds of years after this incident, a Jewish leader named Nicodemus came to Jesus and asked him how he could be born again. Jesus reminded Nicodemus of the terrible snakebites in the wilderness and of Moses lifting up the serpent so that all who would look could live. Jesus said, "Nicodemus, this is a wonderful picture of the new birth—a perfect explanation of how you can be born again. Here is your answer to the question, 'How can a man be born again?' Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must I, the Son of Man, be lifted up, that is, be put on a cross to die. There I will bear your sins—be punished for your sins and the sins of the whole world.

"And just as all the people in the desert bitten by the serpents were sure to die, so those who are bitten by sin

(and that's everyone, for *all* have sinned) must eternally die. But the wonderful news in the wilderness to the dying, snake-bitten people was—"Look to the lifted-up serpent and *live!*" "

Then Jesus explained very simply that when He, Jesus, was lifted up to die on the cross, those who believed in Him (looked to Him in faith) would be saved from the punishment of their sin and have everlasting life. Just as the remedy for the Israelites' poisonous serpent bites was to look and be healed—*look and live*—so any boy, girl, man, or woman who looks to the Savior will have eternal life—will be born again!

Then, in one precious and beautiful sentence, Jesus told Nicodemus how anyone may enter the kingdom of heaven and live with his Lord and Savior forever. These are His words: "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." This, John 3:16, is the gospel in a nutshell. Though spoken to one man almost two thousand years ago, these marvelous words have spread around the world, bringing to millions and millions of people who have heard and believed them forgiveness of sin, eternal salvation, comfort, hope, peace, and joy.

Have you been born again? Have you looked to the cross of Calvary, believed, and been given new life? If not, you could be born again right now. Just look to Christ, the Son of God, and ask Him to come into your heart and cleanse it from sin. If you already have been born again, why not thank God for your salvation and ask Him to help you to tell other people how to look to Christ and live? □