**The Bronze Serpent and Yeshua, Him for Us, Numbers 21 and John 3.** (All verses NKJV)

**וַיְדַבֵּר יְהוָה אֶל-מֹשֶׁה בְּמִדְבַּר**

**1 And the LORD spoke unto Moses in the wilderness …**

The wilderness covers the time of Israel between the receiving the Law and entering into the Promised land.

The wilderness is the place of transition and growth, preparation for the place of destination, spiritual warfare, set-backs and successes.

**Some Background** Chapters 13-14 and 20.

1. Everyone \_\_\_\_ and older dies in the wilderness. 14:29
2. The people didn’t listen and get \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. 14:41-45 – also see Deut. 1:43-46.
3. The People wandered for \_\_\_\_ years. Chapters 15-19
4. A lot of \_\_\_\_\_\_.
5. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ dies. (20:1)
6. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ dies (20:28)
7. In the middle of all this the people \_\_\_\_\_ to take a highway to the promised land, up thru Edom. 20:14-21
8. The people are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for some good news.

Numbers 21:1 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 *some* of them prisoners.

Numbers 21:2-3 (NKJV) 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 [[1]](#footnote-1)1Hormah.

**The Bronze Serpent**

Numbers 21:4 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.

Verse 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 *there is* no food and no water, and our soul loathes this worthless bread.”

Verse 6 So the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and many of the people of Israel died.

Verse 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.

Verse 8 “Then the Lord said to Moses, “Make a fiery *serpent,* and set it on a pole; and it shall be that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, shall live.”

“God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains.” C.S. Lewis

Verse 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.

Exodus 20:4-5 (NKJV) “You shall not make for yourself an **image** in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them;”

The key is do not \_\_\_\_\_\_or\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ an image.

A big argument in Judaism is - can you do representational art?

<https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/ask-the-expert-graven-images/>

See what happened in 2 Kings 18:1-4 to the Serpent image Moses made.

John 3:1-3 There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. 2 This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, “Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.” 3 Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

John 3:14-16 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.

The only way the \_\_\_\_\_\_ of sin can leave us is through Yeshua’s sacrifice upon the pole.

1. 1 Lit. *Utter Destruction* [↑](#footnote-ref-1)