

God Always Makes a Way 1/12/2020 Sunday AM

Introduction

- We are now a couple of weeks into 2020 and the holiday season is behind us.
- Surely what we are finding is that everything is going almost exactly like it was on December 31st right?
- The ringing in of a New Year does not automatically mean that things change for us.
- As I have said several times of the last couple of weeks, each year brings its own set of trials and tribulations, but also its own set of blessings.
- We must learn from, and be thankful for our past, and look ahead faithfully to what God has in store for us.
- This morning I hope to encourage everyone to do that by reminding you that **God Always Makes a Way**.

Numbers 21:4-9

⁴They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; ⁵they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the desert? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!" ⁶Then the LORD sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, "We sinned when we spoke against the LORD and against you. Pray that the LORD will take the snakes away from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸The LORD said to Moses, "Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live." ⁹So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, he lived.

- **Context:** Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt in search of the Promised Land.
- Earlier, they reached the border of the Promised Land, but they did not have the faith that God could help them conquer the land.
- As a result of this unbelief, God sent them into the wilderness to wander until that generation died out (Numbers 14:28-34).
- So here in **Numbers 21:4-9**, they have been traveling in the wilderness now for decades.
- **V.4** – We see here that after traveling they people grew impatient.
- **How often do we grow impatient with God? Why do we get impatient?**
- Many times, it is because we are ignorant of what God's plan or purpose is. Other times we simply choose to forget or misremember what God's plan or purpose is.
- The Israelites were growing impatient because they had forgotten it was their fault in the first place that they had to continuously wander in the wilderness because of their unbelief and sin.
- **V.5** – Not only did they grow impatient, but they "spoke against God and against Moses, and said, "'Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the desert? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!"
- Remember, God had saved them from slavery and bondage in Egypt and he has been providing them manna in the wilderness everyday so that they can eat.
- Here, they are choosing to complain to God about the provisions that He is providing them. Sound familiar?
- **V.6** – What is God's response? He sends venomous snakes among them and "many Israelites died."
- **V.7** – Only after God has to deliver punishment do we wake up and the Israelites did finally wake up here. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, "We sinned when we spoke against the LORD and against you. Pray that the LORD will take the snakes away from us." So Moses prayed for the people.
- They ran to Moses for help even after they just got done speaking against him, and they were asking him to advocate on their behalf to God, whom they always spoke against.
- Moses did not hold any grudges and he did pray to God for the people.
- **V.8** - ⁸The LORD said to Moses, "Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live."
- **Why not just remove the venomous snakes that were biting them in the first place?**

- This request by God seems a little strange. Surely, He could have simply stopped the snakes from biting the people and all would have been solved right?
- **V. 9** – Moses did what God said, he “made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, he lived.”
- God is a just God, and the people needed to have a punishment for their sin and lack of faith.
- Notice that **v.9** says, “Then when anyone was bitten by a snake.”
- He did not remove the snakes nor did he prevent them from biting the people.
- Once bitten, a person had to be obedient to God. All he required them to do was to look at the bronze snake and they would live.
- **God doesn’t stop us from feeling the “bite” of our sin, however he does make a way for us to be saved!**

John 3:14-15

¹⁴Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.

- Jesus references what took place in **Numbers 21:4-9** here in his conversation with Nicodemus.
- All the Israelites had to do was be obedient and look at the bronze snake that Moses had lifted up and all we have to do is to be obedient and to believe in Jesus Christ as the Bible instructs us to, and we will be saved!
- Time and time again in the Bible we can see that **God Always Makes a Way.**
 - Adam and Eve in being cursed and banished from the Garden, but not killed.
 - The Flood still came, but God had Noah build an Ark.
 - Abraham not having to sacrifice Isaac because of God provided a ram instead.
 - Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego still got thrown into the fiery furnace but Jesus saved them.
 - Daniel got thrown into the lion’s den, but was not harmed.
- I could go on and on with the examples from the Bible about how things come our way, but if we are faithful and obedient, God always makes a way.
- This is true of situations that you are going through right now in your lives.
- God does not always prevent things from happening to us, but rest assure, he always provides a way.
- Just look at what all you had to go through in 2019, but you still survived it. **God Always Makes a Way.**
- More importantly than getting us through troubles in this life, God has made a way for us to overcome our sin nature and to overcome eternal punishment.
- As was stated earlier, you may feel the bite of your sin and disobedience, however God has made a way for you to be saved through His one and only Son Jesus Christ.
- Learn from the Israelites and recognize like they did in **v.7**, “We have sinned...” They also recognized that they needed saving.

Wednesday Night Adult Bible Study

Genesis 8:1-19