

The First Military Victories and the Bronze Snake: A Picture of Unbelief and of Christ the Saviour Numbers 21:01–09

**1. *The first military victory:
A picture of making
and fulfilling vows***

- a. The Canaanite king of Arad secretly attacked and captured some of them
- b. The reaction of Israel:
A courageous determination and faith
 - 1) They made a vow:
If God would give victory, they would destroy them
 - 2) They were heard by the LORD:
He gave them victory
 - 3) They fulfilled their vow:
Completely destroyed the savage, evil attackers

**2. *The bronze snake:
A picture of unbelief
and of Christ the Saviour***

- a. The tragic situation
 - 1) Had to bypass Edom, a long distance out of the way
 - 2) Grew impatient and grumbled against God and Moses
 - Asked why they had led them out of Egypt into the desert to die: Had no bread and no water
 - Stated they detested the “worthless manna”

- 1 When the Canaanite king of Arad, who lived in the Negev, heard that Israel was coming along the road to Atharim, he attacked the Israelites and captured some of them.
- 2 Then Israel made this vow to the LORD: “If you will deliver these people into our hands, we will totally destroy their cities.”
- 3 The LORD listened to Israel’s plea and gave the Canaanites over to them. They completely destroyed them and their towns; so the place was named Hormah.
- 4 They travelled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way;
- 5 they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread! There is no water!

- b. The judgment,
chastisement of the LORD
- 1) He sent snakes among them
 - 2) Many died
- c. The confession
and repentance of the people
- 1) They confessed their sin
 - 2) They asked Moses, to pray for
God to take away the snakes
 - 3) Moses prayed for them
- d. The answer of the LORD
- 1) To make a replica of a snake
and hang it on a high pole
 - 2) The condition for deliverance:
Must look at it to live
- e. The obedience of Moses:
Hung a bronze snake on a pole
- f. The deliverance:
Some looked, believed
and lived
(a picture of deliverance by
looking at Christ, Jn. 3:14-15)

And we detest this miserable food!”

- 6 Then the LORD sent venomous snakes
among them;
they bit the people
and many Israelites died.
- 7 The 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.
- 8 The LORD said to Moses,
“Make a snake and put it up on a pole;
anyone who is bitten can look at it and live.”
- 9 So 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,
they lived.