

The Bronze Snake: A Picture of Unbelief and of Christ the Saviour Numbers 21:04–09

1. *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”

2. *The judgment, chastisement of the LORD*

- 1) He sent snakes among them
- 2) Many died

3. *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

4. *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

5. *The obedience of Moses: Hung a bronze snake on a pole*

6. *The deliverance: Some looked, believed and lived (a picture of deliverance by looking at Christ, Jn. 3:14-15)*

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!
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.