

A biblical scene set in a desert landscape with mountains in the background. A man with a long white beard, wearing a green robe and a red sash, stands on the right, pointing his right hand towards a tall wooden staff. At the top of the staff is a horizontal crossbar with a golden snake coiled around it. In the foreground, a crowd of people in various colored robes (red, blue, brown) are gathered, looking towards the man and the staff. The sky is a warm, golden-yellow color, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The overall style is that of a classic religious painting.

FORSHLADOW

Numbers 21

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.

*Hormah means destruction.

⁴ They traveled 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.

This was a type and foreshadow:

John 3:14-15

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

Their sin was threefold:

Numbers 21:5 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!”

- Against God
- Against the man of God (Moses)
- Against the provision of God

The impatience of the Israelites made them forget the victory had just taken place:

• Seasons of waiting will cause us to:

- Trust or Turn (Ps. 3:5-7)
- Apply eye salve or go blind (Rev. 3:18)
 - Lean in or fall out (Ps. 37:3)
- Draw nigh or turn away (James 4:8)
- God's best or my best (Rom. 12:2)

God provided a solution:

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.

***The serpent is an image of a curse.**

Galatians 3:13

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a pole.”

***Brass is symbolic of judgement.**

A biblical scene set in a desert landscape with mountains in the background. A man with a long white beard, wearing a green robe and a red sash, stands on the right, pointing his right hand towards a tall wooden staff. At the top of the staff is a horizontal crossbar with a golden snake coiled around it. In the foreground, a crowd of people in various colored robes (red, blue, brown) are gathered, looking towards the man and the staff. The sky is a warm, golden-yellow color, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The overall style is that of a classic religious painting.

FORSHLADOW