

3/17/2019

Medicine for the Soul

John 3:13-15 ¹³No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. ¹⁴Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.” (NIV)

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 wilderness? 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, they lived.(NIV)

I. What are the details of the two passages that we are studying today?

- A. Jesus often used the title “Son of Man” for Himself. This is a reference to His **humanity**. John 4:13
- B. Jesus then illustrates our **salvation** with the serpent on a pole from the Old Testament. John 4:14
- C. The Old Testament story begins with the Israelites **speaking** against God and Moses. V. 5
- D. God **judged** the people by sending serpents into the camp. V. 6
- E. The Israelites **repented** and asked for salvation from the snakes. V. 7
- F. God told **Moses** to make a bronze serpent and put it on a pole. V. 8
- G. All who were bitten were told to **look** to the pole for healing. V. 9
- H. Our current symbol for the **medical** community resembles this bronze serpent and pole.

Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the **power** of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. (NIV)

II. What can we learn from this passage?

- A. Salvation that has no relationship to Jesus Christ isn’t going to **work**.
- B. Every bad thing that comes into our life can be used by God to **refine** us.
- C. Repentance and salvation are **interconnected**.
- D. Saving faith is not just an **intellectual** exercise.
- E. The lifting up of Christ is both a historical event as well as an **ongoing** call!