



DAY 8

Scriptural Background: Num 21:4–9

"8 And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live." Num 21:8

Sin brings destruction into everything. In Numbers 21, the people of Israel dramatically experienced this in the form of fiery serpents which were sent by the LORD following their grumbling against him. When the people ask Moses to intercede for them, interestingly the LORD's provision is something in the very form of the affliction itself. What is more, God has Moses instruct the people simply to look at this image that has been lifted up, and just in the act of looking would be their salvation. He does not say "climb up the pole" or even "crawl to the pole," but simply "look."¹ This is one of the greatest Old Testament pictures of the Christian truth that salvation is by faith. In fact, Jesus cites it as a direct analogy for what He would do on the cross (Jn 3:14–16). When His people, afflicted by sin, simply look to Him in faith, they are saved, healed, and the work of the Serpent in their lives is conquered.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, thank You for becoming sin in my place. Thank You for being lifted up for my healing. During this season of Lent, help me realize the ways I still foolishly try to rely on self-effort instead of looking to You. Help me further realize the full extent of Your healing work and live accordingly. In Your Name, Amen.

This point of contrast comes from Pastor Tim Keller.