

SEEING OURSELVES HEALED IN CHRIST

AUGUST 26, 2018

NUMBERS 21

V4-5 – Jesus said in the world we'll be challenged. We'll face spiritual, emotional, physical, financial, and social challenges. Why? Because we live in a fallen world. If we don't properly deal with life's challenges, we can get discouraged – lose our spiritual enthusiasm and confidence in God. David got discouraged, but encouraged himself in the Lord. These Israelites got discouraged. Instead of encouraging themselves in the Lord, they criticized the Lord and Moses:

- God's motive – "You brought us out to kill us!"
- God's power – "There is no food or water!"
- God's cooking – "This awful, worthless, wretched, insipid, horrible, contemptible, unsubstantial, hateful, revolting, detestable, abhorrent, sickening, repulsive, abominable, odious, despicable, repugnant, repellent, disgusting manna!"

V6 – Judgment came on them because it was necessary, as it was with Noah's flood, Sodom and Gomorrah, and David and Bathsheba. God knows when judgment is necessary.

V7 – Judgment led to confession of sin, repentance, and prayer to seek God's counsel.

V8 – Directions were given, faith needs a foundation, and something to act on. Usually something illogical, or contradictory to what is normal or reasonable.

- Cast your nets, walk around the walls, gather as many vessels as you can, build an ark, dip seven times...
- Place a fiery serpent on a pole. Those who behold it attentively, expectantly, with a steady, absorbing gaze, will live.

V9 – Those who followed the instructions were healed.

A TYPE OF CHRIST – JOHN 3:14

On the cross Jesus became the serpent on the pole and was made sick for us. **ISAIAH 53:10 (AMPC)**

- The object of horror. **ISAIAH 52:14 (AMPC, CEV)**
- Jesus' body didn't appear human because He became sin, the curse, and every sickness, disease and mental disorder that ever was, is, or ever will be was placed on Him.
 - As the Israelites were healed by beholding the type of Christ, we are healed by beholding Christ Himself.
 - This is done by faith. **2 CORINTHIANS 4:17-18, HEBREWS 11:1**

VISION REQUIRED – PROVERBS 29:18

It's all a matter of perspective, or how we see ourselves. We can see ourselves as victims or victors: conquered or more than conquerors through Christ; bound or delivered; weak or strong in the Lord; sick or healed by the stripes of Jesus.

God wants us to see ourselves as He sees us. He gave us His Word to paint a picture of victory upon the canvas of our hearts. **1 PETER 2:24**

CONCLUSION: ROMANS 8:11 (GW)

As we behold the cross and proclaim the Word, the Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead will give life and health to our mortal bodies.