

Receiving the Gifts of God



Receiving the Gifts of God

- God reveals the information
- Man listens and believes or not
- Man obeys or disobeys
- God rewards or punishes



*The Gift of the
Bronze Serpent*

Numbers 21:1 – 9

(NKJV)

The Gift of the Bronze Serpent

- Backdrop for the story
 - Israel was being punished for the decision to not enter Canaan
 - Israel had on multiple occasions complained about their situation
 - Just like times before this complaining came shortly after God's blessings

Numbers 21:1 – 3

(NKJV)

“The king of Arad, the Canaanite, who dwelt in the South, heard that Israel was coming on the road to Atharim. Then he fought against Israel and took some of them prisoners. So Israel made a vow to the Lord, and said, ‘If You will indeed deliver this people into my hand, then I will utterly destroy their cities.’ And the Lord listened to the voice of Israel and delivered up the Canaanites, and they utterly destroyed them and their cities. So the name of that place was called Hormah.”

The Gift of the Bronze Serpent

- Backdrop for the story
- The story

The Gift of the Bronze Serpent

➤ The story

➤ Israel grows weary traveling

Numbers 21:4

(NKJV)

“Then they journeyed from Mount Hor by the Way of the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; and the soul of the people became very discouraged on the way.”

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- The story
 - Israel grows weary traveling
 - The complaint

Numbers 21:5

(NKJV)

“And the people spoke against God and against Moses: ‘Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and our soul loathes this worthless bread.’”

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- The story
 - Israel grows weary traveling
 - The complaint
 - God's punishment

Numbers 21:6

(NKJV)

“So the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and many of the people of Israel died.”

The Gift of the Bronze Serpent

- The story
 - Israel grows weary traveling
 - The complaint
 - God's punishment
 - Repentance and request of Israel

Numbers 21:7

(NKJV)

“Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, ‘We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord that He take away the serpents from us.’ ...”

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- The story
 - Israel grows weary traveling
 - The complaint
 - God's punishment
 - Repentance and request of Israel
 - Moses prays

Numbers 21:7

(NKJV)

“...So Moses prayed for the people.”

The Gift of the Bronze Serpent

- Backdrop for the story
- The story
- God's gift of salvation

The Gift of the Bronze Serpent

- God's gift of salvation
 - God's revelation

Numbers 21:8

(NKJV)

“Then the Lord said to Moses, ‘Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and it shall be that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, shall live.’”

The Gift of the Bronze Serpent

- God's gift of salvation
 - God's revelation
 - Man listens and believes
 - Man obeys

Numbers 21:9

(NKJV)

“So Moses made a bronze serpent, and put it on a pole; ...”

The Gift of the Bronze Serpent

- God's gift of salvation
 - God's revelation
 - Man listens and decides
 - Man acts
 - God rewards or punishes

Numbers 21:9

(NKJV)

“...and so it was, if a serpent had bitten anyone, when he looked at the bronze serpent, he lived.”

The Gift of the Bronze Serpent

- Backdrop for the story
- The story
- God's gift of salvation
- The pattern is still going

The Gift of the Bronze Serpent

- The pattern is still going
- Jesus makes this story applicable

John 3:14 – 17

(NKJV)

“And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”

Hebrews 12:2

(NKJV)

“looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

The Gift of the Bronze Serpent

- The pattern is still going
 - Jesus makes this story applicable
 - We have been given the information and need to make a decision

Romans 6:15 – 18

(NKJV)

“What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not! Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one’s slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness? But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.”

Romans 6:23

(NKJV)

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

The Gift of the Bronze Serpent

- Backdrop for the story
- The story
- God's pattern for gift giving
- God's gift of salvation
- The pattern is still going

What is your decision?