

## Communion Meditation – In the Wilderness

Numbers 21.4-9

Faith Neutralizes Sin

April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015

### Discouragement (again)

- Many years have passed since spies incident / they've wandered
- **v4** ~ The "soul of the people became very discouraged"
  - **v5a** ~ This led them to "speak against God and Moses"
  - **v5b** ~ "our soul loathes this worthless bread"
- When discouraged we neither see our blessings nor are thankful for them

### Sin Judged and Repented Of

- **v6** ~ "The Lord sent fiery serpents .. they bit the people .. many died."
- But this time God's rebuke brings a different response
  - The people admit their sin and ask forgiveness
  - **v7a** ~ The people said "we have sinned .. spoken against the Lord and you"
    - **v7b** ~ "Pray to the Lord that He take the serpents from us."
  - **v8** ~ "So Moses prayed for the people."

### Faith Required

- **v8** ~ "Make a fiery serpent .. everyone .. bitten .. who looks at it shall live"
- Note that God doesn't remove the serpents (*tares in wheat*)
- **But** He provides a remedy for the venom of sin based on faith
  - This morphs into idolatry that Hezekiah destroys (**2 Ki 18.4**)

### Fulfillment of Prophecy

- **Read Jn 3.14-15** ~ as serpent was lifted up so must the Son of Man be
- **Read Jn 19.36-37** ~ no bone broken / but look at Him whom they pierced
- **Read Zech 12.10** ~ pour out grace / they will look on Me whom they pierced

When those bitten merely looked upon the serpent they were healed

The deadly venom killing them was neutralized by this act of faith

Paul wrote in 2 Cor 5 "God made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us."

Choosing a serpent was not an accident / That symbolized the origin of sin

When they looked at the serpent they were looking back to the Fall

Sin requires payment / Justification is free to us but was costly to Christ