

Bible Study Notes & Reflective Questions – Look Up and Live (Numbers 21) Last Sermon in Numbers series.

Opening Prayer

Living Lord Jesus, we turn to You as we look at Your Word today. Speak to hearts and minds that are open to listening – and help us to know You are speaking to each one of us. Amen.

Study Notes

Context of Numbers 21:4-9

- The Israelites had been miraculously delivered from Egypt, yet they continued to grumble against God.
- Their complaints led to God sending venomous snakes as a form of judgment.
- In His mercy, God provided a remedy: a bronze serpent set upon a pole.
- Those who looked up at it in faith were healed.
- Jesus later referenced this event in John 3:14-15, likening the serpent to His crucifixion.

Key Themes

1. Gratitude vs. Grumbling

- The Israelites quickly forgot God's blessings and focused on their hardships.
- This mirrors how we sometimes react to difficulties in our lives.

2. Sin and Its Consequences

- The snakes represented the consequence of their rebellion.
- Today, sin still brings pain and suffering, but God provides a way out.

3. Looking to Jesus for Healing

- Just as the Israelites had to look at the bronze serpent, we must look to Jesus for salvation.

- True healing and restoration come from faith in Christ.
- 4. Old Covenant vs. New Covenant**
- The Old Covenant emphasized obedience and consequences (Deuteronomy 28).
 - The New Covenant, through Jesus, brings grace, mercy, and transformation.
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Reflective & Life Application Questions

Personal Reflection

1. Have you ever found yourself grumbling against God? What was the situation, and how did you respond?
2. What are some ways you can cultivate gratitude instead of complaining?
3. Are there any areas in your life where bitterness has taken root? How can you bring this before God?

Faith & Trust in Jesus

4. The Israelites had to look at the bronze serpent to be healed. What does it mean for you personally to “look up” to Jesus in times of struggle?
5. Jesus compared Himself to the bronze serpent (John 3:14-15). How does this deepen your understanding of His sacrifice on the cross?
6. In what ways do you sometimes minimize the power of the cross in your life?

Community & Compassion

7. How can we encourage others who are struggling with pain, addiction, or hardship to look to Jesus for healing?
8. Who in your life needs to be reminded of God’s grace and mercy today? How can you practically show them His love?

9. If bitterness is like poison, how can we support one another in uprooting it from our hearts?

Living It Out

10. What practical step can you take this week to “look up and live” in your faith?
11. How can you remind yourself daily to focus on Jesus rather than your struggles?
12. Is there someone you need to forgive or something you need to surrender to Jesus to experience true healing?
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Closing Thought & Challenge

- Just as the Israelites had to acknowledge their sin and look up in faith, we too must turn our eyes to Jesus, trusting Him even when life does not go as planned.
- **Challenge:** This week, when faced with a difficulty, take a moment to pause, pray, and intentionally “look up” to Jesus rather than focusing on the problem.

**Look up to Jesus in faith, and He will restore your soul.
Look up and live.**

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus, we thank You for Your Word that reminds us to lift our eyes to You in every circumstance. Help us to turn away from grumbling and bitterness and instead focus on Your love, grace, and healing power. May we trust in You, even when life is difficult, knowing that You alone can restore our souls. Teach us to live in gratitude and faith, always looking to You for strength. We surrender our burdens to You today. In Your holy name, Amen.