

Title: When God Says "I'm Done"

Scripture: Numbers 21:4-9

Speaker: Vic Redding

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Numbers 21:4-9 *"And they journeyed from mount Hor by the way of the Red sea, to compass the land of Edom: and the soul of the people was much discouraged because of the way. 5 And the people spake against God, and against Moses, Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? for there is no bread, neither is there any water; and our soul loatheth this light bread. 6 And the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and much people of Israel died. 7 Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD, and against thee; pray unto the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us. And Moses prayed for the people. 8 And the LORD said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live. 9 And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived."*

Israel was constantly complaining. I Corinthians 10 tells us that we are to be an example to others. Complaining doesn't have a positive influence on others. Numbers 14:21-22 *"But as truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD. 22 Because all those men which have seen my glory, and my miracles, which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have tempted me now these ten times, and have not hearkened to my voice;"* John 3:14-15 says *"And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: 15 That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life."*

There is a connection between Numbers 21 and John 3: The remedy that God provided was good for anybody. It is the same for everyone. This means that God isn't looking at your denomination. He sees that the need is for everyone. John 14:6 states that *"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."* Acts 4:12 says *"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."*

Three things to see from Numbers 21:

1. **To live, one must realize that they are bitten:** All of the people were subject to death (see 21:8) Romans 6:23 says the wages of sin is death. In Romans Paul tells the characteristics of one who is in sin. Romans 3:10-17, 23 says *"As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: 11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. 12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. 13 Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: 14 Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: 15 Their feet are swift to shed blood: 16 Destruction and misery are in their ways: 17 And the way of peace have they not known: 23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;"*
 - a. To this day we are all subject to a death much greater than a physical death. We are at risk of an eternal death. Hebrews 9:27 *"And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:"* We have all sinned and come short of the glory of God.
2. **To live, one must find a remedy:** Verses 8 and 9 of Numbers 21 gives the remedy for the snake bites that were taking place at this time.

- a. The word *remedy* means “a medicine, application or treatment that relieves or cures disease. It also means a way of solving or correcting a problem.” Luke 22:20 says “*Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.*”
- b. We are given a remedy for our sins. I Peter 1:18 says “*Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; 19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:*” If one gets bit by a venomous creature, there is an anecdote. If Satan gets too involved in our lives, there is an anecdote.
- c. The remedy is available without favor between groups. It is not available only to the rich or a specific

3. To live, one must accept the remedy: The remedy was given by choice. It was up to them whether they lived or died. In the OT and NT scripture, there’s only one right choice. If a man is to be saved today, it is by Jesus Christ. This is a fact that hasn’t changed over the entire existence of time. We might get discouraged over a lost person, but they are making the choice regarding their eternity. The saving power will be of their faith, not of their works. It meant to have faith in what was told to Moses. They had the choice to believe that the remedy would work or that it wouldn’t.

- a. Everything has a positive or negative reaction. The people knew what had happened with Eve and they knew a serpent wasn’t a positive thing to come across. During this time, a serpent or snake was the last thing they wanted to look at. The serpent was dramatic, horrible, shocking, and unsettling, yet those who would look on it would live. It was a test of their faith.
- b. John 3 describes the correlation between this action and the action of Christ on the cross. When you think of Christ’s crucifixion, what do you think of? Do you see a man in a nice robe? Do you see a halo over his head? In the Bible the events of the crucifixion are given in great detail. It was not a pleasant picture to see. It was a horrible event that no one should’ve had to see yet it is proof of his love for us. God wants us to see his son. To *really* see him. We have the same choice that the Israelites had. From the spiritual standpoint we have to look at Christ at the time of his crucifixion in order to accept the sacrifice that was made for us. We have to look at it and accept it and realize that his actions are what gave us the choice of where we would spend eternity.