



# PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

## NUMBERS 21:1-9

### LESSON: LOOK AND LIVE —March 8, 2020

#### INTRODUCTION / SYNOPSIS:

**CHAPTER 20:21-29** And Edom refused to allow Israel to pass through his country, so Israel had to turn away from him and go in another direction; from that country and go another way. All the Israelites went from Kadesh and arrived at Mt. Hor (near the border of Edom) where the Lord began to speak to Moses and Aaron saying that it was time for Aaron to die; he would not enter into the land the Lord had given the children of Israel because Aaron the priest and Moses the lawgiver rebelled against the Word of the Lord at the water of Meribah (when Moses was to speak to the rock instead of hitting the rock) (20:11). God tells Moses to take Aaron and his son Eleazar to Mt. Hor and there he began to strip Aaron of his priestly garments and put them upon his son Eleazar. This is where Aaron will die. We have read in Numbers 20:1 Miriam had died. And now the brother (Aaron) dies in the same chapter. Moses did as the Lord commanded. The three went up to Mt. Hor and Aaron's priestly garments were removed and placed upon his son Eleazar in the sight of all of the congregation, and Aaron died there on top of the mountain. This now made Eleazar the *"High Priest."* Then Moses and Eleazar came down the mountain. And the people seeing that Aaron was dead, for Eleazar was wearing the clothing of the *"High Priest."* And all of Israel began to mourn Aaron's death for 30days.

#### LESSON: I. THE LORD GIVES VICTORY NUMBERS 21:1-3

**21:1** And when king Arad the Canaanite, which dwelt in the south, heard tell that Israel came by the way of the spies; then he fought against Israel, and took some of them prisoners. <sup>1</sup>This chapter starts the third part of the Book of Numbers. The events in this part happened when the Israelites were preparing to enter the Promised Land. The king of Arad lived in the southern part of the country called Canaan. "Arad" was a town in the country called Canaan. The king heard that the Israelite were approaching in the manner of spies were travelling towards the village called Atharim. King Arad attacked them and took some of them away as his prisoners.

**21:2** And Israel vowed a vow unto the Lord, and said, If thou wilt indeed deliver this people into my hand, then I will utterly destroy their cities. The Israelites pledged a vow; an oath to the Lord, that if He delivered king Arad and his people into their hand, they would utterly destroy; annihilate their cities. This will show that their towns and everything in their towns belong to God. <sup>2</sup>They couldn't even gain any money or possessions as a result of this battle. The Israelites had to defeat these nations before they could live in the Promised Land.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.easyenglish.bible/bible-commentary/numbers-21-36-lbw.htm>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.easyenglish.bible/bible-commentary/numbers-21-36-lbw.htm>

# PITWM VERSE BY VERSE



**21:3 And the Lord hearkened to the voice of Israel, and delivered up the Canaanites; and they utterly destroyed them and their cities: and he called the name of the place Hormah.** The Lord heard and answered the overwhelming voices of Israel. He helped them to defeat the Canaanites and they utterly destroyed; annihilated their cities. The Israelites then called that place "*Hormah*", which meant "*destruction*."

## II. THE LORD SENDS SERPENTS NUMBERS 21:4-6

**21:4 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.** Even after a victory with king Arad, discouragement can creep in. And since the king of Edom would not allow them to enter or pass through their country, the Israelites had a rough going as they traveled from Mt. Hor (near the border of Edom), by the Red Sea which is going around Edom. This reminds me of our roadways or highways when the traffic is horrendous and you are detoured another way that's unfamiliar and trying to get to an appointment. When looking at the point that when we are detoured, it means to trust God, be anxious for nothing; God is fulfilling His attitude in us. However, that was something the Israelites had to learn, for it says "*the soul of the people was much discouraged*." This meant they were in their feelings. They were by the Red Sea again and it seemed like they were going backwards.

**21:5 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.** The people had gotten so angry that they began to speak against God and Moses. They blamed them for bringing them into the wilderness to die. We will always go back to what's familiar in our lives (mentally or physically). We go back to things that made us comfortable and complacent (that was Egypt for them). **What is it for you?** But they have to remember that they prayed and asked for God's help. The people began to bring up not having bread or water, and their soul disliked the light bread they had (the manna from God). Do we grumble and complain when God is showing us something new; stretching us? And the supply of food, even clothing we do have, we get fed up with them? We have to be careful what we speak against, especially if it's God!

**21:6 And the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and much people of Israel died.** Do you think they got the message then? They grumbled and complained at the wrong One! God was not standing for this. He sent fiery serpents (poisonous snakes) among the people of Israel, that bit them, causing death among many of them.

## III. A SIGN FOR HEALING NUMBERS 21:7-9

**21:7 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.** They surely knew how to right the wrong by coming to Moses and repenting, saying that they had sinned by speaking against the Lord and against him. They needed Moses to pray to the Lord who had sent the fiery serpents upon them, and how they want Him to take them away. And Moses did pray for the people.

**21:8 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.** The Lord

GJW



# PITWM VERSE BY VERSE



heard the people's repentance and Moses' prayer. The Lord was specific in answering Moses' prayer. He didn't just take the snakes away, but He also required that the people also do something. Those that had been bitten were to look at the pole of the fiery serpent (*a replica of a brass (bronze) snake on a pole*). Then they would live.

**21:9 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.** Without questions, Moses did just as the Lord instructed him to do: make a serpent of brass and put it on a pole. The person who had been bitten by a serpent would live, just by looking upon the brass serpent on the pole. This was a simple test of faith. God did not remove the snakes; just as He does not remove all sin from the world. They just had to play their part: remember who God was. He provided a way to cure every person from the results of sin. Just as the Israelites were healed of the serpents by looking at the snake on the pole, all believers today can be saved from the sickness of sin by looking to Jesus' death on the cross. It was not the snake that healed the people, but it's their belief; their trust; their obedience in God that He could heal them. This belief was demonstrated by following God's instructions.

## SUMMARY:

This chapter begins with king Arad the Canaanite who heard that Israel was coming in the manner of spies or by the way of spies. He dwelt in the south, which caused him to fight against Israel, and take some of them prisoners. Israel pledged a vow; an oath to the Lord, that if He delivered king Arad and his people into their hand, they would utterly destroy and annihilate their cities. The Lord heard and answered the overwhelming voices of Israel. And Israel utterly destroyed them and their cities. They called that place "*Hormah*", which meant "*destruction*." (**21:1-3**).

Then they journeyed from Mount Hor by the way of the Red sea, to the border of the land of Edom, and the soul of the people was very discouraged because of the way they had to go. The people had gotten so angry that they began to speak against God and Moses. They blamed them for bringing them into the wilderness to die; not having bread or water, and their soul disliked eating the light bread God supplied (the manna). The Lord answered their grumbling and complaining very quickly by sending fiery serpents (poisonous snakes) among them, biting them and causing death to many (**21:4-6**).

The people went to Moses and repented, saying that they had sinned by speaking against the Lord and against him. They needed Moses to pray to the Lord who had sent the fiery serpents upon them, to now take them away. And Moses did pray for the people. The Lord heard the people's repentance and Moses' prayer. God was specific in answering Moses' prayer. He didn't just take the snakes away, but He also required that the people also do something. They that had been bitten had to look at the pole of the fiery serpent (*a replica of a brass (bronze) snake on the pole*). Moses did just what the Lord had told him to do: make a serpent of brass and put it on a pole. The person who had been bitten by a serpent would live, just by looking upon the brass serpent on the pole. It is in their belief; their trust; their obedience in God that they would be healed. This belief was demonstrated by following God's instructions (**21:7-9**).

