

Looking for Life

Numbers 21:4-9

John 3:14-16

Slides from John Percival's sermon at the
Easter morning service
Sunday 10th March 2024

“If I died tomorrow, what I’d be saying on my deathbed is I regret not spending enough time with my family. So, that’s what I focus on now.”

“I have a “Yolo list” of things I want to experience in life and my husband and family work very hard to ensure we do as many of them as possible together. They’ve taken me snorkelling in the Maldives, hot air ballooning over Cappadocia and snowmobiling in Iceland. We’ve stayed in a cave hotel, seen the pyramids, the Colosseum, and flown in a helicopter over New York. We’ve hand-fed tigers, taken the Rocky Mountain train, been paragliding, and seen the tulip fields of Holland.”

“My life is most likely going to be short, so on my good days, when I am well enough, I really want to live...”

John 3v14-15

¹⁴ Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵ that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”

Numbers 21v4-9

⁴ They travelled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; ⁵ they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!”

Numbers 21v4-9

⁶ Then the LORD sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. ⁷ The people came to Moses and said, “We sinned when we spoke against the LORD and against you. Pray that the LORD will take the snakes away from us.” So Moses prayed for the people.

Numbers 21v4-9

⁸ The LORD said to Moses, “Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live.” ⁹ So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived.

1. The people (v4-5)

1 Corinthians 10v9-11

⁹ We should not test Christ, as some of them did—and were killed by snakes. ¹⁰ And do not grumble, as some of them did—and were killed by the destroying angel. ¹¹ These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come.

2. The snakes (v6)

Numbers 21v6

⁶ Then the LORD sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died.

“The plague of snakes today rose to a memorable height and became a terror... the valley seemed to be creeping with horned vipers and puff adders, cobras and black snakes. By night, movement was dangerous and at last we found it necessary to walk with sticks, beating the bushes each side while we stepped warily through on bare feet. Our party of 50 men killed perhaps 20 snakes daily...”

T.E. Lawrence

3. The pole (v7-9)

Numbers 21v8-9

⁸ The LORD said to Moses, “Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live.” ⁹ So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived.

2 Corinthians 5v21

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

John 3v14-15

¹⁴ Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵ that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”

John 3v16

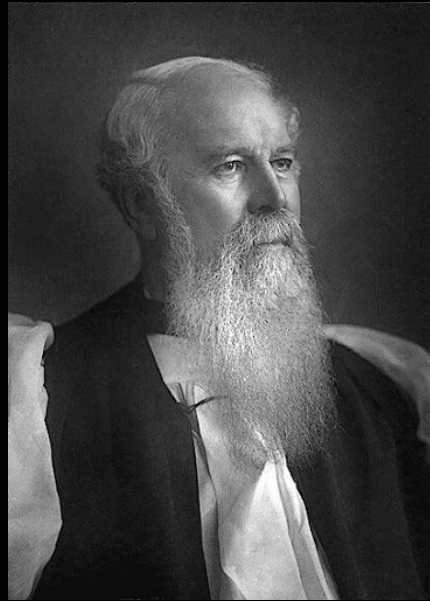
For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

4. The look (v8-9)

Numbers 21v9

when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived.

“The feeblest look brought cure to an Israelite, and the weakest faith can bring salvation to us.”



J.C. Ryle