

Walking On Water Thursday Nights

September 17th, 2009

NUMBERS Chapter 21:4-9, “SNAKE ON A STAKE”

I. Recap

- a. Jesus explained where he was described in the Law and Prophets (Luke 24:44-48)
- b. Egypt...Mt Sinai...Kadesh Barnea...Bad Report Spread Fear leads to doubt...God's Consequences..
- c. Israel tries to then take promise land...get beat down
 - i. Tried to go when and where they wanted not when/where God wanted
 - ii. They missed God's Window Of Opportunity
- D. Korah and 250 rebels swallowed up by the earth for rebelling against Moses and God.
- E. Aaron and Moses “Stand in the Gap” for Israel LIKE CHRIST

II. Context

- a. Beginning of 40 years Wandering in desert...
- b. Joshua and Caleb and Moses/Aaron had to suffer because of the sin of others (bad report...doubting report)
- c. Million people grumbled against Moses and Aaron for water in Chapter 20:1-13. Moses didn't honor God as holy before them and lost the honor of leading them into promised land.

II. NUMBERS 21:1-9

- a. V. 1-3 first battle in desert.
 - i. God's victory but they became **PROUD**
- b. V. 5 Complaining = Doubting God is Good
- c. V.5 No Bread and No Water?
 - i. God miraculously gave them both already!
 - ii. They were disrespecting God's Grace and Holy provision.
- d. V.6 Why did God send the snakes

- i. **Deut. 8:16** 16 He gave you manna to eat in the desert, something your fathers had never known, to humble and to test you **so that in the end it might go well with you.**
- e. **V.7 God wants us to come to him as SINNERS**
- f. **V. 8-9 Snake on a Stake**
 - i. **John 3:1-16**
 - 1. **Brass is symbol of Judgement**
 - 2. **Serpent is symbol of Sin**
 - 3. **THEIR SIN HAD BEEN JUDGED**
 - a. But the fact that the serpent was hanging on the pole did not automatically guarantee that they would not die. **There was something they had to do.**
 - i. They were required to look at the serpent in order to live.
 - ii. They had to see that their sin had been judged.
 - iii. Those who looked did not die, but those who did not look, died.
 - 4. **Example: Guy who came to WOW outreach said “Can’t be this easy”**

Excuses not to look up to Jesus in Faith:

- 1. **Too many hypocrites. (Jesus said to follow him not his followers. God is perfect)**
- 2. **Too simple. I must work my way to heaven.**
- 3. **Don’t want to give up my sin. It is killing you!**