

**THE FIERY SERPENT AND OUR SALVATION**  
**NUMBERS 21:4-9**  
**JOHN 3:14-17**

**Introduction**

1. The unleashing of the fiery serpents shows both the wrath and the grace of God.
2. Jesus uses these events to describe His death on the cross and its connection to the salvation of man.



**I. Sin Destroyed.**

A. *Theirs*

1. Theirs was the frequent sin of complaining.
2. They complained for lack of food and water (Numbers 21:4, 5).
3. Their complaints against Moses reflected displeasure with God (Numbers 21:5). To complain against God's leaders is the same as complaining against God Himself.
4. Their sin resulted in death (Numbers 21:6).

B. *Ours*

1. Our sins separate us from God (Isaiah 59:1, 2).
2. Any displeasure that we have with God's Way reflects our personal displeasure with God.
3. Our sin results in death.
  - a. Our sins caused the death of Christ.
  - b. Our sins (if unrepented) will result in spiritual death (Romans 6:23).

**II. Grace Intervened.**

- A. God's amazing grace is all that spares man!
- B. Grace has often been described as unmerited favor.
- C. Love is God's motivation for His grace (John 3:16; 2 Peter 3:9).

**III. Conditions Existed.**

A. *Theirs*

1. A brass serpent had to be made (Numbers 21:8).
2. Israel had to look upon this serpent (Numbers 21:8).
  - a. How much sense do the above conditions make? Do you think Israel understood all that was commanded of them?
  - b. How much debate do you suppose there was regarding these conditions?
  - c. How eager do you feel Israel might have been to obey Moses' words?
  - d. Can you imagine what liberal preachers would have said if they had been present?

## B. *Ours*

1. We must meet the conditions of our salvation.
2. Many do not understand the relationship between baptism and salvation (Mark 16:16). This lack of understanding doesn't negate the clear command to be baptized (Acts 2:38).
  - a. Knowing the clarity of the command (Acts 10:48) to be baptized, how much debate should there be?
  - b. How eager should we be to do what we have been told to do (Acts 8:36)?

## IV. **Salvation Resulted.**

- A. They were saved (Numbers 21:9).
- B. We can be saved.
  1. Salvation is always open.
  2. Our salvation is individual. No one can be saved for you!
  3. Salvation results in a change (John 10:10; 1 Timothy 4:8).
  4. Salvation releases us for the guilt of sin (Titus 1:2; 2 Timothy 1:10).

## **Conclusion**

1. The parallels between those in the wilderness and us today are striking.
2. Long before Jesus ever left heaven, Moses preached His saving Way.
3. Will you obey and be saved?
  - Hear (Romans 10:17)
  - Believe (Mark 16:16)
  - Repent (Acts 17:30, 31)
  - Confess (Matthew 10:32, 33)
  - Be Baptized (1 Peter 3:21)
  - Live faithfully (Revelation 2:10)

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## **THREE ASPECTS OF GRACE** **Dennis Gullede**

Are we saved by grace? There is no doubt if we believe what the Bible says! It is regrettable, however that some of our brethren have learned from John Calvin and the denominations to add the word "only" to the equation, thus teaching false doctrine.

*Grace is a status that must be attained.* The Christians at Ephesus did so (Ephesians 2:8-9); and so do all who obey the gospel (Ephesians 1:13; 3:6). It is attained by meeting conditions which God has set out in his Word (Mark 16:15-16; Romans 10:9-10; Acts 17:30; 2:38).

*Grace is a status that must be maintained.* As surely as a child of God is saved by grace it is just as true that he is God's "workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them" (Ephesians 2:10). We must keep ourselves in that status: "Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life" (Jude 21). The implication is that one may not maintain this status.

*Grace is a status in which some have not remained.* Galatians 1:6 is proof that some do remove themselves from the grace of God. It is sad that some despair of humbly and reverently doing the will of God so as to remain faithful unto death (Galatians 6:9; Revelation 2:10).