

## “The Chosen (11): Snakes in the Cradle”

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### ☐ Numbers 21:4-9

- ◆ God is so committed to our human freedom that he has elevated \_\_\_\_\_ choice as the highest of all universal liberties.
- ◆ In God’s kingdom there is no greater freedom than the freedom to \_\_\_\_\_.
- ◆ Without the freedom to choose, reciprocal \_\_\_\_\_ could not exist—because love must not only give you the right to say \_\_\_\_\_, it must also grant you the right to say \_\_\_\_\_.
- ◆ Deuteronomy 8:15—God did not suddenly \_\_\_\_\_ a slithering horde of fiery serpents to punish the children of Israel—the snakes were \_\_\_\_\_ there.
- ◆ In response to the people’s dark and murmuring wishes, God honors their free choice and \_\_\_\_\_ himself from their midst—thus lifting the divine \_\_\_\_\_ that had protected them all these years.
- ◆ The remedy was simple: \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_!

### ☐ John 3:14-16

- ◆ Numbers 21 and John 3 introduce the \_\_\_\_\_ metaphor into the divine plan of salvation.
- ◆ Whereas the lamb depicted the \_\_\_\_\_ of our sins, the serpent demonstrated the \_\_\_\_\_ from our sins.
- ◆ It is the mysterious truth that in order to \_\_\_\_\_ humanity, the Savior must become the very \_\_\_\_\_ that was killing them.
  - Isaiah 53:4-5—“Surely he has borne our griefs [Heb. sicknesses, i.e. poison] and carried our sorrows. . . . And by His stripes we are \_\_\_\_\_.”
  - I Peter 2:24—“[Christ] himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been \_\_\_\_\_.”
  - II Corinthians 5:21—“For He [the Father] made Him [Christ] who knew no sin to be \_\_\_\_\_ for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”
- ◆ “As the serpent was lifted up in the wilderness, so the Son of God was lifted up on the cross, that sinners from the ends of the earth might look and live. Multitudes are still suffering from the deadly sting of that old serpent, the devil. The effects of sin can be removed only by the provision which God has made. Here, alone, hope and salvation can be found. As the Israelites saved their lives by looking upon the brazen serpent, so sinners can look to Christ and live. Unlike that inert and lifeless symbol, Christ has power and virtue in himself, to \_\_\_\_\_ the suffering, repenting, bleeding sinner.” (ST, October 28, 1880)
- ◆ How then shall the chosen be healed?
- ◆ “If you will only do your part and bow at the cross of Calvary, you will receive the blessing of God. God loves you. He does not wish to draw you nigh to him to hurt you, oh, no; but to comfort you, to pour in the oil of rejoicing, to \_\_\_\_\_ the wounds that sin has made, to bind up where Satan has bruised. . . . Will you bow low at the foot of the cross? Jesus will place his arms around you, and comfort you. Will you do this without further delay?” (RH, March 4, 1890)
- ◆ The healing antidote for the sins of the chosen—meditate on the story of Calvary (Matthew 27:24-54) every new day.

*Look and live!*

free, choose, love, YES, NO, create, already, removes, shield, Look, live, healing, forgiveness, healing, heal, poison, healed, healed, sin, heal, heal