

The Word Became Flesh: A Journey Through the Gospel of John

The Cure for Snake Bite

a discussion around John 3:13-15

"No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him."

Questions for Group 1:

"No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven"

- What is Jesus saying here and why is it so important?
- What does this have to do with Jesus' claim in verses 3-5 that no one can see/enter the kingdom of God unless they are reborn?

Questions for Group 2:

"The Son of Man"

- What is the significance of this name?
- Why is it important in this passage?

Question for Group 3:

Numbers 21:4-7

But the people grew impatient on the way; 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!" Then the Lord sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died.

- How does the predicament of the Israelites in this story reflect that of humanity as a whole?

Question for Group 4:

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

Numbers 21:7-9

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. 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." 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.

- How does the cure for snake bite in Numbers 21 foreshadow what Jesus says about himself in John 3:14-15?

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