

Numbers 21:4b-9

Psalm 98:1-5

1 Corinthians 1:18-24

John 3:13-17

The murmurings of the people and the complaints of God's provision for them caused their own destruction... **"Why have you brought us up out of Egypt (*bondage and slavery*) to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and water (*what was the manna and dew?*) and our soul loathes this worthless bread."** Those are strong words. Hateful words really. (My words are in the brackets)

Why many of them had to die? I don't know. But didn't they themselves say it? I do know Romans 6:23 begins with; "For the wages of sin is death, ... and I do know, murmuring is sin.

The fiery serpents? God had lifted His hand for a moment. Perhaps you can say, turned away. He was frustrated with their complaints.

They were in a place where wild animals roamed, serpents crawled, and horrible insects infested all along the journey yet, God (Yahweh) had been protecting and keeping them safe all along.

In verse 7, we see a people who have come to the realization of their sin of complaining and speaking against God and his servant Moses. Moses intercedes on their behalf. Interestingly, God **doesn't** take away the serpents. Instead, He has Moses make a bronze fiery serpent, has him put it on a pole raised so that anyone who is bitten can look at it, and be healed!

The very thing they feared, God used to deliver them.

The serpent on the pole? Our sins upon the cross.

In the Gospel reading for this week sits the most important reason for Christ's birth, death and resurrection. **"For God so loved ... He gave ... that whoever! ... Not to condemn ... but to save!** I didn't write the whole verse on purpose. I encourage you friends to take out your Bibles and read John 3 and underline these two verses 16 and 17. They go hand in hand.

The medical symbol today has a snake on a pole that is believed to be from Greek mythology. I personally, choose to think not.

The Word of God influences much of our culture today and it is not recognized.

1 Corinthians 1:18

**For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: *"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise and bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent."***

*Thank You, Lord, for the cross and all that was accomplished. My healing, my deliverance, my restoration, my salvation, the gifts, my freedom ... and so much more! You gave Your life so that I can live! Thank You, LORD!*

*Thank You, Father, for giving us Your Son!*

*Thank You, Holy Spirit, that You remain to teach and encourage us through this journey of life, and you prepare us for our final crossover.*

*Thank You, Three in One! Amen!*