

As The Serpent Was Lifted Up *By Pastor Anison Samuel*

Reference : John 3:14

The above passage is difficult to interpret as snakes are consistently alluded to as satan himself and are connected to sin, death and destruction. In fact, the only credit given to serpents is their shrewdness. Jesus however, claimed that just as this snake was lifted up, so will the Son of man be lifted up and that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life. Read Numbers 21:4

The Israelites rallied against Moses and demanded an explanation for being brought out of Egypt to 'die in the wilderness without food or water'. They misspoke because God had provided manna from heaven that they audaciously referred to as 'worthless food'. When the people described the manna sent from heaven as 'worthless', God sent fiery serpents that most scholars agree, inflicted a painful burning sensation before their victim died. Never choose comfort, convenience or quick fixes over God's word. Celebrate the flourishing word of God! We are blessed because of it! Read Numbers 21:6-8

As the people lay dying, they must have longed for a pill or lotion to apply, but were instead told to simply look upon the bronze serpent. To many, the Bible is a mockery and even considered ludicrous because unlike other religions, we are not saved by words but simple faith to look and believe. Humans find satisfaction from receiving rewards for their efforts but Jesus' death on the cross is not Jesus plus something... It is Jesus Christ plus zero! It's only Jesus Christ! Nothing given except Christ. If the snake bites, whether small or big, you are bitten and you will die.

Across the globe, there is only one solution – look to Jesus and have eternal life. At the cross, whether you are a saint (according to your own terms) or a sinner, there is no difference; you need Jesus.

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. **2 Corinthians 5:21**

Because we were bitten by sin, Jesus became sin. My sin, your sin and all sin encompassing humanity was put on the perfect Son of man. The perfect and unblemished Son of God became sin for our sakes so that we could become the righteousness of God. Christ took your sin and serpent's bite upon the cross and in return, you receive his righteousness. **The solution for every sin is the cross of Jesus Christ!**

Read Galatians 3:13-14. The serpent's bite brought curse into our lives which Jesus took to the cross. Through his veins and every cell of his body, runs your curse at some point in history. When you look to him as your Savior, every curse that flowed through your very being and brought shock waves of death and destruction to your family members will have to break by the power of God.

Read Deuteronomy 25:48. Jesus suffered hunger after his last supper. For you, this has become your first supper; your new beginning. Your covenant with the Lord. You come into relation with Jesus through this supper. As a sign of the curse, Jesus suffered hunger. You will not suffer hunger. Instead, you shall be filled because of this covenant! As Jesus hung on the cross, he thirsted. Because of this, Jesus said 'everyone who is thirsty, come unto me and out of your bellies shall flower rivers of living water'. Your life will not be parched and dry. Instead it will flow with the anointing and joy of the Lord! Some of you are concerned that you are experiencing patches of dryness.

Jesus suffered hunger, thirst, nakedness and shame so that we never have to suffer shame. Do not let the death of Jesus go in vain. He suffered so that you could be clothed in righteousness, beauty and the garment of praise and joy! You are clothed with the beauty of heaven .

The sign of curse is poverty. This poverty extends farther than finances; it is defined by the curse of lack. The grace of God will give you abundance. If there was a curse that came into your life which produced lack and insufficiency, today, by one look on the cross, the blessing of heaven is released into your life.