**Bible/College Class Notes – *Studies in The Old Testament* – Lesson 69**

**The Christian Pilgrimage – Pictures of Salvation and Heaven.**

**This week** – We continue our lessons teaching us about how to live now, anticipating Heaven. **NOTES**

***Look unto Me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else.” VA Isaiah40v24.***

**The Brazen Serpent – Look and Live.**

**Background to Todays’ Lesson.**

The adults of Israel refused to believe

that God had the power to give them the Promised Land no matter how strong the enemy.

Instead, they thought only on the reports

of ‘giants’ and strong cities.

Their punishment

was to remain in the desert for 40 more years and die.

Then God would lead their children, as adults, into the land.

**The Children of Israel Repeat the Sin of Unbelief. VA**

They complained again about God’s provision

of manna, desiring the food of Egypt.

We too can complain about God

despite His kindness and patience shown to us.

We too can continue in our sin of pride and unbelief.

**The Result - There is Always a Consequence for Sin.**

God removed His protection - allowing them to die **VA**

when bitten by the poisonous snakes. **VA Pictures**

Reminding them that it was only His power

and mercy that kept them safe.

**Sin is like a snakebite.**

**As soon as we are ‘bitten’ it permeates our soul.**

**It comes between us and God.**

**2**

**Left undealt with it will end in death –**

**not only of the body but eternal death of the soul.**

***“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”* Romans 6v23. VA**

**Eternal Death is a state of experiencing**

**God’s Holy Wrath without let up or respite.**

**Their Repentance. VA**

They saw that there was **ONLY One** who could save them – **The Lord God**.

Moses was asked to confess their sin to God,

interceding on their behalf. **God graciously heard.**

**Moses is a Type of Christ. If we repent and believe in the Saviour, then He has promised to intervene for us at the Throne of Grace. Grace – undeserved Mercy.**

**The Throne of Grace is where the Ascended Lord sits to receive and hear our prayers.**

God answered by providing a way

to survive the bite **without removing** the snakes.

**God’s Remedy – VA**

**He always provides a way of escape from sin.**

**Here we see His forgiveness to repentant sinners.**

**Moses was told to: VA Brazen Serpent on Pole**

Erect a Brazen Serpent, a bronze snake,

on a pole in the middle of the camp for all to see.

**The people were told:**

**Do not worship it as an idol but look to it,**

believing God’s promise to save.

The Brazen Serpent could not save or heal.

**Note : The High Church and Roman Catholics make idols of Christ and Mary and worship them.**

**3**

**God does not accept this idolatrous worship.**

**If bitten, look and believe**

that God would heal them, and they would live.

**If they refused to look** with deep sorrow

and repentance, then they would die.

**Imagine being there. You are bitten by a snake.**

**What should you do?**

**Carry on thinking you will get better.**

**OR**

**Look to the Brazen Serpent on the pole and have faith in God to keep His promise to heal you?**

**Surely you would Look as God had instructed you.**

**Would you Look with the attitude**

**that you might as well look just in case it works.**

**But this would not be looking in Faith.**

**God looks on our hearts, at our motives,**

**To see if we are sincere.**

**What does today’s lesson teach us about**

**how we should approach God in our worship?**

**How Can We Be Forgiven our Sin, VA**

**and be Saved from Eternal Death?**

**The snake bites are a picture of the sin that has bitten us and is poisoning our souls.**

**Without the right treatment we are destined to die.**

**The Wages of sin is Death. Eternal Death.**

This **‘snake on a pole’** is a picture of how God

saves us from the deadly guilt of our sinful unbelief,

our rebellious murmurings,

and our ingratitude towards Him.

The Lord Jesus Christ was **‘lifted up’** on the Cross of

**4**

Calvary so that we can ‘look’ to Him in repentance and faith – trusting Him to heal our sin-sick soul. To save us.

A **‘look’** is an easy thing to do **VA**

- young or old, rich, or poor - anyone can do it.

To **‘look’** means we humbly repent

of our sin with true sorrow, turning from it.

To **‘look’** is saying ‘I have nothing to bring

or add because I am a needy lost sinner’.

**We must acknowledge that we are spiritually dead.**

Pray for faith to look to Christ

with a humble repentant heart.

**Faith is the Gift of God. Given to us by The Holy Spirit.**

**We must exercise this**

**and Look to God through believing eyes.**

**Faith will bring us to believe on the Saviour, The Lord Jesus Christ Who died in our place on the cross.**

**How Long Must We Look? VA**

**Just long enough** –

to **‘see’** our sinfulness,

to **‘see’** the love of God in sending His Son

to die on Calvary to save us,

to **‘see’** Jesus Christ as our Saviour

and dearest Friend.

**We must ‘look’ until VA**

the amazing love of God overwhelms us,

and we give ourselves gladly and willingly

to obey and serve the Saviour

Who has given Himself for us.

**How Frequently Must We Look? VA**

**We must look every time we feel**

**our sin needs forgiveness. Daily, many times.**

***Do you feel the ‘sting ‘of sin in your conscience***

**5**

***Will you look to the Saviour today and live?***

***Seek now, and receive forgiveness for your sin.***

**The Brazen Serpent is a beautiful picture**

**of the Lord Jesus Christ as a Saviour of sinners.**

***“And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life” John 3v14,15.***

**Important Thought for us Today:**

**Poisonous snakes and their venomous bites.**

The only poisonous snake in the wild in the UK is the Adder, whose bite can be fatal if medical treatment is not sought. The venom circulates via the blood stream

and then starts attacking vital parts of our bodily function.

The Bible likens sin to a venomous snake bite

because sin affects all the functioning parts of our soul.

**This includes: -**

**i). Our heart’s affections**

where we love the wrong things and hate the right things;

**ii). Our minds**

causing us to have selfish desires

with unclean and impure thoughts.

**Medical advice says** that, if bitten by a venomous snake,

we should **not try to treat it ourselves**

(as this will only make it worse)

but **seek medical help immediately.**

**So too with the soul –**

we are unable to satisfactorily remove

the **‘venom of sin’** by our own methods.

**The Bible tells us** that this is futile

and will leave us heading for eternal death.

**6**

**God’s Word also tells us**

that we need the quickening power of The Holy Spirit **(to remove the ‘venom of sin’ and its deadly consequences (eternal separation from God)).**

**He gives us the gift of faith**

which causes us to repent our sin

and to **‘Look to Christ’**

as our personal Saviour and Lord.

**Read Ephesians 2v1-5.**