

## King James Bible Study Correspondence Course

An Outreach of Highway Evangelistic Ministries  
5311 Windridge lane ~ Lockhart, Florida 32810 ~ USA

The Cross Lesson 4  
Look and Live

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We will begin this study in Number 21, as we continue our look at the cross of Jesus Christ.

The children of Israel were walking through the wilderness away from their bondage in Egypt. Along the way, God gave them victory over their enemies, water out of a rock, bread from heaven. To show their gratitude, they began to complain against God and Moses regarding those provisions. Numbers 21:4 *And they journeyed from mount Hor by the way of the Red sea, to compass the land of Edom: and the soul of the people was much discouraged because of the way. And the people spake against God, and against Moses, Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? for there is no bread, neither is there any water; and our soul loatheth this light bread.* They said all that instead of saying, "God has delivered us by the blood of the Lamb; God set us free; God led us through the Red Sea on dry land; God gives us power over our enemies."

As we travel through life with the blessings of God, the Lord provides for us in many ways every single day. And yet, discouragement comes in and invades our peace. Oh that we would recognize the will of our flesh. God wants us to live in joy. He encourages us in many ways.

Romans 14:17 *For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.* Philippines 4:4 *Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice.* Nehemiah 8:10 *Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for this day is holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the LORD is your strength.*

The actions of the children of Israel are so much like our own. You would think that rather than being discouraged over what hasn't happened, we could rejoice in what is happening and in what God is doing in our lives. We tend to drift into the wrong place in our minds so easily. That is why the Bible teaches us to gird up the loins of our mind 1 Peter 1:13 *Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;*

Look at the complaint of the children of Israel *for there is no bread, neither is there any water;* There was bread, they had manna from heaven. God had provided water before, and He would provide it again when they needed it. All they had to do was just trust in Him. However, that wasn't what they wanted. They did not want to trust in God; they wanted to do it by their own strength.

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The lost person will say, "God has never done anything for me. All that I have received came from the sweat and blood of my own strength." That is a foolish statement. God went to the cross at Calvary, suffered, bled, and died so that we could have eternal life just by trusting in Him. Seems to me that God has done more for us than we could do for ourselves.

God fed them with bread from heaven, and then they became dissatisfied with God's provision. They wanted more; they want variety. Can you hear their complaint "Bread, bread, bread, "Is that all we have? I sure miss the onions and leaks we had in Egypt." They seemed to have forgotten the slavery, taskmasters, and death they had in Egypt.

If you are a born again Christian, there are many lessons you can learn from the discontentment of the children of Israel. Here are three of them.

1. God saved you from the bondage of your sin.

Galatians 4:3 *Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world:*

2. God said He would always take care of you even to the very end.

Luke 12:22 *And he said unto his disciples, Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat; neither for the body, what ye shall put on.*

Luke 12:27 *Consider the lilies how they grow: they toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.*

3. God tells you to trust in Him, He will guide your life.

Psalms 37:3 *Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.*

Romans 8:29 *For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.*

Every morning & evening, God provided bread for them. He dropped their food out of the sky. Every time they came to a place that did not have water, God performed a miracle and gave them water. The whole issue here was trust. The Lord responded to their complaint by sending fiery serpents among the people. The fiery serpents bit the people, and they were dying. No one had died since they began their journey. Now God is giving them what they were accusing God of doing. - *Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness?* Having them die was never the Lord's plan. He had saved them from the Egyptians, from starvation, from dehydration, hoping that they would appreciate His blessings and trust Him. Instead, they were unappreciative, complaining, and accusing God. So, they received what they thought the Lord had intended - they started to die.

Numbers 21:6 *And the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and much people of Israel died.*

God had given them all the provisions, protection, and power so they would not die, yet they were not satisfied. That attitude is dangerous ground for

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any Christian. Greed was the reason why Lot's wife became a pillar of salt. (Genesis 19:26) Greed was what angered the Lord when Achan took of the accursed thing. As a result of his sin, 36 other men were killed in the battle of Ai. (Joshua 7:1; 4-5) Greed took hold of the heart of Judas Iscariot, who betrayed the Lord for thirty pieces of silver (Matthew 26:15). Greed is what dropped dead both Ananias and his wife for lying to the Holy Ghost. (Acts 5:1-10)

Proverbs 15:27 *He that is greedy of gain troubleth his own house; but he that hateth gifts shall live.*

The children of Israel had gotten greedy and unappreciative of the gifts God had given them, so God chastened them with fiery serpents. The serpents began biting, and the people began dying. Now God was getting their attention. It is unfortunate that it had to go this far before they would realize that they were sinning against God. Numbers 21:7 *Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD, and against thee; pray unto the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us. And Moses prayed for the people.*

The Lord has many principles that bring results throughout the Bible, for instance Romans 6:23a *For the wages of sin is death;* Galatians 6:7 *Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.* If you have sinned against the Lord, do not ever hope for repercussion not to come. There will always be consequences. Yes, the Lord will forgive, but the scripture teaches that the rod will follow to remind you to never do it again. If you continue to sin against the Lord, the consequences will get stronger, until the Lord will end your earthly life and bring you back to Him. Hebrews 12:6-11; Romans 6:16 (What an embarrassment to stand before the Lord in that situation, knowing that your sin was more important to you than doing what the Lord said.)

Moses cried unto the Lord on behalf of the Children of Israel Number 21:7 and the Bible says: Numbers 21:8 *And the LORD said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live.*

That is an interesting statement considering that the Lord said in Exodus 20:4 not to make any graven images to worship. Here God is not making this image to worship. He has a specific purpose. God said, "As soon as you are bitten, look at the serpent on the pole and live."

Meditate on this situation: People were dying. Moses was collecting copper and zinc to melt together to make brass. He would then hammer that brass into the shape of a serpent and hang it on a pole. Then he would stand up the pole and tell those that were still alive after having been bitten to look and live.

There was no healing power in that serpent on the pole. It was an object lesson to the people to teach them to do what God said so they might live. Most

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likely there were people who said, "That is foolish. I will do it my own way." Then they died. They were supposed to do what God said exactly - no revision, no deviation. Do what God says and you will live. The serpent on the pole was a testimony to do what God says. It was faith in the word of God, something they had grown weary of doing.

Later we read in 2 Kings 18:4 *He removed the high places, and brake the images, and cut down the groves, and brake in pieces the brasen serpent that Moses had made: for unto those days the children of Israel did burn incense to it:* Ahaz, king of Judah, broke in pieces the serpent on the pole that Moses had made. Why? Because the people were worshiping it, burning incense to it. Something that God told them never to do in Exodus 20:4. How about that? They took the method and means of God's lifesaving deliverance and turned it into an idol.

In the New Testament, the Lord tells us exactly how we can live. Since we were all born in sin, and the wages of sin is death, we need to live. The only life is in Jesus Christ John 14:6 *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.* The only way that we can live is to be born again without sin. The best example is in John 3.

John 3:1-18 Jesus is speaking to Nicodemus, saying, "You know that I am a teacher come from God, then why don't you listen and do what I say? You cannot enter into the kingdom of God unless you are spiritually born again. You need a spiritual birth, Nicodemus, not another physical birth." This birth does not take another 9 months to attain. It is spiritual; it happens instantaneously; you cannot see it happening. John 3:8 *The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.* It is not a visible birth. It is an invisible birth.

The serpent on the pole was a picture for the Children of Israel to remember that they were to do exactly what God says in order to live. When Jesus came on the scene and was crucified on that cross, they would remember. John 12:30-32 *Jesus answered and said, This voice came not because of me, but for your sakes. Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out. And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.*

Jesus is the only Way, He is the only Truth, and He is the only Life. He is the only true Light. He is the only Living Water. He is the only One that has eternal life in Him. (John 1:9; 4:14; 14:6; 17:3).

The person who would claim that by their baptism, church membership, giving of tithes, and good works will gain their entrance into God's heaven, has missed the point entirely. If you refuse to look at the cross, you are going to die. God loved a group of Israelites in the wilderness enough to give them a serpent on a pole. But God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son. That

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serpent wasn't for the Canaanites, the Babylonians, the barbarians. That serpent wasn't good the next day, It was a picture for the day when God so loved the world. John 3:16 *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

In Numbers 21, when they looked at that pole, they were absolutely 100% healed, instantaneous life, replacing certain death. When you look at Jesus Christ and trust Him for what He is and what He has done, you are instantaneously given life and life everlasting. Look and Live.

Everybody needs to be saved because everybody has sinned. The Lord made a way for people to be saved that would not leave anyone out. All you have to do is turn from your religion, yourself, your pride and look to Jesus hanging there on that cross. You will find there your Saviour; you will find there eternal life. The blessing of John 3:16 will be yours. What a Saviour! What a salvation!

Look and Live.

Notes

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**The Cross Lesson 4**  
**Look and Live**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

( \* ) if asterisk is shown in question, scripture is required along with an answer in your own words.

1. What was the purpose of this lesson?
  
2. What was the significance of the serpent on the pole? \*
  
3. What could happen to a born again Christian who continues to sin? \*
  
4. Where is the serpent on the pole, that Moses made? \*
  
5. What was the reason why Ananias and Sapphira were dropped dead on the spot? \*
  
6. What did the children of Israel accuse God of doing that ended up really happening? \*
  
7. Estimate how long it took for Moses to make the serpent, to hang on a pole, and eventually stand the pole up?
  
8. Explain John 3:8.

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9. What point was Jesus trying to make to Nicodemus?
10. What are three lessons we can learn from the example of the Children of Israel in this lesson? \* (Answer and verse)
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
11. What are the two principles we learned from God's word in this lesson? \*
  - a.
  - b.
12. What was the sin of the accursed thing in Joshua? \*
13. Why does God chasten born again Christians?

**True/false**

- According to Hebrews 12, you can sin against God and not be chastened.
- The serpent on the pole was effective until the Children of Israel began to worship it.
- Discouragement comes into the life of every Christian.

**Scripture memorization**

Romans 14:17; 1 Peter 1:13; Proverbs 3:5

Write out these verses on the back on this page: (must be in KJV)

any questions?