

**Gratitude: Balance of Venom & the Miraculous Antidote, Numbers 21:9**

The early presence of their soul venom is found in:

**Numbers 11:4** - The rabble who were among them had greedy desires and also the sons of Israel wept again and said, “Who will give us meat to eat?”

NOTE: Rabble always wants a handout.

**Numbers 11:5** - We remember the fish which we used to eat free (?) [*hinnam*: for nothing; gratuitously] in Egypt.

NOTE: Tyrants always want a well-fed slave-labor force. Beware of people with power whom you don't know worrying about your diet. Pharaoh's fish weren't free. If the Jews worked all day, they got fed, otherwise they got a sound thrashing. And listen to what else Pharaoh's quartermaster made available to the Jews—and they say they liked it:

**Numbers 11:5** - ... the cucumbers and the melons and the leeks and the onions and the garlic.

NOTE: Except for Caleb and Joshua, none of the first generation had the Capacity Righteousness to enter the land and died in the Jornada. We know this is true because of:

**Hebrews 3:17** - And with whom was He angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the [*eremos*: desert] Jornada.

**Numbers 11:6** - But now our soul is dried up [*spiritual anorexia*]. There is nothing at all to look at except this manna.

These Jews had nothing because they had no doctrine circulating in the stream of consciousness. Absence of doctrine causes the body to resort to self-preservation tactics in times of physical depravity. Thus, the sinful nature begins an intensified assault on the soul to come up with solutions outside divine grace provisions. Absence of faith, humility, and gratitude for divine provision means that the first-generation Jews failed to depend on the Lord for logistical support.

The Jews had no capacity righteousness because they had no scale of values. One's scale of values is developed in the conscience and is built upon principles of establishment and biblical truth.

The Lord provided them with an excellent, well-balanced diet but they had no capacity for it. It is interesting that the lack of food and the provision of manna is really not the issue here.

Jesus Christ is taking the Jews through a series of tests to determine if they will follow His instructions. He allows the Jornada to withhold nourishment, He offers it under a set process and procedure, and the Jews are free to enjoy. They fail to follow orders, they criticize the food, and they accuse Moses of genocide. This testing has resulted in the Lord taking an inventory which reveals no capacity, no humility, no gratitude, and as a result, no teachability. These reversionistic Jews had venom in their souls and therefore God sent venomous snakes to execute Operation Balance of Venom.

Many believers died the sin unto death in the Jornada as a result of these bites. Those who mustered the faith and enough authority orientation to follow Moses' instruction for an antidote managed to live yet awhile longer.

**Numbers 21:9** - Moses made a brass serpent and set it on the banner pole. And it came about that if a serpent bit any man, when he looked to the brass serpent, he lived.

The entire miracle was prophetic for the sacrificial, spiritual death of Jesus Christ on the cross through which all sinners may receive salvation.

A review of the various aspects of this typology is important at this point:

1. In this miracle, the poisonous snakes symbolize that the venom of sin in fallen humanity has satanic origin.
2. When believers submit to the tyranny of the first husband, then they commit a *ménage à trois* which, unchecked, results in the sin unto death.
3. So, the venomous bite of the serpent is a type for spiritual death, the status quo of the believer who is out of fellowship.
4. In both cases, rebellious believers are given a process and procedure for recovery in order to avoid the sin unto death.
5. The brass snake is a type of Christ “*who knew no sin but was made sin on our behalf.*”
6. The brass snake of course possessed no venom just as Christ possessed no sinful nature.
7. The snake lifted up on the banner pole is a type for Christ being lifted up on the cross.
8. Although innocent of any form of sin, Christ was identified with the originator of sin, “*that old serpent, called the Devil and Satan* (Revelation 12:9).”
9. Brass always represents judgment in Scripture. In the Tabernacle’s Outer Court, the brass altar speaks of divine judgment upon sin while the brass laver speaks of self-judgment of sin.
10. Whether the brass serpent on the banner pole, or Christ on the cross, man must, in faith, look up upon them in order to appropriate the judgment of their sins in Christ.
11. Looking upon the brass serpent upon the banner pole for physical healing was a type for looking up upon the cross for soul healing.
12. The principle of rebound stands: confession alone to God alone is what cleanses the believer from sin, restores fellowship, and reestablishes the filling of the Holy Spirit for resumption of the spiritual advance.
13. For the Jewish believer it resulted in the prolongation of physical life and a renewed shot at reaching Canaan.
14. For the Church Age believer, it results in the delegated power of the Holy Spirit to resume the journey toward Santa Fé.