

God Growing His People to do His Work

Numbers 21:1 And when **king Arad the Canaanite**, which dwelt in the south, heard tell that Israel came by the way of the spies; then **he fought against Israel**, and **took some of them**

prisoners. 2 And **Israel** vowed a vow unto the

Lord, and said, If **thou wilt indeed**

deliver this people into my hand, then **I will**

utterly destroy their cities. 3 And the Lord

hearkened to the voice of Israel, and delivered up the

Canaanites; and they utterly destroyed them and their cities:

and he called the name of the place Hormah. 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. ⁵ 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.** ⁶ And the Lord sent **fiery serpents** among the people, and they bit the people; and **much people of Israel died.** 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. **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. **9** And Moses

made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came

to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, **when he**

beheld the serpent of brass, he lived. **10**

And the children of Israel set forward, and pitched in Oboth.

11 And they journeyed from Oboth, and pitched at Ije-abarim,
in the wilderness which is before Moab, toward the sunrising.

12 From thence they removed, and pitched in the valley of

Zared. **13** From thence they removed, and pitched on the other side of Arnon, which is in the wilderness that cometh out of the coasts of the Amorites: for Arnon is the border of Moab, between Moab and the Amorites. **14** Wherefore it is said in the book of the wars of the Lord, **What he did** in the Red sea, And in the brooks of Arnon, **15** And at the stream of the brooks that goeth down to the dwelling of Ar, And lieth upon the border of Moab. **16** And from thence they went to Beer: that is the well whereof the Lord spake unto Moses, Gather the people together, and **I will give them water.** **17**

Then **Israel sang this song**, Spring up, O well; Sing ye unto it: **18** The princes digged the well, The nobles of the people digged it, By the direction of the lawgiver, with their staves. And from the wilderness they went to Mattanah: **19** And from Mattanah to Nahaliel: and from Nahaliel to Bamoth: **20** And from Bamoth in the valley, that is in the country of Moab, to the top of Pisgah, which looketh toward Jeshimon. **21** And Israel sent messengers unto Sihon king of the Amorites, saying, **22** Let me pass through thy land: we will not turn into the fields, or into the vineyards; we will not drink of the waters of the well: but we will go along by the king's high way, until

we be past thy borders. **23** And **Sihon would not suffer Israel to pass** through his border: but Sihon gathered all his people together, and **went out against Israel** into the wilderness: and he came to Jahaz, and **fought against Israel.** **24** And **Israel smote him** with the edge of the sword, and **possessed his land** from Arnon unto Jabbok, even unto the children of Ammon: for the border of the children of Ammon was strong. **25** And **Israel took all these cities:** and Israel dwelt in all the cities of the Amorites, in Heshbon, and in all the villages thereof. **26** For Heshbon was the city of Sihon the king of the Amorites, who had fought against the former king of Moab, and taken all his land out of his hand, even unto Arnon. **27** Wherefore they that speak in proverbs say, Come into Heshbon, Let the city of Sihon be built and prepared: **28** For there is a fire gone out of Heshbon, A flame from the city of Sihon: It hath consumed Ar of Moab, And the lords of the high places of Arnon. **29** Woe to

thee, Moab! Thou art undone, O people of Chemosh: He hath given his sons that escaped, And his daughters, into captivity Unto Sihon king of the Amorites. 30 We have shot at them; Heshbon is perished even unto Dibon, And we have laid them waste even unto Nophah, Which reacheth unto Medeba. 31 Thus Israel dwelt in the land of the Amorites. 32 And Moses sent to spy out Jaazer, and they took the villages thereof, and drove out the Amorites that were there. 33 And they turned and went up by the way of Bashan: and Og the king of Bashan **went out against them**, he, and all his people, to the battle at Edrei. 34 And the Lord said unto Moses, **Fear him not: for I have delivered him into thy hand**, and all his people, and his land; and thou shalt do to him as thou didst unto Sihon king of the Amorites, which dwelt at Heshbon. 35 So they smote him, and his sons, and all his people, until there was **none left him alive:** and **they possessed his land.**

1. Back to the Battle 1 And when **king Arad the Canaanite**, which dwelt in the south, heard tell that Israel came by the way of the spies; then **he fought against Israel**, and **took some of them prisoners.** 2 And **Israel** vowed a vow unto the Lord, and said, If **thou wilt indeed deliver** this people into my hand, then **I will utterly destroy their cities.** 3 And the Lord hearkened to the voice of Israel, and delivered up the Canaanites; and they utterly destroyed them and their cities: and he called the name of the place Hormah.
- a. The Canaanites are wicked people [Deuteronomy 20:17](#) But thou shalt utterly destroy them; *namely*, the Hittites, and the Amorites, the **Canaanites**, and the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites; as the LORD thy God hath

commanded thee: **18** **That they teach you not to do after all their abominations, which they have done unto their gods; so should ye sin against the LORD your God.**

- i. Baal was one of their gods. He was the storm and rain god. Lord, master to them
- ii. Dagon, god of corn
- iii. Hadad the thunder god
- iv. They had goddess of love and a mother goddess
- v. They practiced ritual prostitution in their worship
- vi. Very likely they had human sacrifice [Psalm 106:34](#)

They did not **destroy the nations,** Concerning whom the Lord commanded them: **35** But were **mingled among the heathen, And learned their works.** **36** And they **served their idols:** Which were a snare unto them. **37** Yea,

they **sacrificed their sons And their daughters unto devils,** ³⁸ And shed innocent blood, Even the blood of their sons and of their daughters, Whom they **sacrificed unto the idols of Canaan:** And the land was polluted with blood. ³⁹ Thus were they defiled with their own works, And went a whoring with their own inventions

- b. They come out to fight against Israel
- c. They take prisoners
- d. God's people ask for His power to defeat them
- e. They are totally defeated
- f. We are currently in their last 2 years of wilderness journey, they will soon cross over into the promised land
- g. God is teaching them to war it seems. They will need to be ready for battle when they get into the promised land
- h. This applies to you because you are always in a war also
 - i. A war to make you doubt God
 - 1. A war to make you think that God doesn't love you
 - 2. to make you think you can not be used of God
 - 3. He fights and takes prisoners

4. You must learn to do battle against principalities and powers
 5. You must learn to stand for God when all the junk comes in your mind
- ii. Many of us never get full victory because we never destroy the armies of Satan that come against us
1. We continue to play with sin
 2. We leave doors open for Satan to be able to mess with our minds.
 3. We continue to play with things that appeal to our flesh instead of seeking the things of God
- iii. You will be affected by the friends you keep, the books you read, the programs you watch.
1. You must choose not to allow things to mess you over spiritually.
 2. You must realize that this is a war and you must stand for God
2. Sin enters the camp even after great victory **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
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because of the way. 5 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.**

6 And the Lord sent **fiery serpents** among
the people, and they bit the people; and **much people
of Israel died.** 7 Therefore **the people
came to Moses,** and said, **We have**

sinned, for **we have spoken**
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take away the serpents from us. And
Moses prayed for the
people. 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. 9
And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole,
and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man,
when he beheld the serpent of brass,
he lived.

a. The key to the Christian life is patience or endurance

- i. We all have victories in our lives just like they just did
 - ii. But as soon as that battle is over we are still alive and more testings are coming
 - iii. It is about walking and not fainting **Isaiah 40:31** **But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings as eagles; They shall run, and not be weary; And they shall walk, and not faint.**
- b. Life got tiring to them **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.**

- i. They wanted to get there
- ii. They wanted it now and not having to continue waiting
- iii. You remember that they are taking the long way so they will not fight with Edom or Esau's descendants

- iv. We all get tired in the way, the drudgery, the same ole thing every day
 - v. We are impatient and get angry because we can't have what we want right now just like they did
- c. Their anger and impatience made them speak against God and what He was doing in their lives **5 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.**

- i. This is the same ole complaint they always have-no water, not happy, want to go back
- ii. It seemed that they were going to die without ever getting what they were promised
- iii. Have you ever felt that way

iv. They saw their discomfort

v. They even despised what God was doing for them

vi. They complained about the manna

1. They were tempting the Lord [I Corinthians 10:9](#)

Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents.

2. The Manna was angel's food [Psalm 78:25](#) Man did eat angels' food: He sent them meat to the full.

3. They said it was light bread, good for nothing, tired of

it **our soul loatheth this light bread.**

4. It is so easy to get used to what God is doing for us and take it for granted

d. The Manna was more than just food it was a picture of

Jesus, the Son of God [John 6:32](#) Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven. ³³ For the bread of God is he

which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world.

- i. In effect they were rejecting God and what He was doing for them
- ii. They were rejecting Jesus, the very Son of God
- iii. When we get angry with God about our lives and circumstances we are rejecting His Lordship and power in our lives

iv. Here we have another test flunked [Deuteronomy 8:15](#)
Who led thee through that great and terrible wilderness, wherein were fiery serpents, and scorpions, and drought, where there was no water; who brought thee forth water out of the rock of flint; [16](#) Who fed thee in the wilderness with manna, which thy fathers knew not, that he might humble thee, and **that he might prove thee, to do thee good at thy latter end;**

e. Judgment comes with no warning [6](#) And the Lord sent **fiery serpents** among the people, and

they bit the people; and **much people of Israel died.**

- i. Now there are fiery serpents biting them
- ii. They evidently are bit and have a painful, hard, death
- f. They repent and for the first time it seems to be genuine

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.

- g. God didn't take away the serpents but provided a solution

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.** ⁹ And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, **when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived.**

- i. Moses had prayed for the people
- ii. The people could look to the brazen serpent and live
- iii. This serpent was an illustration of Jesus being lifted up

^{John 3:14} And **as Moses lifted up the serpent** in the wilderness, even so must the **Son of man be lifted up:**¹⁵ That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

- iv. Like the serpent represented their sin and its consequence Jesus became sin for us

^{II Corinthians 5:21} For he hath **made him to be sin for us,** who knew no sin; that we might

be made the righteousness of God in him. Romans 8:3

For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: Galatians 3:13 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: I Peter 2:24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

- v. The serpent was on a pole so that all could see just like Jesus was lifted up so that all could come to Him
Isaiah 45:22 Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: For I am God, and there is none else.
- vi. Anyone could be saved except for those that refused to look or those that couldn't see
- vii. There are those that do not know there is a remedy so we must get the news to them I Timothy 1:15 This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I

am chief.

3. The first song 10 And the children of Israel set forward, and pitched in Oboth. 11 And they journeyed from Oboth, and pitched at Ije-abarim, in the wilderness which is before Moab, toward the sunrising. 12 From thence they removed, and pitched in the valley of Zared. 13 From thence they removed, and pitched on the other side of Arnon, which is in the wilderness that cometh out of the coasts of the Amorites: for Arnon is the border of Moab, between Moab and the Amorites. 14 Wherefore it is said in the book of the wars of the Lord, **What he did** in the Red sea, And in the brooks of Arnon, 15 And at the stream of the brooks that goeth down to the dwelling of Ar, And lieth upon the border of Moab. 16 And from thence they went to Beer: that is the well whereof the Lord spake unto Moses, **Gather the people together, and I will give them water.** 17 Then **Israel sang this song**, Spring up, O well; Sing ye unto it: 18 The princes digged the well, The nobles of the people digged it, By the

direction of the lawgiver, with their staves. And from the wilderness they went to Mattanah: 19 And from Mattanah to Nahaliel: and from Nahaliel to Bamoth: 20 And from Bamoth in the valley, that is in the country of Moab, to the top of Pisgah, which looketh toward Jeshimon.

a. The story in the Bible is about what He has done 14

Wherefore it is said in the book of the wars of the Lord,

What he did in the Red sea, And in the brooks of Arnon,

b. God gives them water before they ask 16 And from thence they went to Beer: that is the well whereof the Lord spake unto Moses, **Gather the people**

together, and I will give them water.

c. The people sang here. This is the first time we see them singing since they were delivered from Egypt 17 Then

Israel sang this song, Spring up, O well; Sing ye unto it:

i. The song celebrates God giving them water

ii. Recognizing God and what He does is one of the main purposes for our songs

- iii. When we forget that it is God doing the work then we begin to think that the things belong to us
 - iv. Then we fail to honor God as stewards of His work
 - v. We soon become selfish consumers
- d. Notice the things you have seen in this chapter
- i. Jesus the bread of life-manna
 - ii. Jesus the water of life—God gave them water
 - iii. Jesus lifted up on a cross—like the serpent illustrates
4. God gives His people victory over their enemies **21** And Israel sent messengers unto Sihon king of the Amorites, saying, **22** Let me pass through thy land: we will not turn into the fields, or into the vineyards; we will not drink of the waters of the well: but we will go along by the king's high way, until we be past thy borders. **23** And **Sihon would not suffer Israel to pass** through his border: but Sihon gathered all his people together, and **went out against Israel** into the wilderness: and he came to Jahaz, and **fought against Israel.** **24** And **Israel smote him** with the edge of the sword,

and **possessed his land** from Arnon unto Jabbok, even unto the children of Ammon: for the border of the children of Ammon was strong. **25** And **Israel took all these cities:** and Israel dwelt in all the cities of the Amorites, in Heshbon, and in all the villages thereof. **26** For Heshbon was the city of Sihon the king of the Amorites, who had fought against the former king of Moab, and taken all his land out of his hand, even unto Arnon. **27** Wherefore they that speak in proverbs say, Come into Heshbon, Let the city of Sihon be built and prepared: **28** For there is a fire gone out of Heshbon, A flame from the city of Sihon: It hath consumed Ar of Moab, And the lords of the high places of Arnon. **29** Woe to thee, Moab! Thou art undone, O people of Chemosh: He hath given his sons that escaped, And his daughters, into captivity Unto Sihon king of the Amorites. **30** We have shot at them; Heshbon is perished even unto Dibon, And we have laid them waste even unto Nophah, Which reacheth unto Medeba. **31** Thus Israel dwelt in the land of the Amorites. **32** And Moses sent to spy out Jaazer, and they took the villages thereof, and drove out the

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a. victory over Sihon **23** And **Sihon would not suffer Israel to pass** through his border: but Sihon gathered all his people together, and **went out against Israel** into the wilderness: and he came to

Jahaz, and **fought against Israel.** 24 And **Israel smote him** with the edge of the sword, and **possessed his land** from Arnon unto Jabbok, even unto the children of Ammon: for the border of the children of Ammon was strong. 25 And **Israel took all these cities:** and Israel dwelt in all the cities of the Amorites, in Heshbon, and in all the villages thereof.

- b. It was God giving them victory 33 And they turned and went up by the way of Bashan: and Og the king of Bashan **went out against them**, he, and all his people, to the battle at Edrei. 34 And the Lord said unto Moses, **Fear him not: for I have delivered him into thy hand**, and all his people, and his land; and thou shalt do to him as thou didst unto Sihon king of the Amorites, which dwelt at Heshbon. 35 So they smote him, and his sons, and all his people, until there

was **none left him alive:** and **they**
possessed his land.

5. Lessons for us to take home from this chapter
 - a. The war against sin and self will not be over till we get to heaven
 - b. After a victory do not expect a rest but rather that Satan will mount another attack
 - c. Do you realize when you are under attack by Satan?
 - d. The Christian life is about getting up every day and doing God's will. The rest comes later
 - e. Be grateful for what God is doing in your life
 - f. Realize that what you have is a gift from God and you are responsible to use it for His honor and glory
 - g. Use what you have in His way
 - h. Sing about the great God you serve and all that He has done and is doing
 - i. Realize that it is God that is giving you the victories you are experiencing

- j. Be careful to live a life of expectancy and gratefulness
- k. Look for what God is doing in your life