



THE GOSPEL PICTURED IN A SNAKE

Sermon Notes from 11/16/08

Numbers 21:4-9

Rev. Douglas D. Warren

Thursday, 11/20

Read: Numbers 23:27-24:14; Genesis 12:1-3 (Blessing of Abraham)

Ask yourself or one another: How is God's promise to bless those who bless His people and curse those who curse them worked out with Balaam? What about with us?

Memorize/Meditate on John 3:14-16

Pray: "Lord, we have sinned like our fathers. We have despised Your blessings, even Christ Himself as we have failed to believe You at Your word and not listened to Your voice. Change us, Lord, make us grateful and obedient."

Friday, 11/21

Read: Numbers 24:15-25; Genesis 27:27-29 (Blessing of Jacob)

Ask yourself or one another: How is God's promise continued from Abraham to Jacob? What is different? What is the same? What now?

Review memorizing John 3:14-16.

Pray: "Save us, O LORD! That we might give You thanks and praise Your holy name. Blessed be the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. And let all the people say, 'Amen.' Praise the Lord!" (Ps 106)

Saturday, 11/22

Read: Numbers 25:1-18; John 3:1-21 *in preparation for gathered worship*

Sing: *At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing*

Pray: "Lord Jesus, you are our living head. Teach us to be your body here on earth—your hands, your feet, your eyes, and your compassionate heart. Lord, send the impulses of your love into the sinews of this church. May your will and thoughts direct us. Let your hands, through our hands, supply food for our neighbors' hunger. Let them hear your voice as we visit and talk with them. Let children come to us and sit in our laps, as they sat in yours. Without you as our head, Lord, we are lifeless. We wait for your power, your Word, your instruction. Fill us with your life and love, Jesus. Amen."

Taken from The Worship Sourcebook (Section 4.4)

At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing

George J. Elvey

- At the Lamb's high feat we sing praise to our victorious King,
who has washed us in the tide flowing from his pierced side;
praise we him whose love divine gives his sacred blood for wine.
gives his body for the feast, Christ the victim, Christ the priest.
- Where the paschal blood is poured,
death's dark angel sheathes his sword;
Israel's hosts triumphant go through the wave that drowns the foe.
Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, paschal victim, paschal bread;
with sincerity and love eat we manna from above.
- Mighty victim from the sky, pow'rs of hell beneath thee lie;
death is conquered in the fight, thou hast brought us life and light:
hymns of glory and of praise, risen Lord, to thee we raise;
holy Father, praise to thee, with the Spirit, ever be.

Book Overview

Numbers/Into the Wilderness: God has prepared the Promised Land for Israel as an inheritance where they are to dwell together with Him in their midst enjoying unprecedented intimacy and delight. While the first generation brought up out of Egypt failed to trust Him and so died in the wilderness, they are to press on in faith and obey His Word in every regard so they will live in His blessing.

Section Outline

1-10 Proper Ordering of the Camp *"Just as the Lord commanded Moses, so they did."*

11-25 The Impossibility of Walking with God (the Holy One of Israel)

11-12 Failure foreshadowed

13-14 Failure secured

15-19 Turning away God's wrath – the Aaronic Priesthood

20 Transition of Generations

21-25 Engaging the Enemies

21:1-3 Retaliation against Canaanite Arad

21: 4-9 The Enemy within (Repentance and the Bronze Serpent)

21:10-35 Destruction of the Amorites

22:1-24:25 Balak tries to get Balaam to curse Israel who instead blesses them

25:1-18 People play harlot, plague only checked by Phinehas's intercession

Text

⁴They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; ⁵they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the desert? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest **this miserable food!**"

⁶Then the LORD sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, "We sinned when we spoke against the LORD and against you. Pray that the LORD will take the snakes away from us."

So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸The LORD said to Moses, "Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live." ⁹So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, he lived.

“Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

John 3:14-16

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Sermon Notes

I. Grumbling is Disdain for God.

II. Since God is Holy, Sin is Serious.

III. Look to the Cross and Live.

Message

Application

Please seek the Holy Spirit's guidance as you answer the following:

How do you (we) despise the Body of Christ?

What does the gospel teach us about our own sin? How?

How does confidence in Christ enable us to look to Him and live?

Check out our new website www.ctrPortland.org

Taking Gathered Worship Home

Will you join me in reading and studying *Numbers* together? Each week we will have a set of passages to read to help us work together in reading through this whole book and digging into what it means and how we are to apply it in our lives individually, as families, and as a congregation. Let's wade into the *Wilderness* together.

Read: Numbers 21:4-9; John 3:1-21 (Nicodemus)

Ask yourself or one another: What were the main points of the sermon? How do they apply to us as a congregation? How do they apply to me? What am I going to do about it? How does the gospel of Christ empower me (us) to do so? Review Application.

Sing: *At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing* (words on back)

Pray: “Lord God, You are the Savior. Forgive us for despising You. Teach us to trust You and live in the light of Your faithfulness. Thank You for Your grace and mercy so abundantly clear at the cross. Help us to look to You and live.”

Sunday, 11/16

Read: Numbers 21:10-35; John 6:22-40 (Bread of Life)

Meditate on and memorize John 3:14-16.

Ask yourself or one another: The people continually rebel and grumble and they continue to face death. How do you (we) face the same struggles? How does belief in the gospel answer these doubts? How does it help us to see our present reality accurately?

Pray: Ask God to reveal the truthfulness of His promises to our hearts and minds. Ask Him to protect us from sin's deceitfulness.

Monday, 11/17

Read: Numbers 22:1-41; John 6:41-58 (Flesh & Blood)

Ask yourself or one another: How does God transform us through His flesh and blood? How are you (we) appropriating His healing in life?

Sing: *I Will Glory in My Redeemer*

Pray: “Holy One of Israel, we praise You for You alone are God. Teach us to believe Your Word as faithful and true.”

Tuesday, 11/18

Read: Numbers 23:1-26; John 6:59-71 (Offence of the Gospel)

Ask yourself or one another: How does God's sovereignty offend? What does believing His promises mean in terms of trust?

Pray: “LORD, O LORD, we have sinned like our fathers. We have committed iniquity, we have behaved wickedly. We, like they, quickly forget Your works and proceeded foolishly without awaiting Your counsel. We have craved what we do not need, indeed things disastrous for us, but we have longed after them while neglecting what You have graciously provided for us.”

Wednesday, 11/19