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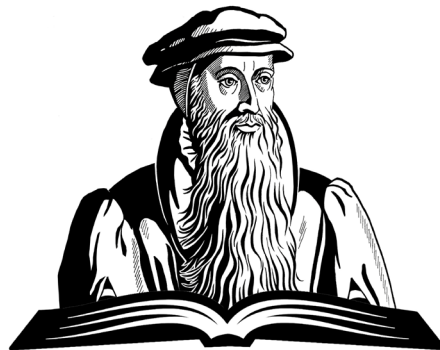
**BIBLE FOR
6TH GRADE STUDENTS**

Old Testament

Lesson 41:

The Serpent of Brass Lifted up

Lecture Presenter: Mr. Daniel Van Brugge



The John Knox Institute
of Higher Education

Entrusting our Reformed Inheritance to the Church Worldwide

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Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from the Authorized King James Version.

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Module

BIBLE FOR 6TH GRADE STUDENTS

Old Testament

113 LESSONS

77 Lessons presented by Mr. Daniel Van Brugge

36 Lessons presented by Dr. Daniel Sweetman

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| 01. The Bible: The Word of God | 26. Joseph and His Brethren |
| 02. Creation: The Work of an Almighty God | 27. Jacob Comes to Joseph |
| 03. Man: A Special Place in God's Creation | 28. God Heard Their Cry |
| 04. A Gracious Promise | 29. Moses and the Burning Bush |
| 05. Cain and Abel | 30. Let My People God |
| 06. Only Noah Found Grace | 31. Deliverance |
| 07. The Coming Judgment –A Way of Escape | 32. God's Patience with a Complaining People |
| 08. The Noahic Covenant | 33. Keeping the Law: Not to Merit /Thankfulness |
| 09. The Tower of Babel | 34. The Lord Dwells Among His People |
| 10. Abram: Called by God | 35. A Priest for the People |
| 11. Abram Intercedes for Lot | 36. Moses Intercedes for a Rebellious People |
| 12. Melchizadek | 37. Worshiping God Rightly |
| 13. Righteous by Faith | 38. Walk Not According to the World |
| 14. Two Sons | 39. Hearts of Ingratitude |
| 15. Lessons from Lot's Life | 40. Aaron's Rod Blossoming |
| 16. Faithless Abraham – Faithful God | 41. The Serpent of Brass Lifted Up |
| 17. Abraham Tested – God's Provision | 42. Phinehas Turning Away God's Wrath |
| 18. Isaac and Rebekah | 43. Cities of Refuge |
| 19. Jacob: A Better Desire than Esau | 44. A New Generation |
| 20. Jacob the Deceiver | 45. Moses' Last Days |
| 21. God Preserves Jacob | 46. Joshua—God's Promise Fulfilled |
| 22. Jacob Returns to Beth-el | 47. A Promise to Rahab |
| 23. Joseph Loved – Joseph Hated | 48. The Rise of Judges |
| 24. An Eye upon God | 49. Gideon—God with Him |
| 25. Joseph Raised Out of Prison | 50. Samson |

51. Ruth the Moabitess
52. Samuel Judges Israel
53. Israel's First King
54. The Kingdom Established
55. David Anointed the Next King
56. David Hunted by Saul
57. The Last Days of Saul
58. David, the Next King
59. Fetching the Ark
60. Thou Art the Man
61. David's Return to Jerusalem
62. Seven Sons of Saul Killed
63. Genealogies of Israel
64. David Appointed King
65. David's Kingdom Established
66. David Prepares for the Temple
67. David's Departing Instructions
68. Solomon Becomes King
69. Solomon Builds the House of God
70. The Kingdom is Rent
71. A Wicked Divided Kingdom
72. Ahab's Reign and Death
73. Elisha Begins his Work
74. Elisha's Voice is Heard
75. A Succession of Kings
76. Ahaz and Hezekiah
77. The Captivity of Judah
78. Introduction to the Prophets
79. Isaiah's Vision & Song
80. Isaiah Prophecies about Christ
81. The Prophet Jeremiah Called and Sent
82. Jeremiah Opposed and Comforted
83. Ezekiel, the Captive Prophet
84. Ezekiel's Comforting Visions
85. Daniel and His Three Friends
86. Nebuchadnezzar's Forgotten Dream
87. Three Friends in the Fiery Furnace
88. Nebuchadnezzar's Madness
89. The Writing on the Wall
90. Daniel in the Lions' Den
91. Daniel's Visions and Dreams
92. Ezra—Return from Captivity
93. Ezra—Rebuilding the Temple
94. Ezra—The Scribe
95. Nehemiah—Rebuilding the Walls
96. Nehemiah—The Task Completed
97. Esther the Queen
98. Esther—Haman's Plot
99. Esther—The Jews Saved
100. Hosea—The Minor Prophets
101. Joel and the Day of the LORD
102. Amos the Fearless Herdsman
103. Obadiah Prophecies Edom's Fall
104. Jonah's Flight
105. Jonah's Mission
106. Micah Preaches Judgment & Mercy
107. Nahum—A Message for Nineveh
108. Habakkuk's Questions, God's Replies
109. Zephaniah—Threatenings & Promises
110. Haggai Urges Building the Temple
111. Zechariah—The Night Visions
112. Zechariah Prophecies of Christ
113. Malachi—Last Old Testament Prophet

Lesson 41

The Serpent of Brass Lifted Up Numbers 21

Memory Verse

“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”

Numbers 21:9

Nicodemus

If you have read Numbers 21, you may have noticed that Nicodemus’s name is not mentioned one time in the chapter. Perhaps you wondered why a section of a lesson on the book of Numbers would be titled “Nicodemus.” Isn’t Nicodemus a person in the New Testament? Yes, he is. What then does Nicodemus have to do with the history of the brazen serpent?

Nicodemus has a lot to do with the history of the brazen serpent. If you recall what the New Testament tells us about Nicodemus, you remember that he came to Jesus by night. He praised Jesus, for being a great teacher. Jesus, however, said that this was not enough. He said, “ye must be born again” (John 3:3). Not understanding what Jesus meant, or how it was possible to be born again, Nicodemus asked Jesus a question, “How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother’s womb, and be born?” (John 3:4). In the discussion that follows, Jesus explains many things. However, as he concludes his words with Nicodemus, Jesus points to Numbers 21 saying, “And as whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life” (John 3:14–15). Jesus uses this event in Old Testament history to show how it is possible to be born again by looking unto Jesus.

Let us look more closely at Numbers 21.

A Disobedient and Dying People

Disobedience is the cause of death. Remember Adam? What happened when he disobeyed God? Cast out from the Garden, did he not die in that day? Did he not die spiritually? – Yes, he lost communion and fellowship with God. Did he not die physically? – Yes, his body began to decay and after 930 years, he died. (Genesis 5:5) And what of an eternal death? Thankfully, Adam was restored. He was restored by believing God’s promise concerning a savior (Genesis 3:15). In

believing, he was restored spiritually and never experienced eternal death. The same is true for all those “that love his appearing”—“Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing” (2 Timothy 4:8).

In Numbers 21, we find a disobedient people, a complaining people, a rebellious people. What do they say? Here are the awful words they spoke against God and his anointed servant 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” (Numbers 21:5). They did not like the Lord’s way of deliverance. They did not like the Lord’s servant Moses. How many in our day are like the Israelites, speaking out against the Lord, against his way of salvation, against his anointed.

What was the consequence of their rebellion? Death! Bitten by “fiery serpents,” the people had poison coursing through their veins. Death! was nigh. Death! was at the door. The situation reminds us of our first parents. It is the situation of all those who are outside of Christ—“For our God is a consuming fire” (Hebrews 12:29).

A Merciful Cure

The people, awakened to their terrible condition, confessed their guilt: “We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD, and against thee” (Numbers 21:7). The Lord, hearing Moses interceding for the people, has Moses make a brazen (brass) serpent and raise it up on a pole. What must have been the thought of the people when they saw Moses make the brazen serpent? Is this the cure? How many were not saved because they despised the cure! How many will not believe in Jesus, because he was hung on a cross, between two malefactors, like a common criminal?

It was not enough that a way of salvation be made. The way of salvation—the message of salvation—must be proclaimed. It must be raised up, but it is not enough. The attention of the people must be drawn to the serpent on the pole. They must be encouraged to look upon the serpent with a faithful word from a faithful God. The cure is not a work, but a look: “It came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived” (Numbers 21:9).

Were all those bitten by the fiery serpents delivered? No. While the serpent was raised up above the head of the crowd, so that all could see, only those who looked upon it, by faith, were delivered from the poison. Those who did not look, did not receive deliverance.

This brazen serpent points to the work of Jesus Christ. It is gospel (good news), which finds its fulness in Jesus Christ.

Questions

1. What was the name of the Canaanitish king, who took some Israelites prisoners?
 - a. Sargon
 - b. Arad
 - c. Tiglath-Pileser
 - d. Ashurbanipal

2. What did Israel vow if the Lord would deliver the Canaanites into their hands?
 - a. To offer sacrifice for seven days.
 - b. To establish a monument to God.
 - c. To build an image so that they could worship God in the image.
 - d. To destroy all the cities of the Canaanites.

3. What was the name given to the place where the Lord delivered the Canaanites into Israel's hands?
 - a. Hormah
 - b. Hormuz
 - c. Haran
 - d. Havilah

4. The people became discouraged and spoke against the God and Moses because they did not like the way the Lord led them. (circle one)
True or False

5. After the Lord delivered those Israelites who looked upon the brazen serpent, they traveled through a number of places. They finally arrived at _____, the place where the Lord met with Moses and told him to gather the people together so that he would give them water.
 - a. Bethlehem
 - b. Beer
 - c. Berea
 - d. Beth-anath

6. After reaching the top of Pisgah, the Israelites sent messengers to _____ king of the Amorites, to ask permission to travel through his lands.
 - a. Sadoc
 - b. Salathiel
 - c. Sargon
 - d. Sihon

7. It was at the battle of _____ that the Lord delivered Og, the king of Bashan, into the hands of the Israelites.
 - a. Engedi
 - b. Thermopylae
 - c. Salamis
 - d. Edrei

Discussions

1. Looking at Numbers 21:1–9, explain how the following reveal the human condition and God’s salvation in Jesus Christ.

•Fiery serpents _____

•The dying condition of the people bitten _____

•The brazen serpent _____

2. Explain why it was necessary to raise the brazen serpent on a pole. Because this event foreshadows Jesus Christ, what is the meaning of the pole?

3. Explain why the deliverance of the Israelites was a one-sided work of free and sovereign grace.

4. Discuss how this history does not support universal redemption. Who were those that were saved alive?
