

WHOEVER LOOKS UPON THE BRONZE SNAKE ...

Numbers 17:1-25:18

Key Verse 21:8,9

* God's spiritual order and leading in the desert (17:1-20:13)

1. What does God teach the Israelites and us about oneself and about spiritual order through the event with Aaron's staff? (17:1-13) What is the office of the priests and the Levites, and what is their reward and inheritance? (18:1-7; 8-20; 21-32) What tithe pleases God the most? (Lk 11:42) Who is the God who cleanses his people by the ashes of a red cow? (19:1-22)
2. Why did the people quarrel with Moses and Aaron again? What guidance did God give Moses? (20:1-8) What were the consequences of Moses and Aaron's act and why? (20:9-13; Ps 106:32,33; Pr 16:32) How did God reveal his holiness? (12b-13) What does the event of the water from the rock teach us regarding the law and the gospel for our life of faith?

* God changed the curse to blessing (20:14 – 25:8)

3. How did the king of Edom in Kadesh refuse Moses' request? (20:14-21) What instruction did God give Moses and Aaron on Mount Hor? (20:22-26) How did Moses obey these words? (20:27-29) What had happened 38 years earlier, and what happened in the meantime in the desert? (13:1-33; Deut 1:19-46; 2:14) What did God teach the Israelites through the detour?
4. What victory did God give his people? (21:1-3; 10-35) What salvation did he show the grumbling people? (21:4-9) What does this event show about the truth of faith and of salvation? (Joh 3:14,15) How did God transform the curse into a blessing through Balaam? (Num 23-24; Deut 23:4,5; Neh 13:2) What was the effect of Phineas' sacred wrath? (25:1-18) What does this teach us about the importance of a person?