

## The Tongue That Bites

### Description

[RG AUDIO 092215](#)

Numbers 21:4-9

The Israelites had just celebrated a battle victory, and in the beginning of our passage, they continued their journey. Along the way, however, they became impatient and discouraged. The people begin complaining against God and Moses for bringing them out of Egypt and into the desert. There was no bread or water there—only manna, God’s gift, which they now detested. Suddenly, their bitter tongues were silenced by biting, poisonous snakes, and many of the people died. God did not look kindly on His people speaking against Him, despising His gifts, and failing to trust Him.

The people cried out to Moses, “We sinned!” Moses then approached God on the people’s behalf. God’s instructions were to fasten a bronze snake to a pole and lift it up so the people could see it—Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived! (Numbers 21:9b).

Once again, we see sin, sickness, pain, and death together. God also comes to us, but He comes with a promise: a promise of healing, tender mercy and loving kindness.

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### Date Created

2015/09/22