

# WHEN JESUS WAS LIFTED UP

## Introduction

- 1) **John 3:13-15** – As Jesus talked with Nicodemus, He spoke of the Son of Man and that He must be “lifted up” so that men might believe in Him and have eternal life
- 2) Jesus compared it to the time when Moses “lifted up” the serpent in the wilderness
  - a) This account is recorded in **Numbers 21:4-9**
- 3) What are we to learn about when Jesus was “lifted up”? What should it mean to you?

## I) **When Moses Lifted Up the Serpent (Num. 21:4-9)**

*“And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness...” (Jn. 3:14a)*

- A) The children of Israel are wandering in the wilderness as they journeyed to Canaan
- B) People become impatient and speak against God and Moses
- C) God sends venomous snakes among people; many die as a result
  - 1) They tested God by their disrespectful attitude and words (see 1 Cor. 10:9)
  - 2) What is our attitude toward God’s commands, principles, and provisions?
- D) Israelites confess their sin and beg Moses to pray to Lord to take away snakes
- E) Moses intercedes and is told by God to make a bronze serpent and put it on a pole
  - 1) Whoever is bitten must look at it in order to be saved from certain death
  - 2) God does not remove snakes, but graciously provides a means of healing

## II) **When Jesus was Lifted Up**

*“...even so must the Son of Man be lifted up” (Jn. 3:14b)*

- A) “Lifted up” refers to Jesus’ crucifixion (Jn. 8:28; 12:32-33)
- B) A crucified person was hung upon a cross between heaven and earth
  - 1) Literally “lifted up” before the eyes of men
- C) The death of Jesus is a sin sacrifice provided by the love of God (1 Jn. 4:10; Rom. 5:8)
  - 1) By faith, men must look to Jesus today for salvation from the death of sin

## III) **Important Lessons about God’s Grace**

- A) ***God’s grace is available to all***
  - 1) Salvation and healing are offered to all who are in danger (Jn. 3:16-17)
- B) ***God’s grace is accessed by faith that obeys***
  - 1) Must obey the command to look to what is “lifted up” (Jn. 3:15; 2 Pet. 3:9; Acts 2:38)
- C) ***God’s grace can be resisted***
  - 1) Those who do not look to God’s gracious gift will not be saved and healed (Jn. 3:18, 36)

## IV) **When We Look at Jesus who was Lifted Up...**

- A) We see the Christ, the Son of God – ***will I believe*** (Jn. 8:24)?
- B) We see the perfect sacrifice for sin – ***will I repent*** (Acts 17:30)?
- C) We see the exalted Lord and Christ – ***will I confess*** (Rom. 10:9-10)?
- D) We see the shed blood of the Lamb – ***will I be baptized*** (Matt. 26:28; Acts 2:38)?
- E) We see the glorious King and faithful Judge – ***will I live faithfully*** (Heb. 12:1-3)?

## Conclusion

Moses **lifting up** the serpent in the wilderness was a foreshadowing of Jesus being **lifted up** on the cross for us who are in the wilderness of sin. God’s grace has made salvation available to all sinners. Look to Jesus, the perfect sacrifice, to heal you from sin and death. Believe and obey Him unto eternal life!