



## GATHERING IN THE WORD OF GOD

### HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

#### Numbers 21:4-9 The Voice (VOICE)

<sup>4</sup> And the Israelites set out again. They left Mount Hor and traveled by way of the Red Sea, skirting Edom; but *again*, the *difficult* travel gave everyone a short temper.

<sup>5</sup> They challenged both God and Moses.

**Israelites:** What were you thinking to bring us up out of Egypt and let us die out here in this desert land? There's nothing to eat and no water either. We are sick *and tired* of *living on* what food we have.

<sup>6</sup> *As a divine response*, the Eternal One sent venomous snakes among them and the people were bitten. A number of Israelites were indeed killed by them. <sup>7</sup> They then appealed to Moses.

**Israelites:** *We are so sorry!* We know that it was wrong to speak against the Eternal and against you. Please talk to the Him, and get Him to take these *awful* snakes away.

So Moses appealed to God on behalf of the *terrified and chastened* congregation, <sup>8</sup> and He instructed Moses.

**Eternal One:** Make a venomous snake *that looks like the ones tormenting the congregation*, and put it on a pole. Everyone who gets bitten can simply look at your serpent and be healed.

<sup>9</sup> So Moses took some bronze and cast a likeness of those *vicious snakes to serve as an antidote* for anyone who

had been bitten. If they were to look on the bronze serpent, they would then live.

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### **John 3:14-21 (The VOICE Bible)**

<sup>14</sup> Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness. In the same way, the Son of Man must be lifted up; <sup>15</sup> then all those who believe in Him will experience everlasting life.

<sup>16</sup> For God expressed His love for the world in this way: He gave His only Son so that whoever believes in Him will not face everlasting destruction, but will have everlasting life. <sup>17</sup> Here's the point. God didn't send His Son into the world to judge it; instead, He is here to rescue a world *headed toward certain destruction*.

<sup>18</sup> No one who believes in Him has to fear condemnation, yet condemnation is already the reality for everyone who refuses to believe because they reject the name of the only Son of God. <sup>19</sup> Why does God allow for judgment *and condemnation*? Because the Light, *sent from God*, pierced through the world's darkness *to expose ill motives, hatred, gossip, greed, violence, and the like*. Still some people preferred the darkness over the light because their actions were dark. <sup>20</sup> Some of humankind hated the light. They *scampered hurriedly* back into the darkness where vices thrive and wickedness flourishes. <sup>21</sup> Those who *abandon deceit and* embrace what is true, they will enter into the light where it will be clear that all their deeds come from God.

## **DOING THE WORD OF GOD**

So what is God's Word for us today?

**1.ONE: ETERNAL LIFE MEANS THAT DEATH NO LONGER HAS THE FINAL WORD FOR ANY OF US!**

**2.TWO: Do you see the meaning of the 'Bronze Serpent' hanging on the stick/pool/rod?**

**3.THREE: John 3:16 is "the Gospel in a nutshell" – that God is fundamentally and profoundly a God of aloha and love!**

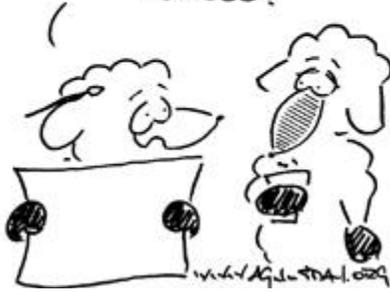
## **SENDING IN THE WORD OF GOD**

In our world of sin and evil, there are so many deep pits into which we fall in to. And for each of us one day—there is finally a six-foot deep hole/puka in the ground waiting for us at some cemetery somewhere. Thanks be to God that Jesus has been down in that puka/hole himself and Jesus knows the way out.

You've probably also heard of the way out!

**It's called EASTER!**

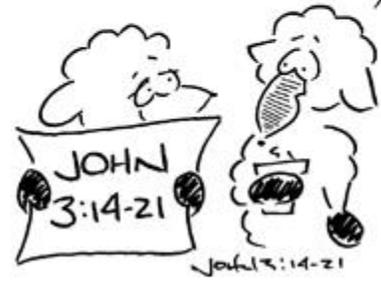
NOW WHY DOES THE BIBLE MUDDY UP A PERFECTLY GOOD 'JOHN 3:16' WITH ALL THESE OTHER CONFUSING VERSES?



TED - THOSE VERSES ARE THE CONTEXT. 'JOHN 3:16' IS PART OF A LARGER TEACHING ABOUT THE NATURE OF TRUTH AND LIFE WITH GOD.



NICE WORK!



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