



# “The Bronze Serpent”

Numbers 21

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## **PUPPETS**

1. Clay
2. Flurpette
3. Flurp
4. Red snake?
5. Berry

## **PEOPLE**

1. Director

## **PROPS**

1. Large Stage
2. Pole

## **SOUND**

1. Ripples Theme
2. Thunder
3. Hammering sound

# ACT I

## Worship / Opening prayer

**Director:** Imagine for a moment that God has just delivered you from someone evil - someone who had kidnapped you and turned you into a slave.

You pray that God will save you. God decides to answer your prayers. So he sends someone to rescue you. You have seen miracle after miracle. In fact, you have seen so many miracles, they don't even seem that miraculous to you anymore.

Now you find yourself in a desert with thousands of others, who had also been rescued. It is dry and your only food is manna.

Do you think you might complain? I probably would.

In the book of Numbers, chapter 21, we read about just such a thing. God has rescued the Israelites from slavery and they find themselves in the desert. And they begin to complain.

It's never a good idea to complain about God tho, as we will find out today in the story of "The Bronze Serpent." Da da dahhhhh!

**Music:** Walk like an Egyptian? Or snake song?

**Scene:** two Israelites are complaining.

**Flurp:** Moses! Every day, all I ever hear is how great Moses is. Moses this! Moses that! I am sick of it. (Sarcastically) Some great leader he is... He has rescued us from the Egyptians so that we can die out here in the desert.

**Flurpette** – I hear ya! And what has God done for us lately huh? All we get is this lousy manna every day and there is not enough water.

I've got dust in my ears. Dust in my nose. I even have dust between my toes. I think if we have a kid, I am going to have to name him Dusty!

Are you listening to me God? Did you just bring us out here to die? We could have done that back in Egypt.

**Sound** – Thunderclap

**Flurp** – Oh great and now we have a storm coming. I am sure we will be enjoying the mud real soon.

**Director** – And so the people complained. Finally God got sick of their complaining and sent firey snakes to punish them.

**Red Snake?** – (pops up) Slither Slither... hiss hiss.

**Scene** – Snake pops up, then down, puppet up then down. This goes on for a couple of minutes and we hear ouches and "that hurts" as the people get bitten by the firey serpent.

**Berry (Moses)** – God. We have been invaded by firey serpents. Lots of people have died in the camp.

**God** – I know. I sent them.

**Berry (Moses)** – But why would you rescue your people and then send firey serpents to attack them?

**God** – The people were complaining. They have angered me. This is their punishment.

**Scene** – Moses slinks down shaking his head sadly.

**Director** – Do you think it was fair that God sent the firey serpents?

God is perfect and that means that His judgements are perfect as well – even if we don't understand them. The people who owed God gratitude and worship for having delivered them had forgotten so quickly what he had done and instead were complaining about what they felt they should have.

We can be the same way can't we? Ungrateful – forgetting that God has already provided so much for us. We complain and we cry out for more. It is a wonder more of us don't have firey serpents in our homes. But perhaps God withholds other blessings we could have had because of our complaining.

What do you think God is going to do next?

Let's see.

**Scene** – Moses and Flurpette come up.

**Flurpette** – Moses, could I talk to you for a minute?

**Berry (Moses)** – Certainly. What is on your mind?

**Flurpette** – Well, I have talked to the others and we realize that we have sinned by speaking against you and against God. Could you please pray for us that God would remove this plague from us?

**Berry (Moses)** – I will see what I can do.

**Scene** – Flurpette goes away.

**Berry (Moses)** – Lord, the people have come to me and they are repentant of speaking out against you and your servant.

Will you please relent from your judgment and remove the firey serpents from among us.

**God** – My judgement stands. But if the people are really repentant, then you may make a firey serpent and place it on a pole. If someone is bitten, they may look at the serpent and they will be healed.

**Clay (Moses)** – I will do as you have commanded Lord. I will make a firey serpent to heal your people.

**Scene** – Moses goes down

**Sound** – we hear the sounds of hammering.

**Director** – Does anyone have any idea why God did not just take the snakes away? He could have if He wanted to, couldn't He?

Why did he make those that had been bitten look at the bronze serpent?

Do you think they still suffered from the effects of the snake bite?

I believe that they needed to suffer their punishment, but if, in faith, they would do as He commanded, then they would not lose their life.

Does that make more sense to you?

Let's see what happens, shall we?

**Scene** – Clay comes up and is trying to get the Director's attention.

**Clay** – Psst! Hey Director (whispers). Come here.

**Director** – What is it now Clay? We are in the middle of a performance. The kids are waiting.

**Clay** – Look, I thought we covered this whole serpent thing last time.

**Director** – We did, Clay. It's called acting!

**Clay** – Need I remind you that they are... DISGUSTING?

**Director** – Clay – I don't have time for this.

**Clay** – Make time!

What about that red guy? He can do it.

**Director** – You mean the firey serpent?

**Clay** – Yeah, that's the one.

**Director** – He's the bad guy Clay.

**Clay** – Acting!

**Director** – Clay, please do this for the kids.

**Clay** – Fine.

Slither, slither, slither – hiss, hiss.

**Director** – That was last time Clay.

**Clay** – If I'm gonna be the serpent, I'll play it the way that I want to.

**Director** – Okay Clay

**Scene** – Flurpette comes up.

**Flurpette** – Ever since that firey serpent bit me, I feel awful. I'm afraid I am going to die.

I heard that Moses spoke to God and he has made a bronze serpent so that we will not die.

**Flurp** – You don't believe that do you? I mean if God wanted to give us a way out, why didn't he just take the snakes away.

I've had just about enough of this. After all, we said we were sorry didn't we? And all we get is another crazy thing to do. I bet Moses just made this up so he could be even more important.

**Flurpette** – I don't care what you say. I am going to do what Moses said. I don't want to die.

**Flurp** – Suit yourself... sell out!

**Scene** – Flurp goes down and Clay comes up.

**Flurpette** – So where is the bronze serpent?

**Clay** – It is I, The Bronze Serpent. Look into my eyes and live. Slither slither slither, Hiss Hiss.

**Flurpette** – You look like a worm!

**Clay** – And you don't look like an Israelite! But I guess we are – aren't we?

Let's get to this, shall we? Slither slither slither, hiss, hiss. You are creating a backup.

**Flurpette** – What do I have to do?

**Clay** – No wonder you got bit. You are not that bright are you? Look into my eyes and you will be healed.

**Flurpette** – Oh yeah, that's right. I am looking into your eyes. Now what?

**Clay** – Now go home.

**Flurpette** – But I don't feel better.

**Clay** – Did God say you were going to feel better? Hmm? No!

He just said you wouldn't die. Now, go home! There are a lot of people outside that don't want to die either.

**Scene** – Clay and Flurpette go down.

**Announcer** – What was the difference between Flurp and Flurpette? Do some of us act that way? Can you think of anything in your life that God has asked you to do and you said no?

Why don't we see what happens next.

**Scene** – Flurp and Flurpette come up.

**Flurp** – So, how did your meeting with the Great Worm go?

**Flurpette** – He's not a worm, He's a serpent.

**Flurp** – Whatever, So, are you all better now?

**Flurpette** – I still feel awful.

**Flurp** – I told you it wouldn't work.

**Scene** – Flurp begins to choke and gag and finally falls over dead.

**Flurpette** – Oh, Flurp! You should have listened to God and His promise and you would not be dead. (cries)

**Scene** – they both slip down.

**Director** – Kids, do you know there is a lesson here for us?

Can any of you think about how this lesson might apply to our lives? After all, we are not wandering in the desert and I don't see any snakes in this room.

However, we have all been bitten by the snake of sin in our lives and God tells us that our sin will lead to our death. But if we look to Jesus and claim Him as our Lord and savior, we will never die. We will live for eternity with God in heaven.

The choice is ours. God will not force us to take the free gift of salvation. Many will refuse the gift and will die in their sin. I pray that you are not one of them – for they are foolish.

This does not mean that things will be easy though. We still have to live in a world that, for the most part has turned its back on God. We can know however that we have eternal life and that will bring us comfort.

May we all look to Jesus to be delivered from the biting, deadly sting of sin.

Let us pray.

**End**