

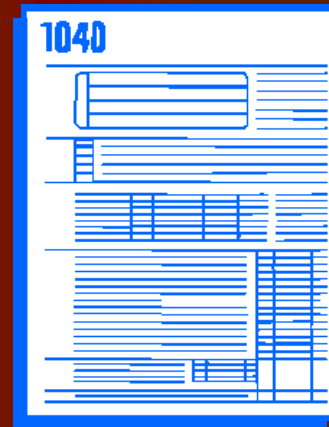
Certainty?

"in this world nothing is certain but death and taxes."

-Benjamin Franklin



- PH & RH
- "Nothing ever changes"



Some Things Never Change!



Numbers 21:4-9

Rev. David R. Clark

March 30, 2003, Lent-4, b



People ungratefully grumble

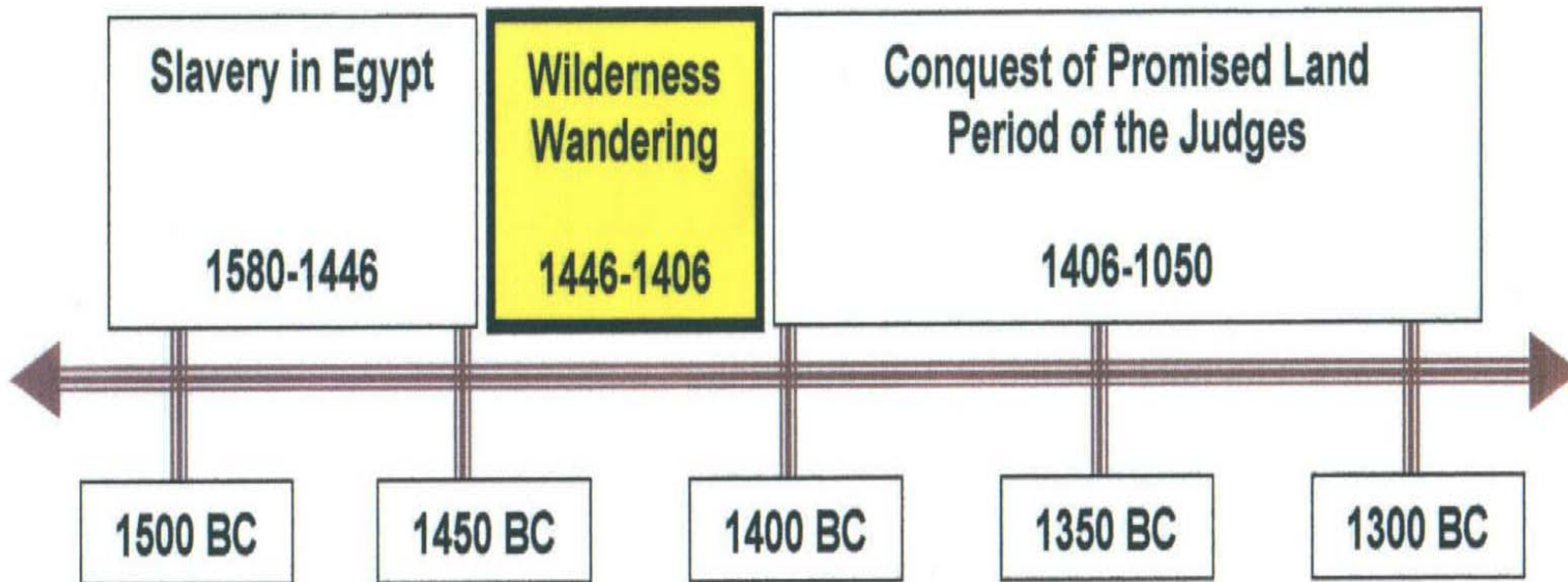
Numbers 21:4-6 They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the desert? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!"

Then the LORD sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died.

“from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom”



Exodus from Egypt



Why did it take so long?

- Numbers 32:11-13 'Because they have not followed me wholeheartedly, not one of the men twenty years old or more who came up out of Egypt will see the land I promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob— not one except Caleb... and Joshua..., for they followed the LORD wholeheartedly.' **The LORD's anger burned against Israel and he made them wander in the desert forty years, until the whole generation of those who had done evil in his sight was gone.**

Will we ever get there?



“we detest this miserable food”

לֶחֶם חַיִּים

- Hebrew = “starvation rations”
- prisoner of war food
- “bread and water”
- manna



Not a new complaint

- Numbers 20:5, Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to this terrible place? It has no grain or figs, grapevines or pomegranates. And there is no water to drink!”
- Numbers 11:5-6, We remember the fish we ate in Egypt at no cost—also the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions and garlic. But now we have lost our appetite; we never see anything but this manna!”

Pillar of cloud and fire



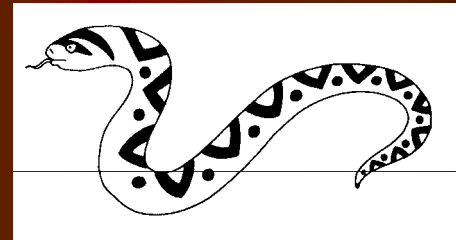
By day



By night

God's judgment on grumbling

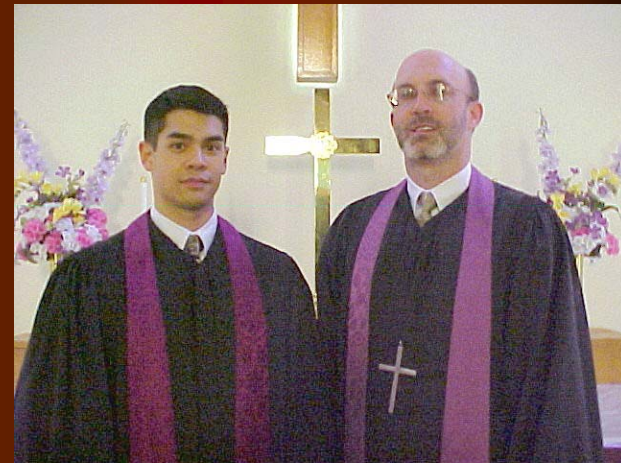
"Then the LORD sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died."



What do you grumble about?



What do you grumble about?



I don't grumble. I am...

- "complaining"
- "protesting"
- "sharing my opinion"
- "exercising my first amendment rights!"

Grumbling is an offense against a holy and righteous Lord, who is always in control and always knows better!

God faithfully delivers

Numbers 21:7-9 The people came to Moses and said, "We sinned when we spoke against the LORD and against you. Pray that the LORD will take the snakes away from us." So Moses prayed for the people.

The LORD said to Moses, "Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live." So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, he lived.

The people's problem

- **"We sinned when we spoke against the LORD and against you."**
- They had offended a holy and righteous God who had only blessed them. They turned away from their sin.
- 2 Corinthians 7:10 **Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.**

God's solution

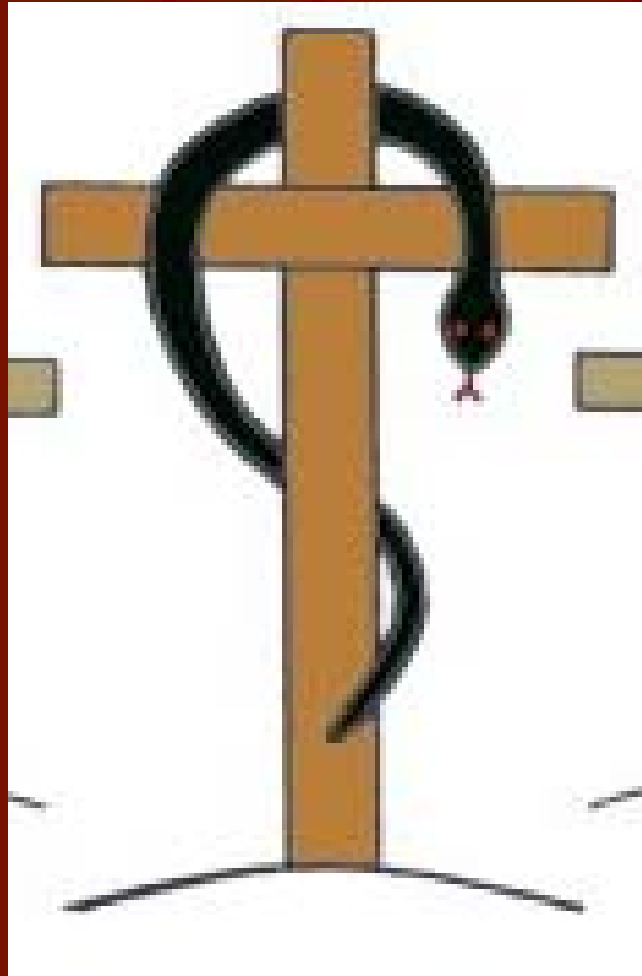
“Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live.”

- Only faith in a seemingly ridiculous promise would save them!

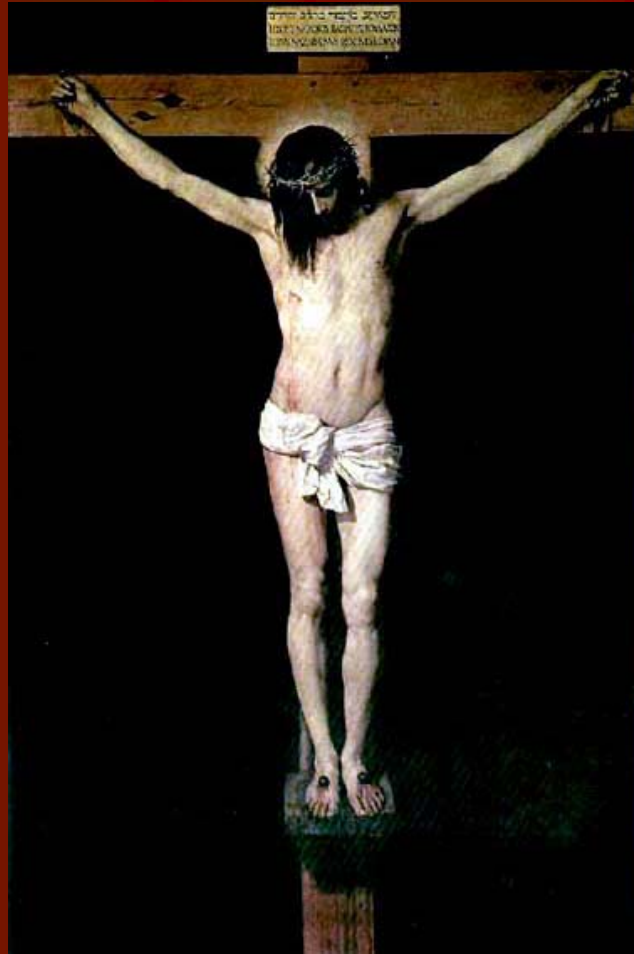
“anyone who is bitten can look at it and live”



God's solution



God's solution now



John 3:14-15

Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.



Certainty?

- PH & RH
- Some things will never change.
 - Our struggle with sin.
 - Our struggle to stop grumbling.
- Benjamin Franklin was wrong. "nothing is certain but death and taxes."
- The promises of God are more certain.
- That will never change! Amen.