

December 25, 2023

The Lord wants you to live in His liberty and freedom.

John 3:14-15 *Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in Him.*” (NIV)

Maybe this morning you are blessed to be sitting around a beautiful tree with beautiful lights and lovely presents. Maybe there are stockings that are full of treats. Maybe you are with your family or some of you might be alone. But the greatest thing about Christmas is that no one has to be alone because Jesus came to give us life! He draws near to anyone who will call upon His name. Today’s passage gives an insight from an Old Testament story in **Numbers 21:4-9** *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 wilderness? 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. 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, they lived.* (NIV)

Jesus came into this world at just the right time. The people of Israel were basically lost in the wilderness of existence. They had a form of religion but no real relationship with God. John makes this parallel by reminding the people that they must look up to the One Who is lifted up. And that everyone who believes in Him may have eternal life. And so, Jesus was hung on a cross and lifted up, and anyone who believes may have eternal life. This is my Christmas wish for anyone who has not yet received the greatest gift, Jesus Christ as Lord. **John 12:32** *“And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to Myself.”*

Dear LORD, on this beautiful Christmas day, help people to look up to You. Just as those in the desert. Just as those at the foot of the cross. Just as the wise men who followed the star. Look up, for your redemption draws nigh. In Jesus Name, Amen