

Simply Faith 2019-01-20

John 3:14-15

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

Simply Orange Juice.....nothing added.

- Similarly Jesus answers Nicodemus' "How reborn?"....simply faith, nothing else. Jesus explained necessity of new birth (not "see" Kingdom of God), its source (from above God) and its nature (irresistible grace that transforms from inside out)

- Nicodemus did not understand Jesus' "earthly" birth/wind analogies, how understand and believe "heavenly" that not sensed but revealed by God and believed in faith.

Jesus gave "credentials" for authoritatively speaking about heavenly. John 3:9-13

- bear witness/seen stronger than speak/know. Nigagara Falls, Grand Canyon
 - Jesus Christ alone came from heaven so He knows what He's talking about.

Jesus turns to Old Testament for "heavenly" answer to Nicodemus' "earthly" question. Numbers 21:4-9, 2 Kings 18:1-4

- Israelites could not do anything to save themselves.
 - No medicine worked, money, penance, mantra useless.
- Saved from God's wrath by simply believing God's promise that if they looked at His provision hanging on a pole they'd be healed.
 - Spared death given "new life" by God's grace alone thru faith alone.

Bronze serpent itself foreshadowed an even greater salvation. John 3:9, 14-15, 1 Corinthians 2:14

- Jesus connects bronze serpent with Himself and prophesies His own death/resurrection.
 - Lifted up double meaning: referring to Jesus' death & his exaltation (resurrection, ascension, coronation) Acts 2:33; 5:31, Phil. 2:9
- Jesus is saying that MUST be reborn from above by God's irresistible grace alone thru simple faith alone in Jesus Christ alone.

Entire Old Testament event is divine illustration of Gospel and specifically the Atonement (what Son of Man came to do). John 12:32, 1 Corinthians 1:18

- Sin like deadly snake bite has no human remedy.
 - Without divine intervention all would die.
- So God sovereignly, graciously provided supernatural, completely sufficient (nothing else needed or added) seemingly odd remedy.
 - Serpent on pole and cross both seem foolish/irrational.

Means of rescue from curse is picture of curse itself. 2 Corinthians 5:21, Galatians 3:13, Romans 8:3-4

- Snake/snake bite....Jesus in likeness of sinful flesh, but without sin
 - Serpent on pole had no power over physical death (God's blessing obtained by looking) but Jesus has power over eternal death.

Both lifted up publically for all to see but only those who looked spared from death.

- ANYONE perishing who simply believed God's promise that if look at His provision hanging on pole was healed and life spared IMMEDIATELY.
- ANYONE simply believes God's promise and looks to Jesus Christ will be spared eternal destruction and given eternal life. Isaiah 45:22, Romans 10:9-10, 1 Peter 2:24
 - Spurgeon's conversion January 6, 1850: shoemaker preached
Reborn by God's irresistible grace alone thru simple faith alone in Jesus Christ alone.
- From 1st to last, 1 thing required is simply faith in Jesus Christ...life, death, resurrection fulfilled all God's just, holy requirements. Hebrews 12:2, 2 Corinthians 1:20-22
 - Christians not receive punishment but inherit all God's promises of mercy, pardon, new spiritual nature, Jesus Christ Himself.

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