



BIBLE RADIO PRODUCTIONS INC.

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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A1451 ~ Israel Plagued by Serpents.

Welcome to Bible Adventures. Help for today. Hope for tomorrow. Jesus is Lord of all.

When the Almighty God first helped the Israelites to escape from slavery in Egypt, they had high hopes they would soon be settling down in their own promised land. But they had very little understanding about the God of their fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. They knew how Jacob's son, Joseph had gained power over all Egypt, even though he had arrived there as a slave. They knew the Egyptians had forgotten Joseph's wonderful help, and had grown afraid of the large tribe of Israel.

The Pharaoh had forced the Israelites into slavery to make sure they were powerless. In the Bible book Leviticus, chapter 26, God said this, "I, the Lord your God brought you out of Egypt so that you would no longer be slaves. I broke the power that held you down, and let you walk with your head held high." The Israelites thought life would be much easier. They promised they would always obey their great God. But they faced all sorts of problems as they journeyed through the wilderness and their trust in God was very weak. As soon as trouble came, nearly everyone started grumbling.

Grumbling is something done in every generation but we don't always see ourselves as complainers. The husband of a Christian lady grumbled that it was hard to come home from work each evening and listen to her complaining about her difficulties during the day. She defended herself by saying she was just telling him what had happened. The husband insisted that her complaining showed in her tone of voice and body language. She thought about this and checked up her Bible under the word "murmuring," which means to grumble. She read in the book of Philippians, Chapter 2, "Do all things without complaining and disputing." From then on she listened to her husband's concerns before leaping in with stories of her own problems. She did not want to quench the Holy Spirit with her complaining and prayed to God for help to reflect His love.

Part of grumbling is negative thinking and gloomy talk. When the workers at a company were not doing well in their jobs, management brought in a business advisor to see if he could help. He tried to get the workers to speak more positively to change their poor attitudes. When they took the most hopeful view of different situations, their work levels improved. Their positive thoughts and an eager attitude often made problems seem much less difficult.

But the Israelite people had been slow to learn this lesson. Instead of humbly asking their great Saviour-God for His help, they rebelled. They were not thankful. They behaved like spoiled children, and God punished them for their disobedience.

Now after forty years wandering in the wilderness, the adults whom God had freed from slavery, had all died. Their children were close to the promised land, but the people of Edom would not let them go through Edomite territory.

Once again, the Israelites' journey would be longer, and this younger generation thought they had good reason to grumble. It's true life would still be hard, but God was still with them and giving them the daily manna. They were not starving; their clothes were still good; they had tents to live in. He gave them all they needed. But they were not satisfied! They were fed up with life camping in the endless wilderness! Just like their parents before them, they turned away from trust in their faithful God. They stirred each other up and reckoned life back in Egypt would be better.

DRAMA - [The Bible In Living Sound](#).

We can understand the children of Israel were tired of the hard, dreary years in the wilderness. They were longing to arrive in their new land. But we must also understand their grumbling and their unbelief gave great sorrow to the Almighty God. He had done so much for them, but they were so slow to learn. They did not value God's care. They thought they deserved an easier life. Their pride and impatience drove them to blame God. The Bible book 1 Corinthians, chapter 10, says this, "All these things happened to them as an example for others, and were written down as a warning to us...we must not put the Lord to the test, as some of them did and were killed by snakes."

This incident gives us very true spiritual teaching. The poisonous snakes brought swift death to everyone they bit. They are a picture of our sin that brings eternal death to us. We have no power in ourselves to overcome it. It is fatal. Moses made the brass snake to look like the fiery serpents that were killing the people. He put it on a high pole, so that everyone could look at it and live. This is a powerful picture of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Bible book 2 Corinthians, chapter 5 tells us, "God made (Jesus), Who had no sin, to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God." He bore God's punishment for our sins in His own sinless body, so that we could have everlasting life. In the book John, chapter 12, the Lord Jesus said this, "When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all men to Myself." And in chapter 3, He said this, "As Moses lifted up the bronze snake on a pole in the desert, in the same way, the Son of Man must be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in Him may have eternal life."

Sin has bitten each one of us. No one is without sin. And our sin has earned us eternal death. We cannot avoid God's judgment on our wrongdoing and wrong thinking. But God provided the way to forgive us when He sent His only Beloved Son into our world to take the punishment we deserved. Now, you and I can look in faith to Jesus as He paid the price for us on the cruel cross. He gives eternal life to every man, woman, boy or girl who trusts in Him. Will you look to Him now and receive this wonderful gift?

MUSIC - [Integrity Music](#).

That was Teresa James, and the song was "Justified."

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

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