

# Numbers 21:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD, and against thee; pray unto the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us. And Moses prayed for the people.

## Analysis

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Israel confessed 'We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD, and against thee' to Moses, requesting his intercession. This acknowledgment of sin against both God and His servant demonstrated genuine repentance. Their request 'pray unto the LORD, that he take away the serpents' sought removal of consequences, yet God's answer provided healing while serpents remained, teaching that forgiveness doesn't always eliminate earthly consequences.

## Historical Context

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This confession marked a more mature response than earlier rebellions, where Israel blamed Moses rather than acknowledging sin. Moses' immediate intercession demonstrated faithful shepherd-heart despite decades of complaints against him.

## Related Passages

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does genuine repentance acknowledge sin against both God and people we've wronged?
2. Why might God forgive sin while allowing consequences to remain as ongoing lessons?

## Interlinear Text

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וַיָּבֹא	הָעָם:	אֶל	מֹשֶׁה	וַיֹּאמֶר ו	חָטָאנוּ
came	Therefore the people	H413	from us And Moses	and said	We have sinned
H935	H5971		H4872	H559	H2398
כִּי	דַּבַּרְנוּ	יְהוָה	וְכַן	וַתִּפֹּל ל	אֶל
H3588	for we have spoken	against the LORD	H0	and against thee pray	H413
	H1696	H3068		H6419	
יְהוָה	וְיָסֶר	מַעַל יָנוּ	אֶת	הַנָּחָשׁ	
against the LORD	that he take away	H5921	H853	the serpents	
H3068	H5493			H5175	
וַתִּפֹּל ל	מֹשֶׁה	בְּעַד	הָעָם:		
and against thee pray	from us And Moses	H1157	Therefore the people		
H6419	H4872		H5971		

## Additional Cross-References

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**Acts 8:24** (Prayer): Then answered Simon, and said, Pray ye to the Lord for me, that none of these things which ye have spoken come upon me.

**Psalms 78:34** (Parallel theme): When he slew them, then they sought him: and they returned and enquired early after God.

**Exodus 8:8** (References Lord): Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron, and said, Intreat the LORD, that he may take away the frogs from me, and from my people; and I will let the people go, that they may do sacrifice unto the LORD.

**Numbers 11:2** (Prayer): And the people cried unto Moses; and when Moses prayed unto the LORD, the fire was quenched.

**Exodus 8:28** (References Lord): And Pharaoh said, I will let you go, that ye may sacrifice to the LORD your God in the wilderness; only ye shall not go very far away: intreat for me.

**1 Kings 13:6** (Prayer): And the king answered and said unto the man of God, Intreat now the face of the LORD thy God, and pray for me, that my hand may be restored me again. And the man of God besought the LORD, and the king's hand was restored him again, and became as it was before.

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