

# CHUKAT

Check out the whole GMS file for other GMs from this sedra. Don't just look at the CHUKAT pages; search for the sedra name, which might show up elsewhere.

**GM** Bamidbar 21:8 (in Chukat) -

וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל־מֹשֶׁה עֲשֵׂה לָךְ  
שָׂרָף וְשִׂים אֹתוֹ עַל־נֵס וְהָיָה  
כָּל־הַנִּשְׁחָף וְרָאָה אֹתוֹ וְחָיָה:

*HaShem said to Moshe, "Make yourself a serpent and put it on a pole, and let whoever is bitten look at it and live."*

The Mishna in Rosh HaShana 3:8 -

...Similarly, you can say: The verse states: "Make for yourself a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole; and it shall come to pass, that everyone that is bitten, when he sees it, he shall live" (Bamidbar 21:8). Once again it may be asked: Did the serpent kill, or did the serpent preserve life? Rather, when the Jewish people turned their eyes upward and subjected their hearts to their Father in Heaven, they were healed, but if not, they rotted from their snakebites.

That's the Mishna's question and explanation.

Here's a Gimatriya Match to echo that Mishna on the pasuk in question:

The gimatriya of our pasuk in Chukat is 3737. Its NISTAR gimatriya is 3143, which is the regular gimatriya of D'varim 13:12 in Parshat R'ei -

וְכָל־יִשְׂרָאֵל יִשְׁמְעוּ וְיִרְאוּ וְלֹא־יִסְפוּ  
לַעֲשׂוֹת כְּדַבַּר הָרָע הַזֶּה בְּקִרְבָּהּ:

*And all Israel shall listen and fear, and they shall no longer do any evil such as this in your midst.*

This pasuk is "hidden" in the pasuk about the fiery serpent on a pole. It states very clearly the only way to correct the errors of one's behavior - call it T'SHUVA!

**GM** As Parshat Chukat ends, Bnei Yisrael find themselves in Arvot Moav, on the east side of the Jordan River. This is the threshold of Eretz Yisrael. Although there are four sedras remaining in the Book of Bamidbar and another eleven sedras in the Book of D'varim, the people have already arrived at their final encampment, set to cross the Jordan and conquer the Land. Bamidbar 22:1, the final pasuk of Chukat -

וַיִּסְעוּ בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיַּחֲנּוּ בְּעַרְבֹת  
מוֹאָב מֵעֵבֶר לְיַרְדֵּן יְרִיחוֹ:

*The children of Israel journeyed and encamped in the plains of Moav, across the Jordan from Yericho.*

The Meraglim had so scared the people into expressing their intention to refuse going into the Land, but rather to either remain in the Midbar (as the Meraglim themselves seemed to want) or return to

Egypt (as the panicked people were demanding).

On the other hand, the successful battles against Sichon and Og were intended to encourage the people to face the battles to come.

The gimatriya of this last pasuk of Chukat is 2394. Among seven other p'sukim in Tanach with the same gimatriya, is one from T'hilim (specifically 3:7) that contains an important message to the generation that is preparing to enter Eretz Yisrael and fight against the nations there. David HaMelech said this when faced with rebellion led by his own son. But it is a message for all generations...

לֹא־אֶיֶרָא מִרְבָּבוֹת עִם אֲשֶׁר סָבִיב  
שִׁתּוֹ עָלַי:

*I will not fear ten thousands of people,  
who have set themselves against me all  
around.*