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## Signs of Hope and Faith

### 21:1 to 22:1



A major break in the narrative of **Numbers** occurs with **Chapter 21**. For the first time in this predominantly negative portion of the book, a positive tone is struck with the account of **Isra'el's** first military victory over the Canaanite **king of Arad**. Ever since **Chapter 11**, **Isra'el** has repeatedly rebelled and resisted **God's** commands, with the result that **Ha'Shem** had punished **Isra'el** with numerous plagues and military defeats. This negative portrait is abruptly interrupted by the positive conquest story in **21:1-3**. This hopeful story is followed quickly by another rebellion, but ends up with those of faith looking on **the bronze snake** (to see link click [Di](#) - [The Healing Snake](#)), and then another positive conquest account of military triumphs over two kings, **Sihon** and **Og**, in **21:21** to **22:1**.<sup>412</sup>