

Tuesday 20th July 2021

Genesis 3: 1 *“Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, ‘Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’”*

Numbers 21: 6, 7 *“Then the Lord sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, ‘We have sinned when we spoke against the Lord and against you. Pray that the Lord will take the snakes away from us.’ So Moses prayed for the people.”*

Most of us have played Snakes and Ladders as children and perhaps again as parents. The game originated in India and was called Moksha Patam which even then had a moral meaning to the game. Snakes represented vices, ladders virtues.

The Israelites not for the first or last time had lost their way with God and patience with Moses. They had sinned against God and wanted Moses to put things right with God. God commanded Moses to make a bronze snake which was hung on a pole so that any Israelite who was bitten by a snake could look up and be healed. In reality this was to re-establish his or her recognition of the source of the forgiveness of sins by the Father.

Our lives are a never ending mixture of sliding snakes to Satan and redemptive rungs up ladders. As in the board game we should strive to avoid the snakes and seek to climb the ladders gracefully and humbly to God.