

# The Brazen Serpent

(03/01/17)

- I. **John 3:11-21**- The brazen serpent a type of the cross at Calvary
  - A) The “red letter” argument is a waste of time, if I believe the passage is the word of God.
  - B) **Num 21:1-10**- The event that typified Christ on the cross and its purpose
    - 1) **1 Cor 10:1-11**- Gives authority to use the whole wilderness experience as an example for our course
    - 2) **Num 21:4**- They were troubled because of the way
      - i. **2 Tim 4:7**- Paul’s course
        - a) **Prov 3:5-6**- Lord desires to direct thy paths
          - 1. **Psa 37:23, 119:133, Prov 16:9, Jer 10:23**
        - b) **John 3:17-21**- Man hates light and loves darkness
          - 1. **Psa 119:105**- Thy word is a lamp unto my feet
          - 2. Just as Israel hated to be under the dominion of the Lord and His leadership, flesh hates to submit to the word of God as His means of authority and guidance
            - (1) Satan knows this and always approaches man with an alternative to God’s dominion
    - 3) Looking on the brazen serpent was an act of faith made available through grace, and of turning from earthly or man concocted means to address the deadly venom
      - i. **Eph 2:8-9**- Saved by grace through faith
    - 4) Brass is a symbol of Judgment in the scriptures
      - i. **Ex 27:1-8**- The altar where sin was judged, along with all its vessels were made of brass
      - ii. **Ex 30:17-21**- The laver of brass
      - iii. **Lev 26:19**- The heavens made like brass
      - iv. **Num 16:4-7**- The brass censers of Korah and his men
      - v. **Jud 16:21**- Fetters of Brass (**2 Kings 25:7**)
      - vi. **1 Kings 7:15-16**- Pillars (carry a load) of brass
      - vii. **Rev 1:15**- The Lord Jesus Christ’s feet as brass
    - 5) **Gen 3:1-15**- The serpent is used for the devil and is associated with sin and the curse and mandates redemption
      - i. **Isa 6:1-6**-“Fiery serpents” also translated “seraphim”
        - a) **Isa 14:29**- The “fiery flying serpent” more than likely is a spiritual creature as in **Col 1:15-17**

- b) **Num 21:8**- The “fiery” part in the account seems to point to the physical appearance of these serpents, as God told Moses to make a “fiery serpent” and Moses made a “serpent of brass”
  - ii. How could a serpent possibly represent Jesus Christ?
    - a) **Rom 8:3**- Christ sent in the likeness of sinful flesh
    - b) **2 Cor 5:21**- Christ made to be sin for us
      - 1. **Heb 7:26**- Just as Christ came in the likeness of sinful flesh, but had no sin in Him, the brass serpent had the outward form without the inward poison
  - 6) “Pole” comes from the root *nec* and is the same as nissi (banner/ensign) in the name Jehovah Nissi (**Ex 17:15**)
- II. The brazen serpent as a type of salvation
  - A) The people had to look on the very thing that had caused death to work in them, just as we must see Jesus Christ made sin for us, the very sin that courses through our veins
  - B) They had to abandon fleshly remedies and look to God by faith, for it was God alone who could save them, and not the image Moses made
    - 1) **2 Kings 18:1-4**- But Israel did as man always does, they turned the type into the substance and therein an idol
      - i. Consider the “crucifix” as a perfect fulfillment of this also, and how man has been taught the superstition of believing that the catholic graven image holds some type power
- III. **Num 21:6**- The Lord sent the fiery serpents, which must have been previously restrained
  - A) **Isa 5:5**- The Lord removes the hedge around Israel to bring them back to Him
  - B) **Job 1:7-12**- The Lord removes His hedge about Job and allows Satan to buffet him, and it all works out to Job’s benefit in the end
    - 1) **1 Tim 4:1**= Seducing spirits and doctrines of devils are the spiritual equivalent of the fiery serpent in the wilderness for a saved person today
      - i. **1 Cor 2:10-14**- We MUST depend on the Lord and His Spirit to guide us through His word, and not on our own understanding or intelligence
        - a) **Gen 3:1-5**- Satan uses the words of God to lay a snare for Eve
          - 1. Remember the snare must have small bits of real bread to attract the victim
            - (1) **2 Cor 2:17**- Corrupting the word of God
            - (2) **2 Cor 4:2**- Handling the word of God deceitfully
              - (a) Think of this today, in the way men take a single verse out of context and use it to deceive masses of people.
              - (b) Compare it today to what men do with Malachi to lure people into their snare of corruption \$\$\$\$\$

- b) **Matt 4:1-7**- Satan takes a single verse out of context to try and lure the Lord Jesus Christ into his snare
1. This happens so often today, and men are misled into a false teaching by not allowing the Lord to guide them in the word. The only remedy is then, as in the brazen serpent, to turn to look to the Lord for guidance.
    - (1) **2 Tim 2:24-26**- Lord alone can remove from snare
      - (a) Just as Peter trying to walk on water, we must look to the Lord and not look away, for when we look away, we sink.
      - (b) **Eph 6:10-18**- This is one of the great lessons the Lord teaches us today, through the “fiery flying serpents” and their snare and pitfalls. When the blind (flesh) leads the blind, both fall into the ditch