

Just as Serpent lifted up in Desert (John 3:14-21)

Jesus lifted up

John 12:32-33 “And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will **draw everyone to Myself.**” He said this to indicate the kind of death He was going to die.”

John 8:28 “So Jesus said to them, “When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me.”

John 6:44 “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me **draws him.** And I will raise him up on the last day.”

Galatians 3:13-14 “Christ ransomed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written, “Cursed be everyone who hangs on a tree,” that the **blessing of Abraham might be extended** to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.”

What is the Bronze Serpent Episode from Numbers 21?

Numbers 21:4-9 “From Mount Hor they set out by way of the Red Sea, to bypass the land of Edom, but the people’s patience was worn out by the journey; so the people complained against God and Moses, “Why have you brought us up from Egypt to die in the wilderness, where there is no food or water? We are disgusted with this wretched food!” So the LORD sent among the people seraph serpents, which bite the people so that many of the Israelites died. Then the people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned in complaining against the LORD and you. Pray to the LORD to take the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people, and the LORD said to Moses: Make a seraph and mount it on a pole, and everyone who has been bitten will look at it and recover.”

Classic Example of ‘Look at the Problem.....that is the Solution’ –Admit and Face your Problem

Isaiah 59:2 “It is your crimes (sins) that separate you from your God. It is your sins that make him hide his face so that he does not hear you.”

*So, we have to admit our sin of **proudly** claiming what is not ours, or our seizing what is not ours, that will begin our healing. We must stop ‘acting like Gods’, declaring God to be like us and trying to force our way upon God.*

Ezekiel 18:29-30 “But the house of Israel says, “The Lord’s way is not fair!” Is it my way that is not fair, house of Israel? Is it not your ways that are not fair? Therefore I will judge you, house of Israel, all of you according to your ways—oracle of the Lord GOD. Turn, turn back from all your crimes,” **We must face our sins – the serpent- and turn to God for remedy.**

God is in Control – God’s Will be done

Exodus 7:9-12 “When Pharaoh demands of you, “Produce a sign or wonder,” you will say to Aaron: “Take your staff and throw it down before Pharaoh, and it will turn into a serpent.” Then Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and did just as the LORD had commanded. *Aaron threw his staff down before Pharaoh and his servants, and it turned*

into a serpent. Pharaoh, in turn, summoned the wise men and the sorcerers, and they also, the magicians of Egypt, did the same thing by their magic arts. Each one threw down his staff, and they turned into serpents. But Aaron's staff swallowed their staffs."

So keep the focus always on God and accepting God's will and fulfilling His will, not ours!

Hebrews 12:1-2 "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us rid ourselves of every burden and sin that clings to us and persevere in running the race that lies before us while **keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus**, the leader & perfecter of faith."

Psalms 27:4 "One thing I ask.....**To gaze** on the LORD's beauty, to visit his temple."

Matthew 14:29-30 "He said, "Come." Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on the water **toward Jesus (focus)**. But when he **saw** how [strong] the wind (**distracted**) was he became frightened; and, beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!"

Zechariah 12:10 "I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of mercy and supplication, so that when **they look on him whom they have thrust through**, they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and they will grieve for him as one grieves over a firstborn." (quoted in John 19:37 after soldier lance enters Jesus on cross)

Revelation 1:7 "Behold, he is coming amid the clouds, and **every eye will see him, even those who pierced him**. All the peoples of the earth will lament him."

Isaiah 53:3,5 "a man of suffering, knowing pain, Like one from whom you turn your face, spurned, and we held him in no esteem..... Verse 5But he was pierced for our sins, crushed for our iniquity."

Isaiah 2:2-3 "In days to come, the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest mountain and **raised above** the hills. All nations shall stream toward it. Many peoples shall come and say: "Come, let us go up to the LORD's mountain"Identical to Micah 4:1-2

The people want Aaron to make them a visible, flashy idol to worship

Exodus 32:1-5 "When the people saw that Moses was delayed in coming down from the mountain, they gathered around Aaron and said to him, "Come, make us a god who will go before us; as for that man Moses who brought us out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has happened to him." Aaron replied, "Take off the golden earrings that your wives, your sons, and your daughters are wearing, and bring them to me." So all the people took off their earrings and brought them to Aaron. He received their offering, and fashioning it with a tool, made a molten calf. Then they cried out, "These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up from the land of Egypt." On seeing this, Aaron built an altar in front of the calf and proclaimed, "Tomorrow is a feast of the LORD."

What is the difference between the golden calf and the bronze serpent? Everything!

- 1) God said to make the one, and human pride made the other
- 2) The Prohibition against graven idols was a command against Man making a God in his (man's) image. Compare to Tower of Babel as exaltation of human pride.

- 3) One is golden, one is bronze. One a rarer metal so that the value of the metal is mistakenly worshipped, or that the gold came from personal jewelry (vanity) of the Israelites: therefore, their names are attached to the idol, and temptation to worship.

Yet, be careful not to make an idol out of the cure itself. They later fall in sin worshipping snake.

Exodus 20:4-5 You shall not make for yourself an idol or a likeness of anything in the heavens above or on the earth below or in the waters beneath the earth; you shall not bow down before them or serve them.”

Leviticus 10:1-2 “Aaron’s sons Nadab and Abihu took their censers and, putting incense on the fire they had set in them, they offered before the LORD unauthorized fire, such as he had not commanded. Fire therefore came forth from the LORD’s presence and consumed them, so that they died in the LORD’s presence.”

2 Kings 18:4-5 “It was he (Hezekiah) who removed the high places, shattered the pillars, cut down the asherah, and **smashed the bronze serpent Moses had made, because up to that time the Israelites were burning incense to it.** (It was called Nehushtan.) He put his trust in the LORD, the God of Israel; and neither before nor after him was there anyone like him among all the kings of Judah.”

Hebrews 8:5-6 “They worship in a copy and shadow of the heavenly sanctuary, as Moses was warned when he was about to erect the tabernacle. For he says, “See that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain.” Now he has obtained so much more excellent a ministry as he is mediator of a better covenant, enacted on better promises.

Genuine Worship and True Practice of Faith

James 1:27 “Religion that is pure and undefiled before God and the Father is this: to care for orphans and widows in their affliction and to keep oneself unstained by the world.”

John 4:21-24 “Jesus said to her, “Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You people worship what you do not understand; we worship what we understand, because salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and truth; and indeed the Father seeks such people to worship him. God is Spirit, and those who worship him must worship in Spirit and truth.

Luke 18:10-14 “Two people went up to the temple area to pray; one was a Pharisee and the other was a tax collector. The Pharisee took up his position and spoke this prayer to himself, ‘O God, I thank you that I am not like the rest of humanity—greedy, dishonest, adulterous—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, and I pay tithes on my whole income.’ But the tax collector stood off at a distance and would not even raise his eyes to heaven but beat his breast and prayed, ‘O God, be merciful to me a sinner.’ I tell you, the latter went home justified, not the former; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”