

## Numbers 21:4-9 **Bronze Serpent (Nehushtan)**

<sup>4</sup> Then they journeyed from Mount Hor by the Way of the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; and the soul of the people became very discouraged on the way. <sup>5</sup> And the people spoke against God and against Moses: "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and our soul loathes this worthless bread." <sup>6</sup> So the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and many of the people of Israel died.

<sup>7</sup> Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD that He take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. <sup>8</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and it shall be that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, shall live." <sup>9</sup> So Moses made a bronze serpent, and put it on a pole; and so it was, if a serpent had bitten anyone, when he looked at the bronze serpent, he lived. NKJV

### Facts Revealed:

- ✧ The journey around the land of Edom from Kadesh and Mount Hor where Aaron died took them back to the Red Sea and eastward.
- ✧ The people complained about the lack of water and the constant diet of Manna that God was providing for the last 40 years when men ate the food of angels. [[Psalm 78:1-25](#), [Exodus 16:35](#), [Joshua 5:12](#)]
- ✧ Yehowah sent fiery serpents to bite the people and many of the people of Israel died.
- ✧ The people realized that the serpents were a result of their complaining, so they came to Moses, confessed that they had sinned, and asked Moses to pray to Yehowah for them.
- ✧ Moses prayed for the people and Yehowah instructed Moses to make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole so everyone who is bitten by the serpents will live when he looks at it.
- ✧ Moses made a bronze (copper) serpent and put it on a pole.
  - ◇ Bronze (copper) represents sin.
  - ◇ In order for the serpent to stay suspended on the pole Moses needed to place a cross arm on the pole to support it which formed a cross.
  - ◇ This became a symbol of God's provision for saving His people from death that was the punishment for sin and remains the punishment for sin even now.
- ✧ The symbol of sin nailed to a cross is the symbol of God's provision for saving us from our sin and its punishment when He sent Jesus our Messiah to the Cross of Golgotha to bear the sins of the world for us.
  - ◇ Now we too are saved from death when we look to Jesus our sin bearer who took our sins upon Himself when He was suspended on the cross for our sake.
  - ◇ And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. [[John 3:14-15](#)]
- ✧ This also became a test of Israel, and they proved to be prone to idolatry, as we find in [[2 Kings 18:1-4](#)] when Hezekiah was purging the land of idolatry and among the idols destroyed was the serpent Moses had attached to the pole and by that time it was worshipped and called "Nehushtan" as they burned incense to it.
- ✧ Even today, the US. medical symbol is a snake on a cross. And it is definitely a pagan symbol called the "Caduceus Staff" as was supposedly carried by Asclepius the god of medicine in Greek Mythology. A similar staff was also carried by Hermes the messenger of the Greek gods, son of Zeus and Maia. The staff was given to Hermes by Apollo the Greek god. The staff was also associated with the Roman god Mercury

- ✧ This indicates that we in America are as pagan as the Children of Israel were when they brought upon themselves the curse of God and were scattered from their land to all the nations of the world.
- ✧ When you consider all the things listed as reasons for the wrath of God against the Children of Israel, we find that we in the United States of America are doing all the things listed, and we have added many more abominations that are not listed against Israel.
- ✧ How then can we escape the wrath of God? [\[Hebrews 2:1-4\]](#)
- ✧ The Great Tribulation Wrath of God is coming, and that coming is very near.