



Neal Parker

Example of Israel

■ Hebrews 3:7-19

- Epitaph on an entire generation of Israelites, that were denied entrance into the Promised Land, because they never believed God and that lead to their disobedience.

■ What We See In The End...

- "...corpses fell in the wilderness." New King James.
- "...carcasses fell in the wilderness." King James.
- "...left their bones in the desert." Phillips.
- "...whose dead bodies were scattered in the wilderness." Amplified.
- "...who fell down dead in the desert." Good News.
- "...ended up corpses in the wilderness." Message

Commonly Known Scripture

■ John 3:16

- Do you know the context of this scripture?
- John 3:14-15 are part of a conversation Jesus had with Nicodemus about being born again.

“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 may have eternal life.”



The Event

■ Numbers 21:1-9

- What we see here is that the Israelites, having come out of Egypt, were now in the wilderness. And there was no food in the wilderness.
- Imagine, you have 2.5 million people, living and walking together through the desert.
- How do you provide for 2.5 million people for their basic needs?
- God did this amazing thing. God provided for them the manna on a daily basis. They were fed with the manna from heaven all through the 40 years that they spent in the wilderness.

The Event

■ Numbers 21:1-9

- Although God had done so many things for the Israelites, they were speaking out against God.
- God gave them so many blessings, but that didn't make them more grateful.
- Without that food, they would have died of starvation in the wilderness. Yet, they were complaining about it In verse 5, we read, *we loathe this miserable food.*
- In other words, they were saying, 'We hate this food. We are tired of that manna! Why did God bring us out into this wilderness?'
- This attitude of complaining lead to sin.
- Sin is the transgression of The Law (attitude of speaking out against God with our heart, mouth and behavior).

The Event

■ Numbers 21:1-9

- It just really shows you how much God dislikes complaining because a lot of these things are about complaining, about murmuring, among other things.
- Verse 4 “*Very Discouraged or Impatient*”: The word in Hebrew that is translated here as ‘discouraged’ is called ‘qatsar’. It literally means “to shorten”. It was a serious lack of patience and of faith and forbearance. And then they murmured; they complained about it.
- Ephesians 4:26-27 “Be angry, and do not sin”: do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil.
- Ephesians 4:31 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.

The Event

■ Numbers 21:1-9

- In the New Testament, Jesus tells us “Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up.”
- In the Old Testament, Bronze is the metal associated with judgment. The bronze altar in the temple was used for making sacrifices for sin and for expressing in fire God's judgment on sin. The sacrificial furnishings (for people's repentance of their sins) outside of the Tabernacle were made of Bronze, in contrast to the gold furnishings inside the Tabernacle.
- In Ezekiel 1 described four creatures as having legs of burnished BRONZE, that are execute God's judgment from the north. This description would also show up AGAIN in Revelation, when Jesus is described as have feet of burnished BRONZE, generally before He goes forth to judge the nations.

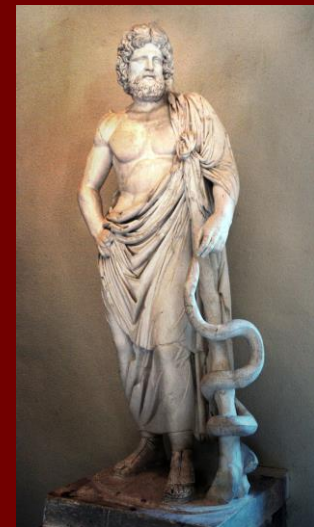
Connection To Jesus Christ

■ John 12:27-36

- Jesus tells us “Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up.” **John 3:14**
- He is saying that the bronze serpent of Numbers 21 represented Himself. He took the judgment we deserved by hanging on the wooden cross just as the serpent hung on the wooden pole in Numbers 21.



Asclepius with rod



Connection to Jesus Christ

- How were the people saved in Numbers 21? By looking at the bronze serpent. How are the people saved in John 3? By believing in the Lord Jesus. Faith is described in terms of looking in Numbers 21, whereas it is described in terms of believing in John 3.
- The people in the wilderness were not healed just by a glance at the serpent. The Hebrew word (*raah*) for 'looking' in Numbers 21 is a specific word for a very attentive, concentrated, looking.

Connection to Jesus Christ

■ Hebrews 12:1-3

- The Greek word (*aphorao*) there is about fixing one's full attention on Jesus. From all this, you can see that God doesn't save us by a quick glance or a superficial belief. A saving faith is a faith that requires our full attention of heart and of mind. Nothing less. Bear that very carefully in mind.

■ II Corinthians 5:21

- Jesus knew no sin. He had by nature no sin, but He was made sin for us.
- **Acts 4:12** "And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among people by which we must be saved"

Misuse of God's Tool

■ II Kings 18:1, 3-4

- Here we see that this statue had been carried all the way into the Promised Land, probably kept as both a reminder of God's miraculous healing and as a warning for disobedience. In the intervening years up to King Hezekiah's reign, the symbol had been relegated to the status of a pagan idol and was being worshiped by the Israelites. As a result, the righteous Hezekiah destroyed the statue, having named it *Nehushtan*. This word is related to the Hebrew term for brass or bronze, *nehoshet*, and essentially labels the venerated statue as "merely a brazen thing."

Some Closing Thoughts

■ Hebrews 4:1-3, 11

- The statements about the ones dead in the wilderness and their bones being strewn about the desert, is a conclusion for us.
- We could do it. We can enter that rest. We can go forward without falling into that same example because God is with us.

