

Key Verse

Isaiah 45:22

Look unto me,
and be ye saved,
all the ends of the earth:
for I am God,
and there is none else.

IDOLATRY

Years later in Israel, the **serpent of brass** became a **fetish** (object of worship).

II Kings 18:4 says that Hezekiah *“brake in pieces the **brasen serpent** that Moses had made: for unto those days the children of Israel did **burn incense** to it.”* Burning incense is praying to it.

The heart of man is always prone to **idolatry**.

Scripture to read before next Sunday

Num. 22–33; Deu. 34

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James 1:22

But be ye doers
of the word, and
not hearers only,
deceiving your
own selves.

James 4:10

**Humble yourselves
in the sight
of the Lord,
and he
shall lift you up.**

Hebrews 11:6

But without faith it is
impossible to please him:
for he that cometh to God
must believe that he is, and
that he is a rewarder of them
that diligently seek him.

I Samuel 15:23

For rebellion
is as
the sin of witchcraft,
and stubbornness
is as
iniquity and idolatry.

I Samuel 15:22

**To obey is
better than
sacrifice.**



Brazen serpent

Look unto me



*“As Moses lifted up the
serpent... so must the Son of
man be lifted up”* —John 3:14.

Discouraged

“The soul of the people was much discouraged because of the way”—Num. 21:4.

Enemies from **without** are easy to see, but enemies from **within** are more subtle and very dangerous. Though Israel’s complaint was manna and water, their real problem was discouragement, which revealed their lack of **faith**. Discouragement appears harmless, but it is very deadly. It is one of Satan’s most **effective tools** against God’s people.

Discouragement leads to **murmuring** and **complaining**, which puts us at the mercy of that old serpent the devil. Then God must chasten us.



Brazen Serpent

Israel complained instead of praying. Therefore, God sent fiery serpents into their camp that bit people, causing them to die. When Israel confessed their sin, God gave them the remedy—Moses put a fiery serpent on a pole.

Those bitten could **look** at the serpent and **not die**.

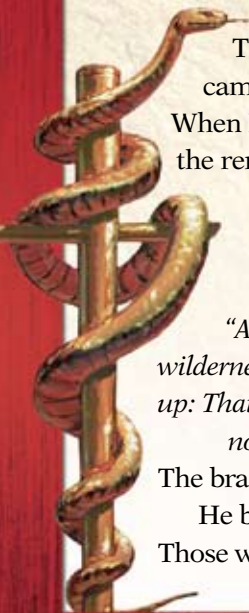
Jesus told Nicodemus:

“As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life”—John 3:14, 15.

The brazen serpent pictured Jesus on the cross.

He became sin for us and took our hell.

Those who look to Him by faith receive eternal life.



Israel’s journey from Egypt to Jordan River.

Song about a well

After the “fiery serpents,” there is no record of Israel murmuring again. They learned that **chastening** always follows the sin of murmuring.

God told them He would give them water. They believed and began digging and discovered a **well of water**. The people so rejoiced, they sang a song about the well.

