

## “WORD OF LIFE”

June 27, 2021

### IN HIS DEATH

#### 17 - As the **Brass Serpent** Destroying the Devil, Who Had the Might of Death

#### ✚ GOD BREATHED (2 Tim 3:16):

- Num. 21:4 - ‘...; and the people became **impatient** on the way.’
- Num. 21:5 - “And the people **spoke against God** and **against Moses**, ....”
- Num. 21:6 - “Then Jehovah sent **fiery serpents** among the people, and they **bit the people**, so that many people of Israel died.”
- Num. 21:7 - “And the people came to Moses and said, We have sinned, ...; pray to Jehovah, that He may take away the serpents from us. So Moses prayed for the people.”
- Num. 21:8 - “Then Jehovah said to Moses, **Make a fiery serpent**, and **set it on a pole**; and **everyone** who is bitten, when he **sees it, shall live**.”
- Num. 21:9 - “And Moses made a **bronze serpent** and **set it on the pole**; and if a serpent had bitten any man, when he **looked at the bronze serpent, he lived**.”
- John 3:14 - “And as Moses **lifted up the serpent** in the wilderness, so must the **Son of Man be lifted up**,”
- Rom 8:3 - “..., God, sending His own Son **in the likeness of the flesh** of sin and concerning sin, condemned sin in the flesh,”

#### ✚ THE EXCELLENCY OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST (Phil. 3:8):

- **The children of Israel were bitten by serpents** (Num. 21:4-9)
- When they journeyed from Mount Hor to the land of Edom, the people became **impatient** on the way.
  - And the people spoke against God and against Moses
  - Jehovah sent **fiery serpents**, and they **bit the people**, so that many people of Israel **died**.
  - Moses pray to Jehovah, that He may take away the serpents.
  - God told Moses **to lift up a brass serpent** on their behalf for God’s judgment so that **by looking** upon that brass serpent **all may live**.
- **The brass serpent in Numbers 21 was a representative of the people bitten by the serpents.**
- In the sight of God, those people had become serpents.
  - For God to forgive them, save them, and recover them, they needed to be judged by God.
  - Nevertheless, they themselves were not judged, but they were judged in and through their **representative**, which was the **serpent made of brass**.
  - In the sight of God that serpent lifted up on the pole and judged there was the representative of all those people who had become serpents, but the brass serpent possessed only the form of the serpent and not the poisonous nature of the serpent.
  - Likewise, in His death on the cross **the Lord Jesus was crucified as a serpent in form**.

➤ The Lord Jesus applies to Himself the **type** of the **brass serpent** lifted up by Moses in the wilderness

- Christ died on the cross, He died as the **brass serpent** destroying the Devil, who had the might of death. (John 3:14)
- Applying this type to Himself, the Lord Jesus indicated that **when He was in the flesh**,
  - He was **in the likeness of the flesh of sin** (Rom. 8:3)
  - Which likeness was the form of the brass serpent
  - It had the **form of the serpent** but not the poison.
  - Christ was **made in the likeness of the flesh of sin**, **but** He had **no participation in the sin of the flesh** (2 Cor. 5:21; Heb. 4:15).

✚ **SPEAK TO THE PEOPLE ALL THE WORDS OF THIS LIFE (Act 5:20):**

- ❖ The Lord Jesus was crucified **as the brass serpent** in order **to deal with Satan**, the Devil, the old serpent
  - ✚ It was through being crucified **as the brass serpent** that **He crushed the head of the old serpent** (Gen. 3:15).
  - ✚ In this way the Lord Jesus **destroyed the Devil**, who had the power of death (Heb. 2:14).
  - ✚ In His humanity and through His work in His death Christ has **destroyed Satan**.
  - ✚ Therefore, Christ died not only as the **Substitute** of fallen men, who had been bitten by the serpent, but also to **destroy the Devil**.

*(The Conclusion of the New Testament Ch. 71, point 17)  
[This "word of life" was inspired by The Elder's Training Book 8, Ch. 4]*