

Today, we continue in our series on the story of the Exodus. We have learned a lot about the Israelites and the mistakes they made. Yet, one thing we learned is the mercy, love, and longsuffering that God had for a people who were disobedient at times, complainers at other times, and strong for the Lord sometimes.

1 Corinthians 10:1-12 Moreover, brethren, **I do not want you to be unaware** that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, (2) all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, (3) all ate the same spiritual food, (4) and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ. (5) **But with most of them God was not well pleased,**

for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness. (6) Now **these things became our examples,**

A) Everything we read in the bible is for us.

to the intent that **we should not lust after evil things** as they also lusted.

(7) And **do not become idolaters** as were some of them. As it is written, "THE PEOPLE SAT DOWN TO EAT AND DRINK, AND ROSE UP TO PLAY."

(8) **Nor let us commit sexual immorality**, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell;

(9) **nor let us tempt Christ**, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed by serpents;

(10) **nor complain, as some of them also complained**, and were destroyed by the destroyer.

A) Grudgingly against God.

(11) Now all these things **happened to them as examples**, and they were **written for our admonition**, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

(12) **Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.**

ISRAELITES - Complaints

Numbers 21:4-9 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. (5) 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."**

A) The complaint is not the issue; the questioning of God's motive and disregard for God's gift is.

B) Don't let the enemy stop you from recognizing the gifts that God has given to you, nor make you believe that God's motive for you is evil.

The serpent, "Did God really say...."

(6) So the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and many of the people of Israel died. (7) 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.

A) Punishment, trials, and chastisements happen to the best of us but the key to reversal is found in what the Israelites said,

1. We have sinned against the the Lord.
2. We have sinned against you.

Repentance is the key to deliverance. A person who is broken before God will open the windows of heaven and bring restoration.

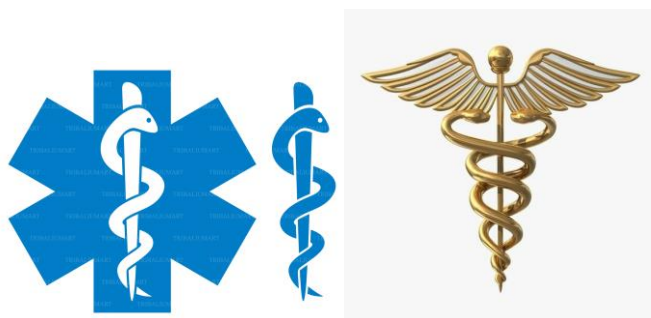
Hosea 6:1 Come, and let us return to the LORD; For He has torn, but He will heal us; He has stricken, but He will bind us up.

(8) 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.**" (9) 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.**

A) Those who complained were bitten by serpents. Moses was told to take a bronze serpent and put it on a pole, and those who just look at it shall live.



We have a picture of this today in our modern world. While it has been referred to Greek philosophy the origination came from God.



Due to humanity's ignorance, the symbol provided to the Israelites 100s of years before Greek mythology was referred to as God's symbol of healing.

B) How easy it was for the Israelites to be healed by looking at the bronze staff.

1. Naaman - Go dip in the river 7 times.

2. Moses - Lift up the staff.

3. Jehosophat - Sing before the war

B) Salvation is brought to us by the simple heart felt and since faith in Christ in this context.

John 3:14-15 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, (15) that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In conclusion,

I want you to further understand what the bronze fiery serpent meant. Before we are healed...

A) Firey Serpent - We must also look at our sin and the judgment it produces.

B) The bronze represents all the things that were used for sacrifices. The bronze altar and brazen altar.

C) On the pole meant this thing that had caused such problems was removed.

2 Corinthians 5:21 For He (Father) made Him (Jesus) who knew no sin, to be sin for

us,(Jesus), that we might become the
righteousness of God in Him (Jesus).

John 3:15 that whoever believes (looks,
depends, has faith) in Him should not perish
but have eternal life.