

Jesus Greatest Healing Jesus Greatest Healing

O death, where is your victory? O death where is your sting?
(1Corinthians 15:55)

In the desert the Israelites *complained against God and Moses*, and the writer indicates that *God sent among them seraph serpents*. It would rather appear that in their grumbling and complaining the Israelites lost their sense of openness to God's guidance and as a result stumbled into the nest of vipers (Numbers 21:4-9) on their own account. The bites were fatal and the people became terrorized, then repented and appealed to Moses who was instructed to create a bronze serpent and raise it. Those bitten were healed after gazing up at the symbol.

The caduceus is the symbol adopted by medicine in the European tradition and has two serpents entwined below a pair of wings. The fatal bites that killed and the image that healed may be reflected by this symbol. A common theme between the eternal conflict between good and evil, i.e., order and chaos, is the symbol of eagle and serpent.



The bronze serpent, called Nehushtan, a play on the Israelite words of bronze/serpent, found its way into the Temple and eventually the Israelites burned incense to it and treated it as a deity of healing. Hezekiah is recorded as having smashed it to pieces (2Kings 18:4) and he told the Israelites to put their trust in the Lord, God. They burned incense to the symbol for the wrong reason. *For he who turned to it was saved not by what he saw, but by the Savior of all.* (Wisdom 16:5-7).

The sting of the serpents brought physical death to the Israelites but more critical is the spiritual death caused by the sting of serpent Satan. *And do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, be afraid of the one who can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna.* (Matt 10:28)

Jesus performed many healing miracles among the people and in directing us to look up at him in his crucifixion leaves us with his last and greatest healing while still on earth ...**he destroys death when he heals us of Satan's sting**, and invites us to life eternal. We are saved by the crucified savior.all we need do is look up to him in faith and he invites us follow.



Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert,
so must the Son of Man be lifted up,
that all who believe
may have eternal life in him.
(John 3:14-15)

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