

# Note

Mar 11, 2026

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## Summary

### The Bronze Serpent & Christ: Typology Study

#### Scripture References

Numbers 21:4–9; John 3:14–15; Genesis 2; Genesis 3; Genesis 3:15; Genesis 15; Exodus (esp. Red Sea crossing); Deuteronomy 6:7; Deuteronomy 21:23; Isaiah 6; Isaiah 53:10; Matthew 5:3–4; Romans 1:18–21; Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23; Romans 3:28; Galatians 2:16; Ephesians 2:8–9; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 11

#### Introduction

- Purpose: to unfold the progressive revelation in Numbers 21:4–9 and show how the bronze serpent pre-figures Christ's cross, portrays sin's judgment, and models saving faith.
- Desired outcome: deeper love for Christ, keener hatred of sin, and fresh gratitude for God's provision.

#### Key Points

1. Historical Setting
  - Event occurs late in Israel's 40-year wilderness wandering after the spy rebellion and Korah's uprising.
  - God is still leading by cloud and fire; every stop is purposeful pruning.
2. Israel's Three-fold Sin Pattern
  - a. Dissatisfaction with God's provision (manna, quail, water).
  - b. Rejection of God's mediator (Moses).
  - c. Rejection of God's salvation plan ( “Why have you brought us out … to die?” ).
  - Pattern echoes Eden (Genesis 3) and forecasts Israel's later rejection of Christ.
3. Divine Judgment: Fiery Serpents
  - Likely the Palestine viper (rapid, burning venom) or a unique “seraph” sent by God.
  - Serpent imagery links directly to sin and Satan (Genesis 3).
  - Immediate death = visual sermon: “The wages of sin is death.”
4. God's Remedy
  - Command: fashion a bronze serpent, mount it on a pole; any bitten person who

looks will live.

- Snakes remain; God removes wrath, not circumstances.
- No ritual, merit, or payment—only a look of faith.

## Theological / Exegetical Points

- Bronze = symbol of divine judgment in Scripture (e.g., bronze altar).
- Pole/tree invokes Deuteronomy 21:23 ( “cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree” ).
- Typological Parallel:
  - Serpent on pole # Christ made sin and lifted on cross (John 3:14–15; 2 Cor 5:21).
  - Look and live # Believe and live (Eph 2:8–9; Rom 3:28; Gal 2:16).
- Isaiah 53:10 affirms the Father's pleasure in crushing the Son—divine, not Roman, judgment.
- Faith is God's gift, never a work; salvation by grace predates the New Testament (Heb 11).

## Interaction & Group Responses

- Participants noted the practical kindness of elevating the serpent—grace makes the remedy visible.
- One member applied the “look” motif: stare at the cross until sin becomes loathsome and Christ precious.
- Group recognized how modern culture still flaunts judgment symbols (e.g., rainbow) in defiance, paralleling pagan use of bronze.
- Reiteration: trust God's plan even when His methods (wandering, manna, cross) seem illogical.

## Practical Applications

1. Trust God's provision, method, and timing; impatience breeds unbelief.
2. Hate personal sin; its true cost was Christ's crushing.
3. Preach the simple gospel—no additions, just “look and live.”
4. Study all Scripture; the OT repeatedly previews Christ.
5. Pray for grace to respond with faith, not grumbling, in daily trials.

## Prayer / Intercession Items

- Ongoing healing and strength for Jennifer during treatments.
- Gratitude for protection during recent storms.
- Unspoken requests within the group.
- Deeper passion to read and obey God's Word.