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Subject: Re: Bulletin Board

Posted by [james](#) on Fri, 07 Nov 2014 14:54:52 GMT

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Thoughts on the brazen serpent, Hezekiah, and worshipping God ...

We find in Numbers where God instructed Moses to make a image of a serpent on a pole for the people of Israel to look upon for healing when bitten by serpents in the wilderness. Also the serpent on the pole is mentioned by Jesus in the book of John. But in II Kings we're told that Hezekiah destroyed the brazen serpent that Moses had made because the people were worshipping it, burning incense to it. These are the only three places in The Bible where the brazen serpent on the pole is mentioned.(to my knowledge)

So because of disobedience God sent serpents among the people and they were being bitten and dying, in His mercy He commanded Moses to fashion the brass serpent on a pole and to instruct Israel to look to the image on the pole for healing. An act of faith, like dipping in the river Jordan seven times for the healing of leprosy; it's not the brass snake or the Jordan river that heals, it's God healing when He is obeyed in faith. Yet we find that just a few hundred years later Israel had made the brazen serpent in to a god and was burning incense to it in a form of false worship.

Hezekiah was a good king, he did that which was right in the sight of God. He removed the high places, cut down the groves, and destroyed false gods that prior kings had allowed. He destroyed the brazen serpent that Moses had made and he restored worship of the One true God. When facing death he turned unto God and God heard his petition and added fifteen years to his life. But when Isaiah told him the good news that he wasn't going to die instead of taking the promise of God as the truth, he sought a sign to confirm that it would come to past even as God had spoken it. He got his sign, but we see that he later revealed the treasures of the kingdom to the Babylonians and God wasn't pleased with this and they came under the captivity of Babylon.

All this is recorded and given for our learning and instruction, that we not follow in the sins and mistakes that Israel made. A constant reminder to NOT FORGET God and not to lose focus on who we worship and why. It's never about the creation (us) but The Creator, God (Father/Son/Holy Spirit), to behold His Glory, to worship Him and Him alone.