

May 9–15
Numbers 11–14; 20–24
“Rebel Not Ye Against the Lord, Neither Fear”



Serpent of Brass

Num 21:5-9

What one act did the people who had been bitten by the snakes have to do in order to live?

Who does the brass serpent symbolize?

John 3:14–16

14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:

15 That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Neal A. Maxwell

"Divinely deliberate and serious symbolism is involved. The symbolic emphasis in this episode is upon both the necessity and the simpleness of the way of the Lord Jesus. The whole episode points toward the need to look upon Jesus Christ as our Lord." ("Plain and Precious Things", pp 21)

Serpent of Brass

Helaman 8:13–15

14 Yea, did he not bear record that the Son of God should come? And as he lifted up the brazen serpent in the wilderness, even so shall he be lifted up who should come.

15 And as many as should look upon that serpent should live, even so as many as should look upon the Son of God with faith, having a contrite spirit, might live, even unto that life which is eternal.

Serpent of Brass

Carlos E. Asay

“We, like Israel of old, must rivet our eyes and minds upon Christ if we hope to gain eternal life. Our looks must not be allowed to wander across the way or to become fixed upon the perishable things of the world. The eye must be trained to look upward. We must look to God and live!” (CR, Oct 1978)

Serpent of Brass

Alma 33:18–20

18 But behold, this is not all; these are not the only ones who have spoken concerning the Son of God.

19 Behold, he was spoken of by Moses; yea, and behold a type was raised up in the wilderness, that whosoever would look upon it might live. And many did look and live.

20 But few understood the meaning of those things, and this because of the hardness of their hearts. But there were , therefore they perished. Now the reason they would not look is because they did not believe that it would heal them.

21 O my brethren, if ye could be healed by merely casting about your eyes that ye might be healed, would ye not behold quickly, or would ye rather harden your hearts in unbelief, and be slothful, that ye would not cast about your eyes, that ye might perish?

Serpent of Brass

Neal A. Maxwell

"Many today do not believe, of their problems, that the gospel of Jesus Christ will heal them. But they are wrong. Many today are so hardened that they will not even look, but one day their knees, too, will bow in acknowledgment that Jesus is the Christ.

"Symbolically and actually, the Son of God has been lifted up upon the cross, and it is to him that we look so that we might 'live, even unto that life which is eternal.'"
(That My Family Should Partake, p. 97)

Serpent of Brass

1 Nephi 17:41

41 And he did straiten them in the wilderness with his rod; for they hardened their hearts, even as ye have; and the Lord straitened them because of their iniquity. He sent fiery flying serpents among them; and after they were bitten he prepared a way that they might be healed; and the labor which they had to perform was to look; and because of the simpleness of the way, or the easiness of it, there were many who perished.

Serpent of Brass

Rex D. Pinegar

"We have been counseled by our prophets to do simple things which do matter. We have received simple instructions which we can all follow to strengthen our families, to heal our spiritual afflictions, and to become followers of Jesus Christ in thought and action....

"I pray that we will heed the counsel of our prophet and have the faith to follow the Savior by doing the simple things His gospel requires. For, if the Lord's prophet had bid us do some great thing to receive the Lord's great blessings, who among us would not do it?" (CR, Oct 1994)

Serpent of Brass

Alma 37:46

46 O my son, do not let us be slothful because of the easiness of the way; for so was it with our fathers; for so was it prepared for them, that if they would look they might live; even so it is with us. The way is prepared, and if we will look we may live forever.

Serpent of Brass

Neal A. Maxwell

"Muttering and murmuring are often the expressions of our conscience gone grumpy; it is precisely because we know we need to respond affirmatively that we let off steam—we start puffing in advance of the climb. These are reactions genuinely to be avoided, since they can precede the keeping of a commandment or the fulfilling of a task with a slothful heart, which is more serious.

"Mostly, to avoid muttering, we need to trust more. So many of the things muttered about before turn out to be marvelous experiences later, and we are inwardly, and deservedly, ashamed for having grumbled." (Deposition of a Disciple, p. 31)

Serpent of Brass

Jacob 4:14

14 But behold, the Jews were a stiffnecked people; and they despised the words of plainness, and killed the prophets, and sought for things that they could not understand. Wherefore, because of their blindness, which blindness came by looking beyond the mark, they must needs fall; for God hath taken away his plainness from them, and delivered unto them many things which they cannot understand, because they desired it. And because they desired it God hath done it, that they may stumble.

Serpent of Brass

Harold B. Lee

"Some may say all of what I have said sounds so simple. It is. It is like the rod of Moses on which the serpent-bitten Israelites had only to look to be healed. But, as the Book of Mormon reminds us, 'because of the simpleness of the way, or the easiness of it, there were many who perished' (1 Nephi 17:41). Strange as it seems, some men are, as Jacob described them, forever 'looking beyond the mark' (Jacob 4:14), missing the plain and simple truths in their search for complexity!" (Teachings of Harold B. Lee, p. 334)

Scouting the Land of Canaan

Num 13:27-33

How did the 12 scouts describe the bounty of the land of Canaan?

How did they describe the strength of those who possessed it?

Twelve Scout Land of Canaan

Num 14:1-5

How would you describe the faith of the Israelites based on these verses?

Twelve Scout Land of Canaan

Num 14:6-10

Why did Joshua and Caleb feel that the Israelites could possess the land despite the strength of their enemies?

Gordon B. Hinckley

"The story of Caleb and Joshua has always intrigued me. They were the only ones who had the privilege of entering the promised land concerning which they had reported in a positive manner.

"We see some around us who are indifferent concerning the future of this work, who are apathetic, who speak of limitations, who express fears, who spend their time digging out and writing about what they regard to be weaknesses which really are of no consequence. With doubt concerning its past, they have no vision concerning its future.

"This is an age of pessimism. Ours is a mission of faith. To my brethren and sisters everywhere, I call upon you to reaffirm your faith, to move this work forward across the world. You can make it stronger by the manner in which you live" (CR, Oct. 1995)

The Miracle of the Quail

Num 11:4-5,31-32

Why is it important that we remember all the Lord has done for us instead of murmuring about our trials?

Neal A. Maxwell

"Murmuring seems to come so naturally to the natural man. Murmurers have short memories. Israel arrived in Sinai, then journeyed on to the Holy Land though they were sometimes hungry and thirsty. But the Lord rescued them. Strange, isn't it, brothers and sisters, how those with the shortest memories have the longest lists of demands! However, with no remembrance of past blessings, there is no perspective about what is really going on.

"This powerful verse in the Old Testament reminds us of what is really going on:

"'And thou shalt remember all the way which the Lord thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no' (Deut. 8:2)." (CR, Oct 1989)

Seventy Called to Help Moses

Num 11:16-17,24-25

What is the purpose of these 70 men?

D&C 107: 34, 25

34 The Seventy are to act in the name of the Lord, under the direction of the Twelve... in building up the church and regulating all the affairs of the same...

25 The Seventy are also called to preach the gospel, and to be especial witnesses unto the Gentiles and in all the world...

Levi Edgar Young

"The seventy of the Church bear a noble and divine title.... There was under Moses, and apparently in all ages, a senate or council of elders numbering seventy... on whom lay a special responsibility as the advisers of the nation. Shortly after leaving Sinai, a council of seventy was chosen from among the elders or chiefs of all the tribes except Levi and solemnly set apart to their dignity by Moses, as a kind of senate to aid him by their counsel. After being confirmed in their dignity by the people, they assembled around the sacred tent, and the whole number broke out into prophetic enthusiasm under the influence of the Spirit of God. The seventy chosen from all the tribes anticipated, in their prophetic gifts, a characteristic of future generations." (CR, April 1951)

Next Week:

May 16–22

Deuteronomy 6–8; 15; 18; 29–30; 34

“Beware Lest Thou Forget the Lord”

