

“WORD OF LIFE”

May 18, 2024

43. CHRIST IN HIS PERSON (23) –

In the Fulfillment of the Types and Figures of the Old Testament

22. The Brass Serpent

Hymns: #1089 / #227 / #20

✚ “In my heart I have treasured up Your word...” (Psa. 119:11)

[Type/Figure – the Brass Serpent]

Num. 21:8 - Then **Jehovah** said to Moses, Make a fiery **serpent**, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live.

Num. 21:9 - And Moses made a **bronze serpent** and set it on the pole; and if a serpent had bitten any man, when he looked at the **bronze serpent**, he lived.

[Fulfillment – the Son of Man]

John 3:14 - And as Moses lifted up the **serpent** in the wilderness, so must the **Son of Man** be lifted up,

John 3:15 - That everyone who believes into Him may have **eternal life**.

✚ “...For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of Jehovah, ...” (Isa. 11:9)

❖ **Christ** is typified by the **brass serpent** set upon a pole (Num. 21:8-9).

➤ Moses made a **serpent of brass** and put it upon a pole.

- **Because** the children of Israel in the wilderness **complained** and were rebellious,
 - ✓ “the Lord sent fiery **serpents** among the people, and they bit the people;
 - ✓ and much people of Israel **died**” (Num. 21:6).
- **Then** the people **confessed** that they had sinned, and asked Moses to pray that the **Lord** would take away the serpents.
- The **Lord** said to Moses -
 - ✓ “Make thee a **fiery serpent**, and set it upon a pole:
 - ✓ ...that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall **live**” (v. 8).

➤ The **brass serpent** lifted up on a pole is a **type** of **Christ** lifted up on the cross (John 3:14).

- ✓ “As Moses lifted up the **serpent** in the wilderness, **even so must** the **Son of Man** be lifted up.”
- The entire fallen human race are **serpentine** beings with the poison of the old serpent in our nature.
 - We need a **substitute**,
 - someone with the **form of a serpent** but **without** the **poisonous element** of the serpent.
 - This **substitute** is **Christ**, who **died on the cross** in the form of a **serpent** to deal with our serpentine nature.

✚ “And having gift that differ..., let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;” (Rom. 12:6)

✚ In **Romans 8:3** **God** sent His own **Son** in the **likeness** of the flesh of sin and concerning sin and condemned sin in the flesh. **Christ** became a **serpent** in **form**. He did not have the nature of sin **typified** by the poisonous nature of the **serpent**.

✚ According to the **type** of the **brass serpent** and its **fulfillment** in **Christ**, when **Christ was lifted up on the cross**, He was in the **likeness** of the flesh of sin **typified** by the **form** of the **brass serpent**, but He did not have the nature of sin **typified** by the poisonous nature of the **serpent**. The old serpent has been condemned so that the problem of sin may be solved.

{(Reference: The Conclusion of the New Testament Ch. 43 letter O – point 22)}

[Preparing this “word of life” (SUPPLYING THE WORD IN MEETINGS OF MUTUALITY) was motivated by: The Elder’s Training Book 8, Ch. 4, and The Administration of the Church and the Ministry of the Word, Ch. 11]

Hymn 1089

1 Lamb of God so pure and spotless,
Lamb of God for sinners slain.
Thy shed blood
 has wrought **redemption**,
Cleansing us from every stain.
Lamb **redeeming**, Lamb redeeming,
Bearing all our sins away,
Bearing all our sins away!

2 Brazen serpent, to Thee looking,
Son of Man, **uplifted high**.
Thou didst **bear the flesh of sin in Likeness**
on the **cross to die**.
Old creation's **termination**;
Finished, Satan and the world,
Finished Satan and the world!

3 Grain of wheat,
 so small and lowly,
Without death abides alone;
Life divine enclosed within it,
Into death it must be sown.
Life releasing, **Christ increasing**,
Many grains to birth to bring,
Many grains to birth to bring!

4 Lamb of God—
 our sin's **redemption**,
Brazen serpent—Satan's end,
Grain of wheat—
 life's **reproduction**,
Now with many grains we blend.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
What an all-inclusive death,
What an all-inclusive death!

Hymn 227

1 Through the **bread** and **cup**,
 Lord Jesus,
We Thy **death** exhibit here;
What Thy **love** has done reviewing,
All Thy suff'ring we revere.
Bread and **cup** in separation,
Show that Thou thru **death**
 hast gone;
Grateful now, our spirit worships,
And to Thee we give our song.

Chorus:

Thine the **cup** of **suff'ring**,
Mine the **cup** of **blessing**;
For Thy **love** in Thy **redemption**,
Praise we ever sing!

2 Thou, in love, hast **shed**
 Thy **blood**, Lord,
Bringing us to **God** in **grace**,
That from **God**, no longer severed,
We may ever see His face.
All God's righteousness and glory
Have been fully satisfied;
Thru Thy death's abundant merit
We may now with God abide.

3 By Thy **death** the **veil was riven**,
Opened was the holiest place,
All the barriers have been broken;
We approach the throne of grace,
There receiving **grace** and **mercy**,
Thus the timely need to meet,
Drinking as of living water,
Tasting **God** Himself replete.

4 Thou in grace hast so redeemed us,
We the priests may be fore'er
To fulfill that holy office,
All **God's** sweetness thus to share.
Such a **blessing**, such a **mercy**,
From Thy **death** for us ensue;
We would ever Thee **remember**
Till with Thee we drink anew.

Hymn 20

1 God our **Father**, we adore Thee,
For the sake of **righteousness**;
Thou in **Christ** hast **justified** us,
Who our conscience can depress?
Thou art righteous, and art faithful,
On Thy **righteousness** we stand;
No unrighteousness is in Thee,
None can turn Thy righteous hand.

2 Thou hast **laid our sins** on **Jesus**,
By Thy justice He was killed;
All Thy holy law's requirements
For **Thy justice** He fulfilled.
Recompense from Him receiving,
Thou art fully satisfied;
How couldst Thou,
 O God most **righteous**,
Claim it once more from our side?

3 Father God, Thou hast accepted
Jesus as our **Substitute**;
Judged the Just One for the unjust,
Couldst Thou change Thy attitude?
As a proof of perfect justice,
At Thine own right hand He sits;
He, as Thy full satisfaction,
Righteously Thy need befits.

4 Father, through the blood of **Jesus**
We possess Thy **righteousness**;
By Thy **righteousness** protected,
None can shake our steadfastness.
Righteousness of Thine
 Thou mad'st us,
None can ever us condemn;
We'll forever testify this
In the **new Jerusalem**.