

- Israel right at the border of Canaan
- Edom refused passage
- King of Arad attacked, but ultimately lost
- BUT.....Israel turned south and went completely around Edom before turning back north
- Why did they not just go north through Arad?
- They would have faced the Philistines
- Why not just go through Edom with Israel's superior forces?
- Edom was a brother and Israel did not want to annihilate them
- Detour took Israel WAY out of their way, terrible desert terrain, and the people complained

A RUGGED DETOUR



- Israelites weary of living like Bedouins
- People openly questioned Moses choice to go around Edom
- King of Edom's show of force likely a bluff
- People had learned that speaking against Moses was as speaking against Yehoveh
- Things better back in Egypt
- Sick of the bread from Heaven (Manna)

PLAGUE OF THE SERPENTS

- Lord sent poisonous serpents to bite and kill this rebellious people
- People understood this was a divine response to their sin
- REPENTENCE IS NECESSARY FOR REDEMPTION AND FORGIVENESS
- Ritual without repentance was ineffectual
- Generally in the Hebrew religion there was NOT a works-righteous concept

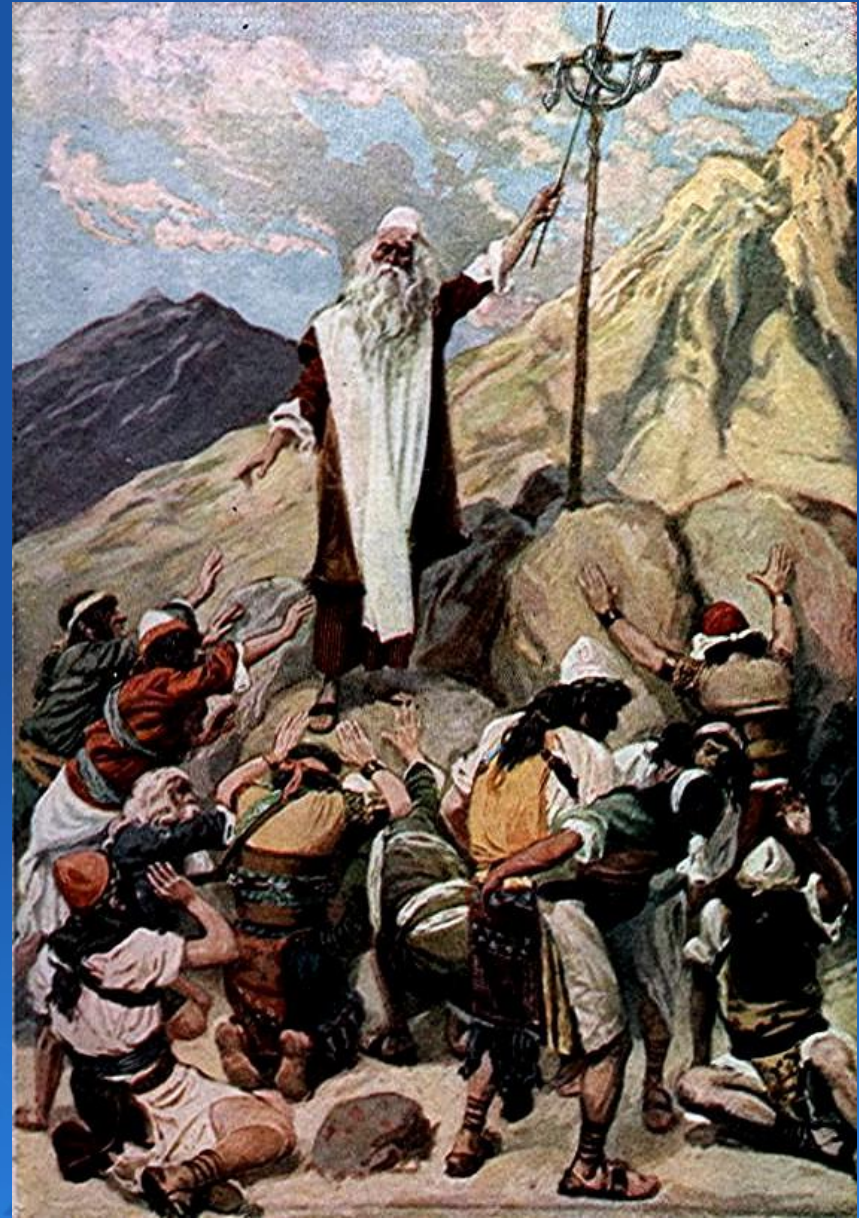


OT WAS NOT A WORKS-BASED MEANS TO REDEMPTION!

- For the ancient Hebrew, salvation meant Israel becoming a world power whereby God's Law ruled
- There was no belief that obedience to the Law brings eternity with God
- Obedience to the Law was simply out of love for the Lord
- Jesus criticized the Jews NOT for obeying the Law, but also for creating and following manmade Traditions that ran counter to the Law
- This false teaching within the Church has created enmity between Jew and gentile

BRAZEN SERPENT

- A God-ordained solution to the snake bites
- People who looked upon the serpent were healed
- JESUS: NAS John 3:14 "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up"
- How does this compare to the death of Christ?
- Serpent likely made out of copper
- It worked: they were healed



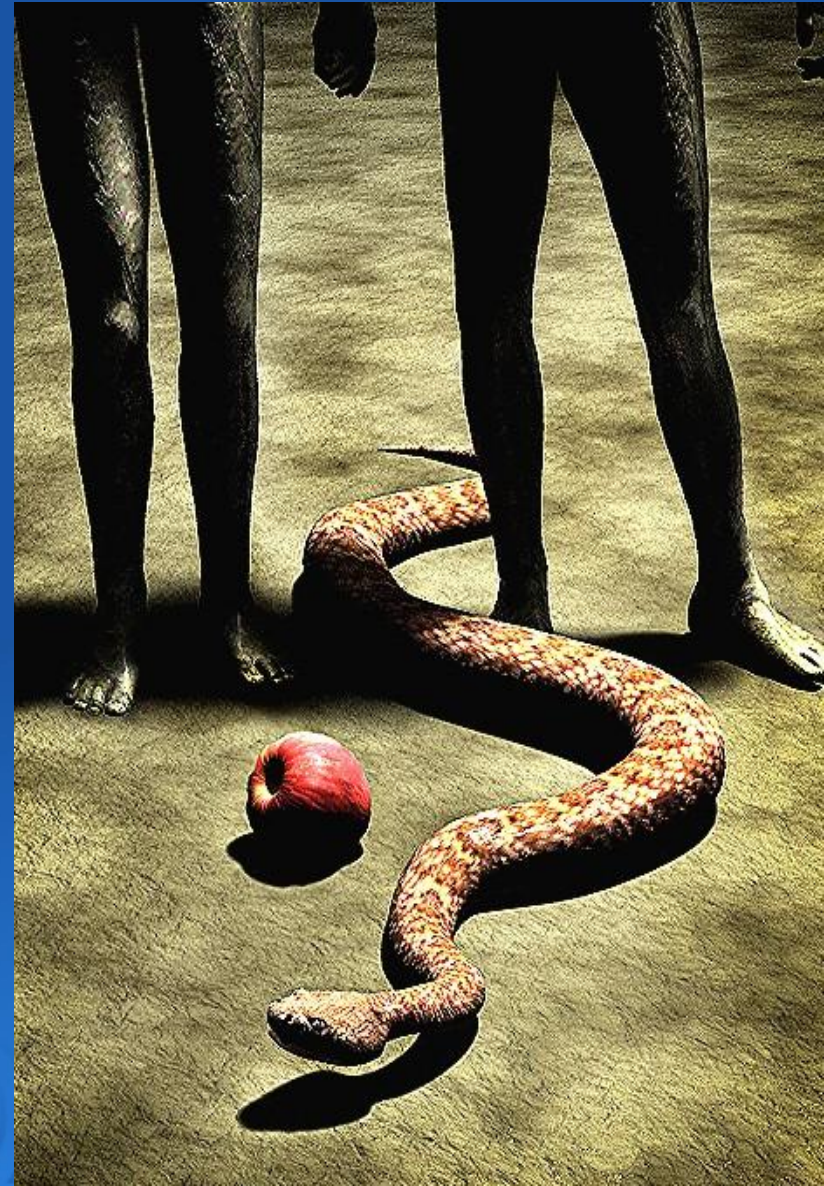
SARAPH



- NAS Isaiah 6:2 Seraphim (SARAPH) stood above Him, each having six wings; with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.
- The text says that Moses hung a **SARAPH** on the pole
- Therefore, was it NOT a serpent that was hung on the pole?
- 2 Kings 18:4 “Hezekiah.....broke into pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made....”
- Nechosheth nachash = bronze serpent

SERPENT THE PRIMARY SYMBOL OF SATAN

- Do we have a symbol of Satan as a symbol of healing?
- Did Hezekiah do good or evil in destroying the pole?
- 2 Kings 18:3 “.....and he did **RIGHT** in the sight of the Lord...”
- 2 Kings 18:4 “.....Israel burned incense unto it....called Nehushtan.....”
- Pole and serpent had become an **IMAGE**, an object of worship
- What is the difference between Moses’ pole and the Cross of Christ?



SERAPHIM

- **Isaiah 6: “.....Lord sitting on a throne.... Seraphim stood above Him....a burning coal in his hand taken from the Altar...”**
- **Heavenly Spirit Beings**
- **Several wings**
- **STAND above the Lord’s Throne**
- **Carry coals from Altar fire**
- **Saraph = fiery, burning**
- **Seraphim as fiery creatures**
- **Cherubim possibly the proper name of the Being**
- **Seraphim possibly a description of Cherubim**
- **A Heavenly Being HIGHER than Angels**
- **Guardians of God’s throne and His holiness**

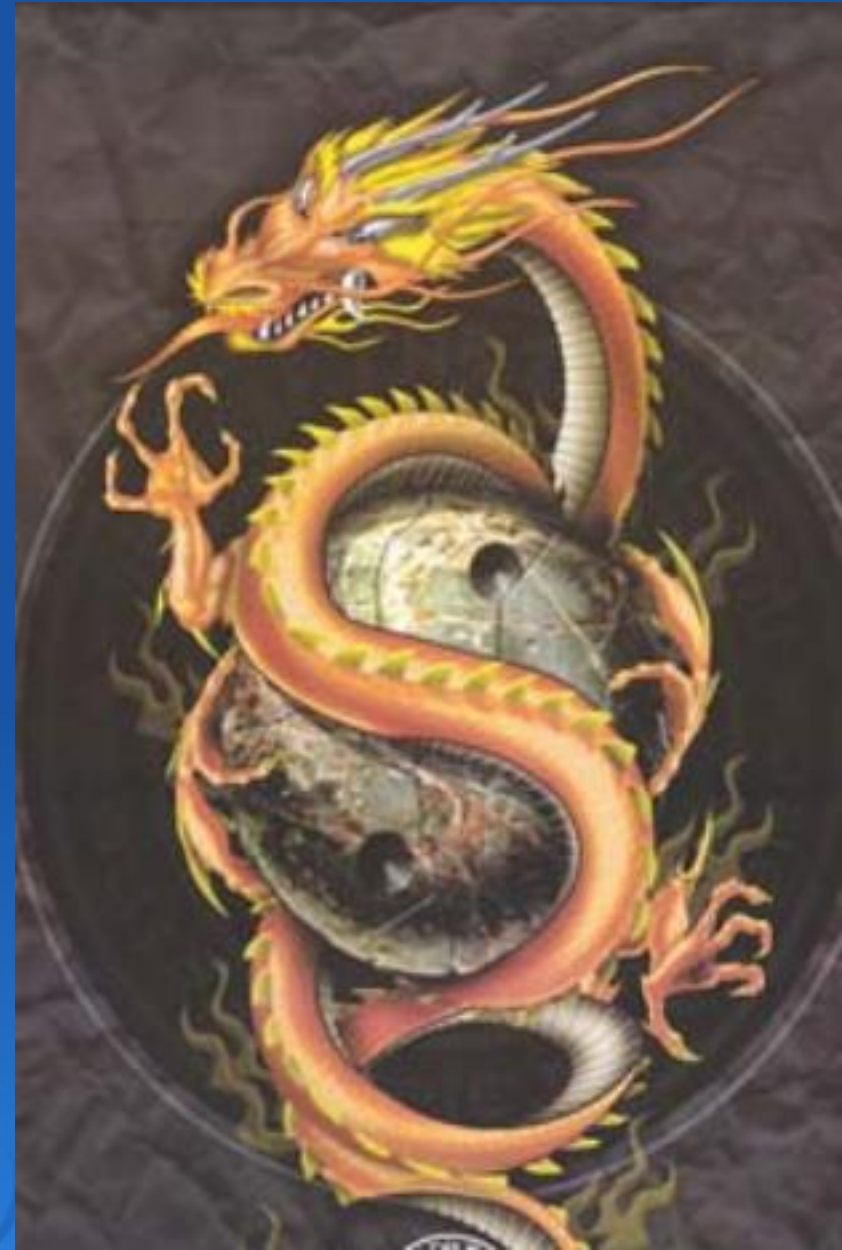
SATAN



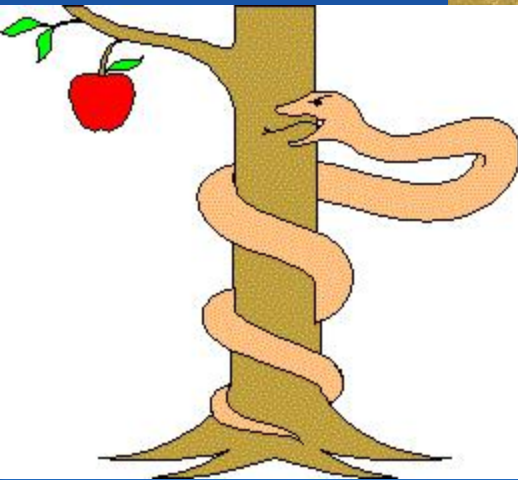
- Once a beautiful and powerful heavenly being
- Apocalypse 12: “...battle in heaven.....that great dragon was cast out...unto the earth....”
- Isaiah 14:12 “How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn.....”
- Gen. 3:14 “Because you have done this.....cursed are you....on your belly shall you go...”
- Satan upright before cursed to be on his belly
- Satan not a fancy snake; he was a unique being

THE DRAGON

- **NAS Revelation 12:7** And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. And the dragon and his angels waged war,
- Satan symbolized as a Dragon
- Greek = drakon
- Did John envision a mythical flying monster when he wrote this?
- Dragons not part of ancient Hebrew culture
- I think John envisioned a fiery, evil spiritual being that flies



THE SATAN - SARAPH CONNECTION?



- NAS Luke 10:18 And He said to them, "I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning.
- Connection between Seraphim, Serpent in the Garden, Saraph on the Pole, and the Dragon?
- Cherubim/Seraphim basically described the same
- Snake was symbol of healing in Egypt
- Amulets of poisonous creatures used to cure
- Anti-venom

WHAT CAN WE CONCLUDE?

- Serpent on pole did NOT heal of itself
- People didn't touch it, no ritual involved
- Faith, trust, repentance was the issue
- Many analogies, but most quite weak
- Main connections are between different types of beings
- The serpent/pole was to be a ONE TIME event, not a universal healing tool
- Misuse makes it an image of sorcery and idolatry

