

## ~FIERY SNAKE (90)

[Hebrew, *sa-raph*']

- The Hebrew noun *sa-raph'*, in its plural form, is translated seraphs in;
- Seraphs were standing above him. Each one had six wings. With two he kept his face covered, and with two he kept his feet covered, and with two he would fly about. (Isaiah 6:2)
- At that, one of the seraphs flew to me, and in his hand there was a glowing coal that he had taken with tongs off the altar. (Isaiah 6:6)
- And literally means fiery one, or burning one. It is also used in conjunction with the general Hebrew term for serpent Hebrew *na-chash'* and has been translated poisonous, perhaps referring to the burning and inflaming effect of the venom.
- Who caused you to walk through the great and fear-inspiring wilderness, with poisonous serpents and scorpions and with thirsty ground that has no water, who brought forth water for you out of the flinty rock. (Deuteronomy 8:15)
- It is first mentioned at the time of God's inflicting punishment on the rebellious Israelites by sending poisonous serpents *necha-shim' sera-phim'* among them.
- After Moses intercession, Yehowah instructed him to make a fiery snake and place it on a signal pole. If those bitten would look at it, they would be healed and would live. Moses formed the snake of copper.
- So Yehowah sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they kept biting the people, so that many people of Israel died. (Numbers 21:6)
- Finally the people came to Moses and said; We have sinned, because we have spoken against Yehowah and against you. Intercede with Yehowah that he may remove the serpents from upon us. And Moses went interceding in behalf of the people. (Numbers 21:7)

- Then Yehowah said to Moses; Make for yourself a **fiery** snake and place it upon a signal pole. And it must occur that when anyone has been bitten, he then has to look at it and so must keep alive. (**Numbers 21:8**)
- Moses at once made a serpent of copper and placed it upon the signal pole, and it did occur that if a serpent had bitten a man and he gazed at the copper serpent, he then kept alive. (**Numbers 21:9**)
- Neither let us put Yehowah to the test, as some of them put him to the test, only to perish by the serpents. (**1 Corinthians 10:9**)
- Jesus gave prophetic significance to this by stating;
- And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so the Son of man must be lifted up. (**John 3:14**)
- That everyone believing in him may have everlasting life. (**John 3:15**)
- Do not rejoice, O Philistia, any one of you, just because the staff of the one striking you has been broken. For out of the root of the serpent there will come forth a poisonous snake, and its fruit will be a flying **fiery** snake. (**Isaiah 14:29**)
- The pronouncement against the beasts of the south. Through the land of distress and hard conditions, of the lion and the leopard growling, of the viper and the flying **fiery** snake, on the shoulders of full-grown asses they carry their resources, and on the humps of camels their supplies. In behalf of the people they will prove of no benefit. (**Isaiah 30:6**)
- A flying **fiery** snake is mentioned in God's judgment against Philistia and in the description of the wilderness area to the South of Judah.
- The expression flying is considered by some to refer to the rapid darting or lightning-like striking through the air done by venomous snakes when attacking.