

SPIRITUAL TASK —THE BRONZE SNAKE (Numbers 21)

by the Rev. David Roth at the New Church of Boulder Valley

Story In the wilderness the children of Israel complained that they didn't have any water and that the bread the Lord provided for them was worthless. Fiery snakes were sent and bit them and many of them died. The people cried out to Moses. The Lord instructed Moses to make a snake out of bronze and to set it on a pole. All who looked at it, if bitten, would be healed.

Meaning When we are growing spiritually we have times of difficulty called temptations. During these times our senses tend to bite us in the rear end (snakes) rather than being of service to us. We can complain bitterly and feel that the Lord is doing nothing to be of help. This makes our condition worse (people dying). To rise above the dark times we need to lift our thoughts to the Lord in His Divine Human and look to Him to guide us (bronze snake). If we will ask for help, He will be there.

Task This week think about your picture of the Lord—or how you view Him. Is the Lord visible to you? Do you have a picture in your mind? When you pray, what do you see in your mind's eye? We are taught that having a visible God is actually really important. It is difficult to have a reciprocal relationship with an invisible entity. Take time to think about your idea of God and see if you can't make it more concrete. There are many books to help you with this on the book table.