

1. Review: **Exodus 17:8-15** -

- Exodus 17:8-15 – Moses built an altar and called it 'the LORD is my banner.'
- Hebrew *Nes* = standard, ensign, banner, pole, sign, standard
- Egyptian background:
 - Represented/imbued with the power of the god
 - Pointed to the god that you are under
- Phenomenological/Psychological:
 - It causes you to 'look up.'
- Moses acts as a *Nes* – pointing to God's power that sustains the Israelites in battle.
- Early interpretation(s)¹

“Did the hands of Moses make war when he raised them or break war when he lowered them? Rather, the verse comes to tell you that as long as the Jewish people turned their eyes upward and subjected their hearts to their Father in Heaven, they prevailed, but if not, they fell.”

Mishnah Rosh Hashanah 3:8

2. **Numbers 21:4-9**

- Moses creates a bronze snake and places it on a "pole" – Hebrew *Nes*.
- God takes the idea of the standard from Egypt to communicate to the Israelites
 - The LORD is Your Banner (*Nes*)

“Similarly, you can say: The verse states: “Make for yourself a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole; and it shall come to pass, that everyone that is bitten, when he sees it, he shall live” (Numbers 21:8).

Once again it may be asked: Did the serpent kill, or did the serpent preserve life? Rather, when the Jewish people turned their eyes upward and subjected their hearts to their Father in Heaven, they were healed, but if not, they rotted from their snakebites.

Mishnah Rosh Hashanah 3:8

3. **2 Kings 18:4** –

- During the reign of Hezekiah, reforms were made, and he rid Israel of the worship of other gods and false idols.

“He [Hezekiah] removed the high places, smashed the sacred stones and cut down the Asherah poles. He broke into pieces the bronze snake Moses had made, for up to that time the Israelites had been burning incense to it. (It was called Nehushtan.)”

¹ See *Wisdom of Solomon* 16:6-7 and Philo, *Allegorical Interpretation* XX.81.

4. Isaiah 11 – a Messianic Prophecy

- Isaiah 11:1-2 – the stump of Jesse refers to the line of David
- Isaiah 11:10 - the Root of Jesse will stand as a **banner** (*Nes*) for the people
- Isaiah 11:11 – it will be a **second** Exodus
- Isaiah 11:12 – He (the Lord) will raise a **banner** (*Nes*) for the nations (*Goyim*).

5. John 3:14

“Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”

- Jesus claims the prophecy from Isaiah 11:10 – the *Nes* – by referencing Moses and the snake on the *Nes* in the wilderness.
- Jesus is a *Nes* that points to the power of God for the entire world.
- Jesus is conspicuously lifted up for all of us to raise our sights toward God, where our power comes from.
- We all need a *Nes* while wandering in the wilderness of the world.

6. Colossians 3 – "Be intent on the things above, not on earthly things."

