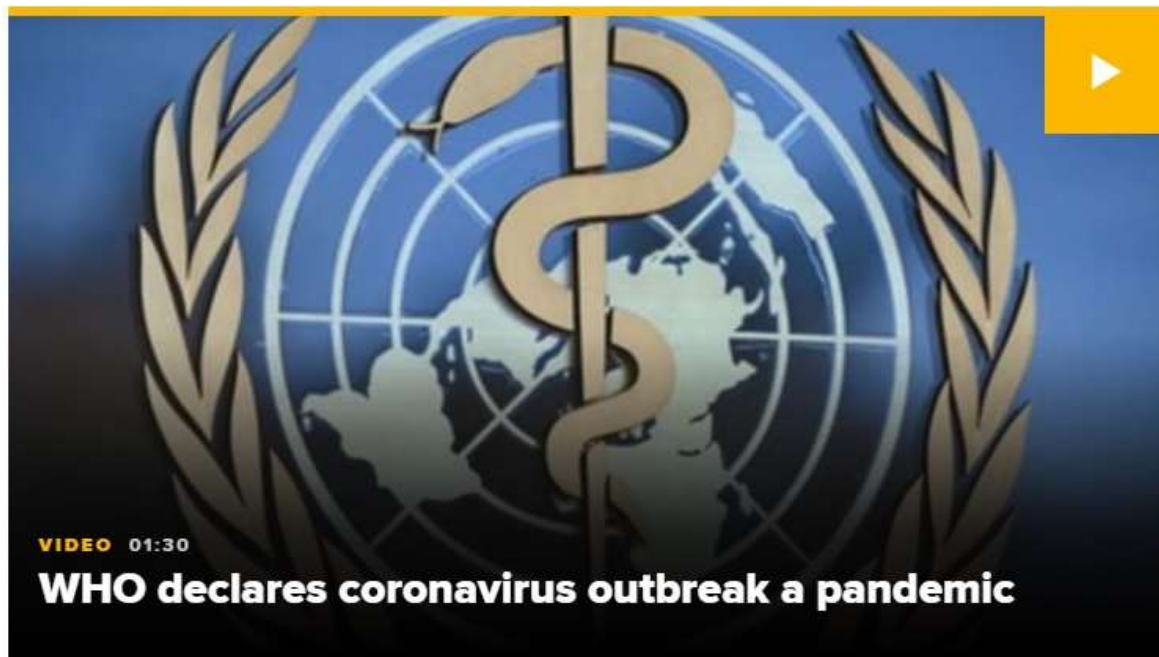


Why is there a Snake on the Medical Symbol?



The Bible has the answer!

Study Plan

- 1 Is the Bible Trustworthy?
- 2 Did God Really Create the World?
- 3 If God is good, why does suffering exist?
- 4 Why is evil so widespread and powerful?
- 5 Why is Israel so important?
- 6 Who is God?
- 7 What is the purpose of the Ten Commandments?
- 8 Why is there a snake on the medical symbol?
- 9 How do the Old and New Testaments fit together?
- 10 Why did Jesus perform miracles?
- 11 What did Jesus really say?
- 12 Is death the end (or the beginning)?

God's Ten Commandments : Exodus 20

1. **Verse 3:** You shall have no other gods before Me
2. **Verses 4-6:** You shall not make and worship idols
3. **Verse 7:** You shall not misuse the name of God
4. **Verses 8-10:** Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy
5. **Verse 12:** Honor your father and mother
6. **Verse 13:** You shall not murder
7. **Verse 14:** You shall not commit adultery
8. **Verse 15:** You shall not steal
9. **Verse 16:** You shall not lie
10. **Verse 17:** You shall not covet

We have **big** problems!

- We all fail this test!
 - The only passing score: 100% perfect (**Matthew 5:48**)
 - If you break one law, you fail (**James 2:10**)
 - No one can do it; we all stand silent (**Romans 3:19,20**)
- Breaking the law requires **punishment**
 - If we are guilty of breaking the law of this country, the government has the authority to punish us.
 - When we break God's laws, He has the authority to punish us.
- The entire human race has **two problems**:
 1. Adam's **sin** resulted in **death** (physical and spiritual). For him and for all humans.
 2. We are **all guilty** of **breaking God's laws** and deserve **punishment**.

The Journey of the People of Israel

- **Numbers 13** “The Promised Land” – Canaan
 - 2 years after leaving Egypt, they arrive at Canaan
 - **Verses 1-2** Twelve men are sent to explore the land
 - **Verses 25-28** The land was very good, but filled with powerful warriors
 - **Verses 30-31** Two men believed God (Joshua and Caleb), but the rest were afraid
- **Numbers 14** An important decision
 - **Verses 1-4** The people fail to trust God and prefer death in the wilderness
 - **Verses 20-24** The people turn around and wander in the desert for 40 years, waiting for a new generation
 - A warning for us : **Hebrews 3:7-9**

Suffering in the Wilderness

Numbers 21

- **Complaining** against Moses and God (**verses 4-5**)
 - Did God really bring them out of Egypt to kill them?
 - Only focused on their troubles instead of thankful
- God's response to their sinful complaints (**verse 6**)
 - Why were the people dying?
 - Because of their sin
- "Moses – help us!" (**verse 7**)
 - Moses comes between the sinful Israelites and God – a "mediator."
 - His life is a picture of someone much greater to come in the future
- The answer: a bronze snake on a pole (**verses 8-9**)
 - Their real problem was not the snakes – it was their sin
 - Look up, believe God, and live. Only one way to survive.



Kunming International Travel Health Center



Calumet Hospital in North Kunming

美国国际医院



Entering the Promised Land

- God's promises: I will give you the land and I will be with you (**Joshua 1:1-5**)
- God's command: meditate on the Word of God and obey (**Joshua 1:8,9**)
- Crossing the Jordan River (**Joshua 3:14-17**)
 - Step into a flooded river with your most valuable possession
 - The Israelite people cross on dry ground
 - The people of Canaan melted in fear (Joshua 5:1)
- Important principle: a step of faith comes before God opens His way to a person (**Hebrews 11:6**)
- The conquest completed (**Joshua 24:13-15**).

Israel's Government

- God's original plan for Israel:
 - **God was** their **King** and **His Word** was their law
 - They were given **judges** to enforce His law in court
 - They were given **priests** to offer sacrifices
 - This continued for about 300 years, but then ...
- The people wanted to be like every other nation with a physical king: **1 Samuel 8:4-7**
 - The first king: Saul, a tall, handsome guy (**1 Samuel 9:2**)
 - Saul was tall, but foolish (**1 Samuel 13:13,14**)
 - God chose a new king based on His heart, not appearance

David – a man after God's own heart

- The Philistines and Goliath (**1 Samuel 17**)
 - Goliath challenges Israel (**verses 4-7, 8-10**)
 - The Israelites shook with fear (**verse 11**)
 - David comes to fight (**verses 43,44**)
 - David has a powerful response (**verses 45-47**)
 - David kills Goliath and Israel wins the battle (**verses 48-51**)
- David becomes king when Saul dies (**2 Samuel 5:1,2**)
 - God makes a special promise to David (**2 Samuel 7:12,13**)
 - David responds in humility (**2 Samuel 7:18-21**)
 - David had a heart for God, but...

David – a sinful man

- David and Bathsheba (2 **Samuel 11**)
 - David's men go to war, but he stays home (**verse 1**)
 - David is tempted to look at a pretty girl (**verse 2**)
 - David kept looking at the girl (**verse 3**)
 - David commits adultery (**verses 4-5**)
- David tries to cover up his sin
 - He sends for Bathsheba's husband, hoping that he will have sex with his wife (**verses 6-9**)
 - David has Uriah killed (**vs. 14,15**) and marries Bathsheba (**vs. 26,27**)
- David confesses his sin to God (**Psalms 51:1-12**)
 - A man after God's own heart? David was not perfect, but when he sinned, he was truly sorry and asked God for forgiveness

The Wisdom of Solomon

- An important meeting with God (**1 Kings 3**)
 - Verse 5: ask for anything you want
 - Verses 7-9: he asks for wisdom to lead
 - Verse 12: God blesses Solomon
- Solomon was very wise (**1 Kings 10:6-7**)
- But Solomon was sinful (**1 Kings 11**)
 - Verse 1: married many foreign women
 - Verses 2-4: his heart turned away to false gods

Things to Remember:

- Because of their sin, the people suffered and died due to snakebites
- Snake-bitten people could live if they looked up at the snake on the pole and believed God
- A step of faith usually comes before God shows His power
- Even the greatest men in the Bible are sinners and need God's forgiveness

The big question...

- God is holy and just and must punish sin (**Exodus 34:6,7**)
- All men are guilty of sin.
- The righteous payment for sin is death (**Ezekiel 18:4**)
- How can a God of justice punish sin **and** forgive sin (**Exodus 34:6,7**)?
- **Psalm 73:21-26** > A final thought:
 - Am I a brute beast or desiring God?