



NEW HEART BEAT DEVOTIONS

“Our Red Cross (Plus) + does a great job of prolonging life, but the true Red Cross † gives eternal life.”

We Need the Red Cross

During the current coronavirus crisis, I am very fortunate to be able to work from home. The Lord blessed me with a free new computer just weeks before and I was able to install my work programs on it. I am also blessed with six weeks of vacation that I could use during this time. The Governor has issued a “stay at home” order in our County. I do have a signed pass allowing me to go to work, however, I choose to stay home due to my age and health conditions. Also, my mother-in-law lives with us and uses oxygen daily and I do not her to get. I am careful but not afraid because I know that my God will supply all our needs according to His riches in Christ Jesus.

Crises like this are not new to God. “And the people spake against God, and against Moses, Wherefore, have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no bread, neither is there any water; and our soul loatheth this light bread. And the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and much people of Israel died. Therefore, the people came to Moses, and said, “We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord, and against thee; pray unto the Lord, that He take away the serpents from us.” And Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said unto Moses, “Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live.” Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived.” Number 21

The reason I listed this story from the Bible is because the current [Universal Medical Identification Symbol](#) called Star of Life contains the Staff of Aesculapius. “The snake-entwined staff symbol is known as the Rod of Asclepius. It traces back to the Greek god of healing, Asclepius, who is mentioned by Homer in the Iliad (c. eighth century B.C.E.), and whose cult developed especially from the sixth century B.C.E. onward. Statues of this god appear from at least the fourth century B.C.E.—depictions generally show him holding a rod with a snake coiled around it.”¹ But why does he have a rod with a snake?

Fast forward to 700 years after Moses: “He (Hezekiah the son of Ahaz king of Judah) removed the high places, and brake the images, and cut down the groves, and brake in pieces the brass serpent that Moses had made: for unto those days the children of Israel did burn incense to it: and he called it Nehushtan.” 2 Kings 18:4 “There is growing evidence that the seafaring tribe of Dan had been directly involved in back-and-forth commerce and relations with Greece and had established a strong presence in the Greek islands. The tribe is also known as being about the most pagan of all the Israelite tribes. A tradition of pagan worship, related to a snake-entwined rod, may well have been passed on by them.”¹

: (Side note) “In 1902, a Captain in the U.S. Army medical corps proposed the Caduceus (two serpents on a rod with wings on top) as the corps official symbol because he mistook the Staff of Hermes for the Rod of Aesculapius. A few years later, a librarian in the Surgeon’s General’s office caught the mistake but since the symbol was being used for a while, it was allowed to stay. The magic Rod of Hermes, means “deity of wealth, god of trade and travelers, of commerce, manual skill, oratory and eloquence, of thieves, and of the wind”² The Caduceus was used in the 19th century as a printer’s mark for medical publishers in the US. The Caduceus was thus inadvertently connected in the minds of some physicians with medicine.

There are several thoughts from this story of Moses. The children of God sinned. The Lord sent a punishment. The people repented. Moses prayed. Moses and the people had to do something. The Lord brought healing. Jesus related the event to His own death and our way for spiritual healing. “And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.” John 3:13,14

The symbols of both God’s physical and spiritual healing are with us today. We need to seek His Red Cross to heal our land. Pray for our leaders. Pray for those who are ill. Pray for those that are in need. Pray that through this we again become one nation under God.



Charles L Stambaugh

“Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not. Behold, I will bring it health and cure, and I will cure them, and will reveal unto them the abundance of peace and truth.” Jer 33:3,6



¹watchjerusalem.co.il/540-does-the-serpentine-symbol-of-healing-have-a-biblical-origin ²ontheknow.com/symbol-of-healing/

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