

Introduction

1. There are a multitude of flags in the world
2. In the Bible, a flag is related to a banner
 - a. Banner defined (Merriam-Webster)
 - i. “a piece of cloth attached by one edge to a staff and used by a leader (as a monarch or feudal lord) as his standard”
 - ii. “an ensign displaying a distinctive or symbolic device or legend especially: one presented as an award of honor or distinction”
 - b. The banner, also known as a standard, was used as a rallying point for the armies of Israel ([Num. 2:2](#))
 - c. The banner was used as a flag to signal war ([Jer. 4:5-6](#), [21](#))

I. The Bronze Serpent

1. The children of Israel complained in the wilderness ([Num. 21:4-5](#))
 - a. Worthless bread? Consider the implication ([Jn. 6:31-35](#))
 - b. Do all things without complaining and disputing ([Php. 2:14](#))
 - c. A complaint is an acknowledgement of a lack of contentment
2. God punished the people for their complaining ([Num. 21:6](#))
 - a. The judgment of God is designed to produce godly sorrow that leads to repentance ([2 Cor. 7:8-12](#); cf. [Am. 4:6-11](#))
3. The people repented and confessed their sin ([Num. 21:7](#))
 - a. For the people of God today, when we sin, we too need to repent and confess our sin ([Rev. 2:5](#); [1 Jn. 1:9](#))
4. Salvation from the snakes ([Num. 21:8-9](#))
 - a. The Hebrew word translated as “pole” (*nes* H5251) is also translated as “banner” ([Ps. 60:4](#)) and “standard” ([Jer. 51:12](#))
 - b. The people who were bitten had to look at the bronze serpent to live

II. The Son of Man Lifted Up

1. Jesus had a discourse with Nicodemus ([Jn. 3:1-21](#))
 - a. Import of the new birth ([Jn. 3:1-8](#))
 - b. Necessity of the Son of Man being lifted up ([Jn. 3:14-15](#))
 - c. Necessity of believing in Jesus and coming to the light ([Jn. 3:16-21](#))

2. Christ was lifted up on the cross ([Jn. 19:16-18](#))
 - a. He died ([Jn. 19:30](#))
3. Christ was buried ([Jn. 19:38-42](#))
 - a. All according to the Scriptures ([1 Cor. 15:3-4](#))

III. Jesus Christ: Our Banner

1. An ancient prophecy ([Isa. 11:1-12](#))
 - a. Depicts the Christian age
 - b. A Root of Jesse shall stand as a banner to the people ([Isa. 11:10](#))
 - c. A banner for the nations ([Isa. 11:12](#))
2. Raised to reign ([Rm. 15:12](#))
 - a. Paul cited [Isa. 11:10](#) from the Septuagint (Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible)
 - b. Christ arose! ([Mt. 28:1-7](#))
 - c. He was seen of many witnesses ([1 Cor. 15:5-8](#))
 - d. He ascended to Heaven ([Ac. 1:9-11](#))
 - e. He is exalted to the right hand of God as Lord and Christ ([Ac. 2:22-36](#))

Conclusion

1. Jesus Christ is our banner
 - a. We rally to His cause in His army ([2 Tim. 2:3-4](#))
 - b. Armor is required and supplied ([Eph. 6:10-17](#))
 - c. He is our Commander ([Rev. 19:11-16](#))
 - d. The church is called out of the world ([1 Pt. 2:9](#))
 - e. God is at war with the world ([Jm. 4:4](#))
 - f. We do not fellowship the unfruitful works of darkness but rather expose and oppose them ([Eph. 5:11](#))
2. There are many kinds of banners
 - a. Many kinds of causes and associations to identify with
 - b. God has elevated one banner above all: Jesus Christ
3. Let us identify with the Christ ([Rm. 6:3-5](#))
 - a. Let us conform ourselves to His image ([Rm. 8:29](#))