‘Bronze serpent and cherubim on the Ark of the Covenant’

For those familiar with the Holy Scripture, we know that God commanded Moses to make a bronze serpent at the time of the exodus of the Israelites, and two golden cherubim on the Ark of the Covenant, which was to contain the tablets of God's Law, given to Moses.
These two images of living beings that the Lord have allowed to be made has unfortunately led us men to sin against Him, continuing through the centuries to make images of everything the Lord has created in heaven and on earth, contrary to His will, as manifested in the second commandment:

(“You shall not make for yourselves an idol, nor any image of anything that is in the heavens above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: you shall not bow yourself down to them, nor serve them, for I, Yahweh your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and on the fourth generation of those who hate me, and showing loving kindness to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.) Exodus 20 : 4

This mistake should not have been made for the following four reasons:

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(1)

The bronze serpent was made at the Lord's request at a time before the giving of God's Law to Moses, while the Israelites were in the desert, after their liberation from slavery in Egypt, and therefore, before arriving at Mount Sinai. The part of the Holy Scripture referred to is as follows:

(They traveled from Mount Hor by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. The soul of the people was very discouraged because of the journey. The people spoke against God and against Moses: “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no bread, there is no water, and our soul loathes this disgusting food!” Yahweh sent venomous snakes among the people, and they bit the people. Many people of Israel died. The people came to Moses, and said, “We have sinned, because we have spoken against Yahweh and against you. Pray to Yahweh, that he take away the serpents from us.” Moses prayed for the people. Yahweh said to Moses, “Make a venomous snake, and set it on a pole. It shall happen that everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live.” Moses made a serpent of bronze, and set it on the pole. If a serpent had bitten any man, when he looked at the serpent of bronze, he lived.) Numbers 21 : 4

Even if Moses had been instructed at that time to make a bronze serpent, this was no longer to be the case from the moment the Lord handed over his Law to Moses, nullifying, with the second commandment above, the possibility of creating any image.

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(2)

The Lord, because of His sovereignty and also because of His right to test us men with regard to our obedience and fear of Him, can command whatever He wishes, as happened with the bronze serpent. Another example that demonstrates this is God's request to Abraham, asking him to slaughter his only son, Isaac, as a burnt offering to Him. This request from God was only meant to test Abraham's obedience and fear, for the Lord did not allow him to kill his son. The confirmation of this was given to us by the Lord, with the future Law given to Moses, in which He commanded us not to kill. The same principle applies to the bronze serpent.
The reference quotation is as follows:

(After these things, God tested Abraham, and said to him, “Abraham!” He said, “Here I am.” He said, “Now take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go into the land of Moriah. Offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains which I will tell you of.”) Genesis 22 : 1

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(3)

At the time of King Hezekiah, some seven centuries after Moses, we were given the right example of how we must show the Lord our obedience and fear of Him. In fact, King Hezekiah, among other things, destroyed the bronze serpent that God himself had ordered to be made seven centuries earlier, demonstrating his obedience to God's will manifested in the second commandment of the Law given to Moses.
Indeed, the Israelites had even offered incense to the bronze serpent for some seven centuries, as if that object was their God. However, like Hezekiah, we too must recognise that it was not the bronze serpent that had the power to heal, but the Word of the Lord.
The following is the part referring to the Holy Scripture:

(Now in the third year of Hoshea son of Elah king of Israel, Hezekiah the son of Ahaz king of Judah began to reign. He was twenty-five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned twenty-nine years in Jerusalem. His mother’s name was Abi the daughter of Zechariah. He did that which was right in Yahweh’s eyes, according to all that David his father had done. He removed the high places, broke the pillars, and cut down the Asherah. He also broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made, because in those days the children of Israel burned incense to it; and he called it Nehushtan. He trusted in Yahweh, the God of Israel, so that after him was no one like him among all the kings of Judah, nor among them that were before him. For he joined with Yahweh. He didn’t depart from following him, but kept his commandments, which Yahweh commanded Moses. Yahweh was with him. Wherever he went, he prospered. He rebelled against the king of Assyria, and didn’t serve him) 2Kings 18:1

Even Jacob some seven centuries before Moses acted correctly in the eyes of the Lord, although he did not yet know his Law. In fact, after receiving a revelation from God, he realised that they could no longer trust in the gods they had made for themselves, which consisted of more or less large religious images, by burying them, even though the right thing to do would have been, as the Lord then commanded Moses and as Hezekiah later did. The reference Scripture is as follows:

(God said to Jacob, “Arise, go up to Bethel, and live there. Make there an altar to God, who appeared to you when you fled from the face of Esau your brother.” Then Jacob said to his household, and to all who were with him, “Put away the foreign gods that are among you, purify yourselves, and change your garments. Let’s arise, and go up to Bethel. I will make there an altar to God, who answered me in the day of my distress, and was with me on the way which I went.” They gave to Jacob all the foreign gods which were in their hands, and the rings which were in their ears; and Jacob hid them under the oak which was by Shechem.) Genesis 35 : 1

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(4)

The making of the two cherubim on the Ark of the Covenant also took place at a time before the delivery of God's Law to Moses, for first the ark was built, as the Lord intended it to be, and afterwards, again at the Lord's command, the two tablets of the Law were placed inside.
The part of the Holy Scripture referred to is as follows:

(You shall put the covenant which I shall give you into the ark. You shall make a mercy seat of pure gold. Two and a half cubits shall be its length, and a cubit and a half its width. You shall make two cherubim of hammered gold. You shall make them at the two ends of the mercy seat. Make one cherub at the one end, and one cherub at the other end. You shall make the cherubim on its two ends of one piece with the mercy seat. The cherubim shall spread out their wings upward, covering the mercy seat with their wings, with their faces toward one another. The faces of the cherubim shall be toward the mercy seat. You shall put the mercy seat on top of the ark, and in the ark you shall put the covenant that I will give you. There I will meet with you, and I will tell you from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are on the ark of the covenant, all that I command you for the children of Israel.) Exodus 25 : 16

It is clear from the above Scripture that the last action performed by Moses at the Lord’s will was to place his Law inside the Ark of the Covenant. This is to be regarded as the Lord's final instruction, namely that we should make no image of all that He has created in heaven and on earth, as He has established by His second commandment.
Another important thing to consider is that the sacredness of the Ark of the Covenant does not depend on the golden cherubim placed on it, but on the Law of God within it, and that without it, the ark would have no value. Therefore, it is more than right to obey God's Holy Law.
This was also made clear to us by the Lord Jesus in a similar discourse, saying:

(“Woe to you, you blind guides, who say, ‘Whoever swears by the temple, it is nothing; but whoever swears by the gold of the temple, he is obligated.’ You blind fools! For which is greater, the gold or the temple that sanctifies the gold? And, ‘Whoever swears by the altar, it is nothing; but whoever swears by the gift that is on it, he is obligated.’ You blind fools! For which is greater, the gift, or the altar that sanctifies the gift?)
Matthew 23 : 16

Jesus, with his preaching as the Son of God, has allowed us to understand many things, but if we do not listen to his teaching and put it into practice, we make big mistakes that lead to perdition.
Not for nothing did Jesus say:
(Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father, except through me.)
John 14 : 6

The Messenger of God