

# "NE-HUSH-TAN"

## 2 Kings 18:4

### INTRODUCTION:

1. Many fine lessons are in the Old Testament for us. It serves as a history of examples for us ( I Cor. 10:1 - 12).
2. In the Old Testament God's people were up and down the ladder of success in service to Him. Not often were they really dedicated to Him and His work.
3. Hezekiah was one that it was said, "He did that which was right in the sight of God."
4. In our text, Hezekiah takes the brazen serpent and breaks it into pieces because the people burned incense to it - and he called it NE-HUSH-TAN.
5. NE-HUSH-TAN defined means: A piece of brass
6. The brazen serpent was Divinely authorized (Num. 21: 8).
  - (1) It had a Divine Purpose: to preserve the lives of those bitten by the fiery serpents, if they would look upon it (Num. 21: 8 -9).
7. As long as it was used as God had planned, His purpose was served --but when misused it became nothing more than a piece of brass.
8. Are we not guilty of the same misuse and abuse today?

### I. WHAT ARE SOME OF THE THINGS WE MISUSE?

#### 1. The BIBLE

- (1) The Bible is divinely authorized ( 2 Pet. 1: 21).
- (2) Scripture is inspired of God (God breathed), ( 2 Tim. 3:16).
- (3) It is given for a divine purpose--to reveal God, to reveal man, to reveal Christ, the gospel, the church, Heaven, Hell, and how man is to live in order to go to heaven.
- (4) It is misused -- "not studied".
  1. As long as the Bible lays on a shelf to collect dust it is useless to man. He must study it ( 2 Tim. 2:15).
  2. As long as the word remains in the Book it is worthless. We must study, learn and apply truth to our lives. Remove the Word from the Book and transplant it in the heart.
  3. Let's all resolve to use the Bible properly by studying, and then after learning the truth apply it to our lives.

#### 2. The CHURCH

- (1) The church is divinely authorized. The Old Testament prophets foretold of it ( Isa. 2: 2 - 3; Joel 2: 28).
- (2) Christ promised to build it (Matt. 16: 18); the promise was fulfilled in Acts 2.
- (3) It has a Divine Purpose -- To reveal God's wisdom (Eph. 3:10); His power (Mark 9:1); His grace (Eph. 1: 3 - 7).
  1. In the church (body) we are all (both Jew and Gentile) reconciled to God ( Eph. 2: 14 - 16).

(4) It is misused -- when it is used for social, recreational, or entertainment purposes.

1. This reduces it to nothing more than a social club.

### 3. THE PLAN OF SALVATION (Gospel of Christ)

(1) The plan of salvation is Divinely authorized -- given by God as His power to save (Rom. 1: 16).

(2) It has a Divine Purpose -- To save man; it will save all that obey it ( Mark 16:15 - 16).

(3) It is misused -- when it is obeyed for any reason other than to be saved:

1. Obeyed for matrimonial reasons -- to get to marry a certain boy or girl.

2. Obeyed for social reasons -- to gain social prominence in some areas.

3. Obeyed for business reasons -- to help or gain business.

4. Obeyed to gain popularity -- in some areas it is the popular thing to be a member of the church of Christ.

(4) One must obey the Gospel to be saved. This is God's reason for giving it; any other reason is a misuse or abuse of it.

### CONCLUSION:

1. Are we guilty of the same mistake that Israel made?

2. Are we taking something that God Divinely Authorized for a Divine Purpose, and by our misuse of it reduced it down to where we destroy its effectiveness?

3. If so, God's displeasure will come upon us as it did the children of Israel.

4. Let us use the things that God has given us for the purpose for which He gave them, and then we can receive the blessings (benefits) that He intended.

5. Study the Bible -- Enter the church to have fellowship with Him (God), and obey the gospel to be saved.

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