



NEHUSHTAN

2 KINGS 18:1-8

REV DR NG SWEE MING | 17 FEB 2019

Who, What or How Am I ?

1. Ethically disorientated ?
2. Economically marginalized ?
3. Chemically inconvenienced ?
4. Behaviorally challenged ?
5. Metabolic overachiever ?
6. Domestic engineer ?
7. Wealth redistribution ?
8. Public service bonus ?
9. Motivationally deficient ?
10. Economical with the truth ?

PC Words...
(Politically
Correct)



The background of the slide is a detailed illustration of the biblical story of Nehushtan. A tall wooden pole stands in the center, with a golden serpent coiled around its top horizontal crossbar. To the right, a man with a long white beard, wearing a green robe and a red sash, stands with his right arm raised, gesturing towards the pole. In the foreground, a woman in a red headscarf and a man's head are visible, looking towards the scene. In the background, a group of people in various robes stands on a rocky hillside, looking out over a vast, hazy landscape with mountains under a bright, hazy sky.

“NEHUSHTAN”

2 Kings 18:1-8

2 Kings 18:1-8



- ¹ In the third year of Hoshea son of Elah king of Israel, Hezekiah son of Ahaz king of Judah began to reign.***
- ² He was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem twenty-nine years. His mother's name was Abijah daughter of Zechariah.***
- ³ He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord , just as his father David had done.***
- ⁴ He removed the high places, smashed the sacred stones and cut down the Asherah poles. He broke into pieces the bronze snake Moses had made, for up to that time the Israelites had been burning incense to it. (It was called Nehushtan.)***

2 Kings 18:1-8



- ⁵ Hezekiah trusted in the Lord , the God of Israel. There was no one like him among all the kings of Judah, either before him or after him.***
- ⁶ He held fast to the Lord and did not cease to follow him; he kept the commands the Lord had given Moses.***
- ⁷ And the Lord was with him; he was successful in whatever he undertook. He rebelled against the king of Assyria and did not serve him.***
- ⁸ From watchtower to fortified city, he defeated the Philistines, as far as Gaza and its territory.***



Background to 2 Kings 18:1-8

1100 BC

1000 BC

900

ELI Judged Israel
c. 1100-1060

SAMUEL Judged Israel
c. 1060-1020

United Kingdom

KINGS OF ISRAEL (NORTHERN) →

Kings are listed by the first year of their reign.

JEROBOAM I 931

NADAB

BAASHA



UNITED KINGDOM

KING SAUL
Reigned
c. 1051-1011

KING DAVID
Reigned
c. 1011-971

KING SOLOMON
Reigned
c. 971-931



KINGDOM DIVIDE

KINGS OF JUDAH (SOUTHERN) →

TEMPLE BUILT 960.

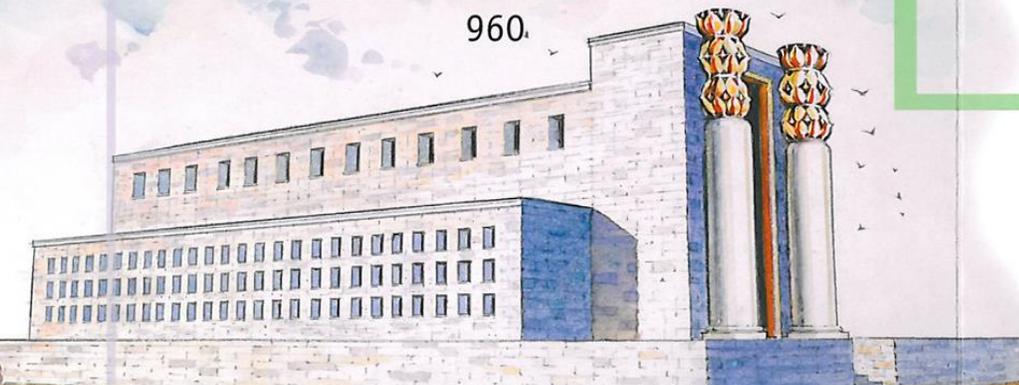
REHOBOAM I 931

ABIJAH 911

ASA 911



DAVID SLAYS GOLIATH



KING SOLOMON BUILDS THE TEMPLE

Background to 2 Kings 18:1-8



900 BC

800 BC

JEROBOAM I 931

ELAH 886

AHAZIAH 853

JEHOASH 7

NADAB 910

ZIMRI 885

JORAM (JEHORAM) 852

TIBNI 885

BAASHA 909

JEHU 841

JEROBOAM

OMRI 885

JEHOAHAZ 814

AHAB 874



KINGDOM DIVIDES

REHOBOAM I 931

JEHOSHAPHAT 873

JEHORAM (JORAM) 853

AMAZIAH

ABIJAH 913

AHAZIAH 841

UZZIAH (AZAZIAH)

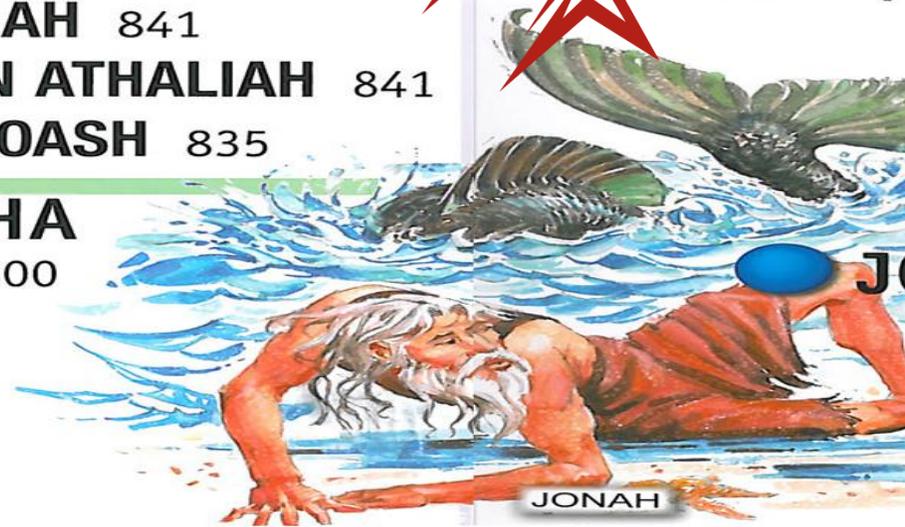
ASA 911

QUEEN ATHALIAH 841

JOASH 835

ELISHA
c. 845-800

ELIJAH c. 870-845



ELIJAH'S CONTEST ON MT. CARMEL

JONAH

Background to 2 Kings 18:1-8



900 BC

800 BC

| | 900 BC | | 800 BC | |
|--------------|------------------|------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Northern Kingdom | Southern Kingdom | | |
| # Kings | 19 | 20 | JEHOASH 746 | JEHOASH 746 |
| # Good Kings | 0 | 8 | JEROBOAM 746 | JEROBOAM 746 |



ELIJAH'S CONTEST ON MT. CARMEL



JONAH

Background to 2 Kings 18:1-8

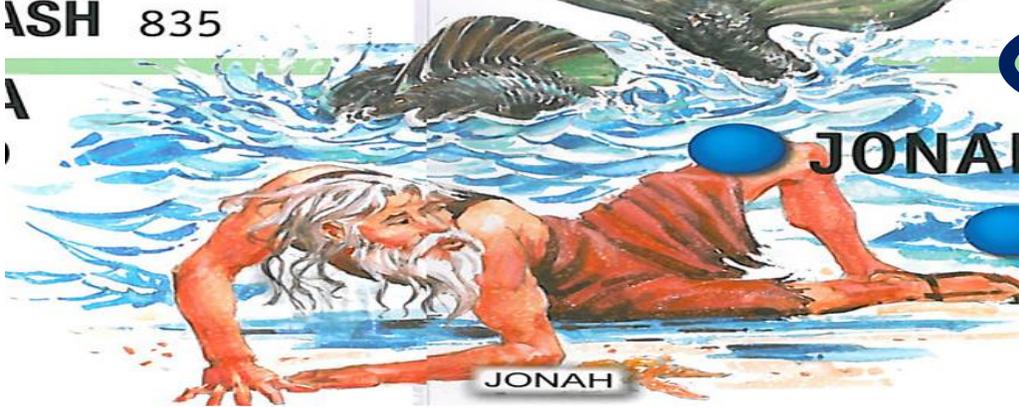
800 BC

700 BC

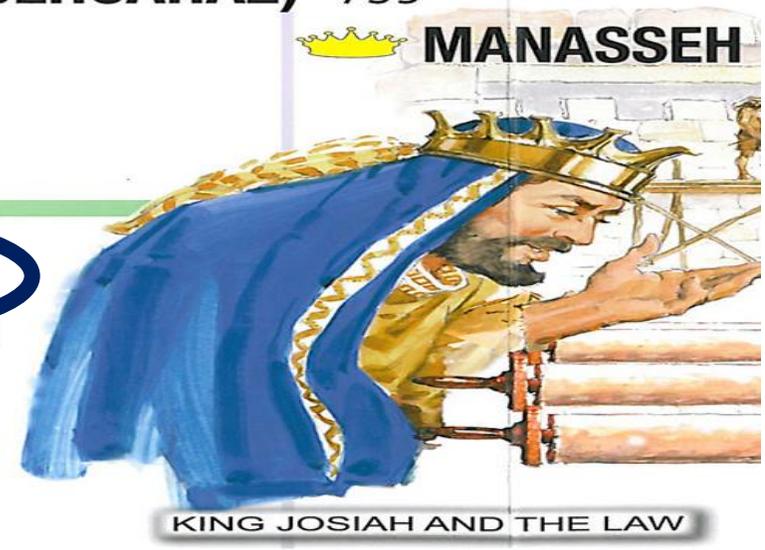
Divided Kingdom

| | | | |
|----------|--|--|--|
| RAM) 852 |  JEHOASH 798 |  ZECHARIAH 753 |  <p>Samaritans</p> |
| 41 |  JEROBOAM II 793 |  SHALLUM 752 | |
| |  JEHOAHAZ 814 |  PEKAHIAH 742 | |
| | |  HOSHEA 732 | |
| | |  MENAHEM 752 | |
| | |  PEKAH 752 |  <p>ISRAEL FALLS</p> |

| | | | |
|---------|--|--|---|
| AM) 853 |  AMAZIAH 796 |  AHAZ (JEHOAHAZ) 735 |  HEZEKIAH 716 |
| H 841 | UZZIAH (AZARIAH) 792 |  JOTHAM 750 |  MANASSEH |



-  **ISAIAH** c. 760-670
-  **MICAH** c. 730-698
-  **AMOS** c. 765-754
-  **HOSEA** c. 758-725

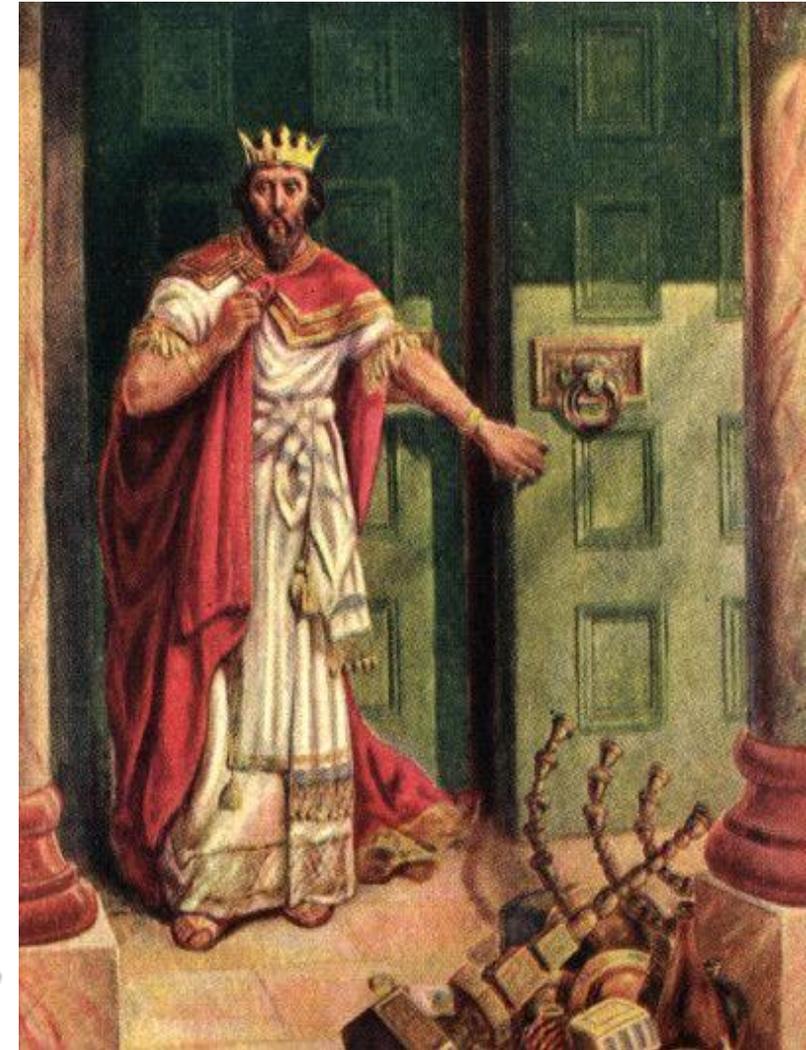


King Ahaz ... 20yrs became king, reigned 16yrs

2 Kings 16:2-4 he did not do what was right in the eyes of the Lord his God. He walked in the ways of the kings of Israel and even sacrificed his son in the fire, ...He offered sacrifices and burned incense at the high places, on the hilltops and under every spreading tree.

2 Chron 28:19,24-25 he promoted wickedness in Judah and had been most unfaithful to the Lord... He shut the doors of the Lord's temple and set up altars at every street corner in Jerusalem. In every town in Judah he built high places to burn sacrifices to other gods and provoked the Lord , the God of his fathers, to anger.

2 Kings 18:1-2



2 Kings 18:1-2

2 Chron 28:27



- *Ahaz rested with his fathers and was buried in the city of Jerusalem, but he was not placed in the tombs of the kings of Israel. And Hezekiah his son succeeded him as king.*

Hezekiah came from that background....

- ↪ **Co-reigned with Ahaz : 14yrs (729-715 BC)**
- ↪ **Reigned alone : 18yrs (715-697 BC)**
- ↪ **Co-reigned with Manasseh : 11yrs (697-686 BC)**

Q: How will Hezekiah turn out ?



1. Bad to Good

King Hezekiah is a clear example that

- **In the worse of circumstances**
- **When everything is against you ...**
- **When there is darkness all around you ...**

You Can Still

- ↳ **Make A Difference...**
 - ↳ **Shine as God's Light...**
 - ↳ **TURN OUT GOOD**
 - ↳ **Not Only Good BUT BETTER THAN GOOD...**



King Hezekiah was ...

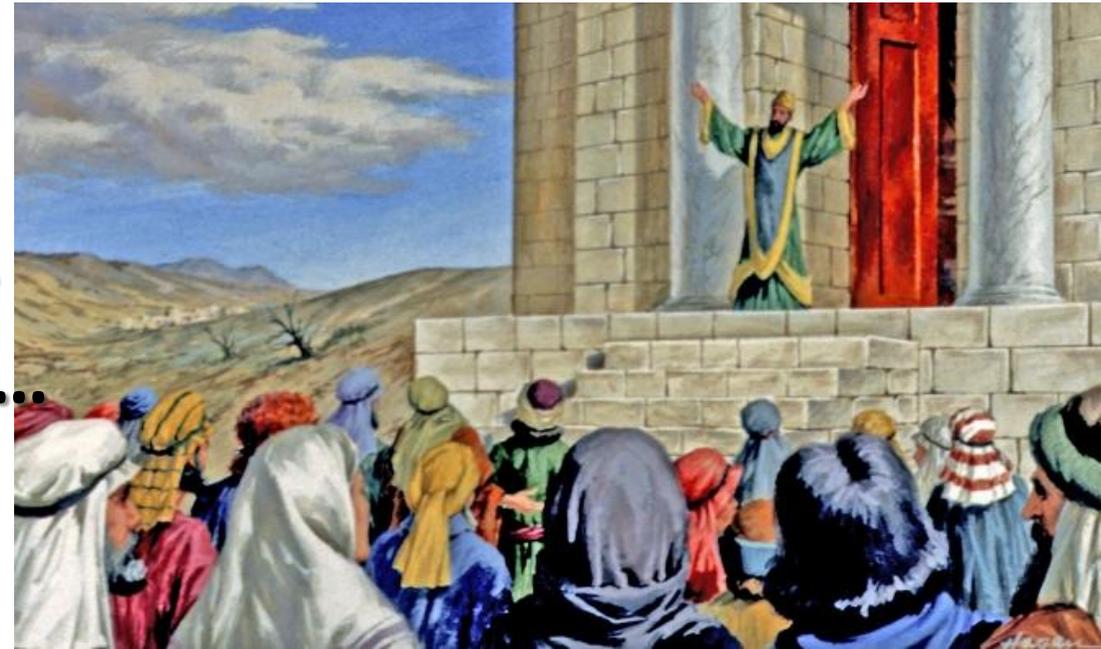
- a “man in a hurry” ...
- very clear what he wanted to do ...

2 Chron 29:3

In the first month of the first year of his reign, he opened the doors of the temple of the Lord and repaired them...

- **Cajoled the Priests & Levites ...**
- **Cleanse the temple**
- **Restarted Temple Worship & Sacrifice...**
- **Celebrated Passover ‘like never before’...**

1. Bad to Good



King Hezekiah did something that no other King had done before him ...

2 Kings 18:3-4

- *He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord , just as his father David had done...*
- **HE REMOVED THE HIGH PLACES, smashed the sacred stones and cut down the Asherah poles...**

... did what was right in the eyes of the Lord BUT The high places, however, were not removed..."

- ↪ Solomon 1 Kings 3:2
- ↪ Asa 1 Kings 15:14
- ↪ Jehoshaphat 1 Kings 22:43
- ↪ Joash 2 Kings 12:3
- ↪ Amaziah 2 Kings 14:4
- ↪ Azariah / Uzziah 2 Kings 15:4
- ↪ Jotham 2 Kings 15:35



1. Bad to Good

1. Bad to Good

Q: What was Hezekiah's secret ?

Q: How was he able to rise above his circumstances ?

The Bible gives us clues

2 Kings 18:5-6

↳ Hezekiah trusted in the Lord , the God of Israel.

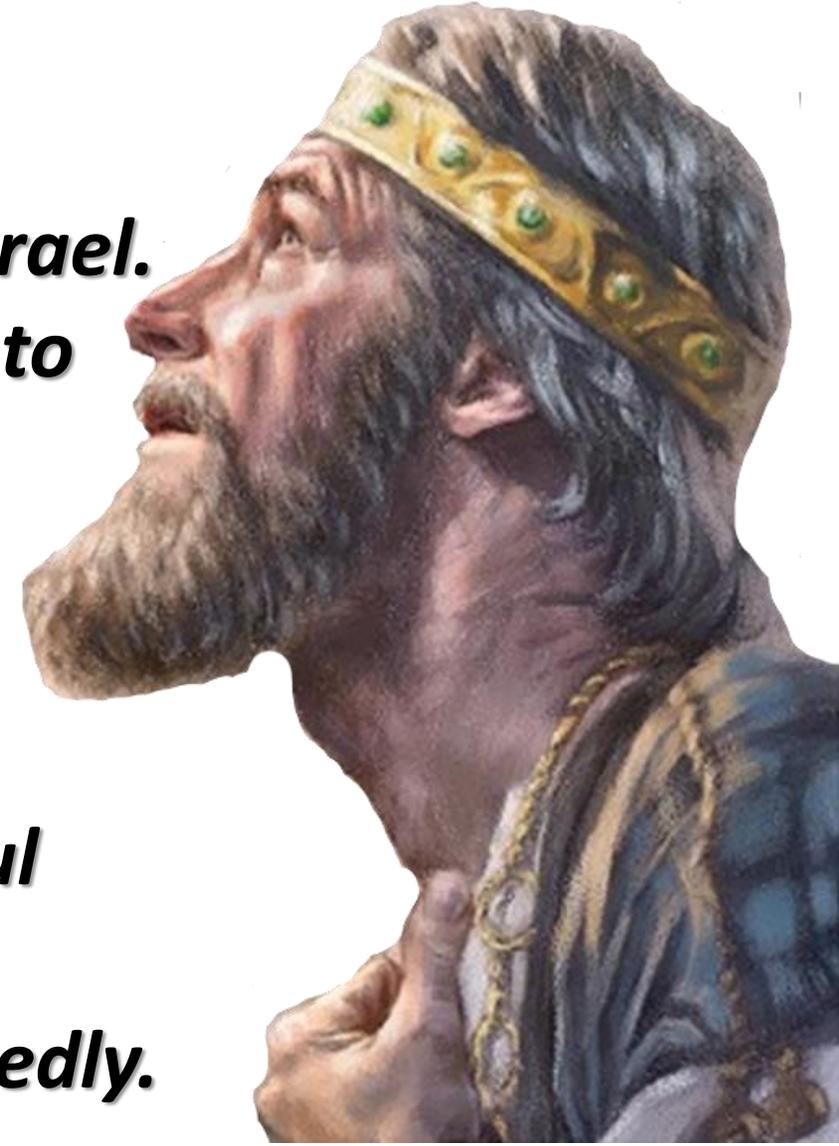
↳ He held fast to the Lord and did not cease to follow him;

↳ he kept the commands the Lord had given Moses.

2 Chron 31:20-21

↳ doing what was good and right and faithful before the Lord his God.

↳ he sought his God and worked wholeheartedly.



1. Bad to Good

King Ahaz his father was so evil

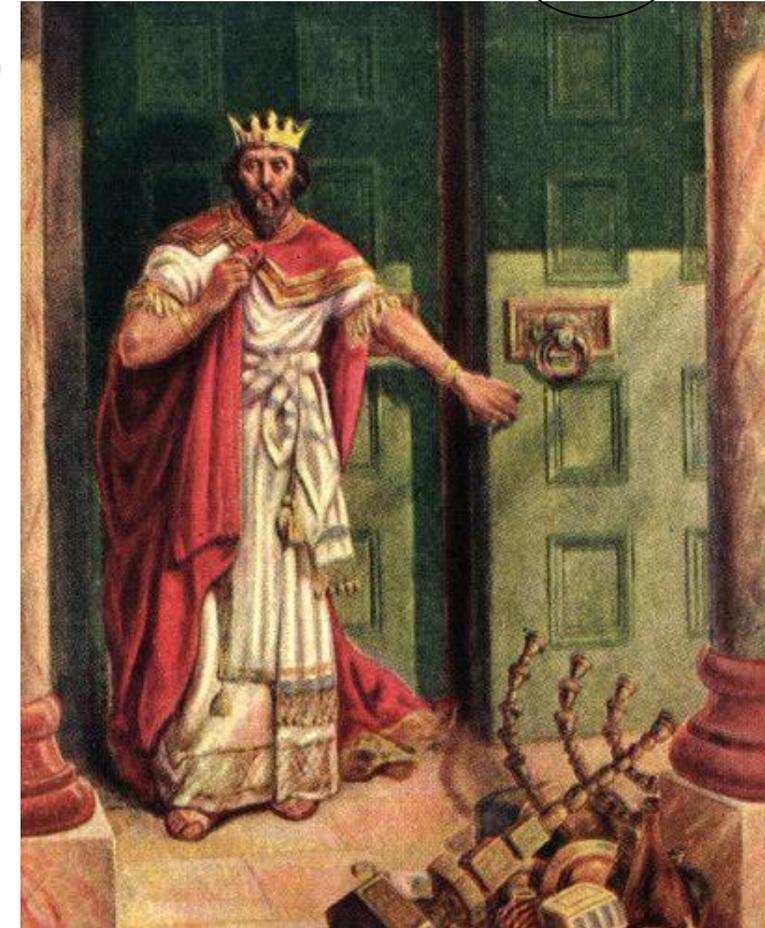
The Temple was literally 'SHUT'....

Q: Where then did Hezekiah get that ...

- **"Godly" upbringing**
- **Desire & Passion to 'honour God'**

I think the answer is in a person called 'ABI'.

Q: Who is 'Abi' ?



Q: Who is 'Abi' ?

2 Kings 18:2 "His mother's name was Abi the daughter of Zechariah." (NKJV / ESV / NASB / HCSB)

Or ABIJAH

- **Meaning : 'Yah is my father'**
- **8 persons in the OT 6 men & 2 ladies...**
- **Father : Zechariah ? a 'Levite' or 'priest'...**

Answer : Mother's Influence & Upbringing

+ Possibly others in the family of faith ...

↳ **Prophet Isaiah...**

↳ **Prophet Micah ...**

1. Bad to Good



1. Bad to Good : APPLICATION

Even in the darkest of circumstances ...

- There is still HOPE
- There is a LIGHT
- There can be CHANGE for the better...

We Need To Learn From Hezekiah...

- ↪ To TRUST God...
 - ↪ To CLEAVE to God (Same Word as in Gen 2:24)
 - ↪ To KEEP God's Commands ...
 - ↪ To SEEK God
- AND To WORK WHOLEHEARTEDLY ...**



1. Bad to Good : APPLICATION

We Need Not Be A Victim Of Our Circumstances ...

We Can & Must RISE ABOVE Our Circumstances

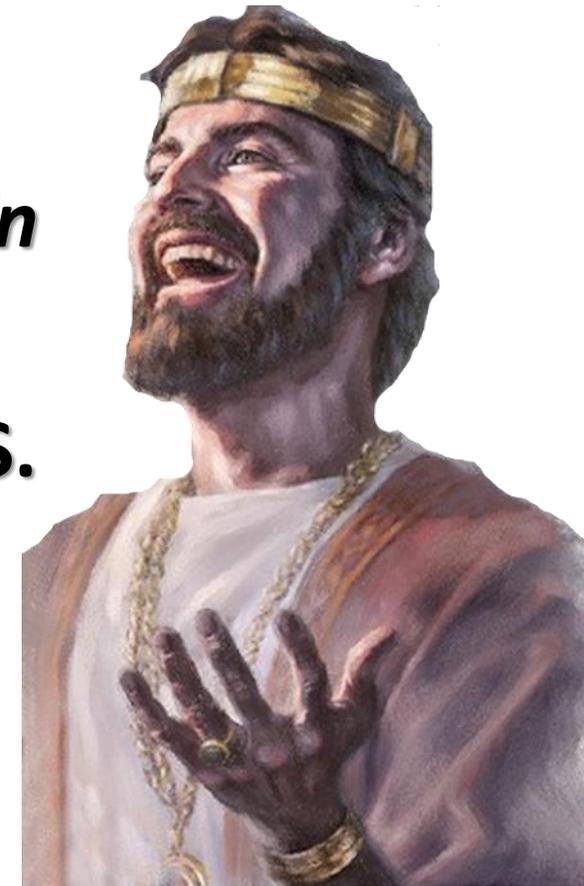
As Children of Almighty God...

➤ **We Are OVERCOMERS in CHRIST JESUS.**

✦ *1 John 4:4 You, dear children, are from God and have OVERCOME them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.*

➤ **We Are MORE THAN CONQUERORS in CHRIST JESUS.**

✦ *Rom 8:37 No, in all these things we are MORE THAN CONQUERORS through him who loved us.*



1. Bad to Good : APPLICATION

AND The BEAUTY ...

The STRENGTH ...

The ADVANTAGE

Of the Christian Faith ...

Is The BODY of CHRIST, the CHURCH....

We are Not Meant to be Overcomers / Conquerors all alone ...

As Hezekiah had Abi, Isaiah, Micah....

You also need others in God's Family

To Help You To Stand Firm & Strong

That's Why being part of a DISCIPLESHIP GROUP is KEY...

a GIFT GROUP is VITAL ...



1. Bad to Good

As what is BAD can turn around to be GOOD

Similarly what is GOOD

Can with time turn out to be

BAD



2. GOOD to BAD

2 Kings 18:4 (NIV)

- *He removed the high places, smashed the sacred stones and cut down the Asherah poles. He broke into pieces the bronze snake Moses had made, for up to that time the Israelites had been burning incense to it. (It was called Nehushtan.)*

HCSB

- *He removed the high places and shattered the sacred pillars and cut down the Asherah poles. He broke into pieces the bronze snake that Moses made, for the Israelites burned incense to it up to that time. He called it Nehushtan.*

WHO or WHAT is NEHUSHTAN ?



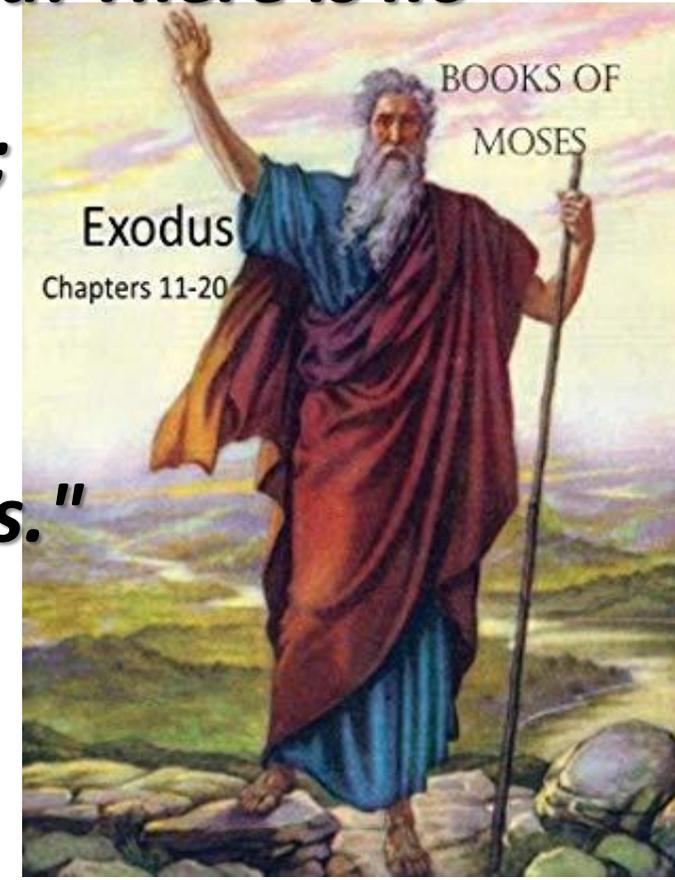
WHO or WHAT is NEHUSHTAN ?

Number 21:4-7

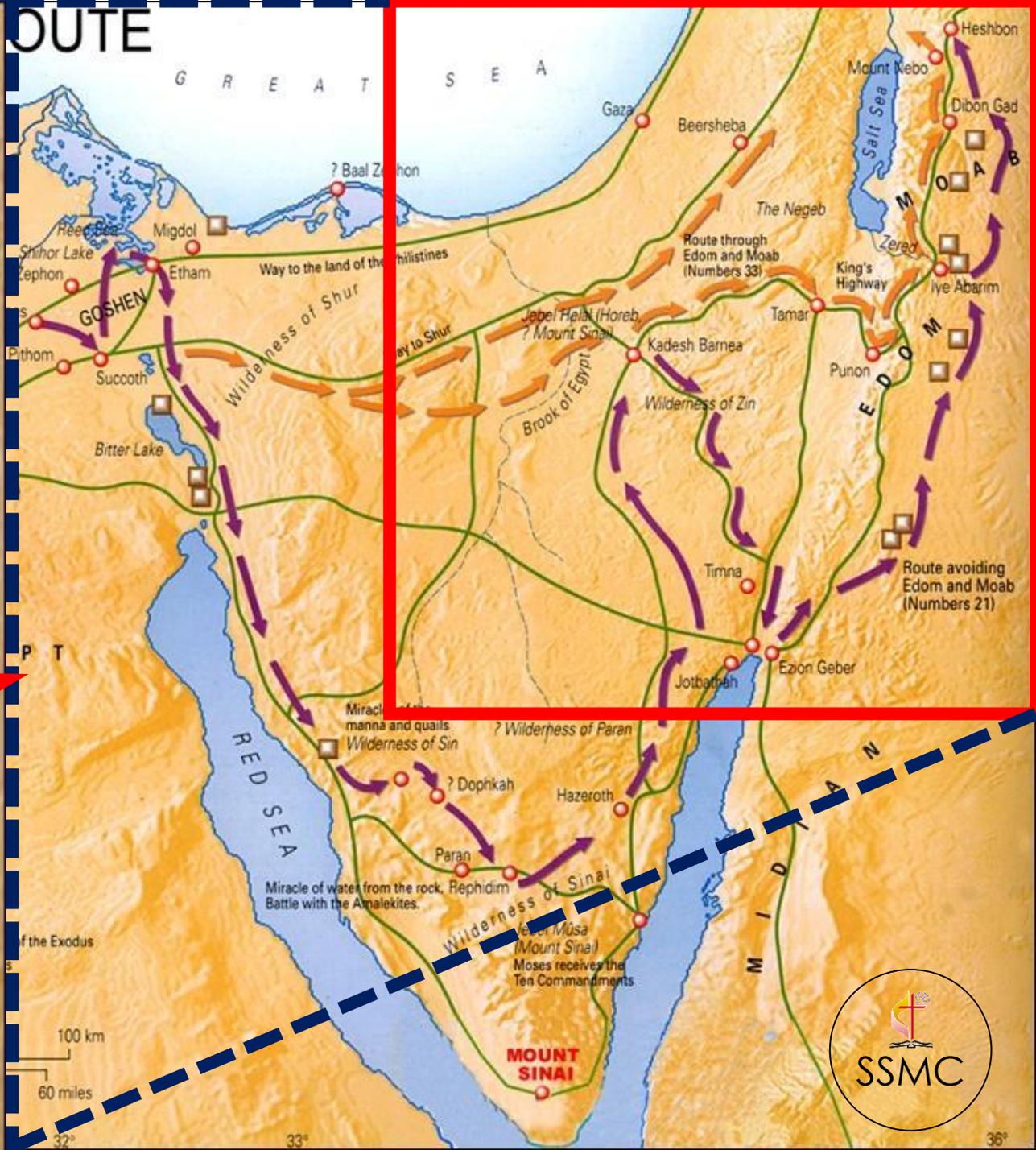
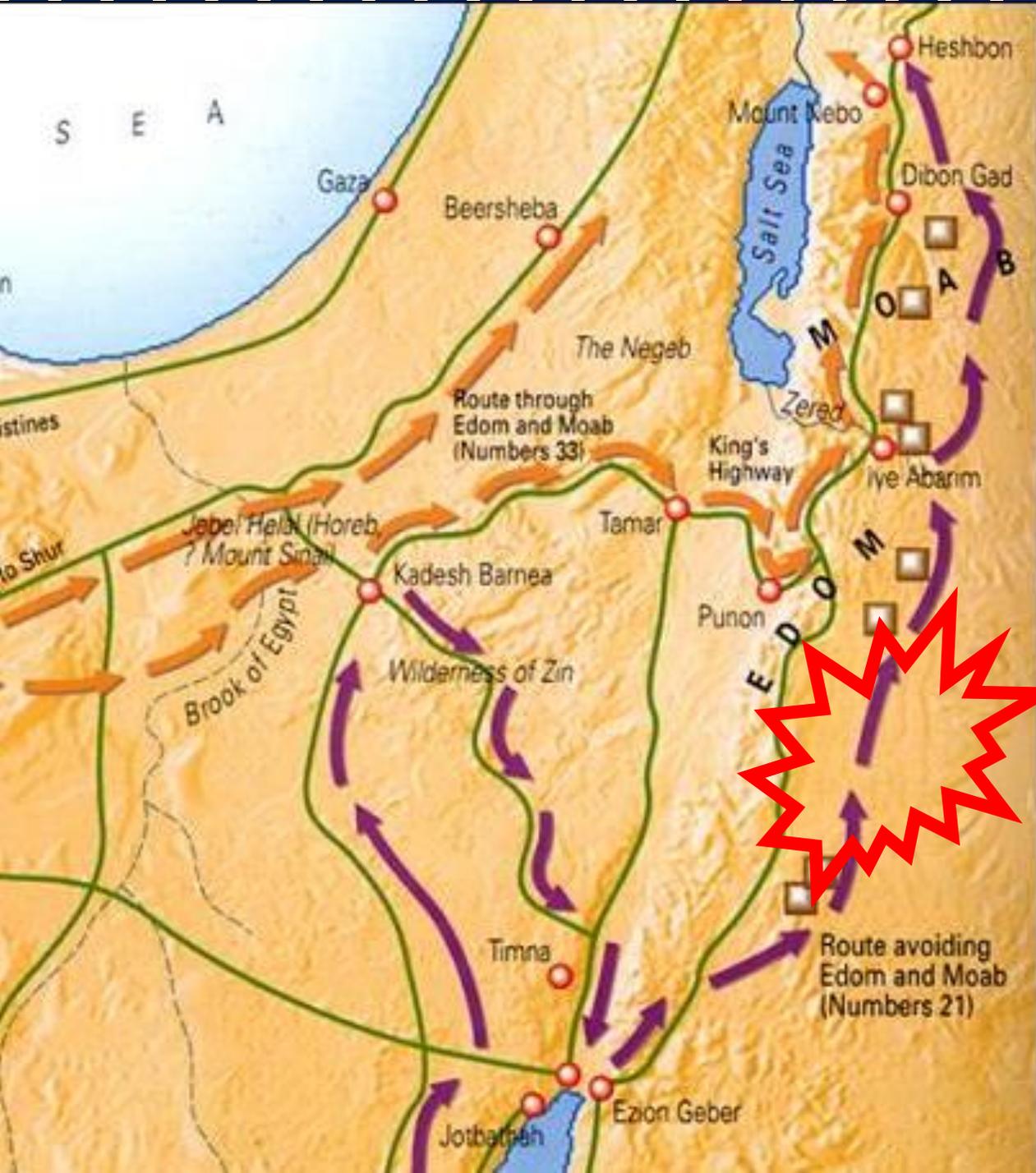
4 They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; 5 they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the desert? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!"

6 Then the Lord sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died.

7 The people came to Moses and said, "We sinned when we spoke against the Lord and against you. Pray that the Lord will take the snakes away from us." So Moses prayed for the people.



2. GOOD to BAD



2. GOOD to BAD

WHO or WHAT is NEHUSHTAN ?

Num 21:8-9

8 The Lord said to Moses, "Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live."

9 So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, he lived.



2. GOOD to BAD

The people murmured & complained

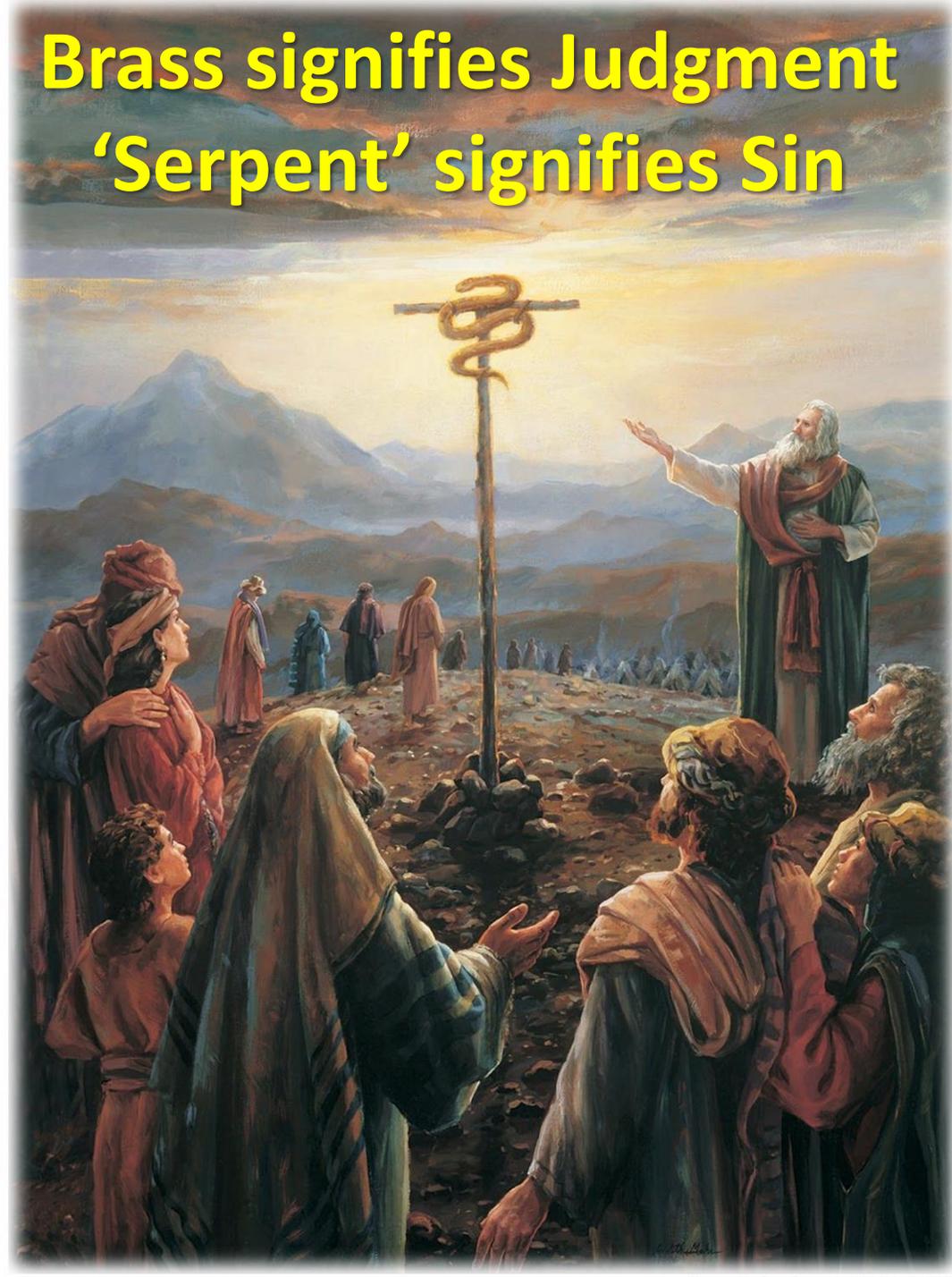
- directly against Moses...
- indirectly against God

God sent JUDGMENT

- 'fiery' serpents
- Deadly bite
- People cried out to Moses ...

God in His Mercy & Grace :

- Brass serpent on a pole ...
- If bitten, must turn and look
- Sign of obedience & repentance ...



2. GOOD to BAD

From the time of ...

700+ yrs

- Moses & the Exodus...
- Conquest of Canaan...
- Period of the Judges...
- United Kingdom – Saul, David, Solomon...
- Divided Kingdom – Israel & Judah...
- King Hezekiah...

➤ People were 'burning incense' to it...
worshipping the 'brazen snake'

What was GOOD over time - BAD



2 Kings 18:4 (HCSB)

He removed the high places and shattered the sacred pillars and cut down the Asherah poles. He broke into pieces the bronze snake that Moses made, for the Israelites burned incense to it up to that time. He called it Nehushtan.

King Hezekiah called it Nehushtan –
'a piece of brass' ...

As the people were worshipping it

It was right to destroy it

No more idol worship....



2. GOOD to BAD

2. GOOD to BAD

Num 21:8-9 The Lord said to Moses, "Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live." So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, he lived.

Ex 20:4-5 "You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them;....



John 3:14-15

*14 Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert,
so the Son of Man must be lifted up,
15 that everyone who believes in Him may have
eternal life.*

The SYMBOL of PUNISHMENT

became

God's INSTRUMENT of SALVATION

**Q: Why did God ask Moses
to make the 'brazen snake' ?**

Who, What or How Am I ? Political Correctness

1. Ethically disorientated ➤ *Dishonest*
2. Economically marginalized ➤ *Poor*
3. Chemically inconvenienced ➤ *Drunk*
4. Behaviorally challenged ➤ *Criminal*
5. Metabolic overachiever ➤ *Fat*
6. Domestic engineer ➤ *Housewife*
7. Wealth redistribution ➤ *Robbery*
8. Public service bonus ➤ *Bribe*
9. Motivationally deficient ➤ *Lazy*
10. Economical with the truth ? ➤ *Lying*



TODAY....
Serpentine Cross
On Mount Nebo
By Giovanni Fantoni





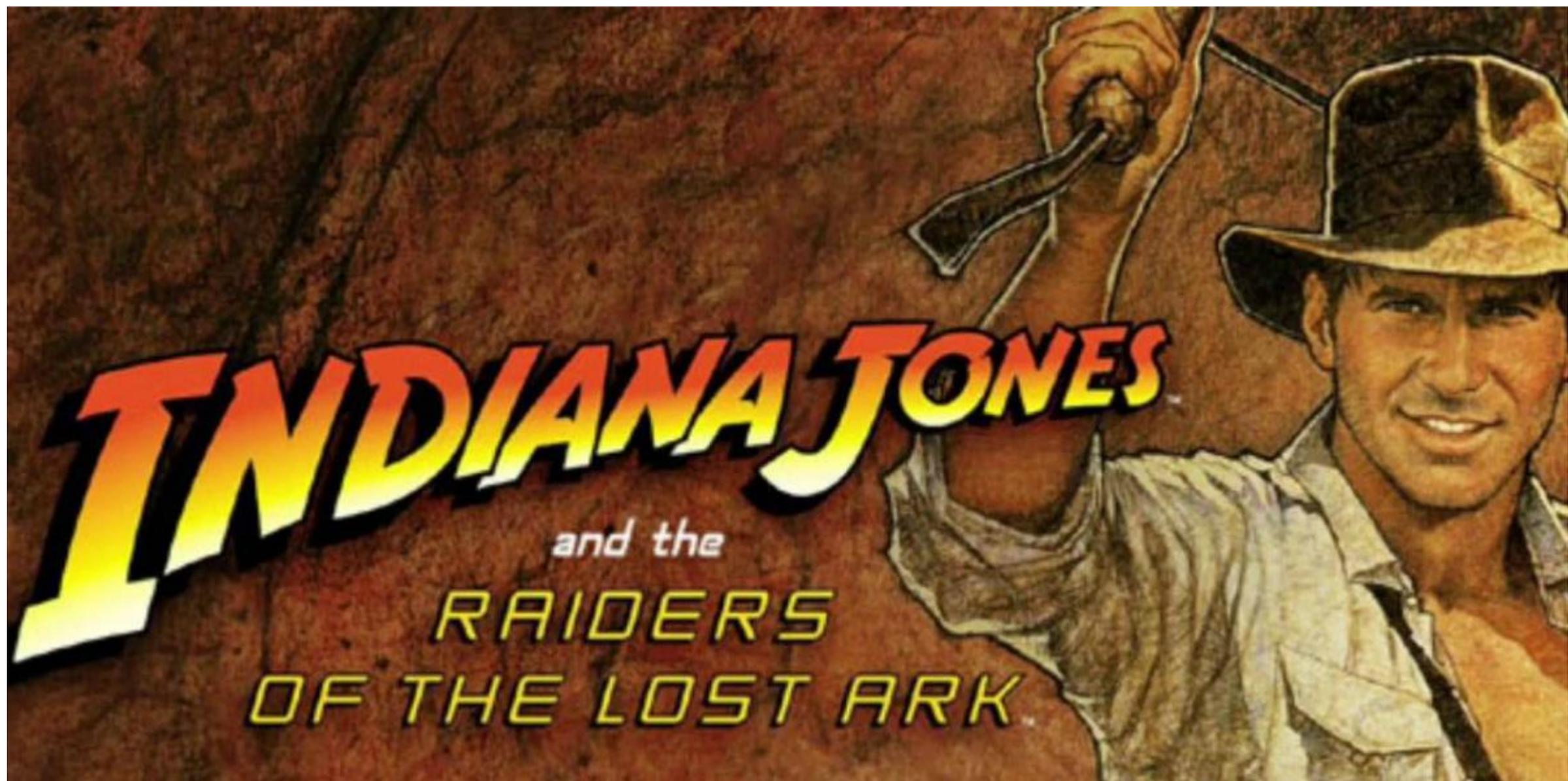
2. GOOD to BAD

What God caused for GOOD

over time man turned it into something BAD .

Other examples





INDIANA JONES

and the
RAIDERS
OF THE LOST ARK

2. GOOD to BAD

Eli & the Ark of the Covenant 1 Sam 4....

- Fighting the Philistines ...
- *1 Sam 4:3 Let us bring the ark of the Lord 's covenant from Shiloh, so that it may go with us and save us from the hand of our enemies."*
- Still defeated, Ark captured...

Gideon Vs Midianites Judges 8...

- *Judg 8:23 "I will not rule over you, nor will my son rule over you. The Lord will rule over you."*
- But v24 *"I do have one request..."*
- Golden Ephod ...



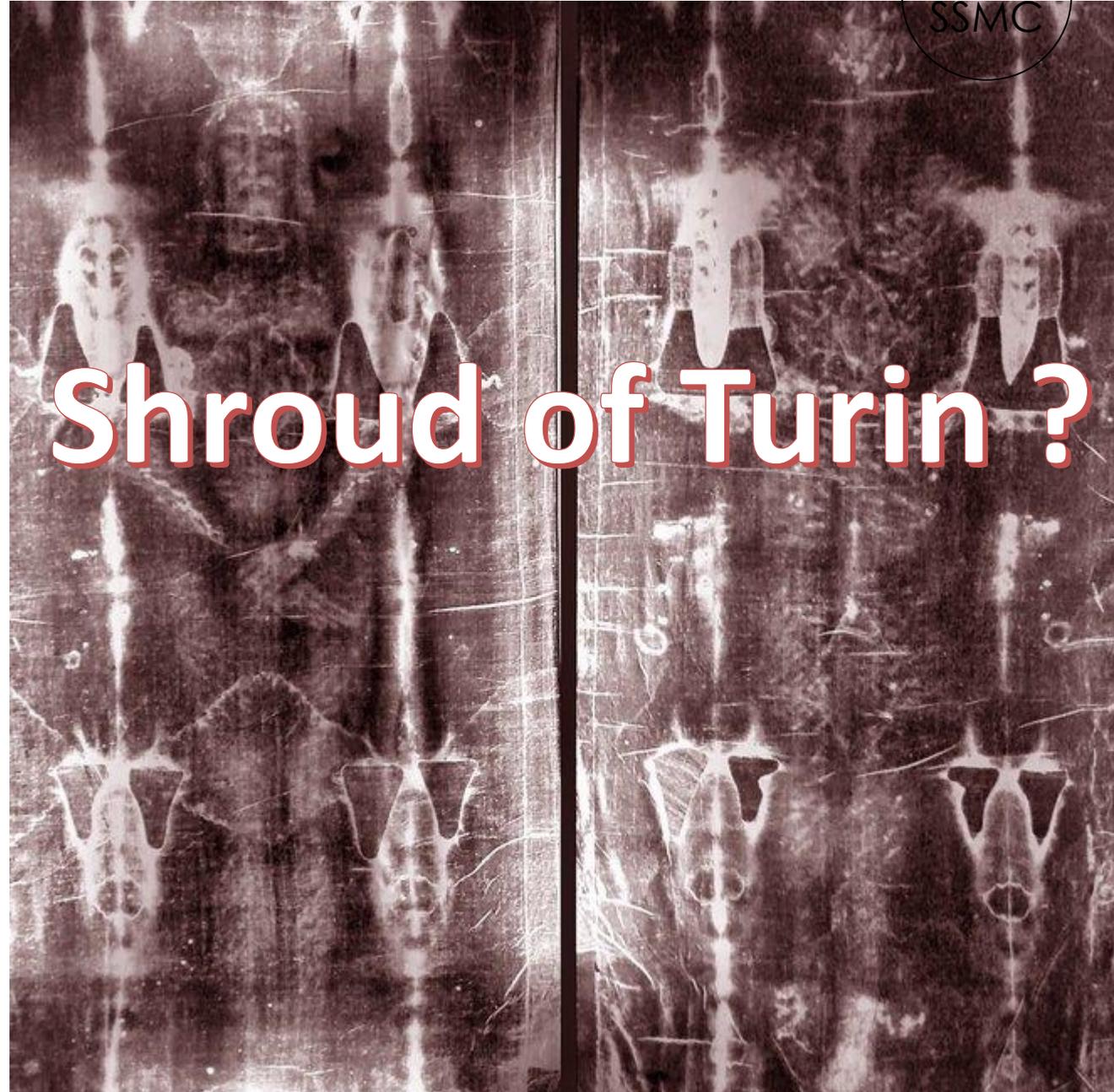
2. GOOD to BAD : APPLICATION

Q: Are we still caught up in the same way of thinking ?

Q: Are we still focusing & worshipping the “created” rather than the “CREATOR” ?



‘Holy Face Medal’



2. GOOD to BAD



NOAH's Ark

**Q:
Is this the
final resting
place of
Noah's Ark in
Turkey ?**



© Copyright - Travel-The-Bible



2. GOOD to BAD : APPLICATION



What About TODAY



2. GOOD to BAD : APPLICATION

Smartphones have replaced ...

1. Watch...
2. Stop Watch...
3. Camera...
4. Video Camera...
5. MP3 player...
6. Game Console...
7. Books...
8. Alarm...
9. Remote Controls...
10. Photo Album...
11. Diary & Calendar...
12. GPS...
13. Torchlight...
14. Notebook...
15. Letter Writing...
16. Dictionary...
17. Scanner...
18. Dictaphone...
19. Calculator...
20. Leveler...
21. Compass...
22. Sound meter...
23. Tuner...
24. Measuring tape...
25. Pedometer...

26. Pulse Oximetry...

27. Security Camera...

28. Wallets...

29. 'BABY SITTER'

30. "CONVERSATION" ...

31.????



2. GOOD to BAD : APPLICATION

Smartphones have replaced ...

1. Watch...
2. Stop Watch...
3. Camera...
4. Video Camera...
5. MP3 player...
6. Game Console...
7. Lock...
8. Alarm...
9. Remote Control...
10. Photo Album...
11. Diary & Calendar...
12. GPS...
13. Torchlight...
14. Notebook...
15. Letter Writing...
16. Dictionary...
17. Scanner...
18. Dictaphone...
19. Calculator...
20. Level...
21. Compass...
22. Sound meter...
23. Tuner...
24. Measuring tape...
25. Pedometer...

26. Pulse Oximetry...

27. Security Camera...

28. Wallets...

29. 'BABY SITTER'

30. "CONVERSATION" ...

31. ?????



**SPOUSE & FAMILY
GOD & BIBLE**



BAD 2 GOOD

GOOD 2 BAD



TODAY

let us learn

Let us remember ...

In a very **BAD & HOPELESS** situation

GOOD can come forth if we allow

God to come in

God working through His People to break in ...

But **GOOD** things / situations can just as easily turn **BAD**...

If we keep God out...

If we keep God's People out ...

Q: What is your 'Nehushtan' ?

Q: What are you doing about it ?

