



# Fall Study Discussion Guide #1

**Sermon Title:** Nehushtan

**Biblical Reference:** 2 Kings 18:1- 8

**Date Preached:** Sunday, October 23rd, 2022, @ 11am

**Fall Study Date:** Wednesday, October 26th, 2022

## Sermon Summary

(To learn more about Hezekiah read 2 Chronicles 29-32.)

Hezekiah was famous and one of the best kings of Judah. At twenty-five years of age Hezekiah ascended to the throne following the death of his father Ahaz. His father was a wicked man, and the main priest that influenced his family, helped his father facilitate idolatry. Surprisingly, Hezekiah wanted to do right like his grandfather David. He had a sincere desire to please the Lord and lead the people of Judah to please the Lord. The first thing that he undertook was to destroy all the shrines and altars to the false gods. He also destroyed the statues or images of the false gods.

In the text we find that Hezekiah also destroyed the brazen serpent that Moses made in Numbers 21:4-9 and called it Nehushtan (meaning a piece of brass). This must have caused much shock and outrage as it was an important part of their history that pointed to a time were the Lord delivered them from their sin. They had taken something good and turned it into something bad by worshipping it. We can also ruin good things in our lives causing God to destroy them if we put those things up as idols in our hearts.

## Quick Review

Reviewing the text from this week's sermon, was there any new truth the Lord revealed to you or anything that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

Were you able to apply any of the principles you learned from our study of the text this week?

## My Testimony

The first thing we find in the text is that the Lord led Hezekiah to do was to destroy the idols their culture was worshipping (the things they were looking to for help and comfort). In the absence of those idols, the Israelites could look to the Lord as the Fulfiller of their needs and the Source comfort. They could now worship Him.

When you first got saved, or began to seriously serve the Lord, what were some of the idols the Lord had you destroy? What fears had to be overcome to destroy them? How did the Lord give you the faith to destroy them?

## Digging Deeper

### **1. Nehushtan: Substituting Good for God**

*Ask a volunteer to read:*

*2 Kings 18:4 He removed the high places, and brake the images, and cut down the groves, and brake in pieces the brasen serpent that Moses had made: for unto those days the children of Israel did burn incense to it: and he called it Nehushtan.*

In this passage we find that God also had Hezekiah destroy the brazen serpent Moses made seven hundred and thirty years before. He called it Nehushtan meaning a piece of brass. If this item were still in existence today it would be *priceless* and it would be a valuable testimony to the truth of the Bible. This was undoubtedly a good thing that the Lord had no problem destroying when people elevated it to a place of worship and adoration.

#### **Discussion Questions:**

- What good things in your life have you had to keep from becoming idols?
- Why do you, or we as Christians, have a difficult time to keep things in their proper place?
- What emotions come to the surface when your idols are pointed out?
- What advice or encouragement would you give someone who is struggling with keeping things in their proper place?
- Hezekiah, because he was the king, was the only one that had the authority to destroy this idol. Why is it difficult for us to focus on our personal idols?

### **2. Examples Discussed**

As previously stated, there was nothing wrong with the brazen serpent. It was a good thing that was corrupted and thus had to be destroyed to make room for God. On Sunday, we discussed specific examples that our church culture struggles with today. We have heard testimonies of people who had good things taken out of their life for a time to make room for God. Many times, those things were then restored and were now a help as they were in their proper place. The Lord

later redeemed the story of the brazen serpent to its greatest significance as a picture of Jesus himself.

Below are the examples that were given.

*The Church*

*The Bible*

*The hymnal*

*The Pastor*

*The Tithe*

*Friends and Family*

**Discussion Questions:**

- In what way has your life been hindered when these things were in their improper place?
- How have you observed the church to be hindered by having these things in their improper place? (Please proceed with compassion and refrain from gossip)
- Can you give us an example of how a person or church was helped when these things were put in their proper place?

***Ask a volunteer to read:***

*2 Kings 18:5 He trusted in the LORD God of Israel; so that after him was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor any that were before him.*

*18:6 For he clave to the LORD, and departed not from following him, but kept his commandments, which the LORD commanded Moses.*

*18:7 And the LORD was with him; and he prospered whithersoever he went forth: and he rebelled against the king of Assyria, and served him not.*

*18:8 He smote the Philistines, even unto Gaza, and the borders thereof, from the tower of the watchmen to the fenced city.*

**Discussion Questions:**

The above part of our text tells what happened in Hezekiah's life because he destroyed these idols.

- In the above verses what good thing that happened in Hezekiah's life blesses you the most?
- Many times, when the Lord deals with us about removing an idol in our hearts we focus on what we would lose even though our gains far outpays our losses. Can you tell us how the Lord has helped you to experience some of the things Hezekiah experienced because of tearing down idols in your life?

# Taking It Home

The following questions are intended to be open-ended and encourage members to consider what they think and what they can do as a result of discovering the truths and principles in the text:

1. What truth or principle in this text was most impactful for you?
2. How did this truth or principal challenge, change, or affirm your thinking?
3. How will you put into practice what you have learned today?