

li Kings 18:1

by Chuck Smith

The sermon highlights the dangers of idolizing things and people, and the importance of keeping our focus on God's presence.

Scripture: Numbers 21:6

Topics: "Idolatry", "Awareness of God's Presence"

Description

Chuck Smith discusses the significance of the brass serpent from Numbers 21, emphasizing how it symbolizes both sin and God's judgment. He explains that while the brass serpent was a means of salvation for the Israelites, it later became an object of worship, leading to a loss of awareness of God's presence. Smith warns against the tendency to idolize relics or past experiences, urging believers to recognize that true worship belongs to God alone. Hezekiah's destruction of the brass serpent serves as a reminder to call things by their true nature and to focus on the present relationship with God rather than past memories. Ultimately, Smith encourages the congregation to move forward in faith, pressing toward the high calling in Christ.

Transcript

A THING OF BRASS

I. THE HISTORY OF THE BRASS (Num.21..

A. The people were murmuring against God and rebelling against His authority.

1. The Lord sent serpents of fire into the camp and many were dying from their bites.

2. The Lord commanded Moses to make a serpent of brass and set it on a pole.

a. The people were commanded to look at the brass serpent if bitten.

- b. There was nothing sacred about the brass.
- c. by looking they were obeying God thus coming under His authority.

B. Jesus said: "and as Moses lifted up the serpent In the wilderness...."

1. The serpent was a type for sin.
 - a. Their sin of rebellion to God's authority.
 - 2. Brass a symbol of judgment.
 - 3. Jesus on the Cross took the guilt of our sin and received God's judgment against sin.
 - a. If we will just look to Jesus, we shall live.
 - b. They may not have understood how just by looking at the brass serpent could help.

Lie there dying and refuse to look.

C. Somehow this brass relic was preserved 700 yr.

1. But the people were now worshipping it
2. They were burning Incense to it as though it were God.
3. Hezekiah when he came to- the throne broke it in pieces and said "Nehushten."

II. "WHAT DOES IT MEAN WHEN PEOPLE START WORSHIPPING RELICS OR IDOLS?"

A. They have lost their consciousness of God's presence.

1. In reality He is always there, "for in Him we live."

"Where can I flee from thy presence?"

- a. We are not always aware of Him.

B. Somehow within we are trying to recapture that which was lost.

1. The day we felt God's presence and power.
2. That time when God's joy filled our lives.

3. How did we ever lose it?

a. The cares of this life; the deceitfulness of riches, the lust for other things.

III. PEOPLE TODAY IN THEIR MINDS BURN INCENSE TO SACRED RELICS.

A. "You don't mean you are going to take the tent down?"

B. Maybe there is a certain spot.

1. While standing near this tall pine tree God spoke to you. You can remember now the joy.

2. They need to remove that tree now to build larger facilities.

3. The church's progress often stopped by foolish clauses.

C. Nehushtan, call it what it is, a thing of brass.

1. It's not a god.

2. It's not sacred or holy.

a. This tent is not a church.

b. Neither is the old chapel or the new sanctuary.

c. This tent is just canvas stretched over rope.

1. The church meets here.

2. When you're not here It's just an ugly old tent.

3. The experiences of the past are history and have no true value unless they have been transmitted into present realities.

a. "I wish we could stay in the tent". Nehushtan.

b. "Aren't you going to miss the tent?" Nehushtan.

"Forgetting those things which are behind and reaching for those things which are before I press for the prize of the high calling of God in Jesus Christ."

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/chuck-smith/ii-kings-181/>

Grow in Your Walk with Christ

Listen and read messages that will stir your heart for Christ and point you to deeper repentance and devotion.

- 50,000+ Sermons from speakers past and present
- 3,900+ Classic Christian Books freely readable online
- 1,200+ Bible Translations and Commentaries
- Over 450k forum posts — Join our vibrant online Christian forum

www.sermonindex.net