

## THE GOLD OR THE BRASS THE LOOK-A-LIKE OR THE REAL THING

### MY TEXT.

*1 Kings 14:24-31*

*24 There were even male shrine prostitutes in the land; the people engaged in all the detestable practices of the nations the Lord had driven out before the Israelites.*

*25 In the fifth year of King Rehoboam, Shishak king of Egypt attacked Jerusalem.*

*26 He carried off the treasures of the temple of the Lord and the treasures of the royal palace.*

- **He took everything, including all the gold shields Solomon had made.**

*27 So King Rehoboam made bronze / brass shields to replace them and assigned these to the commanders of the guard on duty at the entrance to the royal palace.*

- **So, King Rehoboam made bronze / brass shields to replace them.**

*28 Whenever the king went to the Lord's temple, the guards bore the shields, and afterward they returned them to the guardroom.*

*29 As for the other events of Rehoboam's reign, and all he did, are they not written in the book of the annals of the kings of Judah?*

*30 There was continual warfare between Rehoboam and Jeroboam. NIV*

- **Here we see that the King was content with a substitute. Something that **looked like the real thing - but it wasn't.****

- And so, he continued with the tradition that his father King Solomon had set up where he would call out the Palace guard and bring out the Golden ceremonial shields as they escorted the king from the Palace to the House of God - Temple
- PRETENDING that it to be the same. **BUT IT WASN'T.**
- He was acting out **a charade** – because it was NOT **THE REAL THING** – **it was just a look-a-like.**
- His act was only an ILLUSION.
  - ◆ Those brass shields when highly polished would shine and glisten in the sun and give the impression that they **looked like the real thing - gold** - **but they were really brass.**
- Rehoboam was prepared to continue with something **that gave a false impression** to those observing his actions.
  - ◆ **He was living a lie** and seemed to be content to do so.
  - ◆ **HE WAS PRESENTING SOMETHING THAT WAS A LOOK- A - LIKE BUT IT WAS NOT TRUE – IT WAS FALSE.**
  - ◆ **HE WAS ACTING OUT A ROLE THAT WAS NOT COMPLETELY TRUE**
  - ◆ He tried to act out the ceremonial tradition previously set by his father, but it was only **the outward form**, and it was NOT **THE REAL THING!**
  - ◆ **It was a SUBSTITUTE.**  
Rehoboam brass shields **revealed none of his father's former GLORY or WEALTH.**

- ◆ He was content to continue with a **SUBSTITUTE**, with a **look a like act** - with **BRASS** instead of **GOLD**.
- **SADLY, THERE ARE TOO MANY PEOPLE WHO ARE CONTENT TO GO ALONG WITH LESS THAN THE REAL THING!**
- **Something that is often inferior or of lessor value, - THAN THE REAL THING**
- **THIS IS ALSO TRUE OF MANY CHRISTIANS**
  - ◆ **CHRISTIANS LIVING "BELOW" THEIR STATUS AS GOD'S BLOOD-BOUGHT AND REDEEMED PEOPLE**
  - ◆ **WHO ARE LIVING BELOW THEIR STANDING AS CHILDREN OF THEIR HEAVENLY FATHER.**
  - ◆ **BELIEVERS WHO HAVE FAILED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE AND ENJOY THE FULLNESS OF THEIR INHERITANCE THAT CHRIST HAS PURCHASED FOR EVERY BELIEVER.**
- **AS CHRISTIANS WE SHOULD BE A PEOPLE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF EVERY PROMISE AND BLESSING THAT IS CONTAINED IN THAT INHERITANCE**  
**Example:** redeemed, reconciled, justified, forgiven, blessed with heavenly blessings, no more strangers, or enemies of God, part of his family with free access into his presence etc.
- **LIVING WITH ANYTHING LESS IS LIKE THE BRASS – AND NOT GOLD.**
- **BROTHERS/SISTERS LET US ALL RISE UP AND CLAIM ALL THAT CHRIST HAS PURCHASED FOR US THROUGH HIS DEATH AND RESURRECTION.**

- **HOWEVER**, THERE IS ALSO A NEED FOR US TO UNDERSTAND THAT **THERE ARE OTHERS WHO ARE LIVING BELOW THEIR ENTITLED BENEFITS** FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS AND THEY ALSO NEED TO BE HELPED
1. THOSE BELIEVERS WHO ARE LIVING WITH LESS THAN WHAT THEY ARE ENTITLED TO **BECAUSE THEY ARE UNAWARE OF THEIR INHERITANCE AND WHAT IT CONTAINS.**
    - ◆ MAYBE THEY HAVE NOT BEEN TOLD OR EXPLAINED TO THEM OF THE WONDERFUL AND EXCITING **CONTENTS** OF THAT INHERITANCE THAT WAS PURCHASED AND PROVIDED FOR THEM.
    - ◆ AND THAT'S THE REASON WHY THEY **ARE UNABLE TO ENJOY THE FULNESS OF ALL THAT CHRIST HAS LEFT THEM IN HIS WILL.**
    - ◆ SO LET US **DEVOTE** AND **DIRECT** OUR ENERGIES TOWARD HELPING THEM **TO BECOME FULLY AWARE OF ALL THAT IS RIGHTFULLY THEIRS IN CHRIST.**
  2. THEN THERE ARE THOSE BELIEVERS WHO ARE **AFRAID OF THE UNKNOWN, OR OF FAILURE OR BECAUSE OF PAST HURTS**, AND IT IS DIFFICULT FOR THEM **TO BELIEVE THAT SUCH AN INHERITANCE REALLY BELONGS TO THEM;** AND THAT THEY COULD BE LIVING IN A GREATER EXPERIENCE IN CHRIST THAN THEY ARE PRESENTLY HAVING.

- **TODAY, AT THIS MOMENT** LET US ALL MAKE UP OUR MINDS TO REFUSE TO LIVE WITH LESS THAN THE REAL THING.
- ◆ THAT WE WILL NO LONGER BE CONTENT WITH THE BRASS – BUT DEMANDING THE GOLD.
- ◆ DEMANDING THE REAL THING AND NOT A SUBSTITUTE - A LOOK-A-LIKE
- LET'S ALSO HELP ALL THOSE WHO ARE CONTENT TO LIVE WITH LESS THAN IS RIGHFULLY THEIRS BECAUSE THEY MIGHT BE RELUCTANT TO MAKE THE COMMITMENT AND THE COST THAT IS REQUIRED TO HAVE THE REAL THNG INSTEAD OF THE ILLUSION.
- WHAT A WONDERFUL JOY AND LIBERTY IT IS TO LIVE IN THE WEALTH AND PROSPERITY OF ALL THAT CHRIST HAS PROVIDED FOR US IN HIS LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT
- AMEN