



# *Before the THRONE* *The Devotional*

Volume 1

Books of the Law & History

2 Kings 18:4

“He (Hezekiah) removed the high places, and broke the images, and cast down the idols, and broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made; for in those days the children of Israel burnt incense to it, and he called it Nehushtan.” 2 Kings 18:4

Do you really believe that the Lord Jesus is more concerned with religious icons and artifacts than He is with the hearts and character of His people? “... I say to you, not one stone (of the Temple) shall be left here upon another, but they shall all be thrown down.” (Matthew 24:2) Temples, buildings, programs, and artifacts, may be useful tools, but the Lord’s intent is always to fashion us, or rather, conform us to the image of His Son – Jesus Christ. “For whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.” (Romans 8:29).

When these religious tools become a hindrance, rather than a blessing to His people, the LORD will act to remove those things that are causing us to stumble. Hezekiah, understood that the Brazen Serpent (a type or picture of Christ upon the cross of Calvary (see 2 Corinthians 5:21), had lost its original intent and purpose. Now that the people had begun to worship it as a god, this righteous king understood that he must act to remove this hindrance from before God’s people – no matter how sacred this religious artifact had become! You can be sure that the religious folk were angered and deeply troubled by Hezekiah’s actions!

Are there any “sacred cows” in your life? Are there any of those religious traditions or symbols that have become to mean more to you than they should? Have they, ever so subtly, come to usurp the place of Christ in your heart and home? Yes, maybe, once upon a time they were used of God to bless you, but now they have become more important than they were ever intended to be in your life and now a critical decision lays before you.

Hezekiah broke down such idols – he broke them into pieces. What will you do with such high places and idols?