

Brass Shields

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2/26/01

... just to be with Him and to know Him, and not just to know His will in pertaining to your life, but to know His heart, His ways. What is His way? To be familiar with Him. To be comfortable with Him. To be in communion with Him. To be so closed to the lord that we hear His heartbeat like John during communion laid his head upon Jesus, breast. To know His heart. And so much so that Peter had to say to John, " what is He talking about here? " Peter did not even feel close enough, but John was. To know His heart. And David in my opinion represents someone with the heart of God. He is not just a special individual, but somebody whose first concern is the Lord's concern. They're first concern. I mean their first concern only. Basically the government of their being is what is the Lord's concern.. not even what is my concern, because sometimes, many times the Lord's concern is contrary to my concern. But that does not matter because you love the Lord so much. You want His will, you want His heart, you want His way, and you cleave to love and to serve the Lord. And so, that is what I see here, in these scriptures that we read, in these men who have gathered themselves around David, and they gathered themselves around that which was precious to them and that was a heart that was after God. They gathered themselves not to Saul and to a kingdom and to mansions and thrones, do you know what I am talking about? They gathered to David because they saw in him that which was really after God. They were a bunch of outcasts and everything, but man they loved the Lord and they saw in David that He was the heart of who they were. But it was not a man, but David representing literally the heart of God, that desire after the Lord. So you see them protecting that. You see them protecting that. And you see them after years and years and years later when David finally came in, and let me say this before I say that, David was seventeen years old when He defeated the giant, and He was with Saul and with Johnathon for awhile and Saul was trying to kill him and he as in the run, and he spent years and years and years in the run and these guys came and they were protecting that heart so that it could come from the call when he was seventeen years old all the way to the throne when he became king. And all the way through the progression of the throne over Judah and Benjamin, and over the whole nation, so that his heart rules in the body of Israel. Understand? Not just over a few things, not just over Judah, not just over Benjamin, so that heart has total control over the body of Christ. Total control of me and you and the (cannot understand phrase here) also.

So these men, they have faults and everything but they are protecting the heart of God. Protecting, not letting things go off in this direction. In Christianity there is a lot of stuff going here and there and there are a lot of new fads, the next wave and everything else,

but there is one thing that stays through every wave and fad and that is Jesus Christ. And that is what our hearts should (cannot hear word), and that is fine, but things will come and go but the Lord is going to remain. When we get in heaven we are not going to be worshipping waves or anything, we are going to be worshipping the Lord. There are not going to be fads all along the wall and we are going to say, "I was with that one!" We are going to point to Him and say, I was with that one. And these men represent that heart. That shielding, that protecting, that not allowing things to drift. Not allowing other things to come in. It is like shield all around protecting and saying no; no we will not allow this! That hearts after God will remain in the center of who we are. It will remain our identity. Powerful if you really and truly think about how that was. As I said, these were not necessarily the nobles. But they were people who had a heart after God. And they wanted the Lord so deeply, and they wanted to protect that. And they watched David grow, they watched him grow from a young boy, grow up, and grow and grow and he grew within the body and He grew within them. And the stronger David got, they stronger they got. And they did not put their trust in another kingdom or a kingdom that looked like it was of God, but it was not of the heart of God. But Saul – it was Israel, God's people. But David was purely to God Himself. He had that connection with God Himself of love in a relationship that was unlike anything, unlike the priests in Israel, unlike the king in Israel, unlike all of those relationships, but a pure relationship that was simple. I believe that David's relationship was simple. He just loved God. He just had a love for God and it was overwhelming. And if you hung around David, you love God. Because why? Because he represented that heart, Amen? He was that heart after God that was in the body. So they said this will be our government. This will be our kingdom. Even in caves, even as outcasts, this will be our government.

And so, turn with me to first Kings now, chapter ten. We are going to look at verses fourteen through seventeen. This is years later. This is years later and Solomon has become King. I think even at this time that David may have already passed away. But he was not king, Solomon was king. The thing that was glorious about Solomon, Solomon did not have the heart after God that David had. He did not have that personally. But there was something that was special about Solomon, and that was that he honored what David honored what David honored. He honored in symbolism what David had in reality. And because he honored it in a true heart of honoring that, though He himself did not have that God honored Solomon. And of course the next generation after that with Rehoboam and then they did not have either. At least Solomon had a view of David and saw David doing things and he honored it in all of this beautiful glorious splendor symbolism that represented this true, pure gold heart that David had toward God, so God said that I honor you. But after that it just began to fade and fade and fade until it just got more faded.

But even here we have a picture of this splendor in verse fourteen, "Now the weight of gold that came to Solomon in one year was six hundred threescore and six talents of gold, beside that he had of the merchantmen, and of the traffic of the spice merchants, and of all the kings of Arabia, and of the governors of the country. And king Solomon made two hundred targets of beaten gold: six hundred shekels of gold went to

one target” (1 King. 10:14-16). And verse seventeen was the particular verse that I was wanting. “ And He made three hundred shields of beaten gold; three pounds of gold went to one shield: and the king put them in the house of the forest of Lebanon,” (V.17). So here there are these three hundred shields of gold, and these shield were not for war per se, the shield represented covering, they represented protection, but they were made of gold, and gold represents deity. Gold represents God. Gold is pure. And here are all of these symbols, and all of these things were symbols with reality in making them. The symbols in themselves meant nothing, but the reality that was put in making them meant something. So here we have three hundred shields, that are there for the king to protect the king, and we will read another scripture in a little bit, that when he went into the house of God they broke out those shields, and they made this way for the king to go from his house to the house of God and protected him. It was a covering. It was not just a covering from the enemy, it was a protection so that the heart if you will, the king, the heart would go to the house of God, and we would have a regular flow, we would have a clear clean flow with God. And so those shields . . . and again there is a certain degree of war in the fact that it was a covering and a protection, but the thought in the mind was not just war. A lot of Christians, all that they have in their mind is just war. This is all nothing but a war. But I am telling you that it was more than that. It is about Jesus, it is about knowing Him, it is about protecting the beauty of His heart and to grow up into Him in all things. That is what it is first and foremost about.

And so here you have these coverings, and I believe again that David represented that and then Solomon came in as a picture of that. So the splendor of these things, can you imagine? The king walking into the house of the Lord and there are all of these shield on a bright sunny day made of gold and all of the sun hitting those shields. Can you see the glorious view of that of the king coming in to the house of God and they are all “ We want our king in the house of God! We want our king spending time with God! We want our king protected so that he can do this! We want our king protected so that he can get in there and be with God, so that when he speaks, when he comes out, it is the Lord. So that we know that our king is not king! So that we have assurance that our king is not king, but God is the king. That Jesus is Lord.”

So here they all stand, holding these shields. And I saw that when the Lord showed me that picture, I saw that as these early guys that gathered to David, they were protecting David and letting him grow. Letting him grow up, letting him continue, letting that heart of God grow within the midst of them that would eventually take over the whole nation. But somehow they saw that, they saw the heart of the Lord, and they said that we want to heart of the Lord in the midst of us, and we will protect that and we will fight for it. And we saw them in the latter years when one of the sons of the giant. He had been waiting all of those years to defeat David, (cannot hear phrase here) . . . so the giant came out and said now I got you, you killed Goliath, you killed his big brother, you have done all of this and Abishai snuck in the door. So protecting that heart. Keeping the heart of God, and that is what this says, so the light of Israel may not go out so that that heart . . . because if it goes out, these guys will look at each other and say, well, let us go home. Right? That is it. What are they going to do? We let us go and protect king Saul. Do

you see what I mean? It was not about protection; it was not about war first. It was about what they were protecting. You have got to see that. Because some people, they just have a warring spirit. I just want to war! I am called to war. I am called to Jesus. To know Him and to conform to Him and to do that we are going to have to protest the way into the house of God. And we are going to have to protect the heart that keeps going after God, and we are going to have to keep the word flowing over us that says Christ in you is the hope of glory. It is not you.

Another scripture over in 1 kings fourteen, beginning with verse 21 so that you can see a change now. Solomon dies, and now Rehoboam, his son steps in, and Rehoboam is nothing like Davis and Solomon. Solomon was almost a shadow of David. Rehoboam, there is almost no resemblance at all. And so to see that we are going to read verse 21, "And Rehoboam the son of Solomon reigned in Judah. Rehoboam was forty and one years old when he began to reign, and he reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem, the city which the Lord did choose out of all the tribes of Isreal to put His name . . . " And let us go to verse 25 now, "And it came to pass in the fifth year of king Rehoboam, that Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem: and he took away the treasures of the house of the Lord, and the treasures of the king's house; he even took away all: and he took away all the shield of gold which Solomon had made," (1 King. 14: 25-26). Is not that an interesting scripture that that had that there? Is not that interesting? It said that he took away all the treasures and he took away al of this stuff, but then it says, by the way, he took away the three hundred shields of gold. And I thing that that is interesting because in David, in David you had that shielding, you had the actual thing. Gold was not gold gold; it was people that stood for God. People that represented and fought, not just against the devil, but fought to have the Lord's heart in the earth. Fought for that and gave their lives, gave their whole being to that. Gave their whole being to that. And there you see covering; there you see gold. . I mean, God looks and He goes "Gold shields! Gold shields!" And He looks at that and HE says, "That is beautiful!" And Solomon comes along and he make gold shields, and they protect the king going in and out, and Solomon knew David and knew his heart and everything that he honored it so he looks at that and goes gold shields, that is a good representation. That is good and that came from the right heart. Not as good as the actual thing, amen? But nonetheless, still built on the same principles and therefore honored of God.

Now, Rehoboam is king, he has no heart after God. He has not fought to keep to heart of God pulsating in the midst of the body of Christ. And so, he is doing what he wants to do. He is rebelling against God, he is allowing all of this stuff to go on and everything, and he is literally bringing in other thing himself. And God looks at that and says; there are no shields. Amen? Understand what I am saying? There are no shields. God did not take away something, he removed to show that there was not something already. And He looked and he said that there are no shields. And he raised up Shishak, king of Egypt to come and to take away al of their treasure. What is out treasure? We have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God and not of us. And they came in and they flew all over Jerusalem and he pulled away all of this stuff and grabbed all of the three hundred gold shields and left. What does

that mean? They are uncovered. They are uncovered. They are uncovered. And not only are they uncovered because you see, can you imagine, one rolled this way and one rolled this way, and shields out this way, and 150 out this way and 150 out that way and there was a line where the king can walk from his place in the house of God. And the shields were all up so if you were standing there all you saw were gold shields. Well, you might see something else; you might see the reflection of the sun. Reflecting the sun. But, you do not even see those guys, because they are covered. But they are not covering themselves, amen? They are covering that heart. They are protecting that heart after God that we would have a heart after God, that we would keep that I our midst. Se, you are not even seeing them, they are unseen. Because in their heart they are unseen. They were not there to be seen. They were there to protect the heart after God.

So here the king of Egypt flies in and takes them all away, and he basically just manifests what was already true. You have been uncovered, now you really are uncovered. Now let us see what happened from there. So the last part of verse 26 says that “he took away all the shields of gold which Solomon had made. And king Rehoboam made in their stead brass shields, and committed them into the hands of the chief of the guard, which kept the door of the king’s house. And it was so, when the king went into the house of the Lord, that the guard bare them, and brought them back into the guard chamber,” (1King 14:26-28). Does anybody see what happened? They are going, we do not have our covering. We do not have our shields. And they are going, this would look bad, if all the people would come out and they would see the king heading for the house of God, and he is not covered. It is going to look bad. It is going to look bad. So you know what? We need to make some, but we do not have any gold because we are poor because we have messed up and got off with God, and we do not have all of that covering that we had, and all of that blessing, so we need to get something that would look like the real. Brass when it is all polished up looks like gold. So we will make it and we will do it and maybe the people will not know that our covering is gone. And they will look and they will go everything is all right, everything is okay. Is anybody getting what we are talking about here?

So, what we do then, is just like Rehoboam. When loss comes, we get off and things start slip sliding away and the nearer your destination the more you are slip sliding away. And everything is just going and you are going why is this happening? We are out of whack with the Lord and we have been out of whack for such a long time that it is all being manifested right now, so we go man, we have got to do something. We have got loss here; I need to make things look good on the outside. Instead of getting David back, instead of getting the heart of God back, we start going, I have got to fix something, I have got to start making things look good on the outside, I have got to make . . . and to the people, especially think about this as to a leader, I have got to make this look like the glory days. Does anybody get the shivers over that? I have got to make this look like the days when everything was going good. And look on the surface. Look on the surface of things. So what ends up happening is that you start making cheap imitations. Cheap imitations that are not for real. They look real, and they look, and you know that you can fool some people, and that is what Rehoboam did, is that he fooled the people. He fooled

them with the way that it looked but that is a false sense of security that you are putting in those people. False sense of security, because you can say that everything is all right, but something inside of them is quivering. And they may not even understand it. And when you do that on a personal level, you are not really fooling anybody but your own self. Do you know what I am saying? Putting up cheap imitations to fool people. And the bad thing about brass, about cheap imitations is that it takes constant effort to keep it looking like gold. The human effort is tremendous. And that is just a physical example of a spiritual truth. Because to keep up that front when it is not real takes tremendous human effort. And constant working at that, and pretty soon you have no time to really get after the Lord. You are too busy putting up the front and making everything look good and convincing people that everything is okay, and what happens is that we realize that the enemy has come in and the enemy has ravaged me and the enemy has taken away all of this stuff, and we blame Shishak and the problem was our problem. He could never have come in if we had not gotten off from the Lord, Amen? But we are sitting here blaming the devil, and we are blaming this or that, we are blaming everything else, when we should take the blame and get on our knees and get back and get the heart of God back in the midst of us.

But why do we not do that? We are too embarrassed by our defeats. We are too embarrassed by our defeats. We are too embarrassed by the shape that we are in. And we do not want anybody to know we do not want anybody to think that we are needy, we do not want anybody to know how truly messed up we are. So we start making this stuff and we start putting on and we start faking it, substituting the fake for the real. Does that bother anybody? I do not mean about other people, I mean about yourself? That we would ever put on something fake, and not go after the real. And I tell you that the fake, eventually with time will not stand up to inspection. It will not. I do not care how hard you shine, how hard you work, it will eventually fail the inspection. Only deity. Do you know what brass represents? Who knows? Judgment. Judgment, that is right. What does gold represent? Deity. Of course once you start getting the brass up you start judging everything. You are messed up, but at least you worked hard to get your brass polished, some of you know what I am talking about. So you start getting mad at everybody else when their brass is not as shiny as yours because you have been working your little head off to look that good. Hello? You have been working your head off to look good. And you start judging everybody else, you have got this and you have got that, and it is a diversion. It is a smoke screen. It is a smoke screen. Man the first thing that we ought to do is say, right here. Right here. Not, oh. Shishak came and if he did not take my gold shield away I would be fine. That is our attitude that is the way that we think. Instead of going, you know what? I messed up. I messed up. I messed up. I got off, and I got off from the one thing that is needful. The heart of the Lord, and sitting at His feet, no matter how long it takes and no matter how many people make fun of me, I want the Lord. Because I want the Lord and that will last and last and last and last and last. Instead of trying to keep something alive and keep it working. Only Jesus, and when God looks and He sees His Son and sees His heart, then He is satisfied.

But when He sees all of these fake things that we are putting on and everything, . . . See, we do not realize, that He looks and He sees brass. We look and we say, but it is shiny. And we say, but I fooled sister so and so. No, no, no, you are fooling yourself. You are fooling yourself. I do not care, if it is not real, if it is not the real thing, then there is no need going on with it. Egypt robbed them of the outward, but they allowed the inward to decay. And that is what you have to see. That is when your heart, the scripture say that when the heart turns toward the Lord, the veil is rent. When the heart turns toward the Lord, that is when the veil is rent. That is when you begin to see the Lord.

I wrote a few notes down here. We make it look as if nothing has changed. We make it look as if nothing has changed. If something is changed spiritually in me and in you, and in our body, then it needs to be back to the Lord. And I will tell you that over the last couple of years we have gone through all sorts of stuff. And I believe that we have kept the heart of the Lord in new creation fellowship. I believe that we have fought to protect the heart of the Lord. And to keep after the Lord and to keep putting Him first. Not to keep seeking Him with all of our heart. I do not believe that we have lost out covering. And I admire Jim and Scot and some of the others and many of you, who have just flat, you have just wanted the heart of God above anything else, and it did not matter what went what way, but just said that I want the Lord. And God, the gold, God has continued to be the covering.

And now we have seen all sorts of blessing, and I believe that we are going to see more and more and more and more. But you know what? It is not about the blessing. It is about keeping that heart after the Lord. A heart after God. As the deer pants for the water, so my soul pants after Thee. Gold is pure. Put brass is an alloy. It is a mixture. It is a mixture. And even with that mixture, it has none of the real in it. Just a man made put together thing that we have done.

I just want to close with saying that I believe that bodies of Christ miss this point. They get to this point where they can go one way or the other, they can say, I do not care how we look, I do not care what happens, we want the Lord first in all things. And they say that I refuse to make brass shields. And they gather up the leadership and they go out to the people and they say that we got robbed because we messed up. We need to get n out face and we need to get after God with all of our heart. Who is with me? You usually only get like three or four hands. And you start over. And you do whatever you have to do. In eighteen years we have been through quit a bit of junk. I just do not want a brass relationship with God and with others. I do want a judging, judging, man, once you enter into that it is over with. When you judge and be critical of everything and everybody, and you will never be satisfied, because you know why? Because you are unsatisfied within your own self. You will never be satisfied. So you just say look, I am an idiot, I am young I am stupid or what ever word that you use. I am an idiot, and I need God. I just need the Lord, and I want you to know that I am the worst of the worst of the worst in the whole group, would you all pray for me. You just open your heart and you mean it though. You mean it though. You just open you heart and you say I do not want to fake

it anymore, I do not want to fake it, no more polishing. I am sick and tired of polishing. I want the Lord and I want to start right now and get after the Lord.

And I feel that even though we have done it successfully as a body, I just feel that we have moved with the Lord in a great way, I feel that maybe today we just need to pray for some people who are just sick and tired of the polishing and you know that you have put up some brass shields and you know that you want to drop them and get back to the heart of God. Get back to the heart after God. If you are like that come up here and we are just going to close with a quick word of prayer.

Thank you Lord, thank you Lord, thank you Lord, hallelujah. Father, we just thank you for Your tremendous grace, and that is where we are coming from, from the very beginning. Not from our own abilities, we do not come in our own name, we do not come in our own righteousness, we come in the name of the Lord. Lord, we are guilty. We are guilty, and we admit it. We admit it, we are not going to hide it anymore, we are guilty of painting on and polishing up. And we are asking you Lord to do a brand new work. To bring back, not the shields, not the gold, bring back the heart of David. Lord Jesus bring back the heart of David within the midst. Father we repent right now to You. Lord, we are sorry that we replaced them and we were worried what people would think. We are worried that the people would think that the loss has messed us up and we are messed up. Lord, we do not want to continue on a futile road. A road that leads nowhere. We want your heart. Lord, I just ask you right now, begin by your spirit to begin to release that everyone that has truly broken in their spirit, and I do not mean necessarily a certain feeling while they stand here, I mean they have heard Your words and they do not want that anymore in their life. They want the heart of David. And with that heart, bring back the shields of gold. Bring back the shields of gold. Move by Your spirit right now. Move by Your spirit right now. Cover each one now and begin to prepare them. Just like it was done with David Lord, just begin to protect that heart, that there is that heart. There is that flicker, there is that that is in each one of these. I believe in everyone of these up here Lord that need protecting and fanning, and let that flame, let that heart grow, let it grow from coal to sitting on the throne of their whole being. Protect it now Lord. You are our goal, you are our shield, protect it. Let it remain protected until it has come into full fruition. Until the full measure has been brought forth. Until the fullness of Christ be come in. Thank you Lord.

Father, now we just believe that. We believe that this was no accident today. We believe that you care. That You have heard our deepest groanings. And begun to move. We thank You for that. Lord we also want to thank You together, just as on a corporate level, we want to thank you, that we did not come in and fake it and make shields of brass, and make it look like it did before, we just bore the grief and the pain. So we look to you. Keep our hearts after You. We kept our hearts wanting You and loving You. Believing that that is the heart and soul that You have raised up in the New Creation. We thank You for that Lord, as a body.

I just thank You Lord for each and everyone that has come up here, I just sense that there really has been something released from You that they have said yes to You. But You truly have brought them to a place that has brought them forward. Thank You Lord. Thank You Lord. We just want to tell You, thank You Lord. Now You do it Lord, You bring back David. Let Him be made strong. Let Him mature. Then give Him the throne. Not just a part, not just a Judah, not just a Benjamin. But over the whole nation. Over the whole nation, over the whole nation. Over all. Spirit. Soul, and body. Over the whole body of Christ. Hallelujah Lord. Thank You Lord.

Now Father, we just thank you for this day. There has been a time of refreshing in worship and praising You, a time of refreshing in Your word, dropping some heavy loads that we have been carrying. We pray that when we go back on the streets that there will be just an open channel for Your Spirit. It will not just be the power of the vessel, but of the treasure. I just sense Lord that You are going to really use a couple people, Lord just give the right words. Words are just going to come into their mouth and they are going to speak with authority, they are going to speak as of You. Thank You Lord. Let every part be strengthened. In the name of Jesus. Hallelujah. *