

WISE GUYS

Gabriel L. Mancino



King Solomon is said to be one of the wisest men that ever lived. God certainly blessed and enabled him. God *also* promised him immeasurable continued help...*IF* he *continued* to obey Him. He detoured to disaster.

Solomon's wisdom was impressive. Leaders of other nations came to see if it was true. Solomon soon began compromising, politically and otherwise. By doing so, he lost God's blessing and protection. He started Israel down the road to the false worship of the many idol gods of the surrounding nations. Long years later, **Josiah** (see right) tried to correct the damage, but it was **"too little, too late."**

Solomon had tried all that this world has to offer, but found it empty, like a bursting bubble. His emptiness is recorded in the Bible, in Ecclesiastes.

The Bible asks, *"Where is the wise philosopher? Where is the teacher of God's Law? Where is the man of today who loves debate? Has not God shown the philosophy and wisdom of this world to be foolish?"* (1 Cor. 1:20). God doesn't praise ignorance, but the majority of "wise men" today try to make God irrelevant...unnecessary. They have not learned from wise (and tragically very *unwise*) Solomon.

NEHUSHTAN!

(continued from inside)



The state of the world and the church shows that the Person, Power, Purity and Purpose of **Pentecost** has been largely abandoned or replaced by various versions of Moses' abused snake-pole.

A new and true Pentecost will do for the entire world what King Hezekiah could never do, even for Israel alone. He had no idea how vast, deep and thorough of a clean-up job God *needs* to do and *wants* to do!

King **Josiah** went even further than Hezekiah in national reforms. Yet the people, *joining Josiah's own sons* who reigned after him, soon returned to the old ways. Nations are made truly great by inward transformation, not by external legislation. God gave the 10 Commandments on stone tablets. He later told them He would write His laws on the fleshly tablets of their hearts (Jer. 31:31-34; 2 Cor. 3:3; Heb. 8: 6-13; 10: 15-17). That started at **Pentecost**. Only a return to **Pentecost** will save us from being *worse* than a useless piece of brass. **Nehushtan!**

"And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man (Jesus) be lifted up: that whosoever believes in Him should have eternal life" (Jn. 3:14, 15).

"THE RICHEST MEN IN THE GRAVEYARD." My father spoke of those eagerly taking lots of "overtime" work in order to make more money. Jesus asked: *"What shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"* (Matt. 16:26; Mk. 8:36,37). Some translate "life" for "soul." Either way is bad, but to lose your soul in the chase for worldly advance of whatever sort is the most insane gamble possible. Our modern world is ever advancing in all types of "wisdom." Many things are "good," as far as they go...but they don't go far enough. The Bible says that *"Man by wisdom cannot find God."* (1 Cor. 1: 18-31). No! "Man," in his "wisdom," is trying to live life against itself by trying to eliminate God. Yet, God in love, throws us a Life-saver. Take hold! Yes, learn & work, but walk with God!

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NEHUSHTAN!

FIND OUT WHAT IT MEANS IN
THIS INTERESTING STUDY

Gabriel L. Mancino



24 May honours the world's greatest, most powerful dynamite; a pure explosion! It was the first century's **"Pentecost."** The newborn Church was having members thrown in prison, persecuted and killed, for their new explosive was overthrowing the world (Acts 17:6). It was **"dunamis"** (from Greek), which is translated **"power"** in Acts 1:8. It is where we get the word **"dynamite."**

More than six months before the Cross, Jesus was telling His disciples of His crucifixion and resurrection. He also told them of the coming of *"The Promise of The Father."* Jesus identified this "Promised Gift" as *"The Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, Whom the Father will send in My name"* (Jn. 14:26).

John the Baptist had foretold the coming of both Jesus *and* the Holy Ghost. He differentiated *his* baptising true believers with *water*, from Jesus' baptising them *"with the Holy Ghost and with fire"* (Matt. 3:11).

We commemorated Christ's Crucifixion and Resurrection in April and His Ascension on 14 May. Along with Pentecost, these events go beyond any language to describe, or intellect to comprehend. Jesus tied them all into one grand purpose that supremely applies to all people everywhere, right up to this very day.

The church has largely allowed the heavenly **power** of these events to die in their hands; becoming lifeless memories, teachings and traditions. Therefore, the church has more to fear from *itself* than from all of its external enemies put together. The same was true of ancient Israel. The church has adopted the same spirit, and thereby the same condemnation...or

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ALL AND NOTHING...ALL OR NOTHING: Pentecost (above) has 3 central features: holiness, unity, mission. Holiness is the foundation, creating the true basis for unity within the person and the people of God, sending them on the mission outward to reach others (by Christ's command) with God's news of full salvation from sin. 1 Cor.13 sums up holiness, & is a great measurement test of holiness. Jesus summed up holiness in one verse, quoting the "Shema" from Deut.6:4, as follows: *"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself"* (Lk. 4:27). The following edited "version" gets the point across: *"You shall love the Lord your God with all...& with all...& with all...& with all..."* God wants "all" **or** nothing. King Solomon (back page) had all, **and** nothing!

NEHUSHTAN!

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worse...as warned in Heb. 10: 28, 29.

The Bible repeatedly says that it is possible to make the Word of God and the Cross of Christ **useless**. This can happen by empty, religious forms, ceremonies *and* teachings... including in “**dynamic**” evangelical churches! A loud noise doesn’t necessarily indicate the presence of *God’s* “**dynamite**.”



Good King Hezekiah

had begun to try turning the southern kingdom of Judah back to God, by destroying their idols. One item that had become an idol was something God ordered

Moses to make, and told him how to use it (Num. 21:9). **It was faith in and obedience to God regarding this instrument, and not the instrument itself**, that cured the people of the deadly bite of the poisonous snakes. God’s people later turned it into an idol. It had to go! The king knew that the nation’s trust should be in God alone. He called the pole **Nehushtan**, which means “a piece of brass;” **useless**. Let us apply the truth.

Hezekiah was not simply using kingly power to get rid of personal dislikes. “*He trusted in the LORD God of Israel... he held to the LORD, and did not depart from following Him, but kept His commandments...And the LORD was with him!*” (2 Kings 18:5-7). We may say we love and follow the Lord, but **GOD’S** reply is what *really* tells the story—“*And the LORD was with him!*” (See Matt. 7:21-29; Rom. 2:13; Jam. 1:22).

The prophet, Isaiah, had “a personal Pentecost,” being cleansed from inward sin and sent out by God as His witness. (Isa. 6) “**THIS**” is exactly what we need! “**THIS** is that!” (See Acts 2:16, 33)

It didn’t stop there!

After the king got things right, *at home*, he launched *out* against God’s enemies. No, we are not to go out killing people, but to “kill *sin*.” And Christ’s designed way to do this is by **Pentecost**; the presence and power of the Holy Ghost. **Pentecost** is chiefly characterized by Divine love, heart purity and Christ-likeness. The church is not aggressing *outside* because it lacks the power and Person of the Holy Ghost *inside*. We **desperately need Pentecost**.

Long ago, Milan, Italy claimed to have Moses’ brass snake-pole...though Hezekiah had broken it into pieces over 2000 years before! Obviously, Moses’ *broken* pole could never heal “Broken Britain.” We need the genuine power and presence of the *Person of Pentecost*: the Holy Ghost. **ALL** else is essentially **Nehushtan!** Useless.



The greatest Gifts of

God are 1) His Son... by His *promised* coming, ministry and example, but *supremely* by His *promised* death for the sins of the world and His *promised* resurrection; and also, 2) *The Promised Gift* of the Holy Spirit.

Yet, these matchless Gifts in the hands of the professing church are doing little more to cure the world of the “poisonous snake-bite of sin” than Moses’ God-ordered, brass serpent in the hands of idolatrous Israel.

The great prophet, **Elisha**, ordered ↴



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his servant, **Gehazi**, to take the prophet’s stick and lay it on a young boy that had died (2 Kings 4:29). Gehazi returned...a failure: “*The child has not awakened*.” What more could Gehazi have *had* than the prophet’s staff and his direct commands? The failure was likely due to Gehazi himself, for the Bible seems to show that spiritual deterioration had already set in. **Moses’ pole and Elisha’s staff, meant to raise the dead and dying, became worthless; Nehushtan!** The same has largely happened to God’s Greatest Gifts in the hands of His professing people, up to this day.

We need a new and **unprecedented Pentecost** to revive God’s people, as well as a dead world. **Pentecost was God’s ultimate intention** in His eternal plan of rescuing man. The Christ of the Cross had told His disciples that it was necessary for *them* that He should go away, so the Holy Spirit could come (Jn. 16:7). Without the true presence and power of the Holy Spirit, using words like “Pentecost” or “Holy Spirit” would be little different than the Jews paying idolatrous lip service to Moses’ snake on a pole. **Nehushtan!**



Here are a few points about **the Holy Spirit**:

1) The Holy Spirit does *not* put Jesus “in the shadow.” Quite the opposite! Jesus said of Him, “*He shall glorify Me*.” (Jn. 16:14; 15:26). 2) The Holy Spirit is not an impersonal “force”... an “*It*”... as *some* would have us believe. 3) As my body, soul and spirit are distinct “parts” of my *unified existence*, so also are The Father, Son and Holy Ghost. They are no more “three Gods” than I am three people.

Due to man’s fall into sin, he is “out of sync” with God...*and* with *himself*. This keeps him from loving and obeying God. In contrast, the “Triune” God exists and works in perfect unity. God’s *greatest* “work” is lifting man from sin. He wants man to be “*saved, and sent*” to reach others, wherever they are...wherever He sends. **Pentecost** refers to the crowning part in God’s “saving and sending” plan, until Christ’s return. There is nothing superior to **true Pentecost** for the Church and for the world. It cleanses, fills, unifies, sends and prepares man to receive “*the fullness of God*” (Eph. 3:19 with 4:13). All substitutes are **Nehushtan**.



This article is to proclaim the unparalleled importance of the Person and Work of the Holy Spirit. No one can read Jesus’ words about the Holy Spirit without

seeing this. As Jesus’ coming to earth and His purpose were foretold in the Old Testament, so was the coming and purpose of the Holy Ghost. One might equally expect humans to exist without heads or hearts as to expect people to fill their God-planned place and enjoy their God-intended and God-provided experience in “*this present world*” **without** the Holy Ghost. (Gal. 1:4; 2 Tim. 4:10)

The Bible makes it clear that Christ’s disciples were “born again” *before Pentecost*. This means that God’s *Promised Gift* of the Holy Spirit is intended for people who are *already* genuine believers. The disciples were *cleansed from inward sin* and *filled with the Holy Ghost* at Pentecost. Being truly “born again” is pre-requisite to **the Gift of Pentecost**. Pentecost is “the launching pad” for local and global evangelism. Jesus said so. (Acts 1:4-8).

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