

WILL COME. It's a statement of faith and hope. Maybe we all ought to use it more often.

If you can't say MARANATHA (if you don't believe our king is coming, then you are ANATHEMA. Popular or current use of this word means one who is accursed. The original meaning of the word is closer to "sanctified" or "set apart" which is the meaning of sanctified. But it does not mean set apart or sanctified for God's purposes; it means set apart for an evil purpose or a demon or devil. Paul is pronouncing a very strong curse on anyone who does not love our Lord Jesus Christ and then he interjects MARANATHA saying with emphasis, our Lord has come and will come again!

**ANATHEMA MEANS
(OF ALL THINGS!)
SANCTIFIED.**

So just keep saying that word to yourself.. MARANATHA, MARANATHA.. Greet your friends with it, open your letters with it. It's a statement of our Christian hope! And we can't emphasize that too much .. MARANATHA - OUR KING IS

COMING!

We don't want anyone to be ANATHEMA and we don't want to be ANATHEMA ourselves. We want to be sanctified for His purposes. We want the glory of the Lord to dwell with us. Without it we are nothing - that brings us to our next "strange" word ICHABOD which means, "The glory of the Lord has departed." Maybe you've heard someone use this word when they have talked about a church or a preacher who they thought had lost the anointing.

**ICHABOD
THE GLORY
OF THE LORD
HAS
DEPARTED.**



The story behind the word ICHABOD is found in I Samuel 4. Eli was a priest and judge of Israel. He was an old man, 98 years old. Israel was at war with the Philistines and Israel made a bad mistake. The Philistines were stomping all over them so they had the bright idea of using the Ark of the Covenant as kind of a charm and marching into battle with it in front of them.



Their reasoning was the same as the person who uses a cross or any other kind of charm as protection. It's also akin to sleeping with your head on a Bible thinking it will make you virtuous or helps you somehow. Their hope was in the presence of the Ark, not the presence of the living God. They were taking a step in the right direction but didn't go far enough. They performed the outward physical acts of carrying the Ark into battle without following through with any inward attitude change.

Well, needless to say, they lost and the Philistines made off with the Ark. Now back to Eli. A runner came and told him his two sons Hophni & Phineas were dead. That was a blow but when he told Eli the Ark was taken, the shock knocked Eli backwards and he fell, broke his neck and died (I Sam. 4:17-18)

His daughter-in-law gave birth to a son and named him ICHABOD meaning "The glory of the Lord has departed." It was a sad day for Israel.



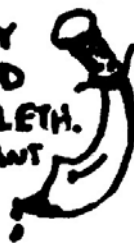
Speaking of departing, that leads us to our next word...MIZPAH. ICHABOD is kind of a downer word but MIZPAH is really nice. This is another word you can use in your letter writing, this time as a closing.

If you want to get an answer to a letter, just start it with MARANATHA and end it with MIZPAH Whoever you are writing to is sure to reply just out of curiosity wondering what those crazy words you're using mean.

MIZPAH means, "I am praying that the Lord God will watch between you and me while we are parted." It means you are expecting God to take care of a friend in your absence and implies that you want to see the friend again. Now that's about as warm and meaningful as any salutation we've come across.

This word can be found in Gen. 31:49. It's used in an exchange between Jacob and his Uncle Laban. These two never did seem to trust each other and the use of the word MIZPAH in their exchange makes it sound like they wanted God to protect them from one another. This may have been the case in the context of the story but the word itself has a very friendly connotation and we mean to use it that way. MIZPAH is a word full of meaning but the meaning of our next word SHIBBOLETH is really not important at all. What is important is that it was used as a code word.

**42,000 EPHRAIMITES
DIED BECAUSE THEY
COULDN'T HEAR AND
PRONOUNCE SHIBBOLETH.
(SOME WORDS ARE IMPORTANT
FOR REASONS OTHER THAN
THEIR LITERAL MEANING.)**



**SHIBBOLETH
MEANS STREAM
OR BROOK...**



**BUT THAT'S NOT
IMPORTANT.**

The Gileadites and Ephraimites (what names!) were battling it out back in Judges 12. The Gileadites had secured a passage across the Jordan and when the Ephraimites came to cross it the Gileadites said, "Say SHIBBOLETH." Now there was no way to tell the Gileadites from the Ephraimites by appearances because they were all relatives and weren't wearing any uniforms. But the Ephraimites apparently had a hearing problem that caused them to pronounce "SH as "S"

and they'd say SIBBOLETH instead of SHIBBOLETH. When the Gileadites heard SIBBOLETH instead of SHIBBOLETH, they'd just knock the guy off because they knew he was an Ephraimite instead of a Gileadite (Phew!) Is that clear?

Well, anyhow, the moral is that it is important to hear correctly and that the Bible does use code words. Words that have meaning beyond their normal usage. This brings us to our prize word NEHUSHTAN. It is a code word used in the Old Testament (II Kings 18:14) and very closely related to the most popular verse in the New Testament John 3:16.

**IF WE LEARN
THE LESSON
BEHIND THE
WORD NEHUSHTAN
IT MAY HELP US LIVE (AND NOT
DIE!)**



If we want to live and not die crossing over the Jordan like the Ephraimites it will be a big help to us to hear this word correctly with our spiritual ears and understand what it stands for.

The story starts back in Numbers 1: 4-9. The Israelites were upset and they said some mean things about God and Moses. For punishment the Lord sent fiery serpents among them to bite them and many of the people died.

Well, the people asked for forgiveness and Moses prayed. The Lord instructed him to make a serpent out of brass and put it on a pole. Now anyone bitten by a snake just had to look at the brass serpent and they would be healed.

This was a foreshadowing of what was to happen with Jesus. He said in John 3:14, "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up." God's forgiveness is very, very big. You cannot do anything that is so bad that He will not give you another chance. God made a way of escape or salvation, if you will, for the Israelites and He has made a salvation for us that parallels it in some ways. We have all been bitten by the serpent (satan) and if we want to live we have to look toward Jesus.

We want to stress a few things about this brazen serpent that Moses made. First, GOD TOLD HIM TO MAKE IT and second, IT WAS A GOOD THING... A HELPFUL THING... A MEANS OF IMPARTING LIFE TO THE DYING.

Why are we stressing these two points? Because the next time we hear about Moses' brazen serpent in the Old Testament is in II Kings 18:4. Moses made the serpent in 1452 B.C. It is now 726 B.C., exactly half way between Moses' time and the birth of Jesus. Hezekiah is ruling Judah. The testimony of scripture about Hezekiah is that he "trusted the Lord God of Israel, so that after him was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor any that were before him" (II Kings 18:5) That's quite a testimony.

Hezekiah was a good king. He got rid of all the idols the people were worshipping and he turned the people back to God. What's really important here is that while he was removing all the high places, breaking up images, cutting down groves... HE ALSO BROKE IN PIECES THE BRAZEN SERPENT MOSES HAD MADE AND CALLED IT NEHUSHTAN. Why? Because the children of Israel burned incense to it. They worshiped it. They worshiped the creation and not the creator., The deliverance and not the deliverer., (II Kings 18:4).



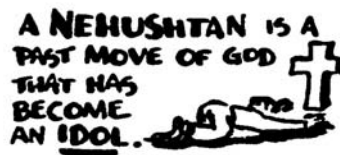
It wasn't an idol at first. God told Moses to make it. The Israelites were delivered by it. But they mistakenly worshiped it. There was no power in it. Its time was past. What was once very needful and useful became an obstacle. It was actually keeping the Jews from knowing God.

Can you see the parallel? We're talking about worshipping a past move of God. All about us today we see NEHUSHTANS raised high for people to worship. To be more specific - we're talking

about denominations or even moves of God in our own personal lives that can easily be turned into NEHUSHTANS.

You have to hear what we are saying and understand it. We are not saying that any denomination is bad or wrong or that your salvation, baptism or other Christian experience is bad. We are saying we can't stop at any church or experience and say we've arrived.

We must keep going on and heading toward our goal of full salvation: spirit, soul and body.



If we stop and build our own kingdom it will become our NEHUSHTAN and our downfall. Some of the Israelites going through the desert liked the rock the nice cool refreshing water flowing from it - they stayed there, it was comfortable but it became a NEHUSHTAN to them. Most of

them followed the glory, the cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night, we want to follow that glory too, and not stop at some former miracle.

If you know someone who worships Jesus on the cross then it is possible for the cross to become a NEHUSHTAN for that person. If you worship the empty tomb, then the empty tomb is your NEHUSHTAN. If you're all caught up in the upper room or in tongues, then these things can easily become your NEHUSHTAN.



If Dave had stopped with "The Key to Revelation" then the doubles and parallels of Revelation could have become his NEHUSHTAN (even though the Revelation truth God gave him is relatively new and very important). But Dave didn't stop there, so God gave him another timely message about the complete salvation of spirit, soul and body.

Here again Dave could have stopped and rested with his two major messages but he didn't and God gave him another major important message about how to come into

body salvation through understanding law and participating in God's grace. Dave titled it Moses vs. Jesus or Law vs. Grace.

These three major subjects have turned into 106 subject tapes about the basic three. We all continue to pray for Dave that he will not elect to stop somewhere and build his kingdom around some NEHUSHTAN like so many past church leaders have done. But rather that he will thank God for what He has given him in the past and continue to walk with God toward the changes and new truth which will usher in a glorious future.



Everyone we know has at some time been tempted to stop at some wonderful truth and just rest at their NEHUSHTAN.

Some stop at the first basic truth of salvation by faith (not works) as revealed to Luther. Some embrace the next truth of water baptism given to Menno Simons but make baptism a NEHUSHTAN and stop there. Others accept those truths and go

on to Holiness but then they bog down at the Holiness NEHUSHTAN. Others accept sanctification and the second work for the soul as revealed to Wesley but decide to stop. Some accept the second work of the Holy Spirit and go on to the gifts of the Holy Spirit but stop at wisdom or knowledge. Some accept tongues and stop at that NEHUSHTAN. Others stop at the prophecy NEHUSHTAN. Some choose to stop at healing.

A few are presently moving from law to grace as they leave Pentecostal Denominations and become Charismatic. But even the present move can become a NEHUSHTAN of the future.



The conclusion should be obvious to all. Determine to participate in each but do not stop at any. We admit this can be very-hard to do because most local churches have picked a comfortable truth they like but have decided to censor any books or tapes or teaching about anything new that their founders did not include in 'their "statement of faith." Thus,

their rule book becomes their NEHUSHTAN.

By the grace of God we'll go all the way. We'll learn to spot our NEHUSHTANS and leave them and go on to new and better things that God has for us. We'll be able to see the difference, in the past moves of God and what He is doing now.

We are in a difficult place because it is the people God has most currently given new revelation to that usually have the hardest time accepting further truth. History bears this out. Nearly every fifty years since Luther a new move of God has appeared and has been persecuted by the move before it.



We pray that we'll be sensitive to the Holy Spirit and move with God, not camp along the way and miss the promise of complete salvation of spirit, soul and body.

We want to participate in all the moves of God - past, present and future. We're standing on the shoulders of those who have gone before us. It's thanks to them we can see the truth we now see, We want to build on what they have given us and go all the way to the secret-place, the Holy of Holies. It should be obvious that we are not finding fault with any denomination or past move of God, but if experience is any indicator, then some reader will mistakenly say, "Hey, Ebaugh is kicking at my denomination, "

This is not the case. We just don't want you to fall prey to a NEHUSHTAN (a past move of God that has lost its original purpose). We hope that all of us together will-keep on keeping on and going straight forward in God's newest move,



We brought you through five strange words to get you to see and understand about NEHUSHTAN* Please don't forget this word and what it means. Don't let a good thing

become a NEHUSHTAN. Use what knowledge or experience you have received from any movement of God, past or present, but don't camp there. None of us have arrived yet, we're all "on the way," We're trying to keep in the forefront and we know you want to, too.

Our constant prayer is that your whole spirit, soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Thes. 5:23). MIZPAH!