

*"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 shields of gold which Solomon had made. And king Rehoboam Made In Their Stead Brazen Shields, and committed them unto the hands of the chief of the guard, which kept the door of the king's house." 1 Kings 14:25-27 KJV*



Gold and polished brass are surprisingly hard to tell apart with visual inspection. Brass, however, must be kept polished, or it will tarnish and turn dull. Gold remains untarnished. Brass is made of copper and zinc. Strong acid will destroy brass, but leave gold unscathed. Some brass is plated with gold, but its thin façade will be revealed by the melting pot. Shishak, Egypt's King, plundered Rehoboam's gold shields, given him by his father, Solomon. Rehoboam forsook his God and lost his shields! He "made in their stead brazen shields" to keep up appearances. He went to temple, but like the brass he substituted for gold, but his heart was far from the LORD. Egypt symbolizes the world, its temptations, and philosophies and Egypt's king Shishak represents Satan, "the god of this world." Gold shields represent our "Shield of Faith," a Gift from our Heavenly Father.

*"Above all, taking the Shield of Faith, Wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. Faith Cometh by hearing...the Word of God! For by Grace Are ye Saved, Through Faith; And That, not of yourselves; It Is The Gift of God! Not of works lest any man should boast" If you think you can get to Heaven by good deeds, you are headed for eternal perdition! When the philosophies and temptations of the world plunder Faith, a façade of religious good deeds pretends faith and over time it becomes tarnished and ugly through lack of practice. It cannot survive the acid test of sin and death, and when the heat of persecution is turned up, it readily displays its lack of substance! You may very well attend church, pray, and read your Bible, but if temptation or persecution makes you forsake Truth, it is only a "brass" religion. Is your Bible reading becoming or is already a distasteful duty? This is the first tarnish revealing the "brass" of religion. When God's Written Word becomes only a religious book and reading it merely a good deed, "Shishak" has stolen your "Shield of Faith!" You may fool a blinded world, but God knows the Truth! "The Word of God Is Quick, And Powerful, And Sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, And Is A Discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart...for out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, [and] blasphemies." What do your words reveal about your heart?*

Religion is the brazen shield,  
Used by those who will not yield,  
And will in trials remain mute,  
To Truth's unflinching absolutes! –CGP

Faith Is The Gold of God! It Is The Only Currency Whereby we may "buy [the] white raiment" of Righteousness from God to clothe the nakedness of our sinful heart. "Without Faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He Is, And That He Is A Rewarder of them that diligently seek Him." Gold is the world's standard: Faith is the Divine standard! Faith bonds sinner to Sovereign! Don't substitute brass for gold!

*"That the trial of your Faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto Praise And Honour And Glory At The Appearing of Jesus Christ: Whom having not seen, ye love; In Whom, though now ye see Him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with Joy Unspeakable and full of Glory: Receiving the end of your Faith, even the Salvation of your souls!" 1 Peter 1:7-9 KJV*

