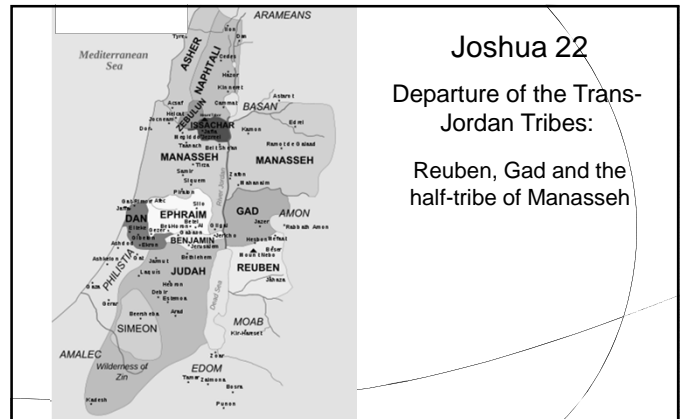


Inheriting the Land of Promise JOSHUA



Joshua 22 Departure of the Trans- Jordan Tribes: Reuben, Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh

Then Joshua summoned the Reubenites and the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh, ² and said to them, "You have kept all that Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, and have listened to my voice in all that I commanded you. ³ You have not forsaken your brothers these many days to this day, but have kept the charge of the commandment of the LORD your God. ⁴ And now the LORD your God has given rest to your brothers, as He spoke to them; therefore turn now and go to your tents, to the land of your possession, which Moses the servant of the LORD gave you beyond the Jordan. ⁵ Only be very careful to observe the commandment and the law which Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, to love the LORD your God and walk in all His ways and keep His commandments and hold fast to Him and serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul."

⁶ So Joshua blessed them and sent them away, and they went to their tents. ⁷ Now to the one half-tribe of Manasseh Moses had given a *possession* in Bashan, but to the other half Joshua gave a *possession* among their brothers westward beyond the Jordan. So when Joshua sent them away to their tents, he blessed them, ⁸ and said to them, "Return to your tents with great riches and with very much livestock, with silver, gold, bronze, iron, and with very many clothes; divide the spoil of your enemies with your brothers." ⁹ The sons of Reuben and the sons of Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh returned *home* and departed from the sons of Israel at Shiloh which is in the land of Canaan, to go to the land of Gilead, to the land of their possession which they had possessed, according to the command of the LORD through Moses.

(Joshua 22:1-9)

Joshua 22

- *Context:* the departure of the eastern tribes
- *Crisis:* these tribes built an unauthorized altar
- *Confrontation:* a delegation from Israel charged these tribes with unfaithfulness to the Lord
- *Explanation:* they stated that their motive was to preserve their faithfulness to the Lord
- *Reconciliation:* Israel's unity and faithfulness to the Lord was maintained

The Altar of Witness

- *keynote:* a pervasive passion for faithfulness to Yahweh

The Altar of Witness

1. A Regulated Worship

- all offerings were to be brought to the central sanctuary – Yahweh's altar
- this was to preserve the purity and integrity of Israel's worship of Yahweh

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1. A Regulated Worship

➤ Lessons

- acceptable worship is regulated by God's word alone
- today, all true worship of God is in the name and person of Jesus

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2. A Vigilant Fidelity

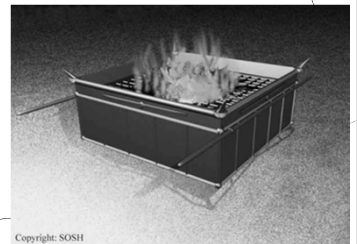
➤ *their fidelity was characterized by...*

- an uncompromised commitment to God's honor
- a direct confrontation of sin and a call to repent
- a loving, sacrificial offer to help them obey

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3. A Commendable Concern

- the altar was intended to prevent future infidelity to Yahweh



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The Altar of Witness

3. A Commendable Concern

- the altar was intended to prevent future infidelity to Yahweh
- the unity of Israel was essential to preserving faithfulness to Yahweh

The Altar of Witness

3. A Commendable Concern

➤ lessons

- public worship is a means of maintaining a passionate fidelity to the Lord
- fidelity to the Lord is marked by a commitment to preserve the faithfulness of future generations