

JOSHUA 22 SEPARATION AND SANCTITY

04 January 13 by Glenn Palmer

REVIEW CONQUEST

Joshua 1: *Strong in the Lord*
Joshua 2: *Spies*
Joshua 3: *Surge*
Joshua 4: *Stones*
Joshua 5: *Sacraments*
Joshua 5-6: *Supreme Commander*
Joshua 6: *Sound of the Trumpets*
Joshua 7: *Sin*

Joshua 8: *Sack*
Joshua 9: *Schemers*
Joshua 10: *Sun stands still*
Joshua 11: *Sparing no one*
Joshua 12: *So many kings*
SETTLEMENT
Joshua 13-15: *Slaying the Giants*
Joshua 16-19: *Settlements*
Joshua 20-21: *Safety and Sanctity*

JOSHUA 22 SEPARATION AND SANCTITY

Introduction: After seven years of fighting, the Reubenites, Gadites, and the half tribe of Manasseh return home. But when they do they built an altar, and the 9½ other tribes believed that they intended to worship a different god(s). So they called for war and send ten chiefs and Phinehas to investigate. The altar was really a witness memorial. Problem solved.

Joshua 22:1

1. What had Moses command the Reubenites, Gadites, and the half tribe of Manasseh to do in Joshua 1:12-18, especially vss. 14-18?

Joshua 22:2

2. They did not say “We promised our service to Moses, but not to Joshua.”

Joshua 22:3

3. “For a long time now-to this very day-” *They had been fighting Seven years!!*

Joshua 22:4

4. Why does Joshua write “your brothers”?
 - a. *Physically they are brothers*
 - b. *They have become brothers after seven years of fighting - HBO series Band of Brothers*
5. Who did the fighting? *They did*
6. Who gave them rest? *God*
7. NIV: “return to your homes” Literally “return to your tents”
 - a. Cf. I Kings 12:16 where tents means return to homes.

Joshua 22:5

8. List the six things that Joshua commands them to “be very careful” to do.
 - a. *Keep the commandments and the law*
 - b. *LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD*
 - c. *Walk in His ways*
 - d. *Obey His commands*
 - e. *Hold fast to Him*
 - f. *Serve Him with all your heart and all your soul*

Practical Application: *Are these valid commandments for the 2014?*

9. Are there any commands on fortifying their cities, building walls for defense, or on how to do agriculture? *NO* What are the commands about? *Spiritual Warfare*

Practical Application: *When we write our wills, is it just about physical things, or can we bequeath our spiritual inheritance as well?*

Joshua 22:6

10. What does Joshua do?
a. *Blessed them*
b. *Sent them away*

Joshua 22:7

11. There are some who believe that Israel should only have been on the West Bank of the Jordan. If this is true, why would
a. Joshua have blessed them in verse 6?
b. It state that Moses had given them the land in verse 7?
c. God have given them three cities of refuge first on the East Bank?
Deuteronomy 19:2, 7-9
d. Joshua recorded the conquest in Joshua 12:1-6?
e. Joshua recorded the conquest in 13:8-32?

Joshua 22:8 Spoil

12. With whom are the fighters from the 2 ½ tribes going to share the plunder? *Those who stayed back*
13. Look up
a. Numbers 31:6-7
b. I Samuel 30:21-25

Joshua 22:10

14. "Geliloth"
a. Could be a place. NIV translates it as such. See 18:7
b. Perhaps Geliloth is Gilgal.
c. Geliloth means "circle of stones." So perhaps it is a description of a place with stones.
15. "An imposing altar" Literally: "Large to look upon"

Joshua 22:11

16. Geliloth could be on the east side of the Jordan (Josephus). If it is on the west side the Israelites could just tear it down.
17. If Geliloth is on the west side, it would be a reminder to the 10 ½ tribes that they need to accept the 2 ½ tribes.

Joshua 22:12

18. Shiloh:
a. Joshua 18:1, 8-10; 19:51
b. Judges 18:31
c. I Samuel 1:3
19. What was the response of the people of Israel? *Gathered together to go to war*
20. Was the response of the people warranted for a pile of stones? Was that an overreaction?

21. Francis Schaeffer thought differently and wrote:
“That is just terrific! We ought to play the bagpipes! These men had just parted as companions in war. . . they said goodbye in the strongest, heartiest sense imaginable. But now they thought the holiness of God was being threatened. So these men, who were sick of war said, “The holiness of God demands no compromise.” I would to God that the church of the twentieth century would learn this lesson. The holiness of the God who exists demands that there be no compromise in the area of truth. Tears? I am sure there were tears, but there had to be a battle if there was a rebellion against God.”

Joshua 22:13

22. Did they march straight off to war? *No - sent an investigative party*
23. Look up and read Deuteronomy 12:12-18
24. Read Numbers 25.
25. What is Phinehas’ response when he sees evil in Numbers 25:7-8? *Drives the spear through both man and woman - both prince and princess*
26. What is God’s response in Numbers 25:10-13
27. Whom did Phinehas kill in Numbers 25:14-15?

Practical Application: *What is our response when things are not in accordance with the Scriptures?*

What is our response when the leaders sin?

Do we have one standard for the common man and one for the leaders?

Joshua 22:14

28. Who also joins the delegation? *The ten princes*
29. Why ten? *There were 9 ½ tribes*
30. Is this awkward for anyone? *The prince of the half tribe of Manasseh may have to fight against his brother*

Joshua 22:16

31. “Break faith” is used infrequently - last time was in Joshua 7.
32. See also Ezekiel 14:13

Joshua 22:17

33. What is the sin of Peor? Numbers 25:2 *Worshipping a foreign god*

Joshua 22:18-20

34. What is the concern? *Are you turning away from the Lord?*
35. Covenant theology: Guilt of one affects the entire community!
 - a. How many people sinned in Joshua 7? *Achan’s family*
 - b. How many men died? *36*
 - c. If one man could cause the death of so many, what would happen if 2 ½ tribes sinned?
36. Love in action: What do the 9 ½ tribes offer the 2 ½ tribes? *Their land*

Joshua 22:21-23

37. Do the Reubenites, Gadites, and the Manassehites agree with the other tribes’ concern?
Yes

Joshua 22:24-25, 27

38. Why did they build the altar? *To make sure they were considered part of Israel*

39. Was their intention worthy? *Yes*
40. How did the rest of the Israelites see the new altar? *As apostasy*
41. What could they have done to avoid this whole brouhaha? *Consulted with the other 9 ½ tribes and told them what they were doing and why?*

Practical Application: *What can we do to avoid similar situations?*

Joshua 22:26 & 28-29

42. Deuteronomy 12:13-14 *Only sacrifice in the place I have chosen*
43. Did the 2 ½ tribes follow the above verses? *Yes*
44. Note that the altar was a replica of the main altar.
45. Look up II Kings 16:7-16.
46. How were Ahaz's action different from the 2 ½ tribes? *Ahaz built a new altar to a foreign god. The 2 ½ tribes built a replica altar, but not for sacrificing*

Joshua 22:30-33

47. What happens in these verses? *No need to go to war*

Joshua 22:34

48. What do they name this altar? *A witness between us that the Lord is God*

Practical Application: *This chapter is an excellent example of holiness and love working hand in hand. All agreed that one must worship the one true God. The West Bank tribes were willing to give up their own lands.*

Practical Application: *We must be very careful that although we think we are doing the right thing, that we communicate our intent clearly so that others are not offended.*

Practical Application: *John Calvin: If we see the pure worship of God corrupted, we must be strenuous, to the utmost of our ability, in vindicating it. . . More especially deserving of the highest praise was the zeal of the half-tribe of Manasseh, who, setting aside all regard to the flesh, did not spare their own family."*