

JOSHUA 22 vs 1

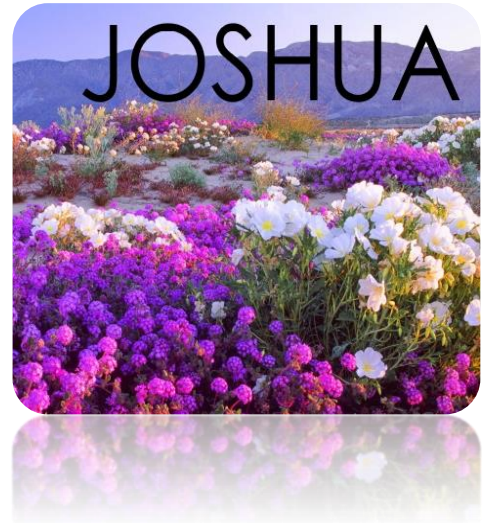
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The book of Joshua, written around 1453bc, describes the conquest of Israel over the land promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; now entering the land occupied by 7 different pagan cultures. Leading the people, was Joshua, whose name means: The Lord is salvation.

Eastern Tribes Return to Their Lands,

¹ Then Joshua summoned the Reubenites, Gadites, and half the tribe of Manasseh, ² and said to them: You have done all that Moses the servant of the Lord instructed you, and have obeyed my voice in all that I instructed you.



³ You have not left your brothers these many days, up to this day, but have kept the charge of the instruction of the Lord your God.

⁴ And now the Lord your God has given rest to your brothers, as He promised them; so now, return and go to your tents and to the land of your inheritance, which Moses the servant of the Lord gave you on the other side of the Jordan.

⁵ But take careful heed to do the instruction and the law which Moses the servant of the Lord instructed you, to love the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways, to keep His instructions, to hold fast to Him, and to 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 half the tribe of Manasseh Moses gave an inheritance in Bashan, but to the other half Joshua gave an inheritance among their brothers on this west side of the Jordan. And indeed, when Joshua sent them away to their tents, he blessed them,

⁸ and spoke to them, saying, Return with great wealth to your tents, with lots of livestock, and much silver, gold, bronze, iron, and a large amount of clothing. Share the spoil of your enemies with your brothers.

⁹ So the families of Reuben, the families of Gad, and half the tribe of Manasseh returned, and departed from the families of Israel at Shiloh, in the land of Canaan, to go to the region of Gilead, to the land of their inheritance, which they had obtained according to the word of the Lord by the hand of Moses.

An Altar by the Jordan

¹⁰ And when they came to the region of the Jordan which is in the land of Canaan, the families of Reuben, Gad, and half the tribe of **Manasseh** built an altar there by the Jordan -- a great, impressive altar.

¹¹ Now the families of Israel heard someone say, Look, the families of Reuben, Gad, and half the tribe of Manasseh have built an altar on the frontier of the land of Canaan, in the region of the Jordan -- on the Israelite side. ¹² When the families of Israel heard of it, the whole assembly of those of Israel gathered together at Shiloh to go to war against them.

¹³ Then those of Israel sent Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest to the families of Reuben, Gad, and to half the tribe of Manasseh, in the land of Gilead,

¹⁴ and with him ten leaders, one family leader from each house of the tribes of Israel; each one was the head of the house of his father among the divisions of Israel.

¹⁵ Then they came to the families of Reuben, Gad, and to half the tribe of Manasseh, to the land of Gilead, and they spoke with them, saying,

¹⁶ Thus says the whole assembly of the Lord: 'What is this treachery you have committed against the God of Israel, to turn this day from following the Lord, in that you have built for yourselves an altar, that you this day rebel against the Lord?

¹⁷ Was the iniquity of Peor not enough for us, from which we have not cleansed ourselves to this day, although there was a plague in the assembly of the Lord,

¹⁸ and must you turn away this day from following the Lord? And it will be, if you rebel today against the Lord, that tomorrow He will be angry with the whole assembly of **Israel**.

¹⁹ So, if the land you inherited is unclean, then cross over to the land of the inheritance of the Lord, where the Tent of the Lord stands, and take your inheritance among us; but do not rebel against the Lord, nor rebel against us, by building yourselves an altar besides the altar of the Lord our God.

²⁰ Did not Achan the son of Zerah commit a trespass in the accursed thing, and wrath fell on all the whole assembly of **Israel**? And that man did not perish alone in his iniquity.

²¹ Then the families of Reuben, Gad, and half the tribe of Manasseh answered the heads of the divisions of Israel:

²² The Mighty One, God, the Lord, our Mighty One, God, the Lord, He knows, and let Israel also know -- if it is rebellion, if it is treachery against the Lord, do not spare us this day.

²³ **If we have built for ourselves an altar to turn from following the Lord, or if to offer burnt offerings, grain offerings, or peace offerings on it, let the Lord Himself hold us accountable.**

²⁴ **But in fact we have done it for fear, that some of your offspring in the future may ask: What have you to do with the Lord God of Israel?**

²⁵ **For the Lord has made the Jordan a border between you and us, descendants of Reuben, and Gad. You have no share in the Lord. So your offspring may cause our offspring to stop fearing the Lord.**

²⁶ **So we said, Let us now prepare to build ourselves an altar, not for burnt offering nor for sacrifice,**

²⁷ **but that it be a witness between you and us and our generations after us, that we may worship the Lord before Him with our burnt offerings, our sacrifices, and our peace offerings; that your offspring may not say to our offspring in time to come, You have no part in the Lord.**

²⁸ **So we said it will be, when they say to us or to our people in the future, that we may say, Here is the replica of the altar of the Lord which our fathers made, though not for burnt offerings nor for sacrifices; but it is a witness between you and us.**

²⁹ **We would never rebel against the Lord, and turn from following the Lord this day, to build an altar for burnt offerings, for grain offerings, or for sacrifices, other than the altar of the Lord our God which is before His Tent.**

³⁰ **Now when Phinehas the priest and the rulers of the assembly, the heads of the divisions of Israel who were with him, heard the words that the families of Reuben, Gad, and Manasseh spoke, it pleased them.**

³¹ **Then Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest said to the families of Reuben, Gad, and Manasseh, Today we know the Lord is among us, because you have not committed treachery against the Lord. Now you have delivered the families of Israel out of the hand of the Lord.**

³² **And Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest, and the leaders, returned from the families of Reuben, Gad in the land of Gilead to the land of Canaan, to the families of Israel, and brought back word to them.**

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³³ So the report pleased those of all Israel, and all Israel blessed God; they spoke no more of going against them in battle, to destroy the land where the families of Reuben and Gad live.

³⁴ The families of Reuben and Gad called the altar, Witness, For it is a witness between us that the Lord is God.

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