

**How We Worship  
God Matters!**

## Joshua 22:1-6, 10-12

At that time Joshua summoned the Reubenites and the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh, and said to them, “You have kept all that Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you and have obeyed my voice in all that I have commanded you. You have not forsaken your brothers these many days, down to this day, but have been careful

to keep the charge of the LORD your God.  
And now the LORD your God has given rest  
to your brothers, as he promised them.  
Therefore turn and go to your tents in the  
land where your possession lies, which  
Moses the servant of the LORD gave you on  
the other side of the Jordan. Only be very  
careful to observe the commandment and  
the law that Moses the servant of the Lord

to love the LORD your God, and to walk in all his ways and to keep his commandments and to cling to him and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul.” So Joshua blessed them and sent them away, and they went to their tents... And when they came to the region of the Jordan that is in the land of Canaan, the people of Reuben and the people of Gad and the half-tribe of

Manasseh built there an altar by the Jordan, an altar of imposing size. And the people of Israel heard it said, “Behold, the people of Reuben and the people of Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh have built the altar at the frontier of the land of Canaan, in the region about the Jordan, on the side that belongs to the people of Israel.”

And when the people of Israel heard of it,  
the whole assembly of the people of Israel  
gathered at Shiloh to make war against  
them.

At that time Joshua summoned the Reubenites and the Gadites and the **half-tribe of Manasseh...**

“You have **not forsaken your brothers** these many days, down to this day.”

## Numbers 32:6

But Moses said to the people of Gad and to the people of Reuben, “Shall your brothers go to the war while you sit here?”

Then they came near to him and said, “We will build sheepfolds here for our livestock, and cities for our little ones, but we will take up arms, ready to go before the people of Israel, until we have brought them to their place.

Only be very careful to observe the commandment and the law that Moses the servant of the Lord to **love the LORD** your God, and to **walk in all his ways** and to **keep his commandments** and to **cling to him** and to **serve him** with all your heart and with all your soul.”

## Micah 6:8

He has told you, O man, what is good;  
and what does the LORD require of you  
but to do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with your God?

## Deuteronomy 6:5

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

Israelite devotion was never a matter of cold conformity to a code of rules, any more than Christian discipleship is. It is not external but deeply personal at root. Keeping Yahweh's rules is an expression of love for Yahweh's person.

– David Jackman



And when they came to the region of the Jordan that is in the land of Canaan, they **built there an altar** by the Jordan, an altar of **imposing size**.

## Deuteronomy 12:13-14

Take care that you do not offer your burnt offerings at **any place that you see**, but at the place that the LORD will choose in one of your tribes, there you shall offer your burnt offerings, and there you shall do all that I am commanding you.

And the people of Israel heard it said,  
“Behold, (they) have built the altar at the  
frontier of the land of Canaan, in the  
region about the Jordan, on the side that  
belongs to the people of Israel.” And when  
the people of Israel heard of it, the whole  
assembly of the people of Israel **gathered  
at Shiloh to make war against them.**



The Eastern tribes took it upon themselves to erect an altar in the center of the East/West Divide

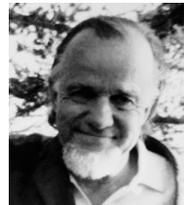
Remember- Shiloh is where God wants to be worshipped!

The altar is on the west side of the Jordan but plenty BIG enough to be seen from both sides.

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 battle if there was rebellion against God.

– Francis Schaeffer



Then the people of Israel sent to the people of Reuben and the people of Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh, in the land of Gilead, **Phinehas the son of Eleazar** the priest, and with him ten chiefs, one from each of the tribal families of Israel, every one of them the head of a family among the clans of Israel.

## Numbers 25:10-11

And the LORD said to Moses, “Phinehas the son of Eleazar, son of Aaron the priest, has turned back my wrath from the people of Israel, in that he was **jealous with my jealousy** among them, so that I did not consume the people of Israel in my jealousy.

“Thus says the whole congregation of the LORD, ‘What is this breach of faith that you have committed against the God of Israel in turning away this day from following the LORD by building yourselves an altar this day in rebellion against the LORD? Have we not had enough of **the sin at Peor** from which even yet we have not cleansed ourselves,

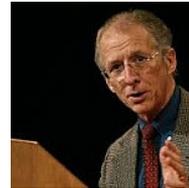
Only do not rebel against the LORD or make us as rebels by building for yourselves an altar other than the altar of the LORD our God. Did not **Achan the son of Zerah break faith** in the matter of the devoted things, and wrath fell upon all the congregation of Israel? **And he did not perish alone for his iniquity.”**

“The Mighty One, God, the LORD! The  
Mighty One, God, the LORD! He knows; and  
let Israel itself know! If it was in rebellion or  
in breach of faith against the LORD, do not  
spare us today for building an altar to turn  
away from following the LORD. Or if we did  
so to offer burnt offerings or grain offerings  
or peace offerings on it, may the LORD  
himself take vengeance.

Nothing makes God more supreme and more central than when a people are utterly persuaded that nothing is going to bring satisfaction to their aching hearts besides God. This conviction breeds a people who passionately long for God on Sunday morning. They are not confused about why they are here. They do not see

songs and prayers and sermons as mere traditions or mere duties. They see them as means of getting to God or God getting to them for more of His fullness.

– John Piper



No, but we did it from fear that in time your children might say to our children, 'What have you to do with the LORD, the God of Israel? For the LORD has made the Jordan a boundary between us.... You have no portion in the LORD.' So your children might make our children cease to worship the LORD.

Therefore we said, 'Let us now build an altar, not for burnt offering, nor for sacrifice, but to be a **witness between us and you, and between our generations after us**

John 2:13-17

In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple...And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables... “Take these things away; do not make my Father's house a house of trade.”

His disciples remembered that it was written,  
“**Zeal** for your house will **consume** me.”

## John 12:31-32

Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out.

And I, when **I am lifted up** from the earth, will **draw all people to myself.**”