

Joshua

“The Promised Land At Last!”

Lesson Ten

"Eastern Tribes Return Home"

Text: Joshua 22

CANAAN

TRIBAL TERRITORIES OF ISRAEL

Scale of Miles
0 10 20 30 40

Mediterranean Sea



#1

What 4 commendations did Joshua give the fighting men from Gad, Reuben, & Manasseh (Read [22:1-3](#))?

They had done everything that Moses had commanded them

They had done everything that Joshua had told them to do

They had not forsaken their brethren

They had fulfilled their commission

#2

What (approximately) **6 charges** (or warnings) did he give them (**22:5**)?

1. **Be diligent to obey** *the Law of Moses*
2. **Love** *the LORD your God*
3. **Walk** *in His ways*
4. **Keep His commandments** *(John 14:15).*
5. **Cling to Him** *[with all your heart and soul]*
6. **Serve Him** *with all your heart and soul*

#3

What directive did he give them concerning the **spoils they had collected**? Why do you think he did this?

*They were to **share their spoils with their relatives** that did not participate (go to war) in the conquest (22:8).*

*We are not told how many men from these 2 and ½ tribes stayed nor are we told why they stayed. But during this 6-7 year period, they would have been able to **make great progress on developing their farms.***

*Someone had to take care of the **little ones at home** while the able-bodied men were off to war. How valuable is this?*

#3

What directive did he give them concerning the spoils they had collected? (Read Joshua 22:7-9).

Why do you think Joshua did this?

Can you think of another example where this principle of everyone shares equally in the spoils even if not on the front lines?

See 1 Sam 30:22-25

What lessons are there for us today?

How important is the work of the church that is done behind the scenes?

#4

On their way home, what did they decide to do? (Read 22:10-11).

They decided to build an altar.

What was the initial reaction of everyone else in Israel? (Read 22:12 -13)

The remaining tribes heard of this and were extremely upset, confident that it constituted rebellion on their part and joined together an army to defeat them!

Why?

Why?

Why did Josiah tear down the high places as a part of his restoration (2 Kings 23:5, 8.)?

What had Moses told them about the place of sacrifice? (Deut 12:2-11, 13-14, 26-28.)

What were they to do if an individual entices them to idolatry? (Deut 13:6,8-11)

What were they to do if a city became idolatrous? (Deut 12:12-18)

Why?

“Thou shalt put away the evil from the midst of thee” (Deut 13:5b).

Commanded 8 times in Deuteronomy!

Deuteronomy 20 provisions for a holy war! See Deut 20:8

Is this important in the NT?

I Cor 15:33

#5

What became their plan of action?

They decided to send Phinehas and a chief from each of the remaining 10 tribes to investigate the matter (22:10-14).

**As Moses had commanded they
do (Deut 13:14)**

#6

The delegation's message can be outlined into 4 main points. **See 22:16-19**
Paraphrase each.

- 22:16 - *Please explain this act of rebellion by building this altar*
- 22:17 - *Have you forgotten the sin of Peor and the resulting plague? (God punishes!)*
- 22:18b - *An act of rebellion today will result in all of Israel being punished tomorrow*
- 22:19 - *If the land you have is not good enough, we will be glad to give you some of ours*

#8

Summarize the defense of the Reuben, Gad, and Manasseh tribes. Do you think their argument is reasonable?

If this were done as an act of rebellion, then we would deserve to be punished (22:22). This altar was not built for the purpose of offering sacrifices (22:23) but as a memorial for the children of the tribes on the west side of the Jordan so that they would not come to think (in time) of their brothers on the east side as illegitimate (22:27).

Continued on next slide

#8

Summarize the defense of the Reuben, Gad, and Manasseh tribes. Do you think their argument is reasonable?

This was a very reasonable argument. Over generations, it is impossible to know what one group of people may come to think about another. Those that are close friends today could very well be mortal enemies over some real or imagined slight tomorrow. One group's values or perceptions can vastly change over time. It is important to understand and not forget our history!



#9

What were the reactions of the delegation and the nation as a whole?

They believed the explanation provided (22:30, 33) and praised God because civil war had been averted (22:31, 33).

#10

What lessons (if any) do you see in this episode for us today?

1. *What is really commendable about this incident (Phil 1:17)?*

They were willing to **confront false doctrine** if needed! Courageous!

They were aware of **past mistakes and determined not to repeat them** (See 32:17, & 22:20.)

Do we need more concern for **sound doctrine today** and beware of **counterfeit doctrines**?

What lessons (if any) do you see in this episode for us today?

*They saw this as a **national problem**. That is, God would punish the entire nation because of the actions of a fraction of their members.*

When sin is found within the church, God expects the church to purge it from its members (1 Corinthians 5:13).

#10

What lessons (if any) do you see in this episode for us today?

2. *It is possible for even the best of intentions to be misunderstood (Romans 14:16).*
3. *We need to be “quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger” (James 1:19).*
4. *‘Snap’ judgments are often incorrect (John 7:24).*

TRUE/FALSE

11. T F *Gad, Reuben, & the half tribe of Manasseh named the altar. (22:34)*
12. T F *Eleazar the son of Phineas said that the people had been delivered from the Lord. (22:31)*
13. T F *The 3 tribes agreed that if they were guilty, they should be punished. (22:22)*
14. T F *The altar of witness was very large. (22:10)*
15. T F *The people of Israel gathered at Shechem when they heard about the altar. (22:12)*