

Joshua: Chapter 22

- V. 1 – Then Joshua summoned the Reubenites and the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh,
- SC: So first he summoned, then he communicated.
- V. 2 – and said to them, “You have kept all that Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, and have listened (SC: Key word, right there; “listen”.) to my voice in all (SC: Remember the Keyword “all” throughout) that I commanded you.
- SC: So those are powerful words. So:
 - They kept
 - Second keyword, all
 - Third keyword, listened
 - Fourth keyword, all
- V. 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.
 - SC: That is, you’ve *done* what you were told to do. That’s what the “charge” is. A charge is when somebody tells you to *do* something. They’re charging you to do something.
- V. 4 – “And now the LORD your God has given rest to your brothers (SC: “Rest” is the key word. In other words, “because of verses 1, 2, and 3, the Lord 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.
- V. 5 – “Only be very careful (SC: Huge words. That means your attention should be riveted, laser focused...) to observe (SC: What does it mean to “observe”? To *look* at? Probably not just *looking* at. It probably means something much deeper.) the commandment and the law which Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, **(1)** to love the LORD your God and **(2)** walk in all His ways (SC: Remember how we’ve talked about the ways of God) and **(3)** keep His commandments and **(4)** hold fast to Him and **(5)** serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul.”
 - SC: Remember your “soul” is your mind, will, and emotions. And that right there is a tool, a roadmap, a blueprint of what you should do and need to do.
 - So number 1, be very careful.... To observe. That means:
 - to practice,
 - meditate on,
 - memorize,
 - review,
 - think about...
 - ...the commandment of the law the Lord gave you. What is the commandment of the Law?
 - Number 1, to love the Lord your God.
 - Number 2, to walk in ALL His ways.
 - Number 3, to keep His commandments. So identify His ways so you can walk in them. Identify His commandments so you can keep them.
 - Number 4, hold fast to them. What does that mean?

- Number 5, I think, serve Him. How will you serve Him? Make a list, and whatever is on that list, do *that* with all your heart, mind, will and emotions. That is, with all your being, serve Him.
- V. 6 – So Joshua blessed them and sent them away
 - SC: Now, in the New Testament, the word “blessed” means “happy”. I’m not sure what it means in the Old Testament. But if we were to superimpose, which you shouldn’t, “So Joshua made happy all of them and sent them away...”), and they went to their tents.
- SC: So V. 7 he talks about what Moses had *given* them to possess. That is, property, land.
- V. 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,
- V. 8 – and said to them, “Return (SC: See, again, action. Do you see all the action words in here?) 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.”
 - SC: So how did they get rich? By eliminating their enemies and, basically, stealing all their enemy’s wealth. That’s how it’s been done for eons.
- V. 9 – And 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 (SC: Action), according to the command of the LORD through Moses.
 - SC: Or by the hand of Moses, is what it says literally.
- V. 10 – And when they came to the region of the Jordan which is in the land of Canaan, the sons of Reuben and the sons of Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh built an altar there by the Jordan, a large altar in appearance.
- V. 11 – And the sons of Israel heard it said, “Behold, the sons of Reuben and the sons of Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh have built an altar at the frontier of the land of Canaan, in the region of the Jordan, on the side belonging to the sons of Israel.”
- V. 12 – And when the sons of Israel heard of it, the whole congregation of the sons of Israel gathered themselves at Shiloh, to go up against them in war.
- V. 13 – Then the sons of Israel sent to the sons of Reuben and to the sons of Gad and to the half-tribe of Manasseh, into the land of Gilead, Phinehas (SC: Remember that name) the son of Eleazar the priest,
- V. 14 – and with him ten chiefs, one chief for each father’s household from each of the tribes of Israel; and each one of them was the head of his father’s household among the thousands (SC: of families) of Israel.
- V. 15 – And they came to the sons of Reuben and to the sons of Gad and to the half-tribe of Manasseh, to the land of Gilead, and they spoke with them saying,
- V. 16 – “Thus says the whole congregation (SC: That is, all of us) of the LORD, ‘What is this unfaithful act which you have committed against the God of Israel, turning away from following the LORD this day, by building yourselves an altar, to rebel against the LORD this day?
 - SC: So back then, in that day, the common practice was to build alters to various gods. What’s interesting here is there are other places in the Old Testament where alters were built to God, Jehovah. It was okay. So why is it not okay here? Was it built for God, Jehovah, was it built just for *any* god?
- V. 17 – ‘Is not the iniquity of Peor enough for us, from which we have not cleansed ourselves to this day, although a plague came on the congregation of the LORD,
- V. 18 – that you must turn away this day from following the LORD? And it will come about if you rebel against the LORD today, that He will be angry with the whole congregation of Israel tomorrow.
- V. 19 – ‘If, however, the land of your possession is unclean, then cross into the land of the possession of the LORD, where the LORD’s tabernacle stands, and take possession among us. Only do not rebel against the LORD, or rebel against us by building an altar for yourselves, besides the altar of the LORD our God (SC: Other than).

- SC: They lived in a time when there were hundreds of thousands of gods that people believed in, worshiped, different nations, tribes, and so on.
- V. 20 – ‘Did not Achan the son of Zerah act unfaithfully in the things under the ban, and wrath fall on all the congregation of Israel? And that man did not perish alone in his iniquity.’
 - SC: The key here, “did not perish alone”. Your sin has consequences and you’re not the only one who will suffer for your sin. The people around you end up paying the price for your selfish acts. Or fear-based acts.
- V. 21 – Then the sons of Reuben and the sons of Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh answered, and spoke to the heads of the families of Israel.
- V. 22 – “The Mighty One, God, the LORD, the Mighty One, God, the LORD! He knows, and may Israel itself know. If it was in rebellion, or if in an unfaithful act against the LORD do not Thou save us this day!
 - SC: The key word is “if”. “If it was rebellion”.
- V. 23 – “If we have built us an altar to turn away from following the LORD, or if to offer a burnt offering or grain offering on it, or if to offer sacrifices of peace offerings on it, may the LORD Himself require it.
- V. 24 – “But truly we have done this out of concern, for a reason, saying, ‘In time to come your sons may say to our sons, “What have you to do with the LORD, the God of Israel?’
- V. 25 – “For the LORD has made the Jordan a border between us and you, you sons of Reuben and sons of Gad; you have no portion in the LORD.” So your sons may make our sons stop fearing the LORD.’
- V. 26 – “Therefore we said, ‘Let us build an altar, not for burnt offering or for sacrifice;
- V. 27 – rather it shall be a witness between us and you and between our generations after us, that we are to perform the service of the LORD before Him with our burnt offerings, and with our sacrifices and with our peace offerings, that your sons may not say to our sons in time to come, “You have no portion in the LORD.”’
- V. 28 – “Therefore we said, ‘It shall also come about if they say this to us or to our generations in time to come, then we shall say, “See the copy of the altar of the LORD which our fathers made, not for burnt offering or for sacrifice; rather it is a witness between us and you.”’
- V. 29 – “Far be it from us that we should rebel against the LORD and turn away from following the LORD this day, by building an altar for burnt offering, for grain offering or for sacrifice, besides the altar of the LORD our God which is before His tabernacle.”
- V. 30 – So when Phinehas the priest and the leaders of the congregation, even the heads of the families of Israel who were with him, heard the words which the sons of Reuben and the sons of Gad and the sons of Manasseh spoke, it pleased them.
- V. 31 – And Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest said to the sons of Reuben and to the sons of Gad and to the sons of Manasseh, “Today we know that the LORD is in our midst, because you have not committed this unfaithful act against the LORD; now you have delivered the sons of Israel from the hand of the LORD.”
- V. 32 – Then Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest and the leaders returned from the sons of Reuben and from the sons of Gad, from the land of Gilead, to the land of Canaan, to the sons of Israel, and brought back word to them.
- V. 33 – And the word pleased the sons of Israel, and the sons of Israel blessed God (SC: “Made happy God”); and they did not speak of going up against them in war, to destroy the land in which the sons of Reuben and the sons of Gad were living.
- V. 34 – And the sons of Reuben and the sons of Gad called the altar Witness; “For,” they said, “it is a witness between us that the LORD is God.”