

Preserving Unity Joshua 22

I. Discharging the Troops – 22:1-8

1. Joshua's discharges 2 1/2 tribes - 1
Troops from Reuben, Gad & ½ of Manasseh
2. Commends them for faithful service – 2-3
Kept all their promises to Moses
Left families & flocks to fight with other tribes
Fulfilled their commitment before God
“These many days” – about 7 years
Through battles & division of the land
3. Troops are dismissed – 4
You may return to your land and families
Go and enjoy the inheritance God has given you
- 3.. Joshua's challenge – 5
Be diligent in your commitment to the Lord
Obey all of God's law
Love the Lord your God
Walk in all His ways
Keep His commandments
Cleave to Him
Serve Him with all your heart & with all your soul
5. Troops discharged with a blessing – 6-8
They return to their tents in their inheritance
With Joshua's blessing upon them – 7
Sent them with their share of the spoils - 8
Riches, much cattle, valuable metals & clothing

II. Building of an Altar – 9-11

1. Men from 2 ½ tribes headed home – 9
Troops from Reuben, Gad & ½ of Manasseh
2. Paused at the Jordan River – 10
There they built a great altar
Believed it necessary to erect a monument
3. Western tribes hear of this altar – 11
Became aware of what eastern tribes did

III. A Threat to Unity – 12-20

- Western tribes gather for war – 12
Gather at Shiloh, where the Tabernacle was
Purpose is to go to war against 2 ½ tribes
2. Sent a delegation to other tribes – 13-14
Send Phinehas the priest & 10 princes
 3. Meet with the 2 ½ tribes – 15-20
Accuse them of a trespass against God – 16
See this altar as a sign of rebellion
Remind them of Israel's past rebellion – 17
Iniquity at Peor & plague from God – Num. 25
Misjudging their motives – 18-20
They are turning away from God – 18
Their sin can cause God's anger against Israel
Offer of peace to share their own lands – 19
Come live with us & worship at God's altar
Remember Achan's sin impacted all – 20
God's wrath was on all Israel

IV. Defense of Eastern Tribes – 21-29

1. Acknowledgement of Jehovah – 21-22
Jehovah is the God of gods - only true God
He knows our hearts & our motives
We are not in rebellion against Him
If you listen you also will know
If you then judge us wrong do not save us
2. Reasons for altar are given – 23-27
If built in rebellion let God judge us – 23
Rather built to protect unity of tribes – 24-25
If your children deny access to God's altar
This river should not become a barrier
Reasons are stated clearly – 26-29
Definitely not for sacrifices & offerings - 26
But a witness between us for unity – 27-28
That your children do not deny access to ours
God forbid that we should rebel – 29
To turn from following the Lord
To build an altar for offerings & sacrifices
Our only altar is at the Tabernacle

V. Reconciliation of Tribes - 30-34

1. Western tribes accept defense – 30-31
They are pleased to hear their reasons
We perceive that God has united us
You have not committed a trespass
You have kept us from going to war
2. Delegation reported to tribes – 32-33
There was joy in Israel at the report
Civil war had been averted
3. Eastern tribes named the altar Ed
It is to stand as a witness to their unity