

THE MEMORIAL ALTAR EAST OF JORDAN

BIBLE TEXT : Joshua 22:1-34

LESSON 176 Senior Course

MEMORY VERSE: "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching" (Hebrews 10:25).

BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

Joshua 22:1-34

¹ Then Joshua called the Reubenites, and the Gadites, and the half tribe of Manasseh,
² And said unto them, Ye have kept all that Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you, and have obeyed my voice in all that I commanded you:
³ Ye have not left your brethren these many days unto this day, but have kept the charge of the commandment of the Lord your God.
⁴ And now the Lord your God hath given rest unto your brethren, as he promised them: therefore now return ye, and get you unto your tents, *and* unto the land of your possession, which Moses the servant of the Lord gave you on the other side Jordan.
⁵ But take diligent heed to do the commandment and the law, which Moses the servant of the Lord charged you, to love the Lord your God, and to walk in all his ways, and to keep his commandments, and to cleave unto 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 unto their tents.
⁷ Now to the *one* half of the tribe of Manasseh Moses had given *possession* in Bashan: but unto the *other* half thereof gave Joshua among their brethren on this side Jordan westward. And when Joshua sent them away also unto their tents, then he blessed them,

BIBLE REFERENCES:

I The Dismissal and Blessing

¹ The Reubenites, Gadites, and half the tribe of Manasseh had been faithful to Moses' charge and Joshua's commands, Joshua 22:1,2;

Numbers 32:20-29

²⁰ And Moses said unto them, If ye will do this thing, if ye will go armed before the Lord to war,

²¹ And will go all of you armed over Jordan before the Lord, until he hath driven out his enemies from before him,

²² And the land be subdued before the Lord: then afterward ye shall return, and be guiltless before the Lord, and before Israel; and this land shall be your possession before the Lord.

²³ But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the Lord: and be sure your sin will find you out.

²⁴ Build you cities for your little ones, and folds for your sheep; and do that which hath proceeded out of your mouth.

²⁵ And the children of Gad and the children of Reuben spake unto Moses, saying, Thy servants will do as my lord commandeth.

²⁶ Our little ones, our wives, our flocks, and all our cattle, shall be there in the cities of Gilead:

²⁷ But thy servants will pass over, every man armed for war, before the Lord to battle, as my lord saith.

²⁸ So concerning them Moses commanded Eleazar the priest, and Joshua the son of Nun, and the chief fathers of the tribes of the children of Israel:

²⁹ And Moses said unto them, If the children of Gad and the children of Reuben will pass with you over Jordan, every man armed to battle, before the Lord, and the land shall be subdued before you; then ye shall give them the land of Gilead for a possession:

Joshua 1:12-18

¹² And to the Reubenites, and to the Gadites, and to half the tribe of Manasseh, spake Joshua, saying,

¹³ Remember the word which Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you, saying, The Lord your God hath given you rest, and hath given you this land.

¹⁴ Your wives, your little ones, and your cattle, shall remain in the land which Moses gave you on this side Jordan; but ye shall pass before your brethren armed, all the mighty men of valour, and help them;

¹⁵ Until the Lord have given your brethren rest, as *he hath given* you, and they also have possessed the land which the Lord your God giveth them: then ye shall return unto the land of your possession, and enjoy it, which Moses the Lord'S servant gave you on this side Jordan toward the sunrising.

¹⁶ And they answered Joshua, saying, All that thou commandest us we will do, and whithersoever thou sendest us, we will go.

¹⁷ According as we hearkened unto Moses in all things, so will we hearken unto thee: only the Lord thy God be with thee, as he was with Moses.

¹⁸ Whosoever *he be* that doth rebel against thy commandment, and will not hearken unto thy words in all that thou commandest him, he shall be put to death: only

⁸ And he spake unto them, saying, Return with much riches unto your tents, and with very much cattle, with silver, and with gold, and with brass, and with iron, and with very much raiment: divide the spoil of your enemies with your brethren.

⁹ And the children of Reuben and the children of Gad and the half tribe of Manasseh returned, and departed from the children of Israel out of Shiloh, which *is* in the land of Canaan, to go unto the country of Gilead, to the land of their possession, whereof they were possessed, according to the word of the Lord by the hand of Moses.

¹⁰ And when they came unto the borders of Jordan, that *are* in the land of Canaan, the children of Reuben and the children of Gad and the half tribe of Manasseh built there an altar by Jordan, a great altar to see to.

¹¹ And the children of Israel heard say, Behold, the children of Reuben and the children of Gad and the half tribe of Manasseh have built an altar over against the land of Canaan, in the borders of Jordan, at the passage of the children of Israel.

¹² And when the children of Israel heard *of it*, the whole congregation of the children of Israel gathered themselves together at Shiloh, to go up to war against them.

¹³ And the children of Israel sent unto the children of Reuben, and to the children of Gad, and to the half tribe of Manasseh, into the land of Gilead, Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest,

¹⁴ And with him ten princes, of each chief house a prince throughout all the tribes of Israel; and each one *was* an head of the house of their fathers among the

be strong and of a good courage.

2 They had fought with their brethren until the Lord had given Israel rest, Joshua 22:3,4;

Joshua 21:43-45

⁴³ And the Lord gave unto Israel all the land which he swore to give unto their fathers; and they possessed it, and dwelt therein.

⁴⁴ And the Lord gave them rest round about, according to all that he swore unto their fathers: and there stood not a man of all their enemies before them; the Lord delivered all their enemies into their hand.

⁴⁵ There failed not ought of any good thing which the Lord had spoken unto the house of Israel; all came to pass.

3 After commending the two and a half tribes for their services, Joshua sent them home, Joshua 22:5-8;

1 Corinthians 15:58

⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

II An Altar in Gilead

1 The two and a half tribes erected an altar on the east side of Jordan, Joshua 22:9, 10

2 When the Children of Israel in Canaan heard thereof, they feared idolatry, Joshua 22:11, 12;

Deuteronomy 13:12-15

¹² If thou shalt hear *say* in one of thy cities, which the Lord thy God hath given thee to dwell there, saying,

¹³ *Certain* men, the children of Belial, are gone out from among you, and have withdrawn the inhabitants of their city, saying, Let us go and serve other gods, which ye have not known;

¹⁴ Then shalt thou enquire, and make search, and ask diligently; and, behold, *if it be* truth, *and* the thing certain, *that* such abomination is wrought among you;

¹⁵ Thou shalt surely smite the inhabitants of that city with the edge of the sword, destroying it utterly, and all that is therein, and the cattle thereof, with the edge of the sword.

3 Phinehas led an embassy of princes to inquire into the matter, Joshua 22:13-20;

Deuteronomy 13:14

¹⁴ Then shalt thou enquire, and make search, and ask diligently; and, behold, *if it be* truth, *and* the thing certain, *that* such abomination is wrought among you;

Matthew 18:15

¹⁵ Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.

Acts 15:2

² When therefore Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and disputation with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas, and certain other of them, should go up to Jerusalem unto the apostles and elders about this question.

III An Altar of Witness

1 The men of Gilead pleaded that the altar was erected for a witness only, Joshua 22:21-28;

Psalms 7:4-5

⁴ If I have rewarded evil unto him that was at peace with me; (yea, I have delivered him that without cause is mine enemy:)

⁵ Let the enemy persecute my soul, and take *it*; yea, let him tread down my life upon the earth, and lay mine honour in the dust. Selah.

Psalms 44:20-21

²⁰ If we have forgotten the name of our God, or stretched

thousands of Israel.

¹⁵ And they came unto the children of Reuben, and to the children of Gad, and to the half tribe of Manasseh, unto the land of Gilead, and they spake with them, saying,

¹⁶ Thus saith the whole congregation of the Lord, What trespass *is* this that ye have committed against the God of Israel, to turn away this day from following the Lord, in that ye have builded you an altar, that ye might rebel this day against the Lord?

¹⁷ *Is* the iniquity of Peor too little for us, from which we are not cleansed until this day, although there was a plague in the congregation of the Lord,

¹⁸ But that ye must turn away this day from following the Lord? and it will be, *seeing* ye rebel to day against the Lord, that to morrow he will be wroth with the whole congregation of Israel.

¹⁹ Notwithstanding, if the land of your possession *be* unclean, *then* pass ye over unto the land of the possession of the Lord, wherein the Lord'S tabernacle dwelleth, and take possession among us: but rebel not against the Lord, nor rebel against us, in building you an altar beside 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 congregation of Israel? and that man perished not alone in his iniquity.

²¹ Then the children of Reuben and the children of Gad and the half tribe of Manasseh answered, and said unto the heads of the thousands of Israel,

²² The Lord God of gods, the Lord God of gods, he knoweth, and Israel he shall know; if *it be* in rebellion, or if in transgression against the Lord, (save us not this

out our hands to a strange god;

²¹ Shall not God search this out? for he knoweth the secrets of the heart.

2 The Reubenites, Gadites, and half the tribe of Manasseh pledged anew their allegiance to God, Joshua 22:29;

Joshua 24:15-18

¹⁵ And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that *were* on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

¹⁶ And the people answered and said, God forbid that we should forsake the Lord, to serve other gods;

¹⁷ For the Lord our God, he *it is* that brought us up and our fathers out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage, and which did those great signs in our sight, and preserved us in all the way wherein we went, and among all the people through whom we passed:

¹⁸ And the Lord drave out from before us all the people, even the Amorites which dwelt in the land: *therefore* will we also serve the Lord; for he *is* our God.

Joshua 24:21

²¹ And the people said unto Joshua, Nay; but we will serve the Lord.

John 6:66-69

⁶⁶ From that *time* many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.

⁶⁷ Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away?

⁶⁸ Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.

⁶⁹ And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.

3 The words of the men of Gilead satisfied the men of Israel, Joshua 22:30, 31;

Judges 8:3

³ God hath delivered into your hands the princes of Midian, Oreb and Zeeb: and what was I able to do in comparison of you? Then their anger was abated toward him, when he had said that.

Proverbs 15:1

¹ A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.

Romans 12:17-18

¹⁷ Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men.

¹⁸ If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.

4 The embassy returned home and reported to the Children of Israel, Joshua 22:32-34;

Acts 15:22-31

²² Then pleased it the apostles and elders, with the whole church, to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas; *namely*, Judas surnamed Barsabas, and Silas, chief men among the brethren:

²³ And they wrote *letters* by them after this manner; The apostles and elders and brethren *send* greeting unto the brethren which are of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia:

²⁴ Forasmuch as we have heard, that certain which went out from us have troubled you with words, subverting your souls, saying, *Ye must* be circumcised, and keep the law: to whom we gave no *such* commandment:

²⁵ It seemed good unto us, being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men unto you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul,

²⁶ Men that have hazarded their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

²⁷ We have sent therefore Judas and Silas, who shall also tell *you* the same things by mouth.

day,)

²³ That we have built us an altar to turn from following the Lord, or if to offer thereon burnt offering or meat offering, or if to offer peace offerings thereon, let the Lord himself require *it*;

²⁴ And if we have not *rather* done it for fear of *this* thing, saying, In time to come your children might speak unto our children, saying, What have ye to do with the Lord God of Israel?

²⁵ For the Lord hath made Jordan a border between us and you, ye children of Reuben and children of Gad; ye have no part in the Lord: so shall your children make our children cease from fearing the Lord.

²⁶ Therefore we said, Let us now prepare to build us an altar, not for burnt offering, nor for sacrifice:

²⁷ But *that it may be* a witness between us, and you, and our generations after us, that we might do the service of the Lord before him with our burnt offerings, and with our sacrifices, and with our peace offerings; that your children may not say to our children in time to come, Ye have no part in the Lord.

²⁸ Therefore said we, that it shall be, when they should *so* say to us or to our generations in time to come, that we may say *again*, Behold the pattern of the altar of the Lord, which our fathers made, not for burnt offerings, nor for sacrifices; but it *is* a witness between us and you.

²⁹ God forbid that we should rebel against the Lord, and turn this day from following the Lord, to build an altar for burnt offerings, for meat offerings, or for sacrifices, beside the altar of the Lord our God that *is* before his tabernacle.

³⁰ And when Phinehas the priest, and the princes of the

²⁸ For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things;
²⁹ That ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well. Fare ye well.

³⁰ So when they were dismissed, they came to Antioch: and when they had gathered the multitude together, they delivered the epistle:

³¹ *Which* when they had read, they rejoiced for the consolation.

NOTES:

Rest for Israel

The major wars of Canaan had come to an end, for God had given the tribes of Israel rest in the land of their possession. War was not Israel's profession but was resorted to only as necessity dictated; therefore, Joshua, the good general that he was, knew that a great army was no longer needed. Accordingly, he called the soldiers of Reuben, Gad, and half the tribe of Manasseh to him to discharge them from the army and send them to their homes beyond Jordan.

These men had been good soldiers. The Bible does not tell how long they had served with Joshua, but the most reliable chronologers say that it took between six and seven years to conquer and divide Canaan. So far as can be determined, these men had never returned to their homes during all this time. They had kept all the commandments of Moses in regard to helping their brethren in battle, and they had followed Joshua in all that he had asked them to do.

Looking for Home

No doubt these soldiers had longed for home at times, that they might see and be with those whom they loved; but as good soldiers, they waited until they were given leave by their commander. How similar this is to the life of a true, Christian soldier. He is in a warfare in a land that is far away from his Homeland. The battle may rage, but God has put a song in his heart and a hope in his soul of better things to come.

**"This world is not my home, I'm only passing by,
My treasures and my hopes are all laid up on high."**

He longs for Heaven and Home often enough; but, being true to his Captain, he is willing to stay at his post of duty until the signal comes and the release from this world is given. Thoughts of the Home and loved ones over there do not detract from valuable service to God here. They add to that service and make the Christian the better soldier for having those thoughts.

Joshua gave these soldiers their discharge, and added his blessing with it. Though the service that had been rendered was the payment of a debt due or the performance of a promise, the blessing was included because that duty had been so faithfully carried out. These soldiers had agreed to help their brethren win Canaan, although the land east of Jordan had been given to them. They did their duty, and they were rewarded with riches: cattle, silver, gold, brass, iron, and much raiment, in addition to their covenanted possession.

The Christian's Reward

"So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do" (Luke 17:10). The Christian works not for reward, but if he does faithfully those things that are

congregation and heads of the thousands of Israel which *were* with him, heard the words that the children of Reuben and the children of Gad and the children of Manasseh spake, it pleased them.

³¹ And Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest said unto the children of Reuben, and to the children of Gad, and to the children of Manasseh, This day we perceive that the Lord *is* among us, because ye have not committed this trespass against the Lord: now ye have delivered the children of Israel out of the hand of the Lord.

³² And Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest, and the princes, returned from the children of Reuben, and from the children of Gad, out of the land of Gilead, unto the land of Canaan, to the children of Israel, and brought them word again.

³³ And the thing pleased the children of Israel; and the children of Israel blessed God, and did not intend to go up against them in battle, to destroy the land wherein the children of Reuben and Gad dwelt.

³⁴ And the children of Reuben and the children of Gad called the altar *Ed*: for it *shall be* a witness between us that the Lord *is* God.

his duty to do and the things that his Commander asks, a reward is certain. The Christian has covenanted with his Lord to serve Him and be with Him throughout eternity, and great riches and abundant joys will be added. "His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord" (Matthew 25:21).

Compare this reward of the righteous with the payment that will be meted to those who follow Satan. "The wages of sin is death" (Romans 6: 23). Jesus will say to those on His left hand on the day of judgment, "De- part from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels" (Matthew 25:41). There is only one wise choice in life — serving our heavenly Father faithfully here until He can say, "Friend, go up higher" (Luke 14:10).

A Memorial Altar

The Reubenites, Gadites, and half the tribe of Manasseh departed for their home on the east side of Jordan. As they came to that barrier which lay between their country and the house of God at Shiloh, their hearts must have been troubled. They must have wondered if they would always have the welcome and fellowship that they felt among their brethren on this day of departure. Perhaps the time would come when the Children of Israel on the west side of Jordan would say to those on the east side: "What have ye to do with the LORD God of Israel?" To make certain that nothing of this nature should ever come to pass, the two and a half tribes built an altar on their side of Jordan.

Zeal for God

The news of the altar on the other side of Jordan soon reached the Children of Israel. Immediately they gathered at Shiloh to go against the two and a half tribes in war. Why the sudden change? Only a few days before these people had bidden their brethren farewell and had sent them away with a blessing. And now war? The Children of Israel had strict commandment from God that they should have but one altar on which to offer their sacrifices and offerings. Any sacrifice offered any place except at the door of the Tabernacle before the priest was considered a sacrifice to the devil (**Leviticus 17:3-9** ³ What man soever *there be* of the house of Israel, that killeth an ox, or lamb, or goat, in the camp, or that killeth *it* out of the camp, ⁴ And bringeth it not unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, to offer an offering unto the Lord before the tabernacle of the Lord; blood shall be imputed unto that man; he hath shed blood; and that man shall be cut off from among his people: ⁵ To the end that the children of Israel may bring their sacrifices, which they offer in the open field, even that they may bring them unto the Lord, unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, unto the priest, and offer them *for* peace offerings unto the Lord. ⁶ And the priest shall sprinkle the blood upon the altar of the Lord *at* the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and burn the fat for a sweet savour unto the Lord. ⁷ And they shall no more offer their sacrifices unto devils, after whom they have gone a whoring. This shall be a statute for ever unto them throughout their generations. ⁸ And thou shalt say unto them, Whatsoever man *there be* of the house of Israel, or of the strangers which sojourn among you, that offereth a burnt offering or sacrifice, ⁹ And bringeth it not unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, to offer it unto the Lord; even that man shall be cut off from among his people.). The Children of Israel had further commandment to put to death any among them who thus transgressed God's law (**Deuteronomy 13:12-15** ¹² If thou shalt hear *say* in one of thy cities, which the Lord thy God hath given thee to dwell there, saying, ¹³ *Certain* men, the children of Belial, are gone out from among you, and have withdrawn the inhabitants of their city,

saying, Let us go and serve other gods, which ye have not known; ¹⁴ Then shalt thou enquire, and make search, and ask diligently; and, behold, *if it be truth, and the thing certain, that* such abomination is wrought among you; ¹⁵ Thou shalt surely smite the inhabitants of that city with the edge of the sword, destroying it utterly, and all that is therein, and the cattle thereof, with the edge of the sword.). We can see, then, that it was commendable zeal for God that prompted this spontaneous action on the part of the people of Israel.

Ascertaining the Truth

"Then shalt thou enquire, and make search, and ask diligently" (Deuteronomy 13:14). Accordingly, the Children of Israel sent an embassy from Shiloh to the Reubenites, Gadites, and half the tribe of Manasseh to find out the reason for building this great altar. Phinehas, the priest, was the leader of this group of men which consisted of a prince from each of the ten tribes of Israel on the west side of Jordan.

When the embassy came to the people who were thought to be offenders against God, the business at hand was stated in no uncertain terms. Phinehas, as spokesman for the group, reminded the people that idolatry would bring quick retribution from God, as in the case of Baalpeor. That iniquity had been practiced among the Children of Israel in this same vicinity, and 24,000 people had died as the result of that sin (**Numbers 25:3** ³ And Israel joined himself unto Baalpeor: and the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel. **Numbers 25:9** ⁹ And those that died in the plague were twenty and four thousand.).

Phinehas also stressed the truth that the sin of a few people could bring the wrath of God down upon the whole congregation. Achan was the one person who transgressed God's commandment at Jericho, yet the whole army of Israel was brought to a standstill at Ai until the sin was removed from the camp. The Israelites did not want another experience like that.

Land Unclean?

Phinehas may have been outspoken in his charges against the two and a half tribes, but he was prompted by love for God and right. The thing that the two and a half tribes had done certainly had the appearance of evil and looked like rebellion against God. Phinehas told the people that if they deemed the land of their possession unclean, then they were to leave that land and pass over Jordan into a possession of the Lord. Though the land of Canaan had been divided, the people were ready to make room for the two and a half tribes if they manifested any desire to come into the land where the Tabernacle was pitched. The people in Canaan would sooner sacrifice their comfort and possessions than have rebellion in their midst. Is not that the real Christian spirit?

A Soft Answer

The two and a half tribes heard the envoys through to the end of their arguments. It seems that a great many of the people had gathered to hear this discussion. The army who had made the altar and who had so recently returned from Canaan were probably still on hand to hear the charge of the envoys.

After the envoys had finished speaking, the men of Gilead presented their case. They stated that the altar had not been built for sacrifice or offerings, and called upon God to witness to the truth of their statement.

They told of their fears that someday they might be excluded

from God's altar at Shiloh. In that event, they wanted a witness that would prove beyond question that they were Israelites indeed. They seemed to feel that this altar on the east side of Jordan, no doubt made after the pattern of God's altar, would serve as that witness. They maintained that there was no thought of rebellion in their actions. The envoys took the words of the men of Gilead at their face value and returned home rejoicing that God's honor had prevailed. When the Children of Israel heard the good report, they blessed the Lord and put away all intentions of going to war with the two and a half tribes.

Commendation

Both the Children of Israel and the men of Gilead might be commended for their behavior on this occasion. The Children of Israel had a right cause to inquire into the questionable conduct of their brethren and were prompt to bring the matter to a clear understanding. They considered not the cost to themselves, but were willing to pay any price to keep rebellion against God out of their midst. Their zeal for God bore fruit.

The men of Gilead illustrated how to act under stress. Though their actions were misinterpreted, yet they waited until the heat of words had cooled before attempting to frame an answer. Their work had the appearance of evil, which we as Christians are to avoid (**1 Thessalonians 5:22** ²² Abstain from all appearance of evil.); but so far as can be determined, their hearts were clear before God.

A Clear Record

It is the duty of every Christian to keep his record clear before God, so that the Spirit can bear witness with his spirit that he is a child of God (**Romans 8:16** ¹⁶ The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God). If a Christian does come under the censorship of men, it is very comforting to be able with a humble confidence to appeal to God concerning his integrity (**1 Corinthians 4:3-4** ³ But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man's judgment: yea, I judge not mine own self. ⁴ For I know nothing by myself; yet am I not hereby justified: but he that judgeth me is the Lord.); yet there is a proof of integrity, besides, which should be manifest to the world at all times through the fruits of the Spirit. "And be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ" (I Peter 3:15,16).

It might be said that Christ is our great Altar that sanctifies every gift. If we have the pattern of that Altar in our hearts, it will be the best evidence possible of our interest in Him, and a testimony to the whole world that we have a part and lot in Him.

QUESTIONS

- 1 Why did Joshua dismiss the soldiers of Reuben, Gad, and Manasseh?
- 2 How many soldiers in Joshua's army came from the two and a half tribes?
- 3 When Joshua dismissed these men from his army, did he send them home empty-handed?
- 4 What was the first thought that entered into the hearts of the Children of Israel when they heard that the two and a half tribes had built a new altar?
- 5 What did the Children of Israel do about this matter?
- 6 What did the men of Gilead say in defense of their altar?
- 7 Do you think that it was a wise thing to build this altar?