



FAITHFUL FOLLOWERS

Joshua 22



FAITHFUL FIGHTERS OF THE EAST

“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.**



FAITHFUL FIGHTERS OF THE EAST

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.

Joshua 22:4





REMAIN FAITHFULLY OBEDIENT

**Only be very careful to observe
the commandment and the law
that Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you,
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.**

Joshua 22:5



THE 'SHEMA'

Hear therefore, O Israel, and be careful to do them, that it may go well with you, and that you may multiply greatly, as the Lord, the God of your fathers, has promised you, **in a land flowing with milk and honey**. “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. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart.

Deuteronomy 6:3–5



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REMAIN FAITHFULLY OBEDIENT

Only **be very careful to observe**

the commandment and the law

that Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you,

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.



REMAIN FAITHFULLY OBEDIENT

Only **be very careful TO DO**

the commandment and the law

that Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you,

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.



GOING 'HOME'

Joshua blessed them and sent them away, and they went to their tents.

Joshua 22:6





GOING 'HOME'

Now to the one half of the tribe of Manasseh Moses had given a possession in Bashan, but to the other half Joshua had given a possession beside their brothers in the land west of the Jordan. And when **Joshua sent them away to their homes and blessed them**, he said to them, “Go back to your tents with much wealth and with very much livestock, with silver, gold, bronze, and iron, and with much clothing. Divide the spoil of your enemies with your brothers.” So the people of Reuben and the people of Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh **returned home, parting from the people of Israel at Shiloh**, which is in the land of Canaan, to go to the land of Gilead, their own land of which they had possessed themselves by command of the Lord through Moses.

Joshua 22:7-9



UNITY THREATENED

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.**

Joshua 22:10





UNITY THREATENED

“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.**

Joshua 22:11–12





“COURTROOM” SCENE

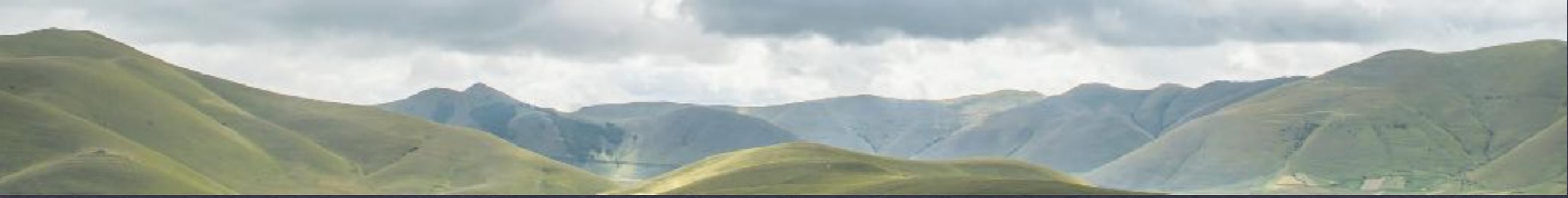
13 — 15 Prosecution Forms its Team

16 — 20 Allegation

21 — 29 Defense

30 — 34 Verdict





PROSECUTION FORMS ITS TEAM

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**. And they came to the people of Reuben, the people of Gad, and the half-tribe of Manasseh, in the land of Gilead, and they said to them,

THE ALLEGATION: REBELS BREAKING FAITH

“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, and for which there came a plague upon the congregation of the Lord, that you too must turn away this day from following the Lord? And if you too **rebel** against the Lord today then tomorrow he will be angry with the whole congregation of Israel. But now, if the land of your possession is unclean, pass over into the Lord's land where the Lord's tabernacle stands, and take for yourselves a possession among us. 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.’”

Joshua 22:16–20



PBCC STAFF & Elders - Israel 1976



THE ALLEGATION: REBELS BREAKING FAITH

“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, and for which there came a plague upon the congregation of the Lord, that you too must turn away this day from following the Lord? And if you too **rebel** against the Lord today then tomorrow he will be angry with the whole congregation of Israel. But now, if the land of your possession is unclean, pass over into the Lord's land where the Lord's tabernacle stands, and take for yourselves a possession among us. 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.’”

Joshua 22:16–20

THE ALLEGATION: PRECEDENCE

“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, and for which there came a plague upon the congregation** of the Lord, that you too must turn away this day from following the Lord? And if you too rebel against the Lord today then tomorrow he will be angry with the whole congregation of Israel. But now, if the land of your possession is unclean, pass over into the Lord's land where the Lord's tabernacle stands, and take for yourselves a possession among us. 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.**”

Joshua 22:16–20

THE ALLEGATION: SOLUTION OFFERED

“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, and for which there came a plague upon the congregation of the Lord, that you too must turn away this day from following the Lord? And if you too rebel against the Lord today then tomorrow he will be angry with the whole congregation of Israel. But now, if the land of your possession is unclean, pass over into the Lord's land where the Lord's tabernacle stands, and take for yourselves a possession among us. **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.’”

Joshua 22:16–20



CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Method (out) – Direct

Motivation– love/reconciliation



THE DEFENSE: WITNESS CALLED

The Mighty One, God, the Lord!

The Mighty One, God, the Lord!

He knows; and let Israel itself know!

Joshua 22:22a





THE DEFENSE: CHARGES RECOUNTED

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.

Joshua 22:22b-23





THE DEFENSE: ARGUMENT

No, but we did it from **fear that in time to come 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 and you, you people of Reuben and people of Gad. You have no portion in the Lord.’ So your children might make our children cease to worship the Lord.

Joshua 22:24–25





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Joshua 22:24–25





THE DEFENSE: PURPOSE OF ALTAR

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, that we do perform the service of the Lord in his presence with our burnt offerings and sacrifices and peace offerings, so your children will not say to our children in time to come, “You have no portion in the Lord.”’ And we thought, ‘If this should be said to us or to our descendants in time to come, we should say, “Behold, the **copy of the altar of the Lord, ... not for burnt offerings, nor for sacrifice, but to be a witness between us and you.**”’

Joshua 22:26–28



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Joshua 22:26–28



THE DEFENSE: CLOSING ARGUMENT

Far be it from us that we should **rebel** against the Lord and turn away this day from following the Lord by building an altar for burnt offering, grain offering, or sacrifice, other than the altar of the Lord our God that stands before his tabernacle!

Joshua 22:29



CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Method (out) – Direct

Motivation– love/reconciliation

Method (in) – LISTEN!!!!!!



THE VERDICT

When **Phinehas the priest and the chiefs of the congregation**, the heads of the families of Israel who were with him, **heard the words** that the people of Reuben and the people of Gad and the people of Manasseh spoke, **it was good in their eyes**. And Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest said to the people of Reuben and the people of Gad and the people of Manasseh, **“Today we know that the Lord is in our midst, because you have not committed this breach of faith against the Lord**. Now you have delivered the people of Israel from the hand of the Lord.

Joshua 22:30–31



THE VERDICT

Then Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest, and the chiefs, returned from the people of Reuben and the people of Gad in the land of Gilead to the land of Canaan, to the people of Israel, and brought back word to them.

And the report was good in the eyes of the people of Israel. And the people of Israel blessed God and spoke no more of making war against them to destroy the land where the people of Reuben and the people of Gad were settled. The people of Reuben and the people of Gad called the altar Witness, “For,” they said, “it is a witness between us that the Lord is God.”

Joshua 22:32–34



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Joshua 22:32–34



FAILURE TO FAITHFULLY FOLLOW

“...there arose another generation after them who did not know the Lord or the work that he had done for Israel.”

Judges 2:10

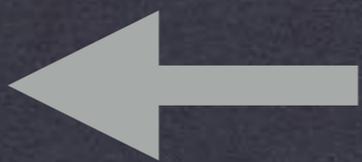


FAITHFUL FOLLOWERS = FAITHFUL WITNESSES

GOD



OTHERS



LOVE



OTHERS



OUR CALL TO FAITHFULLY FOLLOW

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

John 13:34



FAITHFUL FOLLOWERS = FAITHFUL WITNESSES

GOD



OTHERS



LOVE



OTHERS



CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Method (out) – ~~Direct~~ **Aggressive**

Motivation – ~~love/reconciliation~~ **“Win” & “Be right”**

Method (in) – ~~LISTEN!!!!!!~~ **Fail to listen well**

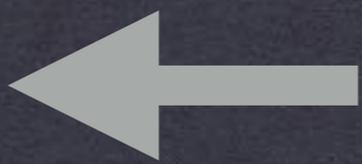


FAITHFUL FOLLOWERS = FAITHFUL WITNESSES

GOD



OTHERS



LOVE



OTHERS