

THE ALTAR BESIDE THE JORDAN

Joshua 22:9-27

Joshua 22

⁹So the Reubenites, the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh left the Israelites at Shiloh in Canaan to return to Gilead, their own land, which they had acquired in accordance with the command of the LORD through Moses.

¹⁰When they came to Geliloth near the Jordan in the land of Canaan, the Reubenites, the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh built an imposing altar there by the Jordan.

¹¹And when the Israelites heard that they had built the altar on the border of Canaan at Geliloth near the Jordan on the Israelite side, ¹²the whole assembly of Israel gathered at Shiloh to go to war against them.

¹³So the Israelites sent Phinehas son of Eleazar, the priest, to the land of Gilead—to Reuben, Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh.

¹⁴With him they sent ten of the chief men, one for each of the tribes of Israel, each the head of a family division among the Israelite clans.

¹⁵When they went to Gilead—to Reuben, Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh—they said to them: ¹⁶“The whole assembly of the LORD says: ‘How could you break faith with the God of Israel like this? How could you turn away from the LORD and build yourselves an altar in rebellion against him now? ¹⁷Was not the sin of Peor enough for us? Up to this very day we have not cleansed ourselves from that sin, even though a plague fell on the community of the LORD! ¹⁸And are you now turning away from the LORD?

“‘If you rebel against the LORD today, tomorrow he will be angry with the whole community of Israel. ¹⁹If the land you possess is defiled, come over to the LORD’S land, where the LORD’S tabernacle stands, and

share the land with us. But do not rebel against the LORD or against us by building an altar for yourselves, other than the altar of the LORD our God. ²⁰When Achan son of Zerah acted unfaithfully regarding the devoted things, did not wrath come upon the whole community of Israel? He was not the only one who died for his sin.’”

²¹Then Reuben, Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh replied to the heads of the clans of Israel: ²²“The Mighty One, God, the LORD! The Mighty One, God, the LORD! He knows! And let Israel know! If this has been in rebellion or disobedience to the LORD, do not spare us this day. ²³If we have built our own altar to turn away from the LORD and to offer burnt offerings and grain offerings, or to sacrifice fellowship offerings on it, may the LORD himself call us to account.

²⁴“No! We did it for fear that some day your descendants might say to ours, ‘What do you have to do with the LORD, the God of Israel? ²⁵The LORD has made the Jordan a boundary between us and you—you Reubenites and Gadites! You have no share in the LORD.’ So your descendants might cause ours to stop fearing the LORD.

²⁶“That is why we said, ‘Let us get ready and build an altar—but not for burnt offerings or sacrifices.’ ²⁷On the contrary, it is to be a witness between us and you and the generations that follow, that we will worship the LORD at his sanctuary with our burnt offerings, sacrifices and fellowship offerings. Then in the future your descendants will not be able to say to ours, ‘You have no share in the LORD.’

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POSSIBLE POINTS	MY POINTS	QUESTIONS
5		1.) What did the 2 1/2 tribes do when they got to the edge of the Jordan River?
5		2.) Why were the Israelites upset with the 2 1/2 tribes? (Verse 18)
5		3.) What were the Israelites going to do to the 2 1/2 tribes? (Verse 12)
5		4.) Why do you think the 2 1/2 tribes built an altar by the Jordan River?

POSSIBLE POINTS	MY POINTS	MEMORY VERSE
10		<p>“Remember the days of old; consider the generations long past...”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Deuteronomy 32:7</p>

POSSIBLE POINTS	MY POINTS	HOME CONNECTION	PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE
5		<i>I have read, or been read, the passage of scripture for this week.</i>	
5		<i>I have answered the questions aloud to an adult at home this week.</i>	
10		<i>I have recited the memory verse out loud to an adult at home this week.</i>	

TOTAL POINTS	CLUB CONNECTION
	LEADER'S SIGNATURE _____ DATE ___/___/___

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The three tribes build an altar on the other side of the Jordan River

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CRAFT/ACTIVITY: EDIBLE ALTAR SCENES

Students will make an altar scene to remind them that three of the tribes built an altar on the other side of the Jordan River.

MATERIALS

1. Paper Plates
2. Paint Brushes
3. Blue “Paint” Mixture (2 Tablespoons sugar, 4 drops of blue food coloring, 2 tablespoon water)
4. Chocolate Frosting
5. Crumbled Graham Crackers (dirt)
6. Miniature Marshmallows
7. Plastic Knives
8. 5 ounce drinking cups

DIRECTIONS

1. Crush graham crackers in a bag before class. Crush to the consistency of dirt.
2. Prepare the “Blue Paint Mixture” before class.
3. Fill 5 ounce cups with chocolate frosting for students to share.
4. Pass out a *paper* plate to each student (do not use styrofoam)
5. Allow students to “paint” a river on their paper plates.
6. Have students build a small altar with marshmallows and chocolate frosting on one side of the river.
7. Help students smear chocolate frosting on either side of the river.
8. Sprinkle graham crackers over the peanut butter to represent dirt.

FOR DISCUSSION

As students are making their edible altar scenes, remind them that the Israelites were worried about the three tribes building an altar on the other side of the Jordan River. The Israelites were afraid that the three tribes on the other side of the Jordan were building an altar to worship God in their own way. The three tribes simply wanted their children to know that they were a part of the tribes across the river and that they could worship God across the river.

TIME NEEDED TO COMPLETE:

Approximately 15 minutes

MEMORY VERSE

“Remember the days of old; consider the generations long past...”
Deuteronomy 32:7

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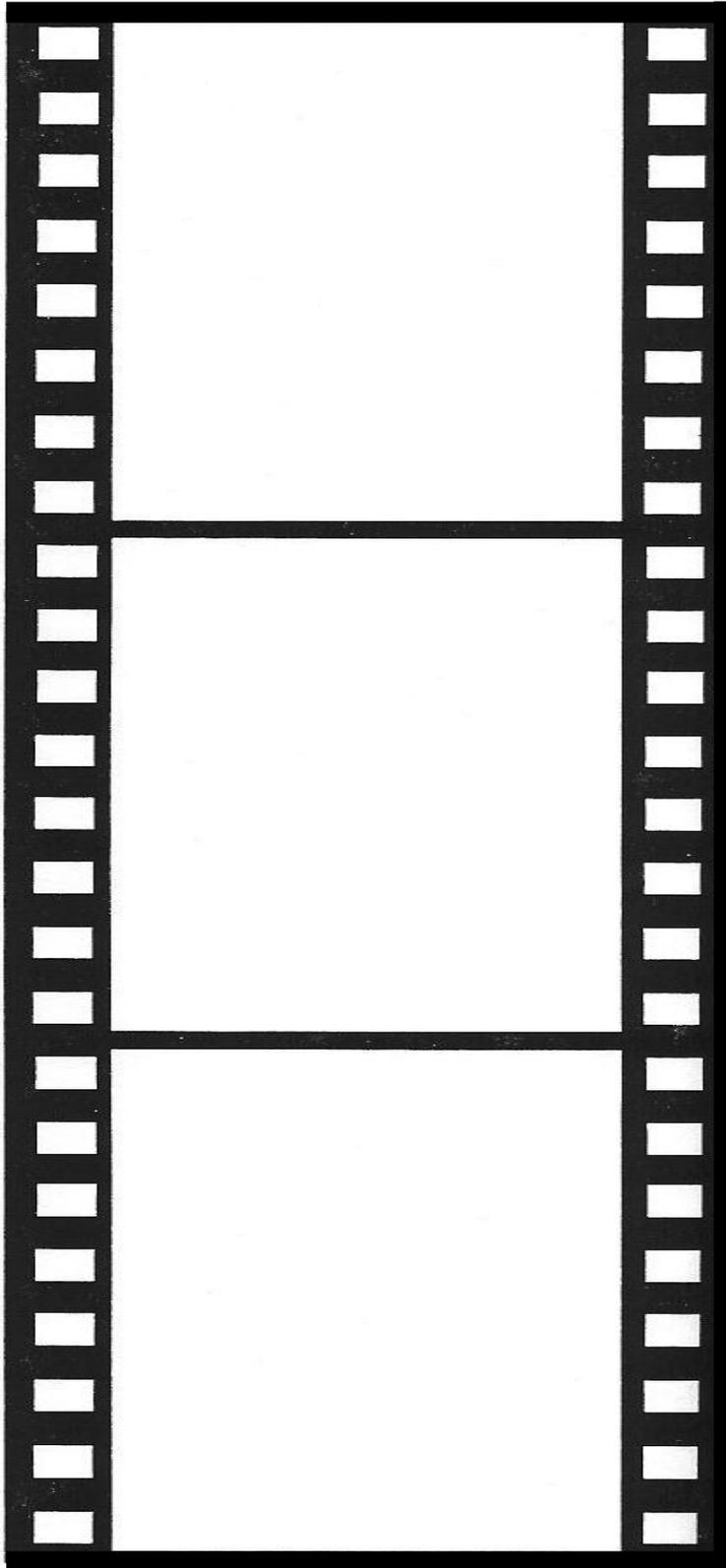
Joshua 22:9-27

Directions: Turn this paper to the side. Draw a picture in each frame. Then underneath each picture, write a sentence describing what you drew.

At the end of the story...

In the middle of the story...

At the beginning of the story...



THE BIBLE TIMES HERALD

A SPECIAL REPORT ON JOSHUA 22:9-27

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The tribes of Reuben and Gad along with half of the tribe of Manasseh traveled back toward their land leaving the other 10½ tribes in Canaan.

As the 2 ½ tribes reached the edge of the Jordan River, they began to build a large altar.

The 10 ½ tribes still living in Canaan were very upset with the 2 ½ tribes that were going back to their land. It was a big misunderstanding.

Ten of the tribal leaders asked the other tribal leaders why they were turning away from the Lord by building an altar for themselves. The ten leaders thought that the Lord would be angry and judge the nation of Israel.

The tribes of Reuben and Gad along with half of the tribe of Manasseh did not know what the other leaders were talking about. They were not building an altar to themselves. They were building the altar to the Lord. The Jordan River was a boundary between the 10 ½ tribes and the other 2 ½ tribes. The altar was built so that future generations would remember that they can worship the Lord too, even if they are separated by a river.

To find out more details about this story, read Joshua 22:9-27 in your Bible.

QUESTIONS

1. What did the 2 ½ tribes do when they got to the edge of the Jordan River?
2. Why were the Israelites upset with the 2 ½ tribes?
3. Why did the 2 ½ tribes build an altar near the edge of the Jordan River?
4. Why do you think the 10 ½ tribes were so upset?

MEMORY VERSE

“Remember the days of old; consider the generations long past...”

Deuteronomy 32:7

WORD SCRAMBLE

TRIBES	RIVER	ALTAR
CANAAN	LEADERS	JORDAN

RLATA _____

ROJDAN _____

REVRI _____

STRBEI _____

LSDAEER _____

AAANNC _____