

Welcome to *Faith Bible Church!*

May 8, 2022

Order of Service:

Opening Hymn: *Virginia Grosskurth*

Invocation

Scripture Reading: I Samuel 6:7-12 *Tracey South*

Announcements

Pastoral Prayer

Hymn: Virginia Grosskurth

Message: Joshua Addresses Israel's Congress
(Joshua 23:1-16)

Announcements

A Blessed Mother's Day to all our moms! "*Honour thy father and mother...that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth*" (Ephesians 6:2,3).

After our study of Joshua, we'll resume our study of Acts where we left off in Acts 12:1. Be reading ahead!

Work Day: Saturday, May 21, we'll give our church a thorough spring cleaning, and work on special projects.

Our Spring Picnic date will be Sunday, June 5.

Our offering box is located just left of the kitchen door.

Pick up today's cross reference sheet & silence your phone.

Joshua 22:10-34 *Trouble in Paradise*

God had given these two and a half tribes permission to live on the wrong side of the Jordan, so it seemed to make sense to have their own altar (v.10). But the other tribes were willing to go to war to stop them (v.11,12) because the law said all offerings had to be made on the altar by the tabernacle (Lev.17:8,9). Allowing *other* altars led to worshipping other gods alongside the worship of God (Amos 5:25-27).

But the nine and a half tribes only *heard* about this new altar (Josh.22:11,12), and their law said they must investigate this rumor *thoroughly* before going to war (Deut.13:12-15). So they sent Phinehas to check it out (Josh.22:13,14), *the man who slew a pregnant woman* for introducing idolatry to Israel (Num.25:1-10). He asked them what they thought they were doing (Josh.22:15,16), and then reminded them that God considered idolatry such a heinous sin that *He slew 24,000 people for it* in Numbers 25 (v.17,18). Then he graciously suggested that perhaps they'd been influenced by their idolatrous neighbors on the wrong side of the river, and advised them to move to their side (Josh.22:19). Then he reminded them of the time a man in Israel sinned, and God took it out on *all* the Jews (v.20), and then gave them a chance to explain what they'd done.

They exclaimed, as it were, "If we did this to rebel against God, He knows, and we'll let Him kill us" (v.21,22). Instead, they built the altar to "witness" (v.24-27) to the children of the other tribes. They knew someday they'd look down on those two and a half tribes who lived on what they'd perceive to be the wrong side of the river and say, "You can't worship our God. You don't live by us, so you must not know anything *about* our God." Verse 25 says that would make them stop fearing the Lord, thinking, "If God's people don't want us, *why should we want God?*" To keep that from happening, they built that altar as a witness that they *did* know about Israel's God, for they made it according to the

specifications God gave Moses for Israel's altar. Verse 27 says it was a witness to the fact that they'd continue to do the service of God "before Him," i.e., that they'd continue to "come before the LORD" to bring their sacrifices to God *in the tabernacle* (Lev.15:14). Remember, God *lived* in that tabernacle between the cherubim atop the ark (Isa.37:16).

How would building an altar witness they weren't sacrificing on it? It was overlaid with brass (Ex.27:1,2), and brass *tarnishes* if fires are burned on it! An *untarnished* altar testified they *weren't* burning offerings on it.

When the two and a half tribes said they made their altar according to the "pattern," they meant the pattern God showed Moses (Heb.8:5). They even used the word "witness" to show they knew what to *call* their altar. God called the tabernacle that contained *His* altar "the tabernacle of *witness*" to differentiate it from the tabernacle where the Jews worshipped God and *false* gods (Acts 7:42-44).

The two and a half tribes finished their explanation by swearing an oath (Josh.22:29). The Jews who entered the Promised Land here are types of future Jews who'll enter the kingdom, and unsaved Jews in that day will look down on others who live in other parts of the world. So altars of witness like this one are going to spring up all over the world in that day. Remember, the kingdom will start with all saved people, but then they'll have children, the majority of whom won't believe and be saved (cf.Rev.20:7-9).

Some commentaries aren't satisfied with this explanation, and think the two and a half tribes were wrong to build the altar, *but Phinehas was satisfied with it* (Josh.22:30), and so was the rest of Israel (Josh.22:31-34). Finally, God put His altar at the "door" of the tabernacle where He lived to teach the Jews they couldn't get in the door to see God without the blood of an animal on that altar. That teaches *us* we need the sacrifice of *the blood of Christ* to get in the door of heaven.

Faith Bible Church

www.faithbiblechurch.weebly.com

May 8, 2022

Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

Thornton Harrison, Assistant Pastor Paul Balbach

Morning Service: 10:45 a.m.

Pastor Ricky Kurth

Junior Church: 10:45 a.m.

Myrtle Harrison

Faith Bible Church

560 East Sauk Trail

Steger, Illinois 60475

708-758-7780

Faithbiblesteger@gmail.com

Pastor Ricky Kurth

414-719-0548 (cell)

Pastorkurth@msn.com