

化干戈為玉帛
Diversity Crisis

約書亞記 Joshua 22:9-34

9 於是流本人、迦得人和瑪拿西半個支派的人，從迦南地的示羅起程，離開以色列人，回到他們所得的產業基列地去，就是照著耶和華藉著摩西所吩咐，賜給他們的產業。

10 流本人、迦得人和瑪拿西半個支派的人，來到迦南地靠近約旦河的地區，就在約旦河邊那裡築了一座祭壇，那壇十分壯觀。 **11** 以色列人聽見了這事，就說：“看哪，流本人、迦得人和瑪拿西半個支派的人，在迦南地邊境，靠近約旦河的地區，以色列人境內，築了一座壇。” **12** 以色列人聽見了這事，以色列全體會眾就聚集在示羅，要上去討伐他們。

13 以色列人派以利亞撒祭司的兒子非尼哈，到基列地去見流本人、迦得人和瑪拿西半個支派的人；**14** 又派十個首領與非尼哈同去，每一個都代表以色列的支派家族；他們是全體以色列各家族的領袖。**15** 他們去到基列地，流本人、迦得人和瑪拿西半個支派的人那裡，對他們說：**16** “**耶和華**的全體會眾這樣說：‘你們作的是甚麼事？竟對以色列的 **神**不忠，今日轉離不跟從**耶和華**，為自己築了一座壇，背叛了**耶和華**。**17** 從前拜毘珥的罪孽，我們還以為是小事嗎？雖然有災疫臨到**耶和華**的會眾，直到今日我們還沒有洗淨這罪呢。**18** 你們今日竟轉離不跟從**耶和華**嗎？今日你們既然背叛**耶和華**，明日他必向以色列全體會眾發怒了。

19 如果你們認為所得的地業不潔淨，你們可以過到**耶和華**的地業，就是**耶和華**的帳幕居住的地方，在我們中間得地業；只是不可背叛**耶和華**，也不可背叛我們，在**耶和華**我們的神的壇以外，為自己築另一座壇。 **20** 從前謝拉的曾孫亞干，不是在當毀滅的物上犯了不忠的罪，以致**神**的忿怒臨到以色列全體會眾嗎？因他的罪孽而死的，還不只他一人呢！’ ” **21** 於是流本人、迦得人和瑪拿西半個支派的人回答以色列各家族的統領說： **22** “**大能者神耶和華！大能者神耶和華**，他是知道的，願以色列也知道；如果我們存心背叛，或是對**耶和華**不忠，今日就不要放過我們。 **23** 我們若是為自己築壇，轉離不跟從**耶和華**，或是把燔祭、素祭和平安祭獻在壇上，願**耶和華**親自追究我們。

24 我們作這事，實在是有理由的，因為顧慮將來你們的子孫對我們的子孫說：‘你們與**耶和華**以色列的神有甚麼關係呢？**25** 流本人和迦得人啊，**耶和華**定了約旦河作我們和你們中間的疆界；你們與**耶和華**無分了。’ 這樣，你們的子孫就使我們的子孫不再敬畏**耶和華**了。**26** “因此我們說：‘我們築一座壇吧，不是為了獻燔祭，也不是為了獻別的祭，而是為了在你們和我們中間，也在我們的後代中間作證據，使我們也可以在**耶和華**面前用燔祭、別的祭和平安祭事奉**耶和華**，免得你們的子孫將來對我們的子孫說：你們與**耶和華**無分了。’

28 因此我們說：‘將來有人對我們，或是對我們的後代這樣說，我們就可以回答：你們看我們列祖所築的壇，是**耶和華**的祭壇的模式，這並不是用來獻燔祭，也不是用來獻別的祭，而是在我們和你們中間作**證據**。’ **29** 我們決沒有背叛**耶和華**的意思，今日要轉離不跟從**耶和華**，在**耶和華**我們的**神**的帳幕前的祭壇以外，另築一座壇，為了獻燔祭、素祭和別的祭。” **30** 非尼哈祭司和會眾的領袖，以及與祭司同來的以色列的統領，聽了流本人、迦得人和瑪拿西人說的話，都很滿意。

31 以利亞撒祭司的兒子非尼哈對流本人、迦得人和瑪拿西人說：“今天我們知道耶和華是在我們中間的，因為你們並沒有對耶和華不忠；現在你們已經救了以色列人脫離耶和華的手。” **32** 以利亞撒祭司的兒子非尼哈和眾領袖離開了流本人和迦得人，從基列地回到迦南地以色列人那裡，把這事向他們報告。 **33** 以色列人對這事都很滿意，就稱頌 神，不再說要上去討伐流本人和迦得人，毀滅他們所住的地方了。 **34** 流本人和迦得人給那壇起名叫證壇，因為他們說：“這壇在我們中間證明耶和華是 神。”

9 So 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.

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

13 So the Israelites sent Phinehas son of Eleazar, the priest, to the land of Gilead—to Reuben, Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh. **14** With him they sent ten of the chief men, one from each of the tribes of Israel, each the head of a family division among the Israelite clans. **15** When 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?’

17 Was 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! 18 And 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. 19 If 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.

20 When Achan son of Zerah was unfaithful in regard to the devoted things, did not wrath come on the whole community of Israel? He was not the only one who died for his sin.” 21 Then 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. 23 If 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? 25 The 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.’ 27 On 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.’

28 “And we said, ‘If they ever say this to us, or to our descendants, we will answer: Look at the replica of the Lord’s altar, which our ancestors built, not for burnt offerings and sacrifices, but as a witness between us and you.’

29 “Far be it from us to rebel against the Lord and turn away from him today by building an altar for burnt offerings, grain offerings and sacrifices, other than the altar of the Lord our God that stands before his tabernacle.”

30 When Phinehas the priest and the leaders of the community—the heads of the clans of the Israelites—heard what Reuben, Gad and Manasseh had to say, they were pleased. 31 And Phinehas son of Eleazar, the priest, said to Reuben, Gad and Manasseh, “Today we know that the Lord is with us, because you have not been unfaithful to the Lord in this matter. Now you have rescued the Israelites from the Lord’s hand.”

32 Then Phinehas son of Eleazar, the priest, and the leaders returned to Canaan from their meeting with the Reubenites and Gadites in Gilead and reported to the Israelites. 33 They were glad to hear the report and praised God. And they talked no more about going to war against them to devastate the country where the Reubenites and the Gadites lived. 34 And the Reubenites and the Gadites gave the altar this name: A Witness Between Us — that the Lord is God.

1. 引發爭議 Developing thesis (vv. 9-12)

彼岸 **East of Jordan** 兩個半支派
(流便、迦得、瑪拿西)

Transjordan tribes

(Reubenites, Gadites & half-tribe of Manasseh)

Altar

No communication

2. 分裂的威脅 Dividing threat (vv. 13-20)

Cisjordan tribes

(ten tribes in west of Jordan River)

視為不忠於神

Interpret the altar as rebellion against God

e.g. the plagues by worship of Poer (Numbers 25)

Sin of Achan (Joshua 7)

3. 釋疑的陳述 Defensive theory (vv.21-29)

在兩岸之間(支派之間) 作證據陳列於後人

A Witness between

Cisjordan and

Transjordan

before

the generations

4. 化解的證壇 Defused testimony(vv.21-29)

非尼哈祭司支派領袖的回報被欣然接受，
歸榮耀給神

Phinehas and leaders of Cisjordan's report
were accepted and they gave glory to God.

Altar

5. UNITY vs. Diversity

5.1 Language

5.2 Culture

5.3 Lifestyle

5.4 Communication style

5.5 Restore & Maintain UNITY in honoring God