

## ***When Motives Are Misunderstood*** **Joshua 22**

***Chapters 22-24 highlight Joshua's farewell speeches that encourage obedience to God's commands and consequences of disobedience.***

### ***Return of eastern tribes—commands for faithful troops, 1-9***

- ◆ Commendation of 40,000 troops (4:13) for fulfilling vow in 1:12-16.
- ◆ Commands to keep commandments and share spoils, Num. 31:27.

### ***Rush to judgment by western tribes—crisis and near war, 10-20***

- ◆ Altar built by returning tribes creates a furor with western tribes.
- ◆ Phinehas (Num. 25:6,7) leads delegation vs. Joshua or his dad (14:1).
- ◆ Was their anger appropriate? See Lev. 17:8,9, Dt. 13:12-15. This action is seen as Achan-like (7:1) and Peor-like (Num. 25:1-9).
- ◆ What irony! Building this altar was meant to maintain unity, but . . .

### ***Response by eastern tribes—concern explained, 21-29***

- ◆ You've misunderstood us--the altar ≠ a replacement but a replica.
- ◆ Altar is to be a *witness* (27,28, 34) so you don't forget us (25, 27b).  
What from the past might make them decide to build an altar?

### ***Resolution —crisis over, 21:30-34***

Western tribes are pleased. Devastation is avoided. God is blessed.

***What might we learn here to avoid misunderstandings and conflict?***

*We need to avoid . . .*

*We need to acknowledge . . .*

*We need to ask . . .*

*We need to confront and respond with . . .*