

- iii. Before they get back home, the two and a half tribes build an altar.
 - a. They build it in the land of Canaan right near the Jordan River.
 - b. The nine and a half tribes were angry because they thought they were building an altar to worship the Lord outside of Shiloh and they were prepared to go to war and wipe out the two and a half tribes.
- iv. But they didn't go off half-cocked.
- v. They did something wise first.
 - a. They sent Phinehas and the head of the ten tribes (11 total).
 - b. When they got there, they started to rake Reuben and Gad and the half tribe of Manasseh over the coals, "How could you do this? Don't you realize that with one man's sin judgment comes on us all? Don't you remember what happens in Achan's case."
 - c. The two and a half tribes said, "Calm down. We didn't build this to offer sacrifice."
 - d. Why did they build it?
 - 1) They said, "In the future your descendants may say to our descendants, 'The Jordan River is a boundary. You are not part of Israel. You can't come and worship at the tabernacle in Shiloh.' And so we built a replica of the altar of burnt offering as a witness to the fact that we are part of the Israelite nation and we have just as much right to worship as Shiloh as anyone else."
 - 2) And when Phinehas and the ten leaders heard that, they were happy and went back home.
 - 3) If they hadn't found out the facts, they could have had a big misunderstanding and a big war. Sometimes when you find out the facts, things change.

D. The last days of Joshua (23-24)

- 1. The charge to the people (23)
 - i. After they are back and every body has their possessions, Joshua gathers the leaders of the people of Israel together.
 - ii. He warns them not to make treaties with the Canaanites and not to commit idolatry.
 - iii. Then he says (23:14ff), "I am about to go the way of all the earth. You know with all your heart and soul that not one of all the good promises the Lord your God gave you have failed. You can't point to a single promise the Lord made to you that the Lord did not keep. But I want you to know something. Just as the Lord kept all his promises, if you disobey the Lord and you go serve other gods, he is going to keep his word regarding everyone of those curses that he pronounced just as well. And you will be destroyed from the good land that he has given you."