

Joshua 22:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore we said, Let us now prepare to build us an altar, not for burnt offering, nor for sacrifice:

Analysis

Therefore we said, Let us now prepare to build us an altar, not for burnt offering, nor for sacrifice—The eastern tribes explicitly state their intent: this altar's purpose is NOT sacrificial. The Hebrew phrase "not for burnt offering" (לֹא לֵעֹלָה, lo l'olah) and "nor for sacrifice" (וְלֹא לְזֶבַח, v'lo l'zevach) categorically excludes the altar from Levitical cultic use.

The verb "prepare" (עָשָׂה, asah, to make or do) indicates deliberate planning—this was not an impulsive decision but a carefully considered strategy to preserve covenant identity for future generations.

Historical Context

This verse begins the explanation of the altar's true purpose. By denying sacrificial intent upfront, the eastern tribes remove the legal basis for the accusation while preparing to reveal the altar's memorial function.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does their careful planning demonstrate wisdom in anticipating future challenges to faith?
2. What does this teach about the difference between preserving truth and innovating worship contrary to God's commands?
3. How can we create 'memorials' that preserve biblical faith without violating biblical worship patterns?

Interlinear Text

וְכֵן אָמַר	נַעֲשֶׂה	לָנוּ נָא	לִבְנוֹת	אֶת	הַמִּזְבֵּחַ
Therefore we said	Let us now prepare	H4994	H0	to build	H853 us an altar
H559	H6213			H1129	H4196
לֹא	לְעֹלָה	וְלֹא	לְזִבְחִי:		
H3808	not for burnt offering	H3808	nor for sacrifice		
	H5930		H2077		

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org