

# Joshua 22:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But that it may be a witness between us, and you, and our generations after us, that we might do the service of the LORD before him with our burnt offerings, and with our sacrifices, and with our peace offerings; that your children may not say to our children in time to come, Ye have no part in the LORD.

## Analysis

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**But that it may be a witness between us, and you, and our generations after us**—The altar's true purpose is revealed: it functions as a witness (τύ, ed), a memorial testimony to covenant unity despite geographical separation. The phrase "our generations after us" shows multi-generational thinking—they built for children not yet born.

**That we might do the service of the LORD before him with our burnt offerings, and with our sacrifices, and with our peace offerings**—The eastern tribes affirm they WILL perform all these sacrifices, but at the legitimate tabernacle in Shiloh, not at this memorial altar. The altar testifies to their right and intent to worship at the central sanctuary.

**That your children may not say to our children in time to come, Ye have no part in the LORD**—The altar serves as physical evidence of covenant membership, preventing future exclusion based on geography.

## Historical Context

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Memorial stones and altars were common in Ancient Near Eastern culture as witnesses to treaties and covenants (Genesis 31:45-52, Joshua 4:4-7). This altar follows that pattern—a visible reminder of invisible covenant bonds.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

## Study Questions

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1. How do physical memorials (baptism, communion, church buildings) serve as witnesses to spiritual realities?
2. What steps can we take now to ensure future generations maintain both doctrinal purity and covenant unity?
3. How does this altar model the difference between biblical symbolism and unbiblical innovation?

## Interlinear Text

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כִּי אָמֵן וְבִנְיָמִן מִבֵּין יָמָנוּ הַזֹּאת  
H3588 But that it may be a witness H5707 H1931 H996 H996 H996

דְּרוֹתִינוּ אַתָּה לְעֹבֵד אֶחָרֵינוּ  
between us and you and our generations after us that we might do H853  
H1755 H310 H5647

עֲבָדֵת הַלְּפָנִים בְּעַלְוֹתִים יְהִי  
the service in the LORD before him with our burnt offerings  
H5656 H3068 H6440 H5930

וְבִצְבָּחָת יְהִי וְבִשְׁלָמָת יְהִי  
and with our sacrifices and with our peace offerings H3808 may not say H559  
H2077 H8002

לֹא יֹאמֶר אַתָּה לְבָנֶיךָ מִפְרָץ  
that your children in time to come that your children H369 H0 H2506  
H1121 H4279 H1121

בְּיַהְוָה:  
in the LORD  
H3068

## Additional Cross-References

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**Joshua 24:27** (Witness): And Joshua said unto all the people, Behold, this stone shall be a witness unto us; for it hath heard all the words of the LORD which he spake unto us: it shall be therefore a witness unto you, lest ye deny your God.

**Genesis 31:48** (Witness): And Laban said, This heap is a witness between me and thee this day. Therefore was the name of it called Galeed;

**Deuteronomy 12:11** (Sacrifice): Then there shall be a place which the LORD your God shall choose to cause his name to dwell there; thither shall ye bring all that I

command you; your burnt offerings, and your sacrifices, your tithes, and the heave offering of your hand, and all your choice vows which ye vow unto the LORD:

**Joshua 22:34** (Sacrifice): And the children of Reuben and the children of Gad called the altar Ed: for it shall be a witness between us that the LORD is God.

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