

# Joshua 22:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore said we, that it shall be, when they should so say to us or to our generations in time to come, that we may say again, Behold the pattern of the altar of the LORD, which our fathers made, not for burnt offerings, nor for sacrifices; but it is a witness between us and you.

## Analysis

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**Therefore said we, that it shall be, when they should so say to us or to our generations in time to come, that we may say again, Behold the pattern of the altar of the LORD**—The eastern tribes envision a future scenario where their descendants face exclusion. They can point to the memorial altar and say, "Look at the pattern (תַּבְנִית, tavnit) of the LORD's altar"—proving their fathers intended to worship at the legitimate sanctuary.

**Which our fathers made, not for burnt offerings, nor for sacrifices; but it is a witness between us and you**—The repetition of "not for burnt offerings, nor for sacrifices" (third time) emphasizes the altar's non-cultic function. It witnesses TO the true altar, not competing WITH it. The memorial points to Shiloh, not away from it.

## Historical Context

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The word tavnit (pattern) is the same term used for the tabernacle pattern shown to Moses (Exodus 25:9). The eastern altar was likely a replica in appearance but entirely different in function—a visual testimony rather than a functional sanctuary.

## Related Passages

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**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. How do our churches and practices serve as 'patterns' or witnesses to future generations about what we believed?
2. What safeguards can we build now to help our children defend their covenant participation decades from now?
3. How does this vision for multi-generational faithfulness challenge short-term thinking in modern Christianity?

## Interlinear Text

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וְאָל	אֵל יְנוּ	וְאָמַר רְנוּ	כִּי	וְהִנֵּה ה	וְאָמַר רְנוּ
	H413	H413	H559	Therefore said	H1961
			H559		H3588
אֶת	כִּי א ו	וְאָמַר רְנוּ	מָה ר	דָּרִית יְנוּ	
H853	again Behold	Therefore said	in time to come	to us or to our generations	
	H7200	H559	H4279	H1755	
ל א	אֲבוֹתֵי יְנוּ	עָשׂ ו	אֲשֶׁר	יְהוָה ה	מִזְבֵּחַ ח
H3808	which our fathers	made	H834	of the LORD	of the altar
	H1	H6213		H3068	H4196
ה וְא	ע ד	כִּי	לֹא בַח	וְל א	לְעוֹלָה
H1931	but it is a witness	H3588	H2077	H3808	not for burnt offerings
	H5707				H5930
וּבְיָנִיכֶם:	בֵּינֵי יְנוּ				
	H996				H996

