

Joshua 22:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest said unto the children of Reuben, and to the children of Gad, and to the children of Manasseh, This day we perceive that the LORD is among us, because ye have not committed this trespass against the LORD: now ye have delivered the children of Israel out of the hand of the LORD.

Analysis

And Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest said unto the children of Reuben, and to the children of Gad, and to the children of Manasseh, This day we perceive that the LORD is among us—Crisis averted! The phrase **we perceive** (yadanu, יָדַעְנוּ, 'we know/recognize') indicates certainty gained through investigation. **Because ye have not committed this trespass against the LORD: now ye have delivered the children of Israel out of the hand of the LORD**—their faithfulness saved Israel from judgment.

Their explanation satisfied the delegation. Faithful communication prevents division. The eastern tribes' witness-altar honored God rather than rivaling Him. Misunderstanding resolved through dialogue demonstrates covenant love. Paul urges 'endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit' (Ephesians 4:3)—requiring patience, listening, and grace.

Historical Context

Phinehas, Eleazar's son, inherited his father's zeal for God's honor (Numbers 25:7-13). His leadership in this delegation prevented civil war. This incident

occurred shortly after conquest, when national unity was fragile. The peaceful resolution strengthened tribal bonds.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How can you pursue understanding and dialogue when suspicious of others' motives?
2. What does Phinehas' leadership teach about balancing zeal for truth with patience for explanation?

Interlinear Text

אָל	הַכֹּהֵן	אֶלְעָזָר	בְּנֵי י	פִּינֶחַס	וַיֹּאמֶר
	the priest	of Eleazar	and to the children	And Phinehas	said
H413	H3548	H499	H1121	H6372	H559
וְאֵל	גָּד	בְּנֵי י	וְאֵל	רְאוּבֵן	בְּנֵי י
	of Gad	and to the children		of Reuben	and to the children
H413	H1410	H1121	H413	H7205	H1121
בְּתוֹכָם	נֹה	כִּי	יָד עָנּוּ	הַיּוֹם	מִנֶּשֶׁה
	is among		we perceive	This day	of Manasseh
H8432	H3588		H3045	H3117	H4519
יְהוָה:	מַעֲלָתָם	לֹא	אָשָׁר	יְהוָה:	
	us because ye have not committed			against the LORD	
H3068	H4603			H3068	
יִשְׂרָאֵל	בְּנֵי י	אֶת	הַצִּלָּתָם	אָז	הַזֶּה
	and to the children		ye have delivered	now	this trespass
H3478	H1121	H853	H5337	H227	H4604
				יְהוָה:	מִיָּד
				against the LORD	out of the hand
				H3068	H3027

Additional Cross-References

2 Chronicles 15:2 (References Lord): And he went out to meet Asa, and said unto him, Hear ye me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin; The LORD is with you, while ye be with him; and if ye seek him, he will be found of you; but if ye forsake him, he will forsake you.