

# 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

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**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, יְדַעַנּוּ, '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

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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

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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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

אֶל הַכֹּה | אֶלעָזָר בֶּן פִּינָּחָס וְאֶמְרָה

said And Phinehas and to the children of Eleazar the priest H413

H559 H6372 H1121 H499 H3548

בָּנִים	בָּנִים	בָּנִים	בָּנִים	בָּנִים
and to the children	of Reuben	H413	and to the children	of Gad
H1121	H7205		H1121	H1410

בְּתוּךְ כָּל	כִּי	יְדָעֵנוּ	פִּי וּמִן	מִנְשָׁה הַ	בֶּן יְ
and to the children	of Manasseh	This day	we perceive	H3588	is among
H1121	H4519	H3117	H3045		H8432

מִי־דָּבָר־בְּיַד־יְהוָה  
out of the hand      against the hand

## 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.