

Joshua 22:34

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

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—They name the altar Ed (עֵד, 'witness'). This memorial testifies to shared faith across the Jordan. **That the LORD is God** (ki YHWH hu ha-Elohim) echoes Elijah's cry (1 Kings 18:39) and Moses' declaration (Deuteronomy 4:35, 39).

Monuments serve memory. Israel erected many witness-stones: Jacob's pillar (Genesis 28:18), the twelve stones from Jordan (Joshua 4:20-24), this altar. Physical reminders help spiritual forgetfulness. The Lord's Supper functions similarly (1 Corinthians 11:24-25): 'this do in remembrance of me.' We need tangible helps for abstract truths.

Historical Context

The altar Ed stood near the Jordan as a permanent reminder of tribal unity. Unlike typical altars for sacrifice, this was purely memorial. Similar witness-monuments appear throughout ancient Near Eastern cultures, marking treaties and boundaries. Israel baptized this practice for covenant purposes.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. What physical reminders help you remember God's faithfulness and your covenant identity?
2. How can memorial practices prevent future generations from drifting from truth?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	לְמִזְבֵּחַ	עַד	נִזְבְּנִי	וְבָנִי	רְאוּבֵן	וְבָנֵי	תַּיִלְרָא	וְ
called	And the children		of Reuben	And the children		of Gad	the altar	
H7121	H1121		H7205	H1121		H1410	H4196	
		עַד		וְ	רְאוּבֵן	וְ	תַּיִלְרָא	
Ed for it shall be a witness			H1931	H996	H3588	between us that the LORD		
						H3068		

בָּאֱלֹהִים:

is God

H430

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 4:10 (References God): Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

Joshua 22:27 (Sacrifice): 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.

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