

## **Joshua 22:1-34**

### **Problems With Borderline Believers**

**I. Introduction:** The Israelites observed the tribes living outside Canaan building an altar, and quickly concluded their brothers had turned away from God to worship idols.

**II. Problems With Borderline Believers (Josh 22:1-34).**

A. Their Commendation (**vv. 1-9**).

1. Joshua praised the tribes living outside Canaan for fulfilling their obligation to fight alongside their brothers and released them from God's service.

B. Their Compromise (**vv. 10-20**).

1. The Israelites saw the tribes living outside Canaan building an altar which concerned them because it could have indicated their infidelity towards God.

C. Their Commitment (**vv. 21-29**).

1. The tribes living outside the Promised Land explained that the altar was a witness to their children that they were dedicated to following the Lord.

D. Their Contentment (**vv. 30-34**).

1. Everyone seemed pleased with the solution because both sides were concerned about remaining loyal to God, and civil war had been narrowly avoided.

**III. Conclusion:** The tribes living in Canaan confronted their brothers when they perceived they were straying from God, but the Eastern tribes affirmed their devotion to God.

## **Study Questions: Problems With Borderline Believers**

1. How should you react when you see a Christian engaging in compromise? How are we to deal graciously with those involved in perceived sin? What can we learn from Israel?
2. How did Joshua commend Gad, Reuben, and Manasseh? (**Josh 22:1-9**) Where did these tribes request their tribal allotment? (**Num 32**) Why did they want this land? (**Num 32:1-5**)
3. How did Joshua encourage them to follow God? (**Josh 22:5**) How long had these tribes been fighting in Canaan? What was the danger of being isolated from the other tribes?
4. What did these Eastern tribes do that concerned the Western tribes? (**Josh 22:10-20**) Why were they prepared to go to war with them? (**vv. 12, 16**) Why were they afraid? (**v. 18**)
5. Why did the tribes choose Phinehas? (**Num 25:6-18; Josh 22:17, 31**) What did they suggest that these 2 ½ tribes do if they were unhappy? (**Josh 22:19-20**) Was their concern warranted?
6. How did the Eastern tribes react to the other Israelites? (**Josh 22:21-29**) Why did they say they had built this altar for their children? (**v. 24**) How was it to be a witness? (**vv. 26-29**)
7. How did the Western tribes react to the Eastern tribes' explanation? (**Josh 22:30-34**) Was God pleased? Did this decision unite Israel? Why did it divide the tribes?
8. Why is it necessary to confront compromise? How did the Eastern tribe's decision to settle outside Canaan affect their future? (**Josh 2:6-10**) What are you settling for in your own life?

### **Prayer**

1. Pray God will keep you focused on following Him fully so that you will inherit His promises.
2. Ask God to help you resist the temptation to compromise and settle for the world's treasures.