

OAC Recap & Where we have been and where we are going (2 week recap)

Good morning Arising Church,

It is good to be here today, we have missed you all and are excited to be here to get into the word of God together. As Paul says in 1 Thess 2:17, we were away in person, but not in thought.

We wanted to bring to you good news from our brothers at LCM, Submission Ministries, Kings Harvest Church, Teshuva (Honduras), Remnant Church, Refuge City Ministries.

Mark make OAC ordination announcement.

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The Lord is maturing our unity as an association of churches, one that is raw, can sometimes be messy and unpolished, but it is a gloriously grounded on the standard of the word, and in the mission that God has placed before us.

- **Philippians 2:19–21 (NIVUK)**

¹⁹ I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, that I also may be cheered when I receive news about you. ²⁰ I have no one else like him, **who will show genuine concern for your welfare.** ²¹ For everyone looks out for their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ.

For the mission of the OAC to thrive, we must show a genuine concern for our brothers welfare. A genuine concern for the work of God among them. A genuine concern to see disciples made for the Messiah, to see men matured with their families, to see ministries born that take the gospel to all tribes, nations, and tongues.

We are beyond grateful for our brothers in the OAC and for the care and concern they have for the Arising Church.

We felt the genuine concern and care of our brothers not only for the Arising, but for the work to be done in Rockford as well.

Saints, the brotherhood that the Lord is forming in our midst among the OAC is truly beautiful and growing stronger than ever.

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Today before we jump into the sermon, we want to recap the last two weeks in light of something that struck us as we were with our brothers.

Over the last two weeks the Lord has been working on this body to purify, refine, and cause us to be holy as He is holy.

He has been teaching us that there are parts of our lives that are displeasing to Him. And no matter how much is pleasing, He is looking for a pure virgin bride, with no spot or wrinkle — so in response to this we must seek to cleanse ourselves of anything that is displeasing to our King... AND remember... this passage in Deuteronomy 7.

THE LAST TWO WEEKS

Little by little, then overwhelming victory

THE PROCESS

"The Lord your God will drive out those nations before you, little by little."

Deuteronomy 7:22

THE PROMISE

"No one will be able to stand up against you; you will destroy them."

Deuteronomy 7:24

Not scorched earth on ourselves. Not an excuse to be passive.

- **Deuteronomy 7:22 (NIVUK)**

²² The Lord your God will drive out those nations before you, little by little. You will not be allowed to eliminate them all at once, or the wild animals will multiply around you.

The Lord won't let us go scorched earth on ourselves. We will give us insight and victory in our lives little by little.

AND this is not an excuse to become passive:

- **Deuteronomy 7:23–24 (NIVUK)**

²³ But the Lord your God will deliver them over to you, throwing them into great confusion until they are destroyed. ²⁴ He will give their kings into your hand, and **you will wipe out their names from under heaven**. No one will be able to stand up against you; **you will destroy them**.

The God ordained process is little by little, and the promise is overwhelming victory!

Then last week, I think we were all cut to the deepest recesses of our hearts in the message that was preached by Pastor Peter, Shane, and Pastor Ben — the weight of Words.

Has anyone found themselves thinking twice about what they are saying and asking the Lord "what would you have me say?"?

Look the Lord is purifying us and consecrating us. Why?

Consider this verse from Joshua 3:

- **Joshua 3:5 (NIVUK)**

⁵ Joshua told the people, 'Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things among you.'

Consecrate yourselves for tomorrow because what the Lord does will be amazing and it will be in your midst! We love that promise! But recognize, between consecration, and amazing works of God, is a flood stage river that needs to be stepped into.

Consecration is not meant to be a one day event. We need perseverance in it. AND just because you are committed to this process, does not mean things will simply get easy! Often times it looks like a raging river that comes against us. Trial, difficulty, and opposition to prevent us from crossing. We want to assure you, this is part of the process.

Before we keep moving, take a look at this slide:

(DO NOT READ)

JOSHUA 3:5

Consecrate yourselves for tomorrow

"...for tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things among you."

Passage	Set apart for...
Exodus 19:10–11	Meeting God at Sinai on the third day
Numbers 11:18	The provision God promised for the next day
Leviticus 11:44	Holiness grounded in God's own holiness
Leviticus 20:7	Holiness because He is their God
Joshua 3:5	The amazing things God would do among them
Joshua 7:13	Removing devoted things from their midst

- [Exodus 19:10–11](#): Moses is instructed to prepare the people for their encounter with God at Mount Sinai by having them set themselves apart as holy, wash their garments, and prepare for the third day.
- [Numbers 11:18](#): The people are commanded to prepare themselves for the following day when God will provide meat in response to their complaints.
- [Leviticus 11:44](#): God directs Israel to set themselves apart as holy and avoid unclean animals, grounding this command in His own holiness.
- [Leviticus 20:7](#): Israel is commanded to set themselves apart as holy, with the rationale that God is their God.
- [Joshua 3:5](#): Joshua directs the people to consecrate themselves in anticipation of God performing miraculous deeds among them.
- [Joshua 7:13](#): Joshua is told to command the people to consecrate themselves for the following day, as God has indicated that devoted things must be removed from Israel's midst.

Consecrating yourself for tomorrow means a continual state of being separated for the use of the Lord, where He will come be in your midst.

Look, there are many flood stage events going on across the world right now with our brothers in the OAC and OAE. The OAC is financially sacrificing monthly for our 5 international works, all while we have brothers looking for buildings, houses, and time to do the work that God has directed us toward. As we look at these flood stage obstacles in front of us, we consecrate ourselves and we expect the Lord to move powerfully as we step into the water.

The word that the Lord has been speaking Arising church and our brothers across the OAC is that we must consecrate ourselves for the work that will come so we may be able to overcome.

So regardless of the obstacle or difficulty, we will not be deterred from the mission. Like Joshua, we will rise up in faith, eyes set on our king, consecrating ourselves so that we might inherit all God has for us.

The title of the word we have for you today is:

JOSHUA 22

A Witness Between Us

Genuine concern, an invitation for transparency and humility among brothers

- **Joshua 22:1–4 (NIVUK84)**

1 Then Joshua summoned the Reubenites, the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh

2 and said to them, “You have done all that Moses the servant of the LORD commanded, and you have obeyed me in everything I commanded.

3 For a long time now—to this very day—you have not deserted your brothers but have carried out the mission the LORD your God gave you.

4 Now that the LORD your God has given your brothers rest as he promised, return to your homes in the land that Moses the servant of the LORD gave you on the other side of the Jordan.”

JOSHUA 22:1–4

Praised for one thing

“For a long time now, to this very day, you have not deserted your brothers but have carried out the mission the LORD your God gave you.”

JOSHUA 22:3

Not their skill

Not their individual sacrifice

They did not desert their brothers

Praised for one thing: "not deserting their brothers"

- Not their skill
- Not their ability to sacrifice individually

- Rather — they did not desert their brothers.

Let's go back to the plains of Moab, where it began. When these men first asked for the land east of the Jordan, Moses confronted them to their faces:

- **Numbers 32:6, NIVUK84**

“Shall your fellow Israelites go to war while you sit here?”

And listen to how they answered, because it is the measure of who these men turned out to be — and it is the stature we are growing into:

- **Numbers 32:16–18 (NIVUK84)**

16 “We will build pens here for our livestock and cities for our women and children.

17 But we will arm ourselves for battle and **go ahead** of the Israelites until we have brought them to their place...

18 We will not return to our homes until each of the Israelites has received their inheritance.”

Ahead. Not alongside. Not behind as a reserve. Ahead. First on the field, every time.

When Joshua calls on that vow in chapter one, he names who must go:

- **Joshua 1:14, NIVUK84**

“all your fighting men, fully armed, must cross over ahead of your brothers”

Forty thousand men who already had land, already had homes, and already had every interest of their own taken care of. They didn't need to go across for their own sakes or interests. In fact, they left all that they had. Land, wife, family, possessions.

Can you all see the genuine care and concern for the Western tribes had for the Eastern tribes?

- Left everything
- Went ahead of the Israelites into every battle.

(SLIDE)

NUMBERS 32 · JOSHUA 1:14

First on the field, last to leave

"We will arm ourselves for battle and go ahead of the Israelites... We will not return to our homes until each of the Israelites has received their inheritance." (Numbers 32:17-18)

They left everything: land, wives, families, possessions. And they **never** asked to leave.

40,000
fighting men who crossed ahead of their brothers

14-20
years fighting for their brothers' inheritance

These Transjordan tribes fought a long time for their brothers. We won't get into all of that today but somewhere between 14 to as many as 20 years! For more information on these numbers, please review LCM's Joshua foundations.

Let's not leave the thought of these men's genuine concern for the interests of their brothers quite yet.

Imagine leaving on a war campaign when your son is 5 years old and when you finally return home you meet a young man that you don't even recognize, yet you know this is your son.

This sacrifice should grip you fathers in the room today. It should cause a sober assessment in your own heart about what you would sacrifice for the sake of the mission of God.

This is an incredible sacrifice. And what's even more, they never asked to leave, they waited and were finally told to go home by Joshua. (*Remind them of verse 1-4 again*)

¹ Then Joshua summoned the Reubenites, the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh

² and said to them, “You have done all that Moses the servant of the LORD commanded, and you have obeyed me in everything I commanded.

Until Yeshua told them their work was done.

Lets move onto Joshua 22 in the 10th verse:

- **Joshua 22:10–12 (NIVUK)**

¹⁰ When they came to Geliloth near the Jordan in the land of Canaan, the Reubenites, the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh built an imposing altar there by the Jordan. ¹¹ And when the Israelites heard that they had built the altar on the border of Canaan at Geliloth near the Jordan on the Israelite side, ¹² the whole assembly of Israel gathered at Shiloh to go to war against them.

JOSHUA 22:10-12

An imposing altar by the Jordan

WHAT THEY BUILT

An altar at Geliloth on the way home. No priests consulted. No word from the Lord.

WHAT THE TORAH SAID

Offerings go only to the place the Lord chooses.

Deuteronomy 12:11

WHAT WAS AT STAKE

Sacrifice anywhere else meant being cut off from Israel.

Leviticus 17:8-9

One altar, one place. Israel had just received rest, and now stood on the edge of civil war.

After years of battle, the tribes are finally able to return back home, east of the Jordan and on their way, build an altar. The text does not say they consulting the priests...It doesn't say anything about them being directed by God to do this at all! Were about to read how the Western tribes were alarmed at this altar, but before we do lets go to the Torah to see why:

Deuteronomy 12 makes it plain

- **Deuteronomy 12:11 (NIVUK)**

¹¹ Then to the place the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his Name—there you are to bring everything I command you: your burnt offerings and sacrifices, your tithes and special gifts, and all the choice possessions you have vowed to the Lord.

According to the Torah, an alter intended for sacrifice made at a place the Lord did not choose was a massive issue!

- **Leviticus 17:8–9 (NIVUK)**

⁸ ‘Say to them: “Any Israelite or any foreigner residing among them who offers a burnt offering or sacrifice ⁹ and does not bring it to the entrance to the tent of meeting to sacrifice it to the Lord must be cut off from the people of Israel.

One alter, at one place, and the death penalty for anything else.

So at the risk of going to war with their brothers after they had just received rest. At the risk of confronting them, and just being wrong about their intentions. At the risk of not having all the information, the western tribes do something.

They had just achieved rest, and if the Torah was being broken, Gods judgement was sure to fall. So they spoke, confronted, and investigated the matter.

- **Joshua 22:13–18 (NIVUK)**

¹³ So the Israelites sent Phinehas son of Eleazar, the priest, to the land of Gilead—to Reuben, Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh.

¹⁴ With him they sent ten of the chief men, one from each of the tribes of Israel, each the head of a family division among the Israelite clans.

¹⁵ When they went to Gilead—to Reuben, Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh—they said to them: ¹⁶ ‘The whole assembly of the Lord says: “How could you break faith with the God of Israel like this? How could you turn away from the Lord and build yourselves

an altar in rebellion against him now? ¹⁷ Was not the sin of Peor enough for us? Up to this very day we have not cleansed ourselves from that sin, even though a plague fell on the community of the Lord. ¹⁸ And are you now turning away from the Lord?
' "If you rebel against the Lord today, tomorrow he will be angry with the whole community of Israel.

The western tribes confronted their brothers. They put off falsehood and spoke the truth to one another — as brothers should.

We spoke about the opposite of love the other week, do you all remember the answer? Indifference. These western tribes although there were issues with assumptions, they were NOT indifferent towards their brothers. They were genuinely concerned with their interests and spoke.

When compromise on the word would have been the easiest decision in the world, they choose to be concerned enough for their brothers though it risked a great deal.

These men spoke. With genuine zeal for Gods honor and name. I mean Phineas is leading them.

We want to draw your attention to the reciprocal nature of these tribes. The Eastern tribes gave everything, they risked everything, for the interests of their brothers to gain their inheritance. And now those brothers they had once served, are now stirred with the same genuine concern for the Eastern Tribes — so much as to risk everything and give all so that these tribes would be in right order with Adonai.

Genuine concern for their brothers.

Yet before we move on we must point something out. The western tribes failed in one way. They did not ask about the motive, or inquire as to why the eastern tribes built this altar. They simply mustered for war. Look at what Deuteronomy 13 says:

JOSHUA 22:13–18 · DEUTERONOMY 13:14

The western tribes spoke, but did not ask

WHAT THEY GOT RIGHT

Not indifferent. Led by Phinehas, they confronted their brothers with zeal for God's honor.

"How could you break faith with the God of Israel like this?" (22:16)

WHERE THEY FELL SHORT

They mustered for war without asking why the altar was built.

"You shall inquire and make search and ask diligently." (Deut 13:14 ESV)

- **Deuteronomy 13:12–14 (ESV)**

¹² "If you hear in one of your cities, which the Lord your God is giving you to dwell there, ¹³ that certain worthless fellows have gone out among you and have drawn away the inhabitants of their city, saying, 'Let us go and serve other gods,' which you have not known, ¹⁴ then you shall inquire and make search and ask diligently. And behold, if it be true and certain that such an abomination has been done among you,

The western tribes had a genuine concern, based off the word of God, and had the courage to do something about it. Yet, the Torah explicitly outlines before war, a careful search, a diligent inquiring is required.

Practical examples for us:

- X
- Y
- Z

Even though they were mustered for war against their brothers, look at the incredible response from the eastern tribes:

- **Joshua 22:21–23 (NIVUK)**

²¹ Then Reuben, Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh replied to the heads of the clans of Israel: ²² ‘The Mighty One, God, the Lord! The Mighty One, God, the Lord! He knows! And let Israel know! If this has been in rebellion or disobedience to the Lord, do not spare us this day. ²³ If we have built our own altar to turn away from the Lord and to offer burnt offerings and grain offerings, or to sacrifice fellowship offerings on it, may the Lord himself call us to account.

In response to the accusation, the eastern tribes did not fire back. They did not become defensive, they did not strap on a sword for war.

They replied with: El, Elohim, YHWH, and again, El, Elohim, YHWH — and said, in effect: if what you have said is true, strike us dead. Before God we bear our case. Before God we stand.

JOSHUA 22:21-23

The eastern tribes invited inspection

"The Mighty One, God, the Lord! The Mighty One, God, the Lord! He knows! And let Israel know!"

JOSHUA 22:22

No defensiveness

No sword

"Search us"

This struck us. They INVITE the Lord to search them in front of their brothers! They invite the inspection of God. There is a real transparency and humility the eastern tribes displayed in these verses.

Truly, this response prevented a catastrophe. Right after receiving rest, the nation was on the verge of civil war.

The proverbs prove true

- **Proverbs 15:1 NIV**

A gentle answer turns away wrath,
but a harsh word stirs up anger.

The eastern tribes set the example in transparency, humility, and the right response to even a wrong accusation.

Our default when a trusted brother brings a word to us must be to invite the Lord's examination into our lives.

The tribes continue their response in verse 24

- **Joshua 22:24–27 (NIVUK)**

²⁴ ‘No! We did it for fear that some day your descendants might say to ours, “What do you have to do with the Lord, the God of Israel?’ ²⁵ The Lord has made the Jordan a boundary between us and you—you Reubenites and Gadites! You have no share in the Lord.” So your descendants might cause ours to stop fearing the Lord.

²⁶ ‘That is why we said, “Let us get ready and build an altar—but not for burnt offerings or sacrifices.” ²⁷ On the contrary, it is to be a witness between us and you and the generations that follow, that we will worship the Lord at his sanctuary with our burnt offerings, sacrifices and fellowship offerings. Then in the future your descendants will not be able to say to ours, “You have no share in the Lord.”

The building of the altar was not for sacrifice. They had no intention of setting up a new place of worship, and they state that plainly. They actually built the altar motivated by fear of a future response from their brothers.

Think about this, after years of war shoulder to shoulder, they now suspect and are motivated by fear of a unknown future fault.

And instead of solving this fear/problem with their brothers. They said nothing to them, and acted alone, built an altar which was what seemed best to them. And almost led the nation to civil war.

We have to be brothers who do not let fear, or lies, simmer under the surface. It is truly a life or death thing to expose our hearts early and often with our brothers. And to do so willingly

Undealt with, or dealt with alone: Fear, lies, offense produce roots of bitterness, they produce subtle division.

JOSHUA 22:24-27

Each tribe acted alone

Both were trying to obey the word

Both were motivated by fear

Both said nothing and acted alone

Catastrophe begins when a brother has a legitimate concern, but processes it alone and acts on it alone.

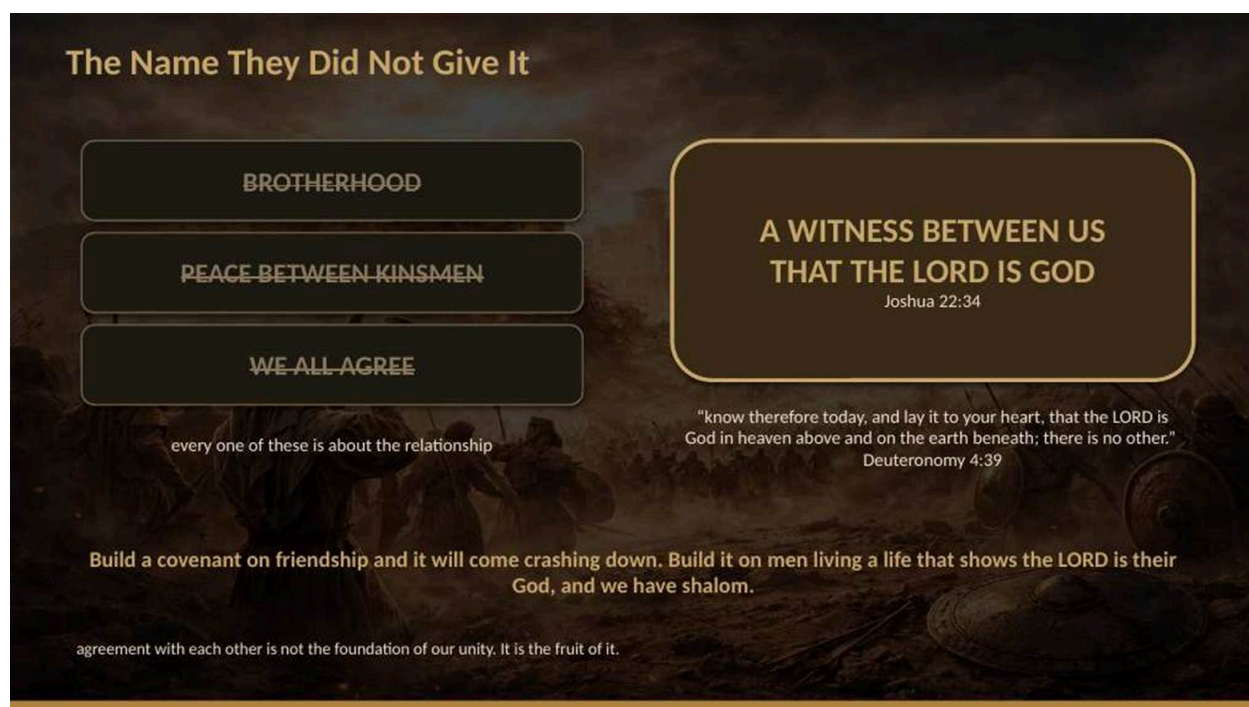
- What's truly terrifying about each tribe is that they were both trying to obey the word.
- both were motivated by fear.
- And each tribe acted alone.

Catastrophe begins when a brother has a legitimate concern, but processes it alone, and acts on it alone.

After the brothers see eye to eye and put down their swords, they gave the altar a name:

- **Joshua 22:34 (NIVUK)**

³⁴ And the Reubenites and the Gadites gave the altar this name:
A Witness Between Us—that the Lord is God.



Notice that they did not name it brotherhood, peace, or we all agree! But instead the Lord is God--the last words of Moses in Deuteronomy.

Agreement with each other is the fruit of unity, not the foundation of it. Brotherhood flows from a commitment to God, to his mission.

Their covenant with one another, and our covenant with one another, does not rest on our covenant with one another. It rests on something prior and shared — a submission, made separately by each of us before we ever met, to the revelation that YHWH alone is God. That is the foundation. Because that is the foundation, we can dwell together in unity.

Committed to the lord, rather than being right.
Submitted to the word, rather than your own thoughts.

No matter the river that separates you, no matter the conflict that arises, we must continue as an association, as the Arising church with a transparency, with genuine concern for each other.

As we bring this to a close we want to highlight each of those areas:

Genuine concern for your brothers inheritance and transformation.

- **1 Thessalonians 3:2–3 (NIVUK)**

² We sent Timothy, who is our brother and co-worker in God's service in spreading the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you in your faith, ³ so that no one would be unsettled by these trials. For you know quite well that we are destined for them.

Let us be Timothy to each other. Men, woman who can strengthen and encourage one another in faith.

Knowing we are destined for trials, but not letting anyone give up on the mission because of them. Helping our brothers be strengthened and encouraged IN the trial, not just after.

- **Philippians 2:19–21 (NIVUK)**

¹⁹ I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, that I also may be cheered when I receive news about you. ²⁰ I have no one else like him, who will show genuine concern for your welfare. ²¹ For everyone looks out for their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ.

What a cutting verse. Everyone else looks to their own interest? There is no one else like Timothy?

Lastly, as we go through consecration, trials, etc. We must put on transparency and humility toward our brothers.

- **1 Timothy 4:15 (ESV)**

15 Practice these things, immerse yourself in them, so that all may see your progress.

As you meet together, share what God is transforming you in. Share what still needs transformation.

God shows favor to the humble. A broken and contrite heart, he will not despise!

- **Proverbs 26:23**

Like an earthen vessel overlaid with silver dross
Are fiery lips and an evil heart.

- Not covering the cracks with dross (what God actually intends to remove)

WHERE WE ARE GOING

Two marks of true brotherhood

1

Genuine concern for your brother's inheritance and transformation

Be Timothy to each other. 1 Thessalonians 3:2-3 · Philippians 2:19-21

2

Invitation for transparency and humility toward your brothers

Let all see your progress. Don't cover the cracks with dross. 1 Timothy 4:15 · Proverbs 26:23

