



Portion:

Title:

SCRIPTURES

- Joshua 20-22
- Heb. 13:7-22; II Cor. 3:1-3
- Matthew 5:13-20

PICK A VOWEL

- The Alter of Treachery
- The Altar of Witness
- My Alter or His Altar?

It's encouraging when God's people get it right. It doesn't happen very often—unfortunately. In fact, it's more common in biblical narratives to witness God's people make foolish choices, rather than wise decisions. And sometimes it is the smallest nuance that separates the will of God from the will of man.

We might even say that the biblical narrative continues today. Really, other than that the reports are not being written in a book, THE BOOK, can't we say that there has been one continuous story since creation—our story? It's easy to overlook, but the Bible does seem to support this idea; "You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men; clearly you are an epistle of Christ." And might we even agree that we still get it wrong more times than not? Look around at how common it is for God's people to ruin their testimonies. It's so predictable that worldly onlookers have

come to expect it from Christians—many using the apparent hypocrisy as fuel to stay far away from the Church.

What separates a good witness from the bad is often just one small thing: a jot, a tittle, a yod, an iota, a small stroke of the pen—one letter. It's easy to alter things, to change them in subtle ways that make them sound the same, but they're not. One small letter transforms the Altar into an alter. And for Christians there's only One Altar. "We have an Altar from which those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat." Are you eating from that Altar or another?

It's not always easy to tell, but I can tell you it's easy. It's as easy as reading a letter and recognizing letters. "You are an epistle of Christ known and read by all men." And all it takes to alter your Altar is to exchange one small vowel in one small word with one small stroke of a pen—a jot, a tittle, a yod, an iota. Ask the right questions and it will be easy to tell if someone is worshipping the alter or at the Altar.

There was a song popularized in 1969 about worshipping the "alter of self." Its title—My Way. Its most famous letters screamed of self; "I did it my way!" It's what happens when you alter letters. Apparently, those who worship at the true Altar sing a different song—His Way. Its letters sing... "What is His name, and what is His Son's name, if you know? Every word of God is pure; do not change one letter, lest you be found worshipping at the wrong alter."

PROPHETIC SEED:

“...the children of Gad, and half the tribe of Manasseh **built an altar there by the Jordan—a great, impressive altar.**” {28}“Therefore we said that it will be, when they say this to us or to our generations in time to come, that we may say, ‘**Here is the replica of the altar of the Lord** which our fathers made, though **not for burnt offerings nor for sacrifices; but it is a witness** between you and us.’” {34}“The children of Reuben and the children of Gad **called the altar, Witness, “For it is a witness between us that the Lord is God.”**”
Joshua 22:10, 28, 34 NKJV

PROPHETIC FRUIT:

“**Every word of God is pure**; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him. **Do not add to His words**, Lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar.” Proverbs 30:5-6 NKJV

“For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, **not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear** from the Law until everything is accomplished.”
Matthew 5:18 NIV

“And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which **if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books** that would be written. Amen.” John 21:25 NKJV

“You are our epistle written in our hearts, **known and read by all men**; clearly **you are an epistle of Christ**, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart.” II Corinthians 3:2-3 NKJV

“We have an altar from which **those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat.**” Hebrews 13:10 NKJV

Let's Set the Scene: Portion in a blurb

Introduction

Last week we saw the further dividing of the remaining land that had yet to be possessed by the children of Israel. We saw the other half tribe of Manasseh receive their inheritance (who had not received their inheritance on the east side of the Jordan). And we saw Ephraim receive their inheritance. We also saw how the sons of Joseph were not satisfied with the amount of land they had been granted, as they were the size of two full tribes, but had received the inheritance of only one tribe. They were then granted more land by Joshua.

At that point Judah, Ephraim, Manasseh, Gad, and Reuben had their land, but seven tribes had not yet possessed their inheritance: Benjamin, Simeon, Zebulun, Issachar, Asher, Naphtali, and Dan.

We saw Joshua's admonition to survey the remaining land, to bring back the breakdown and he then divided that land by lot according to the Lord. Then Joshua received his inheritance according to his desire! (See: [Apostolic Footprints](#))

This week the cities of refuge are assigned (as Moses was told there would be), cities of protection for anyone who has killed someone unintentionally or by accident. The forty-eight cities with their common-lands are assigned to the Levites in which to dwell (Remember: they have no land inheritance). The Levite families and names of the cities are offered in clear detail.

Then we see that a great controversy arises between the Reubenites, Gadites, and half the tribe of Manasseh, the tribes who inherited their land on the east side of the Jordan, and their brothers on the west side of the Jordan. The men of those 2^{1/2} tribes were obligated to stay and fight in the promise land until the land was settled and their brothers had rest. They completed what was required of them on the west side, and they were released to return to their inheritance and their families. However, on their return to settle their land on the east side, they erected an altar. Their brothers (the 9^{1/2} tribes) were infuriated; they assumed it had been done as a grievous violation and insult against Yahweh, and they were ready to go to war over it.

What they discovered upon investigation was quite the opposite. The Reubenites, Gadites, and half the tribe of Manasseh erected it as a “duplicate” altar, not on which to offer sacrifices, but instead to act as a witness to all generations that they were forever connected with their brothers on the other side of the Jordan. They worshiped the same God, and followed the same laws. It all ends well!

Joshua 20

The Cities of Refuge

1. Joshua must now appoint cities of refuge (as told to Moses).
2. These are cities of safety for anyone who kills a person accidentally or unintentionally (refuge from those who may want to avenge their death).
3. The one seeking asylum must stand before the elders at the city gate and declare his case before he may dwell there.
4. He can stay in the city until the ruling is made.
5. If someone comes seeking vengeance, they shall not deliver the slayer into his hand if the killing has been ruled as unintentional (there was no malice).
6. The slayer may safely return to his own city and his own house, after the death of the high priest serving in those days.

7. The actual cities of refuge are assigned on both sides of the Jordan.

Joshua 21

Cities of the Levites

8. The Levites then approached Eleazar the priest, Joshua, and the heads of the tribes and reminded them that the Lord commanded Moses to give them cities to dwell in, with their common-lands for our livestock (because the Levites had no part in the inheritance of land among the tribes).
9. So the children of Israel gave the Levites from their inheritance, these cities and their common-lands: (In Joshua 21:4-40, all the families of the Levites, by name, are assigned their cities with their common lands, by name.)
10. The total number of cities assigned were forty-eight cities with their common-lands.

The Promise Fulfilled

11. The Lord gave Israel all the land of which He had sworn them, and they took possession of it and dwelt in it.
12. Then the Lord gave them rest.
13. Not one enemy could stand against them.
14. Not a word failed of any good thing which the Lord had spoken to the house of Israel. All came to pass!

Joshua 22

Eastern Tribe Return to Their Lands

15. Then Joshua notified the Reubenites, Gadites, and half the tribe of Manasseh that the agreement they made with Moses (and approved by Yahweh) to go over the Jordan and fight with their brothers until they had possessed the promised land (on the west of the Jordan) had been fulfilled.

16. God had given rest to their brethren, and now they could return to the land of their possession on the east side of the Jordan.

17. Standard Admonition:

(a) "Be careful to love Yahweh, to walk in all His ways, to keep all His commandments, to hold fast to Him, and to serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul."

18. Joshua's blessing as he sent them away:

(a) "Return with much riches to your tents, with very much livestock, with silver, with gold, with bronze, with iron, and with very much clothing. Divide the spoil of your enemies with your brethren."

19. They departed and returned to the land of their possession.

An Altar of Witness

20. As Reuben, Gad, and half the tribe of Manasseh reach the region just before they cross back over the Jordan, they built a great, impressive altar.

21. When their brothers (the 9^{1/2} tribes) heard of it, they gathered together at Shiloh to go to war against them.
22. First (the 9^{1/2} tribes) sent Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest to the (the 2^{1/2} tribes), with ten rulers, one ruler from the chief house of every tribe. They accuse their brothers of very grievous crimes.

23. The Accusation (by the 9^{1/2} tribes):

- (a) Treachery against Yahweh
- (b) Turning away from following Yahweh
- (c) Building an altar to rebel against Yahweh

24. The Warning (by the 9^{1/2} tribes):

- (a) Remember the iniquity of Peor (see Numbers 22-24). This is the story of Balak and Balaam. How can you turn away from following the Lord knowing this? If you rebel today, Yahweh will be angry with the whole congregation of Israel. (This is usually what happens, everyone is affected by the actions of the few!)
- (b) In Numbers 25, a plague infected the congregation because of the harlotry (of some), inspired by Balaam. (24,000 people died in the plague.) And it was actually Phinehas who ended the plague by his zeal for Yahweh (when he killed the Israelite man and his harlot). See: [What Did The Donkey Say to The Jackass?](#)

- (c) Unfortunately, they still believe that they are “not cleansed completely even till this day.” This is a strange “lack of acceptance of Yahweh’s forgiveness,” as the narrative reports that the plague was stopped because of the actions of Phinehas. He had turned back Yahweh’s wrath and had received a covenant of peace (See Numbers 25:8-13).
- (d) The 9^{1/2} tribes explain: if the land of your possession is unclean, stay on this side with us (where the tabernacle stands with the real altar).
- (e) Please don’t build an alternative altar for yourselves.
- (f) Then they remind their brothers of Achan who brought accursed things out of Jericho into the camp (Joshua 7) and how God’s wrath fell. Achan did not perish alone in his iniquity. Many others paid the price! See: [Et tu, Joshua?](#)

25. The Explanation (by 2^{1/2} tribes):

- (a) “Yahweh knows, and you should know also that if this is rebellion or treachery against the Lord, kill us now. If we have built an altar to turn from following the Lord, or to offer any offerings on it, let Yahweh hold us accountable.”
- (b) “In fact, we have built the altar for the exact opposite purpose, not to turn from the Lord but to stay connected to the Lord.”

- (c) "This is our concern; in time, your descendants may conclude that our descendants have nothing to do with the God of Israel because the Jordan separates us. They might convince our descendants that they have no part in the Lord and to cease fearing the Lord."
- (d) "So, we built this altar, not for sacrifices, but so our generations after us see the replica of the altar of the Lord and it will serve as a witness between you and us that we all serve the One and Only God.
- (e) We have zero intention to rebel or to make any sacrifices other than on the real altar which is in His tabernacle.

26. **The Conclusion:**

- (a) Phinehas and the rulers were pleased with the explanation.
- (b) "This day we perceive that the Lord is among us, because you have not committed treachery. There will be no consequences from the hand of the Lord."
- (c) They returned from their encounter and brought back word to the people. "It's all good." And the people were pleased and ended all this battle talk.
- (d) The children of Reuben and the children of Gad called the altar, Witness, "For it is a witness between us that the Lord is God."

THE ALTER OF TREACHERY

1. Great Impressive Altars

A. Yahweh is Faithful

(1) Yahweh's Obligation Fulfilled (See: [The Promise Remains](#))

(a) Finally—Rest

1. “So the Lord gave to Israel all the land of which He had sworn to give to their fathers, and **they took possession of it and dwelt in it. The Lord gave them rest** all around, according to all that He had sworn to their fathers. And not a man of all their enemies stood against them; the Lord delivered all their enemies into their hand. **Not a word failed** of any good thing which the Lord had spoken to the house of Israel. **All came to pass.**” Joshua 21:43-45 NKJV

- a) It did not happen overnight, but finally the children of Israel took possession of and settled the promised land.
- b) It was a promise long time coming, but Yahweh is ALWAYS faithful to do His part.
- c) The only variable is our part and Israel finally finished their part and everything the Lord had promised came to pass!

(2) The 2^{1/2} Tribes' Obligation Fulfilled

(a) You have completed all that Moses required...

1. "Then Joshua called the Reubenites, the Gadites, and half the tribe of Manasseh, and said to them: **"You have kept all that Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you,** and have obeyed my voice in all that I commanded you." Joshua 22:1-2 NKJV

a) The 2^{1/2} tribes have done everything that was required of them in the promised land and they are released to go back over the Jordan to the east side.

(b) You have not left your brothers...

1. **"You have not left your brethren** these many days, up to this day, but have **kept the charge of the commandment** of the Lord your God." Joshua 22:3 NKJV

a) To the Reubenites, the Gadites, and half the tribe of Manasseh:

1) You had asked for land on the east side of the Jordan as your inheritance because it was spacious and more conducive for raising your abundant livestock... *"...let this land be given to your servants as a possession. Do not take us*

over the Jordan.” Numbers 32:5 (See all of Numbers 32)

- 2) God made a deal with you. You can leave your wives and children on this side, but you must cross over in front of the other tribes and fight with them until they have victory. (*“The other tribes take possession of the promised land and dwell in it and Yahweh gives them rest.”*)
- 3) Then you can go back and settle the land on that side.
- 4) They were warned that if they renege on their commitment, they would die.

(c) Time to go home...

1. “And now **the Lord your God has given rest to your brethren**, as He promised them; now therefore, **return and go to your tents and to the land of your possession**, which Moses the servant of the Lord gave you on the other side of the Jordan.” Joshua 22:4
NKJV

- a) Go back to your families.
- b) You are released to return to the east side of the Jordan...so go home.

B. S. O. P. (Standard Operating Procedure)

(1) Reminder!

(a) Go, and remember...

1. “**But take careful heed** to do the commandment and the law which Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you, **to love the Lord** your God, to **walk in all His ways**, to **keep His commandments**, to **hold fast to Him**, and to **serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul.**” So Joshua blessed them and sent them away, and they went to their tents.” Joshua 22:5-6 NKJV

- a) A reminder to walk in all God’s ways is always part of the plan.
- b) See “Jots, Tittles, Yods & Iotas” in Section Three for more details.

(2) On their way home...

(a) The 2^{1/2} tribes head home...

1. “So the children of Reuben, the children of Gad, and half the tribe of Manasseh **returned, and departed** from the children of Israel at Shiloh, which is in the land of Canaan, to go to the country of Gilead, **to the land of their possession, which they had obtained according to the word of the Lord by the hand of Moses.**” Joshua 22:9 NKJV

- a) The 2^{1/2} tribes head back to what was promised them by Yahweh through Moses.

C. Treachery and Rebellion

(1) Treachery

- (a) A great impressive altar!

- 1. “And when they came to the region of the Jordan which is in the land of Canaan, the children of Reuben, the children of Gad, and half the tribe of Manasseh **built an altar there by the Jordan—a great, impressive altar.**” Joshua 22:10 NKJV

- a) As the 2^{1/2} tribes approach the Jordan, while still on the west side near Jericho, they stopped and built an altar, a very impressive altar.
- b) Was this a good idea? Was this a violation? Was this an affront to Yahweh?
- c) How often do we approach God’s promises by building our own impressive Altars?

(b) Not Happy

- 1. “Now the children of Israel heard someone say, “Behold, the children of Reuben, the children of Gad, and half the tribe of Manasseh have **built an altar on the frontier** of the land of Canaan, in the region of the Jordan—on the children of Israel’s side.” And

when the children of Israel heard of it, the whole congregation of the children of Israel gathered together at Shiloh **to go to war against them.**" Joshua 22:11-12 NKJV

- a) The other 9^{1/2} tribes are infuriated.
- b) They are so angry at their brothers that they are actually ready to go to war with them.
- c) They go after their brothers to determine what they have done.

(c) A gathering of elders...

1. "Then the children of Israel **sent Phinehas the son of Eleazar** the priest to the children of Reuben, to the children of Gad, and to half the tribe of Manasseh, into the land of Gilead, and **with him ten rulers, one ruler each from the chief house of every tribe of Israel**; and each one was the head of the house of his father among the divisions of Israel. Then they came to the children of Reuben, to the children of Gad, and to half the tribe of Manasseh, to the land of Gilead, and they spoke with them, saying," Joshua 22:13-15 NKJV

- a) Phinehas is the trusted priest, so he is a great choice to go inspect what is going on.

- b) Plus, Phinehas has a great track record with the Lord, so he can be trusted to discern what is going on. (You will be reminded in the next few pages about the history of Phinehas.)
 - c) But he does not go alone, he takes one ruler from the ruling family of each tribe with him (10 elders).
- (d) The Accusation
1. “Thus says the whole congregation of the Lord: **‘What treachery** is this that you have **committed against the God** of Israel, to turn away this day from following the Lord, **in that you have built for yourselves an altar**, that **you might rebel** this day against the Lord?”
Joshua 22:16 NKJV
 - a) **Treachery:** betrayal of trust; deceptive action or nature; disloyalty, unfaithfulness, infidelity, duplicity, treason.
 - b) “You built for yourselves an altar so you can rebel against Yahweh!”
 - c) This is a devastating accusation.
- (e) Flashback: Don’t you remember how specific this altar thing is...”You shall make...!”
1. “**“You shall make an altar** of acacia wood, five cubits long and five cubits wide—**the altar shall be** square

—and its height shall be three cubits. **You shall make** its horns on its four corners; its horns shall be of one piece with it. **And you shall overlay** it with bronze. **Also you shall make** its pans to receive its ashes, and its shovels and its basins and its forks and its firepans; **you shall make** all its utensils of bronze. **You shall make** a grate for it, a network of bronze; and on the network **you shall make** four bronze rings at its four corners. **You shall put** it under the rim of the altar beneath, that the network may be midway up the altar. And **you shall make** poles for the altar, poles of acacia wood, and overlay them with bronze. The poles shall be put in the rings, and the poles shall be on the two sides of the altar to bear it. **You shall make** it hollow with boards; **as it was shown you on the mountain, so shall they make it.**” Exodus 27:1-8
NKJV

- a) Do you think you can just build an altar for yourselves?
- b) Do you think you can design an altar with your own specifications?

- c) Don't you remember that it must be made to the exact pattern that was shown Moses on the mountain?
- (f) Flashback: Don't you remember how specific Moses was about where you can make offerings..."*Do not offer your burnt offerings in every place that you see...!*"
1. **“These are the statutes and judgments which you shall be careful to observe in the land which the Lord God of your fathers is giving you to possess, all the days that you live on the earth. You shall utterly destroy all the places where the nations which you shall dispossess served their gods, on the high mountains and on the hills and under every green tree. And you shall destroy their altars, break their sacred pillars, and burn their wooden images with fire; you shall cut down the carved images of their gods and destroy their names from that place. You shall not worship the Lord your God with such things. **“But you shall seek the place where the Lord your God chooses, out of all your tribes, to put His name for His dwelling place; and there you shall go. There you shall take** your burnt offerings, your sacrifices, your tithes, the heave offerings of your**

hand, your vowed offerings, your freewill offerings, and the firstborn of your herds and flocks. And there you shall eat before the Lord your God, and you shall rejoice in all to which you have put your hand, you and your households, in which the Lord your God has blessed you. *{8} **“You shall not at all do as we are doing here today—every man doing whatever is right in his own eyes—** for as yet you have not come to the rest and the inheritance which the Lord your God is giving you. **But when you cross over the Jordan and dwell in the land which the Lord your God is giving you to inherit, and He gives you rest from all your enemies** round about, so that you dwell in safety, then there will be the place where the Lord your God chooses to make His name abide. **There you shall bring all that I command you:** your burnt offerings, your sacrifices, your tithes, the heave offerings of your hand, and all your choice offerings which you vow to the Lord. And you shall rejoice before the Lord your God, you and your sons and your daughters, your male and female servants, and the Levite who is within your gates, since he has no portion nor inheritance with you. **Take heed to**

yourself that you do not offer your burnt offerings in every place that you see; but in the place which the Lord chooses, in one of your tribes, there you shall offer your burnt offerings, and there you shall do all that I command you.” Deuteronomy 12:1-14 NKJV

- a) Here are the rules in the land you are going to possess:
- 1) Seek the place where the Lord chooses to put His name.
 - 2) Don't do whatever you think is right in your own eyes (see: Deut. 29:18-19; Jeremiah 9:12-14; 16:10-12; & 23:16-17 in Section Three)
 - 3) When you cross over the Jordan and dwell in the land which God is giving you and you have rest, there will be the place where the Lord chooses to bring all offerings.
 - 4) Do do not offer your offerings anywhere but the place which the Lord chooses!

(2) The Warning (There is war in warning: *“The children of Israel wanted **to go to war against them.**”* Joshua 22:12)

(a) **Warning:** Peor

1. **“Is the iniquity of Peor not enough for us,** from which **we are not cleansed till this day,** although

there **was a plague** in the congregation of the Lord, but that you must turn away this day from following the Lord? And it shall be, **if you rebel** today against the Lord, that tomorrow **He will be angry with the whole congregation of Israel.**" Joshua 22:17-18 NKJV

- a) Remember the disaster at Peor! It was devastating and thousands of people died because of the rebellious activity of the few! (see Numbers 22-24).
 - 1) Remember the story of Balak and Balaam.
 - 2) How can you turn away from following the Lord knowing what happened back then?
 - 3) If you rebel today, Yahweh will be angry with the whole congregation of Israel. (This is usually what happens; everyone is affected by the actions of the few!)
 - 4) In Numbers 25, a plague infected the congregation because of the harlotry (of some), inspired by Balaam. (24,000 people died in the plague.)
 - 5) And it was actually Phinehas who ended the plague by his zeal for Yahweh (when he killed

the Israelite man and his harlot). See: [What Did The Donkey Say to The Jackass?](#)

- 6) As the narrative reports, the plague was stopped because of the actions of Phinehas.
 - 7) He had turned back Yahweh's wrath and had received a covenant of peace because of his zealous actions. (See Numbers 25:8-13)
- b) Unfortunately, these 10 elders somehow still believe that they are "not cleansed completely even till this day." This is a strange "lack of acceptance of Yahweh's total forgiveness."
- (b) An alternative offer...
1. **"Nevertheless, if the land of your possession is unclean, then cross over to the land of the possession of the Lord, where the Lord's tabernacle stands, and take possession among us; but do not rebel against the Lord, nor rebel against us, by building yourselves an altar besides the altar of the Lord our God."** Joshua 22:19 NKJV
- a) The 9^{1/2} tribes make an offer to help their brothers (a better choice than immediately going to war with them!)

- b) **Note to self:** it is ALWAYS better to take time to figure out what is really going on BEFORE you take any rash actions!
- c) **The Offer:** If the land of your possession is unclean, stay on this side with us (where the tabernacle is with the real altar).
- d) But, please don't rebel against Yahweh or us by building an alternative altar for yourselves.
- e) In other words, please don't make us kill you!

(3) **Warning:** Achan

- (a) The Achan thing was not that long ago!
 1. **"Did not Achan** the son of Zerah **commit a trespass in the accursed thing**, and wrath fell on all the congregation of Israel? And **that man did not perish alone** in his iniquity.' "" Joshua 22:20 NKJV
 - a) Then they remind their brothers of Achan who brought accursed things out of Jericho into the camp (Joshua 7) and how God's wrath fell.
 - b) Achan did not perish alone in his iniquity. Many others paid the price! See: [Et tu, Joshua?](#)

THE ALTAR OF WITNESS

2. The Critical Nature of Altars

A. Altars of... You can't just make any old Altar!

(1) Moses—

(a) The Altar of His Way and not My Way

1. “Then the Lord said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: ‘You have seen that I have talked with you from heaven. You shall not make anything to be with Me—gods of silver or gods of gold you shall not make for yourselves. **An altar of earth you shall make for Me, and you shall sacrifice on it your burnt offerings and your peace offerings, your sheep and your oxen. In every place where I record My name I will come to you, and I will bless you. And if you make Me an altar of stone, you shall not build it of hewn stone; for if you use your tool on it, you have profaned it.** Nor shall you go up by steps to My altar, that your nakedness may not be exposed on it.’” Exodus 20:22-26 NKJV

a) Yahweh was very clear that you may NOT just build an altar the way you want!

b) Do it His way because that is where and how He intends to show up!

(2) Noah (after the flood)

(a) The Altar of Deliverance and Covenant

1. “Then **Noah built an altar to the Lord**, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar.” Genesis 8:20

NKJV

- a) When the ark finally settled down after the flood, Noah built an altar to sacrifice to Yahweh.
- b) He did so to thank God that He delivered them and to covenant with Yahweh in a whole new world!

(3) Abraham

(a) The Altar of Promise

1. “Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, “To your descendants I will give this land.” **And there he built an altar to the Lord**, who had appeared to him.”

Genesis 12:7 NKJV

- a) After God promised Abram his future of descendants (even though he had no children) and a new land, he built an altar to Yahweh.
- (b) The Altar of Separation (after Abram’s separation from Lot)

1. "Then Abram moved his tent, and went and dwelt by the terebinth trees of Mamre, which are in Hebron, **and built an altar there to the Lord.**" Genesis 13:18 NKJV
 - a) When Abram offered his nephew Lot his choice of land (they had become too great a people to occupy the same land together any longer), Lot takes what he feels is the better land, and Abram thanks the Lord for what remains.
 - b) He built an altar to commemorate the separation.
- (c) The Altar of Provision (at the sacrifice of Isaac)
 1. "And Abraham said, "My son, **God will provide** for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering." So the two of them went together. Then they came to the place of which God had told him. **And Abraham built an altar there** and placed the wood in order; and he bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, upon the wood. "" Genesis 22:8-9 NKJV
 - a) Abraham is certain that God will provide an alternative sacrifice instead of offering his son!
 - b) He obediently builds an altar to make the sacrifice as the Lord commanded.

- c) God, in His faithfulness, because of Abraham's faithfulness, does provide a sacrifice in Isaac's place.

(4) Isaac

(a) The Altar of God's Name

1. "Then he went up from there to Beersheba. And the Lord appeared to him the same night and said, "I am the God of your father Abraham; do not fear, for **I am with you. I will bless you and multiply your descendants for My servant Abraham's sake.**" So he **built an altar there and called on the name of the Lord**, and he pitched his tent there; and there Isaac's servants dug a well." Genesis 26:23-25 NKJV

- a) Have no fear, I am with you just as I promised your father Abraham.
- b) Isaac built an altar and called on the name Yahweh!

(5) Jacob (after his safe reunion with Esau)

(a) The Altar of "God is the God of Israel"

1. "And he [Jacob] bought the parcel of land, where he had pitched his tent, from the children of Hamor, Shechem's father, for one hundred pieces of money.

Then he erected an altar there and called it El Elohe Israel.” Genesis 33:19-20 NKJV

a) Jacob is so relieved that his brother Esau did not enact vengeance upon him for stealing his birthright that he builds an altar declaring his faith in the God of Israel!

(b) The Altar of Purity (as Jacob returns to Bethel)

1. “Then God said to Jacob, **“Arise, go up to Bethel and dwell there; and make an altar there to God,** who appeared to you when you fled from the face of Esau your brother.” **And Jacob said to his household** and to all who were with him, **“Put away the foreign gods that are among you, purify yourselves, and change your garments.** Then let us arise and go up to Bethel; and I will make an altar there to God, who answered me in the day of my distress and has been with me in the way which I have gone.” Genesis 35:1-3 NKJV

a) Bethel: the House of God

b) Do not bring any foreign gods into God’s house!

c) Burn your fake Gods on an altar of purity!

(6) And back to Moses...(at the delivery of God’s commands to the people)

(a) The Marriage Altar

1. “So Moses came and **told the people all the words of the Lord** and all the judgments. And all the people answered with one voice and said, “**All the words which the Lord has said we will do.**” And Moses wrote all the words of the Lord. And he rose early in the morning, **and built an altar at the foot of the mountain**, and twelve pillars according to the twelve tribes of Israel. Then he sent young men of the children of Israel, **who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings** of oxen to the Lord. And Moses took half the blood and put it in basins, and half the blood he sprinkled on the altar. **Then he took the Book of the Covenant** and read in the hearing of the people. And they said, “**All that the Lord has said we will do, and be obedient.**” And Moses took the blood, sprinkled it on the people, and said, “This is the blood of the covenant which the Lord has made with you according to all these words.”” Exodus 24:3-8 NKJV

- a) This is the moment of betrothal of Israel to Yahweh.
- b) Be My bride (by obeying My commands).
- c) And all people said, “We do!”

d) **Note to self:** we are the betrothed bride of Christ. He has gone to prepare a place for us (the wedding feast). When the time is right He will come get His bride and marry her!

1) **The Betrothal:** *“And if **I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again** and receive you to Myself; that **where I am, there you may be also.**”* John 14:3 NKJV

2) **The Wedding:** *“Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, **for the marriage of the Lamb has come,** and His wife has made herself ready.”*

Revelation 19:7 NKJV

B. The Explanation

(1) Praise Yahweh that Phinehas and the 10 elders held off going to war in order to get an explanation, before they dropped the hammer!

(a) Here is the reason...

1. “Then the children of Reuben, the children of Gad, and half the tribe of Manasseh **answered and said** to the heads of the divisions of Israel:” Joshua 22:21 NKJV

(b) And here is our submission to your determination...

1. ““The Lord God of gods, the Lord God of gods, He knows, and let Israel itself know—if it is in rebellion, or if in treachery against the Lord, do not save us this day.” Joshua 22:22 NKJV

a) If what we did by building an alternative altar was rebellion or treachery, then you can kill us right now!

(c) We are accountable to Yahweh

1. “If we have built ourselves an altar to turn from following the Lord, or if to offer on it burnt offerings or grain offerings, or if to offer peace offerings on it, let the Lord Himself require an account.” Joshua 22:23 NKJV

a) If what we did by building an alternative altar was to turn away from Yahweh, then we are happy to be accountable to His judgment.

(d) Fear of the Lord!

1. “But in fact **we have done it for fear, for a reason, saying**, ‘In time to come **your descendants may speak to our descendants**, saying, “**What have you to do with the Lord God of Israel?** For **the Lord has made the Jordan a border between you and us**, you children of Reuben and children of Gad. **You have no**

part in the Lord.” So your descendants would make our descendants cease fearing the Lord.’” Joshua 22:24-25 NKJV

- a) We built this altar because we fear that one day your descendants on the west side of the Jordan will look at our descendants on the east side and believe that our children DO NOT worship the same God.
- b) We fear they will conclude that Yahweh divided them with the river BECAUSE they have “no part of Yahweh.”

(e) We DID NOT build the altar to use...

1. “Therefore we said, ‘**Let us now prepare to build ourselves an altar, not for burnt offering nor for sacrifice, but that it may be a witness between you and us and our generations after us, that we may perform the service of the Lord **before Him** with our burnt offerings, with our sacrifices, and with our peace offerings; **that your descendants may not say to our descendants in time to come, “You have no part in the Lord.”**’” Joshua 22:26-27 NKJV**

- a) We have no intention to use the altar for sacrifices and offerings.

- b) We intend ONLY to offer sacrifice before Him on the real altar.
 - c) The one we built is only to REMIND all generations that we do worship Yahweh alone.
 - d) We built it as a Witness (a reminder)!
- (f) Can it be any more clear than this?
1. “Therefore we said that it will be, when they say this to us or to our generations in time to come, that we may say, ‘**Here is the replica of the altar of the Lord** which our fathers made, though **not for burnt offerings nor for sacrifices; but it is a witness** between you and us.’” Joshua 22:28 NKJV
 - a) What we built is a replica of the altar of the Lord (the one that is in the tabernacle).
 - b) It is NOT to be used for burnt offerings nor for sacrifices.
 - c) It is simply a Witness (a reminder)!
- (g) Not an Alter of the Altar
1. “**Far be it from us that we should rebel against the Lord, and turn from following the Lord this day, to build an altar for burnt offerings**, for grain offerings, or for sacrifices, besides the altar of the Lord our God which is before His tabernacle.”” Joshua 22:29 NKJV

- a) We assure you, we did not build an alternative to the true altar.
- b) We have no desire to rebel and use what we built to make any offerings!

(h) The Settlement

1. “Now **when Phinehas the priest and the rulers** of the congregation, the heads of the divisions of Israel who were with him, heard the words that the children of Reuben, the children of Gad, and the children of Manasseh spoke, it pleased them. Then Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest said to the children of Reuben, the children of Gad, and the children of Manasseh, “**This day we perceive that the Lord is among us, because you have not committed this treachery against the Lord.** Now you have delivered the children of Israel out of the hand of the Lord.””

Joshua 22:30-31 NKJV

- a) Phinehas and the 10 elders conclude that they have done NOTHING wrong.
- b) They had committed no treachery!

(i) The Report

1. “And Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest, and the rulers, **returned** from the children of Reuben and the

children of Gad, from the land of Gilead to the land of Canaan, to the children of Israel, and **brought back word** to them. **So the thing pleased the children of Israel**, and the children of Israel blessed God; they spoke no more of going against them in battle, to destroy the land where the children of Reuben and Gad dwelt.” Joshua 22:32-33 NKJV

a) Phinehas and the 10 elders reported their findings to the 9^{1/2} tribes on the west side of the Jordan and the people were totally relieved!

(j) The Altar of Witness

1. “The children of Reuben and the children of Gad **called the altar, Witness**, “For **it is a witness between us that the Lord is God.**”” Joshua 22:34 NKJV

a) We had....

- 1) The Altar of His Way and not My Way (Moses)
- 2) The Altar of Deliverance and Covenant (Noah)
- 3) The Altar of Promise (Abraham)
- 4) The Altar of Separation (Abraham)
- 5) The Altar of Provision (Abraham)
- 6) The Altar of God’s Name (Isaac)
- 7) The Altar of “God is the God of Israel” (Jacob)
- 8) The Altar of Purity (Jacob)

- 9) The Marriage Altar (Moses and Y'shua)
- b) Now we have a replica (reminder of the true Altar)
 - 1) The Altar of Witness

MY ALTER OR HIS ALTAR?

3. Competing Altars—Inherent Problems with Altered Altars.

A. Alters and Altars— I'd like to buy a vowel (e or a?)

(1) Alter

(a) Verb

1. To change or cause to change in character or composition, typically in a comparatively small but significant way (like one letter in a word—from Altar to Alter).
2. To tailor for a better fit or to conform: used often for clothing, but can also be used to conform something to one's belief! (To alter something to fit what you already believe!)
3. To adapt, modify, revise...

(2) Altar

(a) Noun

1. The table in a Christian church.
2. A table used as the focus for a religious ritual, especially for making sacrifices or offerings.

3. The Altar in the tabernacle of Moses or temple of Solomon.
4. Various Altars that Yahweh instructed his people to build.
5. Christ: *“We have an altar from which those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat.”* Hebrews 13:10

B. His Way or My Way (Standard Operating Procedure)

(3) LAW——SOP——LAW

(a) When you cross into the promised land and possess it...

1. “Now **this is the commandment, and these are the statutes and judgments which the Lord your God has commanded to teach you, that you may observe them in the land which you are crossing over to possess,** that you may fear the Lord your God, to **keep all His statutes and His commandments** which I command you, you and your son and your grandson, all the days of your life, and **that your days may be prolonged.**” Deuteronomy 6:1-2 NKJV

a) Moses was clear in Deuteronomy (second telling of the law)...You **MUST** obey God’s commands in the land you are inheriting—***you will be blessed!**

(b) Do! (Walk in all **His** ways)

1. **“But take careful heed** to do the commandment and the law which Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you, **to love the Lord** your God, to **walk in all His ways**, to **keep His commandments**, to **hold fast to Him**, and to **serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul.**” So **Joshua blessed them** and sent them away, and they went to their tents.” Joshua 22:5-6 NKJV

- a) Same admonition EVERY TIME. When there is a shift in position; when an assignment is complete; when God’s people are sent; when God makes a promise ***to bless His people**...it is always prefaced with a reminder or warning.
- b) Don’t forget Yahweh and His commandments...
- c) Keeping His commands is how you love God.
(This has not changed for us!)
 - 1) *“If you love Me, keep My commandments.”*
John 14:15 NKJV
 - 2) *“By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His*

*commandments are not burdensome.” I John
5:2-3 NKJV*

d) Walk in all His ways and serve Him with a whole heart (your mind, will, emotions, intentions, inspirations, etc.) This too has not changed!

1) *“And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men,” Colossians 3:23 NKJV*

(c) Don't! (Follow the dictates of **your** own heart!)

1. “so that there may not be among you man or woman or family or tribe, **whose heart turns away today from the Lord** our God, **to go and serve the gods of these nations**, and that there may not be among you a root bearing bitterness or wormwood; and so it may not happen, when he hears the words of this curse, that he blesses himself in his heart, saying, **‘I shall have peace, even though I follow the dictates of my heart’—as though the drunkard could be included with the sober.**” Deuteronomy 29:18-19 NKJV

a) Don't...have peace, when you follow the dictates of your own heart—as if you can be drunk and sober at the same time!

2. “Who is the wise man who may understand this? And who is he to whom the mouth of the Lord has

spoken, that he may declare it? **Why does the land perish and burn** up like a wilderness, so that no one can pass through? And the Lord said, "**Because they have forsaken My law** which I set before them, and have not obeyed My voice, nor walked according to it, **but they have walked according to the dictates of their own hearts** and after the Baals, which their fathers taught them,"" Jeremiah 9:12-14 NKJV

- a) Don't...follow the dictates of your own heart!
- b) Don't...be a fool and wonder why the land burns after you forsake God's law.

3. ""And it shall be, when you show this people all these words, and they say to you, '**Why has the Lord pronounced all this great disaster against us? Or what is our iniquity? Or what is our sin that we have committed against the Lord our God?**' then you shall say to them, 'Because your fathers have forsaken Me,' says the Lord; '**they have walked after other gods** and have served them and worshiped them, and have forsaken Me and **not kept My law**. And you have done worse than your fathers, for behold, **each one follows the dictates of his own evil heart**, so that no one listens to Me.'" Jeremiah 16:10-12 NKJV

- a) Don't...be surprised over disasters that come...
 - b) Don't...be ignorant of your sin!
 - c) Don't...chase idols!
 - d) Don't...follow the dictates of your own heart!
4. "Thus says the Lord of hosts: "Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you. They make you worthless; **They speak a vision of their own heart, Not from the mouth of the Lord.** They continually say to those who despise Me, 'The Lord has said, "You shall have peace" '; And to **everyone who walks according to the dictates of his own heart, they say, 'No evil shall come upon you.'** ""
- Jeremiah 23:16-17 NKJV
- a) Don't...speak your own vision as if it's coming from God!
 - b) Don't...follow the dictates of your own heart and think nothing bad will happen.

C. Jots, Tittles, Yods & Iotas

(1) Don't change letters!

(a) Who you are...

1. ""**You are the salt of the earth;** but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot

by men. **“You are the light of the world.** A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. **Let your light so shine** before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”

Matthew 5:13-16 NKJV

- a) You are the salt of the earth...
- b) You are the light of the world...
- c) Let your light shine! How?

(b) How you act...

1. **“Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.**

{18} For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, **one jot or one tittle [not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen] will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.** Whoever

therefore breaks one of the least of these

commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called

least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does

and teaches them, he shall be called **great in the**

kingdom of heaven. For I say to you, that unless your

righteousness ***exceeds the righteousness** of the

scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.” Matthew 5:17-20 NKJV

- a) Don't change a single letter of His law...
- b) He did not come to change it, but to fully demonstrate it so we can, by His righteousness, walk in it!!
- c) *See Romans 10:3-4 below to distinguish which righteousness is the right righteousness.
- d) **Food for Thought:** Righteous men have rights!

(2) The original Letters

(a) If you obey...

1. “The Lord your God will make you abound in all the work of your hand, in the fruit of your body, in the increase of your livestock, and in the produce of your land for good. For the Lord will again rejoice over you for good as He rejoiced over your fathers, **if you obey the voice of the Lord your God**, to keep His commandments and His statutes which are written in **this Book of the Law**, and if you turn to the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. **For this commandment which I command you today is not too mysterious [difficult] for you**, nor is it far off. It is not in heaven, that you should say, **‘Who will**

ascend into heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’ Nor is it beyond the sea, that you should say, ‘Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’ But the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it. “See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil, in that I command you today to love the Lord your God, **to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments, His statutes, and His judgments, that you may live and multiply; and the Lord your God will bless you in the land which you go to possess.” Deuteronomy 30:9-16 NKJV**

- a) There will come a day when the commands of God will not seem too mysterious or too difficult!
 - b) They won’t be so far off as to think they are way up in heaven or way down at the bottom of the ocean!
 - c) Why? Because they will be in your heart and you will be able to obey them.
- (b) When you enter the promised land—His rest (See: [The Promise Remains](#))...

1. “Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: ‘I am the Lord your God. According to the doings of the land of **Egypt**, where you dwelt, **you shall not do**; and according to the doings of the land of **Canaan**, where I am bringing you, **you shall not do**; nor shall you walk in their ordinances. **You shall observe My judgments and keep My ordinances, to walk in them:** I am the Lord your God. You shall therefore keep My statutes and My judgments, **which if a man does, he shall live by them:** I am the Lord.” Leviticus 18:1-5
NKJV

- a) Don’t obey the laws of Egypt...
- b) Don’t obey the laws of Canaan...
- c) Do obey Yahweh’s laws—they will bring life to those who do them!

(3) Today’s letters

- (a) Paul supports Y’shua’s words, (*“not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen will change”*), and Moses words, which makes total sense because Moses was writing about Y’shua! (Note Y’shua speaking: *“For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; **for he wrote***

about Me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?" John 5:46-47 NKJV)

1. "Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For they being **ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God.** For **Christ is the end of the law** for righteousness to everyone who believes. For **Moses writes about the righteousness** which is **of the law**, "The man who does those things shall live by them." **But** the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?' " (that is, to bring Christ down from above) or, " 'Who will descend into the abyss?' " (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). **But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart"** (that is, the word of faith which we preach):" Romans 10:1-8 NKJV

a) Step by Step:

- 1) God's Righteousness vs. Self Righteousness:
Israel missed God's righteousness because they were trying to obey God in their own strength.
- 2) You submit to God's righteousness by being in Christ. He is the **end** of the law for righteousness!
- 3) What does "the end" mean? It can't mean done away with as Matthew 5:18 says, *"For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, **not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen of the law will pass.**"*
- 4) "End" does not mean done; it means goal. The same Greek word is used in: I Peter 1:9...
*"receiving the **end (goal)** of your faith—the salvation of your souls."* And James 5:11...
*"Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the **end (goal)** of the Lord; that He is very compassionate and merciful"*
- 5) We don't do away with faith to receive salvation and we don't do away with the Lord to understand His compassion! The Goal is...

- 6) Then Moses writes about the righteousness of the law, and he quotes Leviticus 18:5, “***The man who does those things shall live by them.***” (read it again above and see that it is a very good thing!) Do obey Yahweh’s laws—they will bring life to those who do them!
 - 7) Then we have the infamous word “but.” “***But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way...***” What you must first realize is that the English word “but” is being translated from a Greek conjunction that can mean: “but, and, moreover, or therefore.” Only the context dictates if you use **but** (to make a contrast) or **and** (to make a continuous point).
 - 8) Moses makes both statements! The one from Leviticus 18 about the **righteousness of the law** (which we saw was a very good thing) and the next statement about **the righteousness of faith** (which is a very good thing also). So the word SHOULD BE “And” not “But.”
- b) The next section is a revelation is seemingly ALWAYS missed by Christians today... it comes directly from Moses’ words...

- 1) **“It is not in heaven, that you should say, ‘Who will ascend into heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’ Nor is it beyond the sea, that you should say, ‘Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’ But the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it.” Deuteronomy 30:12-14 NKJV**
- c) Paul’s revelation...
 - 1) **“Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ down from above) or, “ ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? **“The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith which we preach):” Romans 10:6-8****
- d) Verse by Verse...
 - 1) [Deuteronomy 30:12] **“It is not in heaven, that you should say, ‘Who will ascend into heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’**

- 2) [Romans 10:6] **“Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ ”** (that is, to bring Christ down from above),
 - 3) [Deuteronomy 30:13] **Nor is it beyond the sea, that you should say, ‘Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us,** that we may **hear it and do it?’**
 - 4) [Romans 10:7] or, **“ ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’ ”** (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead).
 - 5) [Deuteronomy 30:14] **But the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart,** that you may do it.”
 - 6) [Romans 10:8] **But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart”** (that is, the word of faith which we preach):”
- e) Christ is the **end** of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. Christ is the **goal!**
- 1) Where Moses says we don’t have to bring the law down from heaven or up from the sea to hear and do it, Paul explains that by bringing Christ down from heaven or up from the sea we are doing just that. Paul equates the Law with

Christ! Christ does not the end; He is the goal of the law.

2) Moses says, "But the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, **that you may do it.**"

3) Paul says, "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (**that is, the word of faith which we preach.**)"

4) And what word of faith is that?

(b) He is preaching "The sinners payer!"

1. "**that if you confess with your mouth** the Lord Jesus and **believe in your heart** that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." Romans 10:9-10 NKJV

a) When you confess with your mouth and believe in your heart the Jesus is Lord, you are confessing that through His righteousness, the law is NOT too difficult, but that it is "*near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it!*"

D. Are you eating from His Altar or your own Alter?

(1) The story continues

(a) More books to be written...

1. "This is the disciple who testifies of these things, and wrote these things; and we know that his testimony is true. **And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.** Amen." John 21:24-25 NKJV

a) Where might we find these books and what is written in them?

(2) You are His letter!

(a) Don't alter letters. Be careful how your letter reads!

1. "Do we begin again to commend ourselves? Or do we need, as some others, **epistles of commendation to you or letters of commendation** from you? **You are our epistle** written in our hearts, known and read by all men; clearly **you are an epistle of Christ**, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart." II Corinthians 3:1-3 NKJV

a) You are the continual letter of Christ.

- b) You are His gospel..the world itself is filled with His books that are being written! That is you!
- c) Your letter will be known and read by everyone.
- d) What type of letter are you? An Altar or an Alter?

(3) The right Altar

(a) We have an Altar

1. **“We have an altar from which those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat.”** Hebrews 13:10

NKJV

- a) There is only ONE ALTAR and only we as His Children may eat from it!
2. “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies **a living sacrifice**, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” Romans 12:1-2 NKJV

- a) Our lives are to be placed on that Altar and sacrificed completely!

(4) Living off the right food

- (a) Those from the past were permitted to eat from the Altar...

1. **“Do you not know that those who minister the holy things eat of the things of the temple, and those who serve at the altar partake of the offerings of the altar?** Even so the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should **live from the gospel.**” I Corinthians 9:13-14 NKJV

- a) We too live from the Altar and that Altar is Christ.
- b) Prophetically...We are His gospel! Life from the Gospel!
- c) Leviticus 18:5 (Obey God and you will have life!)
- d) Deuteronomy 30:14 (the law is NOT too difficult, it is *“near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it! (that is, the word of faith which we preach).”* **The Gospel!**)
- e) Note: Pastorally, these verses in I Corinthians are used to justify those in ministry being paid for their work in ministry. It is not an incorrect interpretation, but it is the pastoral side of the equation, the side that is related to everyday living.

2. **““The priests, the Levites—all the tribe of Levi—shall have no part nor inheritance with Israel; **they shall eat the offerings of the Lord made by fire,** and His portion. Therefore they shall have no inheritance**

among their brethren; **the Lord is their inheritance**, as He said to them.” Deuteronomy 18:1-2 NKJV

- a) Shadow: the priests eat from the Altar—the Lord is their inheritance!
- b) “We have an altar...” Hebrews 13:10

(b) Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines...

1. “Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. **Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines.** For it is good that the heart be established by grace, **not with foods which have not profited those who have been occupied with them.**” Hebrews 13:7-9 NKJV

a) The wrong food will not profit you!

2. “**Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.** But do not forget **to do good and to share**, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased. **Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as**

those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.” Hebrews 13:15-17 NKJV

- a) Your leaders are accountable to God so make it easy on them by obeying the teachings about which is the correct food to eat!
- b) Let the ones who watch out for your souls do so with joy.
- c) Make it easier for them by being obedient and submissive!

(c) Equipping

1. “Now **may the God of peace** who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, **make you complete in every good work to do His will** [*equip you with everything good for doing his will*], working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.” Hebrews 13:20-21 NKJV

- a) His will—eat from the correct altar and don’t alter letters!

2. “And I appeal to you, brethren, **bear with the word of exhortation, for I have written to you in few words.**” Hebrews 13:22 NKJV

a) Bear with the word of exhortation!

b) Although sometimes it's with MANY words!

E. Alter or Altar? *“We have an altar [or alter] from which those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat.”* Heb. 13:10

(1) Can I buy a vowel? (altar or alter)

(a) God's word is PURE!

1. “Who has ascended into heaven, or descended? Who has gathered the wind in His fists? Who has bound the waters in a garment? Who has established all the ends of the earth? **What is His name, and what is His Son's name, If you know? Every word of God is pure;** He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him. **Do not add to His words,** Lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar.” Proverbs 30:4-6 NKJV (SEE INTRO VERSION)

a) Every word of God is pure; do not change one letter, lest you be found worshiping at the wrong altar!

(b) You are God's Word...be PURE!

1. "...there are **many other things** that Jesus did, which if they were **written one by one**, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain **the books that would be written**. Amen." John 21:25 NKJV
2. "**You are our epistle** written in our hearts, **known and read by all men**; clearly **you are an epistle of Christ...**" II Corinthians 3:2-3 NKJV
 - a) Every word of God is pure; do not change one letter, lest you be found worshiping at the wrong altar!
 - (c) Not the least stroke of a pen!
 1. "For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, **not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear** from the Law until everything is accomplished." Matthew 5:18 NIV
 - a) Every word of God is pure; do not change one letter, lest you be found worshiping at the wrong altar!

Summary: THE ALTER OF TREACHERY

1. Great Impressive Altars

A. Yahweh is Faithful

- (1) Yahweh's Obligation Fulfilled (See: [The Promise Remains](#))

(a) Finally—Rest

1. It did not happen overnight, but finally the children of Israel took possession of and settled the promised land.
2. It was a promise long time coming, but Yahweh is ALWAYS faithful to do His part.
3. The only variable is our part and Israel finally finished their part and everything the Lord had promised came to pass!

(2) The 2^{1/2} Tribes' Obligation Fulfilled

(a) You have completed all that Moses required...

1. The 2^{1/2} tribes have done everything that was required of them in the promised land and they are released to go back over the Jordan to the east side.

(b) You have not left your brothers...

1. To the Reubenites, the Gadites, and half the tribe of Manasseh:
2. You had asked for land on the east side of the Jordan as your inheritance because it was spacious and more conducive for raising your abundant livestock...
"...let this land be given to your servants as a possession. Do not take us over the Jordan."

Numbers 32:5 (See all of Numbers 32)

- 1) God made a deal with you. You can leave your wives and children on this side, but you must cross over in front of the other tribes and fight with them until they have victory. (*“The other tribes take possession of the promised land and dwell in it and Yahweh gives them rest.”*)
- 2) Then you can go back and settle the land on that side.
- 3) They were warned that if they renege on their commitment, they would die.

(c) Time to go home...

1. Go back to your families.
2. You are released to return to the east side of the Jordan...so go home.

B. S. O. P. (Standard Operating Procedure)

(1) Reminder!

(a) Go, and remember...

1. A reminder to walk in all God's ways is always part of the plan.
2. See “Jots, Tittles, Yods & Iotas” in Section Three for more details.

(2) On their way home...

(a) The 2^{1/2} tribes head home...

1. The 2^{1/2} tribes head back to what was promised them by Yahweh through Moses.

C. Treachery and Rebellion

(1) Treachery

(a) A great impressive altar!

1. As the 2^{1/2} tribes approach the Jordan, while still on the west side near Jericho, they stopped and built an altar, a very impressive altar.
2. Was this a good idea? Was this a violation? Was this an affront to Yahweh?
3. How often do we approach God's promises by building our own impressive Altars?

(b) Not Happy

1. The other 9^{1/2} tribes are infuriated.
2. They are so angry at their brothers that they are actually ready to go to war with them.
3. They go after their brothers to determine what they have done.

(c) A gathering of elders...

1. Phinehas is the trusted priest, so he is a great choice to go inspect what is going on.
2. Plus, Phinehas has a great track record with the Lord, so he can be trusted to discern what is going on. (You

will be reminded in the next few pages about the history of Phinehas.)

3. But he does not go alone, he takes one ruler from the ruling family of each tribe with him (10 elders).

(d) The Accusation

1. **Treachery:** betrayal of trust; deceptive action or nature; disloyalty, unfaithfulness, infidelity, duplicity, treason.
2. "You built for yourselves an altar so you can rebel against Yahweh!"
3. This is a devastating accusation.

(e) Flashback: Don't you remember how specific this altar thing is..."You shall make...!"

1. Do you think you can just build an altar for yourselves?
2. Do you think you can design an altar with your own specifications?
3. Don't you remember that it must be made to the exact pattern that was shown Moses on the mountain?

(f) Flashback: Don't you remember how specific Moses was about where you can make offerings..."*Do not offer your burnt offerings in every place that you see...!*"

1. Here are the rules in the land you are going to possess:
 - 1) Seek the place where the Lord chooses to put His name.
 - 2) Don't do whatever you think is right in your own eyes.
 - 3) When you cross over the Jordan and dwell in the land which God is giving you and you have rest, there will be the place where the Lord chooses to bring all offerings.
 - 4) Do do not offer your offerings anywhere but the place which the Lord chooses!

(2) The Warning (There is war in warning: "*The children of Israel wanted **to go to war against them.***" Joshua 22:12)

(a) **Warning:** Peor

1. Remember the disaster as Peor! It was devastating and thousands of people died because of the rebellious activity of the few! (see Numbers 22-24).
 - 1) Remember the story of Balak and Balaam.
 - 2) How can you turn away from following the Lord knowing what happened back then?
 - 3) If you rebel today, Yahweh will be angry with the whole congregation of Israel. (This is usually what

happens; everyone is affected by the actions of the few!)

- 4) In Numbers 25, a plague infected the congregation because of the harlotry (of some), inspired by Balaam. (24,000 people died in the plague.)
 - 5) And it was actually Phinehas who ended the plague by his zeal for Yahweh (when he killed the Israelite man and his harlot). See: [What Did The Donkey Say to The Jackass?](#)
 - 6) As the narrative reports, the plague was stopped because of the actions of Phinehas.
 - 7) He had turned back Yahweh's wrath and had received a covenant of peace because of his zealous actions. (See Numbers 25:8-13)
2. Unfortunately, these 10 elders somehow still believe that they are "not cleansed completely even till this day." This is a strange "lack of acceptance of Yahweh's total forgiveness."
- (b) An alternative offer...
1. The 9^{1/2} tribes make an offer to help their brothers (a better choice than immediately going to war with them!)

2. **Note to self:** it is ALWAYS better to take time to figure out what is really going on BEFORE you take any rash actions!
 3. **The Offer:** If the land of your possession is unclean, stay on this side with us (where the tabernacle is with the real altar).
 4. But, please don't rebel against Yahweh or us by building an alternative altar for yourselves.
 5. In other words, please don't make us kill you!
- (3) **Warning:** Achan

- (a) The Achan thing was not that long ago!
 1. Then they remind their brothers of Achan who brought accursed things out of Jericho into the camp (Joshua 7) and how God's wrath fell.
 2. Achan did not perish alone in his iniquity. Many others paid the price! See: [Et tu, Joshua?](#)

Summary: THE ALTAR OF WITNESS

2. The Critical Nature of Altars

A. Altars of... You can't just make any old Altar!

- (1) Moses—
 - (a) The Altar of His Way and not My Way

1. Yahweh was very clear that you may NOT just build an altar the way you want! Do it His way because that is where and how He intends to show up!

(2) Noah (after the flood)

(a) The Altar of Deliverance and Covenant

1. When the ark finally settled down after the flood, Noah built an altar to sacrifice to Yahweh.
2. He did so to thank God that He delivered them and to covenant with Yahweh in a whole new world!

(3) Abraham

(a) The Altar of Promise

1. After God promised Abram his future of descendants (even though he had no children) and a new land, he built an altar to Yahweh.

(b) The Altar of Separation (after Abram's separation from Lot)

1. When Abram offered his nephew Lot his choice of land (they had become too great a people to occupy the same land together any longer), Lot takes what he feels is the better land, and Abram thanks the Lord for what remains.
2. He built an altar to commemorate the separation.

(c) The Altar of Provision (at the sacrifice of Isaac)

1. Abraham is certain that God will provide an alternative sacrifice instead of offering his son!
2. He obediently builds an altar to make the sacrifice as the Lord commanded.
3. God, in His faithfulness, because of Abraham's faithfulness, does provide a sacrifice in Isaac's place.

(4) Isaac

(a) The Altar of God's Name

1. Have no fear, I am with you just as I promised your father Abraham.
2. Isaac built an altar and called on the name Yahweh!

(5) Jacob (after his safe reunion with Esau)

(a) The Altar of "God is the God of Israel"

1. Jacob is so relieved that his brother Esau did not enact vengeance upon him for stealing his birthright that he builds an altar declaring his faith in the God of Israel!

(b) The Altar of Purity (as Jacob returns to Bethel)

1. Bethel: the House of God
2. Do not bring any foreign gods into God's house!
3. Burn your fake Gods on an altar of purity!

(6) And back to Moses...(at the delivery of God's commands to the people)

(a) The Marriage Altar

1. This is the moment of betrothal of Israel to Yahweh.
2. Be My bride (by obeying My commands).
3. And all people said, "We do!"
4. **Note to self:** we are the betrothed bride of Christ. He has gone to prepare a place for us (the wedding feast). When the time is right He will come get His bride and marry her!

B. The Explanation

(1) Praise Yahweh that Phinehas and the 10 elders held off going to war in order to get an explanation, before they dropped the hammer!

(a) Here is the reason...

(b) And here is our submission to your determination...

1. If what we did by building an alternative altar was rebellion or treachery, then you can kill us right now!

(c) We are accountable to Yahweh

1. If what we did by building an alternative altar was to turn away from Yahweh, then we are happy to be accountable to His judgment.

(d) Fear of the Lord!

1. We built this altar because we fear that one day your descendants on the west side of the Jordan will look

at our descendants on the east side and believe that our children DO NOT worship the same God.

2. We fear they will conclude that Yahweh divided them with the river BECAUSE they have “no part of Yahweh.”

(e) We DID NOT build the altar to use...

1. We have no intention to use the altar for sacrifices and offerings.
2. We intend ONLY to offer sacrifice before Him on the real altar.
3. The one we built is only to REMIND all generations that we do worship Yahweh alone.
4. We built it as a Witness (a reminder)!

(f) Can it be any more clear than this?

1. What we built is a replica of the altar of the Lord (the one that is in the tabernacle).
2. It is NOT to be used for burnt offerings nor for sacrifices.
3. It is simply a Witness (a reminder)!

(g) Not an Alter of the Altar

1. We assure you, we did not build an alternative to the true altar.

2. We have no desire to rebel and use what we built to make any offerings!

(h) The Settlement

1. Phinehas and the 10 elders conclude that they have done NOTHING wrong.
2. They had committed no treachery!

(i) The Report

1. Phinehas and the 10 elders reported their findings to the 9^{1/2} tribes on the west side of the Jordan and the people were totally relieved!

(j) The Altar of Witness

1. We had....
 - 1) The Altar of His Way and not My Way (Moses)
 - 2) The Altar of Deliverance and Covenant (Noah)
 - 3) The Altar of Promise (Abraham)
 - 4) The Altar of Separation (Abraham)
 - 5) The Altar of Provision (Abraham)
 - 6) The Altar of God's Name (Isaac)
 - 7) The Altar of "God is the God of Israel" (Jacob)
 - 8) The Altar of Purity (Jacob)
 - 9) The Marriage Altar (Moses and Y'shua)
2. Now we have a replica (a reminder of the true Altar)
 - 1) The Altar of Witness

Summary: MY ALTER OR HIS ALTAR?

3. Competing Altars—Inherent Problems with Altered Altars.

A. Alters and Altars— I'd like to buy a vowel (e or a?)

(1) Alter

(a) Verb

1. To change or cause to change in character or composition, typically in a comparatively small but significant way (like one letter in a word—from Altar to Alter).
2. To tailor for a better fit or to conform: used often for clothing, but can also be used to conform something to one's belief! (To alter something to fit what you already believe!)
3. To adapt, modify, revise...

(2) Altar

(a) Noun

1. The table in a Christian church.
2. A table used as the focus for a religious ritual, especially for making sacrifices or offerings.
3. The Altar in the tabernacle of Moses or temple of Solomon.
4. Various Altars that Yahweh instructed his people to build.

5. Christ: *“We have an altar from which those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat.”* Hebrews 13:10

B. His Way or My Way (Standard Operating Procedure)

(1) LAW——SOP——LAW

(a) When you cross into the promised land and possess it...

1. Moses was clear in Deuteronomy (second telling of the law)...You **MUST** obey God’s commands in the land you are inheriting—your lives will be blessed!

(b) Do! (Walk in all **His** ways)

1. Same admonition EVERY TIME. When there is a shift in position; when an assignment is complete; when God’s people are sent; when God makes a promise to bless His people...it is always prefaced with a reminder or warning.
2. Don’t forget Yahweh and His commandments...
3. Keeping His commands is how you love God. (This has not changed for us!)
4. Walk in all His ways and serve Him with a whole heart (your mind, will, emotions, intentions, inspirations, etc.) This too has not changed!

(c) Don’t! (Follow the dictates of **your** own heart!)

1. Don't...have peace, when you follow the dictates of your own heart—as if you can be drunk and sober at the same time!
2. Don't...follow the dictates of your own heart!
3. Don't...be a fool and wonder why the land burns after you forsake God's law.
4. Don't...be surprised over disasters that come...
5. Don't...be ignorant of your sin!
6. Don't...chase idols!
7. Don't...follow the dictates of your own heart!
8. Don't...speak your own vision as if it's coming from God!
9. Don't...follow the dictates of your own heart and think nothing bad will happen.

C. Jots, Tittles, Yods & Iotas

(1) Don't change letters!

(a) Who you are...

1. You are the salt of the earth...
2. You are the light of the world...
3. Let your light shine! How?

(b) How you act...

1. Don't change a single letter of His law...

2. He did not come to change it, but to fully demonstrate it so we can, by His righteousness, walk in it!!
3. *See Romans 10:3-4 below to distinguish which righteousness is the right righteousness.
4. **Food for Thought:** Righteous men have rights!

(2) The original Letters

(a) If you obey...

1. There will come a day when the commands of God will not seem too mysterious or too difficult!
2. They won't be so far off as to think they are way up in heaven or way down at the bottom of the ocean!
3. Why? Because they will be in your heart and you will be able to obey them.

(b) When you enter the promised land—His rest (See: [The Promise Remains](#))...

1. Don't obey the laws of Egypt...
2. Don't obey the laws of Canaan...
3. Do obey Yahweh's laws—they will bring life to those who do them!

(3) Today's letters

- (a) Paul supports Y'shua's words, (*"not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen will change"*), and Moses

words, which makes total sense because Moses was writing about Y'shua!

1. Step by Step:

- 1) God's Righteousness vs. Self Righteousness: Israel missed God's righteousness because they were trying to obey God in their own strength.
- 2) You submit to God's righteousness by being in Christ. He is the **end** of the law for righteousness!
- 3) What does "the end" mean? It can't mean done away with as Matthew 5:18 says, *"For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, **not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen of the law will pass.**"*
- 4) "End" does not mean done; it means goal. The same Greek word is used in: I Peter 1:9...
*"receiving the **end (goal)** of your faith—the salvation of your souls."* And James 5:11...
*"Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the **end (goal)** of the Lord; that He is very compassionate and merciful"*

- 5) We don't do away with faith to receive salvation and we don't do away with the Lord to understand His compassion! The Goal is...
- 6) Then Moses writes about the righteousness of the law, and he quotes Leviticus 18:5, "***The man who does those things shall live by them.***" (read it again above and see that it is a very good thing!) Do obey Yahweh's laws—they will bring life to those who do them!
- 7) Then we have the infamous word "but." "***But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way...***" What you must first realize is that the English word "but" is being translated from a Greek conjunction that can mean: "but, and, moreover, or therefore." Only the context dictates if you use **but** (to make a contrast) or **and** (to make a continuous point).
- 8) Moses makes both statements, the one from Leviticus 18 about the **righteousness of the law** (which we saw was a very good thing) and the next statement about **the righteousness of faith** (which is a very good thing also). So the word SHOULD BE "And" not "But."

- i) The next section is a revelation is seemingly ALWAYS missed by Christians today... it comes directly from Moses' words...
2. Paul's revelation...
 - 1) Christ is the **end** of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. Christ is the **goal!**
 - 2) Where Moses says we don't have to bring the law down from heaven or up from the sea to hear and do it, Paul explains that by bringing Christ down from heaven or up from the sea we are doing just that. Paul equates the Law with Christ! Christ does not the end; He is the goal of the law.
 - 3) Moses says, "But the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, **that you may do it.**"
 - 4) Paul says, "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (**that is, the word of faith which we preach.**)"
 - 5) And what word of faith is that?
 - (b) He is preaching "The sinners payer!"
 1. When you confess with your mouth and believe in your heart the Jesus is Lord, you are confessing that through His righteousness, the law is NOT too

difficult, but that it is *“near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it!”*

D. Are you eating from His Altar or your own Alter?

(1) The story continues

(a) More books to be written...

1. Where might we find these books and what is written in them?

(2) You are His letter!

(a) Don't alter letters. Be careful how your letter reads!

1. You are the continual letter of Christ.
2. You are His gospel..the world itself is filled with His books that are being written! That is you!
3. Your letter will be known and read by everyone.
4. What type of letter are you? An Altar or an Alter?

(3) The right Altar

(a) We have an Altar

1. There is only ONE ALTAR and only we as His Children may eat from it!
2. Our lives are to be placed on that Altar and sacrificed completely!

(4) Living off the right food

(a) Those from the past were permitted to eat from the Altar...

1. We too live from the Altar and that Altar is Christ.
 2. Prophetically...We are His gospel! Life from the Gospel!
 3. Leviticus 18:5 (Obey God and you will have life!)
 4. Deuteronomy 30:14 (the law is NOT too difficult, it is *“near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it! (that is, the word of faith which we preach).”* **The Gospel**)
 5. Note: Pastorally, these verses in I Corinthians are used to justify those in ministry being paid for their work in ministry. It is not an incorrect interpretation, but it is the pastoral side of the equation, the side that is related to everyday living.
 6. Shadow: the priests eat from the Altar—the Lord is their inheritance!
 7. “We have an altar...” Hebrews 13:10
- (b) Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines...
1. The wrong food will not profit you!
 2. Your leaders are accountable to God so make it easy on them by obeying the teachings about which is the correct food to eat!

3. Let the ones who watch out for your souls do so with joy.
4. Make it easier for them by being obedient and submissive!

(c) Equipping

1. His will—eat from the correct altar and don't alter letters!
2. Although sometimes it's with MANY words!

E. Alter or Altar? *"We have an altar [or alter] from which those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat."* Heb. 13:10

(1) Can I buy a vowel? (altar or alter)

(a) God's word is PURE!

1. Every word of God is pure; do not change one letter, lest you be found worshiping at the wrong alter!

(b) You are God's Word...be PURE!

1. Every word of God is pure; do not change one letter, lest you be found worshiping at the wrong alter!

(c) Not the least stroke of a pen!

1. Every word of God is pure; do not change one letter, lest you be found worshiping at the wrong alter!

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

- 1. In Joshua 22:1-9, the Reubenites, the Gadites, and half the tribe of Manasseh had fulfilled their obligation:**
 - A. According to Numbers 32, what had they asked for and what was required of them?
 - B. Now that they are released to go home, what strict advice do they get before they leave. (See Joshua 22:5-6)
- 2. Before they cross back over to the other side of the Jordan, what do they do? (See Joshua 22:10)**
 - A. How do their brother react? (See Joshua 22:11-15)
 - B. What is the accusation and why are they so concerned? (See: Joshua 22:16; Exodus 27:1-8; Deuteronomy 12:1-14)
 - C. What are their warnings? (See Joshua 22:17-20)
 - D. What does the warning of Peor mean? (See Numbers 25)
 - E. What does the warning of Achan mean? (See Joshua 7)
 - F. What do they offer and why? (See Joshua 22:19)
- 3. After all the controversy, what explanation is offered for why they built an Altar? (See: Joshua 22:22-29)**
 - A. What are they willing to do?
 - B. Of what do they assure their brothers?
 - C. What is the final settlement? (See Joshua 22:30-33)
 - D. What is the controversial Altar named? (See Joshua 22:34)

4. How is Joshua 22:5-6 similar to Deuteronomy 6:1-2?

- A. What are the warnings in Deuteronomy 29:18-19; Jeremiah 9:12-14; 16:10-12; 23:16-17?

5. Bonus (Study pages 43-57 in the sermons notes, the section called: “Jots, Tittles, Yods & Iotas”.) Answer the flowing:

- A. What do Y’shua’s words mean when He says to not change one letter of the law?
- B. Write an essay comparing Paul’s words in Romans 10:1-10 with Moses’ words in Leviticus 18:1-5 and Deuteronomy 30:12-14.
- C. How might we be the letters the world could not contain when comparing John 21:24-25 and II Corinthians 3:1-3?
- D. What is the food we live on as Christians when you compare Deuteronomy 18:1-2 and I Corinthians 9:13-14?