

## LESSONS from “LOSERS”

### Reconciled with Reubenites



“These things happened to them as a warning to us. All this was written in the Scriptures to teach us who live in these last days” (1 Corinthians 10:11, CEV).

🌟 **Bible Reading Plan:** Since Sabbath, we have read from Joshua 9 through 24.

■ **CONTEXT:** These chapters cover the Treaty with the Gibeonites, the sun standing still, the conquest and dividing up of Canaan as well as the east of the Jordan, the cities of refuge, the cities of the Levites, near civil war, and Joshua’s farewell.

🌟 **What lessons can be learned from the near tragedy of civil war in Joshua 22?**

- ▶ #1: Joshua 22:1-4 reveals that the tribes of Reuben, Gad and the half tribe of Manasseh had \_\_\_\_\_ God very faithfully (through the commands of Moses).
- ▶ #2: Joshua, the new leader, called on them to continue to obey God (Josh 22:5).
- ▶ #3: Joshua (vs 6) \_\_\_\_\_ them & sent them on their way; and they went home.
- ▶ #4: They built “great, impressive altar” (Josh 2:10), “without explanation” and in doing this, they were at fault (PP 518.4), for they could \_\_\_\_\_ worship at Shiloh.
- ▶ #5: Joshua 22:11 (GW) says: “The rest of the Israelites heard about it.” So what?
- ▶ #6: But vs 12 adds: “When the Israelites heard this, the whole community came together at Shiloh to go to war,” to \_\_\_\_\_ their friends, based on assumptions!
- ▶ #7: Following Deuteronomy 13:14, they sent a delegation to confirm their ideas!
- ▶ #8: Josh 22:16 (GNT) records their judgmental attitude: “Why have you done this evil thing against the God of Israel? You have rebelled against the LORD by building this altar for yourselves! You are no longer following him!” What an attitude! “How often serious difficulties arise from a simple misunderstanding, even among those who are actuated by the worthiest motives; and without the exercise of courtesy and forbearance, what serious and even \_\_\_\_\_ results may follow” (PP 519.4).
- ▶ #9: In Joshua 22:21-29 the truth is given: This *altar* was bad, but a \_\_\_\_\_ thing. “The wisdom displayed by the Reubenites and their companions is worthy of imitation.... They manifested no resentment” (PP 520.1). They were **reconciled!**
- ▶ #10: The result? “The Israelites were **happy** and **praised** \_\_\_\_\_” (Joshua 22:33).

**SDA Fundamental Belief #14, Unity in the Body of Christ:** “The church is one body with many members, called from every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. In Christ we are a new creation; distinctions of race, culture, learning, and nationality, and differences between high and low, rich and poor, male and female, must not be divisive among us. We are all equal in Christ, who by one Spirit has bonded us into one fellowship with Him and with one another; we are to serve and be served without partiality or reservation. Through the revelation of Jesus Christ in the Scriptures we share the same faith and hope, and reach out in one witness to all. This unity has its source in the oneness of the triune God, who has adopted us as His children. (Ps. 133:1; Matt. 28:19, 20; John 17:20-23; Acts 17:26, 27; Rom. 12:4, 5; 1 Cor. 12:12-14; 2 Cor. 5:16, 17; Gal. 3:27-29; Eph. 2:13-16; 4:3-6, 11-16; Col. 3:10-15.)

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Beaumont Seventh-day Adventist Church, California

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