

**Sermon Series: *Joshua: Power of God* Sermon Title: *Passion and Zeal for the Glory of God* Scripture: Joshua 22** Pastor Chris Fritz Sunday, July 5, 2020

**INTRODUCTION**

 “Big Picture” Outline for the Book of Joshua:

 1) Preparing the Nation (1-5) 2) Defeating the Enemy (6-12)

 3) Claiming the Inheritance (13-21) 4) Renewing the Covenant (22-24)

**I. PASSION AND ZEAL FOR THE GLORY OF GOD**

**A. The Set-Up!**

Note: EACH of the last three chapters BEGINS with Joshua calling the people together.

Chapter 22: *“At that time Joshua summoned the Reubenites and the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh…” (Joshua 22:1)*

*Chapter 23: “A long time afterward, when the Lord had given rest to Israel from all their surrounding enemies, and Joshua was old and well advanced in years, Joshua summoned all Israel…” (Joshua 23:1-2a)*

*Chapter 24: “Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel. And they presented themselves before God.” (Joshua 24:1)*

*“I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.” (Romans 12:1)*

*“Love so amazing, so divine, Demands my soul, my life, my all.” (Isaac Watts)*

**B. A Glowing Commendation (verses 1-9)**

Joshua’s commendation of these tribes is very impressive…

* Verse 2: *“You have kept ALL that Moses commanded.”*
* Verse 2: *“You have obeyed my voice in ALL that I have commanded you.”*
* Verse 3: *“You have NOT forsaken your brothers these many days.”*

Note: He commends them BEFORE he commands them.

**C. The Almost Civil War (verses 10-34)**

**1) There is alarm throughout Israel at the presence of another altar, and the alarm is justified!**

*“If one gives an answer before he hears, it is his folly and shame.” (Proverbs 18:13)*

*“But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship Him. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” (John 4:23-24)*

**2) There is a firm and passionate plea for faithfulness to God!**

*“Come to Me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.” (Matthew 11:28)*

**3) The humble, gentle answer from two and a half tribes who sincerely desire unity and peace.**

*“A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.” (Proverbs 15:1)*

*“Set a guard, O Lord, over my mouth; keep watch over the door of my lips!” (Psalm 141:3)*

*“I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word, that they may all be one, just as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You have sent Me.” (John 17:20-21)*

**4) The peaceful, thanksgiving-filled resolution.**

**Questions for Further Study, Reflection, and Application…**

1. Don’t forget to do your homework! Tell one person about how you see God at work in them and through them; tell them how you see them growing in their faith, trust, and walk with God.
2. What specifically did Joshua commend the two and a half eastern tribes for?
3. Why were the western tribes correct in being alarmed at the building of another alter?
4. What clear instruction did Jesus give concerning worship in John 4?
5. Why did the two and a half eastern tribes build the alter? What was their motive?
6. What are some barriers that often prevent us from experiencing peace and unity in the body of Christ? How can we work to think rightly about and overcome those barriers?