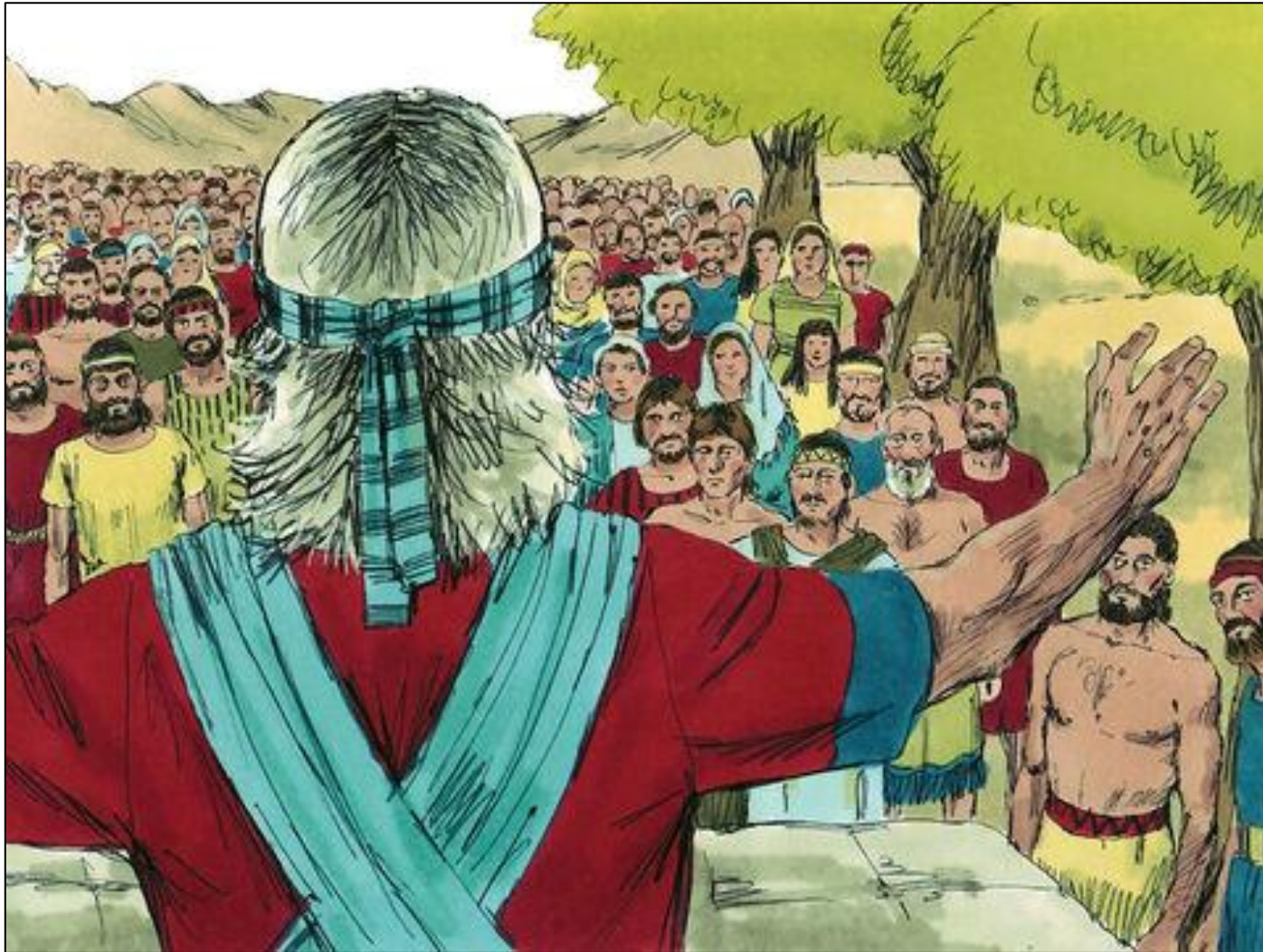


They left with a blessing.



The Danger of



Jumping to Conclusions

Joshua 22:10-34



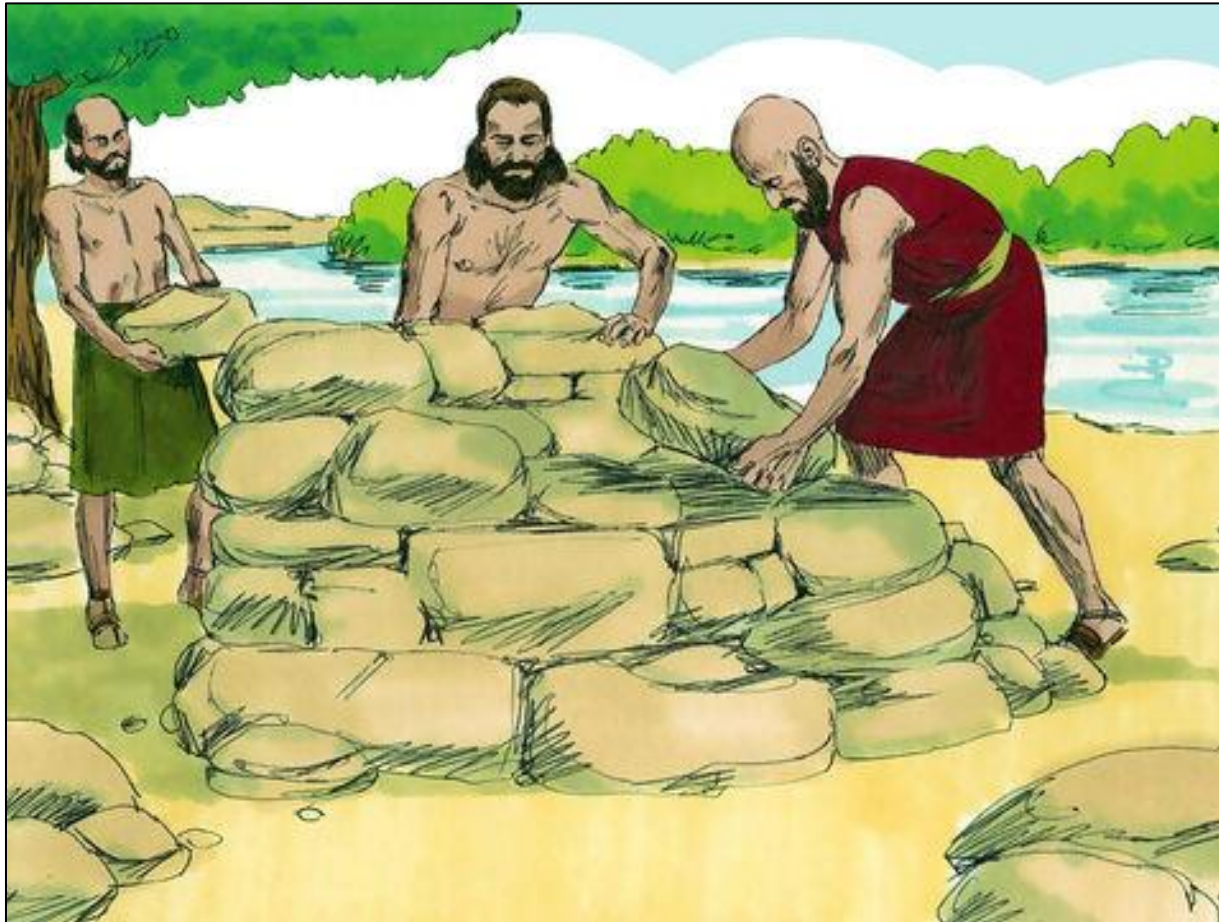
What can you see?

Our brains try to make sense of what our eyes see.

Assumptions!

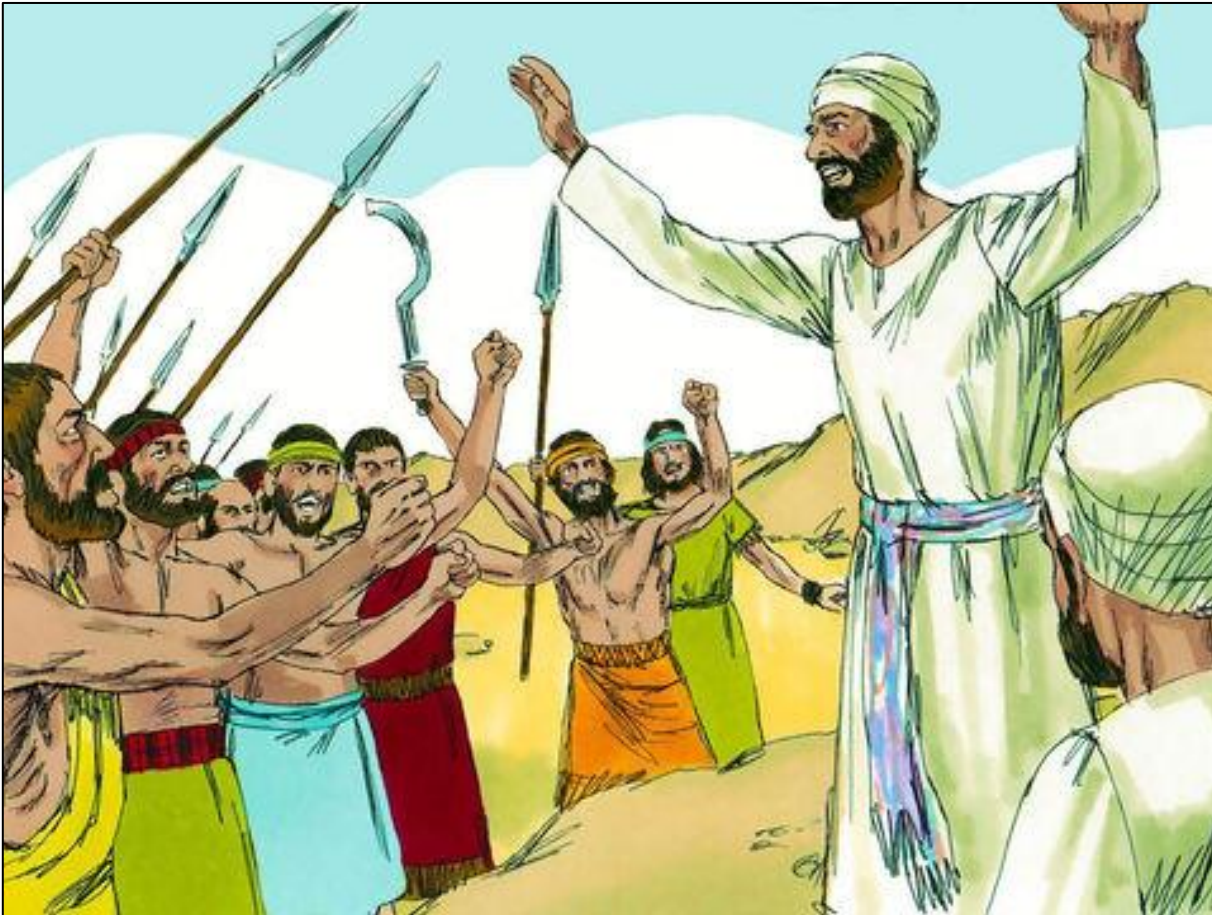
What are they up to?

When they came to Geliloth near the Jordan in the land of Canaan, the Reubenites, the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh built an imposing altar there by the Jordan.



What are they thinking?

And when the Israelites heard that they had built the altar on the border of Canaan at Gilead near the Jordan on the Israelite side, the whole assembly of Israel gathered at Shiloh to go to war against them.

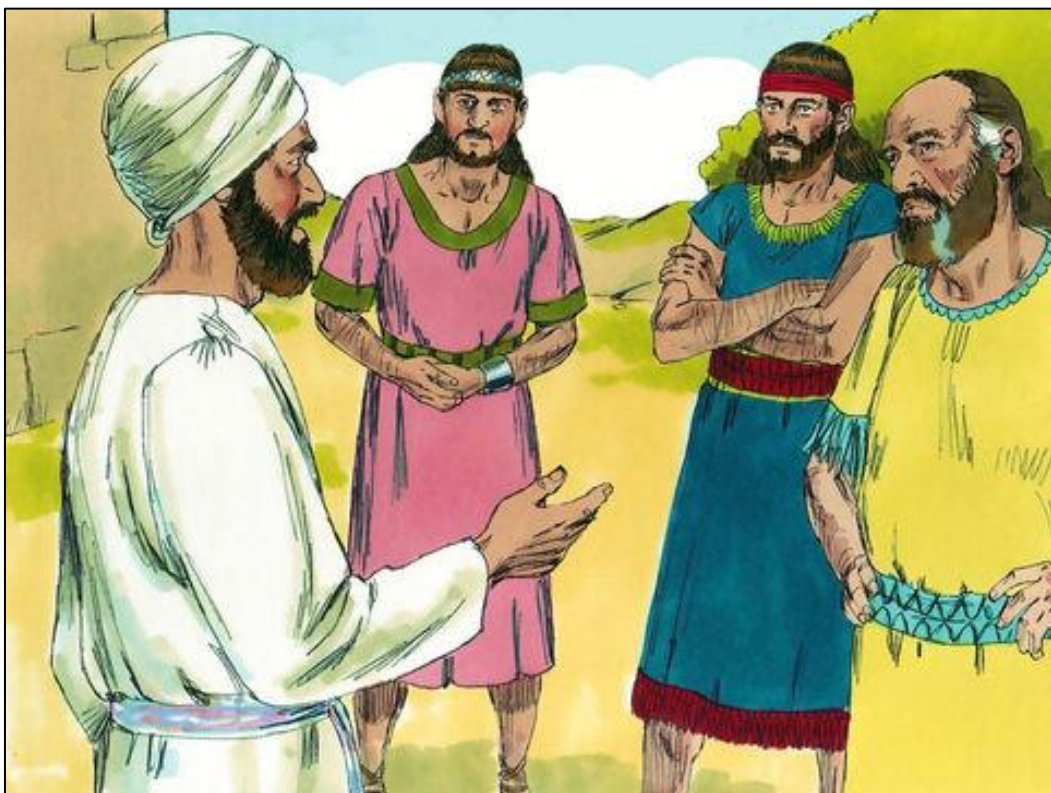


Assumptions!

**Is this commendable
zeal?**

This is not a fact-finding group.

So the Israelites sent Phinehas son of Eleazar, the priest, to the land of Gilead--to Reuben, Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh. With him they sent ten of the chief men, one for each of the tribes of Israel, each the head of a family division among the Israelite clans.



They sent the heavy guys,
but not the army (yet)

Are they trying negotiations first
or is it an ultimatum?

Look at what you have done!

When they went to Gilead--to Reuben, Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh--they said to them.. "The whole assembly of the LORD says.. `How could you break faith with the God of Israel like this?"



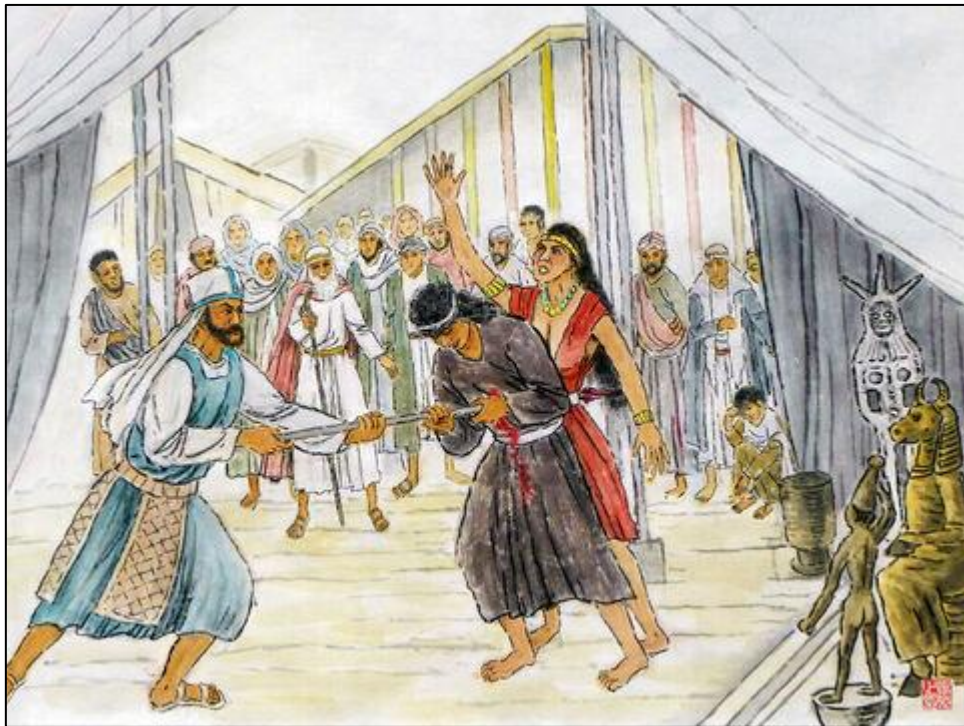
The verdict has already been decided by “all of us” ...

This is how it appears to us.

Jumping to Conclusions

Oh no! Not again!

How could you turn away from the LORD and build yourselves an altar in rebellion against him now? Was not the sin of Peor enough for us? Up to this very day we have not cleansed ourselves from that sin, even though a plague fell on the community of the LORD! And are you now turning away from the LORD? "



You are about to repeat what happened before.

Can we become over-sensitive or damaged by previous experiences?

This is their fear.

If you rebel against the LORD today, tomorrow he will be angry with the whole community of Israel.

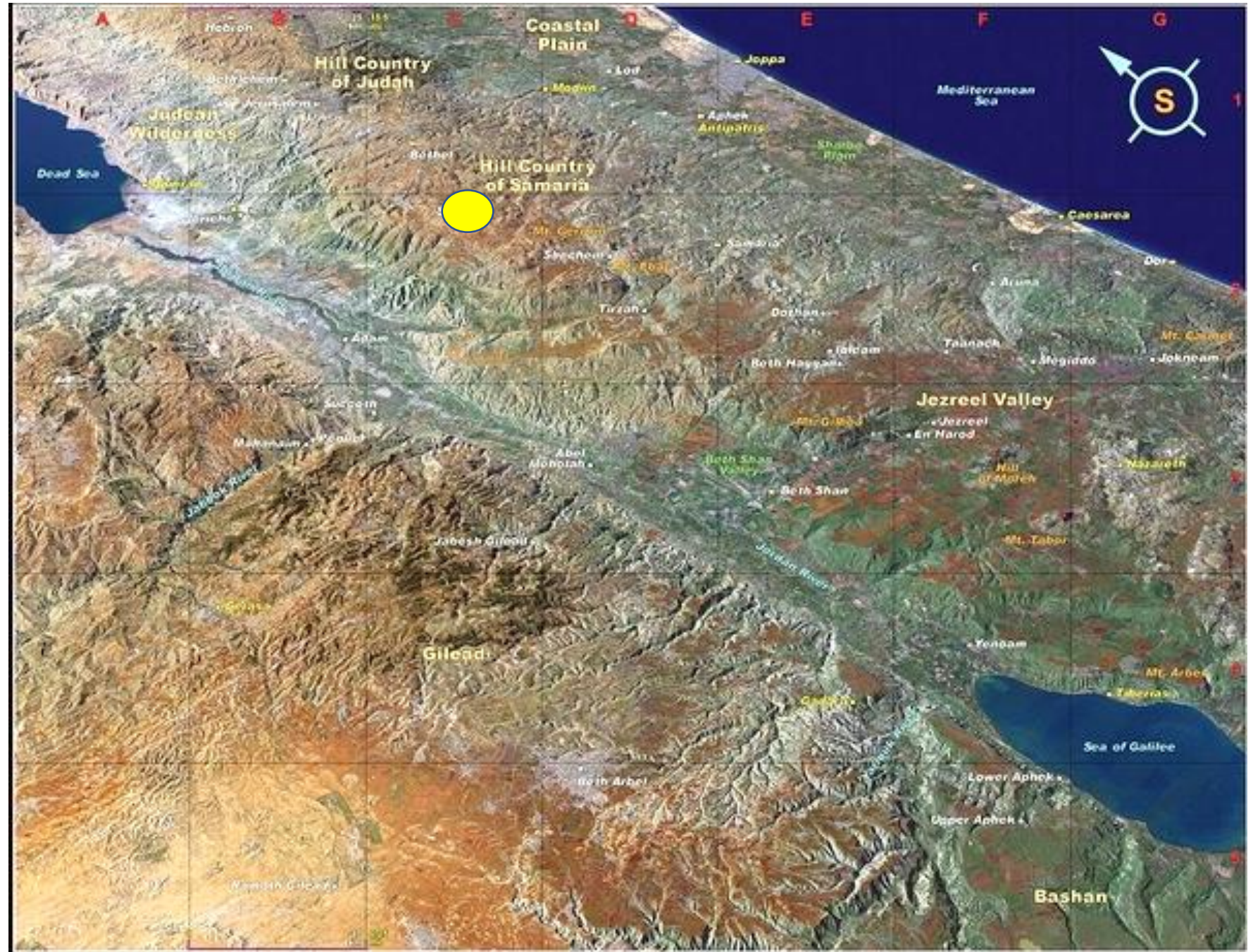


If the land you possess is defiled, come over to the LORD's land, where the LORD's tabernacle stands, and share the land with us.

A generous offer?

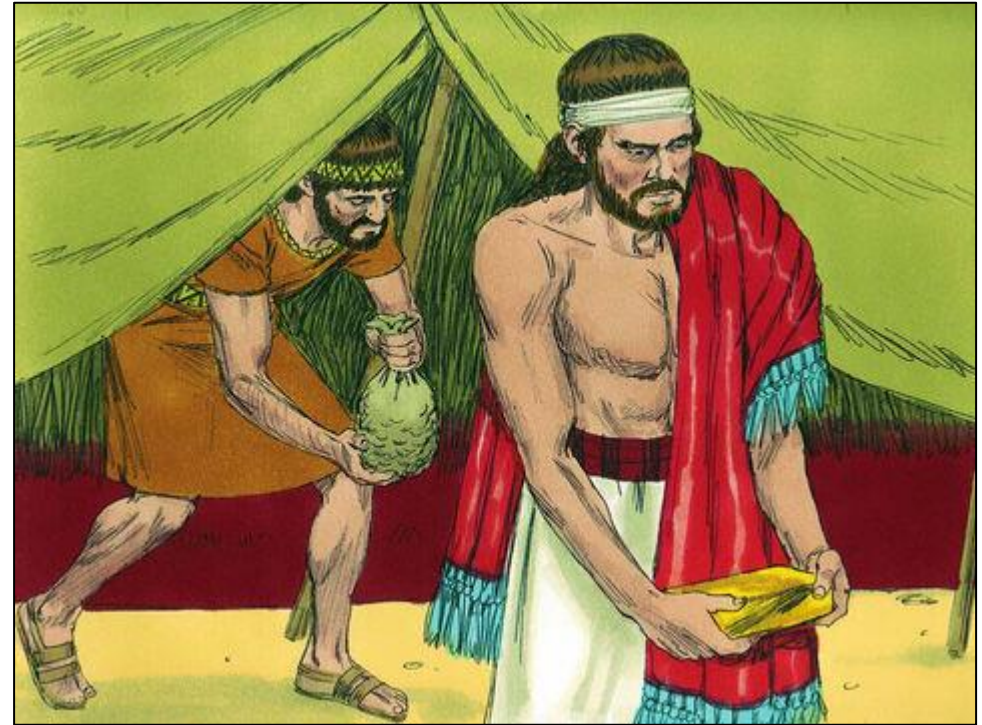
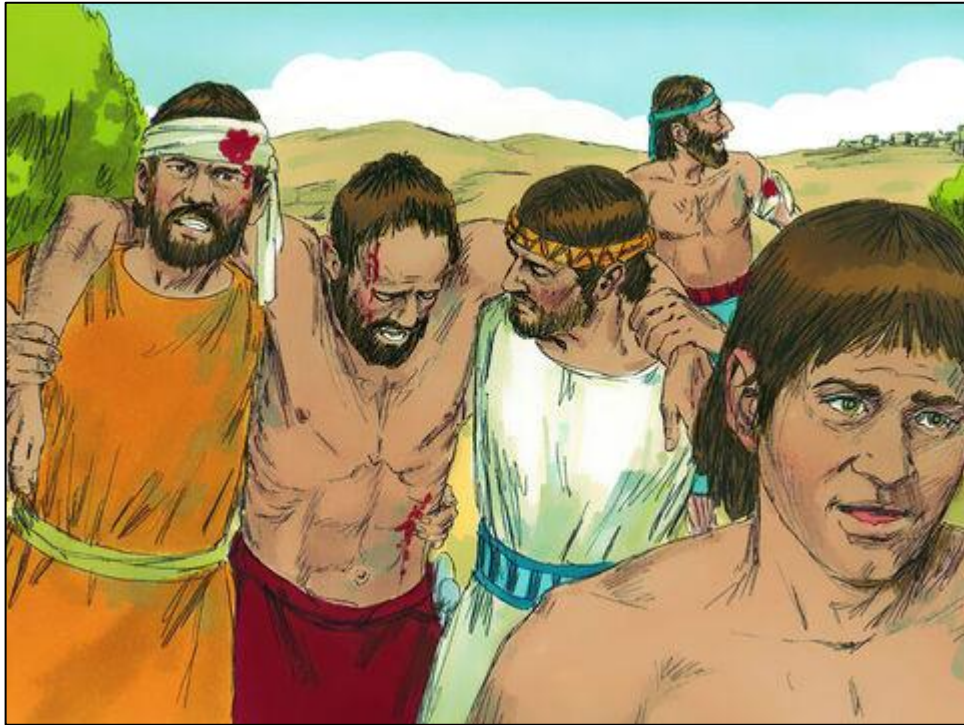
A peace offering?

A solution to the 'problem' they see.



Your sin won't just affect you!

But do not rebel against the LORD or against us by building an altar for yourselves, other than the altar of the LORD our God. When Achan son of Zerah acted unfaithfully regarding the devoted things, did not wrath come upon the whole community of Israel? **He was not the only one who died for his sin.**”



What can you say?

Then Reuben, Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh replied to the heads of the clans of Israel.. "The Mighty One, God, the LORD! The Mighty One, God, the LORD! He knows!

Let God be the judge.
He is our witness

Notice 3 names for
the one God here.

El
Elohim
Yahweh



May the LORD himself call us to account if ...

And let Israel know! If this has been in rebellion or disobedience to the LORD, do not spare us this day. If we have built our own altar to turn away from the LORD and to offer burnt offerings and grain offerings, or to sacrifice fellowship offerings on it, may the LORD himself call us to account.



Their assumptions about their brothers!

"No! We did it for fear that some day your descendants might say to ours, 'What do you have to do with the LORD, the God of Israel? The LORD has made the Jordan a boundary between us and you--you Reubenites and Gadites! You have no share in the LORD.' So your descendants might cause ours to stop fearing the LORD."

This could be a defensive accusation.



When did this idea come to them?

"That is why we said, `Let us get ready and build an altar--but not for burnt offerings or sacrifices.` On the contrary, it is to be a witness between us and you and the generations that follow, that we will worship the LORD at his sanctuary with our burnt offerings, sacrifices and fellowship offerings.



A permanent reminder –
and a big promise.

Then in the future your descendants will not be able to say to ours,
`You have no share in the LORD.`



"And we said, `If they ever say this to us, or to our descendants, we will answer.. Look at the replica of the LORD`s altar, which our fathers built, not for burnt offerings and sacrifices, but as a witness between us and you.`"

A
WITNESS



We never thought of such a thing

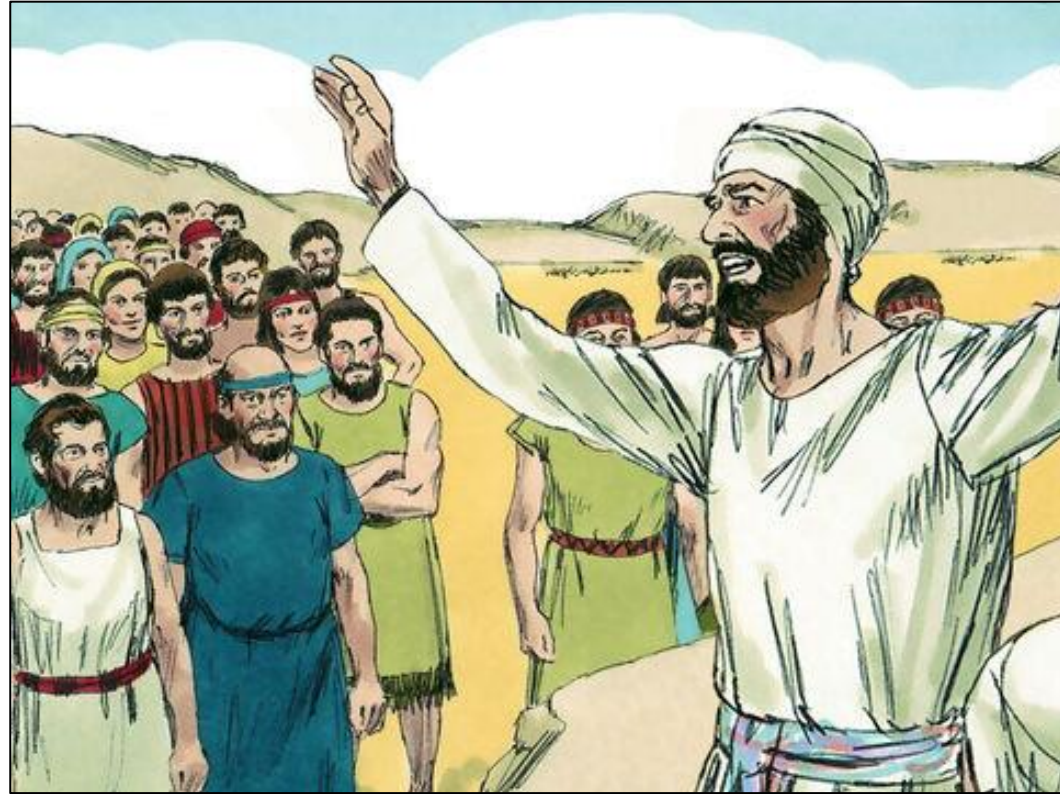
"Far be it from us to rebel against the LORD and turn away from him today by building an altar for burnt offerings, grain offerings and sacrifices, other than the altar of the LORD our God that stands before his tabernacle."



A happy resolution

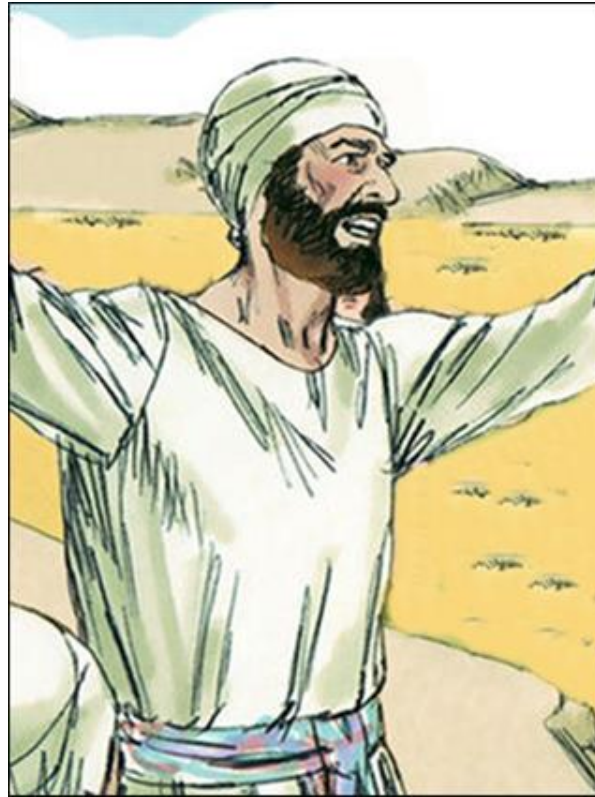
When Phinehas the priest and the leaders of the community--the heads of the clans of the Israelites--heard what Reuben, Gad and Manasseh had to say, they were pleased.

Understanding at last



Relieved from their fears

And Phinehas son of Eleazar, the priest, said to Reuben, Gad and Manasseh, "Today we know that the LORD is with us, because you have not acted unfaithfully toward the LORD in this matter. Now you have rescued the Israelites from the LORD's hand."

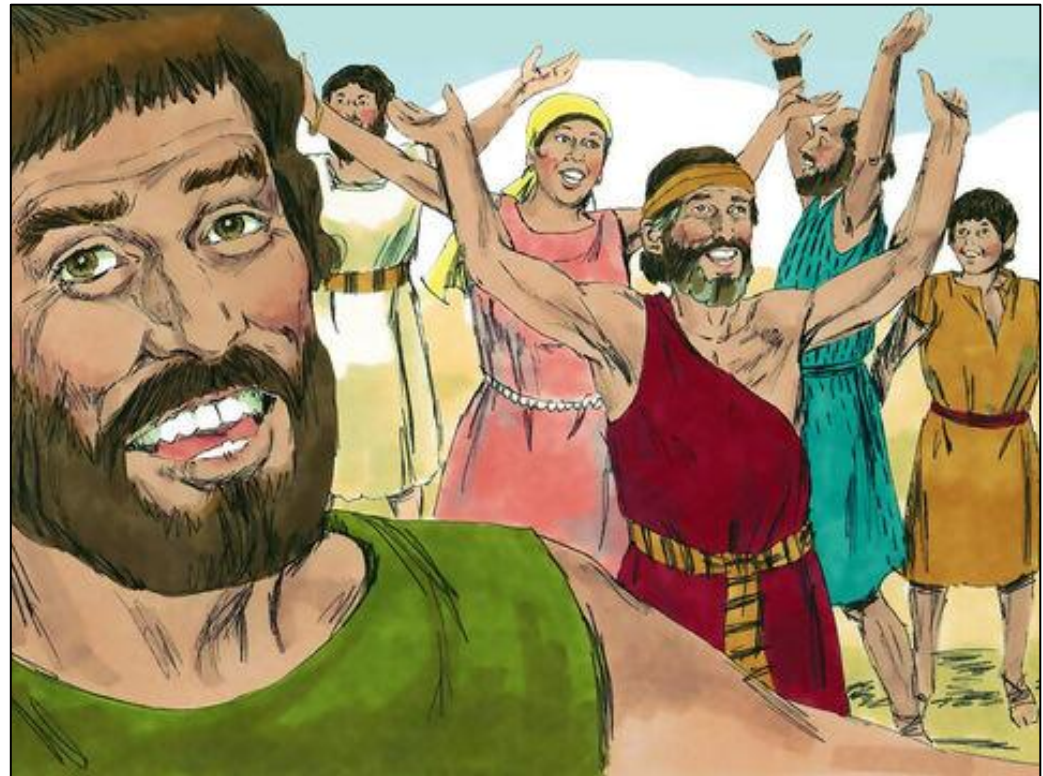


A compliment

Everybody is happy!

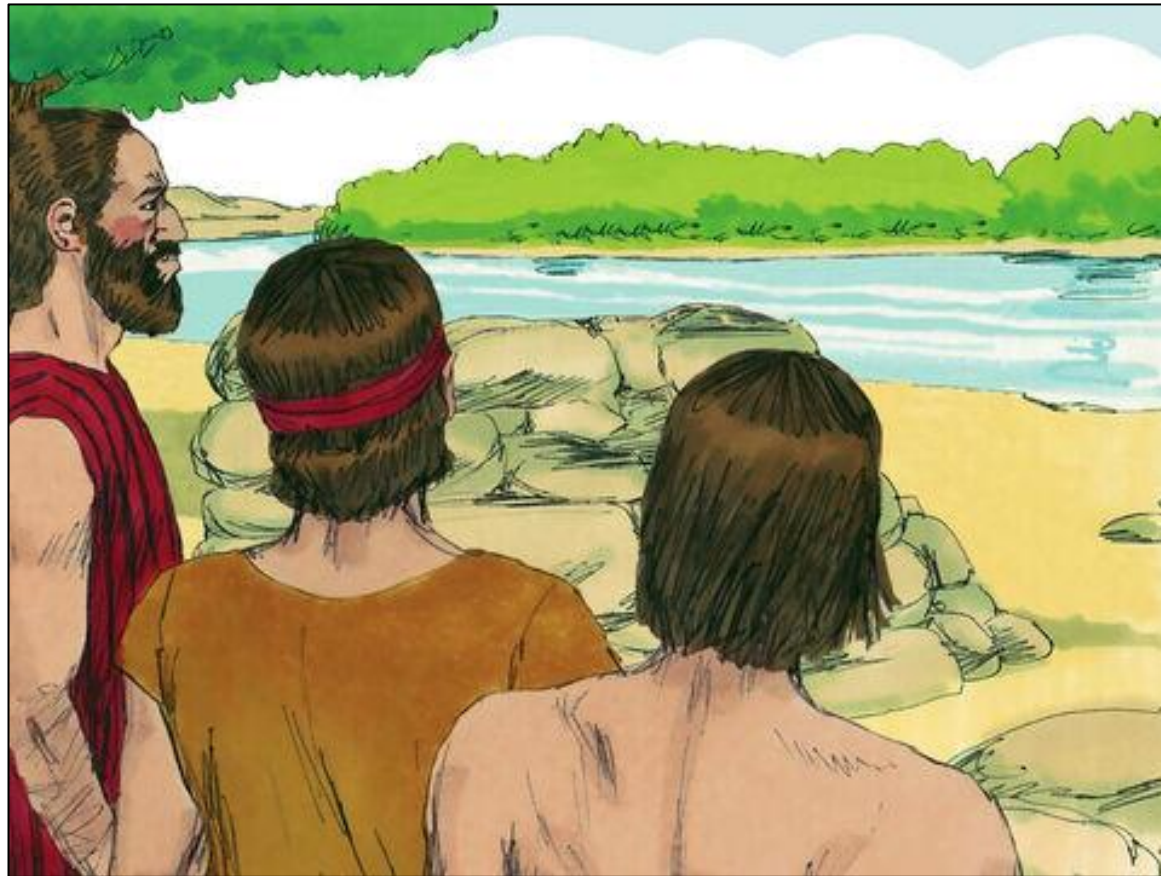
Then Phinehas son of Eleazar, the priest, and the leaders returned to Canaan from their meeting with the Reubenites and Gadites in Gilead and reported to the Israelites. They were glad to hear the report and praised God.

Thanks to God for sorting it.



PEACE!

And they talked no more about going to war against them to devastate the country where the Reubenites and the Gadites lived.



And the Reubenites and the Gadites gave the altar this name..
A Witness Between Us that the LORD is God.



The Danger of



Jumping to Conclusions

Remember:

We humans are fallible

Check **all** the facts first

We have an enemy who is active –
confusion is his trademark.

Humility helps.

Communication is vital.

God wants the best for all his children

**Are there some assumptions about
others that you may need to re-assess?**