

of Reuben, and Gad, and Half-Manasseh had gone over with them ; but the ark and Israel had *remained* there—that's the difference. The two Tribes and a Half return, but the ark remains. The place that becomes a ransomed people, a dead and risen people, is left, and they return to *settle* where Israel had but *wandered*.

Joshua, like Moses, instinctively feels all this, and warns them, and exhorts them on their departure. And as soon as they reach the place they had chosen *they* begin to feel it also. They are not fully at ease and there is something specially significant in that. They raise an altar—the heart of an Israelite in the land of Gilead would do just the same at this day. They are uneasy—Jehoshaphat was uneasy, when he found himself in the court of Ahab, and asked for a prophet of the Lord. The renewed mind speaks that language in a foreign land. They raised the altar, and called it “ED,” or a witness—a witness that Israel's God was their God. But why all this? Had they remained in Canaan, where the ark and tabernacle of God were, they would not have needed this. But they were not there, Shiloh was not in view, nor could their souls carry the sense of it, that Shiloh was the common centre with all their brethren. They had to give themselves some artificial help, to give their souls a crutch, if I may so speak, to aid the confidence and the joy of their hearts ; that as Israelites, they had fellowship and common interests and calling with their brethren.