

rebel against the LORD and turn this day from following the LORD, to build an altar for burnt-offerings, for meat-offerings, for sacrifices, because the altar of the LORD our God is before his tabernacle.”

So chapter 22 of Joshua is a long description of an historical event, in which there was almost a war between the two sections of the people, because one misunderstood the other and thought that the other was starting out to disobey the law of Deuteronomy 12, to establish a permanent altar where they would perform sacrifices apart from the rest of Israel. As the history stands it has this whole chapter here which stresses the fact that this law was known at the beginning and that this was God’s will for an orderly procedure in the conduct of the religious life, after the Lord had given them peace from their enemies round about, and established them in safety in the land.

We can see that these two passages in Deuteronomy and Joshua do not fit at all with the critical theory, and from the viewpoint of their theory have to be expunged, cannot be considered as interpolations because earlier writers cannot interpolate into a later book.

According to their theory, an earlier passage contradicting the book of Deuteronomy has been inserted in Deuteronomy and changed to fit the Deuteronomic style. Also if their theory is correct, here in Joshua a very important incident in the history of the people has to be utterly expunged and considered purely imaginary and made up hundreds of years after the time of the conquest.

Of course, they would say that it is a story that was made up by somebody who wanted to set forth the Deuteronomic theory and so made up this story. And that is the difficulty with the whole critical position. If you would take certain documents as they stand, and say, “Look at them. You see this development. You see how it fits history.” That is one thing. Now a step removed from that: if you take a Bible and you divide it into sections and you take out a verse here and verse there and a few verses here and a chapter here and you make up documents and then you say, “Look at this document. You see the progression. You see the evolution. You see how it fits.” Then when you have to take some verses out of their context,