

The Altar that Almost Started a War

- God gave very specific detail and expected it to be followed



Exodus 28:8,9 (NKJV)

““And let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them.
"According to all that I show you, that is, the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furnishings, just so you shall make it.”

Exodus 28:40 (NKJV)

“"And see to it that you make them according to the pattern which was shown you on the mountain.”

Genesis 6:22 (NKJV)

“Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did.”

Luke 6:46 (NKJV)

“But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do the things which I say?”

Colossians 3:17 (NKJV)

“And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”

John 12:48 (NKJV)

“He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him--the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.”

Matthew 7:24-27 (NKJV)

“Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: "and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. "But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: "and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.””

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- God gave very specific detail and expected it to be followed
- The Reubenites, Gadites, and half the tribe of Manasseh had been careful to follow all the details with one exception

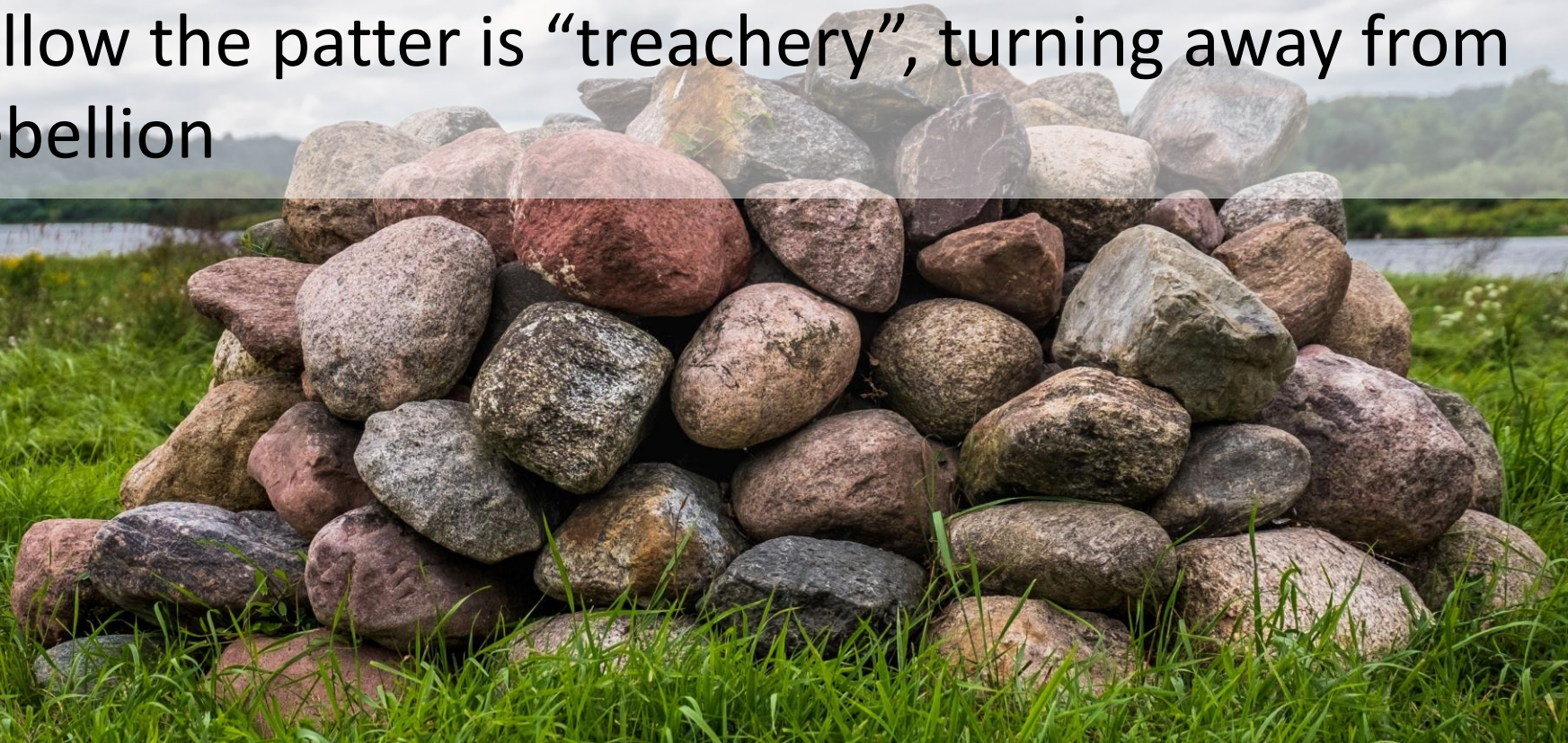


Joshua 22:28,29 (NKJV)

“Therefore we said that it will be, when they say this to us or to our generations in time to come, that we may say, 'Here is the replica of the altar of the LORD which our fathers made, though not for burnt offerings nor for sacrifices; but it is a witness between you and us.' "Far be it from us that we should rebel against the LORD, and turn from following the LORD this day, to build an altar for burnt offerings, for grain offerings, or for sacrifices, besides the altar of the LORD our God which is before His tabernacle."”

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- God gave very specific detail and expected it to be followed
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- Failing to follow the pattern is “treachery”, turning away from God, and rebellion



Joshua 22:16-17 (NKJV)

“Thus says the whole congregation of the LORD: 'What treachery is this that you have committed against the God of Israel, to turn away this day from following the LORD, in that you have built for yourselves an altar, that you might rebel this day against the LORD? 'Is the iniquity of Peor not enough for us, from which we are not cleansed until this day, although there was a plague in the congregation of the LORD,'”

I Samuel 15:22,23 (NKJV)

“Then Samuel said: "Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He also has rejected you from being king."”

Luke 6:46 (NKJV)

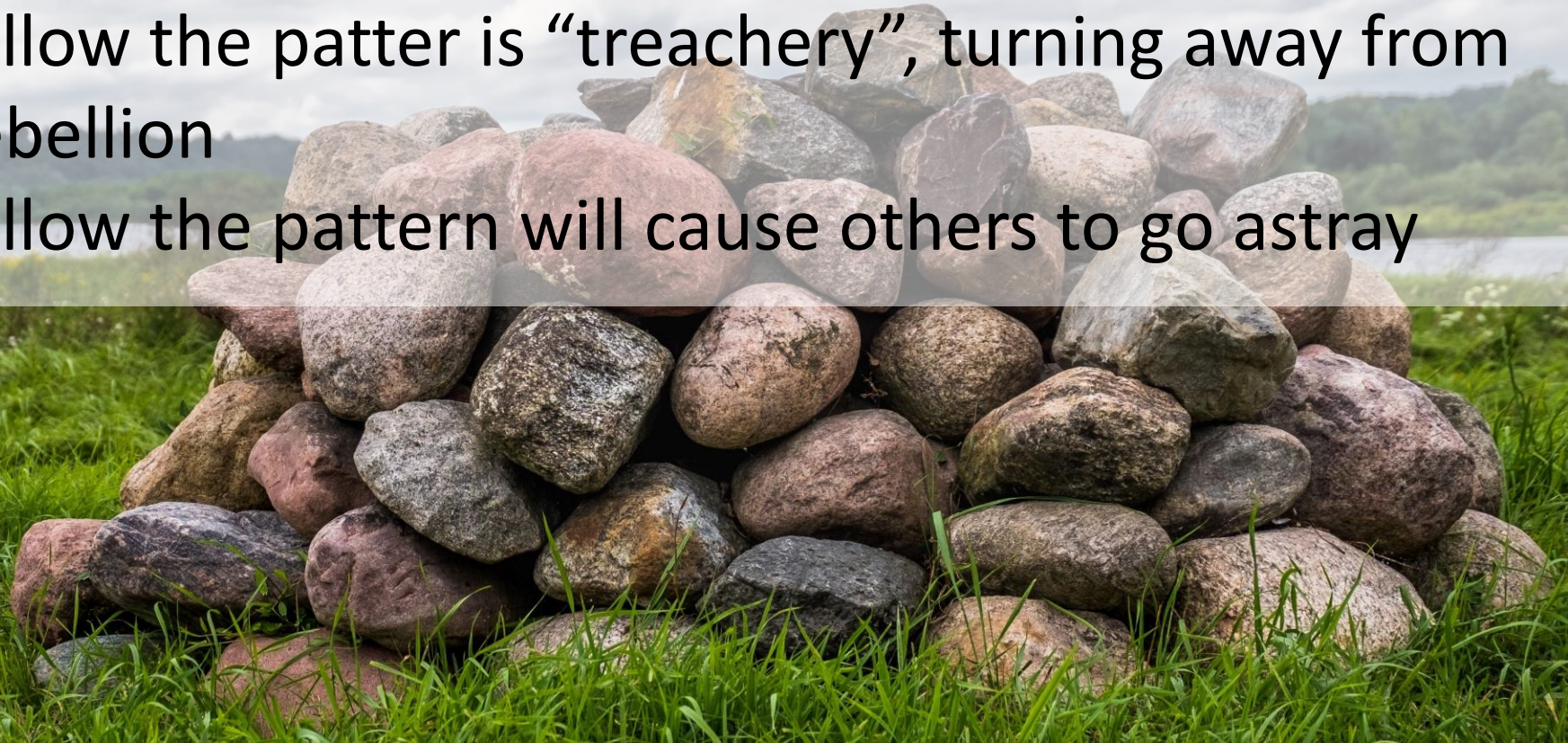
“But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do the things which I say?”

Leviticus 10:1-3 (NKJV)

“Then Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it, put incense on it, and offered profane fire before the LORD, which He had not commanded them. So fire went out from the LORD and devoured them, and they died before the LORD. And Moses said to Aaron, "This is what the LORD spoke, saying: 'By those who come near Me I must be regarded as holy; And before all the people I must be glorified.'" So Aaron held his peace.”

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- Failing to follow the pattern will cause others to go astray



Joshua 22:18 (NKJV)

“but that you must turn away this day from following the LORD? And it shall be, if you rebel today against the LORD, that tomorrow He will be angry with the whole congregation of Israel.”

Joshua 22:20 (NKJV)

“Did not Achan the son of Zerah commit a trespass in the accursed thing, and wrath fell on all the congregation of Israel? And that man did not perish alone in his iniquity.”

Galatians 2:11-14 (NKJV)

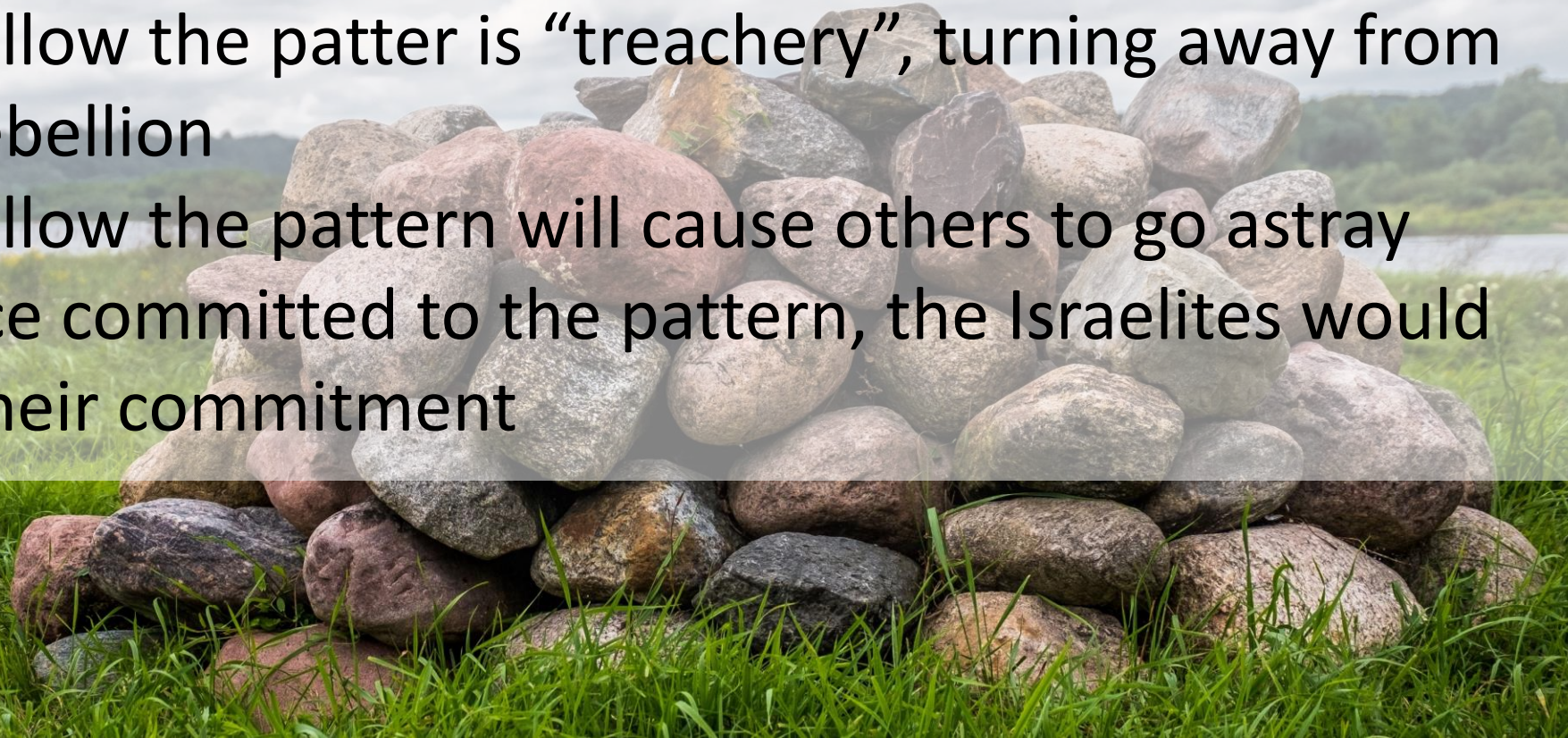
“Now when Peter had come to Antioch, I withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed; for before certain men came from James, he would eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing those who were of the circumcision. And the rest of the Jews also played the hypocrite with him, so that even Barnabas was carried away with their hypocrisy. But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter before them all, "If you, being a Jew, live in the manner of Gentiles and not as the Jews, why do you compel Gentiles to live as Jews?"

Titus 2:7 (NKJV)

“in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility,”

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- Failing to follow the pattern will cause others to go astray
- Though once committed to the pattern, the Israelites would soon lose their commitment

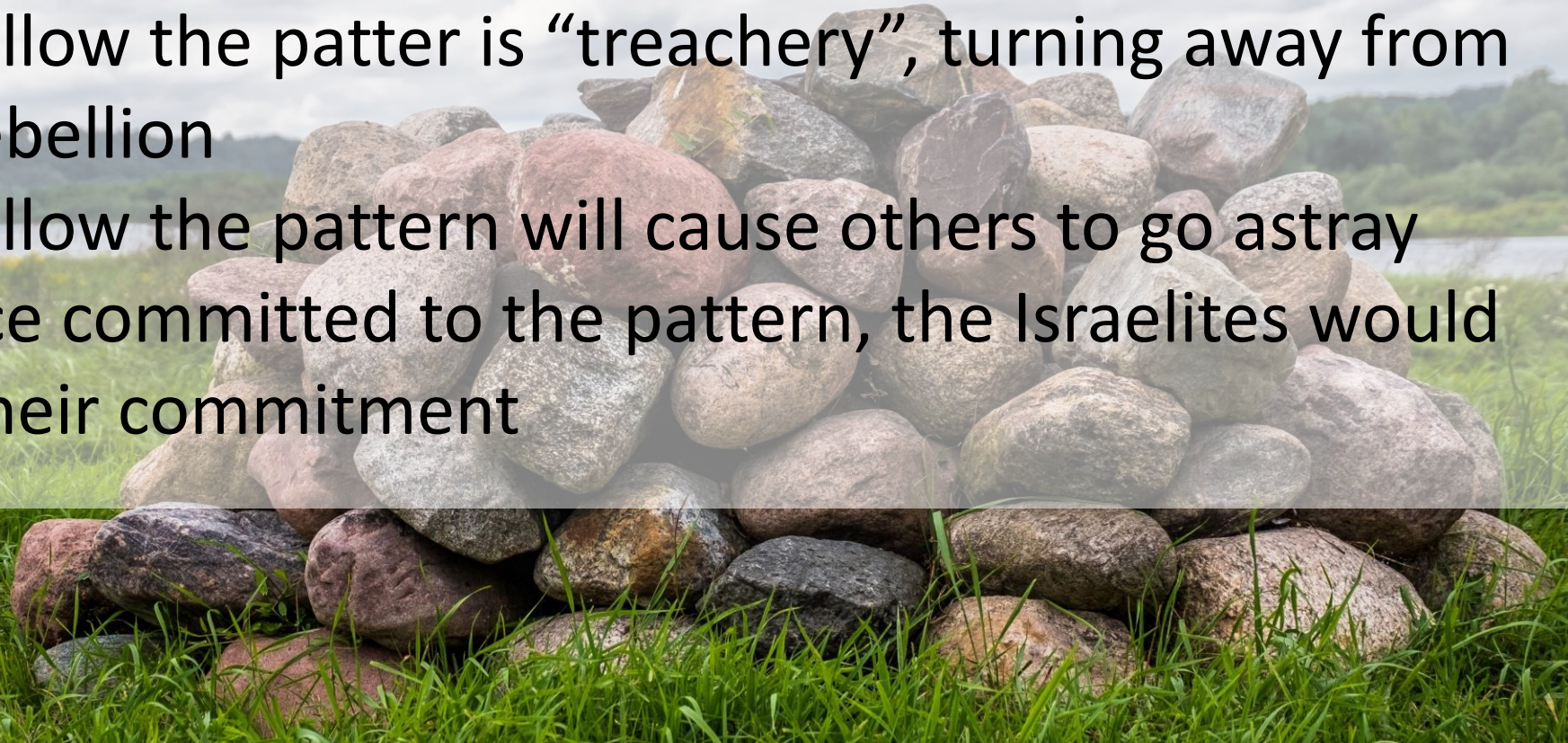


I Kings 12:26-33 (NKJV)

“And Jeroboam said in his heart, “Now the kingdom may return to the house of David: “If these people go up to offer sacrifices in the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, then the heart of this people will turn back to their lord, Rehoboam king of Judah, and they will kill me and go back to Rehoboam king of Judah.” Therefore the king asked advice, made two calves of gold, and said to the people, “It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. Here are your gods, O Israel, which brought you up from the land of Egypt!” And he set up one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan. Now this thing became a sin, for the people went to worship before the one as far as Dan. He made shrines on the high places, and made priests from every class of people, who were not of the sons of Levi. Jeroboam ordained a feast on the fifteenth day of the eighth month, like the feast that was in Judah, and offered sacrifices on the altar. So he did at Bethel, sacrificing to the calves that he had made. And at Bethel he installed the priests of the high places which he had made. So he made offerings on the altar which he had made at Bethel on the fifteenth day of the eighth month, in the month which he had devised in his own heart. And he ordained a feast for the children of Israel, and offered sacrifices on the altar and burned incense.”

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