

All communications involve symbols that are used to convey a certain meaning. Words are the symbols that make verbal communication possible. When we learn a language, we learn to associate certain meanings with certain symbols.

Non-verbal communication is communication utilizing symbols other than words. The most familiar form of non-verbal communication has been recently dubbed "body language." So the gestures and positions of the human body supposedly convey certain messages. (The fact is sometimes missed that interpreting non-verbal communication is much more open to misunderstanding than is verbal communication.) There are other forms of non-verbal communication. Various art forms convey messages to the human mind. Symbols come in many forms; some crude and simple; some complex and finely fashioned.

The altar constructed by the two and one-half tribes was a symbol that had great significance to them. Unfortunately, it was misinterpreted. Using the communication diagram it might be portrayed this way:

