

change a few words here and there, cut out a sentence from elsewhere, and then mix them around in order to make them fit your theory, it shows that actually you are twisting facts to fit a theory rather than making a theory to explain facts as they stand. In any field of study we have to make theories, but the important thing is that we take the facts as they are and find the theory that explains the facts, rather than twist facts around to fit the theory.

This chapter shows that the law of Deuteronomy, that there should be one place of sacrifice, was already known.

Student question: [unclear]. AAM: No, I do not think so, because in chapter 22 they built an altar, and the others said, “You are going to sacrifice contrary to God’s will.” Then they said, “The LORD forbid that we are making an altar of sacrifice. We are just making an altar for a monument and for a memorial.” The law was not against building altars. The law was against sacrificing. You would naturally think of an altar as a place for sacrifice, but it would not necessarily be one. Right in Deuteronomy we found that Moses commanded them to build an altar at Ebal, because it was God’s will to have them sacrifice where He directed them under the conditions He chose. Under normal peaceful conditions, when the Lord has given them peace throughout the land, then it was God’s will, in order to preserve the unity of the nation, that they should have one central headquarters where all the sacrifice would be done. It is a matter of general welfare of the people, during times of peace.

There is no place in Deuteronomy that says that they are only to sacrifice in Jerusalem! Not once! It says, “the place the LORD your God shall choose out of all your tribes.” It does not say where it is to be. Then, after they went into the land, the sacrifice was done at Shiloh for a long time. That was then the place that the Lord showed them out of all their tribes. Then, after Shiloh was destroyed, they were under Philistine domination. With Philistine oppression came a very tenuous existence for their nation. They were not at peace and there were several decades in which the worship of God was carried on under great difficulties. At that time Samuel went about sacrificing in various sections of the land, as he went directing the religious life of