



Let Us Fall Now into the Hand of the LORD

The Numbering of the People

3 - Araunah's Threshingfloor



## 3 - Araunah's Threshingfloor

- The Story
- The Location
- A Psalm

Core: True faith gives everything.

Why: TBD



God had said that the terror would last for days.



*Further Questions*

But then it was stopped.

But why?

And even further...

Why did God stop the plague via an altar at a threshingfloor?

And why specifically a *Gentile* threshingfloor?



Lives were saved because one man acted...  
...and because God provided a way of escape.

# The Story

David was to set up an altar in the threshingfloor of a Jebusite.

Perhaps out of reverence or fear, Araunah gave everything to David.

But David refused.

He knew the principle. God wouldn't accept a substitution.

A sacrifice has to cost something.

And an offering has to represent what we have to do in our own lives.

cp. Romans 12:1

We have to give everything.



2 Samuel 24:24 - “And the king said unto Araunah, Nay; but I will surely buy it of thee at a price: neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the LORD my God of that which doth cost me nothing. So David bought the threshingfloor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.”

In Chronicles, David paid 600 shekels of gold. 1 Chronicles 21:22, 25

That’s likely because Chronicles was referring to the entire mount.

It was example to the people of the attitude they should have had.

Exodus 30:13-15 - “This they shall give, every one that passeth among them that are numbered, half a shekel after the shekel of the sanctuary: (a shekel is twenty gerahs:) an half shekel shall be the offering of the LORD. Every one that passeth among them that are numbered, from twenty years old and above, shall give an offering unto the LORD. The rich shall not give more, and the poor shall not give less than half a shekel, when they give an offering unto the LORD, to make an atonement for your souls.”

Their *half shekel* was supposed to be an offering!



David could have done the whole sacrifice for free.

But he *purposefully* paid 600 shekels of gold.

In contrast to the people who would have gladly paid nothing.

And so the oxen were offered...

...as a burnt offering = total dedication

...as a peace offering = fellowship with God

That was the principle: total dedication and fellowship with God went together.  
that's what He required.



And so it was over.

The destruction ceased.

And David knew the site of the future temple.

The details of the location are extremely specific.

But why did they matter?

# A Troubling Connection

A threshingfloor showed up *one other time* in David's life.

I Chronicles 13:8-9 - "And David and all Israel played before God with all their might, and with singing, and with harps, and with psalteries, and with timbrels, and with cymbals, and with trumpets. And when they came unto the threshingfloor of Chidon, Uzza put forth his hand to hold the ark; for the oxen stumbled."

This was an instance that would have been burned into David's mind.

As he heard that he was going to a threshingfloor, he probably remembered Uzzah.

2 Samuel 24:1 → the **anger of Yahweh was kindled**—and not against David

2 Samuel 6:7 → the **anger of Yahweh was kindled**—and not against David

2 Samuel 24:17 → the offender was **smitten by God**

2 Samuel 6:7 → the offender was **smitten by God**

2 Samuel 24:17 → David was displeased with/felt guilty about God's judgment

2 Samuel 6:7 → David was displeased with/felt guilty about God's judgment

2 Samuel 24:18 → The ark found a home in a Gentile's property

2 Samuel 6:11 → The ark found a home in a Gentile's property



This connection certainly would have been troubling.

Yet David persevered.



And why a threshingfloor?

# A Threshingfloor



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Specifically a gentile's threshingfloor that was *outside of the city!*



Threshingfloor:

Wheat ←→ Chaff

Grain was crushed and then winnowed.



This separating process often connects a threshingfloor with judgment.

Jeremiah 51:33 → “it is time to thresh her”

Habakkuk 3:12 → “thou didst thresh the heathen in anger”

The wicked are like the chaff, while the righteous are like the wheat.

Psalm 1:4 - "The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away."

Isaiah 17:12-13 - "Woe to the multitude of many people, which make a noise like the noise of the seas; and to the rushing of nations, that make a rushing like the rushing of mighty waters! The nations shall rush like the rushing of many waters: but God shall rebuke them, and they shall flee far off, and shall be chased as the chaff of the mountains before the wind, and like a rolling thing before the whirlwind."

Perhaps *that's* why David was supposed to go to a threshingfloor.  
Because God was **threshing** Israel.



And that really is the focus of this section:



*Found Wanting*

God was threshing Israel and they were wanting.



But who, then, was a contrast to them?

Certainly David was.

But the record doesn't *only* focus on him.

David was told to go to the threshingfloor of a *Jebusite*.

## A Jebusite

To really appreciate who Aranuah was, it's important to understand the Jebusites.

Exodus 23:23 → “the Hivites, and the Jebusites: and I will cut them off”

cp. Exodus 33:2, 34:11; Deuteronomy 7:1, 20:17

But the people didn't drive them out. Judges 1:21

And so God left them as a *thorn* in Israel's side. Judges 3:4-5

And they united with Israel's enemies. Joshua 9:1-2

During David's conquest of the city, they were clearly ungodly.

2 Samuel 5:6 → "Except thou take away the blind and the lame..."

They just wanted to ridicule David!

Such were Araunah's ancestors.

Which makes his interaction with David **all the more amazing**.

2 Samuel 24:20-22 - “And Araunah looked, and saw the king and his servants coming on toward him: and Araunah went out, and bowed himself before the king on his face upon the ground. And Araunah said, Wherefore is my lord the king come to his servant? And David said, To buy the threshingfloor of thee, to build an altar unto the LORD, that the plague may be stayed from the people. And Araunah said unto David, Let my lord the king take and offer up what seemeth good unto him: behold, here be oxen for burnt sacrifice, and threshing instruments and other instruments of the oxen for wood.”

And so the record declares Araunah's faithfulness:

2 Samuel 24:23 - "All these things did Araunah, as a king, give unto the king. And Araunah said unto the king, The LORD thy God accept thee."

This was a *total and complete gift* on behalf of God!

"All these things" = **הַכֹּל** = *everything*

This wasn't Araunah trying to do some type of Middle Eastern bargaining!

This was him—a Gentile—giving *his entire livelihood* to God!

And there were 70,000 in Israel who refused to give *a half shekel*.



Because did you notice what Araunah called himself?

2 Samuel 24:21 → “Wherefore is my lord...come to his servant”

Which the Israelites refused to be! cp. 1 Chronicles 21:3

That's what this threshingfloor is all about.

It's God's judgment upon the Israelites—via a Gentile. cp. Romans 11:11

Hence the structure of this section:

2 Samuel 24:21-25

v. 21 → “And David said, To buy the threshingfloor of thee, to build an altar unto the LORD, that the plague may be stayed from the people.”

v. 22 → “Let my lord the king take and offer up what seemeth good unto him”

v. 23 → “All these things did Araunah, as a king, give unto the king. And Araunah said unto the king, The LORD thy God accept thee.”

v. 24 → “I will surely buy it of thee at a price”

v. 24-25 → “So David bought the threshingfloor...And David built there an altar unto the LORD...and the plague was stayed from Israel.”

Araunah's confession of faith is **the focal point of this exchange!**

God was threshing Israel—and the threshing revolved around this faithful gentile!

He put Israel **to shame.**



But there's more to Araunah than just a contrast to Israel.



## *A Representative*

Did you notice what Araunah was doing when David met him?



1 Chronicles 21:20 - "And Ornan turned back, and saw the angel; and his four sons with him hid themselves. Now Ornan was threshing wheat."



Interesting...isn't that what **God was doing?**

In fact, "Jebusite" has an interesting meaning: **יְבוּסִי** H2983 "a thresher"

Because God was identifying Himself, not with Israel, but *with a Gentile!*

Because this Gentile was more faithful than **many in Israel**.

And perhaps that's why David *went out of the city* to find this threshingfloor.

And why *all of the materials* involved in the sacrifice came from a Gentile.

God was a God of the faithful—of *all nations*—who would worship Him in truth.

But where did someone like Araunah come from?

# A Special Tabernacle

How did he know Yahweh's name?

How did he develop the faith to give up *everything* for God?

It just so happens that David himself had an outreach to Gentiles.



Acts 15:14-17 - "Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name. And to this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written, After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up: That the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom my name is called, saith the Lord, who doeth all these things."

The tabernacle of David was where Gentiles could worship God!  
Indeed, with Rahab and Ruth as his ancestors, he had a special affinity for Gentiles.

Thus, David was surrounded with men like...

Ittai the Gittite from Gath! 2 Samuel 5:18-19

Uriah the Hittite 2 Samuel 23:39

But what was this tabernacle?

1 Chronicles 16:1 → “set it in the midst of the tent that David had pitched”

It wasn't the Mosaic tabernacle—it was for the ark.

cp. 1 Chronicles 16:24-26

David connected it to the Gentiles!

It wasn't just Araunah and Ittai and Uriah who learned the truth through David.  
Via the census, there were 153,600 Gentiles who came to help build the temple!  
And in doing so, they proved they were **more faithful than many in Israel!**



# Giving Everything

But there was a man in this story who was willing to go beyond giving everything.

He would give of his wealth.

And he would give of his time.

But even further, he would give even when he didn't have anything left to give.

And this giving is illuminated by one of the psalms.



The psalm clearly identifies when it was written.

# Psalm 30



Psalm 30 title → “at the dedication of the house of David”



But, the Hebrew of the title is a bit different than the Authorized Version.

# Retranslating

Psalm 30 title



מִזְמוֹר שִׁיר־חֲנֻכַּת הַבַּיִת לְדָוִד

“A psalm, a song at the dedication of the house. Of David.”

This might look like just a period change.

And the Hebrew allows for that.

But there's more going on.

Note this prefix. It translates to “of,” “to,” or “for.”



In the psalms it denotes *authorship*.

Psalm 30 title → מְזִמּוֹר שִׁיר־חֲנֻכַּת הַבַּיִת לְדָוִד

Psalm 45 Postscript → לְבְנֵי־קֹרַח  
“of the sons of Korah”

Psalm 78 Title → מִשְׁכִּיל לְאַסָּף  
“Maschil of Asaph”

Psalm 88 Title → לְהֵימָן הָאֶזְרָחִי  
“of Heman the Ezrahite”

Psalm 30's title isn't indicating *David's house*. Hebrew would use the construct state. Instead, it's indicating *David's psalm*.

cp. the appending of David's name in Psalm 14:1, 18:1, 25:1, 26:1, 27:1, etc.

Hence,

Psalm 30 Title NIV - "A psalm. A song. For the dedication of the temple. Of David."

Psalm 30 Title ESV - "A Psalm of David. A song at the dedication of the temple."

Psalm 30 Title NASB - "A Psalm; a Song at the Dedication of the House. A Psalm of David."

But when did David see the dedication of the temple?



Once the plague was stayed, David knew what God had shown him:

1 Chronicles 22:1 - “Then David said, This is the house of the LORD God, and this is the altar of the burnt offering for Israel.”

It was the dedication of the house—at least, the one in David’s lifetime.

Thus, the psalm's details...



*Putting the Pieces Together*

...all fit with the historical record.

Psalm 30:1 → “hast not made my foes to rejoice”

2 Samuel 15-19 - Absalom's Rebellion

2 Samuel 20 - Sheba's Rebellion

1 Kings 1 - Adonijah's Rebellion

Psalm 30:4 → “give thanks at the remembrance”

“remembrance” = זָכַר H2143

Exodus 30:16 → “the atonement money...a memorial”

“memorial” = זָכָרוֹן H2146

Psalm 30:5 → “for his anger” cp. 2 Samuel 24:1

Psalm 30:5 → “endureth but a moment” because the plague was cut short.

Psalm 30:5 → “in his favour is life”

“favour” = רָצוֹן H7522

2 Samuel 24:23 → “the LORD thy God accept thee”

“accept” = רָצָה H7521



Psalm 30:7 → “made my mountain to stand strong” cp. 2 Chronicles 3:1

Psalm 30:11 → “thou hast put off my sackcloth” cp. 1 Chronicles 21:16

So this was the historical context.

But there's also an element in the psalm that isn't really considered in the narrative.



*Sickness*

This psalm revolves around David's brush with death.

Psalm 30:1 → David's enemies rejoice after his death

Psalm 30:2, 8, 10 → David cried to God and God restored his life

Psalm 30:3 → Death appeared certain

Psalm 30:9 → His death was in the midst of serving God



But both Samuel and Chronicles are **completely void** of anything about sickness...  
Especially a sickness that was **unto death**.



Nevertheless, the record in Kings is very different.

1 Kings 1:1 - "Now king David was old and stricken in years; and they covered him with clothes, but he gat no heat."

1 Kings 1:15 - "And Bathsheba went in unto the king into the chamber: and the king was very old; and Abishag the Shunammite ministered unto the king."

Hence, Adonijah's rebellion and the king's absence at Solomon's coronation.

Throughout this time, David was bedridden. cp. I Chronicles 28:1-2

Psalm 71:20 → “shalt quicken me again” again?

David had experienced this before!

Old age was overcome for the task at hand!

And the numbering of the people took place *in the last year* of David's life.

This frail man was strengthened to climb up the temple mount!

And the recovery wasn't just halfhearted.

Psalm 30:11 → “my mourning into dancing” !!!!!



# Conclusion

Not only did David give of his material wealth, but of his physical well-being!

He was pleading for the people at the doors of death.



Araunah gave his livelihood.

David gave hundreds of thousands of dollars—and his own health.

Because true faith gives everything.



What do we give?