

~ARAUNAH (255)
(A-rau'nah)

- The Jebusite owner of the threshing floor purchased by King David for building an altar to Yehowah. This action resulted as the divinely indicated means of ending a scourge provoked by David's numbering of the people.
- And the angel kept his hand thrust out toward Jerusalem to bring it to ruin, and Yehowah began to feel regret over the calamity, and so he said to the angel that was bringing ruin among the people; It is enough! Now let your hand drop. And Yehowah's angel himself happened to be close by the threshing floor of **Araunah** the Jebusite. (2 Samuel 24:16)
- And David proceeded to say to Yehowah, when he saw the angel that was striking the people down, yes, he proceeded to say; Here it is I that have sinned and it is I that have done wrong, but these sheep, what have they done? Let your hand, please, come upon me and upon the house of my father. (2 Samuel 24:17)
- Later Gad came in to David on that day and said to him; Go up, set up for Yehowah an altar on the threshing floor of **Araunah** the Jebusite. (2 Samuel 24:18)
- And David began to go up in accord with the word of Gad, according to what Yehowah had commanded. (2 Samuel 24:19)
- When **Araunah** looked down and saw the king and his servants passing along toward him, **Araunah** at once went out and bowed down to the king with his face to the earth. (2 Samuel 24:20)
- Then **Araunah** said; Why has my lord the king come to his servant? At that David said; To buy from you the threshing floor for building an altar to Yehowah, that the scourge may be halted from upon the people. (2 Samuel 24:21)
- But **Araunah** said to David; Let my lord the king take it and offer up what is good in his eyes. See the cattle for the burnt offering and the threshing sledge and the implements of the cattle for the wood. (2 Samuel 24:22)

- Everything **Araunah**, O king, does give to the king. And Araunah went on to say to the king; May Yehowah your God show pleasure in you. (**2 Samuel 24:23**)
- However, the king said to **Araunah**; No, but without fail I shall buy it from you for a price, and I shall not offer up to Yehowah my God burnt sacrifices without cost. Accordingly David bought the threshing floor and the cattle for fifty silver shekels. (**2 Samuel 24:24**)
- And David proceeded to build there an altar to Yehowah and offer up burnt sacrifices and communion sacrifices, and Yehowah began letting himself be entreated for the land, so that the scourge was halted from upon Israel. (**2 Samuel 24:25**)
- Moreover, the true God sent an angel to Jerusalem to bring ruin to it, and as soon as he began bringing the ruin, Yehowah saw it and began to feel regret over the calamity, and so he said to the angel that was bringing the ruin; It is enough! Now let your hand drop. And Yehowah's angel was standing close by the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite. (**1 Chronicles 21:15**)
- When David raised his eyes, he got to see Yehowah's angel standing between the earth and the heavens with his drawn sword in his hand extended toward Jerusalem, and David and the older men, covered with sackcloth, at once fell down upon their faces. (**1 Chronicles 21:16**)
- And David proceeded to say to the true God; Was it not I that said to make a numbering of the people, and is it not I that have sinned and have unquestionably done bad? As for these sheep, what have they done? O Yehowah my God, let your hand, please, come to be upon me and my father's house, but not upon your people, for a scourge. (**1 Chronicles 21:17**)
- And Yehowah's angel, for his part, said to Gad to say to David that David should go up to erect an altar to Yehowah on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite. (**1 Chronicles 21:18**)
- Accordingly David went up at the word of Gad that he had spoken in the name of Yehowah. (**1 Chronicles 21:19**)
- Meantime, Ornan turned back and saw the angel, and his four sons with him were hiding themselves. Now Ornan had been

threshing wheat. (1 Chronicles 21:20)

- So David came as far as Ornan. When Ornan looked and saw David, he immediately went out of the threshing floor and bowed down to David with his face to the earth. (1 Chronicles 21:21)
- Then David said to Ornan; Do give me the place of the threshing floor, that I may build in it an altar to Yehowah. For the money in full give it to me, that the scourge may be halted from upon the people. (1 Chronicles 21:22)
- But Ornan said to David; Take it as your own, and let my lord the king do what is good in his own eyes. See, I do give the cattle for burnt offerings and the threshing sledge for the wood and the wheat as a grain offering. The whole I do give. (1 Chronicles 21:23)
- However, King David said to Ornan; No, but without fail I shall make the purchase for the money in full, because I shall not carry what is yours to Yehowah to offer up burnt sacrifices without cost. (1 Chronicles 21:24)
- So David gave Ornan for the place gold shekels to the weight of six hundred. (1 Chronicles 21:25)
- Then David built there an altar to Yehowah and offered up burnt sacrifices and communion sacrifices, and he proceeded to call upon Yehowah, who now answered him with fire from the heavens upon the altar of burnt offering. (1 Chronicles 21:26)
- Moreover, Yehowah said the word to the angel, who accordingly returned his sword to its sheath. (1 Chronicles 21:27)
- At that time, when David saw that Yehowah had answered him at the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite, he continued to sacrifice there. (1 Chronicles 21:28)
- **Araunah** apparently offered the place, along with cattle and wood implements for the sacrifice, without charge, but David insisted on paying a price. The record at;
- However, the king said to **Araunah**; No, but without fail I shall buy it from you for a price, and I shall not offer up to Yehowah my God burnt sacrifices without cost. Accordingly David bought

the threshing floor and the cattle for fifty silver shekels. (2 Samuel 24:24)

- **Shows that David purchased the threshing floor and the cattle for 50 silver shekels or \$110. However, the account at;**
- **So David gave Ornan for the place gold shekels to the weight of six hundred. (1 Chronicles 21:25)**
- **Speaks of David's paying 600 gold shekels, currently \$77,000, for the site. The writer of Second Samuel deals only with the purchase as it relates to the altar location and the materials for the sacrifice then made, and it thus appears that the purchase price referred to by him was restricted to these things. On the other hand, the writer of First Chronicles discusses matters as relating to the temple later built on the site and associates the purchase with that construction.**
- **Then David said; This is the house of Yehowah the true God, and this is an altar for burnt offering for Israel. (1 Chronicles 22:1)**
- **David now said to bring together the alien residents that were in the land of Israel, and then he set them as stone hewers to hew squared stones for building the house of the true God. (1 Chronicles 22:2)**
- **And iron in great quantity for nails for the doors of the gates and for clamps David prepared, and also copper in such quantity as to be beyond weighing. (1 Chronicles 22:3)**
- **And also cedar timbers without number, for the Sidonians and the Tyrians brought in cedar timbers in great quantity to David. (1 Chronicles 22:4)**
- **Accordingly David said; Solomon my son is young and delicate, and the house to be built to Yehowah is to be surpassingly magnificent for beauteous distinction to all the lands. Let me, then, make preparation for him. So David made preparation in great quantities before his death. (1 Chronicles 22:5)**
- **Moreover, he called Solomon his son that he might command him to build a house to Yehowah the God of Israel. (1 Chronicles 22:6)**
- **Finally Solomon started to build the house of Yehowah in**

Jerusalem on Mount Moriah, where Yehowah had appeared to David his father, in the place that David had prepared on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite. (2 Chronicles 3:1)

- Since the entire temple area was very large, it appears that the sum of 600 gold shekels applies to the purchase of this large area rather than to the small portion needed for the altar first built by David.
- A natural stone scarp still exists today under the Muslim Dome of the Rock occupying part of the original temple site, and this stone may represent the early threshing floor of Araunah.
- In the Chronicles record Araunah is called Ornan.
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