



The Threshing Floor: The Spiritual Alter

2 Samuel 24:18 *“And Gad came that day to David and said to him, “Go up, erect an altar to the Lord on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.”*

Clearly, I have told you that this ancient place called “The Threshing Floor” is agricultural. Grains and livestock are managed and processed in this place. This place is where community and commerce happen. However, there is another side to all this. The threshing floor is such because transactions between God and people happen here too. It’s by no mistake that grain and livestock are here. It is by no mistake that alters are in this place. A place of offering and worship.

Numbers 15:20 *“You shall offer up a cake of the first of your ground meal as a heave offering; as a heave offering of the threshing floor, so shall you offer it up.”*

The threshing floor is a place that seems to be intentional: spiritual. There is great passion and importance to this place. I traveled to Mt Nebo where Moses is said to have died. This area is where Moses died; Jesus was baptized; John the Baptizer lived; Sodom and Gomorrah happened and a ton more. A spiritual hotbed so to speak. That’s not including Bethlehem and Jerusalem are nearby. Some even claim Abraham sacrifice of Issac happened near this place. This culture for some reason put that type of importance on the threshing floor. It means something in the Bible.

Ancient people make reference to the wilderness being the home of the Gods. Spiritual things happen in the wilderness. It is by no mistake that John came from the wilderness. Jesus was led into the wilderness. The threshing floor is usually found outside the camp or town. A place off in the wilderness. Sometimes we can describe the wilderness as a mountainous area. It can be desolate and barren.

Judges 6:37 *“Look, I shall put a fleece of wool on the threshing floor; if there is dew on the fleece only, and it is dry on all the ground, then I shall know that You will save Israel by my hand, as You have said.”*

God is everywhere. Yet, He seems to find the threshing floor a place of importance. Gideon tests God at the threshing floor. Uzzah Put his hand on the Ark and died near a threshing floor in 2 Samuel 6. An angel of the Lord was near the threshing floor when it was about to destroy Jerusalem in 2 Samuel 24. It is by no mistake that Solomon built the house of God on David’s threshing floor. 2 Chronicles 3:1 *“Now Solomon began to build the house of the Lord at Jerusalem on Mount Moriah, where the Lord had appeared to his father David, at the place that David had prepared on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.”*

1 Chronicles 21:22 *“Then David said to Ornan, “Grant me the place of this threshing floor, that I may build an altar on it to the Lord. You shall grant it to me at the full price, that the plague may be withdrawn from the people.”*

Altars to the Lord were sometimes built at a threshing floor. There were grain and animal offerings there. Even the priests prepared the offerings at the threshing floor. Clearly, the Bible generation felt that this place was Spiritual. Just look at Matthew 3:12 *“His winnowing*

*fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather **His** wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”* I highlighted the word “His.” This place built His temple and served for His sacrifices. I could even say it was outside the human town and in His wilderness. A place that people met God.

The idea of the threshing floor is to change something. To exchange something. Grain comes to us with some parts that need to be shed. Some animals are sacrificed to symbolize the shedding of sin. To look Holy and clean. How do we come before God? I feel that the Bible intentionally put events near or on the threshing floor for a reason. Come near to God’s holy place and you will be threshed, sifted, and changed. Do not come here with ill intent. Do not come to this place without reverence to the spiritual.

It is a sticking point with most humans. If I come to God then I lose something. Deep down we all know it. Ask most non-believers! They will say when I get clean, I will come to church. Eventually, I will come. I don’t want to lose who I am. I know because I was one of them. Yet, when I met Jesus, I did change. In-fact I love the change! In time I gave up things that did not really matter. Everything? Heavens no! remember, the wheat is still there. Only the useless husk is discarded. A church will say come to the altar. God says come to the threshing floor and sacrifice something for Him. Why? It’s because we can’t see the real (you) until you thresh something in your life.