



The Threshing Floor: The Winepress

Numbers 18:27 *And your heave offering shall be reckoned to you as though it were the grain of the threshing floor and as the fullness of the winepress."*

Why talk about the winepress in a threshing floor study? It's because of the association these two places have together. Deuteronomy 16:13 *"You shall observe the Feast of Tabernacles seven days, when you have gathered from your threshing floor and from your winepress."* There are many other examples. These two places are generally connected. Wine needs grain. Most of the harvest would have to be carried to market. There was no trucking industry. They had (your back) and donkey industries. It would be a lot easier to bring your grain to the winepress next door.

I have read of a description of the threshing floor being a round place where grain can be separated. This place is usually outside the town. What else is outside the town? The wheat, animals, and vineyards. How many industries are deep in a city? Many industrial areas are on the perimeter of a city. It was no different in ancient times. Yet, those people did not have the luxury of transport like we have today with the train or truck. God mentions the vineyard, winepress, and threshing floor together directly because they were. I listened to a story of a couple in Bolivia that walked to work 30 miles a day. 30 miles! That's how they lived in ancient times. They wanted the grain and wine close by.

As I stated in a pervious study, God and spirits were said to live in the wilderness. Basically, outside the city. It is by no mistake that the Bible uses the winepress and threshing floor in relation to God. It is not that God is not found in the city. Yet, workers could identify with Bible analogy between God, the wilderness, and the places that separated things. Even Moses had to travel up a mountain (wilderness) to meet God. Trust me, I went to Mt. Sinai and it's in the wilderness. There was probably only one bush in the whole land. It took 4 hours to walk to the top. Hard working Jews knew where God was and where the work took place.

Joel 3:13 "Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, go down; For the winepress is full, the vats overflow— For their wickedness is great."

Lamentations 1:15 "The Lord has trampled underfoot all my mighty men in my midst; He has called an assembly against me to crush my young men; The Lord trampled as in a winepress The virgin daughter of Judah."

Why is God found in the wilderness? It is because the wilderness is a dangerous place. A place where hidden sin happens. Most crime happens in hidden places like the dark. Bodies are dumped outside the city in many crime scenes. If a worker needed God to save them it is in the wilderness. The Bible uses the winepress area to give an analogy of sin. To show how God will rescue his children. Look at the words sickle and trampled underfoot in the verses above. The worker could relate. Yet, it goes so much deeper. The word separation is key in the Bible. We are separated by sin. Wheat needs grain separation. Wine needs to separated the juice. God needs His children separated from the world.

Hosea 9:2 "The threshing floor and the winepress shall not feed them, And the new wine shall fail in her."

God says in the Bible that He will give us a way to separate ourselves from the world. In fact the world has no value outside of God. We could say that the city is the world and the wilderness is the place where we find God. Somehow and someday, this is true. The wheat needs separation to make wine and food. God can only work in the lives of those who separate from sin. Of course, we are sinners, yet who is actively trying to follow God? Willing to be separate from the world. Why is the winepress and threshing floor in the wilderness? Its because in the mist of danger and unholiness, where is the Christian? Hiding in the city or looking outward to the vast beyond?

Numbers 18:30 *“Therefore you shall say to them: ‘When you have lifted up the best of it, then the rest shall be accounted to the Levites as the produce of the threshing floor and as the produce of the winepress.’”*

The Bible says there will be a day of the Lord. A time when things will be separated like the wheat and the chaff. The goats and the sheep. The lover of the world and the Christian. The Bible also says that God will trample the godless. Remember that Jesus asked us to leave the offering and make amends with those we have wronged. Basically, to do what is right first. Then we can take our grain offerings and best of our fruits to God. I would also say God called that the fruit of our labour. It is all connected. The winepress is connected to the harvest. Our actions are connected to Gods harvest. Will you be a thistle or a wheat in the day of the Lord?

Matthew 13: 24-30 *Another parable He put forth to them, saying: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; 25 but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. 26 But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared. 27 So the servants of the owner came and said to him, ‘Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?’ 28 He said to them, ‘An*

enemy has done this.' The servants said to him, 'Do you want us then to go and gather them up?'

29 But he said, 'No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. 30

Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers,

"First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn."