

Correction: David purchased ONE threshing floor on Mount Moriah; NO SECOND threshing floor on the Mount of Olives.

The section “The Purchase of Two Altar Sites” in the original Chapter 3 “The Mount of Olives” in previous editions (1994, 1997, and 2001) has been deleted. Though there was an altar on the Mount of Olives that existed at the time of (and prior to) King David, the Biblical account of David’s purchase of the altar site concerns only Mount Moriah, where the Temple was subsequently built by David’s son Solomon.

Araunah and Ornan are names for the same person – Araunah, the original Hurrian name; Ornan, the derived name expressed in Hebrew.¹

The two different purchase prices are best explained by understanding that David purchased the immediate area of the threshing floor and oxen for 50 shekels of silver (2 Samuel 24:24) and larger area surrounding the threshing floor for 600 shekels of gold (1 Chronicles 21:25).²

However, the king [David] said to Araunah, “No, but I will surely buy it from you for a price, for I will not offer burnt offerings to the LORD my God which cost me nothing.” So **David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver** (2 Samuel 24:24, emphasis added).

So **David gave Ornan 600 shekels of gold by weight for the site** (1 Chronicles 21:25, emphasis added).

¹ *The Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible*, Vol. 1, pp. 257-258.

² *1 Chronicles*, ArtScroll Tanach Series, pp. 282- 283. *The Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible*, Vol. 1, pp. 257-258.