

Correction to previous editions (*God's Master Plan: From Aleph to Tav*, 1994; *The Rod of an Almond Tree in God's Master Plan*, 1997, 2001): David purchased only ONE threshing floor, the threshing floor on Mount Moriah. David did NOT purchase a SECOND threshing floor on the Mount of Olives. To make this correction, we have deleted section “The Purchase of Two Altar Sites” in the original Chapter 3 “The Mount of Olives”.

Explanation: 2 Samuel 24 and 1 Chronicles 21 are two accounts of the same events involving David's purchase of the threshing floor on Mount Moriah. In the two accounts, there are two different purchase prices and two different names for the Jebusite whose threshing floor David purchased. These can be explained as follows:

The two different prices can be explained by understanding that 50 silver shekels purchased the threshing floor and oxen, and 600 gold shekels purchased the entire hill of Mount Moriah surrounding the threshing floor.

However, the king 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).

The account in 1 Chronicles 21 was written hundreds of years later and may have included additional information from the archives, such as the purchase price for the whole hill of Mount Moriah, as well as account for a difference in the number of men counted who were fit for military service.

The names Araunah (2 Samuel 24:16) and Ornan (1 Chronicles 21:15) refer to the same Jebusite. The word *araunah* is a title that means “the lord” in Hurrian and other near eastern languages.^{1,2} The title is fitting because Araunah is referred to as a king in correct translations of 2 Samuel

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

² https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Araunah#cite_note-bar-6 - Wikipedia article: Araunah, section 3: Identity of Araunah – retrieved November 30, 2019.

24:23 – “Araunah the king gave all of it to the king ...”³ The name Ornan appears to be a Hebrew formation derived from the foreign name.⁴

David built an altar on the threshing floor to offer burnt offerings and peace offerings to God, who then ended the plague (2 Samuel 24:25). The site of this altar became the site of the Altar of Burnt Offerings of the Temple built by David’s son, Solomon. Nevertheless, at the time of King David, the summit of the Mount of Olives was referred to as “the place where God was worshipped” (2 Samuel 15:30-32)

³ https://biblehub.com/2_samuel/24-23.htm - King James Bible, JPS Tanakh 1917 – retrieved November 30, 2019. The ArtScroll Series, The Prophets (The Rubin Edition), I-II Samuel, p. 389 (Brooklyn, NY: Mesorah Publications, Ltd., 2002).

⁴ *The Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible*, Vol. 1, p. 258.