

“Go, REAR UP AN ALTAR unto the Lord IN THE THRESHING FLOOR”

ALTAR – is a raised place, a table or temple seat, upon which a sacrifice was made, or incense was burned (who or what is seated upon the altar of your heart?)

A. An ALTAR Was Set Up In The SAME PLACE Where:

1. Abraham offered Isaac on Mount Moriah – Genesis 22:2-14
2. Ornan’s (Araunah’s) threshing floor was located; 1 Chron. 21:18-26; 2 Sam. 24:18-25
3. Solomon built the Temple – 1 Chronicles 22:1-5; 2 Chronicles 3:1

B. It Is Upon This Foundation That God Builds His Temple:

1. Jesus and His servants (Abraham and David) stop the “plague” (of the Law of Sin and Death) by paying the full price of a whole burnt offering; 2 Sam. 24:21-25; Romans 8:2
2. God Himself paid the “full price” for our redemption at an ALTAR:
 - a. He wants to meet with us daily at the altar in the “threshing floor”; Romans 5:1-10
 - b. It is there that we encounter God, and enter into Worship, Covenant, Reconciliation, Forgiveness, Relationship and Intercession; Ephesians 2:18-22
 - c. He asks us to lay our lives down in humble submission, as we yield to His “threshing process”, which separates us from all that defiles; Ephesians 5:26; Colossians 1:22,28
 - d. As we present ourselves to Him, meeting with Him day after day, year after year, a transformation takes place; Romans 12:2; 2 Corinthians 3:16-18; 1 Peter 4:13
 - e. The place where the “altar” had been set up, becomes the living reality of the glory that was later manifested in Solomon’s Temple; 1 Kings 8:4-13; Eph. 5:27; Rom. 8:18-19

C. The ALTAR Described In The Old Testament:

1. The Altar of Earth – man, being fashioned from the dust of the ground, brings his offerings of service to humanity, natural offerings; Exodus 20:24
2. The Altar of Stones/Rocks – these stones are to be whole and uncut. Jesus places “living stones” around us; He has solidified and arranged these to perfect us. I am not to “change the form” by shaping the stones to my own liking, method or design with the “iron tool” of my own will. Exodus 20:25; Deuteronomy 27:5-6; 1 Peter 2:5
3. God’s Altar needs repair; it has been broken down by tradition and compromise. The altar was “baptized” with Water, the Spirit and Fire; 1 Kings 18:30-39; 1 Thess. 5:23
4. After the Tabernacle was built, the Worship was condensed into two Sacrifices:
 - a. Sacrifice at the Brazen Altar – points to Jesus, the Savior and Mediator
 - b. Sacrifice at the Golden Altar – points to Prayer, Praise and Worship
5. Pagan altars (shrines) will be destroyed. Man-made altars of bricks were forbidden: it reveals the efforts of men to “climb up” to God; Ex. 20:26; Isaiah 65:3

D. The ALTAR Described In The New Testament:

1. It is in “me”; I am a “building” not made with hands; 1 Cor. 6:19; 2 Cor. 5:1; 6:16
2. It is the place where spiritual sacrifices are presented; Romans 12:1-2; 1 Cor. 3:16-17
3. It Points to Jesus; Hebrews 13:10-16; Ephesians 5:2
4. This altar offers a sacrifice of praise continually; Hebrews 13:15
5. Reconciliation is necessary before gifts can be offered; Matthew 5:23-24
6. The altar sanctifies the gift; Matthew 23:18-20
7. The altar is “measured”; God knows the value (space) of worship and intercession needed to bring completeness within the spiritual temple; Revelation 11:1

The THRESHING FLOOR – Is a symbol of divine judgment; it is a place of separation. In biblical days, it was a place where grain was loosened, harvested, and removed from the husk, tares and chaff.

A. Basic Steps In Bringing In The Harvest:

1. Stalks of ripened grain were cut with hand sickles and laid on the ground; Deut. 16:9; Joel 3:13; Revelation 14:14
2. Cut stalks were gathered into bundles and tied into sheaves, which were then set upright to prevent moisture from causing mold; Gen. 37:7. Corners of the field and some sheaves were deliberately left for the “gleaners”, the poor to gather; Ruth 2:7,15
3. The bundled and tied sheaves were then transported to the threshing site; Micah 4:12-13. At the threshing floor, the grain was loosed from the chaff by oxen treading on the stalks, Deut. 25:4, or by using the wheels of carts, Amos 2:13, or by oxen drawing wooden sleds with notched rims. Sticks were also used to thresh seeds; Isaiah 28:27-28
4. The threshing floor was a flat, elevated area, with a hardened surface, due to the passing of oxen over the sheaves. It was usually located on a hill top where winds would help with the winnowing process, which followed the threshing; Isaiah 30:24; 41:15
5. The grain was “thrown up into the air” with a winnowing fork, so that the wind might blow away the chaff, allowing the kernels of grain to fall to the floor; Psalm 1:4 This was the winnowing process; fans were also used to create a breeze. “Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his (threshing) floor, and will gather the wheat into his garner; but the chaff he will burn with fire unquenchable”; Luke 3:17
6. Then the grain was gathered and sifted to remove any foreign debris or dirt; Amos 9:9
7. The clean grain was bagged and transported either for storage in a silo (garner) or to the market for sale; Genesis 41:35-36; Matthew 3:12
8. The chaff and tares were burned in bonfires, and the community celebrated their harvest with singing, dancing and feasting; Ruth 3:7; Isaiah 5:24; Luke 3:17

B. Spiritual Applications Of The Threshing Floor:

1. Jesus said that the “field” is the world, and the “harvest” is the end of the age; Matthew 13:38. People are the “grain” to be harvested from the Earth; Matthew 9:37-38.
2. The grain must be dislodged from that which is worthless, through God’s threshing process. We must be separated from the “husks”, the worldly things that cling to us, keeping us bound to the earthly realm.
3. The winnowing involves the “Wind” of the Holy Spirit, when grain is “tossed into the air”; this also points to the Resurrection; 1 Thessalonians 4:17

C. Events That Took Place In Bethlehem’s THRESHING FLOOR:

1. Ruth found “Boaz”, a wealthy landowner, the kinsman-redeemer in Bethlehem. She followed Naomi’s instructions and “marked the place where he LAY”; Ruth 3:3-7. She “got down” to the threshing floor (to the place of sifting and humility) at the feet of Boaz.
2. Boaz “bought the field” and married Ruth. She came into the Royal Lineage, by giving birth to Obed, the grandfather of king David. Because Ruth was intimate with Boaz, she was able to reproduce His (Boaz) nature and ministry in the Earth; Ruth 4:5-17.
3. Jesus, another Kinsman-Redeemer, was found in Bethlehem (house of bread). He “LAY” in a manger, a feeding trough for oxen; Luke 2:7,12. The “First Fruits” Sheaf was “threshed” (beaten and bruised); He was the Sacrifice upon the Altar of Calvary. The “corn of wheat” died, fell into the ground, and rose again; John 12:24; 1 Cor. 15:20-22.

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