

Rebuild

1 Chronicles 21:22-27

Pierre Cannings

I. Blueprint vs. 18-21

- a. Angel of the Lord Commanded
 - i. Angel of the Lord – Authority **The Angel of the Lord**, elsewhere identified with God Himself, was probably the preincarnate Christ (cf. Gen. 16:13; 18:1–2; 22:11–12; 48:16; Jud. 6:16, 22; 13:22–23; Zech. 3:1; cf. comments on Gen. 16:7).
 - 1. Commanded – simply means “said to “
 - ii. Should Go
 - iii. Build
 - iv. Altar – Altars were constructed at places which were considered to have a sacred character, points where contact between the human and the divine could occur
 - 1. To the Lord
 - 2. On the threshing floor - area used for threshing sheaves of grain. Threshing floors were often located on the top of a rock or on a hilltop. Sheaves were laid out and either beaten with a flail or threshed by oxen dragging a heavy object over them (Isa 28:27). Together with the winepress, the threshing floor was of great value and central to harvest celebrations
 - 3. Ornan the Jebusite ORNAN. A Jebusite (non-Israelite native of Jerusalem) who sold David a threshing floor on which the king erected an altar (2 Sam 24:16–25 = 1 Chr 21:15–27). This story established the sanctity of what would become the site of Solomon’s temple (1 Chr 22:1, 2 Chr 3:1) by asserting that it was the place where the angel of pestilence had stopped to spare Jerusalem and that David’s sacrifice there had averted the epidemic (2 Sam 24:16, 25).
 - 4. **The Angel** then commanded **Gad to tell David to ... build an altar ... on the threshing floor** so he might offer appropriate propitiatory sacrifices.
- b. So... David
 - i. Went up
 - ii. Word of Gad
- c. Ornan Saw the Angel

- i. God is ahead
- d. Ornan and David
 - i. David arrives
 - ii. Ornan Prostrates – face to the ground

II. Cost vs. 22-25

- a. David Give me the Site
 - i. Give
 - ii. Build
 - iii. Full Price
 - 1. Plague may be restrained There was an urgent need to build an altar to the Lord so that the plague on the people might be stopped. David paid a fairly high price for the land in spite of Araunah's offer and showed himself to be above the selfish conniving that seeks to avoid personal payment or loss (cf. Mal 1:8–14)
 - 2.
- b. Ornan Take it
 - i. Let my Lord
 - ii. I will give you everything or all
 - 1. Oxen
 - 2. Threshing for wood
 - 3. Wheat for Grain offering
 - 4. **David** refused his kind offer, however, and insisted that he could not offer anything to **the LORD** that had cost him **nothing** (vv. 22, 24). So the king **paid Araunah 600 shekels of gold** (ca 15 pounds). However, according to 2 Samuel 24:24 David paid a much smaller amount (50 shekels of silver, 1¼ pounds). This problem is explained by noting that the silver paid for the threshing floor and oxen (2 Sam. 24:24) and that the gold paid **for the site**, a large plot of ground apparently adjacent to the threshing floor.21:26
- c. David Pays
 - i. Buy it Full Price
 - ii. I will not take yours
 - iii. Offer what cost me nothing
 - iv. David gave 600 shekels gold by weight

III. Build vs. 26-27

- a. The David Built
 - i. Offered Burnt Offering

1. After David **built the altar** he **offered up burnt offerings and fellowship offerings**, the former to plead God's forgiveness of his sin and the latter to speak of the renewal of unbroken covenant relationship which would follow. God's response was favorable as indicated by His answering **with fire from heaven**. It was too late to save the 70,000 who had perished (21:14) but Jerusalem itself was spared by David's intercession (v. 27; cf. v. 16). The chronicler noted that **David** took this response from **the Lord** as a sign that that place was now one of special significance. As a result he began to worship there regularly instead of going to **Gibeon**
 - ii. Peace Offerings
 - b. The Lord answered with fire from Heaven case, the consumption of the sacrifice by fire from heaven served to confirm God's acceptance of David's sacrifice (see 1 Kgs 18:36–40) and pointed forward to the successful completion and dedication of the temple (cf. 2 Chr 7:1).
 - c. The Lord commanded the angel to put away the sword- **sword in His hand**. **David and the elders** repented publicly and **David** pleaded that the rest of the **people** might be spared and that further punishment be meted only to him and his **family**.