

Introduction

**<<The threshing floor of Araunah>> by Jeremiah**

Today, I would like to share a message about “The threshing floor of Araunah”. The threshing floor of Araunah is where the temple in Jerusalem was built. It is written as we can see in the scripture reference below;

**2 Chronicles 3:1 Then Solomon began to build the temple of the Lord in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah, where the Lord had appeared to his father David. It was on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite, the place provided by David.**

The temple in Jerusalem which was built in the era of the Old Testament was such a magnificent house of God, it was also the base of God’s house and churches in the era of the New Testament. It is written as we can see in the scripture reference below;

**1 Timothy 3:15 if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God’s household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.**

Therefore, studying about the house of God and the temple also means studying the house of God in the New Testament era and the churches. From this point of view, it is important to know where the temple of Solomon was built.

**<What is the threshing floor of Araunah?>**

Now, what kind of place is the threshing floor of Araunah where the temple was built? It is written as we can see in the scripture reference below.

**1 Chronicles 21:15 And God sent an angel to destroy Jerusalem. But as the angel was doing so, the Lord saw it and relented concerning the disaster and said to the angel who was destroying the people, “Enough! Withdraw your hand.” The angel of the Lord was then standing at the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.**

Here, it is written that David sinned, a disaster came upon Jerusalem as a result. This was sent by the angel, it is written as, **“The angel of the Lord was then standing at the**

**threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.** Therefore, “The threshing floor of Araunah” is the very place where the disaster was brought by the angel. For example, it is like a dangerous coast where a huge Tsunami is coming. There will be only destruction and “judgment”. Also, “the threshing floor” sounds implicative. The threshing floor is where you thresh harvested wheat, separating the wheat from the husk. The threshing floor is also described in relation to the judgment as we can see in the scripture reference below;

**Matthew 3:12 His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”**

Therefore, we can see that “the threshing floor” is also a parable for “judgment”. Now, let’s have a further look into this topic.

**1 Chronicles 21:16 David looked up and saw the angel of the Lord standing between heaven and earth, with a drawn sword in his hand extended over Jerusalem. Then David and the elders, clothed in sackcloth, fell facedown.**

**21:17 David said to God, “Was it not I who ordered the fighting men to be counted? I, the shepherd, have sinned and done wrong. These are but sheep. What have they done? Lord my God, let your hand fall on me and my family, but do not let this plague remain on your people.”**

**21:18 Then the angel of the Lord ordered Gad to tell David to go up and build an altar to the Lord on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.**

Here, David intercedes with the angel on behalf of his people. This is the same attribute as Christ who interceded with sinful nature for His people. Also, David bought the threshing floor of Araunah.

**1 Chronicles 21:22 David said to him, “Let me have the site of your threshing floor so I can build an altar to the Lord, that the plague on the people may be stopped. Sell it to me at the full price.”**

**21:23 Araunah said to David, “Take it! Let my lord the king do whatever pleases him. Look, I will give the oxen for the burnt offerings, the threshing sledges for the wood, and the wheat for the grain offering. I will give all this.”**

**21:24 But King David replied to Araunah, “No, I insist on paying the full price. I will not take for the Lord what is yours, or sacrifice a burnt offering that costs me nothing.”**

**21:25 So David paid Araunah six hundred shekels of gold for the site.**

As you can see, David used his own money to purchase this threshing floor. This is the same as what Christ did which is to sacrifice His own life and pay the price to buy His own people back.

**1 Chronicles 21:26 David built an altar to the Lord there and sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings. He called on the Lord, and the Lord answered him with fire from heaven on the altar of burnt offering.**

**26:27 Then the Lord spoke to the angel, and he put his sword back into its sheath.**

David built an altar at the threshing floor. As a result, the angel who was about to bring the disaster put his sword back into its sheath, therefore there was no disaster upon Jerusalem. The altar is the same as the temple which was later built on this spot. This means that building the house of God or church is the same as stopping the disaster brought by the angel who tries to destroy the people of God. Samuel describes as we can see in the scripture reference below;

**2 Samuel 24:25 David built an altar to the Lord there and sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings. Then the Lord answered his prayer in behalf of the land, and the plague on Israel was stopped.**

Because of David's prayer at the altar, God's punishment didn't come on Israel. This altar therefore almost worked as an embankment to protect people from the big Tsunami. It is also the same as the temple which was built on the same spot later. This means that the temple, the house of God, or the church can function as an embankment which protects people from the flood –like disasters. At the center of this whole thing is Jesus Christ who sacrificed His own life and prayed to pay the price to release people from their sin.

### <Mount Moriah>

Now, there is one another thing described in the scripture I mentioned first.

**2 Chronicles 3:1** Then Solomon began to build the temple of the Lord in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah, where the Lord had appeared to his father David. It was on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite, the place provided by David.

This means the house of God was built on Mount Moriah. What does this imply? **“Mount Moriah”** is described in the famous scripture below.

**Genesis 22:2** Then God said, **“Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you.”**

**“Mount Moriah”** is the very place where Abraham sacrificed his beloved son Isaac. This event has the same meaning as Father God sacrificing His only son Jesus Christ.

So, what we can learn from this is we will get important lessons about God’s church through the place where the house of God in the Old Testament and the temple were built. The first teaching is that it works to protect the people from the disaster brought by the angel. The other one is to stop God from thinking of bringing the disaster on the people. The death of Jesus Christ is the reason for this. It not only applies to the temple in Old Testament but is also related to the house and church of God in the New Testament. This means that the church is also built on the threshing floor of Araunah.

### <The day when the disaster comes upon Jerusalem>

Now, as we have seen, the disaster which was about to come on Jerusalem in David’s time was stopped at the threshing floor of Araunah, and the temple was built there. But the day came when the temple got destroyed and the disaster came on Jerusalem. It is described as below.

**Luke 19:41** As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it

**19:42 and said, “If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes.**

**19:43 The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side.**

**19:44 They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of God’s coming to you.”**

As Jesus mentions with disappointment here, the destruction of Jerusalem was prophesized in advance. And Jerusalem got destroyed by Romans 40 years later, in A.D. 70. The angel wasn’t stopped this time, the disaster came on Jerusalem, and every single person was killed. Also, along with this incident, the temple as the house of God was destroyed too. It was prophesized just as we can see in the scripture reference below;

**Matthew 24:1 Jesus left the temple and was walking away when his disciples came up to him to call his attention to its buildings.**

**24:2 “Do you see all these things?” he asked. “Truly I tell you, not one stone here will be left on another; everyone will be thrown down.”**

There is a relationship between the destruction of the temple and that of Jerusalem. As we saw in the scripture about Araunah, the temple as the house of God was stopping Tsunami-like disasters from the angel. However, when the temple stopped its function and was destroyed, the city of Jerusalem was also destroyed by the disaster brought by the angel. The reason for this is clear. It is because they denied the only Son of God who was sent as a sacrifice, and killed Him. Therefore both redemption and the peace with God was taken away.

So, we can learn two things through these scriptures as below.

- 1: There is a temple which stops the angel who tries to bring Tsunami-like disaster.
- 2: When the temple gets destroyed, the disaster will attack Jerusalem; the city of God’s people.

**<The disaster of the angel will be repeated on the days of Revelation>**

By the way, we realize one thing when reading about End Time in the Revelation. It is the fact that there are descriptions about many disasters brought by the angel. The scripture below is a good example.

**Revelation 7:1 After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth to prevent any wind from blowing on the land or on the sea or on any tree.**

**8:6 Then the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared to sound them.**

**8:7 The first angel sounded his trumpet, and there came hail and fire mixed with blood, and it was hurled down on the earth. A third of the earth was burned up, a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up.**

**15:1 I saw in heaven another great and marvelous sign: seven angels with the seven last plagues—last, because with them God's wrath is completed.**

As you can see, this book describes about many disasters brought by the angel. This is unique to Revelation, but why is that? As we try to understand, we realize that many disasters brought by the angel in Revelation are related to the scripture about Araunah.

An obvious characteristic of Revelation is that it is a book which describes End of Days is when the disasters of the angels will come upon God's people on the earth. It is just like a big Tsunami attacking the town which doesn't have an embankment. So, there comes the time when they don't have anything to stop the Tsunami.

**<The temple and church of God will be destroyed>**

The day will come when the temple and church of God which had been working as embankment to protect from the disaster will be destroyed and nothing is left. Therefore, the disaster coming from the angel will destroy the people of God like Tsunami. As I mentioned before, the Lord described about destruction of the temple in End Days in Matthew 24. There are two steps for this prophesy to be carried out. The first step occurred in D.C 70 when Rome destroyed Jerusalem. And the second step is in

End Days when the house of God and church as the temple of prayer will be destroyed.

It is not about physical destruction or doesn't prophesize that churches around the world are going to be destroyed, either. It rather prophesizes that the day will come when the church as the place for worshipping God and Jesus will be fundamentally destroyed with its doctrine. The structure and cornerstone of God's church are not physical stones and bricks, but actually apostles and prophets. It is written as below.

**Ephesians 2:20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.**

**2:21 In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord.**

**2:22 And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.**

When the Lord Prophesized about the day when the foundation of the temple of God and church get destroyed, He said **"Truly I tell you, not one stone here will be left on another; everyone will be thrown down."** This actually means when the teachings of Paul and Peter is removed from the church, even the teaching of Jesus which is supposed to be the cornerstone of the church will also be removed.

In fact, there are many movements which could shake the foundation of the church in the world right now. For example, The Da Vinci Code tells you that Christ was actually married and even had a child. They say there have been many "archeological discoveries" to confirm "the truth". A story like this is absolutely nonsense for true Christians. But, unfortunately, people will change to accept even such a lie. I suppose worldly Christians will also believe this kind of blasphemous fictions. As the result, there will be rebellious acts amongst all churches of the world as we can see from the scripture reference below;

**2 Thessalonians 2:3 Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction.**

Rebellion means Christians stop believing Christ, accepting the Gospel in the Bible,

start claiming Christ is a liar, and the Bible is not accountable. As we looked before, the church in End of Days will have their foundational doctrine and teachings completely destroyed. And this means that the church as the temple of the New Testament is the cause of the many disasters brought by the angel which will come upon God's people.

The temple built at the threshing floor of Araunah once protected God's people in Jerusalem from the disasters brought by the angel. Also, the temple built on Mount Moriah forgave and redeemed people's sin because of the sacrifice of the Son of God. But, at the end of the world, the church as God's temple will be destroyed and Christ who is the foundation and cornerstone will be kicked out. No one will believe deity of Christ or the Virgin Birth anymore, they will deny both Christ and His redemption. This is how the church as the temple gets destroyed and flood-like disasters of the angel start to attack God's people.

That will be the day when seven disasters of the seven angels who had the seven trumpets, the seven disasters of bowls will attack God's people. To explain it simply, rebellion of the church, its destruction, and the disaster brought by the angel are all related. The Bible implies that the very reason why many disasters brought by the angel will come upon God's people in End Times is the destruction of the temple which means the destruction of the church in New Testament. We need to recognize this.



The Da Vinci Code spreads lies.

### <<What I learned about prayer>> by E3

Quite a while ago in June 2010 issue, I mentioned about "prayer". Now, at a Saturday meeting in November, Ps. Jeremiah preached about "Prayer will be heard" from John 9, so I would like to share what I learned then with you. "Prayer" is an essential part of our Christian life, right? I would like to mention about the message I received regarding



this. First of all, let's take a look at a scripture in the Bible.

**John 9:30 The man answered, "Now that is remarkable! You don't know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes.**

**9:31 We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly person who does his will.**

**9:32 Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind.**

**9:33 If this man were not from God, he could do nothing."**

I used to think that God would listen to our prayers regardless of our condition. However, as is written, "**God does not listen to sinners**" in Verse 31, we can see that our prayer will not be answered when we are in sin. Sure, it is fantastic to be able to pray and it is understood to be somehow the special rights of Christians. Plus, God is also "The father in heaven", so it sounds like He will listen to every prayer that Christians (i.e. His children) make, doesn't it? However, it clearly states "**God does not listen to sinners**", so we have to know unless we don't get rid of "sin", our prayers will not be heard.

Let's put it this way. Say for example, you are a father of a child who asked you to buy him an ice cream. As a parent, you will definitely want to give him what he wishes. But you suggest him a condition, saying "Sure. But, you have to finish your homework first, then I will take you to an ice cream shop". Then, the child says "OK, I will get my homework done right now".

However, he doesn't start his homework and keeps watching TV... Thirty minutes gone, two hours past, and it is finally getting darker outside. There is still no signs of him going anywhere near his desk...

Now, your child stands up suddenly, and says "Oh, actually, do you remember that you said we are going to get an ice cream before? Let's go now before having a dinner!"

What would you do in this case? I bet you would say something like "No, you didn't do what I told you to, so we are not going today", right?

It is the same with God; our Spiritual Father. I think if we don't follow what God says, our prayers will not be heard. Surely, God wants to answer the prayers of Christians; His Spiritual Children, but it seems that there has to be a condition. Afterall **"God does not listen to sinners"**, it says **"He listens to the godly person who does his will"**. So, if we want our prayers to be answered, it is clear that we should **do His will**. I think that this part tells us if we meet both of them, God will answer our prayer. What do you think? So, if there is sin, you need to pray to become free from it, and respond to what God says to you inside. Otherwise, no matter how long you pray or how much effort you put in to your prayer, chances are that you would be doing so in vain. It will be such a shame, so we should consider these when praying.

By the way, there is a scripture in the Gospel of John which says

**John 15:7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.**

As it says, **"If you remain in me..."**, there seems to be an emphasis here on how important it is to stay in the word of God and put it into practice. Then it says it will be **"done"**. Therefore, we need to always make sure to walk away from sin, and practice what the word of God tells us to do, so that our prayers will be answered.

May glory and honor be given to God who always teaches us the important lessons.

Amen