

## **“Ornan Continued Threshing Wheat”**

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There was a crisis in Israel! David the King was enjoying the glory days of the Kingdom of Israel when he did a very foolish thing: he commanded Joab, his commander-in-chief, to count the fighting men of Israel. Scripture says the task was prompted by Satan (1 Chronicles 21:1). God was displeased because by numbering the warriors of Israel David was placing his confidence in the strength of his army rather than the hand of God. God confronted David giving him three choices as a consequence of his sin: three years of famine, three months of conquest by his enemies, or three days of plague (1 Chronicles 21:12). A penitent David did not want to make the choice, but rather threw himself into the hands of God for mercy. The result was that a plague came upon Israel and, but for the mercy of God, Jerusalem would have been destroyed (1 Chronicles 21:14-17). Ornan, a farmer in Israel, saw the destroying angel of the Lord but the Bible says, “Ornan continued threshing wheat” (1 Chronicles 21:20). Incredible! Israel was struggling for her life and “Ornan continued threshing wheat.” Today, the church struggles. It always has. There are difficulties from without and within (2 Corinthians 7:15) that we must face. Unbelief assaults us from without and departures from the faith, carelessness, and lukewarmness confront us from within. As we struggle to grow in our spiritual lives, to be the church, and to reach the lost, there are Ornans among us who continue “threshing wheat,” unconcerned that the church faces crises. We attend when it’s convenient, we participate when we feel like it, and we continue “threshing wheat” (going about our routines) with little recognition that something important is happening. In a time of crisis, David repented in sackcloth and offered sacrifice to Lord (1 Chronicles 21:8,16,26). What should we do in times like these? First, let there be discernment -- recognize the struggle. Second, let there be repentance. Third, let us be fully involved in the work of the Lord. Otherwise, we may be busy in a lot of activity while we miss the significant. Like Ornan, we might continue doing whatever it is we do.