## David Bought the Threshing Floor for Six Hundred Shekels of Gold

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David Bought a Threshing Floor for Fifty Shekels of Silver (2Sam. 24:24).

David Bought the Threshing Floor for Six Hundred Shekels of Gold (1Chr. 21:25).

The key to correctly understanding, what appears to be a contradiction in scripture, is the fact that purchasing a building of any kind includes purchasing, or leasing, the property on which it stands. In this study, some of the original Hebrew words will be examined, from the two texts quoted above, to see exactly what was being purchased,

Then David said to Ornan, 'Grant me the place (Heb. *makom*; referring to the whole place which would later comprise the Temple area; cf. Ruth 4:10) of this threshing floor, that I may build an altar on it to the Lord. You shall grant it to me at the full price, that the plague may be withdrawn from the people' (1Chr. 21:22; Ed. note in parenthesis; NKJV used throughout unless otherwise noted).

David then went on to purchase the property, on which the threshing floor stood, for a price of 600 shekels of gold. In the next scripture, David is seen conducting a different transaction,

Then Araunah said, 'Why has my lord the king come to his servant?' And David said, 'To buy the threshing floor (Heb. *goran*; cf. Ruth 3:2) from you, to build an altar to the Lord, that the plague may be withdrawn from the people' (2Sam. 24:21; Ed. note in parenthesis).

In this transaction, David purchased the building that stood on the land, plus the oxen, for 50 shekels of silver,

Then the king (David) said to Araunah, 'No, but I will surely buy it (the threshing floor) from you for a price; nor will I offer burnt offerings to the Lord my God with that which costs me nothing.' So David bought the threshing floor (Heb. *goran*) and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver (2Sam. 24:24; Ed. notes in parentheses).

By combining both the scriptures that are supposedly contradictory, a more detailed account of David's two transactions becomes apparent. He purchased the threshing floor, plus the oxen, for 50 shekels of silver. In addition to this acquisition, David purchased the land, upon which the threshing floor stood, for 600 shekels of gold.

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