

The Merciful God (c. 973 BC)

2 Samuel 24:16–25	1 Chronicles 21:15–30
<p>16 When the angel stretched out his hand toward Jerusalem to destroy it, the LORD relented from the calamity and said to the angel who destroyed the people, “It is enough! Now relax your hand!” And the angel of the LORD was by the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.</p> <p>17 Then David spoke to the LORD when he saw the angel who was striking down the people,</p> <p>and said,</p> <p>“Behold, it is I who have sinned, and it is I who have done wrong; but these sheep, what have they done?</p> <p>Please let Your hand be against me and against my father’s house.”</p> <p>18 So Gad came to David that day and said to him, “Go up, erect an altar to the LORD on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.”</p> <p>19 David went up according to the word of Gad, just as the LORD had commanded.</p> <p>20 Araunah looked down and saw the king and his servants crossing over toward him; and Araunah went out and bowed his face to the ground before the king.</p> <p>21 Then Araunah said, “Why has my lord the king come to his servant?” And David said, “To buy the threshing floor from you, in order to build an altar to the LORD,</p>	<p>15 And God sent an angel to Jerusalem to destroy it; but as he was about to destroy <i>it</i>, the LORD saw and was sorry over the calamity, and said to the destroying angel, “It is enough; now relax your hand.” And the angel of the LORD was standing by the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.</p> <p>16 Then David lifted up his eyes and saw the angel of the LORD standing between earth and heaven, with his drawn sword in his hand stretched out over Jerusalem. Then David and the elders, covered with sackcloth, fell on their faces.</p> <p>17 David said to God, “Is it not I who commanded to count the people? Indeed, I am the one who has sinned and done very wickedly, but these sheep, what have they done? O LORD my God, please let Your hand be against me and my father’s household, but not against Your people that they should be plagued.”</p> <p>18 Then the angel of the LORD commanded Gad to say to David, that David should go up and build an altar to the LORD on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.</p> <p>19 So David went up at the word of Gad, which he spoke in the name of the LORD.</p> <p>20 Now Ornan turned back and saw the angel, and his four sons <i>who were</i> with him hid themselves. And Ornan was threshing wheat.</p> <p>21 As David came to Ornan, Ornan looked and saw David,</p> <p>and went out from the threshing floor and prostrated himself before David with his face to the ground.</p> <p>22 Then David said to Ornan, “Give me the site of <i>this</i> threshing floor, that I may build on it an altar to the LORD;</p>

that the plague may be held back from the people.”

22 Araunah said to David,
“Let my lord the king take
and offer up what is good in his sight.
Look, the oxen for the burnt offering,
the threshing sledges and the yokes of the oxen
for the wood.

23 Everything, O king, Araunah gives to the king.”
And Araunah said to the king, “May the LORD your
God accept you.”

24 However, the king said to Araunah,
“No, but I will surely buy *it* from you for a price,
for I will not offer burnt offerings to the LORD
my God which cost me nothing.”
So David bought the threshing floor

and the oxen for 50 shekels of silver.

25 David built there an altar to the LORD
and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings.
Thus the LORD was moved by prayer for the land,

and the plague was held back from Israel.

for the full price you shall give it to me,
that the plague may be restrained from the people.”

23 Ornan said to David,
“Take *it* for yourself; and let my lord the king
do what is good in his sight.
See, I will give the oxen for burnt offerings
and the threshing sledges
for wood
and the wheat for the grain offering;
I will give *it* all.”

24 But King David said to Ornan,
“No, but I will surely buy *it* for the full price;
for I will not take what is yours for the LORD,
or offer a burnt offering which costs me nothing.”

25 So David gave Ornan
600 shekels of gold by weight for the site.

26 Then David built an altar to the LORD there
and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings.
And he called to the LORD and He answered him with
fire from heaven on the altar of burnt offering.

27 The LORD commanded the angel,
and he put his sword back in its sheath.

28 At that time, when David saw that the LORD had
answered him on the threshing floor of Ornan the
Jebusite, he offered sacrifice there.

29 For the tabernacle of the LORD, which Moses had
made in the wilderness, and the altar of burnt
offering *were* in the high place at Gibeon at that
time.

30 But David could not go before it to inquire of
God, for he was terrified by the sword of the angel
of the LORD.

Bless the LORD, O My Soul (c. 973 BC)

Psalm 103

A Psalm of David.

- 1 Bless the LORD, O my soul,
And all that is within me, *bless* His holy name.
- 2 Bless the LORD, O my soul,
And forget none of His benefits;
- 3 Who pardons all your iniquities,
Who heals all your diseases;
- 4 Who redeems your life from the pit,
Who crowns you with lovingkindness and compassion;
- 5 Who satisfies your years with good things,

- So that* your youth is renewed like the eagle.
- 6 The LORD performs righteous deeds
And judgments for all who are oppressed.
- 7 He made known His ways to Moses,
His acts to the sons of Israel.
- 8 The LORD is compassionate and gracious,
Slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness.
- 9 He will not always strive *with us*,
Nor will He keep *His anger* forever.
- 10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins,
Nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.
- 11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
So great is His lovingkindness toward those who fear Him.
- 12 As far as the east is from the west,
So far has He removed our transgressions from us.
- 13 Just as a father has compassion on *his* children,
So the LORD has compassion on those who fear Him.
- 14 For He Himself knows our frame;
He is mindful that we are *but* dust.
- 15 As for man, his days are like grass;
As a flower of the field, so he flourishes.
- 16 When the wind has passed over it, it is no more,
And its place acknowledges it no longer.
- 17 But the lovingkindness of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him,
And His righteousness to children's children,
- 18 To those who keep His covenant
And remember His precepts to do them.
- 19 The LORD has established His throne in the heavens,
And His sovereignty rules over all.
- 20 Bless the LORD, you His angels,
Mighty in strength, who perform His word,
Obeying the voice of His word!
- 21 Bless the LORD, all you His hosts,
You who serve Him, doing His will.
- 22 Bless the LORD, all you works of His,
In all places of His dominion;
Bless the LORD, O my soul!