

## Pentecost and the Threshing Floor

Pentecost focuses on several pictures. Baptism is one. The Threshing floor is another.

Hundreds of thousands of God-fearing Jews from all over the known world (**Acts 2:5**) were gathered to celebrate the Jewish Feast of Shavuot (**Leviticus 23:15-22**).

The disciples met every day in the Temple where they worshipped God continuously (**Luke 24:52-53**). They were probably gathered beside the Pillar of Boaz, at the time of morning sacrifice and prayer. Peter preached to a vast multitude of Jews from all over the world. Only in the Temple courts would such a diverse throng assemble on the day of Pentecost. The word "*oikos*" or "house" in **Acts 2:2** can refer to any building or structure. The Bible and Rabbinic literature refers to the Temple as "The House." (see **2 Samuel 7:5, Acts 7:47**)

**Acts 2:1-4** - "And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."

### Prophesied in Joel 2 -

**Joel 2:24** - "...he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month. And the floors shall be full of wheat, and the fats shall overflow with wine and oil."

**Joel 2:28-32** - "And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit. And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come. And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call."

### Threshing Floor

What was happening was a spiritual picture of what normally takes place on a threshing floor at harvest time. The grain is threshed - beaten or crushed in various ways - then winnowed, in which the seed is released from the chaff that contains it and ends up on the threshing floor, The winnowing fan or scoop is used to throw the grain mixed with chaff up into the air, where the wind takes the lighter chaff away to the side, while the grain falls back down.

## The Threshing Floor of Ornan

The Temple, where this was taking place, had been built on what was once a threshing floor.

**1 Chronicles 21** - David numbers the people.

The place where the death angel "stays his hand" at the threshing floor of Ornan. David buys the land.

Later...

**2 Chronicles 3:1** - "Now Solomon began to build the house of the LORD at Jerusalem on Mount Moriah, where the LORD had appeared to his father David, at the place that David had prepared on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.

Jesus is the one doing the spiritual threshing:

**Matthew 3:11-12** - "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire: Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

### The ungodly are compared to chaff:

**Psalms 1:3-4** - "And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away."

**Isaiah 5:24** - "Therefore as the fire devoureth the stubble, And the flame consumeth the chaff, So their root shall be as rottenness, And their blossom shall go up as dust: Because they have cast away the law of the Lord of hosts, And despised the word of the Holy One of Israel."

Even further, in **Daniel 2:34-35**, the stone cut without hands, smashes the feet of the idol that represented the kingdoms of the world. The broken pieces "became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth."

**Jeremiah 23:28** - "The prophet that hath a dream, let him tell a dream; and he that hath my word, let him speak my word faithfully. What is the chaff to the wheat? saith the LORD."

The sound of a "mighty rushing wind" corresponds to the threshing wind necessary to

separate the seed from the chaff. The tongues of fire that appeared over the disciples represented the chaff - their old, evil identities - being consumed. While at the same time, their new identities in Christ are filled with the Holy Spirit.

### **God's Destructive Acts of plowing and threshing are for a Reason - to Bring Life**

**Isaiah 28:24-35** NET- "Does a farmer just keep on plowing at planting time? Does he keep breaking up and harrowing his ground? Once he has leveled its surface, does he not scatter the seed of the caraway plant, sow the seed of the cumin plant, and plant the wheat, barley, and grain in their designated places?"

Only enough force is used to accomplish what is needed, so the seed is released from the chaff but not destroyed in the process

**Isaiah 28:27-28** - "Certainly caraway seed is not threshed with a sledge, nor is the wheel of a cart rolled over cumin seed. Certainly caraway seed is beaten with a stick, and cumin seed with a flail. Grain is crushed, though one certainly does not thresh it forever. The wheel of one's wagon rolls over it, but his horses do not crush it."