

(continued from the front)

21:20). Ornan, seeing an avenging angel with an unsheathed sword between heaven and earth near his threshing floor, continued working! That is a man not easily unnerved. In modern terms, he was a “Man of Steel.”

Why would Ornan act in this manner? Neither account gives any indication. However, many of us today, as Christians, can be greatly unnerved or fearful when facing trials or even death. The Bible tells us how to deal with these trials:

**Isaiah 41:10** — “Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.”

**Matthew 10:28–31** — “And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father’s will. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.”

**2 Corinthians 5:1** — “For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.”

**Revelation 21:4** — “And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”

Therefore, let us face our trials with strength rooted in faith and trust in God, knowing that His providence will be sufficient for us as faithful followers of Christ.

Phil Degelia



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### The Man of Steel

In 2 Samuel 24 and 1 Chronicles 21, we read of King David being tempted by Satan to number Israel’s fighting men. When the census results were reported to David, he realized that he had acted foolishly and that God was displeased. God sent the seer Gad to tell David that He would give him three possible punishments. David chose to fall into the hand of God rather than man. Therefore, God sent an angel to bring three days of pestilence upon Israel, killing 70,000 men.

“Then David lifted his eyes and saw the angel of the LORD standing between earth and heaven, having in his hand a drawn sword stretched out over Jerusalem” (1 Chronicles 21:16a).

God said, “It is enough,” and stopped the angel at the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite (who is called Araunah in 2 Samuel 24).

“Now Ornan turned and saw the angel; and his four sons who were with him hid themselves, but Ornan continued threshing wheat” (1 Chronicles

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