

Not too long ago, I talked about the covenant that we have with God in terms of an oath of loyalty as to a king. God is to be our king pure and simple, but due to the weakness of man we have a human model in the man after God's own heart, David. He was a good man, who though he had his faults, inspired the kind of loyalty we need to have in God's kingdom. This is illustrated several times in the Bible, but there is one instance that I would like to bring out tonight, and it is found in 1 Chr. 21:18-24... Let us realize that this is the time when David decided to number the people of Israel, and to appease God for his sin, he was told to set up an altar for sacrifice. Though David asks only for the land itself, we see the tremendous generosity of Ornan who offers literally everything he has with him as a service to his king. But the most interesting part of the story is the fact that Ornan is a Jebusite. Not too many years before the Jebusites had kept all of Israel at bay, claiming that even the blind and the lame could hold Jerusalem. But David had conquered the city. So we see so much more the great value of the offer of Ornan, not to a countryman but to a conqueror. The offer is obviously one of love and loyalty, however, and we see that no matter how things stood when Jerusalem was overcome, Ornan had come to know his king. We may not have this kind of loyalty when we first submit to God, but after living under his kingship for a while, we should grow into it. God is our almighty king, if anyone needs to join the kingdom or share their needs with us tonight, won't you come now as we stand and sing...