

Mary Craig Ministries, Inc.

Series: "The Kingdom of God"



Teaching Sermon: "A Time to Thresh in Meekness"

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Dr. Mary Craig

Live Tele-service, March 7, 2021

February 20, 2021, at home, I received what I believe is from the LORD:

It will not be much longer.

For now it springs forth. Now it begins—a new thing. Consider the enemy defeated for he is defeated.

You shall see signs, glimmers small at first, here—there. I will cause hope to rise up. I will cause light to shine into the darkness. I will raise up one and down another.

Whereas it has been a man here, a woman there, I will multiply their mantles on many just as Christ died and it appeared all hope of fulfillment died with His death. And yet He rose the third day, ascended into heaven, and sent with the Father the Holy Spirit, indwelling a countless number of people from every race, tribe, ethnic group, class, society, and economic group. So also I am raising up the young, the children. I am multiplying the voices of courage, confession [agreement with the Word of God], and commitment. These will not compromise, not be complacent, nor shrink back in fear, nor swallow the lies of corruption. These will be called with My Word as a fire in their bones. They will be compelled, constrained to preach the Gospel, to know and preserve truth, to promote true justice, to exercise mercy with compassion. I will fortify them, keep them, and protect them. Psalm 120. Jeremiah 20

If I say, "I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name," there is in my heart as it were a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot. ESV Jere 20:9

Nothing will stop Me. I will do it for My Name's sake. Vengeance is Mine, and I will repay.

If My people want to be blessed, they must bless. If they want mercy, they must give mercy. If they want to discern good from evil, they need to understand that "good" is what I say is "good," and "evil" is what I say is evil. It is as I say in My Word. My Word is Truth.

The Devil wears a mask, the mask of hypocrisy. He counterfeits by saying that what he says is true and good is True and Good. He is a Liar, a murderer from the beginning, a thief, with bold claims of a no-god. He is darkness; I am Light. Men will not come to the light because their deeds are evil. (John 3:16ff)

John 8:44, KJV: "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. **He was a murderer from the beginning**, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When **he** speaks a lie, **he** speaks of his own: for **he** is a liar, and the father of it."

Isaiah chapters 40-48.

Be strong. I am coming soon. I am purging the threshing floor. (Matthew 3:12; Jeremiah 51:33)

**Jeremiah 51:33**      For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: “The daughter of Babylon is like a threshing floor at the time it is stamped firm; yet in a little while the time of harvest will come for her.”

<https://bible.knowing-jesus.com/topics/Threshing-Floor>

<sup>10</sup> And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which brings not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

<sup>11</sup> 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:

<sup>12</sup> 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. Matthew 3:10-12 KJV

Nothing is wasted in My Kingdom.

I am raising up men of meekness. The devil understands meekness. He sees it in action, in Christ. But his pride will not allow him to acknowledge the power of meekness; that I am the Defender. I am your Defense. (Psalm 94; Psalm 5)

Psalm 62:6-8

“He only is my rock and my salvation: He is my defense; I shall not be moved. In God is my salvation and my glory: the rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God. Trust in Him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before Him: God is a refuge for us.” Psalm 62:6-8

Pride leads to destruction. The children of pride will bring about their own destruction. They will puff up in pride and they will be destroyed.

This is a time to thresh in meekness. The just [*those justified in Christ*] shall live by faith.

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While we could pick up on many things covered in this “word,” I want us to think about threshing and the threshing floor.

**The Threshing Floor.** A threshing floor was round, large, open, with a hard surface, usually located outside the city. They were located at high windy places, not mountain peaks, but in highlands or in the hill country. Grain grew in the valleys below, but threshing floors were higher up. Bundles of stalks would be laid on the surface of the floor. Dried plants needed to be broken up, tread upon. A wooden board was used; it had holes in it and rocks inside the holes. The word in Greek means anguish, persecution, trouble. In Latin it is *tribula*, or *tribulum*. Oxen were used if someone could afford it. The grain kernels had to be separated from the chaff in a process called winnowing. The wind would separate the heavier kernels from the chaff as the grain was tossed into the air. Grain was also sifted, or sieved. Isaiah 30:28; Amos 9:9, Luke 22:31; e.g. [Simon would be Peter, “The Rock,” but Satan demanded to sift him like wheat—a process that would counter Peter’s prideful “I will” statements, boasting, and great swelling words by getting little rocks out of his heart.]

**Ways of Threshing:** By beating Ru 2:17 -By treading Deut. 25:4; Isa 25:10; Hosea 10:11; 1Co 9:9; 1Ti 5:18 -With instruments Of wood 2Sa 24:22 Of iron Am 1:3 With a cart wheel Isa

28:27,28 -Floors for Ge 50:10,11; Jud 6:37; Ru 3:2-14; 1Sa 23:1; 2Sa 6:6; Ho 9:2; Joe 2:24 - Floor of Araunah purchased by David for a place of sacrifice 2Sa 24:16-25 [https://www.bible-history.com/links.php?cat=39&sub=775&cat\\_name=Manners%26Customs&subcat\\_name=Threshing](https://www.bible-history.com/links.php?cat=39&sub=775&cat_name=Manners%26Customs&subcat_name=Threshing)

**The Threshing Floor a Place of Mourning.** In Genesis 50:10, 11 we find this early reference to the threshing floor, of Atad, where Joseph made a mourning for his father with a very great and grievous lamentation.

When they came to the threshing floor of Atad, which is beyond the Jordan, <sup>b</sup>they lamented there with a very great and grievous lamentation, and he <sup>c</sup>made a mourning for his father seven days. When the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites, saw the mourning on the threshing floor of Atad, they said, “This is a grievous mourning by the Egyptians.” Therefore the place was named Abel-mizraim;<sup>1</sup> it is beyond the Jordan. ESV Genesis 50:10, 11.

**The Threshing Floor a Place to Express a Desire to be Redeemed.** Notice that after the harvest was gathered, the harvest produce was brought to the threshing floor. In Ruth, the method of threshing was by beating. We see redemption in the story of Ruth and Boaz. Women then needed to be connected in some way to a “covenant man.” It was difficult for a woman to survive on her own, but the Law in Leviticus 25:25 allowed for a kinsman-redeemer, by which a woman could be redeemed by her husband’s nearest kinsman (Ruth 2:20). Naomi, Ruth’s mother-in-law encouraged Ruth to go down to the threshing floor. It was the time of the barley harvest and Boaz was involved in the winnowing of the barley. With winnowing, the grain is separated from the chaff. When Boaz finished eating and drinking and was lying down for the night, Ruth, according to Naomi’s instructions, went, uncovered the feet of Boaz, and laid down at his feet. This was to express her desire to be redeemed by Boaz (Ruth 3:1-18). Ruth, a converted Gentile, symbolizes the believer seeing her need for a Redeemer. Boaz becomes that redeemer for Ruth, symbolizing Jesus Christ, our Kinsman-Redeemer. ([Romans 1:17](#); [Romans 3:22-24](#); [Hebrews 2:11-15](#)).

**Times and Seasons.** Threshing floors were used to determine times and seasons. A center post would be placed, much like a sun dial, for that purpose. In all the process of threshing, separating, sorting, and sifting [sieving], it could not rain.

If ye walk in my statutes, and keep my commandments, and do them; Then I will give you rain in due season, and the land shall yield her increase, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit. And your threshing shall reach unto the vintage, and the vintage shall reach unto the sowing time: and ye shall eat your bread to the full, and dwell in your land safely. (Lev. 26:3-5)

**The Busy Threshing Floor.** A busy threshing floor was a symbol of a plentiful harvest; a bare one indicated famine, and perhaps God’s judgment. Joel 2:24 speaks of that abundance as a sign of God’s blessing if the people repent: “The threshing floors will be filled with grain. The vats will overflow with new wine and olive oil.” And in 2 Kings 6:27, the king in Israel laments that he is helpless to supply food to his starving people: “If the LORD doesn’t help you, how can I help you? I can’t give you something from the threshing floor or the winepress.” He is using the presence of food as a symbol of God’s providential care.

**Threshing and Judgment.** The threshing floor is symbolic of judgment in the Bible. Old Testament prophet Hosea prophesied that Israel would be “like the morning mist or like the dew that goes early away, like the chaff that swirls from the threshing floor or like smoke from a window” ([Hosea 13:3](#)). Of the nations who will come against God during the end times, the

prophet Micah says "they do not know the thoughts of the Lord; they do not understand his plan, that He has gathered them as sheaves to the threshing floor." The idea is that Israel will demolish their enemies like oxen trampling grain on the threshing floor ([Micah 4:11-13](#)). Chaff is referred to in the Psalms as a symbol of the destruction of the wicked ([Psalm 1:4](#)). Also, John the Baptist referred to Jesus as the one who would separate the good grain from the chaff with a winnowing fork, gathering the grain into his barn and burning the chaff with "unquenchable fire" ([Matthew 3:12](#)). This is a symbol of heaven and hell. <https://www.compellingtruth.org/threshing-floor.html>

**Threshing and the nations.** "The Old Testament includes a number of instances where threshing is specifically used to describe the results of conflict between nations, sometimes carrying out the ultimate judgment of God. Isaiah 21:10 says, "**You, my people, have been threshed and winnowed. I make known to you what I heard from the LORD of Armies, the God of Israel,**" as the prophet describes in symbolic terms the fall of Babylon. And Amos 1:3 anticipates God's retribution against Syria: "**This is what the LORD says: because Damascus has committed three crimes, and now a fourth crime, I will not change my plans. The Arameans have crushed the people of Gilead with iron-spiked threshing sledges.**" Those who cruelly treat others will themselves be judged harshly." <https://jesusway4you.com/2018/11/14/signs-symbols-of-the-bible-threshing-floor/>

Let us go to the threshing floor and thresh in meekness. Look at the proud one, the one who is puffed up, whose soul and desires are not upright in him, who trusts in himself and whose life is crooked, whose ego is inflated, who is without integrity, who is presumptuous; but the righteous one, the just one, shall live by his faith. Habakkuk 2:4 expanded.

Pray.

Holy Father, we come to you confessing our prideful ways, those times when have been puffed up, when our souls and desires have not been upright within us, when we have trusted in ourselves, when our lives have been crooked and in need of You making crooked places straight, when our ego has been inflated, when we have not walked in integrity, when we have been presumptuous. We ask You to forgive us and confess that the only ground on which You forgive is that of the atoning work of Jesus Christ, whom You sent. We thank You for the body and blood sacrifice of Christ on behalf of those for whom He died. We thank You for His radical life of obedience, even to the death on the Cross. We thank you for His humility; that He came as One meek and lowly, not setting aside His divinity, but condescending to our lowliness and bearing our humiliation in our stead, in our place. We thank You for His voluntary substitutionary atonement. And You highly exalted Him to Your right hand, King of kings and Lord of lords.

Grant us repentance, we ask and grant that we may be filled with the Holy Spirit that we might walk in love, in wisdom, in holiness, and in humility. We ask that You shine Your countenance upon us that we might be healed, saved, and delivered. You are our praise, and we bless You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

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