The threshing has been severe because it had to be. Many wheat heads had to be forcefully separated from the chaff that contaminates. The great shaking that has been in the earth for the last 5 years has been the tool of this great threshing. We have been on the threshing floors for years, and as is normal for the activity of threshing, it has gotten more severe over time, with 2020 being a year of great threshing. Threshing is “to harvest seeds from grain by beating or crushing it.” Would you agree that we have been in a time of crushing and beating? What is notable is that this process is necessary for the grain, or fruit, to be edible. Apart from the threshing, the grain cannot be consumed and will instead simply rot on the stalk. What is also notable is that the grain has to be separated from the stalk. The word for 2020 was that we would see Hm bare His mighty arm on our behalf, and it is my belief that we have. His arm came to separate us from things that we could not separate ourselves from. Even as I write this, I can see His hand grabbing up a bunch of wheat, pulling it from the ground and beating it on the stone threshing floor. This past year we saw Him do just what He said He would:

1. separate the wheat from the tare.
2. continue to bring exposure in the earth, beginning in the house of God.
3. Do amazing signs and wonders
4. “bring His authority, His judgement, the fire we have been contending for in the last decade. That fire is here and has come to ignite but to first purify. Look! It has surely already begun. Submit yourself under the mighty arm of the Lord and find refuge from the things that plague you, freedom from all captivity, and an opening of the prison doors. Turn from all selfish motives and all immorality and watch the Lord heal your land—all your land!”
5. continue to refine the silver and the gold in our lives
6. Mighty feats of faith through men and women who love Him
7. we shall see the beauty of His holiness manifested in unimaginable glory that leaves us all weeping before Him.

As I was leaning into the Lord about His desire for 2021, I kept getting two distinct things. 1- I was hearing the word “winnowing” and 2- I was getting a picture of sheep being sheared.

1. I was not familiar with winnowing, except that I knew it was familiar to me from Scripture. **Matthew 3:12**, “His winnowing fan *is* in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” Note that the threshing floor must be full of wheat before the winnowing can begin. That means it has already been threshed, or beaten, and now the process of separating the wheat from the chaff must be performed. Winnowing is the process by which the harvester lifts the wheat up into the air, usually with a pitch (or winnowing) fork, lets the grain fall from the height as wind blows through it. As the wheat falls to the ground, the chaff is blown loose from it by the wind as it is light and has little substance. The wheat is heavier and falls straight down while the chaff will be blown away in the wind or at the very least blown into another pile completely separate from the wheat. Historically, and in Bible time, this was done by hand and was carefully carried out to assure that all chaff had been separated. Today, this process has been mechanized. This means that it is faster and easier, but not as thorough. Ever think about why we did not have such things as gluten sensitivities in times past? The winnowing process is the reason for this. As the machines began doing this work, parts of the chaff were left to be mixed in with the grain. This chaff is not beneficial and, in some circumstances, can be deadly. The chaff is the cause of gluten sensitivity. Of course, there are other implications, but this is one. The Lord is saying that it is time for the winnowing. and it is being done by His mighty hand.
2. As I began to look into shearing, I saw the vision God had given to me before, only I understood that it was His hand that would be doing the shearing. Facts about shearing include: (www.ag.ndsu.edu/publications/livestock/sheep-shearing-facts)
   1. Most sheep are shorn annually to:
      1. Harvest the fiber at the appropriate length for spinning into yarn
      2. Prevent buildup of manure and urine that can lead to parasitic infection
      3. Allow adequate wool regrowth to improve the sheep’s ability to control its body temperature during extreme heat and cold conditions
      4. Create a clean environment for newborn lambs
   2. Professional sheep shearers are trained to:
      1. Shear sheep with care and respect
      2. Shear sheep in a precise pattern that protects themselves and the sheep
      3. Harvest the wool without double-cutting the wool (cutting single fibers twice) or nicking the animal
      4. Gently handle sheep before, during and after the shearing process
      5. Use the appropriate tools of the trade

Shearing is necessary for the well being of the sheep, but if it is done improperly, it can cause stress and pain to the animal. Thankfully, God has shown me that He is the One that will be shearing His sheep! What is interesting is that once the wool is removed it is then scrutinized for imperfections, particles that do not belong, and for quality before it is submitted to processing for use.

Isaiah 53:7 “He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth.” In a time when many are calling us to revolt, to speak up, to etc…the Lord is saying humble yourselves before My mighty hand, allow Me to remove the wool that so easily weighs you down…do not open your mouths to complain about the oppression and affliction, but instead simply submit to Him and trust that He will bring us out.

It is my conviction that the Lord is sending His wind to blow away the chaff that has been exposed and coming to remove the wool of the previous year by His Own hand to prepare us for what is coming in the years ahead.