

1 **“That I May Dwell
With Them”**

Lesson 3: The Ark of the Testimony
(Part 2)

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4 **Order of Tabernacle Revelation**

5 **The Ark of the Covenant**

Introduced
Exodus 25:10-22

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8 **The Tabernacle’s 7 Pieces of Furniture**

1. Ark of the Testimony
2. Mercy Seat (described separately)
3. Altar of Incense
4. Table of Shewbread
5. Golden Candlestick
6. Laver
7. Brazen Altar

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10 **Basic Description**

- Wooden Chest
 - 1.5 cubits in height and depth
 - 2.5 cubits in length
- Overlaid in gold without and within
 - Wood was not visible
 - Only gold could be seen
- Only these two materials
 - No metal fasteners
- Personally constructed by Moses (Deuteronomy 10:1-5)

11 **Deuteronomy 10:1-3**

- At that time the LORD said unto me, Hew thee two tables of stone like unto the first, and come up unto me into the mount, and make thee an ark of wood. And I will write on the tables the words that were in the first tables which thou brakest, and thou shalt put them in the ark. And I made an ark of shittim wood, and hewed two tables of stone like unto the first, and went up into the mount, having the two tables in mine hand.

12 **Deuteronomy 10:4-5**

- And he wrote on the tables, according to the first writing, the ten commandments, which the LORD spake unto you in the mount out of the midst of the fire in the day of the assembly: and the LORD gave them unto me. And I turned myself and came down from the mount, and put the tables in the ark which I had made; and there they be, as the LORD commanded me.

13 **The Most Important Tabernacle Item**

- Described first because it was the most important thing in the Tabernacle.
- The presence of God rested on the ark.
 - Brazen altar pointed to the Ark.
 - Sacrifices gave believers access to the Ark in the person of the High Priest.
- Made by Moses himself
 - Bezaleel (Exodus 35:30-31) was the foreman and chief worker for the rest of the Tabernacle.
 - Moses was a prophet who is a picture of Christ.

14 **Difference Between Ark and Other Furnishings**

- The Ark is the only Tabernacle item transferred to the Temple
 - The Ark pictures the PERSON of Christ
 - All other Tabernacle items picture the WORK of Christ
 - Brazen altar – His sacrifice
 - Laver – His cleansing of us after salvation
 - Table of Shewbread – His revealing Word
 - Altar of Incense – His reception of our prayers
 - Golden Candlestick – The illumination of His Spirit

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17 **Three Coverings of the Ark**

18 **Numbers 4:5-6**

- *And when the camp setteth forward, Aaron shall come, and his sons, and they shall take down the covering veil, and cover the ark of testimony with it: And shall put thereon the covering of badgers' skins, and shall spread over it a cloth wholly of blue, and shall put in the staves thereof.*
- Three coverings
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19 **1. The Covering Veil**

- Veil that separated the Holy Place from the Holiest of Holies used to cover ark during transport.
 - Typified the separation between us and God; the Temple veil torn at Christ's death.
 - Typified Christ's humanity
- The golden Ark itself was hidden from view of the people.

20 **2. Badger s' Skins**

- First layer made from badgers' skins
 - Outward appearance of humility
 - Badgers' skins used to make sandals (Ezekiel 16:10) – picture of humility and service; of one who constantly traveled because He had no where to lay His head.
 - Lack of attractiveness – *"hath no form or comeliness, and when we shall see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him."*

21 **3. Blue Cloth**

- Only thing visible when in transport.
 - All other items of Tabernacle furniture were covered with badgers' skins when moved; only the ark had a blue covering.
- Color of heaven
 - Children of Israel had to walk by "faith" and not by "sight" when it came to the Ark – because they never saw it without its coverings. Yet it had the manifest presence of God accompanying it.
- We are to bear witness to the risen Christ before all.

22 **The Names of the Ark**23 **Seven Names for the Ark**

- Ark of the Testimony (Exodus 25:22)
 - Most frequent name
- Ark of the Covenant (Numbers 10:33)
- Ark of the Lord, the Lord of all the earth (Joshua 3:15)
- Ark of God
- Ark of the Lord God
- The Holy Ark (2 Chronicles 35:3)
- Ark of Thy Strength (Psalm 132:8)
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24 **Ark of the Testimony**

- Exodus 31:18 – The two tables of testimony were deposited in it.
- Ark TESTIFIED to:
 - The majesty and condescension of יהוה
 - The perfections of Christ in keeping the Law
 - The dual natures of Christ
 - Fully man as the Suffering Servant (acacia)
 - Fully God (gold)
- APPLICATION: We are to testify of Christ as He testified of God.

25 **Ark of the Covenant**

Christ is the:

- SURETY of a better covenant"
 - Hebrews 7:23
 - "ordered in all things and sure" (2 Samuel 23:5)
- SACRIFICE of the covenant

- Hebrew word for covenant = “cutting”
 - Refers to the killing of sacrificial animals required at the establishment of a covenant (Genesis 15:9-17)
 - Christ was our sacrificial Lamb

26 **Ark of the Covenant (2)**

- Christ is the MEDIATOR of a new covenant (Hebrews 9:6)
- Christ is the ESTABLISHER of the new covenant (Hebrews 13:20) before the foundation of the world
- APPLICATION:
 - Rejoice in that you have a covenant with an eternal King. That means your covenant relationship with him cannot end. Your salvation is secure.

27 **Ark of the Lord...of all the Earth**

- Upon the Entry to the Promised Land
 - The ark was the assurance of victory.
 - Joshua 7:13 -- *And it shall come to pass, as soon as the soles of the feet of the priests that bear the ark of the LORD, the LORD of all the earth, shall rest in the waters of Jordan, ...*
- APPLICATION:
 - Christ will make short work after His return to establish His kingdom (Zechariah 14:9).
 - *And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one.*

28 **The Ark of God**

- God is not identified with any of the other vessels or pieces of furniture in the Tabernacle.
- Emphasizes the Deity of Christ.
- APPLICATION:
 - Recognize the deity of Christ and affirm it to others.
 - Realize that there are no other valid paths to heaven. He alone is “the Way, the Truth, and the Life.”

29 **Ark of the Lord God**

- 1 Kings 2:26 -- Adonai Jehovah
 - Adonai – Lord, master; emphasis on authority
 - Jehovah – Covenant name of the second person of the Godhead in the Old Testament
- Context:
 - Conspiracy at the close of David’s reign to prevent Solomon from gaining throne.
 - Conspirators died except for Abiathar – because he had born the ark; saved because Solomon recognized the special relationship to the Ark.
- APPLICATION: Christ is not only to be our Savior (covenant) but our Master (Lord).

30 **The Holy Ark**

- 2 Chronicles 35:3
 - Judah had long been in apostasy. The Ark was not even kept in the Temple.
 - Josiah brought reformation to Judah and ordered “the holy ark” to be brought back into the Temple built by Solomon.

- APPLICATION:
 - We are to worship the holiness and majesty of God and to make certain that Christ remains the focal point of our earthly temples (2 Cor. 3:16).

31 **Ark of Thy Strength**

- Psalm 132:8 -- *Arise, O LORD, into thy rest; thou, and the ark of thy strength.*
- Jesus is:
 - The Mighty God (Isaiah 9:6)
 - The Almighty (Revelation 1:8)
 - The Power of God and the Wisdom of God (1 Corinthians 1:24)
 - The One who is mighty (Psalm 89:19)
- APPLICATION – Work in Christ’s strength rather than your own.

32 **The Career of the Ark**

33 **The Anointing of the Ark**

- The Ark had an inaugural anointing.
 - Exodus 30:26
- Jesus anointed by the Holy Spirit at the start of His ministry.
 - Acts 10:38 -- *How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.*
 - Matthew 3 – The dove (Holy Spirit) descending on Jesus

34 **Journeyings**

- Poles (staves)
 - Remained inserted while in Tabernacle (Exodus 25:12-15)
 - Represents earthly ministry of Christ and our temporary pilgrimage here.
 - Staves only removed temporarily when putting on coverings.
 - Removed when in Temple (2 Chronicles 5:9)
 - Represents heaven where we shall enter into our rest (Psalm 132:8)
- Ten specific journeys of the Ark are mentioned in Scripture.
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35 **1. The Three Day Journey**

- Background
 - God provided Israel with the Shekinah presence to guide them (Numbers 9:18-20).
 - Moses – in weakness – begs his father-in-law to come along as a guide (Numbers 10:31).
- Numbers 10:33
 - God leads them (with Shekinah presence over the Ark) three days journey to “search out a resting place” for Israel.
- We only find rest in God’s Leadership and in the Resurrection of Christ.

36 **2. The Ark Stayed But People Went**

- Numbers 14:44-45
 - The people’s refusal of enter the Promised Land

- Ignore counsel of Joshua and Caleb
- God pronounces judgment – death.
- Moses intercedes for the people.
- God determines 40 years of wilderness wanderings and that one generation shall die.
- People mourn at the news and decide they will take the Promised Land.
- They go to fight the Amalekites and Canaanites but God (and the Ark) do not go with them; they were defeated.
- It is disastrous to move without God!

37 3. Crossing the Jordan

- Joshua 3:5-17
 - Jordan = “river of judgment” or “river of death”
 - Ark goes into river first and waters stand on heap; river bed dries up allowing safe crossing for millions
- Typifies Christ’s atoning death
 - He entered death for us
 - He provides the safe entrance into eternal life for all who will follow Him
 - Hebrews 2:15 – “...*deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage*”

38 4. Around the Walls of Jericho

- Led Israel around the walls of Jericho (7 days)
 - Ark mentioned 10 times in Joshua 6
 - The power that conquered Jericho was not in the marching, or the people, or the trumpets, but was in the Ark with the blood-sprinkled mercy-seat .
- Only by following Christ can we conquer:
 - Spiritual wickedness in high places (Eph. 6:12)
 - Strong holds, imaginations, every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God (2 Corinthians 10:4-5).

39 5. In the Valley Near Ai

- Background
 - Israel defeated at Ai because they fought without the Lord’s leadership and because of the sin of Achan
 - Joshua prays; Achan’s sin revealed and punished
 - Israel wins battle
 - Joshua builds altar and wrote the 10 Commandments on the stones of the altar and reads the Law to the people.
 - Half of people on Mount Gerazim; half on Mount Ebal

40 Deuteronomy 11:26-29

- Blessings of the Law read from Mount Gerizim; curses from Mount Ebal
 - *Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse; A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you this day: And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the LORD your God, ... And it shall come to pass, when the LORD thy God hath brought thee in unto the land whither thou goest to possess*

it, that thou shalt put the blessing upon mount Gerizim, and the curse upon mount Ebal.

- Between blessing and curses:
 - Ark stood in the valley between these two mountains.
 - Jesus stands between our being blessed and cursed; on which side of Jesus are you?
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41 **6. Near the Battle of Gibeah**

- Sad episode in Israel's history
 - Army of 400,000 from Israel attacks one of their own tribes – the tribe of Benjamin having an army of 26,000 swordsmen and 700 left-handed stone-slingers.
 - Israel defeated twice – though they had inquired of the Lord
 - Judges 20:26-27 – Children of Israel fast and pray before the Ark of the Covenant; God gives victory the next day.
- We can only know the mind of God through and in Christ.

42 **7. Captured by the Philistines**

- 1 Samuel 4
 - Eli was the high priest of Israel
 - Hophni, Phinehas – his two ungodly sons – take the Ark into battle against the Philistines as a “magic charm”
 - Ark captured; high priest dies; glory departs from Israel
- Typifies Christ:
 - His humiliation
 - The death of our Great High Priest
 - The glory departed from Israel at Christ's death

43 **8. Curses Among the Philistines**

- Ark taken to temple of Dagon
 - Dagon falls on his face before the Ark
 - Dagon stood back in place by Philistines
 - Dagon falls again and is destroyed
 - Philistines get rid of the Ark after this
- Jesus – in Gethsemane – says “I AM HE” and the entire group “fell to the ground before him” (John 18:3-6).
 - Jews rejected Christ
 - Age of the Gentile church (now in much apostasy)
 - Christ returns to the Jews during the Tribulation

44 **9. On the Cart**

- Ark moved on a cart contrary to the Law (2 Samuel 6:3).
 - Shook at threshing floor of Nachom; Uzzah touched ark; died (2 Samuel 6:6,7).
 - Touching prohibited (Numbers 1:51, 4:15)
 - Typifies uncompromising holiness of Christ.
- Ark temporarily housed with Gentile
 - Obed-edom the Gittite – his household blessed.

- Typifies grace of Christ flowing to Gentiles (Acts 15:14).
 - *Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name.*

45 **10. In the City of David**

- The Ark of God is not found again in Jerusalem until God's chosen king – David – had ascended the throne.
 - David fetched ark (2 Samuel 6:12)
 - David pitched Tabernacle and burned offerings to the Lord (6:17)
- Solomon later moves Ark into Temple
 - Picture of Christ's presence in Israel during Millennium
 - Picture of Christ's heavenly ministry