

## There's More to the Story (Ark of the Covenant)

Ark of the covenant: (Exodus 25:10-22). The ark was the most holy item in the tabernacle. It was considered to be the footstool of the heavenly throne and where Yahweh's presence dwelled. It was located behind the veil in the Holy of Holies where only the high priest could enter.

- Items inside the ark (Heb 9:4-5):
  - Containers of manna (Exodus 16)
  - Aaron's rod that budded (Numbers 17)
  - The 10 commandments (Exodus 20)(Exodus 25:16)

All the items point to Jesus:

- Manna. Manna was the bread sent from the Father to the people as they wandered in the wilderness. Jesus is the true Bread out of Heaven that the Father sent and all who feast on Christ will never hunger again and give eternal life. (John 6:31-35)(John 6: 48-58).
- Aaron's rod that budded (Numbers 17:). God was showing that the tribe of Levites was the one He had appointed to be priests. It was to be kept in Ark as a remembrance. God has chosen Jesus to be the true and eternal High Priest!(Hebrews 2:17)(Heb 4:14-16) (Hebrews 6:20)(Hebrews 7:23-28)(Hebrews 8:1-6)(Hebrews 10:10-14)
- The law required perfection (Matthew 5:48). We are unable to meet the righteous requirement of the law, but Christ met the righteous requirement of the law with His perfect sinless life in His active obedience. He fulfilled all righteousness and His righteousness is imputed to all who believe by faith alone (2 Cor 5:21) (Rom 3:21-4:25)(Romans 8:1-4) (Col 2:13-15). The only thing that stood between the perfection required by the law and God was the blood of the sacrifice on the mercy seat.
- The ark of the covenant is in the Holy of Holies and only the high priest can enter and only once a year to atone for the sins of the people (Hebrews 9:7). The mercy seat is the lid of the ark of the covenant made of gold where the blood from the atoning sacrifice was sprinkled by the high priest to atone for sins (Lev 16:15-16) once a year. At the ends of the mercy seat were 2 angels with their wings touching and their faces turned the mercy seat. Above the mercy seat and between the 2 cherubim is where God's presence and glory would dwell, and He would meet with them there (Ex 25:22). All the components of the ark of the covenant (including the angels over the mercy set) and tabernacle/temple point to Jesus including His sacrificial death and glorious resurrection.
- In Romans 3:25 The word propitiation (hilasterion) in this verse is also used in the Septuagint in Exodus 25:22 where it is translated mercy seat. **Christ is our Mercy Seat!**
  - **Romans 3:24-25** *being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; <sup>25</sup> whom God displayed publicly as a <sup>[a]</sup>propitiation (hilastērion) <sup>[b]</sup>in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, <sup>[c]</sup>because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed;*
  - **Exodus 25:22** *There I will meet with you; and from above the mercy seat (hilastērion)from between the two cherubim which are upon the ark of the testimony, I will speak to you about all that I will give you in commandment for the sons of Israel.*
- God promised to meet them above the mercy seat (Ex 25:22). It is through Christ's death on the cross as our true mercy seat where God meets us.

- At the tomb on the resurrection day, the 2 angels were surrounding the true mercy seat (one on each end) where Christ's body had been laid. On the ark of the covenant, the angels were on both ends and the blood from the sacrifice that would atone for the sins of the people was on the mercy seat between them. The angels at the tomb were on each end of the true sacrifice whose perfect spotless blood would take away the sins of all those who believe once for all, Christ our High Priest and our mercy seat.
- **John 20:1-12: (verse 12)** and she \*saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and one at the feet, where the body of Jesus had been lying.
- The high priests in the OT were not allowed to ever sit down because their job was never done as the animal sacrifices could never permanently take away our sins. After Jesus, the true High Priest had completed His work, His death, His resurrection, and His ascension, He sat down at the right hand of God (**Heb 10:11-14**).

*The Ark of the Covenant is pointing to Christ. The manna speaks of Him being the Bread of Life. Aaron's rod speaks to Christ being our High Priest. The 10 commandments represent the holy Law of God that no one could keep perfectly except Christ. He would meet the perfect requirement of the Law so that requirement of the Law and His perfect righteousness would be imputed to all who believe. The mercy seat on the Ark of the Covenant had two angels, one on each end of the mercy seat. The mercy seat was the place where the blood of the sacrifice would be sprinkled to atone for the sins of the people by the high priest. It would be between the mercy seat and the angels on the Ark of the Covenant that God would meet them there. Christ is both our High Priest and our mercy seat and His death upon the cross is where God meets His people.*

There's more to the story!!!