

The Ark of the Covenant **Exodus 25:10-22**

Main Point:

The Ark of the Covenant was the principal place of God's presence among His people where propitiation would be made for their sins. As such, it points us to Jesus, the real propitiation for sin, in whom we must trust.

1. The Ark of the Covenant was a golden box that sat in the Holy of Holies.

2. The Ark of the Covenant was the principal place of God's presence among the people.

3. The Ark of the Covenant was the place of propitiation for the sins of the people.

4. The Ark of the Covenant points us to Jesus, the real propitiation for sin, in whom we must trust.

Numbers 7:89 ⁸⁹ Now when Moses went into the tabernacle of meeting to speak with Him, he heard the voice of One speaking to him from above the mercy seat that *was* on the ark of the Testimony, from between the two cherubim; thus He spoke to him. (NKJV)

Psalms 99:1 The LORD reigns; Let the peoples tremble! He dwells *between* the cherubim; Let the earth be moved! (NKJV)

1 Chronicles 28:2 ² Then King David rose to his feet and said, "Hear me, my brethren and my people: I *had* it in my heart to build a house of rest for the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and for the footstool of our God, and had made preparations to build it. (NKJV)

Exodus 20:1-2 ¹ And God spoke all these words, saying: ² "I *am* the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. (NKJV)

Leviticus 16:11, 14-15 ¹¹ "And Aaron shall bring the bull of the sin offering, which is for himself, and make atonement for himself and for his house, and shall kill the bull as the sin offering which *is* for himself ... ¹⁴ "He shall take some of the blood of the bull and sprinkle *it* with his finger on the mercy seat on the east *side*; and before the mercy seat he shall sprinkle some of the blood with his finger seven times. ¹⁵ "Then he shall kill the goat of the sin offering, which *is* for the people, bring its blood inside the veil, do with that blood as he did with the blood of the bull, and sprinkle it on the mercy seat and before the mercy seat. (NKJV)

Hebrews 9:22 ²² And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission. (NKJV)

Hebrews 9:7-12 ⁷ But into the second part the high priest *went* alone once a year, not without blood, which he offered for himself and *for* the people's sins *committed* in ignorance; ⁸ the Holy Spirit indicating this, that the way into the Holiest of All was not yet made manifest while the first tabernacle was still standing. ⁹ It *was* symbolic for the present time in which both gifts and sacrifices are offered which cannot make him who performed the service perfect in regard to the conscience-- ¹⁰ *concerned* only with foods and drinks, various washings, and fleshly ordinances imposed until the time of reformation. ¹¹ But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. ¹² Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. (NKJV)

1 John 4:10 ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins. (NKJV)

Acts 16:31 ³¹ ... Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved ... (NKJV)

The Ark of the Covenant

The ark of the covenant (Ex. 25:10–22; 37:1–9) was the only piece of furniture in the Most Holy Place; the ark and its contents were kept hidden from view at all times. The ark itself was a wooden chest, overlaid with pure gold, measuring 3.75 feet long, 2.25 feet wide, and 2.25 feet high (1.1 m x 0.7 m x 0.7 m). It contained within it the two stone tablets of the Testimony (the Ten Commandments). The author of Hebrews adds that it also contained “a golden urn holding the manna, and Aaron’s staff that budded” (Heb. 9:4). The ark was not to be touched by human hands. Two wooden poles, overlaid with gold, were used to transport it and were not to be removed from the ark. The mercy seat, or atonement cover, was a solid golden slab that fitted perfectly on top of the ark. The golden cherubim, which were hammered out of the same piece of gold, had wings outstretched over the mercy seat and faces that looked downward (in reverent awe). It was here, from between the cherubim, that God spoke to Moses, the representative of the people of Israel. Ancient iconography often depicts cherubim as having a lion-like body, wings, and a human face.

