

REVELATION: Lesson 109

Chapter 11:19, The History of the Ark of the Covenant

2 October 2020

THE PATTERN FOR THE ARK'S CONSTRUCTION

Exodus 25:10-22

Length	2.5 cubits	45 inches (114 cm)
Width	1.5 cubits	27 inches (57 cm)
Height	1.5 cubits	27 inches (57 cm)

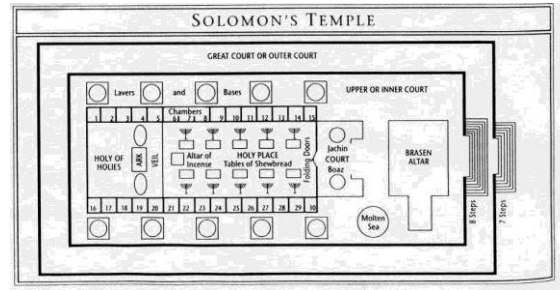
Materials: Shittim wood overlaid with gold

Gold rings on 4 corners.

Staves (poles) to bear the Ark (shittim wood covered with gold)

The Mercy Seat: made of shittim wood, overlaid with gold, **two cherubim** overshadowing it.

Inside: A "golden pot that had manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant" (Heb 9:4).



FIVE NAMES OF THE ARK

1. **The Ark of the Testimony** (Exodus 25:22). The Ark is where God Himself testified of his holiness, of man's sin, of His own deity, and His humanity as the mediator between God and man. The Law inside the Ark testified to the fact that God is holy, and man is not. That is why the Ark was not accessible to the common man.
2. **The Ark of the Covenant** (Numbers 10:33). Inside the Ark were the tables of stone, upon which God offered an agreement (a covenant), which was ratified (agreed upon) by the people.
3. **The Ark of God** (1 Samuel 3:1-4). In the days of the Law, if a man wanted to commune with God, he'd have to go where God dwelt above the mercy seat.
 - a. Today, as Christians, we can commune with God anytime and anywhere (Mat 18:20, Col 1:27).
4. **The Ark of God's strength** (Psalms 132:8). Many mighty miracles and victories were associated with the Ark.
5. **The Holy Ark** (2 Chronicles 35:3, Psalms 80:1-3). The Ark is holy because God sits there.

THE JOURNEYS OF THE ARK

1. The first place within the Promised Land where the Ark was set up was in Shiloh (Joshua 18:1).
2. The Ark was captured by the Philistines, carried to Ashdod (1 Sam 5:1), then to Gath (1 Sam 5:8).
3. David fought the Philistines and took the Ark to Kirjath-Jearim (1 Sam 7:1) where it rested 20 years until Mount Zion was conquered (1 Sam 7:2).
4. David carried the Ark to Jerusalem (2 Sam 6:14). Later it was placed in Solomon's Temple (2 Chron 8:6).
5. Shishak, king of Egypt sacked Jerusalem and took all the treasures from Solomon's Temple. When the treasures were listed, there was no mention of the Ark (1 Kings 14:25-27; 2 Chron 12:9-10).
6. Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon sacked Jerusalem and took all the treasures from Zerubbabel's Temple. Again, no mention of the Ark (2 Kings 24:13, 2 Chron 36:7, 10, 18; Ezra 6:5, Dan 1:2)

THE GLORY OF GOD DEPARTS FROM JERUSALEM (Ezekiel 9:3, 10:3-5, 10:15-19, 11:22-23, 1:4-9, 1:15-16, 1:19-28)

- In Ezekiel 1, God's throne in Heaven comes down, transported by cherubim, and hovers over the Temple.
- The glory of God gets up, goes to the threshold of the house of God, then to the Eastern Gate and out to the Mount of Olives.
- In Ezekiel 10, the cherubim which transported the throne of God down from Heaven meet the cherubim transporting the Ark of the Covenant out of the temple; then it disappears.
 - It is impossible to find the Ark buried anywhere on the Earth because it's not on Earth.
 - The report that "*Jeremiah hid the Ark in a desert cave*" did not come from the Bible. It came from the Apocrypha (2 Maccabees 2:4-8), which is certainly a false report.
 - How do we know (from the Bible) that Jeremiah could not have possibly carried the Ark to the desert to hide it? [READ 1 CHRONICLES 13:1-10] If Jeremiah had touched the Ark, God would have killed him.

THE ARK WENT (Numbers 10:33-36) (see 1 Samuel 4:21, the glory is departed)

- The Bible indicates that the Ark went before the Hebrew people, leading them through the wilderness, without being carried.
 - Evidently, the Ark could have departed from the Temple in Ezekiel 1 and 10 unassisted.
 - When the Ark left Earth, it wasn't seen again until John saw it in Heaven (Rev 11:19).

THE GLORY RETURNS (Ezekiel 43:1-5)

- Ezekiel sees the glory of God return in the same manner that it departed (chpt 1 and 10).
- In the context, this happens after the Second Coming when Jesus Christ is already on Earth.
 - The glory of God returns according to God's covenant promises found inside the Ark.
 - The Hebrews await the return of the Ark and God's glory.
 - Christians await the return of the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 1:11, Zechariah 14:4, 2 Tim 4:8).

THE ARK NO LONGER THE CENTER OF WORSHIP (Jeremiah 3:12-17)

- When the very small remnant of Jews return to Jerusalem, their place of worship, they will no longer emphasize the Ark; they will be coming to see the God whose glory resides upon the Ark (**Ezek 43:2, 4**).
- **Psalm 30:1-7, 19** When the Jews understand that it wasn't the Ark, but it was God who led them through the wilderness, fed them with manna, and gave them water from the Rock, they will repent of their sins with tears and call upon the God whose great glory causes His face to shine.
 - Note that it is the shining of God's glory that links these verses together and lets us know they refer to the same thing.
 - "Shekinah" (*to dwell, to reside*) (not in the Bible) does not communicate this connection.

WHY DID GOD SHOW JOHN THE ARK OF THE COVENANT (Rev 11:19)?

- Things were looking hopeless for John's people. The events that would follow, beginning in chapter 12, may have discouraged John beyond measure.
 - God showed John the Ark to remind Him that the Covenant (inside the Ark) was still valid and that it was safe with Him in Heaven where no power on Earth could disannul it.
 - John would know that God will not break His promise to preserve His people, Israel, and dwell with them in the Land of Promise.
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