



THE SACRED ARK OF THE COVENANT

Reading: Exodus 37:1 - 9

- **Introduction**

- Some 45 days after departing Egypt, Israel make camp at the foot of Mount Sinai.
- They will remain here for approximately a year.
- On Mount Sinai God would give Moses two things: the '*Decalogue*' and the pattern for '*the Tabernacle*.' [Exodus 25:8 - 9].
- Two men, Aholiab and Bezalel would lead the project. [Exodus 35: 30 - 35].
- The Tabernacle would be two sacred chambers and 6 unique pieces of furniture.
- It is the most sacred of those pieces of furniture, the '*Ark of the Covenant*' we now consider.

- **1 The Setting Of The Ark**

- NB. There are actually 3 arks mentioned in the opening books of the Bible.
- Noah's ark, the ark Moses was placed in as a baby and this sacred piece of Tabernacle furniture.

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2 The Names Of The Ark

- **Ark of the Testimony** Exodus 25:22.
- **Ark of the Covenant** Numbers 10:33.
- **The Ark of God** 1 Samuel 3:3.
- **The Ark of the Lord God** 1 Kings 2:26.
- **The Holy Ark** 2 Chronicles 35:3.
- **The Ark of Your Strength** Psalm 132:8.

3 The Structure Of The Ark

- The blueprint for the Ark is given in [Exodus 25:10 - 22] and [37:1 - 9].
- The measurements are in '*cubits*.' A measurement of 18 inches.
- It was 2.5 cubits (45") X 1.5 cubits (27") X 1.5 cubits (27").
- Made of shittim or acacia wood and overlaid with pure gold inside and outside.
- Four gold rings on each side through which two poles of acacia wood overlaid with gold were placed for transportation purposes.
- NB. It was never to be touched by human hands.
- A '*moulding/crown of gold*' around the top prevented the lid (mercy seat) from being dislodged.
- Cherubim on the lid faced each other the tips of their wings touching.
- Inside the Ark was the tablets of the law, a pot of manna and Aaron's rod that miraculously budded [Hebrews 9:4].

4 The Sacredness Of The Ark

- The Ark was the 1st piece of the furniture to be made.
- It was the only piece in the '*Holy of Holies*' behind the veil.
- At the Mercy Seat the '*Shekinah*' cloud would appear.
- The only person allowed in before it was the high priest and only on '*the Day of Atonement*.'
- It was regarded as God's throne of the earth.

5 The Symbolism Of The Ark

- The Ark is a '*type*' of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- It comes from the Greek word '*typo*' meaning '*pattern or figure*.'
- A Type is '*an event, a person or object which by its very nature prefigures/foreshadows some later event, person or object*.'
- The Ark is a type/figure of both the Person and the Work of the Lord Jesus.
- All that the Ark was to Israel in the OT the Lord Jesus is to His people today.

6 Acacia Wood Overlaid With Pure Gold

- A tree native to the Sinai region said to be incorruptible and non decaying.
- This speaks of the 1st of Christ's 2 natures - His humanity. He is fully human and He never sinned.
- Gold is the king of metals which speaks of His other nature - His Deity.
- Chalcedon 451AD. Jesus is '*vera Deus, vera homo*' or truly God and truly Man.

7 The Moulding/Crown Of Gold

- The wicked crowned Him with thorns [Matthew 27:29] but God has crowned Him with '*glory and honour*' [Hebrews 2:9].

8 The Ark's Contents Speak Of Christ

- The Tablets of the Law. '*The law which humanity could not keep deposited within the Ark, a type of the only One who could keep the Law*.' Hugh Magowan. [Matthew 5:17].
- The Pot of Manna. Compare with [John 6:41].
- Aaron's Rod That Budded. A lifeless stick miraculously restored to life. A picture of the resurrection.

9 The Position Of The Ark Speaks Of Christ

- The Tabernacle with the Ark was '*in the midst of the camp*.'
- How many times does NT speak of Jesus being '*in the midst*'?
- Consider: [Luke 2:46], [John 19:18], [John 20:19], [Matthew 18:20], Revelation 1:13], [Zephaniah 3:17].