

THE SACRED ARK OF THE COVENANT

[PART 3]

Reading: 1 Samuel 6:11 - 15 & 19 - 7:2

- **Introduction**

- In [Genesis 6] God gives Noah instructions for building an ark that he and his family might dwell in during the Flood.
- In [Exodus 25] God gives Moses the instructions for another ark whereby God might dwell among His people.
- On the '*mercy seat*' God said that He would dwell among His people.
- What the Ark was to Israel in the OT, the Lord Jesus is to His people in the church age.
- The ark was to be transported by means of it being carried by the poles inserted into its sides.
- It's power was shown to hold back the waters of the river Jordan to facilitate the crossing of Israel into the Promised Land.
- Its power was shown again when the walls of Jericho collapsed.
- Its capture by the Philistines showed what happens when ungodly hands dealt with it.
- Pagan gods cannot stand before it.

1 **The Massacre At Beth Shemesh** 1 Samuel 6

- [Vs 19] when the people of Beth Shemesh took liberties and looked inside the Ark "*the Lord struck them with a great slaughter.*"
- We see the Omnipotence of the God of the Ark on display as well as His Holiness.

- There was no blood between the people of Beth Shemesh and the law inside the Ark when they looked into it.
- Consider: [1 John 1:7], [Leviticus 17:11] and [Revelation 1:5].

2 Uzzah And The Ark 2 Samuel 6

- David intended to bring the Ark back to Jerusalem to be near him.
- He was doing the right thing but the wrong way. [2 Samuel 6:3].
- It was put on a cart and pulled by oxen.
- The oxen stumbled and Uzzah touched the Ark to steady it and was stuck dead.
- NB. The Ark was never to be touch by hand.
- David was doing God's work the Philistine way.
- We must not '**do church**' the world's way.
- Eventually David read the textbook and did it God's way. (that's the way to blessing).

3 The Ark In The Temple 1 Kings 8

- Solomon is now on the throne and he oversees the building of the temple at Jerusalem.
- The Ark is then placed inside the temple behind the veil.
- The '**Shekinah**' cloud of God's glory comes down.
- When we walk in obedience, we experience the blessing of the Lord.

4 The Ark In The Time Of Hezekiah 2 Kings 19

- For some 300 years the Ark remained behind the veil of the temple.
- The Assyrians invade and besiege Jerusalem demanding the godly king Hezekiah surrenders.
- Hezekiah goes into the temple to pray. (See vs 14 - 19).
- He addresses the God who '**dwells between the cherubim**' calling upon Him to save them.
- [Vs 35] deliverance comes in the form of an angel who slays 185,000 soldiers in one night.
- The last OT reference to the ark is in [2 Chronicles 35:3].
- Then it disappears from the biblical stage. Where is it now?
- That's our study next time.

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Whitewell Metropolitan Tabernacle 837-869 Shore Road Belfast BT15 4HS

Tel: 028 9077 7074 Email: info@whitewell.church

www.whitewell.church