

# THE TABERNALE # 11

Exodus 25:10

## THE ARK OF THE COVENANT

### Intro: THE HISTORY OF THE ARK

The Tabernacle was started about 1490 BC	(Exodus 25:1-9)
The Ark was moved to Solomon's Temple about 500 BC	(I Kings 6:19)
The Ark led Israel through the Jordan	(Joshua 6)
The Ark circled the city of Jericho	(Joshua 9)
The Ark was set up at Shiloh	(Joshua 18)
The Ark was taken by Captive by the Philistines	(I Samuel 4)
The Ark was recovered by David – Placed in Solomon's Temple	(I Samuel 5-6)
The Ark was lost when Babylon destroyed Jerusalem - 587 BC	(II Kings 24)

### I. The Commencement of the Tabernacle

- A. When we are going to build a house – we plan and build the entire house
  - 1. Then we go and find furniture "that looks good in the house"
- B. God built a house – He designed the "heart" of the Tabernacle before He built the house!
  - 1. **Exodus 25:8**: God said, "*Let them build ME a sanctuary.*"  
**Verse 10** – "...and they shall make an ark." (Place of safe keeping)
  - 2. The "Ark" was the "heart of the Sanctuary/Tabernacle."
    - a. Man/Flesh always wants to begin with the "outside" (Turn over a new leaf)
    - b. God ALWAYS begins His work with the "Heart."
  - 3. The Heart is the "Center-Piece" of man - Everything centers in and around the "Heart"
    - a. **Matthew 15:18** "...they defile man...."
    - b. **Luke 6:45** "...out of the heart...."
- B. In Scripture - ALL things begin with "God."
  - 1. **John 6:44** - God reaches out to man – not man to God
    - a. **John 12:32** – "...will draw ALL men unto me...." (If I be lifted up)
  - 2. **Romans 5:8** – Christ died for us "while we were yet sinners."
- C. A Building/Tabernacle with "no heart" – Is like a body with no soul or spirit.
  - 1. Herod's Temple in the New Testament is an example: **(See Attachment)**
    - a. It had no ark
    - b. It was beautiful and it "looked good," but had only a "religious system."
    - c. It was that "religion system" that crucified the Lord Jesus.
    - d. **Religion, without Christ, always, in the end, brings forth death**

### Intro: The Ark

- Ark: "A place of Safe Keeping"
  - Noah's Ark – Safe from the storm of judgment (**Genesis 6:14**)
  - Moses' Ark – Moses was placed in "an ark." to save his life (**Exodus 2:3**)
  - Ark of Covenant – Place to keep safe the testimony of God

### I. The Construction of the Ark (**Exodus 25:10**)

- A. Materials
  - 1. Wood – Humanity – He understands all we go through
    - a. Shittim (Acacia) Wood
    - b. It was a very hard and indestructible wood
    - c. Grew plentifully in the Sinai Desert!
      - 1. Jesus Christ was a "root out of dry ground" (**Isaiah 53:2**)

- d. Grew locally – Common to Israelite who was totally familiar with Shittim
  - 1. If God had said, Cedar wood, they would have had to travel to Lebanon
  - 2. If God had said, Oak wood, they would have had to Travel to Palestine
    - a. They could not have identified with those situations
    - b. We could not identify with Jesus Christ .....
- e. If Jesus had come as an Angel – an Archangel – as a mystical being  
**MEN COULD NOT HAVE IDENTIFIED WITH HIM**
- f. Took on "the form of a man." (John 1:14 – Philippians 2:7)
  - 1. He knows our temptations – knows all about us and our weaknesses.
    - a. He understands our tiredness – weakness – hungry – thirst –
    - b. He understands we have only natural abilities –
    - c. Jesus did not "walk through doors" until after his resurrection!

Examples:

- 1. John 4:7-13 -Spoke of Living water (Deity)
  - a. He was sitting by a well – said, "Give me to drink." (man)
- 2. Mark 4:35-41 -Bade waves to be still (Deity)
  - a. He was tired and asleep (as a man) before they called Him

B. Gold – Deity

C. Crown – King of Kings

- a. Came from the line of King David (Luke 1:32)
  - b. Born a King (Matthew 2:2)
  - c. Mocked by unbelievers as a King (Matthew 27:29)
  - d. Declared to be King by Pilate (Matthew 27:37)
  - e. Coming back as King (Revelation 19:16)
  - f. Rule as King (Luke 1:33)

D. The Staves!

- 1. God gave instructions how to move the Ark (Numbers 4:15 – Numbers 7:9)
- 2. Philistines used a "worldly way" – a new cart (I Samuel 6:7-8)
- 3. David – a believer – copied the world - (I Sam 6:7-8).
- 4. God struck Uzzah dead for touching the Ark (II Samuel 6:6-7)
- 5. Christians, or the church, are not to "touch God's ways"**

E. GOD'S WAYS ARE "NON-NEGOTIABLE!"

- 1. I Timothy 2:5

*"There is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus"*

Christ went before a "Holy God" who was "all God and no part man," and, "as a pure, sinless man;" was our Mediator, and, He presented His blood, (Hebrews 9:12) and "settled our debt."

Romans 3:24-26

*"Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God: To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: (sinless) that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus."*

**THE ARK IS A CLEAR, PURE PICTURE OF JESUS CHRIST**

**Christ, the God/Man, was/is able to  
"put his hand upon us both."**

**Job 9:32-33**

# The Second Temple



**The Temple the Babylonians destroyed is rebuilt, but it is never the same – the Ark of the Covenant is missing.**

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The rebuilding of the Temple, which had begun under Cyrus when the Persians first took over the Babylonian empire, and which was then interrupted for 18 years, resumed with blessing of Darius II, the Persian king whom we believe to be the son of Esther.

The work is completed in 350 BCE and the Temple is re-dedicated. But it is not the same.

The intense spirituality of the First Temple cannot be compared to the Second. The constant open miracles are gone. Prophecy will also disappear during the early years of the second Temple. The Ark of the Covenant is gone—and although there is a Holy of Holies, it stands empty.

The Ark—this special gold-lined cedar chest which had contained the tablets of the Ten Commandments—was the place where the *Shechina*, the Presence of God, descended from heaven between the outstretched wings of the two golden cherubs. What happened to it? The Talmud talks about it and relates two opinions.(1) One opinion says the Babylonians took it into captivity. The other opinion says that it was hidden by King Josiah who had anticipated the impending invasion and destruction. There's a well-known story told in the Talmud of a *cohen*, a priest, who finds a loose stone on the Temple Mount and realizes that's where the Ark is hidden. On the way to tell others about it, he dies.(2) The point of the story is that the Ark is not meant to be found. Not yet.