

The Ark of the Covenant



THE ARK OF THE COVENANT Exod 25:10-22 "

And they shall make an ark of acacia wood; two and a half cubits shall be its length, a cubit and a half its width, and a cubit and a half its height."And you shall overlay it with pure gold, inside and out you shall overlay it, and shall make on it a molding of gold all around."You shall cast four rings of gold for it, and put them in its four corners; two rings shall be on one side, and two rings on the other side."And you shall make poles of acacia wood, and overlay them with gold."You shall put the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark, that the ark may be carried by them."The poles shall be in the rings of the ark; they shall not be taken from it."And you shall put into the ark the Testimony which I will give you."You shall make a mercy seat of pure gold; two and a half cubits shall be its length and a cubit and a half its width."And you shall make two cherubim of gold; of hammered work you shall make them at the two ends of the mercy seat."Make one cherub at one end, and the other cherub at the other end; you shall make the cherubim at the two ends of it of one piece with the mercy seat."And the cherubim shall stretch out their wings above, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and they shall face one another; the faces of the cherubim shall be toward the mercy seat."You shall put the mercy seat on top of the ark, and in the ark you shall put the Testimony that I will give you."And there I will meet with you, and I will speak with you from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are on the ark of the Testimony, about everything which I will give you in commandment to the children of Israel.(NKJ)

The Tabernacle that the Lord instructed Moses to build was a picture or an illustration of New Testament truth. We know well the teaching of our Lord Jesus on the road to Damascus, "beginning at Moses and the prophets He showed them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself".

There can be no doubt of the value of this portion of scripture. Just think of how much of the Bible God devoted to the "types" of His dear Son. The sermon on the mount occupies 3 pages of our Bible. The tabernacle takes much of the room of 3 chapters in our Bibles. Just read the book of Hebrews and study the descriptions concerning the system of sacrificial worship given to Israel, there can be no mistake that the writer knew of the spiritual correspondence with the literal Levitical offerings.

In this opening study of the ancient tabernacle we will attempt to relate the truths given to the truths found in the New Testament. The Ark was the first piece Moses was instructed to make. How anxious our God is to meet with man, He declared He would meet Moses

between the cherubim covering the Mercy Seat, and we read over and over that it was so, God came down to meet with His poor sin sick people and He "tabernacled among them."

On what ground was Christ accepted as our forerunner? The Ark is a picture of the person of Christ. What beauty there is in that Man from Heaven, the beauty of Holiness. Pure gold with beaten work all from one piece of gold. The Ark was overlaid with-in and with-out with pure gold. The only Person who could truly estimate worth of the Son was the Father. The beauty of the ark was not seen by every passerby, when the nation would travel the average person could not see the ark. The priest would walk backwards through the Veil and cover the ark lest they die! Not so with God He had the Ark always before him!

1. Ark - contained holy law - no hope for me there - "all come short of the glory of God and every mouth is stopped." = condemned to DEATH Do I know that I am bad enough to be damned? I am guilty before God. Where is your hope? "It's the best I could do?" Can I have hope based on the law?

2. Mercy Seat - cover of ark with cherubim = represents justification by the covering of sin Propitiation = Christ set forth to be a covering or complete payment for the "sin of the world." God provided sacrifice to completely fulfill penalty of sin.

Where do the cherubim look? They look down on the mercy seat at the blood and the site where God meets His own. This teaches: Christ accepted on my behalf in the presence of God! The pure gold represents the most valuable possible symbol to show the price to unlock the gate of heaven to us.

The veil reminds us of God previously hid in heaven, yet in complete access to believers today. The ark/mercy seat point to our forerunner, the Lord Jesus Christ. This is based on the propitiation for our sins:

Rom 3:25 25 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;

- I Jn 4:10 10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.