

Evening Worship April 30, 2017
“The Ark of the Covenant” Exodus 25:9-16

I. The Ark represents the presence of God –

1. It was the focal point of God’s sanctuary –

A. The Sanctuary is spoke of first in general terms –

According to all that I show you, that is, the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furnishings, just so you shall make it. Exodus 25:9

The “design... of both the sanctuary and its appurtenances will be given ... It is a plan from Yahweh; it is not the brainchild of Moses or Bezalel, nor of the wise men of Israel, nor the men of ability who had constructed the mighty projects of Pharaoh. Nor does it copy the architecture of the mighty Imhotep of Egypt. The plan reflected the heavenly sanctuary; it was not an optional blueprint, but “thus you shall make it” E. Carpenter

“The only building ever constructed upon this earth which was perfect from its very beginning and outset in every detail, and never again needed attention, addition or alteration, was the tabernacle in the wilderness.

M.R. DeHann

2. God’s dwelling with Israel would be in the tabernacle –

⁸ And let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them. Exodus 25:8

If the Sanctuary was the perfect building, it seems to me the Ark is the most perfect and glorious box ... While the sanctuary was the dwelling place of God, the Ark was the precise place where Moses would meet with God! God would speak with His people from above the Ark!

3. Today, God’s people are His dwelling place is the Church, His people; we are the dwelling place of God –

¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God” 1 Corinthians 6:20

¹⁹ Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰ having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, ²¹ in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the

Lord, ²² in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit. Ephesians 2:19-22

4. Before we (the Church) became the dwelling place of God, Christ was –

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14

The Greek word σκηνώω / Skano means Jesus tabernacled among us, His body was the dwelling place of God!

⁹ For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily” Colossians 2:9

5. Before Him, the Temple in Jerusalem –

“I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. ² Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. ³ And one cried to another and said:”

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; Isaiah 6:1-3

6. The Highlight of New Heaven and New Earth, in our futures will be God’s dwelling with us, with His comforting presence –

“Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.” Revelation 21:3-4

God wants to be with us, to save and comfort us, the only thing that hinders this comforting presence is our sin!

II. The Ark also shows us the Heavenly Holiness of God

“... ¹¹ 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.

¹² 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.

¹³ And you shall make poles of acacia wood, and overlay them with gold. ¹⁴ You shall put the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark, that the ark may be carried by them. ¹⁵ The poles shall be in the rings of the ark; they shall not be taken from it. ¹⁶ And you shall put into the ark the Testimony which I will give you.” Exodus 25:11-16

What aspects of the Ark, display it and God's holiness –

1. Gold shows great value - :11; :13
2. The rings at the four corners and the poles permanently in the rings, :14 show us its holiness, because they were there for carrying the Ark, the Ark was not to be touched by sinful human hands –

⁹ And when they came to Chidon's threshing floor, Uzza put out his hand to hold the ark, for the oxen stumbled. ¹⁰ Then the anger of the LORD was aroused against Uzza, and He struck him because he put his hand to the ark; and he died there before God. 1 Chronicles 13:9-10

“The shocking story of Uzzah's sudden death shows how holy the ark was, and thus it teaches us not to trifle with the holy things of God. Everything associated with God is holy: his name, his Word, and his worship. We must be very careful not to treat such holy things carelessly. We are in the presence of God. We should honor his name. We should hear his Word. We should revere his worship.” Philip G. Ryken

3. The atonement cover, or mercy seat was also part of the Ark, it also shows us God's Holiness

Then put in the ark the Testimony, which I will give you. Make an atonement cover of pure gold—two and a half cubits long and a cubit and a half wide. And make two cherubim out of hammered gold at the ends of the cover. Make one cherub on one end and the second cherub on the other; make the cherubim of one piece with the cover, at the two ends. The two cherubim are to have their wings spread upward, overshadowing the cover with them. The cherubim are to face each other, looking toward the cover. Place the cover on top of the ark and put in the ark the Testimony, which I will give you. There, above the cover between the two cherubim that are over the ark of the Testimony, I will meet with you and give you all my commands for the Israelites. (Exodus. 25:16–22)

- A. The gold cherubim on top of it are the same that guarded the tree of life after Adam sinned –

²⁴ So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life. Genesis 3:24

B. The guard the Holy things of God from anything sinful!

- C. They forever attend the throne of God and are fit to do such

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And in the midst of the throne, and around the throne, were four living creatures full of eyes in front and in back. ⁷ The first living creature was

like a lion, the second living creature like a calf, the third living creature had a face like a man, and the fourth living creature was like a flying eagle. ⁸ The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying:

“Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!” Rev 4:6-8 They not only guard God's holiness but they also constantly declare it! An invitation to those who would delight in God's glory, a warning to SINNERS!

III. It is called the ark of the testimony, representing the Promises, Power and Provision of God – Place the cover on top of the ark and put in the ark the Testimony – Exodus 25:16

1. It is called such because it contained the Ten Commandments -

“...the tables of the law were carefully preserved in the ark for the purpose, to teach us to make much of the word of God, and to hide it in our hearts, in our innermost thoughts, as the ark was placed in the holy of holies.” Matthew Henry

2. Hebrews tells us it also carried Aaron's rod that budded and the golden pot containing a portion of manna -

“the ark of the covenant overlaid on all sides with gold, in which were the golden pot that had the manna, Aaron's rod that budded, and the tablets of the covenant;” Hebrews 9:4

- A. Tables of the Law represented God's Promises to those who kept the Law, of course none of us have, but Christ did –

¹⁹ For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us—by me, Silvanus, and Timothy—was not Yes and No, but in Him was Yes. ²⁰ For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us. 2 Corinthians 1:19-20

- B. God's rod that budded represented God's LIFE giving POWER! ²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life.” John 11:25

- C. The Golden Pot of Manna represents God's gracious PROVISION, especially in Christ – John 6:35

And Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.” John 6:35

Arnold Brevick