

Christ Pictured in the Tabernacle – 2

The Ark of the Covenant

Sermon 23 in the Hebrews Series

Hebrews 9:1-15

I. The Ark in the New Testament

Hebrews 1:4

Revelation 11:19

Two things are in view here.

1. Judgment – for the world
2. Eternal rest – for the saints.

Jericho – Judgment and Rest.

What does the Ark symbolize? God is with His people!

Everything is better the New Covenant.

He is with His people – wherever we are – in His churches – not in one central location but throughout all the world.

- Christ told the woman at the well that neither in her mountain nor in Jerusalem would people gather to worship.
- The time is coming and now is when the people of God would worship in SPIRIT and in TRUTH.

And it all culminates in the eternal state. **Revelation 21:3, 22**

Jeremiah 3:14-17

Here is Jeremiah's prophecy – in symbolic language as prophecies always are – but note how similar this is to the later prophecy of Jeremiah 31 quoted in Hebrews 8.

II. The Making of the Ark Itself

III. A Brief History of the Ark

1. A year after leaving Egypt, Israel failed to enter the Promised Land. 40 years of wandering. Num. 14:44

2. Whenever the cloud or pillar moved over the next 40 years, the tabernacle and the Ark would move. At the end of the wandering, as they entered the land under Joshua, the Jordan river parted as the priests bearing the Ark stepped into the river.
3. The Ark is next referenced – as it is carried around the city of Jericho.
4. The ark did not go with them to the battle of Ai – which was a resounding defeat for
5. In the Book of Judges – and only mentioned once – In chapter 20 in the horrible account of Israel battling Benjamin.
6. The ark was taken to war against the Philistines – but Israel was defeated and the ark captured. 1 Sam. 3-7.
7. The ark is only mentioned one time during the reign of King Saul, 1 Sam. 14, in relation to war, and casting lots.
8. David's great desire was to bring the ark to Jerusalem and build a permanent place for the Ark. The first attempt ended in disaster with the death of Uzza, for God's prescribed method was not followed.
9. The ark was put into the Temple built by Solomon **I Kings 8:1-11**

IV. What Happened to the Ark?

V. Christ is the True Ark

Christ is Emmanuel – God with us.

The Ark was the symbol of God's presence with His people.
Christ is God manifest in the flesh.

John 1:14-18

The law was given by Moses – but the law could not save.
Christ is full of grace and truth – and He does save.
He tabernacled among us.