Christ In The Old Testament "Our Greatest Treasure" Exodus 35:12; 25:10-34; 26:31-34

Introduction:

- 1. As We Continue Our Search:
 - On Sunday Nights:
 - For Christ In The Old Testament:
 - Last Week We Started To Find Him:
 - In The Structure Of The Tabernacle:
 - That God Commanded Moses & The Children Of Israel To Build:
 - In The Wilderness!

- 2. And God Himself:
 - Defined The Purpose:
 - For The Tabernacle:
 - In Exodus 29:42-46:
 - Where The Lord Tells Moses:
 - That The Tabernacle Is Where He Will:
 - Meet With His People!
 - Sanctify His People! And:
 - Dwell With His People:
 - So That His People:
 - Might Know Him!
- 3. But God Knew That:
 - The Best Way For His People To Know Him:
 - Is To Know Him:
 - Through His Son Jesus Christ!
 - And That Is Why So Much Of The Tabernacle:
 - Points Us To Christ In One Way Or Another!
 - Even As J. Vernon Mcgee Once Wrote:
 - "The Tabernacle Is The Finest Portrait Of Christ And Of His Redemption That There Is In The Old Testament! God Sent A Picture Before He Sent The Person! The Tabernacle Is God's Picture Book For Babes In Christ!"
 - And So As We Learn More About:
 - The Tabernacle We Are Really:
 - Learning More About:
 - Our Savior, The Lord Jesus Christ!
- 4. And The Way We Are Going To Do This:
 - Is To Follow The Outline:
 - Given To Us Already:
 - In Exodus So Please Turn First With Me To:
 - Exodus 35 Where Moses Gives The Lord's Instructions:
 - To His People In 35:4-20!
 - -"And Moses spake unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying, This is the thing which the LORD commanded, saying, / Take ye from among you an offering unto the LORD: whosoever is of a willing heart, let him bring it, an offering of the LORD; gold, and silver, and brass, / And blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine linen, and goats' hair, / And rams' skins dyed red, and badgers' skins, and shittim wood, / And oil for the light, and spices for anointing oil, and for the sweet incense, / And onyx stones, and stones to be set for the ephod, and for the breastplate. / And every wise hearted among you shall come, and make all that the LORD hath commanded; / The tabernacle, his tent, and his covering, his taches, and his boards, his bars, his pillars, and his sockets, / The ark, and the staves thereof, with the mercy seat, and the vail of the covering, / The table, and his staves, and all his vessels, and the shewbread, / The candlestick also for the light, and his furniture, and his lamps, with the oil for the light, / And the incense altar, and his staves, and the anointing oil, and the sweet incense, and the hanging for the door at the entering in of the tabernacle, / The altar of burnt offering, with his brasen grate, his staves, and all his vessels, the laver and his foot, / The hangings of the court, his pillars, and their sockets, and the hanging for the door of the court, / The pins of the tabernacle, and the pins of the court, and their cords, / The cloths of service, to do service in the holy place, the holy garments for Aaron the priest, and the garments of his sons, to minister in the priest's office. / And all the congregation of the children of Israel departed from the presence of Moses!"

- So Starting In 35:11 Moses Gives Us:
 - A Brief Outline:
 - For The Construction & Furnishing Of:
 - The Tabernacle!
- Last Week We Learned:
 - From 35:11 About:
 - "The Tabernacle, His Tent, And His Covering, His Taches, And His Boards, His Bars, His Pillars, And His Sockets!"
 - And How They All Point To & Teach Us More:
 - About Christ!
- Tonight We Will Learn:
 - From 35:12 About:
 - "The Ark, And The Staves Thereof, With The Mercy Seat, And The Vail Of The Covering!"
 - And How They Too Point To & Teach Us More:
 - About Christ!
- And So This Is The Outline:
 - From 35:11-19 That We Are Going To Follow:
 - Through The Rest Of Our Series:
 - On Christ In The Tabernacle!
- 5. But The Entire Tabernacle:
 - Was Built Around:
 - The Main Article That We Will Look At Tonight:
 - Which Is "The Ark!"
 - Also Called The "Ark Of The Covenant" Or The "Ark Of The Testimony" Of God!
 - In Fact When The Lord Called On Moses:
 - To Build The Tabernacle:
 - This Was The Very First Thing:
 - He Told Him To Build!
 - And So Lets Turn Now In Our Bibles Back To:
 - Exodus 25 Where God Gave The Instructions For:
 - The Ark, The Staves, & The Mercy Seat!
 - And In 25:10-15 The Lord Tells Moses:
 - "And they shall make an ark of shittim wood: two cubits and a half shall be the length thereof, and a cubit and a half the breadth thereof, and a cubit and a half the height thereof. / And thou shalt overlay it with pure gold, within and without shalt thou overlay it, and shalt make upon it a crown of gold round about. / And thou shalt cast four rings of gold for it, and put them in the four corners thereof; and two rings shall be in the one side of it, and two rings in the other side of it. / And thou shalt make staves of shittim wood, and overlay them with gold. / And thou shalt put the staves into the rings by the sides of the ark, that the ark may be borne with them. / The staves shall be in the rings of the ark: they shall not be taken from it!"
- 6. Now When You Think About:
 - What God Just Told Moses To Build:
 - As The First & Main Object:
 - Of The Tabernacle You Come To The Realization That:
 - God Told Moses To Build:
 - A Box!
 - You Can Look On The Back Of Your Message Guide:
 - For An Artists Rendition:
 - Of The Box (The Ark) & Its Lid (The Mercy Seat) & Its Staves (Poles)!
 - Now It Was A Fancy Box:
 - Being Gold-Plated And All!
 - But It Was Still Just A Simple Box:
 - About 3.75 L x 2.25 D x 2.25 H!
- 7. But The More We Learn:
 - About That Box:
 - We Discover That:
 - The Box Was A *Treasure* Box / A *Treasure Chest!*
 - Not Just Because Of Its Construction!

- And Not Because Of Its Contents!
 It Was A Treasure Chest:
 Because It Is Another Picture Of:
 The Greatest Treasure:
 - In All Of This World!
 - Jesus Christ!
- And Tonight As We Learn More About:
 - This Box I Want You To Grow In Your:
 - Understanding & Appreciation Of This Truth!
 - That Jesus Christ Is Your Greatest Treasure!
- * And The First Reason Is Because:
- 1. Christ Possesses All We Lack!
 - Because Christ Possesses All We Need!
 - And We Can See This:
 - In The *Construction* Of The Ark:
 - That We Just Read In 25:10-15!
 - Because The Ark:
 - Is Where God's Entire Purpose:
 - For The Tabernacle:
 - Was To Be Fulfilled!
 - **IE:** Just A Couple Of Hours Drive From Here Is A Place Where If You Had Access To It Could Take Care Of All The Financial Needs You Have Along With Everyone In This Church Along With Everyone In Your Family And Then Some! I'm Talking About Fort Knox, Kentucky Where The United States Bullion Depository Sits! And In That Fortified Vault There Is Roughly 147 Million Troy Ounces Of Gold Or Over \$270 Billion Worth Of Gold!
 - Now Imagine What Stacks Of Gold Bars Might Look Like! With Their Golden Glint And Luster Reflecting From The Lights Inside! I'm Sure It Is A Stunning Sight!
 - Well The One Whom The Golden Ark Is A Picture Of:
 - Outshines It All!
 - Because The Ark Reveals To Us In Human Terms The Heavenly Nature Of Christ!
 - In 25:10 The Shittim Or Acacia Wood:
 - Used To Built The Ark:
 - Points To The *Greatness* Of Christ:
 - As God! Because As We Learned Last Week Acacia Wood:
 - Was Known To Be One Of The Most Durable Woods:
 - Available To The Children Of Israel!
 - And Though The Wood:
 - May Also Point Us To:
 - The Human Nature Of Christ:
 - It Reveals The Best:
 - Of That Nature!
 - Even As God Originally:
 - Created Us To Be!
 - In 25:11 The Gold Used To Overlay The Ark:
 - Points Us To The *Glory* Of Christ:
 - And His Beauty & Purity As God!
 - A Sinless Savior:
 - Whose Glory Was Only Veiled For A Time:
 - By His Body / Flesh!
 - Also In 25:11 The Gold Used:
 - To Form The "Crown Molding" Along The Top Edge Of The Ark:
 - Points Us To The Grandeur Of Christ:
 - And His Majesty:
 - As The King Of Kings And The Lord Of Lords!
 - Though The Ark:
 - Was Just A Box:

- It Was To Be The Finest Box:

- In Materials & Craftsmanship!

- Fit For A King!

- Then In 25:12-15 The Golden Rings & Staves / Poles:
 - Used To Carry The Ark:
 - From Place To Place:
 - By The Priests!
 - They Point us To The *Grace* Of Christ:
 - And His Outreach:
 - To Us In This World!
 - In One Sense:
 - Those Poles Were Like:
 - The Outstretched Arms Of God:
 - To Reveal His Presence & His Power!
- And All Of These Impressive Features:
 - Possessed By The Ark:
 - Remind Us Of All That We Lack:
 - As Sinners In This World!
 - In Ourselves & In Our Flesh:
 - Apart From The Lord:
 - We Possess:
 - No True Greatness!
 - No True Glory!
 - No True Grandeur! And:
 - No True Grace!
 - And Because We Lack These Things:
 - We Have No Right To:
 - Heaven The Eternal Home Of God:
 - Even As The Children Of Israel:
 - Had No Right To Enter Into The Holy Of Holies:
 - The Home Of The Ark!
 - But All That We Lack & All That We Need:
 - Jesus Christ Possesses Fully:
 - In Himself!
 - And This Is Why He Is Portrayed:
 - In The Tabernacle As A Treasure Chest!
 - Because He Is Our Greatest Treasure!
 - Is He Yours?
- * The Second Reason Why Christ Is Such A Valuable Treasure Is Because:
 - Not Only Does He *Possess* All We Lack! Also:
- 2. Christ Provides All We Lack!
 - And Provides All We Need!
 - And We Can See This:
 - In The *Contents* Of The Ark:
 - That Are Referred To In 25:16!
 - God Tells Moses:
 - "And thou shalt put into the ark the testimony which I shall give thee!"
 - IE: From Time To Time You Might Hear About An Old Shipwreck Being Found By Treasure Hunters Like The One Ed Told Me About Last Week The S.S. Central America That Sank In A Hurricane Off The Coast Of South Carolina In 1857 Loaded With Gold From The California Gold Rush! When The Wreckage Was Discovered In 1988, They Started The Painstaking Process Of Recovering Over \$50 Million Of Gold Including More Than 3,000 Gold Coins & Bars! Now What Could You Do With That Much Gold? This Is What The Investors Of The Expedition Wondered! But Only In 2014 About 25 Years Later Did They Ever See Any Return On Their Investment! And Most Of That Was Spent On Legal Fees & Bank Loans!
 - Praise The Lord We Have An Altogether Different Kind Of Treasure In Christ!
 - Because Not Only Is He A *Treasure* Himself Like The Ark He Is A *Treasury*:

- Of The Infinite Riches Of God!
- And When You Trust In Him:
 - You Are Guaranteed A Return On Your Investment Of Faith!
- Because As Colossians 2:3 Tells Us:
 - "In Him Are Hid All The Treasures Of Wisdom And Knowledge!"
- There Were Three Things That Were To Be Preserved In The Ark That Were Treasures:
 - In And Of Themselves!
 - And We Find All Of Them In:
 - Hebrews 9:4 Including "The Golden Pot That Had Manna, And Aaron's Rod That Budded, And The Tables Of The Covenant!"
- So The First Objects:
 - That Were Put Into The Ark Were:
- The Tables Of The Covenant!
 - Which Were The Two Tablets Of Stone:
 - On Which Were Engraved:
 - The Ten Commandments Exodus 20!
 - These Tablets Of God's Words:
 - Were Placed In The Ark!
 - Now Those Two Tablets:
 - Didn't Just Reveal:
 - The Commands Of God!
 - They Revealed The True Character Of God!
 - And So They Also Reveal To Us:
 - The *Primary Service* Of Christ:
 - Which Was In Him As Well!
 - Deep In His Own Heart!
 - Because The Primary Service Of Christ:
 - Was Always The Word Of God!
 - After All:
 - Jesus Christ Is The One Who:
 - Ordained Those Words:
 - Inscribed On Those Tablets!
 - And Then He Became The Only One Who:
 - Obeyed Those Words:
 - In Their Entirety!
 - And That Is What Makes Him:
 - Our Greatest Treasure!
 - He Provides All That We Lack And:
 - All That We Need:
 - To Know & Serve God!
 - He Provided His Complete Obedience:
 - So That It Might Be Applied:
 - To Our Account By God!
 - Then Also:
- The Golden Pot Of Manna:
 - Was Placed In The Ark!
 - This Is What We Find In Exodus 16:32-34!
 - The Same Manna:
 - That God Used To Sustain His People In The Wilderness:
 - For 40 Years!
 - The Same Manna:
 - That Was Also A Type Of Christ!
 - But This Golden Pot Of Manna Further Reveals To Us:
 - The *Primary Sustenance* of Christ:
 - Which Was In Him As Well!
 - Also Deep In His Heart!
 - Because The Primary Sustenance Of Christ:
 - Was The Will & Work Of His Father!

- Remember This From John 4?
- God's Will & God's Work:
 - Was Jesus "Meat" All Through His Life!
 - Until He Perfectly Fulfilled His Will & Finished His Work:
 - So That We Might Be Saved From Our Sin!
- And This Too Is What Makes Christ:
 - Our Greatest Treasure!
 - He Provides All That We Lack And:
 - All That We Need:
 - To Know & Be Sustained By God!
 - He Provides His Complete Work Of Redemption:
 - So That Now You Can Live For:
 - The Will & Work Of God Too!

- Then Also:
- Aaron's Rod That Budded:
 - Was Placed In The Ark!
 - This Is What We Find In Numbers 17:8-11!
 - This Was The Rod That God Used:
 - To Confirm Aaron As His Choice To Be His Priest!
 - Now Even Though Jesus Christ:
 - Is Priest After The Order Of Melchizedek:
 - Aaron's Rod Still Reveals To Us:
 - The *Primary Security* Of Christ:
 - Which Was In Him & His Heart As Well!
 - The Security Of Christ:
 - While He Was On This Earth:
 - Was The Knowledge Of His Father's Wisdom & Choice:
 - Of Him!
 - And Through Christ's Security:
 - We Are Now Secure!
 - Because We Were Chosen In Christ:
 - Even Before The Foundation Of The World! (Ephesians 1:4)
- Now Eventually:
 - All Of The Contents Of The Ark:
 - As Well As The Ark Itself:
 - Went Missing!
 - The Last Time The Ark's Presence Is Mentioned Is In:
 - 2 Chronicles 35:3 During The Reign Of Josiah!
 - But I Think There's A Type In This Too!
 - No More Do We Need The Reminders:
 - Of Those Things Placed In The Ark!
 - Because Christ Himself And:
 - Christ Alone:
 - Provides All That We Lack & All That We Need!
 - The Lord Jesus Christ:
 - Is The One Who:
 - Secures Us!
 - Sustains Us! And:
 - Serves Us Still!
 - So That We Might Know The Lord!
 - Is He Your Greatest Treasure?
 - How Can You Tell?
 - Do You Spend Time With Him?
 - Word / Prayer / Fellowship?
- * The Third Reason Why Christ Is Our Greatest Treasure Is Because:
 - Not Only Does He Possess All We Lack!
 - Not Only Does He Provide All We Need! Also:

3. Christ Performs All We Lack!

- As Well And We Can See This:
 - In The *Covering* Of The Ark:
 - That Is Referred To In 25:17-22!
 - Which Gives Us The Details For:
 - The Mercy Seat Which Matches Perfectly The Opening Of The Ark!
 - "And thou shalt make a mercy seat of pure gold: two cubits and a half shall be the length thereof, and a cubit and a half the breadth thereof. / And thou shalt make two cherubims of gold, of beaten work shalt thou make them, in the two ends of the mercy seat. / And make one cherub on the one end, and the other cherub on the other end: even of the mercy seat shall ye make the cherubims on the two ends thereof. / And the cherubims shall stretch forth their wings on high, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and their faces shall look one to another; toward the mercy seat shall the faces of the cherubims be. / And thou shalt put the mercy seat above upon the ark; and in the ark thou shalt put the testimony that I shall give thee. / And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubims which are upon the ark of the testimony, of all things which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel!" Now:
- The Nature Of The Mercy Seat:
 - Is What Made It So Valuable!
 - Not Just How It Was Made:
 - With Gold & Cherubims!
 - But Why!
 - Because *Just Above* The Mercy Seat:
 - Is Where God Would:
 - Meet With His People!
 - Commune With His People! And Even:
 - Appear Before His People!
 - Leviticus 16:2 "I Will Appear In The Cloud Upon The Mercy Seat!"
 - And Just Upon The Mercy Seat:
 - Is Where The Priests Of God:
 - Would Sprinkle Blood:
 - To Atone For The Sins Of His People Once A Year:
 - On The Day Of Atonement!
 - And Isn't This What Jesus Came To Do?
 - He Came To Pay The Price Of Atonement:
 - The Price Of Ransom:
 - With His Own Blood!
 - So That If You Just Believe & Trust In Him:
 - You Can Have Access To & Assurance From God!
 - **IE:** It Was Reported In 1996 That The Most Expensive Ransom For A Kidnaping Was Ever Paid! At Age 32 Victor Li Who Was The Son Of A Chinese Billionaire Was Captured By A Notorious Criminal "Big Spender" Who Demanded \$135 Million For Victor's Release! And He Got It! The Next Day Victor Li Was Released But "Big Spender" Never Got To Spend Much Of His Money! He Was Arrested & Then Executed Just 2 Years Later!
 - Well The News Got It All Wrong!
 - The Greatest & Most Expensive Ransom:
 - Was Not \$135 Million!
 - It Was The "Precious Blood Of Christ, As Of A Lamb Without Blemish And Without Spot!"
 - The Nature Of The Mercy Seat:
 - Points Us To:
 - The Infinite Nature Of Christ:
 - Who Alone Could "Give His Life A Ransom For Many!" (Mark 10:45) But What Was:
- The Need For The Mercy Seat?
 - Well The Need For The Mercy Seat:
 - Is Shown To Us:
 - Through The *Curtain* Of The Ark!
 - Or The Vail That Separated The Holiest Place Of The Tabernacle:

- From The Rest Of The Tabernacle!
- In 26:31-34 The Instructions For The Vail Are Given:
 - "And thou shalt make a vail of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen of cunning work: with cherubims shall it be made: / And thou shalt hang it upon four pillars of shittim wood overlaid with gold: their hooks shall be of gold, upon the four sockets of silver. / And thou shalt hang up the vail under the taches, that thou mayest bring in thither within the vail the ark of the testimony: and the vail shall divide unto you between the holy place and the most holy. / And thou shalt put the mercy seat upon the ark of the testimony in the most holy place!"
- The Vail Was Put In Its Place:
 - To Separate Man From God And:
 - To Separate God From Man:
 - And Our Sin!
- And So No Man:
 - Was Allowed Into The Presence Of God:
 - Above The Ark:
 - Without His Mercy!
 - After All The Contents Within The Ark:
 - Were Constantly:
 - Disobeyed & Rejected & Ignored!
 - The People Kept Wanting To Go Their Own Way:
 - Instead Of God's Way!
- In Hebrews 10:20 Jesus' Own Human Flesh:
 - Is Referred To As "The Veil!"
 - It Was What Hid The Glory Of Christ's Divine Nature:
 - From The Eyes Of Sinful Men!
 - But What Happened:
 - When Jesus Died On The Cross?
 - And His Own Flesh Was Torn:
 - By The Whip & Nails?
 - According To Mark 15:37-38:
 - "And Jesus cried with a loud voice, and gave up the ghost. / And the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom!"
- And This Proves That:
 - Jesus Christ Performed:
 - All That We Needed And:
 - Provided All That We Lacked!
 - "Who His Own Self Bare Our Sins In His Own Body On The Tree!" (1 Peter 2:24)
 - And He Did All This:
 - So That We Might Have:
 - Access To God & Assurance From God:
 - Through Faith Alone:
 - In Christ!

Conclusion:

- . And This Is Why:
 - Jesus Christ Can Be & Ought To Be:
 - Your Greatest Treasure!
 - Today & Every Day!
 - The Ark Of God:
 - Reminds Us That:
 - Jesus Possesses All You Need!
 - The Contents Of The Ark:
 - Remind Us That:
 - Jesus Provides All You Need! And:
 - The Vail Before The Ark And:
 - The Mercy Seat Above The Ark:
 - Reminds Us That:

- Jesus Has Performed:
 - All You Need!
- So That You Might:
 - Know God! And:
- So That God Himself Might:
 - Meet With You!

 - Sanctify You! And:Dwell With You Forever!
- Is Christ **Your** Greatest Treasure?

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