

- 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!

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:

1. 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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