

THE ARK OF THE COVENANT: GOD'S PORTABLE THRONE

THEMATIC THEOLOGY: GOD THE HOLY KING

CALL TO WORSHIP:

^{ESV} Zechariah 2:10 Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion, for behold, I come and I will dwell in your midst, declares the LORD. ¹¹ And many nations shall join themselves to the LORD in that day, and shall be my people. And I will dwell in your midst, and you shall know that the LORD of hosts has sent me to you.

^{ESV} **Revelation 15:1** Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and amazing, seven angels with seven plagues, which are the last, for with them the wrath of God is finished. ² And I saw what appeared to be a sea of glass mingled with fire- and also those who had conquered the beast and its image and the number of its name, standing beside the sea of glass with harps of God in their hands. ³ And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, "Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations! ⁴ Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship you, for your righteous acts have been revealed." ⁵ After this I looked, and the sanctuary of the tent of witness in heaven was opened, ⁶ and out of the sanctuary came the seven angels with the seven plagues, clothed in pure, bright linen, with golden sashes around their chests. ⁷ And one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God who lives forever and ever, ⁸ and the sanctuary was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from his power, and no one could enter the sanctuary until the seven plagues of the seven angels were finished.

SCRIPTURE TEXT

^{ESV} **Exodus 25:10** "They shall make an ark of acacia wood. Two cubits and a half shall be its length, a cubit and a half its breadth, and a cubit and a half its height. ¹¹ You shall overlay it with pure gold, inside and outside shall you overlay it, and you shall make on it a molding of gold around it. ¹² You shall cast four rings of gold for it and put them on its four feet, two rings on the one side of it, and two rings on the other

side of it. ¹³ You shall make poles of acacia wood and overlay them with gold. ¹⁴ And you shall put the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark to carry the ark by them. ¹⁵ The poles shall remain in the rings of the ark; they shall not be taken from it. ¹⁶ And you shall put into the ark the testimony that I shall give you. ¹⁷ "You shall make a mercy seat of pure gold. Two cubits and a half shall be its length, and a cubit and a half its breadth. ¹⁸ And you shall make two cherubim of gold; of hammered work shall you make them, on the two ends of the mercy seat. ¹⁹ Make one cherub on the one end, and one cherub on the other end. Of one piece with the mercy seat shall you make the cherubim on its two ends. ²⁰ The cherubim shall spread out their wings above, overshadowing the mercy seat with their wings, their faces one to another; toward the mercy seat shall the faces of the cherubim be. ²¹ And you shall put the mercy seat on the top of the ark, and in the ark you shall put the testimony that I shall give you. ²² There I will meet with you, and from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim that are on the ark of the testimony, I will speak with you about all that I will give you in commandment for the people of Israel.

^{ESV} **Exodus 37:1** Bezalel made the ark of acacia wood. Two cubits and a half was its length, a cubit and a half its breadth, and a cubit and a half its height. ² And he overlaid it with pure gold inside and outside, and made a molding of gold around it. ³ And he cast for it four rings of gold for its four feet, two rings on its one side and two rings on its other side. ⁴ And he made poles of acacia wood and overlaid them with gold ⁵ and put the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark to carry the ark. ⁶ And he made a mercy seat of pure gold. Two cubits and a half was its length, and a cubit and a half its breadth. ⁷ And he made two cherubim of gold. He made them of hammered work on the two ends of the mercy seat, ⁸ one cherub on the one end, and one cherub on the other end. Of one piece with the mercy seat he made the cherubim on its two ends. ⁹ The cherubim spread out their wings above, overshadowing the mercy seat with their wings, with their faces one to another; toward the mercy seat were the faces of the cherubim.

SCRIPTURE LESSON:

^{ESV} **Leviticus 16** The LORD spoke to Moses after the death of the two sons of Aaron, when they drew near before the LORD and died, ² and the LORD said to Moses, "Tell Aaron your brother not to come at any time into the Holy Place inside the veil, before the mercy seat that is on the ark, so that he may not die. For I will appear in the cloud over the mercy seat. ³ But in this way Aaron shall come into the Holy Place:

with a bull from the herd for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering. ⁴ He shall put on the holy linen coat and shall have the linen undergarment on his body, and he shall tie the linen sash around his waist, and wear the linen turban; these are the holy garments. He shall bathe his body in water and then put them on. ⁵ And he shall take from the congregation of the people of Israel two male goats for a sin offering, and one ram for a burnt offering. ⁶ "Aaron shall offer the bull as a sin offering for himself and shall make atonement for himself and for his house. ⁷ Then he shall take the two goats and set them before the LORD at the entrance of the tent of meeting. ⁸ And Aaron shall cast lots over the two goats, one lot for the LORD and the other lot for Azazel. ⁹ And Aaron shall present the goat on which the lot fell for the LORD and use it as a sin offering, ¹⁰ but the goat on which the lot fell for Azazel shall be presented alive before the LORD to make atonement over it, that it may be sent away into the wilderness to Azazel. ¹¹ "Aaron shall present the bull as a sin offering for himself, and shall make atonement for himself and for his house. He shall kill the bull as a sin offering for himself. ¹² And he shall take a censer full of coals of fire from the altar before the LORD, and two handfuls of sweet incense beaten small, and he shall bring it inside the veil ¹³ and put the incense on the fire before the LORD, that the cloud of the incense may cover the mercy seat that is over the testimony, so that he does not die. ¹⁴ And he shall take some of the blood of the bull and sprinkle it with his finger on the front of the mercy seat on the east side, and in front of the mercy seat he shall sprinkle some of the blood with his finger seven times. ¹⁵ "Then he shall kill the goat of the sin offering that is for the people and bring its blood inside the veil and do with its blood as he did with the blood of the bull, sprinkling it over the mercy seat and in front of the mercy seat. ¹⁶ Thus he shall make atonement for the Holy Place, because of the uncleannesses of the people of Israel and because of their transgressions, all their sins. And so he shall do for the tent of meeting, which dwells with them in the midst of their uncleannesses. ¹⁷ No one may be in the tent of meeting from the time he enters to make atonement in the Holy Place until he comes out and has made atonement for himself and for his house and for all the assembly of Israel. ¹⁸ Then he shall go out to the altar that is before the LORD and make atonement for it, and shall take some of the blood of the bull and some of the blood of the goat, and put it on the horns of the altar all around. ¹⁹ And he shall sprinkle some of the blood on it with his finger seven times, and cleanse it and consecrate it from the uncleannesses of the people of Israel. ²⁰ "And when he has made an end of atoning for the Holy Place and the tent of meeting and the altar, he shall present the live goat. ²¹ And Aaron shall lay both his hands on the head of the live goat, and confess over it all the iniquities

of the people of Israel, and all their transgressions, all their sins. And he shall put them on the head of the goat and send it away into the wilderness by the hand of a man who is in readiness.²² The goat shall bear all their iniquities on itself to a remote area, and he shall let the goat go free in the wilderness.²³ "Then Aaron shall come into the tent of meeting and shall take off the linen garments that he put on when he went into the Holy Place and shall leave them there.²⁴ And he shall bathe his body in water in a holy place and put on his garments and come out and offer his burnt offering and the burnt offering of the people and make atonement for himself and for the people.²⁵ And the fat of the sin offering he shall burn on the altar.²⁶ And he who lets the goat go to Azazel shall wash his clothes and bathe his body in water, and afterward he may come into the camp.²⁷ And the bull for the sin offering and the goat for the sin offering, whose blood was brought in to make atonement in the Holy Place, shall be carried outside the camp. Their skin and their flesh and their dung shall be burned up with fire.²⁸ And he who burns them shall wash his clothes and bathe his body in water, and afterward he may come into the camp.²⁹ "And it shall be a statute to you forever that in the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, you shall afflict yourselves and shall do no work, either the native or the stranger who sojourns among you.³⁰ For on this day shall atonement be made for you to cleanse you. You shall be clean before the LORD from all your sins.³¹ It is a Sabbath of solemn rest to you, and you shall afflict yourselves; it is a statute forever.³² And the priest who is anointed and consecrated as priest in his father's place shall make atonement, wearing the holy linen garments.³³ He shall make atonement for the holy sanctuary, and he shall make atonement for the tent of meeting and for the altar, and he shall make atonement for the priests and for all the people of the assembly.³⁴ And this shall be a statute forever for you, that atonement may be made for the people of Israel once in the year because of all their sins." And Moses did as the LORD commanded him.

"ARK OF THE COVENANT"

^{ESV} **Numbers 10:28** This was the order of march of the people of Israel by their companies, when they set out.²⁹ And Moses said to Hobab the son of Reuel the Midianite, Moses' father-in-law, "We are setting out for the place of which the LORD said, 'I will give it to you.' Come with us, and we will do good to you, for the LORD has promised good to Israel."³⁰ But he said to him, "I will not go. I will depart to my own land and to my kindred."³¹ And he said, "Please do not leave us, for you know where we should camp in the wilderness, and you will serve as eyes for us."³² And if you do go with us, whatever good the

LORD will do to us, the same will we do to you." ³³ So they set out from the mount of the LORD three days' journey. And the ark of the covenant of the LORD went before them three days' journey, to seek out a resting place for them. ³⁴ And the cloud of the LORD was over them by day, whenever they set out from the camp. ³⁵ And whenever the ark set out, Moses said, "Arise, O LORD, and let your enemies be scattered, and let those who hate you flee before you." ³⁶ And when it rested, he said, "Return, O LORD, to the ten thousand thousands of Israel."

^{ESV} **Deuteronomy 31:26** "Take this Book of the Law and put it by the side of the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, that it may be there for a witness against you.

^{ESV} **Joshua 3:1** Then Joshua rose early in the morning and they set out from Shittim. And they came to the Jordan, he and all the people of Israel, and lodged there before they passed over. ² At the end of three days the officers went through the camp ³ and commanded the people, "As soon as you see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God being carried by the Levitical priests, then you shall set out from your place and follow it. ⁴ Yet there shall be a distance between you and it, about 2,000 cubits in length. Do not come near it, in order that you may know the way you shall go, for you have not passed this way before." ⁵ Then Joshua said to the people, "Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you." ⁶ And Joshua said to the priests, "Take up the ark of the covenant and pass on before the people." So they took up the ark of the covenant and went before the people. ⁷ The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I will begin to exalt you in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that, as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. ⁸ And as for you, command the priests who bear the ark of the covenant, 'When you come to the brink of the waters of the Jordan, you shall stand still in the Jordan.'" ⁹ And Joshua said to the people of Israel, "Come here and listen to the words of the LORD your God." ¹⁰ And Joshua said, "Here is how you shall know that the living God is among you and that he will without fail drive out from before you the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Hivites, the Perizzites, the Girgashites, the Amorites, and the Jebusites. ¹¹ Behold, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth is passing over before you into the Jordan. ¹² Now therefore take twelve men from the tribes of Israel, from each tribe a man. ¹³ And when the soles of the feet of the priests bearing the ark of the LORD, the Lord of all the earth, shall rest in the waters of the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan shall be cut off from flowing, and the waters coming down from above shall stand in one heap." ¹⁴ So when the people set out from their tents to pass over the

Jordan with the priests bearing the ark of the covenant before the people,¹⁵ and as soon as those bearing the ark had come as far as the Jordan, and the feet of the priests bearing the ark were dipped in the brink of the water (now the Jordan overflows all its banks throughout the time of harvest),¹⁶ the waters coming down from above stood and rose up in a heap very far away, at Adam, the city that is beside Zarethan, and those flowing down toward the Sea of the Arabah, the Salt Sea, were completely cut off. And the people passed over opposite Jericho.¹⁷ Now the priests bearing the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood firmly on dry ground in the midst of the Jordan, and all Israel was passing over on dry ground until all the nation finished passing over the Jordan.

^{ESV} **Joshua 6:1** Now Jericho was shut up inside and outside because of the people of Israel. None went out, and none came in.² And the LORD said to Joshua, "See, I have given Jericho into your hand, with its king and mighty men of valor."³ You shall march around the city, all the men of war going around the city once. Thus shall you do for six days.⁴ Seven priests shall bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark. On the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets.⁵ And when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, when you hear the sound of the trumpet, then all the people shall shout with a great shout, and the wall of the city will fall down flat, and the people shall go up, everyone straight before him."⁶ So Joshua the son of Nun called the priests and said to them, "Take up the ark of the covenant and let seven priests bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the LORD."⁷ And he said to the people, "Go forward. March around the city and let the armed men pass on before the ark of the LORD."⁸ And just as Joshua had commanded the people, the seven priests bearing the seven trumpets of rams' horns before the LORD went forward, blowing the trumpets, with the ark of the covenant of the LORD following them.

¹¹ And the LORD said to me, "Faithless Israel has shown herself more righteous than treacherous Judah."¹² Go, and proclaim these words toward the north, and say, "' Return, faithless Israel, declares the LORD. I will not look on you in anger, for I am merciful, declares the LORD; I will not be angry forever."¹³ Only acknowledge your guilt, that you rebelled against the LORD your God and scattered your favors among foreigners under every green tree, and that you have not obeyed my voice, declares the LORD.¹⁴ Return, O faithless children, declares the LORD; for I am your master; I will take you, one from a city and two from a family, and I will bring you to Zion.¹⁵ "'And I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will feed you with

knowledge and understanding. ¹⁶ And when you have multiplied and increased in the land, in those days, declares the LORD, they shall no more say, "The ark of the covenant of the LORD." It shall not come to mind or be remembered or missed; it shall not be made again. ¹⁷ At that time Jerusalem shall be called the throne of the LORD, and all nations shall gather to it, to the presence of the LORD in Jerusalem, and they shall no more stubbornly follow their own evil heart. ¹⁸ In those days the house of Judah shall join the house of Israel, and together they shall come from the land of the north to the land that I gave your fathers for a heritage. ¹⁹ "I said How I would set you among my sons, and give you a pleasant land, a heritage most beautiful of all nations. And I thought you would call me, My Father, and would not turn from following me. ²⁰ Surely, as a treacherous wife leaves her husband, so have you been treacherous to me, O house of Israel, declares the LORD."

ARK OF GOD

^{ESV} **1 Samuel 4:1** And the word of Samuel came to all Israel. Now Israel went out to battle against the Philistines. They encamped at Ebenezer, and the Philistines encamped at Aphek. ² The Philistines drew up in line against Israel, and when the battle spread, Israel was defeated by the Philistines, who killed about four thousand men on the field of battle. ³ And when the troops came to the camp, the elders of Israel said, "Why has the LORD defeated us today before the Philistines? Let us bring the ark of the covenant of the LORD here from Shiloh, that it may come among us and save us from the power of our enemies." ⁴ So the people sent to Shiloh and brought from there the ark of the covenant of the LORD of hosts, who is enthroned on the cherubim. And the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were there with the ark of the covenant of God. ⁵ As soon as the ark of the covenant of the LORD came into the camp, all Israel gave a mighty shout, so that the earth resounded. ⁶ And when the Philistines heard the noise of the shouting, they said, "What does this great shouting in the camp of the Hebrews mean?" And when they learned that the ark of the LORD had come to the camp, ⁷ the Philistines were afraid, for they said, "A god has come into the camp." And they said, "Woe to us! For nothing like this has happened before. ⁸ Woe to us! Who can deliver us from the power of these mighty gods? These are the gods who struck the Egyptians with every sort of plague in the wilderness. ⁹ Take courage, and be men, O Philistines, lest you become slaves to the Hebrews as they have been to you; be men and fight." ¹⁰ So the Philistines fought, and Israel was defeated, and they fled, every man to his home. And there was a very great slaughter, for there fell of Israel thirty thousand foot soldiers. ¹¹ And the ark of God was

captured, and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, died. ¹² A man of Benjamin ran from the battle line and came to Shiloh the same day, with his clothes torn and with dirt on his head. ¹³ When he arrived, Eli was sitting on his seat by the road watching, for his heart trembled for the ark of God. And when the man came into the city and told the news, all the city cried out. ¹⁴ When Eli heard the sound of the outcry, he said, "What is this uproar?" Then the man hurried and came and told Eli. ¹⁵ Now Eli was ninety-eight years old and his eyes were set so that he could not see. ¹⁶ And the man said to Eli, "I am he who has come from the battle; I fled from the battle today." And he said, "How did it go, my son?" ¹⁷ He who brought the news answered and said, "Israel has fled before the Philistines, and there has also been a great defeat among the people. Your two sons also, Hophni and Phinehas, are dead, and the ark of God has been captured." ¹⁸ As soon as he mentioned the ark of God, Eli fell over backward from his seat by the side of the gate, and his neck was broken and he died, for the man was old and heavy. He had judged Israel forty years. ¹⁹ Now his daughter-in-law, the wife of Phinehas, was pregnant, about to give birth. And when she heard the news that the ark of God was captured, and that her father-in-law and her husband were dead, she bowed and gave birth, for her pains came upon her. ²⁰ And about the time of her death the women attending her said to her, "Do not be afraid, for you have borne a son." But she did not answer or pay attention. ²¹ And she named the child Ichabod, saying, "The glory has departed from Israel!" because the ark of God had been captured and because of her father-in-law and her husband. ²² And she said, "The glory has departed from Israel, for the ark of God has been captured."

^{ESV} **1 Samuel 5:1** When the Philistines captured the ark of God, they brought it from Ebenezer to Ashdod. ² Then the Philistines took the ark of God and brought it into the house of Dagon and set it up beside Dagon. ³ And when the people of Ashdod rose early the next day, behold, Dagon had fallen face downward on the ground before the ark of the LORD. So they took Dagon and put him back in his place. ⁴ But when they rose early on the next morning, behold, Dagon had fallen face downward on the ground before the ark of the LORD, and the head of Dagon and both his hands were lying cut off on the threshold. Only the trunk of Dagon was left to him.



Dear Family in Christ at KCPC,

We have looked at the Tabernacle-Tent of God in the last couple of weeks. This week we begin to look at the furniture in the Tabernacle-Tent. The most important of these articles in the Tabernacle-Tent of God is the Ark of the Covenant or the Ark of the Testimony. The sermon is entitled: **The Ark of the Covenant: God's Glory-Enthronement upon the Cherubim.** It is interesting that Moses is instructed by God on Mt. Sinai to build the ark first, and so the instructions for the furniture of the Tabernacle-Tent of God can be understood as beginning in the Most Holy Place, or "Holy of Holies" and going outwardly away from God's holy covenantal-glory-presence.

In preparing for worship and the sermon this Lord's Day, I would ask you to think about these questions with your family, and I will try biblically to answer these questions in the sermon concerning the Ark of the Covenant. I have also included pictures below (sorry! I did not draw these) so that you might have a mental image of God's Glory-Throne.

If you would like my sermon notes for the Tabernacle-Tent and for the furniture they are available on the CDs John Grosjean prepares for us, or you may email me and I can send the notes to you (there are many things in the notes that I am unable to cover in a 40 minute sermon (tick-tock, tick-tock, tick-tock- - CHRIST!), so it might be something you would want to study further with your family).

Questions for Sermon

- (1) How is the Ark of the Covenant a Glory-Throne for God?**
- (2) How is the Ark of the Covenant a throne *and the footstool of God*?**
- (3) What is the significance of God being enthroned "upon the cherubim of glory"?**
- (4) How is the ark similar to, yet very different from other portable thrones in the ancient Near East?**

- (5) Why is the Ark of the Covenant also called “The Ark of the Testimony”?
- (6) How is CHRIST vividly seen in the Ark of the Covenant and how does the Ark of God communicate Christ to the people of God in the Old and New Covenants? Meditate on this Scripture from 1 Peter 1:10-12 when thinking of the answer to this final question:

^{ESV} **1 Peter 1:10** Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, ¹¹ inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. ¹² ***It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.***

Interesting Pictures of the Ark of the Covenant and other Ancient Near Eastern Ark-Thrones



Canaanite Winged Sphinx Throne appearing on a slip of ivory found in Late Bronze Age Megiddo circa 1200 BCE



Throne of Tutankhamen found in his tomb (1361-1352 BC). Made of wood, it is overlaid with sheet gold, inlaid with precious stones, and ornamented with animal shapes such as winged cobras wearing the crowns of Upper and Lower Egypt. It is found in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, photo by Egyptian Expedition. In ISBE 4:845.



Ahiram, king of Byblos, seated on a cherub throne, before an offering table, from the National Museum, Beirut. ANEP 458. Appears as plate 126 in James B. Pritchard (ed.), *The Ancient Near East: An Anthology of Texts and Pictures* (Princeton University Press, 1958).



A three dimensional stone Winged Sphinx throne from Phoenicia of the Hellenistic period (4th-1st centuries BCE)



**Replica of An Egyptian Throne-Chair you can buy on E-Bay
(no, I am not kidding: http://cgi.ebay.com/King-Tutankhamen-s-Egyptian-Throne-Chair_W0QQitemZ7745985610QQcmdZViewItem)**



A picture of a cherubim from the ancient Near East

THE ARK OF THE COVENANT: "GOD'S GLORY-ENTHRONEMENT UPON THE CHERUBIM"

**THEMATIC THEOLOGY: GOD THE HOLY KING
REV. CHARLES R. BIGGS**

Outline of Sermon

- I. God's Glory Throne-Footstool**
- II. Cherubim of Glory**
- III. The Covenant Documents- "The Ark of the Testimony"
(Exodus 15:22; Ex. 26:33-34)**

ARTICLES IN THE TABERNACLE

Bronze Altar: Sacrifice/Substitution/Atonement at the entrance.

Laver Water/Cleansing for the priests in order to enter the Holy Place.

Lampstand Light for the priests serving in the replica of heaven itself; oil was to keep the lamp constantly lit.

Bread of Presence Bread/sustenance for the priests while serving in the Holy Place.

Incense Good smell in a sacrificial place/horns of altar/made a sweet smelling aroma to God.

Curtains and Entrance into the Holy of Holies Separated the Holy Place from Most Holy Place and the close presence of Almighty God.

- Glorious cherubim embroidered in the tapestry of the curtains in **blue, purple and scarlet colors** - -like heaven itself.
- Heavenly throneroom like in Isaiah 6 with light of Lampstand-Menorah light reflecting off the inner tapestry of the curtains.
- OT scholar Tremper Longman III writes: "The interior was dimly lit by the menorah. The air inside the tabernacle was

often cloudy from incense and the smoke of sacrifices, the latter coming in from the outside. ***Nonetheless, as one stood in the tabernacle and looked around, he would see a deep blue background with images of cherubim looking as though suspended in midair...***

...It is hard to miss the idea that the impression was to be a heavenly one. As one walked into the tabernacle, he would be symbolically transferred from an earthly location to a (symbolically at least) heavenly one [my emphasis]." –Longman, 'Immanuel in Our Place: Seeing Christ in Israel's Worship', pg. 29.

Holy of Holies Place where the Ark rested/cherubim of glory/High Priest would enter once a year on the Day of Atonement. The Ark of Covenant contained the Law of God (covenant documents) and ***measured three and three-quarters feet long, two and a quarter feet wide, and two and a quarter feet high.***

Levels/Degrees of Access into God's Special-Covenantal Presence

- **Five Levels of Access**, or Degrees of Access-Locations in the Tabernacle-Tent ("Lesser to greater degrees of holiness"- Enns):
 - a) **"Outside the camp"**-Gentiles and all the unclean, unholy sinners in the world.
 - b) **"In the camp"**-Israel's camp set up around the Tabernacle-Tent with God in the middle (like other ANE kings of that time).
 - c) **"In the courtyard"**- The people could bring to the Levites and Priests their offerings (this was as near to God's presence-throne that the people could come).
 - d) **"In the Holy Place"**-Priests and Levites
 - e) **"In the Most Holy Place (or "Holy of Holies")"**-One High Priest and only once a year on the Day of Atonement (Lev. 16).

[Above is adapted from Longman, pgs. 34-35].

- **NB:** Most Israelites could not go into the Tabernacle-Tent itself all of their lives- -they had representative Priests who would go in to meet God on their behalf.

Teaching them that they were sinners who could draw near only through a Mediator.

It was like knowing the most important Being in the universe actually dwelled in your midst, but you were denied full access to seeing and knowing him. You could only approach him on HIS terms!

I. GOD'S GLORY THRONE-FOOTSTOOL

"Heaven is my throne; the earth my footstool."

a. The Ark's Purpose

i. A Holy Rectangular Gold Box

^{ESV} **Exodus 25:10-11:** "They shall make an ark of acacia wood. Two cubits and a half shall be its length, a cubit and a half its breadth, and a cubit and a half its height. ¹¹ You shall overlay it with pure gold, inside and outside shall you overlay it, and you shall make on it a molding of gold around it.

(In Gen. 50:26 is used of Joseph's "coffin"/word not associated with "Ark" as in "Noah's Ark")

B862 !Ara], c. art. !Ara'h', !roa'h' n.m.f. chest, ark 1. chest, for money- offerings. 2. sarcophagus, mummy-case of Joseph. 3. chest, ark in tabernacle & temple, containing tablets of law, with cherubim above, the esp. seat of 'Y among his people.

Measurement Approximately: (cubits= "the length of a forearm"-Deut. 3:11 or roughly 18 inches).

Measurement is approximately 3 ft. 9in. long, 2 ft. 3in. wide, and 2 ft. 3 in. high.

ii. God's Throne-Footstool

^{ESV} **Psalm 132:7** "Let us go to his dwelling place; let us worship at his footstool!" ⁸ Arise, O LORD, and go to your resting place, you and the ark of your might.

^{ESV} **1 Chronicles 28:2** Then King David rose to his feet and said: "Hear me, my brothers and my people. I had it in my heart to build a house of rest for the ark of the covenant of the LORD and for the footstool of our God, and I made preparations for building.

iii. Point of Contact between Heaven and Earth where God spoke to His Mediator Moses

Numbers 7:86: And when Moses went into the tent of meeting to speak with the LORD, he heard the voice speaking to him from above the mercy seat that was on the ark of the testimony, from between the two cherubim; and it spoke to him.

iv. Atonement Cover or "Mercy Seat"- Exodus 26:34 (Luther then Tyndale's English Bible)

Exodus 25:17, 21-22: "You shall make a mercy seat of pure gold. Two cubits and a half shall be its length, and a cubit and a half its breadth....²¹ And you shall put the mercy seat on the top of the ark, and in the ark you shall put the testimony that I shall give you.²² There I will meet with you, and from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim that are on the ark of the testimony, I will speak with you about all that I will give you in commandment for the people of Israel.

Numbers 7:86: And when Moses went into the tent of meeting to speak with the LORD, he heard the voice speaking to him from above **the mercy seat that was on the ark of the testimony**, from between the two cherubim; and it spoke to him.

Atonement: "an atoning cover" from Hebrew *capporeth-Kippur* (**As in "Yom Kippur"**)/Greek: *hilasterion*/translated in Latin: *Propitiatorium* (*Vulgate*).

Where we get the concepts of "atonement" (lit. "at-one-ment": the blood sacrifice brings God and man together as one because their fellowship is separated by sin).

Atonement is simply a "covering" of sin by substitutionary blood.

In 1 Chronicles 28:11, the Holy of Holies is actually called the "House of Atonement" (tr,Po)K;h; tybeîW). Although it is translated "place of the mercy seat" it is interesting to be called the "House of Atonement-Mercy Seat".

v. Atonement- Leviticus 16

^{ESV} **Leviticus 16:1** The LORD spoke to Moses after the death of the two sons of Aaron, when they drew near before the LORD and died, ² and the LORD said to Moses, "Tell Aaron your brother not to come at any time into the Holy Place inside the veil, before the mercy seat that is on the ark, so that he may not die. For I will appear in the cloud over the mercy seat. ³ But in this way Aaron shall come into the Holy Place: with a bull from the herd for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering.....

Thus he shall make atonement for the Holy Place, because of the uncleannesses of the people of Israel and because of their transgressions, all their sins. And so he shall do for the tent of meeting, which dwells with them in the midst of their uncleannesses. ¹⁷ No one may be in the tent of meeting from the time he enters to make atonement in the Holy Place until he comes out and has made atonement for himself and for his house and for all the assembly of Israel. ¹⁸ Then he shall go out to the altar that is before the LORD and make atonement for it, and shall take some of the blood of the bull and some of the blood of the goat, and put it on the horns of the altar all around. ¹⁹ And he shall sprinkle some of the blood on it with his finger seven times, and cleanse it and consecrate it from the uncleannesses of the people of Israel....

³⁰ For on this day shall atonement be made for you to cleanse you. You shall be clean before the LORD from all your sins. ³¹ It is a Sabbath of solemn rest to you, and you shall afflict yourselves; it is a statute forever. ³² And the priest who is anointed and consecrated as priest in his father's place shall make atonement, wearing the holy linen garments. ³³ He shall make atonement for the holy sanctuary, and he shall make atonement for the tent of meeting and for the altar, and he shall make atonement for the priests and for all the people of the assembly. ³⁴ And this shall be a statute forever for you, that atonement may be made for the people of Israel once in the year because of all their sins." And Moses did as the LORD commanded him.

vi. Application-Significance of God's Ark-Throne

1. Holiness of God- Story of Uzzah

^{ESV} **2 Samuel 6:1** David again gathered all the chosen men of Israel, thirty thousand. ² And David arose and went with all the people who were with him from Baale-judah to bring up from there the ark of God, which is called by the name of the LORD of hosts who sits enthroned on the cherubim. ³ And they carried the ark of God on a new cart and brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill. And Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, were driving the new cart, ⁴ with the ark of God, and Ahio went before the ark. ⁵ And David and all the house of Israel were making merry before the LORD, with songs and lyres and harps and tambourines and castanets and cymbals. ⁶ And when they came to the threshing floor of Nacon, Uzzah put out his hand to the ark of God and took hold of it, for the oxen stumbled. ⁷ ***And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Uzzah, and God struck him down there because of his error, and he died there beside the ark of God. ⁸ And David was angry because the LORD had burst forth against Uzzah. And that place is called Perez-uzzah, to this day.***

2. God's Sovereignty as King over His People

b. The Ark in Redemptive-History

- i. Pre-Mosaic Throne (before the Ark of the Covenant)
- ii. Mosaic Ark of Covenant/Testimony
- iii. Joshua
- iv. Samuel and David
- v. Exile
- vi. Spielberg's *Raiders of the Lost Ark*

^{ESV} **2 Chronicles 35:3** And he said to the Levites who taught all Israel and who were holy to the LORD, "Put the holy ark in the house that Solomon the son of David, king of Israel, built. You need not carry it on your shoulders. Now serve the LORD your God and his people Israel.

2 Chronicles 36:18-21: And all the vessels of the house of God, great and small, and the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king and of his princes, all these he brought to

Babylon. ¹⁹ **And they burned the house of God and broke down the wall of Jerusalem and burned all its palaces with fire and destroyed all its precious vessels.** ²⁰ He took into exile in Babylon those who had escaped from the sword, and they became servants to him and to his sons until the establishment of the kingdom of Persia, ²¹ to fulfill the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed its Sabbaths. All the days that it lay desolate it kept Sabbath, to fulfill seventy years.

vii. Jesus Christ and the New Covenant

G. K. Beale in 'The Temple and the Church's Mission':

"...the ark of the covenant in the holy of holies was considered God's footstool, conjuring up the picture of a God sitting on his throne in heaven with his legs extending to Israel's temple on earth (Is. 66:1; Acts 7:49; cf. also Ps. 99:5; 110:1; a 'footstool' was attached to Solomon's 'throne' in imitation of God's throne [2 Chr. 9:18]." -pg. 101.

II. CHERUBIM OF GLORY

Exodus 25:17-20: "You shall make a mercy seat of pure gold. Two cubits and a half shall be its length, and a cubit and a half its breadth. ¹⁸ **And you shall make two cherubim of gold;** of hammered work shall you make them, on the two ends of the mercy seat. ¹⁹ **Make one cherub on the one end, and one cherub on the other end. Of one piece with the mercy seat shall you make the cherubim on its two ends.** ²⁰ **The cherubim shall spread out their wings above, overshadowing the mercy seat with their wings, their faces one to another; toward the mercy seat shall the faces of the cherubim be.**

^{ESV} **1 Peter 1:10** Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, ¹¹ inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. ¹² It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, **things into which angels long to look.**

➤ **SUMMARY OF THEIR DUTIES: (1) GUARDIANS OF THE GLORY-PRESENCE OF GOD-EARTHLY**

MODE?; (2) GOD'S CHARIOT THRONE- HEAVENLY MODE?

bWrK. noun common masculine singular

B4697 II. bWrK. n.m. **cherub** -- **1.** the living chariot of the theophanic God; possibly identified with the storm-wind. **2.** as the guards of the garden of Eden. **3.** as the throne of Yahweh Sabaoth, in phrase ~ybiWrK.h; bvey (tAab'c.)

'y *Yahweh Sabaoth throned on the cherubim*; the context shews that the cherubim of the ark of the covenant are referred to. **4. a.** two cherubim of solid gold upon the slab of gold of the tr,PoK; facing each other with wings outstretched above, so as to constitute a basis or throne on which the glory of Yahweh appeared, and from whence He spake; **b.** numerous cherubim woven into the texture of the inner curtains of the tabernacle and the veils. **5.** the cherubim of the temple: **a.** two gigantic images of olive wood plated with gold, ten cubits high, standing in the rybiD> facing the door, whose wings, five cubits each, extended, two of them meeting in the middle of the room to constitute the throne, two of them extending to the walls; the chariot of Yahweh; **b.** images of cherubim were carved on the gold plated cedar planks which constituted the inner walls of the temple, and upon the olive wood doors; and on the bases of the portable lavers, interchanging with lions and oxen; woven in the veil of the rybiD>. **6. a.** as four living creatures, each with four faces, lion, ox, eagle, and man, having the figure and hands of men, and the feet of calves. Each has four wings, two of which are stretched upward, meeting above and sustaining the throne of Yahweh; two of them stretched downwards so as to cover the creatures themselves. The cherubim never turn but go straight forward, as do the wheels of the cherubic chariot, and they are full of eyes and are like burning coals of fire; the king of Tyre is scornfully compared with one of these, and is assigned a residence in Eden and the mountain of God; **b.** the inner walls of the temple as carved with alternating palm trees and cherubim, each with two faces, the lion looking on one side, the man on the other. It is evident that the number and the form of the cherubim vary in the representations. (pg 500)

c. Cherubim as Guardians of God's Chariot Throne and Glory-Presence

^{ESV} **Psalm 80:1** TO THE CHOIRMASTER: ACCORDING TO LILIES. A TESTIMONY. OF ASAPH, A PSALM. Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! **You who are enthroned upon the cherubim**, shine forth.

^{ESV} **Psalm 99:1** The LORD reigns; let the peoples tremble! **He sits enthroned upon the cherubim**; let the earth quake!

ESV **Isaiah 37:16** "O LORD of hosts, God of Israel, **who is enthroned above the cherubim**, you are the God, you alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth; you have made heaven and earth.

ESV **1 Samuel 4:4** So the people sent to Shiloh and brought from there the ark of the covenant of the LORD of hosts, **who is enthroned on the cherubim**. And the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were there with the ark of the covenant of God.

ESV **2 Samuel 6:2** And David arose and went with all the people who were with him from Baale-judah **to bring up from there the ark of God, which is called by the name of the LORD of hosts who sits enthroned on the cherubim**.

Keil and Delitzsch in their excellent Old Testament Commentary on the Pentateuch wrote concerning God's "enthronement upon the cherubim" and what it symbolized for the people of Israel:

"[The enthronement of YHWH upon the cherubim was] so that Jehovah enthroned above the wings of the cherubim was set forth as the God of Hosts who is exalted above all the angels, surrounded by the assembly or council of the Holy Ones (Psalm 89:6-9), who bow their faces towards the *capporeth* [atonement cover/mercy seat], studying the secrets of the divine counsel of love (cf. 1 Peter 1:12), and worshipping Him that liveth forever and ever (Rev. 4:10)." –pg. 170.

ESV **2 Samuel 22:8** "Then the earth reeled and rocked; the foundations of the heavens trembled and quaked, because he was angry. ⁹ Smoke went up from his nostrils, and devouring fire from his mouth; glowing coals flamed forth from him. ¹⁰ He bowed the heavens and came down; thick darkness was under his feet. ¹¹ **He rode on a cherub and flew; he was seen on the wings of the wind**. ¹² He made darkness around him his canopy, thick clouds, a gathering of water.

ESV **Psalm 18:8** Smoke went up from his nostrils, and devouring fire from his mouth; glowing coals flamed forth from him. ⁹ He bowed the heavens and came down; thick darkness was under his feet. ¹⁰ **He rode on a cherub and flew; he came swiftly on the wings of the wind**.

d. Cherubim in Eden

^{ESV} **Exodus 25:19** Make one cherub on the one end, and one cherub on the other end. Of one piece with the mercy seat shall you make the cherubim on its two ends.

^{ESV} **Exodus 37:8** one cherub on the one end, and one cherub on the other end. Of one piece with the mercy seat he made the cherubim on its two ends.

EDEN AS A SANCTUARY-GARDEN WITH CHERUBIM

➤ **Language of Garden of Eden in Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 23:**

Genesis 3:8-10: And they heard the sound of the LORD God *walking in the garden in the cool of the day*, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰ And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself."

Leviticus 26:11-13: I will make my dwelling among you, and my soul shall not abhor you. ¹² ***And I will walk among you and will be your God, and you shall be my people.*** ¹³ I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that you should not be their slaves. And I have broken the bars of your yoke and made you walk erect.

^{ESV} **Deuteronomy 23:14** ***Because the LORD your God walks in the midst of your camp, to deliver you and to give up your enemies before you***, therefore your camp must be holy, so that he may not see anything indecent among you and turn away from you.

God dwells with man in a special way that was broken because of the fall and is being reopened through sacrifice and blood to once again have God walk among his people.

Eden was called a "sanctuary" (miqdash) as the Tabernacle-Temple (Exodus 25:8-9):

^{ESV} **Genesis 3:24** He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

^{ESV} **1 Kings 8:6** Then the priests brought the ark of the covenant of the LORD to its place in the inner sanctuary of the house, in the Most Holy Place, underneath the wings of the cherubim. ⁷ For the cherubim spread out their wings over the place of the ark, so that the cherubim overshadowed the ark and its poles.

^{ESV} **1 Kings 6:29** Around all the walls of the house he carved engraved figures of cherubim and palm trees and open flowers, in the inner and outer rooms. ³⁰ The floor of the house he overlaid with gold in the inner and outer rooms. ³¹ For the entrance to the inner sanctuary he made doors of olivewood; the lintel and the doorposts were five-sided. ³² He covered the two doors of olivewood with carvings of cherubim, palm trees, and open flowers. He overlaid them with gold and spread gold on the cherubim and on the palm trees. ³³ So also he made for the entrance to the nave doorposts of olivewood, in the form of a square, ³⁴ and two doors of cypress wood. The two leaves of the one door were folding, and the two leaves of the other door were folding. ³⁵ On them he carved cherubim and palm trees and open flowers, and he overlaid them with gold evenly applied on the carved work.

Ezekiel 28:13-17: You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering, sardius, topaz, and diamond, beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, emerald, and carbuncle; and crafted in gold were your settings and your engravings. On the day that you were created they were prepared. ¹⁴ You were an anointed guardian cherub. I placed you; you were on the holy mountain of God; in the midst of the stones of fire you walked. ¹⁵ You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created, till unrighteousness was found in you. ¹⁶ In the abundance of your trade you were filled with violence in your midst, and you sinned; so I cast you as a profane thing from the mountain of God, and I destroyed you, **O guardian cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.** ¹⁷ Your heart was proud because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor. I cast you to the ground; I exposed you before kings, to feast their eyes on you.

e. Cherubim in Ezekiel 1:5-10; 9:3; 10:1; cf. Exodus 24:11ff

^{ESV} **Ezekiel 1:1** In the thirtieth year, in the fourth month, on the fifth day of the month, as I was among the exiles by the Chebar canal, the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God. ² On the fifth day of the month (it was the fifth year of the exile of King Jehoiachin), ³ the word of the LORD came to Ezekiel the priest, the son of Buzi, in the land of the Chaldeans by the Chebar canal, and the hand of the LORD was upon him there. ⁴ As I looked, behold, a stormy wind came out of the north, and a great cloud, with brightness around it, and fire flashing forth continually, and in the midst of the fire, as it were gleaming metal. ⁵ And from the midst of it came the likeness of four living creatures. And this was their appearance: they had a human likeness, ⁶ but each had four faces, and each of them had four wings. ⁷ Their legs were straight, and the soles of their feet were like the sole of a calf's foot. And they sparkled like burnished bronze. ⁸ Under their wings on their four sides they had human hands. And the four had their faces and their wings thus: ⁹ their wings touched one another. Each one of them went straight forward, without turning as they went. ¹⁰ As for the likeness of their faces, each had a human face. The four had the face of a lion on the right side, the four had the face of an ox on the left side, and the four had the face of an eagle.

^{ESV} **Ezekiel 9:3** Now the glory of the God of Israel had gone up from the cherub on which it rested to the threshold of the house. And he called to the man clothed in linen, who had the writing case at his waist.

^{ESV} **Ezekiel 10:1** Then I looked, and behold, on the expanse that was over the heads of the cherubim there appeared above them something like a sapphire, in appearance like a throne.

Compare with Exodus 24:10: Theophany of YHWH at Mount Sinai

^{ESV} **Exodus 24:10** ...and they saw the God of Israel. There was under his feet as it were a pavement of sapphire stone, like the very heaven for clearness.

^{ESV} **Ezekiel 1:26** And above the expanse over their heads there was the likeness of a throne, in appearance like sapphire; and seated

above the likeness of a throne was a likeness with a human appearance.

f. Cherubim in Revelation 4:4-6

^{ESV} **Revelation 4:4** Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones were twenty-four elders, clothed in white garments, with golden crowns on their heads. ⁵ From the throne came flashes of lightning, and rumblings and peals of thunder, and before the throne were burning seven torches of fire, which are the seven spirits of God, ⁶ and before the throne there was as it were a sea of glass, like crystal. And around the throne, on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind:

➤ **SUMMARY OF THEIR DUTIES: (1) GUARDIANS OF THE GLORY-PRESENCE OF GOD-EARTHLY MODE?; (2) GOD'S CHARIOT THRONE-HEAVENLY MODE?**

III. THE COVENANT DOCUMENTS- "THE ARK OF THE TESTIMONY" (EXODUS 15:22; EX. 26:33-34)

Exodus 25:16: And you shall put into the ark the testimony that I shall give you.

a. God gave the people a "copy" of His law and commandments

Meredith Kline writes: These considerations point to the conclusion that each table was complete in itself. The two tables were duplicate copies of the covenant. And the correctness of this interpretation is decisively confirmed by the fact that it was normal procedure in establishing suzerainty covenants to prepare duplicate copies of the treaty text. [WTJ, 22 (1960), pp. 133-46, 'The Two Tables of the Covenant'].

Umberto Cassuto writes in his excellent commentary on Exodus: "It was the custom in the ancient East to deposit the deeds of a covenant made between human kings in the sanctuaries of the gods, in the footstool of the idols that symbolized the deity, so that the godhead should be a witness to the covenant and see that it was observed...."

This custom makes it clear why the testimony to the covenant made between the Lord and Israel was enshrined in the ark. Among the Israelites there was no image to symbolize the God of Israel, but there was His footstool, and therein the testimony of the covenant was placed and preserved." (Quoted in Ryken, pg. 819 from Cassuto's Commentary on Exodus, 1967).

b. These documents would witness to their covenant obedience as well as disobedience.

Read Exodus 30:6-

^{ESV} **Exodus 30:6** And you shall put it in front of the veil that is above the ark of the testimony, in front of the mercy seat that is above the testimony, where I will meet with you.

During the Exile, Jeremiah sees how Israel has broken the Mosaic Covenant and links this to the Ark of the Covenant that witnessed against their covenant disobedience:

^{ESV} **Lamentations 2:1** How the Lord in his anger has set the daughter of Zion under a cloud! He has cast down from heaven to earth the splendor of Israel; **he has not remembered his footstool in the day of his anger.**

IV. Fulfillment in Christ and the New Covenant

- John says the glory [*ichabod*- the glory that had departed from Israel in the Exile] was found in the Person of Jesus Christ:

^{ESV} **John 1:14** *And the Word became flesh and dwelt [tabernacled] among us, and we have seen his glory [chabod], glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.* ¹⁵ (John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'") ¹⁶ And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ **No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.**

- The Apostle John also wants us to think of the cherubim of glory on top of the Ark of the Covenant

in Jesus' tomb and to see the way into the Most Holy Place through the broken body of Christ.

Remember:

^{ESV} **Exodus 25:19** Make one cherub on the one end, and one cherub on the other end. Of one piece with the mercy seat shall you make the cherubim on its two ends.

^{ESV} **Exodus 37:8** one cherub on the one end, and one cherub on the other end. Of one piece with the mercy seat he made the cherubim on its two ends.

➤ In John 20:11-12, John remarks:

^{ESV} **John 20:11** But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb. ¹² ***And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet.***

^{ESV} **Romans 3:20** For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since **through the law comes knowledge of sin [A "testimony"]**. ²¹ But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it- ²² the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ ***and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a propitiation ["mercy seat atonement"/hilasterion] by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. ²⁶ It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.***

The Apostle Paul sees the Mercy Seat fulfilled in Christ

2435 i`lasth,rion hilasterion {hil-as-tay'-ree-on}

Meaning: 1) relating to an appeasing or expiating, having placating or expiating force, expiatory; a means of appeasing or expiating, a propitiation 1a) used of the cover of the ark of the covenant in the Holy of Holies, which was sprinkled with the blood of the expiatory victim on the annual day of atonement (this rite

signifying that the life of the people, the loss of which they had merited by their sins, was offered to God in the blood as the life of the victim, and that God by this ceremony was appeased and their sins expiated); hence the lid of expiation, the propitiatory 1b) an expiatory sacrifice 1c) a expiatory victim

Origin: from a derivative of 2433; TDNT - 3:318,362; n n

Usage: AV - propitiation 1, mercyseat 1; 2

The Ark of the Covenant is a type of the true and heavenly Mercy Seat, or Heavenly Throne:

^{ESV} **Hebrews 4:14** Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ **Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.**

IN CHRIST WE SEE IN THE ARK OF THE COVENANT:

- (1) **The Glory-Throne:** Christ "sat down at the right hand of the majesty on high" to rule as sovereign king over heaven and earth.
- (2) **The Atonement/Mercy Seat:** Christ laid down his life as a sacrifice for the sins of the people and made atonement by his blood.
- (3) **The Cherubim of Glory:** Christ has opened the way back up through the presence-of-God-guardians by undergoing the death-judgment that the cherubim's flaming swords at the entrance of Eden symbolized!
- (4) **The Law and Testimony:** Christ came to fulfill the Law and the Covenant for all those who belonged to him from the foundation of the earth.

^{ESV} **Hebrews 9:1-12:** Now even the first covenant had regulations for worship and an earthly place of holiness. ² For a tent was prepared, the first section, in which were the lampstand and the table and the bread of the Presence. It is called the Holy Place. ³ Behind the second curtain was a second section called the Most Holy Place, ⁴ having the

golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, in which was a golden urn holding the manna, and Aaron's staff that budded, and the tablets of the covenant. ⁵ Above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail. ⁶ These preparations having thus been made, the priests go regularly into the first section, performing their ritual duties, ⁷ but into the second only the high priest goes, and he but once a year, and not without taking blood, which he offers for himself and for the unintentional sins of the people. ⁸ By this the Holy Spirit indicates that the way into the holy places is not yet opened as long as the first section is still standing ⁹ (which is symbolic for the present age). According to this arrangement, gifts and sacrifices are offered that cannot perfect the conscience of the worshiper, ¹⁰ but deal only with food and drink and various washings, regulations for the body imposed until the time of reformation. ¹¹ But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) ¹² he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.

Revelation 11:15-19: Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever." ¹⁶ And the twenty-four elders who sit on their thrones before God fell on their faces and worshiped God, ¹⁷ saying, "We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, who is and who was, for you have taken your great power and begun to reign. ¹⁸ The nations raged, but your wrath came, and the time for the dead to be judged, and for rewarding your servants, the prophets and saints, and those who fear your name, both small and great, and for destroying the destroyers of the earth." ¹⁹ Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant was seen within his temple. There were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake, and heavy hail.