

Ark of the Covenant - Study 1

Teacher's Guide

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This study is part of a full college-level course on the Tabernacle of Moses taught by Dr. Ian Bond. The complete Teacher's Guide, Student Notes, illustrative Power Point, and the lectures in MP3 format are available for purchase and download from Teach the Nations, Inc.

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I. THE ARK OF THE COVENANT

A. Exodus 25:10-22

B. General Features

1. Two Arks in the Bible

a. Ark built by Noah

(1) Type of **US** in **CHRIST**

(a) **1 Peter 3:20-21** — “...when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water,²¹ and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also...”

(b) **Romans 6:4** — “We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.”

(2) In *salvation* you *enter* into *Christ*, God shuts the door, you pass through the waters of *baptism*, which separates you from an ungodly world, and you come forth to begin a *new life*.

b. Ark built by Moses

(1) Type of **CHRIST** in **US**

(a) **Colossians 1:27** — “To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.”

(b) **Galatians 2:20**

(2) This is Christ revealed in your **SPIRIT** or **INNER** man.

2. General construction

a. **Acacia wood** (incorruptible wood) = **HUMANITY** of Christ

b. **Overlaid** (inside and outside) **with gold** = **DIVINITY** of Christ

(1) Perfect union of true humanity and true divinity (*hypostatic union*).

C. The Contents of the Ark: Hebrews 9:4

1. The Stone Tablets of the Law

a. **Contrast with the Ark in Solomon’s Temple (2 Chr. 5:7-10)**

(1) **CHERUBIM** spread their wings over the entire Holy of Holies.

(2) **Only the STONE TABLETS** were in the Ark.

(3) **The truth depicted:**

(a) **The Tabernacle represents the Church in THIS AGE** (light, mobile, impermanent).

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- (b) **The Temple represents the Church in the AGE to COME (established, glorified, visible, ruling).**
 - i) Comp. Rev. 21, 22
- (4) Jar of Manna is *no longer hidden*.
 - (a) Open revelation of Christ
 - (b) “When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.” (Col. 3:4)
- (5) Aaron’s Rod is *openly displayed*.
- (6) Stone Tablets are *always in the Ark*.
 - (a) God’s eternal, unchanging, righteous Law.
- b. **God’s eternal law of righteousness is PERFECTLY and ETERNALLY in Christ’s heart.**
 - (1) **Psalm 40:7, 8 — “Then I said, ‘Here I am, I have come— it is written about me in the scroll. I desire to do your will, O my God; your LAW is within my HEART.’”**
- c. **The SECOND set of Tablets were place in the Ark (Deut. 10:1-5).**
 - (1) First Tablets — Israel couldn’t keep the Law (e.g. Golden Calf, etc.) — Moses’ smashed the Tablets in anger.
 - (2) Second Tablets — placed in the Ark.
 - (a) Sin punishable by *death* to lift the lid of the Ark and look at Stone Tablets of the Law.
- d. **Never take the lid off!**
 - (1) **Romans 3:20 — “Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by OBSERVING the LAW; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin.”**
 - (2) **Romans 10:4 — “Christ is the END of the LAW so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes.”**
 - (a) Christ is the *end* of man trying to keep the Law by his *own* efforts.
 - i) *Never take the lid off*, i.e., don’t go back to trying to keep the Law.
 - ii) Don’t go back to looking in the Ark at the Tablets of Law and say, “God, I’ll do it!”
 - (b) The only way is to have the Ark (Christ) in us, because the Law is perfectly and eternally in the Ark.
- e. **Two condition for being God’s people (Heb. 8:8-11)**
 - (1) **God’s Law WRITTEN in our HEARTS**
 - (2) **Direct, personal, Spirit-to-spirit RELATIONSHIP with God.**
 - (a) **1 Corinthians 6:17 — “He who unites himself with the Lord is one with him in spirit.”**

- (b) **1 Corinthians 9:21** — lit. “I am in the Law in Christ.”
 - i) Not me keeping the Law, but Christ living out His keeping of the Law in me.
 - ii) God’s Law rules in my heart through Christ reigning in me.
 - f. **Conclusion: the Stone Tablets in the Ark in the Most Holy Place represents CHRIST with the LAW in His HEART dwelling in the BELIEVER’S heart.**
 - 2. **Golden Jar of Manna**
 - a. **John 6:48-51, 57, 58**
 - b. **Revelation 2:17** — “To him who overcomes, I will give some of the hidden manna.”
 - (1) **By INNER spiritual COMMUNION with Christ, we FEED on Him, the “Hidden Manna.”**
 - (2) Life comes to us through our union with Christ.
 - 3. **Aaron’s Rod that Budded**
 - a. **Numbers 17:1-10**
 - (1) **The rod represents AUTHORITY, ATTESTATION, and REVELATION.**
 - (2) Name of the rod today is “Jesus.”
 - b. **Romans 1:4** — “...who through the Spirit of holiness was DECLARED with power to be the Son of God by his RESURRECTION from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.”
 - (1) **By the resurrection, God VALIDATED the claims of Jesus.**
- D. Theological Truth: Divine ATTESTATION Comes by Divine REVELATION, Which Result in Divine AUTHORITY.**

When you have received *revelation* you come forth with *authority*

Problem with most Bible Colleges - they teach students to preach, but not how to listen!

- 1. **WORSHIP (Tablets of Stone)**
 - a. **Approach God with REVERENT acknowledgment of God’s eternal LAW.**
 - b. **Comp. Matthew 6:9-10**
- 2. **FELLOWSHIP (Hidden Manna)**
 - a. **UNION with Christ; sharing His LIFE.**
- 3. **REVELATION (Aaron’s Rod)**
 - a. **The result of WORSHIP and FELLOWSHIP.**
 - b. **Confers divine AUTHORITY.**

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E. Summary

1. Golden Altar = link between Holy Place (soul) and Most Holy Place (spirit)
 - a. As we *praise* (with our soul) we launch out in *worship* (with out spirit).
 - b. *Worship* leads us into *fellowship*; i.e., we begin to *feed* on the *Hidden Manna*.
 - c. Out of *worship* and *fellowship* comes *revelation* of the mind, will, and purpose of God — typified by the *Shekinah Glory* illuminating the Most Holy Place.

2. Compartments get *narrower* and more *restricted* the closer you get to God.
 - a. Outer Court — 150' x 75'
 - b. Holy Place — 30' x 15'
 - c. Most Holy Place — 15' x 15' — and no light.
 - (1) Nothing to attract us but God Himself.
 - (2) Something in most of us is increasingly intimidated the nearer we get to Most Holy Place.
 - (3) We usually come to God to get “things” (e.g., blessing, healing, etc).
 - (4) God *wants us for Himself* — out of this comes *revelation*.