

Sanctuary Messages Series
Lesson 12: The Ark Of The Covenant
Bible Sermon Study Notes by Cary Rodgers, pastor

Today we are going to study about the Ark Of The Covenant. It is in the Most Holy Place of the temple. We will also look at spiritual lessons that God wants us to learn about the Ark Of The Covenant.

What is the description of the Ark Of The Covenant?

Exodus 25:10-15

10 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.

11 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.

12 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.

13 And thou shalt make staves of shittim wood, and overlay them with gold.

14 And thou shalt put the staves into the rings by the sides of the ark, that the ark may be borne with them.

15 The staves shall be in the rings of the ark: they shall not be taken from it.

Size:

1 cubit = 1 ½ (1.5) feet

Length = 2.5 x 1.5 = 3 ¾ feet

Width = 1.5 x 1.5 = 2 ¼ feet

Height = 1.5 x 1.5 = 2 ¼ feet

Width and the height of the ark were equal.

More descriptions of the Ark of the Covenant

- Made of acacia wood (shittim wood) overlaid with pure gold
- A golden crown around the edges
- four golden rings on sides
- staves made with acacia wood overlaid with gold
- staves inside rings were used to move the ark
- The staves were not suppose to be removed

God said that He wanted to dwell among His people on the throne in the Most Holy place.

Exodus 25:8

8 And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them.

Jesus came to this earth as Emanuel to save us from sin. This was prophesied in Isaiah 7:14 and fulfilled when Jesus became flesh in Matthew 1:23.

Isaiah 7:14

14 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Matthew 1:23

23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

John 1:14

14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

God's presence and glory was on the throne on top of the Ark of the Covenant.

Exodus 25:21-22

21 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.

22 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.

What was the meaning of the Mercy Seat of God?

Exodus 20:6

6 And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

Mercy is the favor and kindness from God as a gift to His faithful and obedient.

The Mercy Seat was a miniature model of the throne of God in heaven which is between two cherubims.

Psalms 99:1

1 The LORD reigneth; let the people tremble: he sitteth *between* the cherubims; let the earth be moved.

What is the description of the two cherubims between the Mercy Seat of God on the Ark of the Covenant?

Exodus 25:18-20

18 And thou shalt make two cherubims *of* gold, *of* beaten work shalt thou make them, in the two ends of the mercy seat.

19 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.

20 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.

Cherubims are angelic beings who do God's bidding. Two well known cherubims in the Bible are 1) Lucifer who rebelled against God and was cast out of heaven and 2) Gabriel. After Lucifer was cast out of heaven he became known as Satan.

Lucifer

Isaiah 14:12

12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! *how* art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!

Ezekiel 28:14

14 Thou (Lucifer) *art* the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.

Gabriel

Luke 1:18-19

18 And Zacharias said unto the angel, Whereby shall I know this? for I am an old man, and my wife well stricken in years.

19 And the angel answering said unto him, I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God; and am sent to speak unto thee, and to shew thee these glad tidings.

The prophet of Ezekiel mentions and sees cherubims in one of his visions.

Ezekiel 10:1-3

1 Then I looked, and, behold, in the firmament that was above the head of the cherubims there appeared over them as it were a sapphire stone, as the appearance of the likeness of a throne.

2 And he spake unto the man clothed with linen, and said, Go in between the wheels, *even* under the cherub, and fill thine hand with coals of fire from between the cherubims, and scatter *them* over the city. And he went in in my sight.

3 Now the cherubims stood on the right side of the house, when the man went in; and the cloud filled the inner court.

The crown on tops edges of the Ark of the Covenant points to the royalty, and kingship of Jesus Christ.

Revelation 19:16

16 And he hath on *his* vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

Those who are justified and sanctified through the blood become sons and daughters of the Kings. We will be glorified when Jesus comes again. As our High Priest Jesus will take off His priestly robe and put on His kingly robe when He takes dominion of His kingdom in the Most Holy in the heavenly temple.

What did God instruct Moses to put inside of the Ark of the Covenant?

Hebrews 9:4

4 Which had the golden censer, and the ark of the covenant overlaid round about with gold, wherein was the golden pot that had manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant;

The tables of the covenant were the two tables of stone of the Ten Commandments that God wrote with his own finger. This was placed inside the Ark of the Covenant.

Exodus 34:28

28 And he was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights; he did neither eat bread, nor drink water. And he wrote upon the tables the words of the covenant, the ten commandments.

Covenant = Ten Commandments

Aaron, the older brother of Moses, was the first High Priest of the temple.

Why was Aaron's rod budded placed in the Ark of the Covenant?

Korah wanted to be the High Priest and rebelled against God. He caused other men to also rebel. After the earth opened and swallowed Korah, the people still complained. God settled the question of whom he had chosen for the priesthood.. [Numbers 17:5](#) And it shall come to pass, *that* the man's rod, whom I shall choose, shall blossom: and I will make to cease from me the murmurings of the children of Israel, whereby they murmur against you.

Numbers 17:7-8

7 And Moses laid up the rods before the LORD in the tabernacle of witness.

8 And it came to pass, that on the morrow Moses went into the tabernacle of witness; and, behold, the rod of Aaron for the house of Levi was budded, and brought forth buds, and bloomed blossoms, and yielded almonds.

Aaron's rod was a living branch that produced bloomed blossoms and almonds revealing that those that are connected with Christ will not only keep the commandments of God but will also produce the fruits of the spirit and be a living sacrifice for God's kingdom.

When we abide in Christ and Christ abides in us we will produce the spiritual fruit of Christ.

Galatians 5:22-23

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

The pot of manna in the ark points to our daily dependence on God for our life both spiritually and mentally.

Jesus is that manna, the bread of life that gives us spiritual strength and power to overcome sin, be His witness, and eternal life.

John 6:49, 58

[49](#) Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead.

[58](#) This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever.