

## ***The Tabernacle, Part 11: The Ark of the Covenant***

**Exodus 25:8–9 (NKJV)** And let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them. <sup>9</sup>According to all that I show you, that is, the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furnishings, just so you shall make it.

***Do you know that the Lord is the Master Designer?***

- He is the Designer of tabernacles and temples.
- He is also the Designer of the universe and our lives.
- He has a plan and strategy.

***He didn't just tell Moses to build a tent.***

- Make it big.
- Use whatever you desire.
- Add a few rooms to it.

***I will come down and visit you there.***

- God had a plan.
- God is very specific and detailed.

***If God is specific and detailed about a tent, you know He is specific and detailed about your life.***

- Your times are completely in His hands. God arranges your affairs down to minute details. When God gives out plans, He gives minute details.

***Underneath the coverings of the tabernacle are two rooms.***

- The first room is the holy place.
- The second room which is beyond the veil is the Holy of Holies. The shekinah glory of God radiates from this place.

***The Levitical Priesthood worked in the Holy Place.***

- Three pieces of furniture are in Holy Place: the table of showbread, the candlestick, and the altar of incense.

***When you go through the veil, you are in the Holy of Holies.***

- When you come into the Holy of Holies, you come into the direct presence of God. No human activity is going on in there. Once a year, the high priest entered the Holy of Holies.

***All of the activity in the court and in the Holy Place is done in preparation to enter into the Holy of Holies.***

- All of the sacrifices and washings are preparing for this.
- All of the activity in the Holy Place are preparing an entrance into the Holy of Holies.

***It is all done in preparation to enter into the presence of God.***

***God said: "Let them make me a sanctuary that I might dwell among them."***

- The whole purpose is fellowship.
- They were to have communion with God.
- Humanity and divinity can meet here.

***God wants to come down and fellowship with His people.***

***God wanted to meet with them in a definite place.***

- It cost them to meet with Him. Relationship cost something. It cost the people to offer the sacrifice. Ultimately, relationship with God cost the blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son.

**By their sacrificial giving, a place was prepared for fellowship with the God Almighty .**

**God wanted them to personally meet with Him.**

- When they saw the tabernacle, God wanted them to know that they had a part in it. They contributed to establish this place.

**2 Chronicles 7:14 (NIV)** If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

**At the price of sacrifice, they entered into fellowship with God.**

- God was showing them that redemption costs. Our salvation required the great sacrifice and suffering of Jesus Christ. Living the Christian life will cost you something. It cost us something to walk with God. Jesus said: *"Take up your cross and follow Me."*

**Each piece of Tabernacle furniture was made out of articles that the people gave to God.**

- The last piece of furniture in the Tabernacle was the Ark of the Covenant.

**Exodus 25:10-15 (NIV)** "Have them make a chest of acacia wood—two and a half cubits long, a cubit and a half wide, and a cubit and a half high (45" long X 27" wide X 27" high). Overlay it with pure gold, both inside and out, and make a gold molding around it. Cast four gold rings for it and fasten them to its four feet, with two rings on one side and two rings on the other. Then make poles of acacia wood and overlay them with gold. Insert the poles into the rings on the sides of the chest to carry it. The poles are to remain in the rings of this ark; they are not to be removed.

**The first piece of furniture they built was the Ark of the Covenant.**

**The Ark of the covenant was a chest that was made of acacia wood.**

- Acacia wood is a hardwood from a gnarled and thorny tree. The sap of the Acacia tree is used in many products (gum, M&M's, marshmallows, gumdrops, Sodas, Painting, Art, Printmaking, glue...) It's sap contains 90% soluble fiber. Historically, it was used to treat: skin wounds such as burns, cuts, or leprosy, digestive issues, gonorrhea, coughs, colds and dysentery.

**God had them make the last piece of furniture first.**

- This is important. God wanted to make sure that they understood that He wanted to meet with them. The verse says: *"They shall make an ark." God is leading them into His presence.*

**Three arks are mentioned in the Bible.**

**In Genesis 6, Noah built the first ark for the saving of his family.**

- God commanded Noah to build the ark and gave him specific instructions. He was to use gopher wood and seal it with pitch (asphalt or tar) on the inside and the outside.

**Any time you see an ark, it is sealed with something.**

**The Ark of the Covenant was sealed with gold.**

- When Noah built the ark, all who went inside were preserved from the flood. God did not build the ark for Noah. He told him how to build it. Noah built the ark and was

preserved by his own effort. As he stepped into what he had built, he was preserved. God had the plan and Noah obeyed the plan.

***God always gives a plan.***

- We have to obey His plan. If we don't obey the plan, we cannot expect to ride the storm. When the storms began to come, Noah was preserved. When we submit ourselves into the hands of the Lord we are going to come out safe.

***When we do what God says, we do not have to be concerned about the storm on the outside.***

***Moses' mother built the second ark, in Exodus 2.***

- When she could no longer hide the child, she made an ark of reeds and covered it with asphalt and pitch within and without. The baby was preserved by what his mother had done. She was able to put him in an adverse situation. On the strength of the ark, her son was preserved.

***Noah and his family were safe because of the Ark.***

***Moses was safe in the Ark.***

***Isaiah 43:2 (NIV)*** When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.

- It does not matter what you go through.
- It matters what you are traveling in.
- The child could not live in the river without the ark.

***The design of the ark was to preserve the baby through whatever may come.***

- Don't trust in your own strength.
- Don't trust in your own morality.
- You need something else to trust in.

***Acts 17:28 (NIV)*** 'For in him we live and move and have our being.'

***You can trust in Christ.***

***In Jude 9, when Michael was contending with the devil, he did not rebuke the devil in his own strength.***

- He resisted the devil in the name of the Lord. When you have to fight with the devil, you don't come against him in your name. There is a name that is above every other name. In the name of Jesus we find strength and comfort.

***The third ark is found in Exodus 25.***

***When we look in the Ark of the Covenant, we are looking at things that God has put out of His sight.*** These things brought death. God has removed them from His sight.

***Psalms 103:12 (NKJV)*** As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.

***Three things are in the Ark of the Covenant.***

- If God continued to look at any of the things He has removed from us, He would destroy us.

***The Ark of the Covenant is a picture of Jesus Christ.***

- The whole tabernacle is a picture of Jesus Christ. Everything in the tabernacle is drawing us to this place where we meet with God.

***The Ark of the Covenant was the place to find mercy.***

***Inside the ark was a pot of manna.***

- This was the heavenly bread that God provided. In Numbers 11, the people complained about the manna that the Lord had given them. The Scripture says they tempted God and despised what He had supplied.

***Inside the ark was Aaron's rod that budded.***

- In Numbers 17, they refused God's anointed leadership. They rebelled against God. **1 Chronicles 16:22 (NKJV)** Saying, "Do not touch My anointed ones, And do My prophets no harm."
- Yet, they had refused to accept what God had chosen.

***The third thing in the Ark was the tablets of stone.***

- While God was giving them the Law, they were breaking His commandments in the valley. God said "you shall have no other God before me," and they were making a golden calf to worship.

***The Ark of the Covenant is the place where we meet with God.***

- When the Ark of the Covenant was first constructed, the Angels could observe all of the transgression of the people. When the blood of the sacrifice was appropriately applied, all that could be seen is the mercy of God that shields from sin. The angels of the Lord are looking down with amazement at the things man has done.

***Upon the Ark of the Covenant, there was a lid.***

***It was called the Mercy Seat.***

- The Mercy Seat was the place where the High Priest sprinkled the blood of the sacrifice and atonement was made. This was the place where God would come down and meet with man. The glory of God was seen between the angels on the Mercy Seat. The blood of the sacrifice kept judgment from the people. The blood of the sacrifice was a covering.

***Without the blood of Jesus Christ, God would behold our sin and judgment would come.***

- There is no mercy without the covering of the blood. Let us run to the Mercy Seat that we may obtain mercy and grace.

**Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV)** Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

**1 Peter 2:10 (NKJV)** who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

**Ephesians 2:13 (NKJV)** But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

**1 John 1:7 (NKJV)** But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.