

## The Ark of the Covenant (part one)

### The Ark

#### The Design of the Ark

- Made of wood overlaid with gold.
- The lid (or atonement cover) was made of pure gold with cherubim on each end.



#### The Placement of the Ark

- It stood behind the veil in the Most Holy Place.

"Behind the second curtain was a room called the Most Holy Place" - Hebrews 9:3

#### The Contents of the Ark

- The Ten Commandments, the budding rod of Aaron and a pot of manna.

"...which had the golden altar of incense and the gold-covered ark of the covenant. This ark contained the gold jar of manna, Aaron's staff that had budded, and the stone tablets of the covenant." - Hebrews 9:4

### The History of the Ark

- It is mentioned more than 200 times in the Bible.

- It is seen in the times of the Judges of Israel.

"Then the Israelites, all the people, went up to Bethel, and there they sat weeping before the LORD. They fasted that day until evening and presented burnt offerings and fellowship offerings to the LORD." - Judges 20:26

- It is seen in the time of the young man Samuel.

"The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was." - 1 Samuel 3:3

- It is seen in the time of the judge, Eli.

"The man who brought the news replied, "Israel fled before the Philistines, and the army has suffered heavy losses. Also your two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, are dead, and the ark of God has been captured." - 1 Samuel 4:17

- It is seen in the time of King David.

"They brought the ark of the LORD and set it in its place inside the tent that David had pitched for it, and David sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings before the LORD." - 2 Samuel 6:17

- It is seen in the time of King Solomon.

"...and they brought up the ark and the Tent of Meeting and all the sacred furnishings in it. The priests, who were Levites, carried them up." - 2 Chronicles 5:5

*Then, references to the Ark of the Covenant mysteriously end!*

### The Power of the Ark of the Covenant

1. It stopped rivers.

"And as soon as the priests who carry the ark of the LORD — the Lord of all the earth — set foot in the Jordan, its waters flowing downstream will be cut off and stand up in a heap." - Joshua 3:13

2. It killed those that mishandled it.

"But God struck down some of the men of Beth Shemesh, putting seventy of them to death because they had looked into the ark of the LORD. The people mourned because of the heavy blow the LORD had dealt them" - 1 Samuel 6:19

"When they came to the threshing floor of Kidon, Uzzah reached out his hand to steady the ark, because the oxen stumbled. The LORD's anger burned against Uzzah, and He struck him down because he had put his hand on the ark. So he died there before God." - 1 Chronicles 13:9,10

3. It humbled other "gods" and even entire cities.

"After the Philistines had captured the ark of God, they took it from Ebenezer to Ashdod. Then they carried the ark into Dagon's temple and set it beside Dagon. When the people of Ashdod rose early the next day, there was Dagon, fallen on his face on the ground before the ark of the LORD! They took Dagon and put him back in his place. But the following morning when they rose, there was Dagon, fallen on his face on the ground before the ark of the LORD! His head and hands had been broken off and were lying on the threshold; only his body remained. That is why to this day neither the priests of Dagon nor any others who enter Dagon's temple at Ashdod step on the threshold. The LORD's hand was heavy on the people of Ashdod and its vicinity; he brought devastation on them and afflicted them with tumours. When the people of Ashdod saw what was happening, they said, "The ark of the god of Israel must not stay here with us, because his hand is heavy on us and on Dagon our god." So they called together all the rulers of the Philistines and asked them, "What shall we do with the ark of the god of Israel?" They answered, "Have the ark of the god of Israel moved to Gath." So they moved the ark of the God of Israel. But after they had moved it, the LORD's hand was against that city, throwing it into a great panic. He afflicted the people of the city, both young and old, with an outbreak of tumours." - 1 Samuel 5:1-9

### Lessons We Learn:

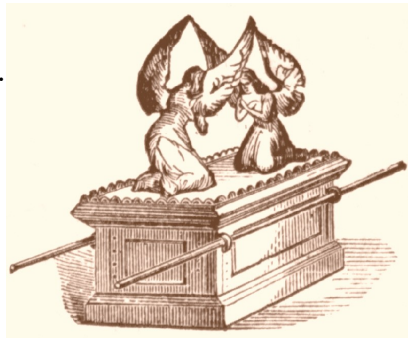
1. Our God is awesome in power.
2. Our God has a sense of humour.
3. Our God is merciful and wants us to come to Him in His way.

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