

The Ark of the Covenant (part two)

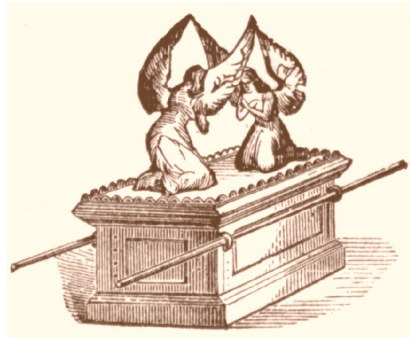
A Review

The Design

- A chest (wood and gold)
- A lid (solid gold, cherubim)

The Purpose of the Ark

- It was the Seat of God.
- It was the place of redemption where blood was sprinkled to seek forgiveness and cleansing.



The Last Mention of the Ark

It is mentioned more than 200 times in our Bibles but seems to disappear after the time of Solomon.

The story of King Josiah and (possibly) the ark.

"After all this, when Josiah had set the temple in order, Neco king of Egypt went up to fight at Carchemish on the Euphrates, and Josiah marched out to meet him in battle. But Neco sent messengers to him, saying, 'What quarrel is there between you and me, O king of Judah? It is not you I am attacking at this time, but the house with which I am at war. God has told me to hurry; so stop opposing God, who is with me, or He will destroy you.'" - 2 Chronicles 35:20-21

A Puzzling Passage Concerning the Ark

"In those days, when your numbers have increased greatly in the land," declares the LORD, "men will no longer say, 'The ark of the covenant of the LORD.' It will never enter their minds or be remembered; it will not be missed, nor will another one be made." - Jeremiah 3:16

Several Possibilities:

Whatever Happened to the Ark?

1. It was transported to Heaven.

"Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and within His temple was seen the ark of His covenant. And there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake and a great hailstorm." - Revelation 11:19

The Problem:

2. It was stolen by the Pharaoh Shishak.

"So Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem, and took the treasures of the house of the LORD and the treasures of the king's palace. He took everything; he even took the golden shields which Solomon had made." - 2 Chronicles 12:9

The Problem:

3. It is buried under the place where Jesus died. (Calvary)

The Problem:

4. It was taken by early Christians or the crusaders and resides in Italy or France (or the Vatican) today.

The Problem:

5. It was hidden on Mount Nebo by Jeremiah before the invasion of Nebuchadnezzar.

"...Prophet Jeremiah, having received an oracle, ordered that the tent and the ark should follow with him, and that he went out to the mountain where Moses had gone up and had seen the inheritance of God. And Jeremiah came and found a cave, and he brought there the tent and the ark and the altar of incense, and he sealed up the entrance." - 2 Maccabees [2:4,5]

The Problem:

6. It was hidden under the temple mount (Solomon, Josiah) to be brought back to the surface when the new temple is built.

The Problem:

7. It was taken to Ethiopia and hidden in a chapel.

"When the queen of Sheba heard about the fame of Solomon and his relation to the name of the LORD, she came to test him with hard questions. ⁶She said to the king, 'The report I heard in my own country about your achievements and your wisdom is true. ⁷But I did not believe these things until I came and saw with my own eyes. Indeed, not even half was told me; in wisdom and wealth you have far exceeded the report I heard." - 1 Kings 10:1,6-7

The Problem:

Lessons We Should Learn:

1. God's temple will someday be rebuilt and Jesus will reign forever.
"Tell him this is what the LORD Almighty says: 'Here is the man whose name is the Branch, and he will branch out from his place and build the temple of the LORD. It is he who will build the temple of the LORD, and he will be clothed with majesty and will sit and rule on his throne. And he will be a priest on his throne. And there will be harmony between the two.'" - Zechariah 6:12-13
2. Our faith should be strengthened as we see that God's plan for redemption has never changed – it has been fulfilled.

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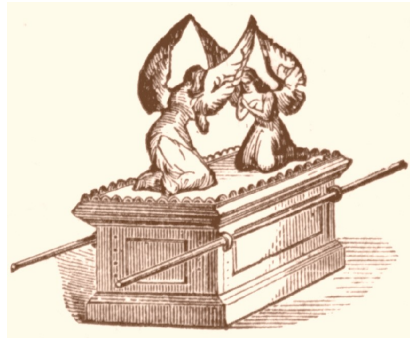
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