

STUDIES ON THE TABERNACLE

PREACHED AT NEWTOWNARDS FPC FROM 3RD to 8TH
SEPTEMBER 2006 BY REV RON JOHNSTON

The Ark of the Covenant



(Exodus 25:10-22; Hebrews 9:4)

The Ark is one of the clearest types of the Lord Jesus and his work of salvation in the entire Bible.

The Command for the Ark (verse 10)

It was the first item mentioned. It was there that God would meet with His people (verse 22). It was called by various names (1 Samuel 3:3; Exodus 25:22; Numbers 10:33; 1 Kings 2:26; Psalm 132:8; 2 Chronicles 35:3).

The Construction of the Ark (verses 10&11)

It was a chest made of wood overlaid with gold, which typifies the union of Christ's divine and human natures.

The Contents of the Ark (verse 16; Hebrews 9:4)

1) The Pot of Manna

Christ is the true spiritual manna (John 6:35) Who is sufficient to meet his people's needs (Philemon 4:19). He is the PROPHET.

2) Aaron's rod that budded (Numbers 16&17)

Christ rose from the dead to be our Great High PRIEST.

3) The Tables of the Law

Christ kept the law perfectly. He is the KING.

God has given us all we need in Christ.

Carrying of the Ark (verses 12&15)

The symbol of the presence of God in Christ went with them in their journeys. It was carried by the Levites. Only priests could touch it (Numbers 4:5,6,15).

Coverings of the Ark (Numbers 4:5,6)

When carried among the people it was to be covered. The outer covering was of blue signifying the heavenly nature of the Ark.

Career of the Ark

Numbers 10:33-36. The ark leads the people.

Numbers 14:44,45. They are defeated without the Ark.

Joshua 3:14-17. The Ark parts the river Jordan.

Joshua 6. The Ark is carried around Jericho.

Joshua 8:33. They gather to be blest at the Ark.

Judges 20:27,28. They come to the Ark for guidance.

1 Samuel 4:3,22. The Ark is captured

1 Samuel 5. The Philistines are cursed

1 Samuel 6:7,8. The Ark is returned.

1 Samuel 6:19. Men of Bethshemesh are killed after looking into the Ark.

2 Samuel 6;1 Chronicles 13-16 Uzziah was killed for touching the Ark. David later brings the Ark back in the proper manner and blessing results.

The staves were only taken out when it was placed in the temple (2 Chronicles 5:9,10)

The Saviour will go with us all the way to the Heavenly temple (Revelation 11:19)

The Cover on the Ark (verses 17-22)

The Mercy Seat was a solid gold lid with cherubim upon it. It was here the presence of the Lord dwelt (verse 22; Psalm 99:1; Revelation 4&5)

It illustrates the security of the Lord's people.

1) The Mercy Seat covered the law. Christ is our mercy seat (Hebrews 9:5, 2:7; Romans 3:22-26; 1 John 4:10).

2) The High Priest sprinkled the blood before and upon it on the **Day of Atonement** (Leviticus 16).

The **Reason for it** (verse 30; Hebrews 9:22,23)

The **Repetition of it** (verse 2; Exodus 23:27; Hebrews 9:7,8,25,26)

The **Right to do it** (verse 17; Hebrews 5:1,4,5)

The **Requirement to do it** (Hebrews 9:7,12)

The **Rules for it**

The blood was sprinkled on and before the mercy seat (verses 14&15).

Incense was offered (verses 12,13; Hebrews 9:4, 7:25). The live goat was sent into the wilderness (verses 21&22; Hebrews 10:17). The robes were put on again (verses 23&24; Hebrews 2:9). The tabernacle and people were cleansed (verses 5&7; Hebrews 9:21-23)

When you have doubts look to the mercy seat

Communion at the Ark (Exodus 25:22)

God met with sinful man at the blood sprinkled mercy seat.

How do we get there?

Though the veil (Exodus 26:31-34).

The Description of the veil

The material of it (verse 31). The marks on it (verse 31). The means of hanging it (verses 33&34).

The Division by the veil

It divided the Holiest from the Holy place (verse 33; Hebrews 9:8)

The Division in the veil (Matthew 27:50-53)

After Christ cried 'It is finished' and gave up the spirit the veil was rent:

Divinely (verse 51)

Deliberately (verse 50)

Dramatically (verses 51-53)

Christ our Great High Priest opened heaven (Hebrews 9:11,12), cleansed heaven (Hebrews 9:20-23), intercedes in heaven (Hebrews 9:24) and has secured access for us into heaven (Hebrew 10:19,20; 4:16)