

#1

The Tabernacle, Part 11: The Ark of the Covenant

Exodus 25:8-9 Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: "let them make Me a sanctuary that I may dwell among them. 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 in a strategy.

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

Make it big.

Use whatever you won't.

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 and totally in His hands.

God orchestrates your affairs down to minute details.

When God gives out plans, He gives minute details.

When you pray you should pray specifically.

#2

Underneath the coverings of the tabernacle are two rooms.

- The first room that you come to is the most holy place.
- The second room which is beyond the veil is the Holy of Holies.

The Shekinah glory of God emanates from this place.

#3

The Levitical Priesthood works in the Most Holy Place.

Three pieces of furniture are in Most Holy Place: the Table of Showbread, the Candlestick, and the Altar of Incense.

#4

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 presence of God.

No human activity is going on in there.

Once a year the high priest enters the Holy of Holies.

All of the activity in the court and in the Holy place to is preparing us to enter into the Holy of Holies.

All of the sacrifices and washings

All of the activity in the Holy place

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

#5

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.

For over 400 years they were estranged from a meaningful relationship with God.

God wanted to meet with them but he wanted to meet in a specified place.

It would cost something for them to meet with Him.

Relationship cost something.

In the Tabernacle and Temple it cost them sacrifice.

In reality, relationship with God cost the blood of Jesus Christ the Son of God.

By their sacrificial giving, a place was prepared to come into fellowship with the Almighty God.

We lose respect for things that cost nothing.

God wanted them to have a personal experience.

Every time they came to the tabernacle, God wanted them to know that they had a part in it.

There was a price for them to be there.

Something has been given up to establish this place.

You are not going to have a mighty sense of God's presence without sacrifice.

#6

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.

You cannot have a mighty touch of God on what someone else has done.

At the price of sacrifice, they were able to enter in to fellowship with God.

God is teaching them that it cost something to have redemption.

Salvation required great sacrifice and suffering.

It cost God His Son.

Living the Christian life is going to cost you something.

Cheap grace is no grace and all.

It cost you something to walk with God.

Jesus said: "Take up your cross and follow Me."

Each piece of Tabernacle furniture was made out of articles the people sacrifice and gave to God.

It cost them something.

The last piece of furniture that you come to is the Ark of the Covenant.

In our text, when God begins to establish the building, the first piece of furniture to be built is the Ark.

#7

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. Overlay it with pure gold, both inside and out, and make a gold molding around it.

#8

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.

#9

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

Acacia wood or Shittim wood is a hardwood like the hawthorn, 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 was used as medicine for healing.

God starts the last piece of furniture first.

This is important.

God wants make sure that they understand that He wants 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.

#10

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.

God told him to preach to the people that it was going to rain.

All flesh had corrupted their ways on the earth and was filled with violence.

Through the building of the ark and preaching, the people might find safety.

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 has to build the ark and is preserved by his own effort.

As he stepped into what he has built, he is preserved.

It is by the joint efforts of humanity and divinity that Noah is preserved.

Divinity gives the plan.

Humanity obeys the plan.

If we are to be blessed, saved, and preserved we cannot set back and be indifferent, and expect God to take care of it.

We cannot take the attitude that if God wants me to be saved, I'll be saved.

If you want this thing to work, it will work.

While you set back and drink cool aid.

It will not happen that way.

God always gives a plan.

You just have to obey the plan.

If you don't obey the plan, don't expect to ride the storm.

God told him how to build it and said pitch it within and without.

When the storms began to come, Noah was preserved.

#11

Genesis 9:18 Now the sons of Noah who went out of the ark were Shem, Ham, and Japheth. And Ham was the father of Canaan.

When you submit yourself into the hands of the Lord you are going to come out safe.

If you start sinking don't blame God.

The Bible says the way of the transgressor is hard.

If you do what God says, you do not have concern yourself about the storm on the outside.

The whole family was preserved through what the father had done.

Noah's family was secure because he was willing to obey God.

#12

Hebrews 11:7 By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

#13

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.

It is hard to tell what kinds of dangers were in the water.

On the strength of the ark... Not the strength of the occupant.

On the strength of the ark, Her son was preserved.

The occupant is able to endure the circumstances because he trusts in the ark.

He was not at the mercy of the river.

He was not at the mercy of the occupant.

Noah and his family were safe because of the Ark.

Moses was safe in the Ark.

He is laying in the obedience of His mother.

#14

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

The ark was strong enough to protect that baby through whatever may come against it.

When she placed the baby in the tebah (ark), the box became the point of reference not the child.

The child could not live in the river without the ark.

He can rest in the tebah without straining to make it through the test.
He rests in what he has been placed in.
He knows he is secure because of his position.
Don't trust in your own strength.
Don't trust in your own morality.
You need something else to trust in.

#15

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.

#16

The Third ark is found in Exodus 25.

The word Ark is אָרֹן aw-rone'; ark, chest, coffin.

Genesis 50:26 So Joseph died, being one hundred and ten years old; and they embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt.

The same word is that is used for the Ark of the Covenant is used for the coffin of Joseph.

It still has the meaning to preserve.
It refers more specifically with dead things.
Put it in the mummy case.

When you look in the Ark of the Covenant you are looking at things that God has put out of His sight.

These are things that bring death.

God has put them in the box, like you would put a body in a casket.

God has removed these things out of His sight lest He remembers and kills them all.

Three things are in the Ark of the Covenant.

If God continued to look at any of them and compared them to us, He would destroy us.

There are 185 references to the Ark of the Covenant.

The Ark of the Covenant in the Old Testament 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.

#17

Inside the ark was a pot of manna.

This was the heavenly bread God had provided.

Scripture says they tempted God and despised what God had supplied.

#18

Inside the ark was Aaron's rod that budded.

They had refused God's anointed leadership.

They had rebelled against God.

They refused God's Son.

The Children of Israel were wandering from place to place.

From kingdom to kingdom...

God remembered his covenant with them.

He permitted no man to do them wrong.

He rebuked kings for their sakes.

1 Chronicles 16:22 "Do not touch My anointed ones, And do My prophets no harm."

Yet, Within the camp they had refused to accept what God had chosen.

#19

The Third thing in the Ark was the Tablets of stone.

Even while God was giving them the Law, they were in the valley breaking His commandments.

God said you shall have no other God before me, and they were making them a golden calf to worship.

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

The Angels of the Lord have been looking down with amazement at the things man has done.

We have profaned and rebelled against God.

We have sinned against God.

#20

Upon the Ark of the Covenant, there was a Lid.

It was called the Mercy Seat.

The Mercy Seat was the place where atonement was made. This was the Place where the High Priest applied the blood of sprinkling.

This was the place where God would come down and meet with man.

God would speak with Moses between the angels on the mercy seat.

Had it not been for the blood of the Sacrifice...

When the Angels looked down...

When God would come down...

Had it not been for the Blood of Jesus Christ...

There is no mercy without the covering of the Blood.

Let us run to the Mercy Seat that we may obtain mercy and grace.