

Exodus 25:10-22

3 Foundations Of Jesus' Abundant Mercy



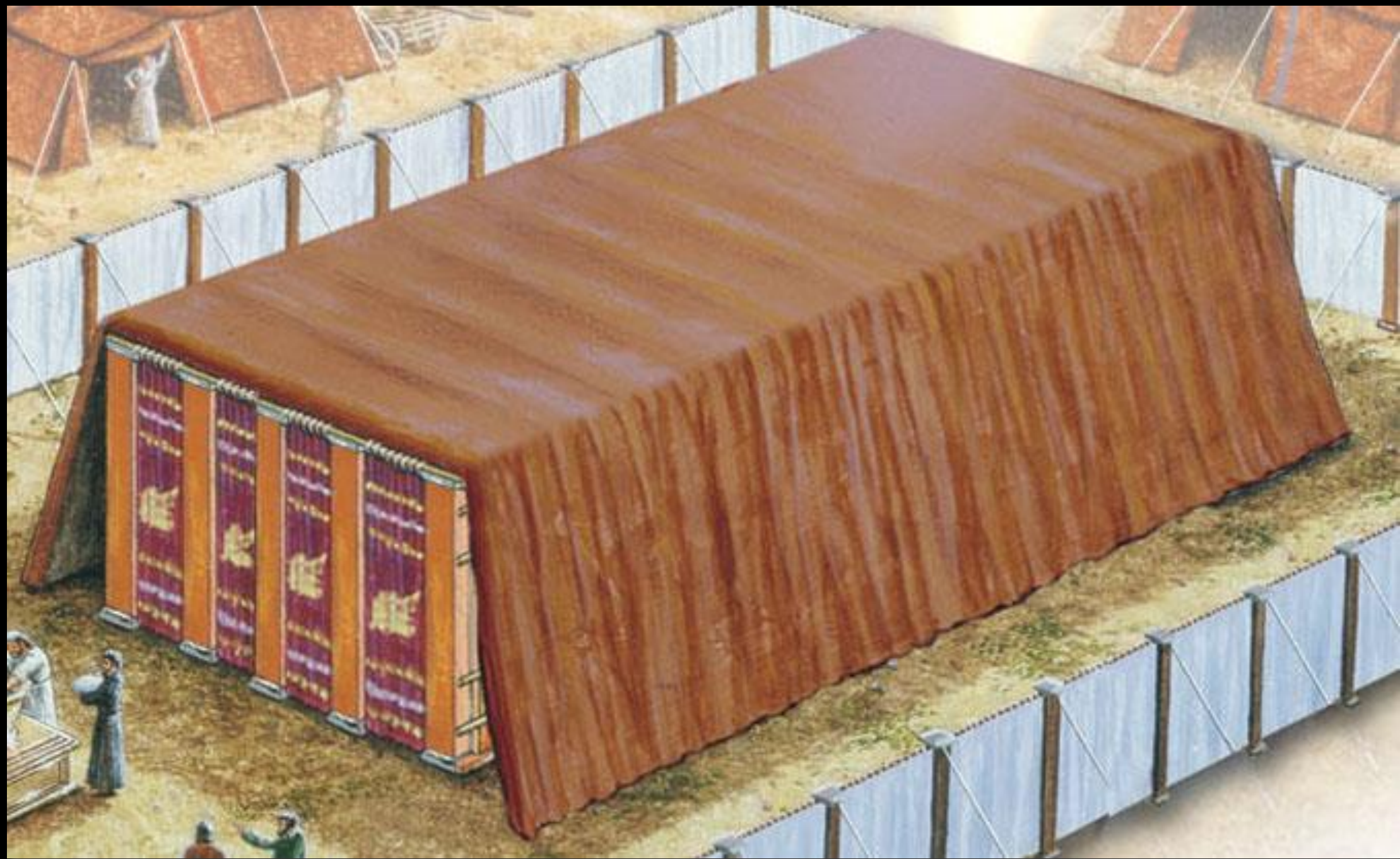
“Need A Favor”

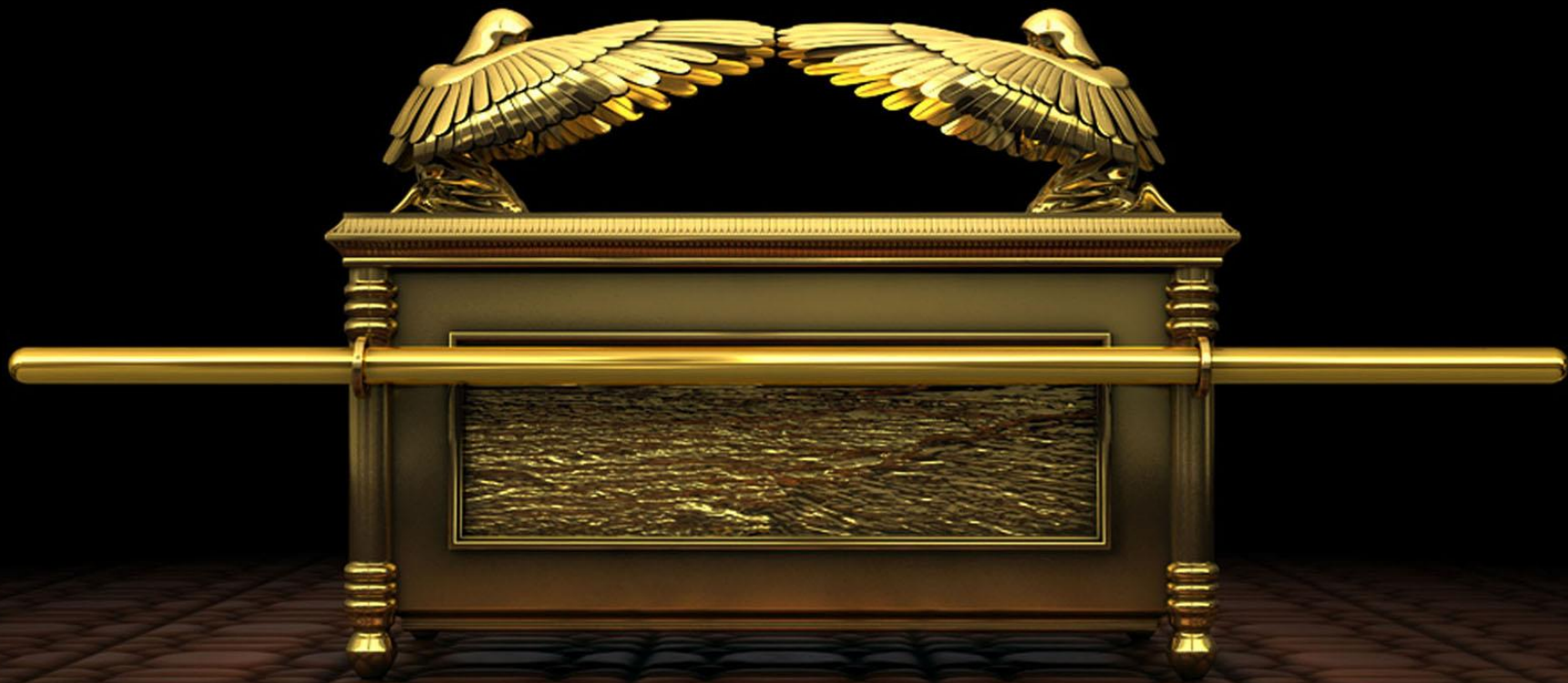
- “I only talk to God when I need a favor
- And I only pray when I ain’t got a prayer
- So who the ___ am I, who the ___ am I to expect a Savior, oh
- If I only talk to God when I need a favor?
- But, God I need a favor...”

- ---Jason Bradley Deford (Jelly Roll)

Context/Background

- Wilderness Tabernacle shows great things about Jesus
- Here focus; Tabernacle structure, especially “Most Holy Place”
- Only High Priest could enter “Most Holy Place” or Holy of Holies, once a year (Moses could also enter, Num. 7:89)
- Only one furnishing in Most Holy Place: Ark of the Covenant
- Its lid called the “Mercy Seat”
- Ark: replica of God’s throne in Heaven, physical place of manifestation of God’s presence
- God is a God of mercy





Awareness Of God's Mercy Through A Meaningful Description

- (vv.10-16) Moses given instructions from God Himself; build special “box” called the Ark
- It to have special lid; “Mercy Seat” (Bible refers to Ark more than 150 times; Ark of the Covenant, Ark of Testimony)
- It practical; held tablets of stone that inscribed with 10 Commandments, jar of Manna, and later Aaron's rod
- Also used in yearly sacrifice for sins of nation (Day of Atonement, Yom Kippur)
- Symbolic; physical manifestation of God's presence and holiness; sign of God's everlasting mercy

- Ps. 136:1, “Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.” [26 verses, phrase about mercy]
- Eph. 2:4-5, “But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ,...”



Appreciation Of God's Mercy Through A Marvelous Construction

- (vv.17-21) Very similar construction as other items in worship complex
- Ark to be made from Acacia wood, rectangle in shape (2 ft. 3 in. wide, 2 ft. 3in. High, 3 ft. 9 in. high) Overlaid with pure gold inside and out; gold molding or crown around top
- Top of Ark, special lid, "Mercy Seat"; made of pure gold
- Made with figures of Cherubim on each end and facing one another; wings outstretched, faced looking down
- Cherubim; plural for Cherub, protectors of God's majesty, holiness and presence

- Lam. 3:22-23, “Through the Lord’s mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.”
- Titus 3:5, “But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior,…”

JESUS FORGAVE A THIEF DANGLING ON A CROSS, KNOWING FULL WELL THE THIEF HAD CONVERTED OUT OF PLAIN FEAR. THAT THIEF WOULD NEVER STUDY THE BIBLE, NEVER ATTEND SYNAGOGUE OR CHURCH, AND NEVER MAKE AMENDS TO THOSE HE HAD WRONGED. HE SIMPLY SAID "JESUS REMEMBER ME," AND JESUS PROMISED, "TODAY YOU WILL BE WITH ME IN PARADISE." IT WAS ANOTHER SHOCKING REMINDER THAT GRACE DOES NOT DEPEND ON WHAT WE HAVE DONE FOR GOD BUT RATHER WHAT GOD HAS DONE FOR US.

-Philip Yancey