

THE ARK OF THE COVENANT

Exodus 25:9-22

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Theme: *The Person and work of Christ as revealed by the Ark of the Covenant.*

I. The ark was the first vessel that God instructed Moses to make. There was nothing else of any value apart from it. It was a symbol of God's presence. The ark to Israel was the same as Christ to us.

II. Origin of the Ark or revelation of Christ. The plan was revealed to Moses (Exodus 25:10-32). Man apart from revelation cannot find out about God.

III. The materials represent the character of Christ (Exodus 25:10-11). Humanity and divinity.

Wood grown in the earth represents Christ as our kinsmen. The gold speaks of him as God's fellow. It is the gold that gives power and preciousness to the wood of humanity.

IV. The anointing of the Ark (Exodus 30:25-26). The oil consecrated the Ark to God's appointed purpose. At the banks of Jordan, Christ, the Ark of our testimony, received his Holy anointing to set him apart for a special purpose or mission.

V. The contents of the Ark. Placed the Law into the Ark and put the Mercy Seat above (Exodus 40:20).

The broken law which could only minister death was here covered in the presence of God and covered in the seat of mercy. In Him as our Ark, the broken law was shut up, covered in mercy.

VI. The purpose of the Ark (Exodus 25:22). A place of meeting. In Christ, we meet with God in mercy. Christ is the mercy seat between God and the broken law.

VII. The presence of the Ark is hope of the humble (Joshua 7:6). Joshua rent his clothes and fell upon his face, defeated because of secret sin.

VIII. The presence of the Ark is the glory of Israel (I Samuel 4:22). "The glory is departed from Israel, for the Ark of God is taken." Israel without the Ark is as a flock without a shepherd (Judges 16:20).

IX. The presence of the Ark is the downfall of heathenism. Dagon (I Samuel 5:1-5). No other God is able to stand in the presence of Christ.

X. The presence of the Ark is the rebuking of the presumptuous. He smote 50,000 (I Samuel 6:19). Uzzah put forth his hand to the Ark and God smote him (II Samuel 6:6).

XI. Absence of the Ark is defeat to God's people (Numbers 14:44-45).

XII. The presence of the Ark is the joy of God's people. David danced before the Lord with all his might. God's presence always brings joy and gladness (II Samuel 6:15-17).