

~ARK OF THE COVENANT (1526)

[Hebrew, 'arohn' hab-berith', Greek, ki-bo-tos' tes di-a-the'kes]

.. Pattern And Design

.. Long poles Were Provided For Carrying The Ark

.. Inauguration And Use

.. Associated With God's Presence

.. Not A Magic Charm

.. Locations Where the Ark Was Kept

· The sacred chest located in the Most Holy of the tabernacle and, later, in the temple built by Solomon. The Ark was made at Yehowah's command and according to his design.

· Bible writers designate the **ark of the covenant** in more than 20 different ways. The more common of these expressions, **the ark of the covenant** in Hebrew 'arohn' hab-berith' Greek, ki-bo-tos' tes di-a-the'kes.

· Then Joshua said to the priests; Take up the **ark of the covenant** and pass before the people. So they took up the **ark of the covenant** and went before the people. (Joshua 3:6)

· This had a golden censer and the **ark of the covenant** overlaid all around with gold, in which were the golden jar having the manna and the rod of Aaron that budded and the tablets **of the covenant**. (Hebrews 9:4)

· And the **ark of the testimony**

· And I will present myself to you there and speak with you from above the cover, from between the two cherubs that are upon the **ark of the testimony**, even all that I shall command you for the sons of Israel. (Exodus 25:22)

· Are not peculiar to any certain writer and are used interchangeably.

.. Pattern And Design

· The first thing Yehowah gave Moses, when instructing him to build the tabernacle, was the pattern and design of the **Ark**, for indeed it was the central and paramount object of the tabernacle and the whole camp of Israel. The chest itself measured 2.5 cubits long, 1.5

cubits wide, and 1.5 cubits high (c. 111 × 67 × 67 centimeters)(44 × 26 × 26 inches).

- **It was made of acacia wood, overlaid inside and out with pure gold. An artistic border of gold served as a crowning wreath round about upon it. The second section of the **Ark**, its cover, was made of solid gold, not just wood overlaid with gold, and was the full length and breadth of the chest.**
- **Mounted on this cover were two golden cherubs of hammered workmanship, one at each end of the cover facing each other, with heads bowed and wings extending upward and overspreading the **Ark**.**
- **And they must make an **Ark** of acacia wood, two and a half cubits its length and a cubit and a half its width and a cubit and a half its height. (Exodus 25:10)**
- **And you must overlay it with pure gold. Inside and outside you are to overlay it, and you must make a border of gold round about upon it. (Exodus 25:11)**
- **And you must make a cover of pure gold, two and a half cubits its length and a cubit and a half its width. (Exodus 25:17)**
- **And you must make two cherubs of gold. Of hammered work you are to make them on both ends of the cover. (Exodus 25:18)**
- **And make one cherub on this end and one cherub on that end. On the cover you are to make the cherubs at its two ends. (Exodus 25:19)**
- **And the cherubs must be spreading out their two wings upward, screening over the cover with their wings, with their faces one toward the other. Toward the cover the faces of the cherubs should be. (Exodus 25:20)**
- **And you must place the cover above upon the **Ark**, and in the **Ark** you will place the testimony that I shall give you. (Exodus 25:21)**
- **And I will present myself to you there and speak with you from above the cover, from between the two cherubs that are upon the **Ark of the testimony**, even all that I shall command you for the sons of Israel. (Exodus 25:22)**

- And he went on to make the cover of pure gold. Two cubits and a half was its length, and a cubit and a half its width. (**Exodus 37:6**)
- He further made two cherubs of gold. Of hammered work he made them on both ends of the cover. (**Exodus 37:7**)
- One cherub was on the end over there, and the other cherub on the end over here. He made the cherubs on the cover on both of its ends. (**Exodus 37:8**)
- And they came to be cherubs spreading out two wings upward, screening over the cover with their wings, and their faces were one to the other. The faces of the cherubs proved to be toward the cover. (**Exodus 37:9**)
- This cover was also known as the mercy seat or propitiatory cover.
- And you must make a cover of pure gold, two and a half cubits its length and a cubit and a half its width. (**Exodus 25:17**)
- But up above it were the glorious cherubs overshadowing the **propitiatory cover**. But now is not the time to speak in detail concerning these things. (**Hebrews 9:5**) Footnote

See Also PROPITIATORY COVER

•• Long poles Were Provided For Carrying The Ark

- They were also made of acacia wood covered with gold and were inserted through two rings of gold on each side of the chest. These poles were not to be removed from their rings, hence there was never a necessity for bearers of the **Ark** to touch it.
- There were four feet, **walking feet, feet bent as if for walking**, located at the corners to raise the **Ark** off the floor, but how high is not disclosed. [**Commentary on the Old Testament, by C. F. Keil and F. Delitzsch, 1973, Vol. 1, The Second Book of Moses, p. 167**] The rings may have been mounted immediately above the feet, if not on the feet themselves.
- And you must cast four rings of gold for it and put them above its four feet, with two rings upon the one side of it and two rings upon its other side. (**Exodus 25:12**)

- And you must make poles of acacia wood and overlay them with gold. (**Exodus 25:13**)
- And you must put the poles through the rings upon the sides of the **Ark** in order to carry the **Ark** with them. (**Exodus 25:14**)
- In the rings of the **Ark** the poles are to stay. They are not to be removed from it. (**Exodus 25:15**)
- And you must place in the **Ark the testimony** that I shall give you. (**Exodus 25:16**)
- And Aaron and his sons must come in when the camp is departing, and they must take down the screening curtain and must cover the **Ark of the testimony** with it. (**Numbers 4:5**)
- And Aaron and his sons must finish covering the holy place and all the utensils of the holy place when the camp is departing, and after that the sons of Kohath will come in to carry them, but they must not touch the holy place so that they have to die. These things are the load of the sons of Kohath in the tent of meeting. (**Numbers 4:15**)
- But the poles proved to be long, so that the tips of the poles were visible from the Holy in front of the innermost room, but they were not visible outside. And there they continue down to this day. (**1 Kings 8:8**)
- Then the sons of the Levites began to carry the **Ark of the true God**, just as Moses had commanded by Yehowah's word, upon their shoulders with the rods upon them. (**1 Chronicles 15:15**)

•• Inauguration And Use

- Bezalel and the wise-hearted one's assisting him followed the plans explicitly, constructing the **Ark** from the materials contributed by the people.
- From among yourselves take up a contribution for Yehowah. Let every willing-hearted one bring it as Yehowah's contribution, namely, gold and silver and copper (**Exodus 35:5**)
- And ram skins dyed red and sealskins and acacia wood (**Exodus**

35:7)

- **And let all the wise-hearted one's among you come and make all that Yehowah has commanded. (Exodus 35:10)**
- **The Ark and its poles, the cover and the curtain of the screen. (Exodus 35:12)**
- **Bezalel now made the Ark of acacia wood. Two cubits and a half was its length, and a cubit and a half its width, and a cubit and a half its height. (Exodus 37:1)**
- **Then he overlaid it with pure gold inside and outside and made a border of gold round about for it. (Exodus 37:2)**
- **After that he cast four rings of gold for it, for above its four feet, with two rings on its one side and two rings on its other side. (Exodus 37:3)**
- **He next made poles of acacia wood and overlaid them with gold. (Exodus 37:4)**
- **Then he put the poles through the rings on the sides of the Ark for carrying the Ark. (Exodus 37:5)**
- **And he went on to make the cover of pure gold. Two cubits and a half was its length, and a cubit and a half its width. (Exodus 37:6)**
- **He further made two cherubs of gold. Of hammered work he made them on both ends of the cover. (Exodus 37:7)**
- **One cherub was on the end over there, and the other cherub on the end over here. He made the cherubs on the cover on both of its ends. (Exodus 37:8)**
- **And they came to be cherubs spreading out two wings upward, screening over the cover with their wings, and their faces were one to the other. The faces of the cherubs proved to be toward the cover. (Exodus 37:9)**
- **When the tabernacle was completed and set up a year after the Exodus, Moses took the two stone tablets of the Law and put them into the Ark.**

- **At that particular time Yehowah said to me; Carve for yourself two tablets of stone like the first ones, and come up to me into the mountain, and you must make an ark of wood for yourself. (Deuteronomy 10:1)**
- **And I shall write upon the tablets the words that appeared on the first tablets, which you shattered, and you must place them in the Ark. (Deuteronomy 10:2)**
- **So I made an Ark of acacia wood and carved two tablets of stone like the first one's and went up into the mountain, and the two tablets were in my hand. (Deuteronomy 10:3)**
- **Then he wrote upon the tablets the same writing as the first, the Ten Words, which Yehowah had spoken to you in the mountain out of the middle of the fire in the day of the congregation, after which Yehowah gave them to me. (Deuteronomy 10:4)**
- **Then I turned and went down from the mountain and placed the tablets in the Ark that I had made, that they might continue there, just as Yehowah had commanded me. (Deuteronomy 10:5)**
- **Indicates that a temporary Ark made of acacia wood housed the tablets during only the few months interval from the time Moses received them in the mountain until they were transferred to the Ark made by Bezalel. Next, Moses inserted the poles in the rings of the Ark, laid the cover on, brought it into the tent, and put up the screen that was to separate the Holy from the Most Holy.**
- **Then, as part of the inauguration ceremony, Moses anointed the Ark and all other furnishings with oil. From then on, when the priests disassembled the tabernacle to move camp, the same dividing screen, together with additional sealskins and blue cloth, was used to cover the Ark to prevent the people from looking upon it for the least moment of time, lest they die.**
- **And you must place the Ark of the testimony in it and shut off approach to the Ark with the curtain. (Exodus 40:3)**
- **And you must take the anointing oil and anoint the tabernacle and all that is in it, and you must sanctify it and all its utensils, and so it must become something holy. (Exodus 40:9)**

- After that he took the Testimony and put it into the **Ark** and placed the poles on the **Ark** and put the cover above upon the **Ark**. (**Exodus 40:20**)
- Then he brought the **Ark** into the tabernacle and put the curtain of the screen in place and shut off approach to the ark of the testimony, just as Yehowah had commanded Moses. (**Exodus 40:21**)
- And the chieftain of the paternal house for the families of the Kohathites was Elizaphan the son of Uzziel. (**Numbers 3:30**)
- And their obligation was the **Ark** and the table and the lampstand and the altars and the utensils of the holy place with which they would minister and the screen, and all its service. (**Numbers 3:31**)
- And Aaron and his sons must come in when the camp is departing, and they must take down the screening curtain and must cover the **Ark of the testimony** with it. (**Numbers 4:5**)
- And they must put a covering of sealskins over it and spread out an entire cloth of blue on top and put in its poles. (**Numbers 4:6**)
- But do this for them that they may indeed keep alive and may not die for their approaching the most holy things. Aaron and his sons will come in, and they must assign them each one to his service and to his load. (**Numbers 4:19**)
- And they must not come in to see the holy things for the least moment of time, and so they have to die. (**Numbers 4:20**)
- But to the sons of Kohath he gave none, because the service of the holy place was upon them. They did their carrying on the shoulder. (**Numbers 7:9**)
- At that particular time Yehowah separated the tribe of Levi to carry the **Ark of Yehowah's covenant**, to stand before Yehowah for ministering to him and to bless in his name until this day. (**Deuteronomy 10:8**)
- Then Moses wrote this Law and gave it to the priests the sons of Levi, the carriers of the **Ark of Yehowah's covenant**, and to all the older men of Israel. (**Deuteronomy 31:9**)

See Also TABERNACLE

- The **Ark** served as a holy archive for the safekeeping of sacred reminders or testimony, the principal contents being the two tablets of the testimony, or the Ten Commandments.
- And you must place in the Ark the testimony that I shall give you. (**Exodus 25:16**)
- A golden jar having the manna and the rod of Aaron that budded were added to the **Ark** but were later removed sometime before the building of Solomon's temple.
- This had a golden censer and the **Ark of the covenant** overlaid all around with gold, in which were the golden jar having the manna and the rod of Aaron that budded and the tablets of the covenant. (**Hebrews 9:4**)
- Then Moses said; This is the word that Yehowah has commanded, Fill an omer measure of it as something to be kept throughout your generations, in order, that they may see the bread that I made you eat in the wilderness when I was bringing you out of the land of Egypt. (**Exodus 16:32**)
- So Moses said to Aaron; Take a jar and put in it an omerful of manna and deposit it before Yehowah as something to be kept throughout your generations. (**Exodus 16:33**)
- Just as Yehowah had commanded Moses, Aaron proceeded to deposit it before the Testimony as something to be kept. (**Exodus 16:34**)
- Subsequently Yehowah said to Moses; Put Aaron's rod back before the Testimony as something to be kept for a sign to the sons of rebelliousness, that their murmurings may cease from against me, that they may not die. (**Numbers 17:10**)
- There was nothing in the **Ark** but the two stone tablets which Moses had deposited there in Horeb, when Yehowah had covenanted with the sons of Israel while they were coming out from the land of Egypt. (**1 Kings 8:9**)
- There was nothing in the **Ark** but the two tablets that Moses had

given at Horeb, when Yehowah covenanted with the sons of Israel while they were coming out from Egypt. (**2 Chronicles 5:10**)

- Just before Moses died, he gave a copy of the book of the Law to the Levitical priests with instructions that it should be kept, not within, but at the side of the **Ark of the covenant** of Yehowah your God, as a witness there against you.
- And it came about that as soon as Moses had finished writing the words of this Law in a book until their completion. (**Deuteronomy 31:24**)
- Moses began to command the Levites, the carriers of the **Ark of Yehowah's covenant**, saying; (**Deuteronomy 31:25**)
- Taking this book of the Law, you must place it at the side of the **Ark of the covenant** of Yehowah your God, and it must serve as a witness there against you. (**Deuteronomy 31:26**)

·· **Associated With God's Presence**

- The **Ark** was associated with God's presence throughout its history. Yehowah promised; I will present myself to you there and speak with you from above the cover, from between the two cherubs that are upon the ark of the testimony. In a cloud I shall appear over the cover.
- And I will present myself to you there and speak with you from above the cover, from between the two cherubs that are upon the **Ark of the testimony**, even all that I shall command you for the sons of Israel. (**Exodus 25:22**)
- And Yehowah proceeded to say to Moses; Speak to Aaron your brother, that he should not at all times come into the holy place inside the curtain, in front of the cover which is upon the **Ark**, that he may not die, because in a cloud I shall appear over the cover. (**Leviticus 16:2**)
- Samuel wrote that Yehowah is sitting upon the cherubs.
- So the people sent to Shiloh and carried from there the **Ark of the covenant** of Yehowah of armies, who is sitting upon the cherubs. And the two sons of Eli were there with the **Ark of the covenant**

of the true God, namely, Hophni and Phinehas. (1 Samuel 4:4)

- Hence the cherubs served as the representation of the chariot of Yehowah.
- And for the incense altar refined gold by weight and for the representation of the chariot, namely, the cherubs of gold for spreading their wings out and screening over the **Ark of the covenant** of Yehowah. (1 Chronicles 28:18)
- Accordingly, whenever Moses went into the tent of meeting to speak with Yehowah, then he would hear the voice conversing with him from above the cover that was upon the **Ark of the testimony**, from between the two cherubs, and he would speak to him.
- Now whenever Moses went into the tent of meeting to speak with him, then he would hear the voice conversing with him from above the cover that was upon the **Ark of the testimony**, from between the two cherubs, and he would speak to him. (Numbers 7:89)
- Later, Joshua and High Priest Phinehas also inquired of Yehowah before the **Ark**.
- At this Joshua ripped his mantles and fell upon his face to the earth before the **Ark of Yehowah** until the evening, he and the older men of Israel, and they kept putting dust upon their heads. (Joshua 7:6)
- And Joshua went on to say; Alas, Sovereign Lord Yehowah, why did you bring this people all the way across the Jordan, just to give us into the hand of the Amorites for them to destroy us? And if only we had taken it upon ourselves and continued dwelling on the other side of the Jordan! (Joshua 7:7)
- Excuse me, O Yehowah, but what can I say after Israel has turned his back before his enemies? (Joshua 7:8)
- And the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land will hear of it, and they will certainly surround us and cut our name off from the earth, and what will you do for your great name? (Joshua 7:9)
- In turn Yehowah said to Joshua; Get up, you! Why is it that you

are falling upon your face? (**Joshua 7:10**)

- After that the sons of Israel inquired of Yehowah, as it was there that the **Ark of the covenant** of the true God was in those days. (**Judges 20:27**)
- Now Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron, was standing before it in those days, saying; Shall I go out yet again to battle against the sons of Benjamin my brother or shall I cease to? To this Yehowah said; Go up, because tomorrow I shall give him into your hand. (**Judges 20:28**)
- However, only the High Priest actually entered the Most Holy and saw the **Ark**, one day a year, not to communicate with Yehowah, but in carrying out the Atonement Day ceremony.
- And Yehowah proceeded to say to Moses; Speak to Aaron your brother, that he should not at all times come into the holy place inside the curtain, in front of the cover which is upon the **Ark**, that he may not die, because in a cloud I shall appear over the cover. (**Leviticus 16:2**)
- With the following Aaron should come into the holy place, with a young bull for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering. (**Leviticus 16:3**)
- He must also put the incense upon the fire before Yehowah, and the cloud of the incense must overspread the **Ark** cover, which is upon the Testimony, that he may not die. (**Leviticus 16:13**)
- And he must slaughter the goat of the sin offering, which is for the people, and he must bring its blood inside the curtain and do with its blood the same as he did with the bull's blood, and he must spatter it toward the cover and before the cover. (**Leviticus 16:15**)
- And no other man should happen to be in the tent of meeting from when he goes in to make atonement in the holy place until he comes out. He must make atonement in behalf of himself and in behalf of his house and in behalf of the entire congregation of Israel. (**Leviticus 16:17**)
- But into the second compartment the High Priest alone enters once a year, not without blood, which he offers for himself and

for the sins of ignorance of the people. (**Hebrews 9:7**)

- In other ways the presence of Yehowah as represented by the **Ark** brought blessings to Israel. It was customary when Israel moved camp for the **Ark** with its overhead cloud to lead the way.
- So they went marching from the mountain of Yehowah for a journey of three days, and the **Ark of Yehowah's covenant** was marching before them for a journey of three days to search out a resting-place for them. (**Numbers 10:33**)
- And Yehowah's cloud was over them by day at their marching out from the encampment. (**Numbers 10:34**)
- So, at the crossing of the Jordan, when the priests carrying the **Ark** stepped into the rivers water, Yehowah stopped its flow, allowing them to pass.
- And Yehowah's cloud was over them by day at their marching out from the encampment. (**Numbers 10:34**)
- In the line of march around Jericho, the war-equipped forces were followed by seven priests blowing horns, then the **Ark**, and behind was the rear guard.
- And all you men of war must march round the city, going round the city once. That is the way you should do for six days. (**Joshua 6:3**)
- And seven priests should carry seven rams horns, before the **Ark**, and on the seventh day you should march round the city seven times and the priests should blow the horns. (**Joshua 6:4**)
- And it must occur that when they sound with the horn of the ram, when you hear the sound of the horn, all the people should shout a great war cry, and the wall of the city must fall down flat, and the people must go up, each one straight before him. (**Joshua 6:5**)
- Accordingly Joshua the son of Nun called the priests and said to them, Take up the **Ark of the covenant**, and seven priests should carry seven rams horns before the ark of Yehowah. (**Joshua 6:6**)
- And he went on to say to the people; Pass on and march round

- the city, and the war-equipped force should pass on ahead of the **Ark of Yehowah**. (Joshua 6:7)
- So it came about just as Joshua said to the people, and seven priests carrying seven rams horns before Yehowah passed on and blew the horns, and the **Ark of the covenant** of Yehowah was following them. (Joshua 6:8)
 - And the war-equipped force was going ahead of the priests blowing the horns, while the rear guard was following the **Ark** with a continual blowing on the horns. (Joshua 6:9)
 - Now Joshua had commanded the people, saying; You must neither shout nor let your voices be heard, and no word should come out of your mouths until the day when I say to you, Shout! Then you must shout. (Joshua 6:10)
 - And he had the **Ark of Yehowah** go marching round the city, going round once, after which they went to the camp and stayed overnight in the camp. (Joshua 6:11)
 - Then Joshua got up early in the morning, and the priests went carrying the **Ark of Yehowah**. (Joshua 6:12)
 - And seven priests carrying seven rams horns before the **ark** of Yehowah were walking, continually blowing the horns, and the war-equipped force was walking ahead of them, while the rear guard was following the **Ark of Yehowah** with a continual blowing on the horns. (Joshua 6:13)
 - In contrast to the victory at Jericho was the defeat suffered when certain rebels presumptuously pushed ahead in an attempt to take the Promised Land contrary to divine instructions, and when the **Ark of Yehowah's covenant** and Moses did not move away from the midst of the camp.
 - However, they presumed to go up to the top of the mountain, but the **Ark of Yehowah's covenant** and Moses did not move away from the midst of the camp. (Numbers 14:44)
 - Then the Amalekites and the Canaanites who were dwelling in that mountain came on down and began striking them and went scattering them as far as Hormah. (Numbers 14:45)

- Even the enemy Philistines recognized the presence of Yehowah when the **Ark** appeared on the battlefield. In their fright they cried out: God has come into the camp of Israel! Woe to us, for such a thing as this never occurred before! Woe to us! Who will save us from the hand of this majestic God? This is the God that was the smiter of Egypt with every sort of slaughter in the wilderness.
- The Philistines also got to hear the sound of the shouting and began saying; What does the sound of this loud shouting in the camp of the Hebrews mean? Finally they got to know that the **ark** of Yehowah itself had come into the camp. (**1 Samuel 4:6**)
- And the Philistines became afraid, because, they said; God has come into the camp! So they said; Woe to us, for such a thing as this never occurred before! (**1 Samuel 4:7**)
- Woe to us! Who will save us from the hand of this majestic God? This is the God that was the smiter of Egypt with every sort of slaughter in the wilderness. (**1 Samuel 4:8**)
- Yehowah's presence continued to be demonstrated when the Philistines captured the **Ark** and took it to Ashdod to sit alongside the image of Dagon. That night, Dagon fell on his face, the next night he again toppled before the **Ark of Yehowah** and his head and the palms of both of his hands were cut off.
- During the next seven months, as the **Ark** circulated among the Philistine cities, the people were plagued with piles, and the city of Ekron was plunged into a death-dealing confusion, until finally the **Ark** was returned to Israel with proper offering.
- As for the Philistines, they took the **Ark of the true God** and then brought it from Ebenezer to Ashdod. (**1 Samuel 5:1**)
- And the cows began to go straight ahead on the road to Beth-shemesh. On the one highway they went, lowing as they went, and they did not turn aside to the right or to the left. All the while the axis lords of the Philistines were walking after them as far as the boundary of Beth-shemesh. (**1 Samuel 6:12**)
- The fact that the **Ark** was associated with the presence of Yehowah demanded that due respect and high regard be given the Ark. Hence, when the **Ark** set out on the move and when it came to rest, Moses proclaimed words of praise to Yehowah.

- And it would occur that when the **Ark** would set out, Moses would say; Do arise, O Yehowah, and let your enemies be scattered, and let those who intensely hate you flee from before you. (**Numbers 10:35**)
- And when it would rest, he would say; Do return, O Yehowah, to the myriads of thousands of Israel. (**Numbers 10:36**)
- High Priest Eli was so shocked to hear that the Philistines had captured the **Ark** that he lost his balance and fell over backward, breaking his neck, also his daughter-in-law in the throes of death lamented; Glory has gone away from Israel into exile, because the **Ark of the true God** has been captured.
- And it came about that at the moment that he mentioned the **Ark of the true God**, he began to fall from the seat backward beside the gate, and his neck got broken so that he died, because the man was old and heavy, and he himself had judged Israel forty years. (**1 Samuel 4:18**)
- And his daughter-in-law, the wife of Phinehas, was pregnant near to giving birth, and she got to hear the report that the **Ark of the true God** was captured and that her father-in-law and her husband had died. At that she bowed herself and began giving birth, because her pangs came unexpectedly upon her. (**1 Samuel 4:19**)
- And about the time of her death, the women standing by her began to speak; Do not be afraid, because it is a son that you have borne. And she did not answer and did not set her heart on it. (**1 Samuel 4:20**)
- But she called the boy Ichabod, saying; Glory has gone away from Israel into exile, this with reference to the **Ark of the true God's** being captured and with reference to her father-in-law and her husband. (**1 Samuel 4:21**)
- So she said; Glory has gone away from Israel into exile, because the **Ark of the true God** has been captured. (**1 Samuel 4:22**)
- King Solomon acknowledged that the places to which the **Ark of Yehowah** has come are something holy.

- **And Pharaoh's daughter Solomon brought up out of the City of David to the house that he had built for her, for he said; Although a wife of mine, she should not dwell in the house of David the king of Israel, for the places to which the ark of Yehowah has come are something holy. (2 Chronicles 8:11)**

·· **Ark Not A Magic Charm**

- **However, the Ark was not a magic charm. Its presence alone did not guarantee success, Yehowah's blessings depended on the spiritual standing and faithful obedience of those possessing the Ark. Hence, the Israelites under the leadership of Joshua suffered defeat at Ai because of unfaithfulness, despite the presence of the Ark in their camp.**

- **And the sons of Israel went committing an act of unfaithfulness respecting the thing devoted to destruction in that Achan the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took some of the thing devoted to destruction. At this Yehowah's anger grew hot against the sons of Israel. (Joshua 7:1)**

- **Then Joshua sent men out from Jericho to Ai, which is close by Beth-aven, to the east of Bethel, and said to them; Go up and spy on the land. Accordingly the men went up and spied on Ai. (Joshua 7:2)**

- **After that they returned to Joshua and said to him, Let not all the people go up. Let about two thousand men or about three thousand men go up and strike Ai. Do not weary all the people with going there, for they are few. (Joshua 7:3)**

- **So about three thousand men of the people went up there, but they took to flight before the men of Ai. (Joshua 7:4)**

- **And the men of Ai got to strike down about thirty-six men of them, and they went pursuing them from before the gate as far as Shebarim and continued striking them down on the descent. Consequently the heart of the people began to melt and became as water. (Joshua 7:5)**

- **At this Joshua ripped his mantles and fell upon his face to the earth before the Ark of Yehowah until the evening, he and the older men of Israel, and they kept putting dust upon their heads. (Joshua 7:6)**

- **Similarly, Israel's trusting in the presence of the Ark among the very fighting forces did not prevent the Philistines from killing 30,000 Israelites and capturing the Ark.**
- **And the word of Samuel continued to come to all Israel. Then Israel went out to meet the Philistines in battle, and they took up camping alongside Ebenezer, and the Philistines themselves encamped in Aphek. (1 Samuel 4:1)**
- **And the Philistines proceeded to draw up in formation to meet Israel, and the battle went badly, so that Israel was defeated before the Philistines, who went striking down about four thousand men in closed battle line in the field. (1 Samuel 4:2)**
- **When the people came to the camp the older men of Israel began to say; Why did Yehowah defeat us today before the Philistines? Let us take to ourselves from Shiloh the Ark of Yehowah's covenant, that it may come into our midst and may save us from the palm of our enemies. (1 Samuel 4:3)**
- **So the people sent to Shiloh and carried from there the ark of the covenant of Yehowah of armies, who is sitting upon the cherubs. And the two sons of Eli were there with the ark of the covenant of the true God, namely, Hophni and Phinehas. (1 Samuel 4:4)**
- **And it came about that as soon as the Ark of the covenant of Yehowah came into the camp, all the Israelites broke out into loud shouting, so that the earth was in a stir. (1 Samuel 4:5)**
- **The Philistines also got to hear the sound of the shouting and began saying; What does the sound of this loud shouting in the camp of the Hebrews mean? Finally they got to know that the Ark of Yehowah itself had come into the camp. (1 Samuel 4:6)**
- **And the Philistines became afraid, because, they said; God has come into the camp! So they said; Woe to us, for such a thing as this never occurred before! (1 Samuel 4:7)**
- **Woe to us! Who will save us from the hand of this majestic God? This is the God that was the smiter of Egypt with every sort of slaughter in the wilderness. (1 Samuel 4:8)**
- **Show yourselves courageous and prove yourselves men, you**

- Philistines, that you may not serve the Hebrews just as they have served you, and you must prove yourselves men and fight! (**1 Samuel 4:9**)
- Accordingly the Philistines fought and Israel was defeated, and they went fleeing each one to his tent, and the slaughter came to be very great, so that out of Israel there fell thirty thousand men on foot. (**1 Samuel 4:10**)
 - And the **Ark of God** itself was captured, and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, died. (**1 Samuel 4:11**)
 - The return of the **Ark** from the Philistines was an occasion for great rejoicing, offering of sacrifices, and thanksgiving, yet Yehowah struck down the people with a great slaughter. Why? Because they had looked upon the **Ark of Yehowah** in violation of his command.
 - Then they put the **Ark of Yehowah** upon the wagon, and also the box and the golden jerboas and the images of their piles. (**1 Samuel 6:11**)
 - And the cows began to go straight ahead on the road to Beth-shemesh. On the one highway they went, lowing as they went, and they did not turn aside to the right or to the left. All the while the axis lords of the Philistines were walking after them as far as the boundary of Beth-shemesh. (**1 Samuel 6:12**)
 - And people of Beth-shemesh were reaping the wheat harvest in the low plain. When they raised their eyes and saw the **Ark**, they gave way to rejoicing at seeing it. (**1 Samuel 6:13**)
 - And the wagon itself came into the field of Joshua the Beth-shemite and kept standing there, where there was a large stone. And they went splitting up the wood of the wagon, and the cows they offered up as a burnt offering to Yehowah. (**1 Samuel 6:14**)
 - And the Levites themselves took the **Ark of Yehowah** down and the box that was with it, in which the golden articles were, and they proceeded to put it upon the large stone. And the men of Beth-shemesh, for their part, offered up burnt offerings, and they continued rendering up sacrifices on that day to Yehowah. (**1 Samuel 6:15**)
 - And the five axis lords of the Philistines themselves saw it and

- went their way back to Ekron on that day. (1 Samuel 6:16)
- Now these are the golden piles that the Philistines returned as a guilt offering to Yehowah. For Ashdod one, for Gaza one, for Ashkelon one, for Gath one, for Ekron one. (1 Samuel 6:17)
 - And the golden juboas were to the number of all the cities of the Philistines belonging to the five axis lords, from the fortified city to the village of the open country. And the great stone upon which they rested the **Ark of Yehowah** is a witness down to this day in the field of Joshua the Beth-shemite. (1 Samuel 6:18)
 - And he went striking down the men of Beth-shemesh, because they had looked upon the **Ark of Yehowah**. So he struck down among the people seventy men, fifty thousand men, and the people began mourning because Yehowah had struck down the people with a great slaughter. (1 Samuel 6:19)
 - Further, the men of Beth-shemesh said; Who will be able to stand before Yehowah this holy God, and to whom will he withdraw from off us? (1 Samuel 6:20)
 - Finally they sent messengers to the inhabitants of Kiriath-jearim, saying; The Philistines have returned the **Ark of Yehowah**. Come down. Take it up to yourselves. (1 Samuel 6:21)
 - And they must put a covering of sealskins over it and spread out an entire cloth of blue on top and put in its poles. (Numbers 4:6)
 - And they must not come in to see the holy things for the least moment of time, and so they have to die. (Numbers 4:20)
 - Exactly how many died on that occasion is not certain. The **Masoretic** text reads; So he struck down among the people seventy men fifty thousand men.
 - This ambiguous construction might suggest that fifty thousand men is an interpolation. The **Syriac Peshitta** and the Arabic say that five thousand and seventy men were struck down. The **Targum Jonathan** reads: And he struck down seventy men among the older men of the people, and fifty thousand among the congregation. The **Greek Septuagint** says that seventy men among them, and fifty thousand of the men were struck down. Josephus mentions only seventy men as being killed. [**Jewish Antiquities, VI, 16, i, 4**]

·· Locations Where the Ark Was Kept

- The **Ark** had no permanent resting-place until the erection of Solomon's temple. With the major conquest of the land completed **circa 1467 B.C.E**, it was moved to Shiloh, where it apparently remained, with the exception of a time when it was at Bethel, until captured by the Philistines.

- Then all the assembly of the sons of Israel were congregated at Shiloh, and they proceeded to locate the tent of meeting there, as the land was now subdued before them. (**Joshua 18:1**)

- At that all the sons of Israel, even all the people, went on up and came to Bethel and wept and sat there before Yehowah and fasted on that day until the evening and offered up burnt offerings and communion offerings before Yehowah. (**Judges 20:26**)

- After that the sons of Israel inquired of Yehowah, as it was there that the **Ark of the covenant** of the true God was in those days. (**Judges 20:27**)

- And the lamp of God was not yet extinguished, and Samuel was lying in the temple of Yehowah, where the **Ark of God** was. (**1 Samuel 3:3**)

- And the **Ark of Yehowah** proved to be in the field of the Philistines seven months. (**1 Samuel 6:1**)

- Upon its return to Israelite territory it rested successively at Beth-shemesh and Kiriath-jearim, at this latter place for about 70 years.

- Then they put the **Ark of Yehowah** upon the wagon, and also the box and the golden jerboas and the images of their piles. (**1 Samuel 6:11**)

- And the cows began to go straight ahead on the road to Beth-shemesh. On the one highway they went, lowing as they went, and they did not turn aside to the right or to the left. All the while the axis lords of the Philistines were walking after them as far as the boundary of Beth-shemesh. (**1 Samuel 6:12**)

- And people of Beth-shemesh were reaping the wheat harvest in the low plain. When they raised their eyes and saw the **Ark**, they gave way to rejoicing at seeing it. (**1 Samuel 6:13**)
- And the wagon itself came into the field of Joshua the Beth-shemite and kept standing there, where there was a large stone. And they went splitting up the wood of the wagon, and the cows they offered up as a burnt offering to Yehowah. (**1 Samuel 6:14**)
- Accordingly the men of Kiriath-jearim came and brought the **Ark of Yehowah** up and took it into the house of Abinadab on the hill, and Eleazar his son was the one whom they sanctified to guard the ark of Yehowah. (**1 Samuel 7:1**)
- And it came about that from the day of the **Ark's** dwelling in Kiriath-jearim the days kept multiplying, so that they amounted to twenty years, and all the house of Israel went lamenting after Yehowah. (**1 Samuel 7:2**)
- Accordingly David congregated all Israel from the river of Egypt as far as the entering of Hamath, to bring the **Ark of the true God** from Kiriath-jearim. (**1 Chronicles 13:5**)
- And David and all Israel proceeded to go up to Baalah, to Kiriath-jearim, which belongs to Judah, to bring up from there the **Ark of the true God**, Yehowah, sitting on the cherubs, where his name is called on. (**1 Chronicles 13:6**)
- According to the **Masoretic text**,
- Saul now said to Ahijah; Do bring the **Ark of the true God** near! For the **Ark of the true God** proved to be on that day with the sons of Israel. (**1 Samuel 14:18**)
- Indicates that, during a conflict with the Philistines, King Saul had Ahijah the High Priest bring the **Ark** to his campsite. However, the **Greek Septuagint** states that Saul said to Ahijah; Bring the ephod near! For he carried the ephod in that day before Israel.
- David's desire to have the **Ark** brought to Jerusalem was a good one, but the method he first used led to disaster. Instead of having it carried by the poles on the shoulders of the Kohathite Levites as instructed, David let it be placed on a wagon. The bulls caused a near

upset, and Uzzah was struck down because he reached out to grab hold of the **Ark**, contrary to God's law.

- Then David and all the people that were with him rose up and went to Baale-judah to bring up from there the **Ark of the true God**, where a name is called on, the name of Yehowah of armies, sitting on the cherubs. (2 Samuel 6:2)
- However, they had the **Ark of the true God** ride upon a new wagon, that they might carry it from the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill, and Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, were leading the new wagon. (2 Samuel 6:3)
- So they carried it from Abinadab's house, which was on the hill, with the **Ark of the true God**, and Ahio was walking ahead of the **Ark**. (2 Samuel 6:4)
- And David and all the house of Israel were celebrating before Yehowah with all sorts of instruments of juniper wood and with harps and with stringed instruments and with tambourines and with sistrums and with cymbals. (2 Samuel 6:5)
- And they came gradually as far as the threshing floor of Nacon, and Uzzah now thrust his hand out to the **Ark of the true God** and grabbed hold of it, for the cattle nearly caused an upset. (2 Samuel 6:6)
- At that Yehowah's anger blazed against Uzzah and the true God struck him down there for the irreverent act, so that he died there close by the **Ark of the true God**. (2 Samuel 6:7)
- And David became angry over the fact that Yehowah had broken through in a rupture against Uzzah, and that place came to be called Perez-uzzah down to this day. (2 Samuel 6:8)
- And David became afraid of Yehowah on that day and began to say; How will the **Ark of Yehowah** come to me? (2 Samuel 6:9)
- And David was not willing to remove the **Ark of Yehowah** to him at the City of David. So David had it carried aside to the house of Obed-edom the Gittite. (2 Samuel 6:10)
- And the **Ark of Yehowah** kept dwelling at the house of Obed-edom the Gittite three months, and Yehowah kept blessing Obed-

edom and all his household. (2 Samuel 6:11)

- And David proceeded to consult with the chiefs of the thousands and of the hundreds and with every leader. (1 Chronicles 13:1)
- And David went on to say to all the congregation of Israel; If it seems good to you and it is acceptable with Yehowah our God, let us send to our brothers that are left over in all the lands of Israel and with them to the priests and the Levites in their cities with pasture grounds, that they may collect themselves together to us. (1 Chronicles 13:2)
- And let us bring the **Ark of our God** around to ourselves. For they had not cared for it in the days of Saul. (1 Chronicles 13:3)
- So all the congregation said to do that way, for the thing seemed right in the eyes of all the people. (1 Chronicles 13:4)
- Accordingly David congregated all Israel from the river of Egypt as far as the entering of Hamath, to bring the **Ark of the true God** from Kiriath-jearim. (1 Chronicles 13:5)
- And David and all Israel proceeded to go up to Baalah, to Kiriath-jearim, which belongs to Judah, to bring up from there the **Ark of the true God**, Yehowah, sitting on the cherubs, where his name is called on. (1 Chronicles 13:6)
- However, they had the **Ark of the true God** ride upon a new wagon from the house of Abinadab, and Uzzah and Ahio were leading the wagon. (1 Chronicles 13:7)
- And David and all Israel were celebrating before the true God with full power and with songs and with harps and with stringed instruments and with tambourines and with cymbals and with trumpets. (1 Chronicles 13:8)
- And they came gradually as far as the threshing floor of Chidon, and Uzzah now thrust his hand out to grab hold of the **Ark**, for the bulls nearly caused an upset. (1 Chronicles 13:9)
- At that Yehowah's anger blazed against Uzzah, so that he struck him down because he had thrust his hand out upon the **Ark**, and he died there before God. (1 Chronicles 13:10)

- **And David became angry because Yehowah had broken through in a rupture against Uzzah, and that place came to be called Perez-uzzah down to this day. (1 Chronicles 13:11)**
- **Because at the first time you did not, Yehowah our God broke through against us, for we did not search after him according to the custom. (1 Chronicles 15:13)**
- **And Aaron and his sons must finish covering the holy place and all the utensils of the holy place when the camp is departing, and after that the sons of Kohath will come in to carry them, but they must not touch the holy place so that they have to die. These things are the load of the sons of Kohath in the tent of meeting. (Numbers 4:15)**
- **The Ark was finally brought to Jerusalem, properly carried by the Levites.**
- **It was then that David said; No one is to carry the Ark of the true God but the Levites, for they are the one's whom Yehowah has chosen to carry the Ark of Yehowah and to minister to him to time indefinite. (1 Chronicles 15:2)**
- **Then the sons of the Levites began to carry the Ark of the true God, just as Moses had commanded by Yehowah's word, upon their shoulders with the rods upon them. (1 Chronicles 15:15)**
- **And there it remained in a tent during the remainder of David's reign.**
- **Finally the report was made to King David, saying, Yehowah has blessed the house of Obed-edom and all that is his on account of the Ark of the true God. At that David proceeded to go and bring the Ark of the true God out of the house of Obed-edom up to the City of David with rejoicing. (2 Samuel 6:12)**
- **And it came about that when the carriers of the Ark of Yehowah had marched six steps, he immediately sacrificed a bull and a fatling. (2 Samuel 6:13)**
- **And David was dancing around before Yehowah with all his power, all the while David being girded with an ephod of linen. (2 Samuel 6:14)**

- And David and all the house of Israel were bringing up the **Ark of Yehowah** with joyful shouting and sound of horn. (2 Samuel 6:15)
- And it occurred that when the **Ark of Yehowah** came into the City of David, Michal, Saul's daughter, herself looked down through the window and got to see King David leaping and dancing around before Yehowah, and she began to despise him in her heart. (2 Samuel 6:16)
- So they brought the **Ark of Yehowah** in and set it in its place inside the tent that David had pitched for it, after which David offered up burnt sacrifices and communion sacrifices before Yehowah. (2 Samuel 6:17)
- When David was finished with offering up the burnt sacrifices and the communion sacrifices, he then blessed the people in the name of Yehowah of armies. (2 Samuel 6:18)
- Further, he apportioned to all the people, to the whole crowd of Israel, man as well as woman, to each one a ring-shaped cake of bread and a date cake and a raisin cake, after which all the people went each to his own house. (2 Samuel 6:19)
- At this Uriah said to David; The **Ark** and Israel and Judah are dwelling in booths, and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are camping on the face of the field, and I, shall go into my own house to eat and drink and to lie down with my wife? As you are living and as your soul is living, I shall not do this thing! (2 Samuel 11:11)
- The priests attempted to take the **Ark** along when they fled Absalom's rebellion, but David insisted that it remain in Jerusalem, trusting that Yehowah would bring them all back safely to it.
- And here also there were Zadok and with him all the Levites carrying the **Ark of the covenant** of the true God, and they proceeded to set the ark of the true God down by Abiathar until all the people completed crossing over from the city. (2 Samuel 15:24)
- But the king said to Zadok; Take the **Ark of the true God** back to the city. If I shall find favor in the eyes of Yehowah, he will also certainly bring me back and let me see it and its abiding place. (2

Samuel 15:25)

- Accordingly Zadok and Abiathar took the **Ark of the true God** back to Jerusalem, and they continued to dwell there. (**2 Samuel 15:29**)
- And to Abiathar the priest the king said; Go to Anathoth to your fields! For you are deserving of death, but on this day I shall not put you to death, because you carried the **Ark of the Sovereign Lord Yehowah** before David my father, and because you suffered affliction during all the time that my father suffered affliction. (**1 Kings 2:26**)
- **David desired to build a permanent house for the Ark, but Yehowah postponed such construction until Solomon's reign.**
- Then the king said to Nathan the prophet; See, now, I am dwelling in a house of cedars while the **Ark of the true God** is dwelling in the middle of tent cloths. (**2 Samuel 7:2**)
- Upon that Nathan said to the king; Everything that is in your heart, go, do, because Yehowah is with you. (**2 Samuel 7:3**)
- And it came about on that night that the word of Yehowah came to Nathan, saying; (**2 Samuel 7:4**)
- Go, and you must say to my servant David; This is what Yehowah has said; Should you yourself build me a house for me to dwell in? (**2 Samuel 7:5**)
- For I have not dwelt in a house from the day of my bringing the sons of Israel up out of Egypt to this day, but I was continually walking about in a tent and in a tabernacle. (**2 Samuel 7:6**)
- During all the time that I have walked about among all the sons of Israel, was there a word that I spoke with one of the tribes of Israel that I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying; Why did you people not build me a house of cedars? (**2 Samuel 7:7**)
- And now this is what you will say to my servant David, This is what Yehowah of armies has said; I myself took you from the pasture ground from following the flock to become a leader over my people Israel. (**2 Samuel 7:8**)

- **And I shall prove to be with you wherever you do go, and I will cut off all your enemies from before you, and I shall certainly make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones that are in the earth. (2 Samuel 7:9)**
- **And I shall certainly appoint a place for my people Israel and plant them, and they will indeed reside where they are, and no more will they be disturbed, and the sons of unrighteousness will not afflict them again as they did at the first. (2 Samuel 7:10)**
- **Even from the day that I put judges in command over my people Israel, and I will give you rest from all your enemies. And Yehowah has told you that a house is what Yehowah will make for you. (2 Samuel 7:11)**
- **When your days come to the full, and you must lie down with your forefathers, then I shall certainly raise up your seed after you, which will come out of your inward parts, and I shall indeed firmly establish his kingdom. (2 Samuel 7:12)**
- **He is the one that will build a house for my name, and I shall certainly establish the throne of his kingdom firmly to time indefinite. (2 Samuel 7:13)**
- **And Yehowah proceeded to carry out his word that he had spoken, that I might rise up in the place of David my father and sit upon the throne of Israel, just as Yehowah had spoken, and that I might build the house to the name of Yehowah the God of Israel. (1 Kings 8:20)**
- **And that I might locate a place there for the **Ark** where the covenant of Yehowah is that he concluded with our forefathers when he was bringing them out from the land of Egypt. (1 Kings 8:21)**
- **Then David the king rose to his feet and said; Hear me, my brothers and my people. As for me, it was close to my heart to build a resting house for the **Ark of the covenant** of Yehowah and as the footstool of our God, and I had made preparation to build. (1 Chronicles 28:2)**
- **Further, he said to me, Solomon your son is the one that will build my house and my courtyards, for I have chosen him as my**

- son, and I myself shall become his father. (**1 Chronicles 28:6**)
- However, the **Ark of the true God** David had brought up from Kiriath-jearim to the place that David had prepared for it, for he had pitched a tent for it in Jerusalem. (**2 Chronicles 1:4**)
 - On the occasion of the dedication of the temple, the **Ark** was moved from the tent on Zion into the Most Holy of the temple up on Mount Moriah, where it was placed under the overshadowing wings of two large cherubs. It was the only piece of furniture from the original tabernacle that became part of Solomon's temple.
 - And the innermost room in the interior of the house he prepared inside, to put there the **Ark of the covenant** of Yehowah. (**1 Kings 6:19**)
 - At that time Solomon proceeded to congregate the older men of Israel, all the heads of the tribes, the chieftains of the fathers, of the sons of Israel, to King Solomon at Jerusalem, to bring up the **Ark of the covenant** of Yehowah out of the City of David, that is to say, Zion. (**1 Kings 8:1**)
 - So all the men of Israel congregated themselves to King Solomon in the lunar month of Ethanim in the festival, that is, the seventh month. (**1 Kings 8:2**)
 - To all the older men of Israel came, and the priests began to carry the **Ark**. (**1 Kings 8:3**)
 - And they came bringing up the **Ark of Yehowah** and the tent of meeting and all the holy utensils that were in the tent, and the priests and the Levites came bringing them up. (**1 Kings 8:4**)
 - And King Solomon and with him all the assembly of Israel, those keeping their appointment with him, were before the **Ark**, sacrificing sheep and cattle that could not be counted or numbered for multitude. (**1 Kings 8:5**)
 - Then the priests brought in the **Ark of the covenant** of Yehowah to its place, to the innermost room of the house, the Most Holy, to underneath the wings of the cherubs. (**1 Kings 8:6**)
 - For the cherubs were spreading out their wings over the place of the **Ark**, so that the cherubs kept the **Ark** and its poles screened

over from above. (1 Kings 8:7)

- But the poles proved to be long, so that the tips of the poles were visible from the Holy in front of the innermost room, but they were not visible outside. And there they continue down to this day. (1 Kings 8:8)
- There was nothing in the **Ark** but the two stone tablets which Moses had deposited there in Horeb, when Yehowah had covenanted with the sons of Israel while they were coming out from the land of Egypt. (1 Kings 8:9)
- And it came about that when the priests came out from the holy place, the cloud itself filled the house of Yehowah. (1 Kings 8:10)
- And the priests were unable to stand to do their ministering because of the cloud, for the glory of Yehowah filled the house of Yehowah. (1 Kings 8:11)
- Now set your heart and your soul to inquire after Yehowah your God, and rise and build the sanctuary of Yehowah the true God, to bring the **Ark of the covenant** of Yehowah and the holy utensils of the true God to the house built to the name of Yehowah. (1 Chronicles 22:19)
- It was then that Solomon proceeded to congregate the older men of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the chieftains of the paternal houses of the sons of Israel, to Jerusalem, to bring the **Ark of the covenant** of Yehowah up from the City of David, that is to say, Zion. (2 Chronicles 5:2)
- So all the men of Israel congregated themselves to the king at the festival, that of the seventh month. (2 Chronicles 5:3)
- So all the older men of Israel came, and the Levites began to carry the **Ark**. (2 Chronicles 5:4)
- And they came bringing up the **Ark** and the tent of meeting and all the holy utensils that were in the tent. The priests the Levites brought them up. (2 Chronicles 5:5)
- And King Solomon and all the assembly of Israelites that were keeping their appointment with him before the **Ark** were sacrificing sheep and cattle that could not be counted or

numbered for multitude. (2 Chronicles 5:6)

- Then the priests brought the **Ark of the covenant** of Yehowah into its place, into the innermost room of the house, into the Most Holy, to underneath the wings of the cherubs. (2 Chronicles 5:7)
- Thus the cherubs were continually spreading out their wings over the place of the **Ark**, so that the cherubs covered over the **Ark** and its poles from above. (2 Chronicles 5:8)
- But the poles were long, so that the tips of the poles were visible at the Holy in front of the innermost room, but they were not visible outside, and they continue there down to this day. (2 Chronicles 5:9)
- There was nothing in the **Ark** but the two tablets that Moses had given at Horeb, when Yehowah covenanted with the sons of Israel while they were coming out from Egypt. (2 Chronicles 5:10)
- And Yehowah proceeded to carry out his word that he had spoken, that I might rise up in the place of David my father and sit upon the throne of Israel, just as Yehowah had spoken, and that I might build the house to the name of Yehowah the God of Israel. (2 Chronicles 6:10)
- And that I might place there the **Ark where the covenant** of Yehowah is that he concluded with the sons of Israel. (2 Chronicles 6:11)

See Also TEMPLE (Solomon's Temple)

See Also CHERUB 1

- The only post-Solomonic historical reference to the **Ark of the covenant**, nearly 900 years after it was made, is at,
- And he went on to say to the Levites, the instructors of all Israel, those holy to Yehowah. Put the holy **Ark** in the house that Solomon the son of David the king of Israel built. It is not yours as a burden upon the shoulder. Now serve Yehowah your God and his people Israel. (2 Chronicles 35:3)

- Where King Josiah, in **642 B.C.E**, commanded that it be returned to the temple. How it had come to be removed is not stated. Josiah came to the throne following some very apostate kings, one of whom had put an image in the house of Yehowah, and possibly one of these wicked kings removed the **Ark**.
- Twelve years old was Manasseh when he began to reign, and for fifty-five years he reigned in Jerusalem. (**2 Chronicles 33:1**)
- And he proceeded to do what was bad in Yehowah's eyes, according to the detestable things of the nations that Yehowah had driven out from before the sons of Israel. (**2 Chronicles 33:2**)
- Furthermore, he put the carved image that he had made in the house of the true God, respecting which God had said to David and to Solomon his son; In this house and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, I shall put my name to time indefinite. (**2 Chronicles 33:7**)

On the other hand, Josiah sponsored extensive repairs of the temple, during which time the **Ark** might have been kept elsewhere for its own protection against damage.

- And in the eighteenth year of his reigning, when he had cleansed the land and the house, he sent Shaphan the son of Azaliah and Maaseiah the chief of the city and Joah the son of Joahaz the recorder to repair the house of Yehowah his God. (**2 Chronicles 34:8**)
- In the eighteenth year of Josiah's reign this Passover was held. (**2 Chronicles 35:19**)
- There is no mention of the **Ark's** being taken to Babylon. The **Ark** is not enumerated among the temple articles carried off. Likewise, there is no mention of its being returned and placed in Zerubbabel's rebuilt temple, neither was a replacement made for it. When and under what circumstances the **Ark** disappeared is unknown.
- And the pillars of copper that were in the house of Yehowah, and the carriages and the copper sea that were in the house of Yehowah, the Chaldeans broke in pieces and went carrying the copper of them to Babylon. (**2 Kings 25:13**)
- And the cans and the shovels and the extinguishers and the cups

- and all the utensils of copper with which they used to minister they took. (**2 Kings 25:14**)
- And the chief of the bodyguard took the fire holders and the bowls that were of genuine gold and those that were of genuine silver. (**2 Kings 25:15**)
 - As for the two pillars, the one sea and the carriages that Solomon had made for the house of Yehowah, there happened to be no way to tell the weight of the copper of all these utensils. (**2 Kings 25:16**)
 - Eighteen cubits was the height of each pillar, and the capital upon it was of copper, and the height of the capital was three cubits, and the network and the pomegranates all around upon the capital, the whole of it, was copper, and the second pillar had the same as these upon the network. (**2 Kings 25:17**)
 - And all the utensils, great and small, of the house of the true God and the treasures of the house of Yehowah and the treasures of the king and of his princes, everything he brought to Babylon. (**2 Chronicles 36:18**)
 - Also, King Cyrus himself brought forth the utensils of the house of Yehowah, which Nebuchadnezzar had brought out from Jerusalem and then put in the house of his god. (**Ezra 1:7**)
 - And Cyrus the king of Persia proceeded to bring them forth under the control of Mithredath the treasurer and to number them out to Sheshbazzar the chieftain of Judah. (**Ezra 1:8**)
 - Now these are the numbers of them, thirty basket-shaped vessels of gold, a thousand basket-shaped vessels of silver, twenty-nine replacement vessels. (**Ezra 1:9**)
 - Thirty small bowls of gold, four hundred and ten small secondary bowls of silver, a thousand other utensils. (**Ezra 1:10**)
 - All the utensils of gold and of silver were five thousand four hundred. Everything Sheshbazzar brought up, along with the bringing up of the exiled people out of Babylon to Jerusalem. (**Ezra 1:11**)
 - Artaxerxes, the king of kings, to Ezra the priest, the copyist of

the Law of the God of the heavens. Peace be perfected. And now
([Ezra 7:12](#))

- By me an order has been put through that everyone in my realm of the people of Israel and their priests and Levites that is willing to go to Jerusalem with you should go. ([Ezra 7:13](#))
- Inasmuch as from before the king and his seven counselors an order was sent to investigate concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the Law of your God that is in your hand. ([Ezra 7:14](#))
- And to bring the silver and the gold that the king and his counselors have voluntarily given to the God of Israel, whose residence is in Jerusalem. ([Ezra 7:15](#))
- With all the silver and the gold that you find in all the jurisdictional district of Babylon along with the gift of the people and the priests who are voluntarily giving to the house of their God, which is in Jerusalem. ([Ezra 7:16](#))
- Accordingly you will promptly buy with this money bulls, rams, lambs and their grain offerings and their drink offerings and you will present them upon the altar of the house of your God, which is in Jerusalem. ([Ezra 7:17](#))
- And whatever it seems good to you and to your brothers to do with the rest of the silver and gold, according to the will of your God, you men will do. ([Ezra 7:18](#))
- And the vessels that are being given to you for the service of the house of your God deliver in full before God at Jerusalem. ([Ezra 7:19](#))
- Jeremiah foretold a time when the **Ark of the covenant** would be no more, but that it would not be missed and Yehowah's worshipers would experience no hardship because of not having it. Instead Jerusalem itself will be called the throne of Yehowah.
- And it must occur that you will become many and certainly bear fruit in the land in those days, is the utterance of Yehowah. No more will they say; The **Ark of the covenant** of Yehowah! nor will it come up into the heart, nor will they remember it or miss it, and no more will it be made. ([Jeremiah 3:16](#))

- In that time they will call Jerusalem the throne of Yehowah, and to her all the nations must be brought together to the name of Yehowah at Jerusalem, and they will no more walk after the stubbornness of their bad heart. (**Jeremiah 3:17**)
- In the symbolic book of Revelation, John says that the **Ark of his covenant** was seen in his temple sanctuary in heaven. This **Ark of the covenant** has to do with the New Covenant of God with men and the appearing of the **Ark** was an indication that Yehowah was again ruling by means of his Anointed One.
- And the seventh angel blew his trumpet. And loud voices occurred in heaven, saying, The kingdom of the world did become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will rule as king forever and ever. (**Revelation 11:15**)
- And the temple sanctuary of God that is in heaven was opened, and the **Ark of his covenant** was seen in his temple sanctuary. And there occurred lightnings and voices and thunders and an earthquake and a great hail. (**Revelation 11:19**)