

# **ARK OF THE COVENANT**

**By**

**HAROLD HARSTVEDT**



# WHO TOLD MOSES TO BUILD THE ARK?

## EXODUS 25:10-16

10 **You shall make an ark of acacia wood**; two and a half cubits in length, a cubit and a half in width, and a cubit and a half in height.

11 You shall overlay it with pure gold, inside and out you shall overlay it, and shall make on it a molding of gold all around.

12 You shall cast four rings of gold for it and put them in its four corners; two rings shall be on one side and two on the other side.

13 You shall make poles of acacia wood over-laid with gold.

14 You shall put the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark, that the ark may be carried by them.

15 The poles shall be in the rings of the ark. They shall not be taken from it.

16 You shall put into the **ark the Testimony** that which I will give you.

# WHO BUILT THE ARK OF THE COVENANT?

## EXODUS 37:1-5

- 1** **Bezalel made the ark of acacia wood**; two and a half cubits was its length, a cubit and a half its width, and a cubit and a half its height.
- 2** He overlaid it with pure gold inside and outside, and made a molding of gold all around it.
- 3** He cast for it four rings of gold to be set in its four corners: two rings on one side, and two rings on the other side of it.
- 4** He made poles of acacia wood, and overlaid them with gold.
- 5** He put the poles into the rings at the sides of the ark, to bear the ark.

# WHAT DID MOSES DO WITH THE ARK OF THE COVENANT?

EXODUS 30:26

26 **You shall anoint** the tabernacle of meeting and **the ark of the Testimony**;

EXODUS 40:21

21 **Moses brought the ark into the tabernacle**, hung up the veil of the covering, and **partitioned off the ark of the Testimony**, as the LORD had commanded him.

# WHO WAS GIVEN THE DUTY OF CARING FOR THE ARK OF THE TESTIMONY?

## NUMBERS 3:31

31 **The Kohathites duty included the ark**, the table, the lamp stand, the altars, the utensils of the sanctuary with which they ministered, the screen, and all the work relating to them.

## NUMBERS 4:4-6

4 **This is the service of the sons of Kohath in the tabernacle of meeting**, relating to the most holy things:

5 When the camp prepares to journey, Aaron and his sons shall come, and **they shall take down the covering veil and cover the ark of the Testimony with it.**

6 Then they shall put on it a covering of badger skins, and spread over that a cloth entirely of blue; and they shall insert its poles.

# WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF THEY TOUCHED THE HOLY THINGS?

## NUMBERS 4:15

15 When Aaron and his sons have finished covering the sanctuary and all the furnishings of the sanctuary, when the camp is set to go, then **the sons of Kohath shall come to carry them**; but **they shall not touch any holy thing, lest they die**. These are the things in the tabernacle of meeting which the sons of Kohath are to carry.

# WHY DID THE ARK OF THE COVENANT REMAIN IN THE CAMP?

## NUMBERS 14:43-44

43 The Amalekites and the Canaanites are there before you, and you shall fall by the sword; **because you have turned away from the LORD, the LORD will not be with you.**

44 But they presumed to go up to the mountaintop; nevertheless, **neither the ark of the covenant of the LORD nor Moses departed from the camp.**

# WHERE DID AARON PUT THE POT OF MANNA?

## EXODUS 16:32-34

**32** Moses said, This is the thing which the LORD has commanded: Fill an omer with it, to be kept for your generations, that they may see the bread with which I fed you in the wilderness, when I brought you out of the land of Egypt.

**33** Moses said to Aaron, **Take a pot and put an omer of manna in it, and lay it up before the LORD**, to be kept for your generations.

**34** As the LORD commanded Moses, so **Aaron laid it up before the Testimony**, to be kept.

# WHERE DID MOSES PUT AARON'S ROD?

## NUMBERS 17:6-10

6 Moses spoke to the children of Israel, and each of their leaders gave him a rod apiece, for each leader according to their fathers' houses, twelve rods; and the rod of Aaron was among their rods.

7 **Moses placed the rods before the LORD in the tabernacle of witness.**

8 The next day that Moses went into the tabernacle of witness, and **behold, the rod of Aaron**, of the house of Levi, had **sprouted** and **put forth buds**, had **produced blossoms** and **yielded ripe almonds**.

9 Moses brought out all the rods from before the LORD to all the children of Israel; and they looked, and each man took his rod.

10 The LORD said to Moses, **Bring Aaron's rod back before the Testimony, to be kept as a sign against the rebels**, that you may put their complaints away from Me, lest they die.

# WHERE DID MOSES PUT THE BOOK OF LAW?

## DEUTERONOMY 31:25-26

**25** Moses commanded the Levites, who bore the ark of the covenant of the LORD, saying:

**26** **Take this Book of the Law, and put it beside the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, that it may be there as a witness against you;**

# WHERE WAS THE ARK WHEN THE PEOPLE SET OUT?

JOSHUA 3:3 - 8

- 3 They commanded the people, saying, **When you see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, and the priests, the Levites, bearing it, then you shall set out from your place and go after it.**
  
- 6 Joshua spoke to the priests, saying, **Take up the ark of the covenant and cross over before the people.** They took the ark of the covenant and went before the people.
  
- 8 You shall command the priests who bear the ark of the covenant, saying, **When you have come to the edge of the water of the Jordan, you shall stand in the Jordan.**

# WHERE WAS THE ARK WHEN THEY CROSSED JORDAN?

## JOSHUA 3:11-13

11 Behold, **the ark of the covenant of the Lord** of all the earth **is crossing over before you into the Jordan.**

12 Now, take for yourselves twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one man from every tribe.

13 As soon as the soles of the feet of the priests who bear the ark of the LORD, the Lord of all the earth, shall rest in the waters of the Jordan, that the waters of the Jordan shall be cut off, the waters that come down from upstream, and they shall stand as a heap.

# WHERE WAS THE ARK WHEN THEY CROSSED JORDAN?

## JOSHUA 3:14-15

14 So it was, when the people set out from their camp to cross over the Jordan, with **the priests bearing the ark of the covenant before the people,**

15 As those who bore the ark came to the Jordan, and the feet of the priests who bore the ark dipped in the edge of the water (for the Jordan overflows all its banks during the whole time of harvest),

# HOW DID ISRAEL CROSS JORDAN?

## JOSHUA 3:16-17

16 That the waters which came down from upstream stood still, and rose in a heap very far away at Adam, the city that is beside Zaretan. So the waters that went down into the Sea of the Arabah, the Salt Sea, failed, and were cut off; and the people crossed over opposite Jericho.

17 **The priests** who bore the ark of the covenant of the **LORD** **stood firm on dry ground in the midst of the Jordan;** and **all Israel crossed over on dry ground**, until all the people had crossed completely over the Jordan.

# HOW WAS ISREAL TO REMEMBER THE CROSSING OF JORDAN?

## JOSHUA 4:7-8

7 You shall answer them that **the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD**; when it crossed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. And **these stones shall be for a memorial to the children of Israel forever.**

8 The children of Israel did so, just as Joshua commanded, and took up twelve stones from the midst of the Jordan, as the LORD had spoken to Joshua, according to the number of the tribes of the children of Israel, and carried them over with them to the place where they lodged, and laid them down there.

# WHERE WAS THE ARK WHEN THEY CROSSED JORDAN?

## JOSHUA 4:9-11

9 Joshua set up twelve stones in the midst of the Jordan, in the place where the feet of the priests who bore the ark of the covenant stood; and they are there to this day.

10 So the priests who bore **the ark stood in the midst of the Jordan until everything was finished** that the LORD had commanded Joshua to speak to the people, according to all that Moses had commanded Joshua; and the people hurried and crossed over.

11 When all the people had completely crossed over, that the ark of the LORD and the priests crossed over in the presence of the people.

# WHAT HAPPENED TO RIVER JORDAN AFTER THE ARK CROSSED OVER?

JOSHUA 4:18

18 When the priests who bore the ark of the covenant of the LORD had come from the midst of the Jordan, and the soles of the priests' feet touched the dry land, that **the waters of the Jordan returned to their place and overflowed all its banks as before.**

# WHERE WAS THE ARK DURING BATTLE?

## JOSHUA 6:6-13

6 Joshua the son of Nun called the priests and said to them, Take up the ark of the covenant, and let seven priests bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the LORD.

7 He said to the people, Proceed, and march around the city, and **let him who is armed advance before the ark of the LORD.**

8 When Joshua had spoken to the people, that the seven priests bearing the seven trumpets of rams' horns before the LORD advanced and blew the trumpets, and the ark of the covenant of the LORD followed them.

9 The armed men went before the priests who blew the trumpets, and **the rear guard came after the ark**, while the priests continued blowing the trumpets.

# WHAT DID THEY DO WITH THE ARK ?

## JOSHUA 6:10-13

10 Joshua had commanded the people, saying, You shall not shout or make any noise with your voice, nor shall a word proceed out of your mouth, until the day I say to you, Shout! Then you shall shout.

11 **He had the ark of the LORD circle the city, going around it once.** Then they came into the camp and lodged in the camp.

12 Joshua rose early in the morning, and the priests took up the ark of the LORD.

13 Then **seven priests bearing seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the LORD went on continually and blew with the trumpets.** The armed men went before them. But the rear guard came after the ark of the LORD, while the priests continued blowing the trumpets.

# WHERE DID THEY PUT THE ARK OF GOD?

## JOSHUA 18:1

1 The congregation of **the children of Israel assembled together at Shiloh**, and **set up the tabernacle of meeting there**. The land was subdued before them.

## JUDGES 20:27

27 The children of Israel inquired of the LORD **at Shiloh** for **the ark of the covenant of God was there in those days**.

## 1 SAMUEL 3:3

3 Before the lamp of God went out **in the tabernacle of the LORD where the ark of God was**, and while Samuel was lying down,

# WHY DID THEY TAKE THE ARK INTO BATTLE?

## 1 SAMUEL 4:3-6

3 When the people came into the camp, the elders of Israel said, Why has the LORD defeated us today before the Philistines? **Let us bring the ark of the covenant of the LORD from Shiloh to us, that when it comes among us it may save us from the hand of our enemies.**

4 The people sent to Shiloh, that they might bring the ark of the covenant of the LORD of hosts, who dwells between the cherubim. The two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were there with the ark of the covenant of God.

5 **When the ark of the covenant of the LORD came into the camp, all Israel shouted so loudly that the earth shook.**

6 When the Philistines heard the noise of the shout, they said, What does the sound of this great shout in the camp of the Hebrews mean? Then they understood that the ark of the LORD had come into the camp.

# WHAT HAPPENED TO THE ARK OF GOD?

## 1 SAMUEL 4:11

11 **The ark of God was captured**; and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, died.

## 1 SAMUEL 4:22

22 Phinehas' wife said, **The glory has departed from Israel**, for the ark of God has been captured.

## 1 SAMUEL 6:1

1 **The ark of the LORD was in the country of the Philistines seven months.**

# WHAT HAPPENED TO THE ARK OF THE LORD?

## 1 SAMUEL 7:1-2

1 **The men of Kirjath Jearim** came and **took the ark of the LORD**, and **brought it into the house of Abinadab** on the hill, and consecrated Eleazar his son to keep the ark of the LORD.

2 So it was that **the ark remained in Kirjath Jearim a long time; it was there twenty years**. And all the house of Israel lamented after the LORD.

# HOW DID THEY MOVE THE ARK OF GOD?

## 2 SAMUEL 6:2-3

**2 David arose and went with all the people who were with him from Baale Judah to bring up from there the ark of God, whose name is called by the Name, the LORD of Hosts, who dwells between the cherubim.**

**3 They set the ark of God on a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill; and Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, drove the new cart.**

# WHAT HAPPENED TO UZZAH? WHY?

## 2 SAMUEL 6:4-7

4 They brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill, accompanying the ark of God; and Ahio went before the ark.

5 David and all the house of Israel played music before the LORD on all kinds of instruments of fir wood, on harps, on stringed instruments, on tambourines, on sistrums, and on cymbals.

6 When they came to Nachon's threshing floor, **Uzzah put out his hand to the ark of God and took hold of it, for the oxen stumbled.**

7 The anger of the LORD was aroused against Uzzah, and **God struck him there for his error; and he died there by the ark of God.**

# WHERE DID DAVID TAKE THE ARK?

## 2 SAMUEL 6:9-11

9 David was afraid of the LORD that day; and he said, How can the ark of the LORD come to me?

10 David would not move the ark of the LORD with him into the City of David; but **David took it aside into the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite.**

11 **The ark of the LORD remained in the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite three months.** And the LORD blessed Obed-Edom and all his household.

# HOW DID HE BRING THE ARK TO JERUSALEM?

## 2 SAMUEL 6:12-17

12 It was told King David, saying, The LORD has blessed the house of Obed-Edom and all that belongs to him, because of the ark of God. So **David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-Edom to the City of David with gladness.**

13 When those bearing the ark of the LORD had gone six paces, that he sacrificed oxen and fatted sheep.

14 David danced before the LORD with all his might; and David was wearing a linen ephod.

# WHERE DID THEY SET THE ARK IN JERUSALEM?

## 2 SAMUEL 6:12-17

**15** David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting and with the sound of the trumpet.

**16** As the ark of the LORD came into the City of David, Michal, Saul's daughter, looked through a window and saw King David leaping and whirling before the LORD; and she despised him in her heart.

**17** They brought the ark of the LORD, and set it in its place in the midst of the tabernacle that David had erected for it. Then David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD. (1 CHRONICLES 15:1-15)

# WHY BUILD A HOUSE FOR THE ARK?

## 2 SAMUEL 7:2-7

2 The king said to Nathan the prophet, **See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells inside tent curtains.**

3 Nathan said to the king, Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you.

4 But it happened that night that the word of the LORD came to Nathan, saying,

5 Go and tell My servant David, Thus says the LORD: **Would you build a house for Me to dwell in?**

6 I have not dwelt in a house since the time that I brought the children of Israel up from Egypt, even to this day, but have moved about in a tent and in a tabernacle.

7 Wherever I have moved about with all the children of Israel, have I ever spoken a word to anyone from the tribes of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd My people Israel, saying, **Why have you not built Me a house of cedar?**

(1 CHRONICLES 17:1)

# WHERE DID THE PRIESTS PLACE THE ARK?

## 1 KINGS 8:6-8

6 The priests brought in the ark of the covenant of the LORD to its place, **into the inner sanctuary of the temple, to the Most Holy Place, under the wings of the cherubim.**

7 For the cherubim spread their two wings over the place of the ark, and **the cherubim overshadowed the ark and its poles.**

8 The poles extended so that the ends of the poles could be seen from the holy place, in front of the inner sanctuary; but they could not be seen from outside. And they are there to this day.

9 **Nothing was in the ark except the two tablets of stone which Moses put there at Horeb,** when the LORD made a covenant with the children of Israel, when they came out of the land of Egypt. (2 CHRONICLES 5:2-10)

# WHY WOULD ISREAL FORGET THE ARK?

## JEREMIAH 3:16-17

16 It shall come to pass, **when you are multiplied and increased in the land** in those days, says the LORD, that they will say no more, **The ark of the covenant of the LORD. It shall not come to mind, nor shall they remember it, nor shall they visit it,** nor shall it be made anymore.

17 At that time **Jerusalem shall be called The Throne of the LORD**, and all the nations shall be gathered to it, to the name of the LORD, to Jerusalem. No more shall they follow the dictates of their evil hearts.

# WHAT WAS IN THE HOLIEST OF ALL?

## HEBREWS 9:1-6

1 Then indeed, even the first covenant had ordinances of divine service and the earthly sanctuary.

2 For a tabernacle was prepared: the first part, in which was the lamp stand, the table, and the showbread, which is called the sanctuary;

3 Behind the second veil, **the part of the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of All,**

4 Which had **the golden censer and the ark of the covenant** overlaid on all sides with gold, in which were the **golden pot that had the manna, Aaron's rod that budded,** and **the tablets of the covenant;**

5 Above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail.

6 When these things had been thus prepared, the priests always went into the first part of the tabernacle, performing the services.

# WHERE IS THE ARK OF THE COVENANT NOW?

## REVELATION 11:19

**19** The temple of God was opened in heaven, and the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple. And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail.



