

The Testimony That I Shall Give Thee

Exodus 25:10 – 22

~ Our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God is looking for the hope, joy, peace and mercy that only the Lord Jesus Christ can bring to us, or this lost and dying world. We have been searching for the Lord Jesus Christ on every page of Scripture since our first safari report - and we have found Him - so, we can know we are on the right path. Well, that necessarily means that we we're going to need to know the floor plan of the tabernacle that God revealed to Moses if we are to really begin to grow in His grace and knowledge; and we began looking at it in our last report. The tabernacle is not very big. Overall, the tabernacle is ten feet by twenty feet by ten feet. There are some very good free notes and outlines available concerning the tabernacle; just ask me for them if you want them.

Most appropriately, this report was originally published during our first Spiritual Safari on Christmas Day, 2013, when the first article of furniture we reported on was the Ark of the Covenant – and the Ark goes in the very inner chamber, the Holy of Holies. This is the vantage point where God looks out at the nation Israel; but the man coming to offer a sacrifice could only come as far as the East Gate; where he would see only the brazen altar and the laver. So, when man comes to God, man must go past these other articles of worship FIRST; and no man ever went into the Holy of Holies except Aaron the high priest - which he only did once each year. When that annual day came, the high priest went in and sprinkled blood on the mercy seat - and then he got out as fast as he could....

10 And they shall make an ark of shittim wood: two cubits and a half shall be the length thereof, and a cubit and a half the breadth thereof, and a cubit and a half the height thereof.

~ There is a lot of speculation about the length of a cubit. Some people say it was about eighteen inches and some say it was as long as a yard! I wouldn't get too hung up on the size of the tabernacle, personally; because we know it was large enough to accommodate the number of people that

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came there to make their sacrifices. Inside the tabernacle, the Ark was God's Throne - but God doesn't sit on it! God says He dwells just above it between the cherubims. The tabernacle wasn't a place for God to dwell - it was the place where He would meet with the children of Israel. Most correctly, the tabernacle was a place where the children of Israel could approach God safely; as in, without dying, like at Mount Sinai. The tabernacle and everything about it speaks of Christ. You and I meet with God the Father through a Mediator; and that Mediator, of course, is His Son!

I recognize that most people are not going to find this section of Scripture interesting at all. Unfortunately for them, God is telling us all to read it in its entirety - because THIS is what's important to GOD! God wants you to know all of these things, my beloved. Otherwise, He would just be wasting my time - and God doesn't do that! The tabernacle was designed for use on the wilderness march. It was disassembled when the camp was instructed to move out. Then, when they arrived at the place where God led them to camp, the tabernacle was set up again. This was a very orderly procession; and we will look at it rather closely in the Book of Numbers. The Ark had rings mounted to it that the staves went through so the priests could carry it on their shoulders without touching it. It would have been quite amazing to see Israel pack up, move out and set up camp again somewhere else. Alright, moving along quickly now, there is a mercy seat that goes with the Ark, but it was a separate article of furniture. In reality it was nothing more than a lid for the box of the Ark....

11 And thou shalt overlay it with pure gold, within and without shalt thou overlay it, and shalt make upon it a crown of gold round about.

12 And thou shalt cast four rings of gold for it, and put them in the four corners thereof; and two rings shall be in the one side of it, and two rings in the other side of it.

13 And thou shalt make staves of shittim wood, and overlay them with gold.

14 And thou shalt put the staves into the rings by the sides of the ark, that the ark may be borne with them.

15 The staves shall be in the rings of the ark: they shall not be taken from it.

16 And thou shalt put into the ark the testimony which I shall give thee.

17 And thou shalt make a mercy seat of pure gold: two cubits and a half shall be the length thereof, and a cubit and a half the breadth thereof.

18 And thou shalt make two cherubims of gold, of beaten work shalt thou make them, in the two ends of the mercy seat.

19 And make one cherub on the one end, and the other cherub on the other end: even of the mercy seat shall ye make the cherubims on the two ends thereof.

20 And the cherubims shall stretch forth their wings on high, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and their faces shall look one to another; toward the mercy seat shall the faces of the cherubims be.

21 And thou shalt put the mercy seat above upon the ark; and in the ark thou shalt put the testimony that I shall give thee.

22 And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubims which are upon the ark of the testimony, of all things which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel.

~ So, the Ark was really just a wooden box overlaid with gold and the mercy seat was a lid for the box. It was gold inside and outside, which is impressive. The wood overlaid with gold is an awesome symbol of the combined deity and humanity of the Lord Jesus Christ. The wood sets forth the humanity of Christ. The gold speaks of His deity. This is what we call the Hypostatical Union. The Lord Jesus Christ is both God and man. The oldest creed of the church says, “... Christ was very God of very God and very man

of very man.” The Ark was not adequately described as a wooden box because it was a golden box, and it could not be described as a golden box because it was a wooden box! The symbolism pointing to Christ as God and man had to be summed up and maintained in one physical construction that man could comprehend; and it had to be done without mingling the two substances, according to Scripture. That is simply amazing; at least, it is to me. To overlook this duality is to maintain a monstrous notion of the Person of Christ! No doctrine of Scripture is filled with such infinite mystery or is so far removed from the processes of man’s thinking as the Ark of the Covenant of God. So far from the realm of explanation is the definition of the Hypostatic Union; and yet so simple is the Ark of God that the mind – or, at least my mind - maybe not yours – but certainly mine - just stops.

How a little home-made wooden box could speak of things absolutely unfathomable is beyond my comprehension. Truly God chooses the simple things of this world to confound the wise. The Ark brings the story of Christ into the world and takes it as far as man can accept it in his thinking. How great are the unsearchable mysteries of the Father! The gold was inside and out, and no wood was exposed because in Christ dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. Christ was not simply a Thaumaturgist with a superior God knowledge and conviction complex. Jesus IS God. He speaks as God. He pronounced Himself to be on the same plane as God. Jesus said, “.... if you believe in God believe also in Me; He who hath seen Me hath seen the Father!” All of His human characteristics and all of His Godly characteristics are right there in the Ark; but the two are not intermingled - and neither element’s identification is lost within the other, either. The gold would simply be too soft and pliable without a wooden sturdy structure.

So, Christ is both God and man, but these two natures are never a part of each other. Christ never functions at the same time as both God and man. The things the Lord Jesus did were either perfectly human or perfectly divine - never both. Christ is the Theanthropic Person which makes the Ark much more than an empty wooden box, friends! The writer to the Hebrews tells us the ark contained three items: the golden pot of Manna, Aaron’s rod that budded and the tablets with the law engraved on them. Aaron’s rod that budded speaks of the resurrection of Christ. The Manna speaks of the Bread of Life - the life of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Ten Commandment

tablets speak of the perfection of His life that He lived down here keeping all the law completely. He fulfilled the law in all points, and He fulfilled all prophecies that pointed to Him. The entire tabernacle speaks of Him!

The Ark of the Covenant also speaks of the Kingship of Christ. We saw that entire program revealed in the Gospel of Matthew. It is the right of Christ to return and rule this earth as King of kings and Lord of lords. The golden pot of Manna speaks of Christ as the prophet. He came as a message from God Himself. Moses had nothing to do with the Manna - it was our Father in Heaven Who gave the children of Israel the True Bread from Heaven every single day; of course, only He could hand out that gift! See, Christ is more than the Alpha and the Omega – Christ is the entire alphabet of the language of the Word of God! The Lord Jesus Christ is God's final message to mankind; that is, the first and the last message. So, He was here once; if we celebrate His birth again, we are really saying good-bye! Turn that over in your mind several times. Heaven has been completely silent since Christ came to this earth because there is no addendum to follow Scriptures. This is finished; and it is complete. God isn't going to put a postscript on the letter of His Law because His heart has been completely revealed and exposed to mankind in the Lord Jesus Christ. Aaron's rod that budded also speaks of the works of Christ as our High Priest. Christ is the perfect Prophet and Priest!

Furthermore, Christ is our only example of resurrection, even after all these centuries and millennia. While men have concocted and even preconceived of life after death philosophies, none of them mention God dying to save your sins. There are no gods associated with such concepts, either - because man's created gods are always horrible and grotesque, unloving and demanding of man. Salvation is something brand new in the Word of God; and it's not repeated elsewhere. The Lord Jesus Christ is available to us today. Easter rabbits do not speak of the resurrection; Aaron's rod that budded does. We're talking about an old dead stick that started growing again. The Ark also speaks of the Word becoming flesh in the tabernacle amongst the children of Israel.

We'll go into much more detail about the mercy seat later. As we said, it was just the box top. The mercy seat on this safari speaks to the Doctrine of

Propitiation. The Ark is the doctrine of Christology. Jesus literally took His literal Blood and literally presented it in a literal Heaven. Don't kid yourself, friends, His Blood in Heaven is the most valuable thing there is. The only thing crude about the Blood of Christ is the fact that it was our sins that demanded it be shed. Aaron as the high priest going into the Holy of Holies is the symbolism given to us concerning this. Today, we have Christ – our Great High Priest in Heaven – that we can come to at the mercy seat. Christ has ascended into Heaven and He is offering His sacrifice for us. We have a Holy High Priest that has passed into the Heavens; Jesus – the Christ - the Son of God. Jesus understands all points of our infirmities. We can come boldly to the Throne through Jesus Christ and we will find mercy there - in Him!

Many people are trying to make it in this life on their own power. Friend, you are not able to do it; you are going to fail. The Bible says life will become absolutely intolerable for those who reject Christ. You are not strong enough and you are not capable of working out the problems of this life. We ALL need help today; and if we don't have the Lord Jesus Christ in our lives then we are not availing ourselves of the help in our best interest. THAT is the reason Christ became flesh for us. The mighty power that brought Christ back from the dead can work in us! Is that power that you need so desperately working in your life? Well, we can only lay hold of it by faith; and only because we have a High Priest Who sits at God's right hand today making intercession for us continually.

When Aaron made his entrance into the Holy of Holies, he sprinkled the blood and got right out! When Jesus presented His Blood, He took a seat at the right hand of God the Father! That's where He is today. Christ died down here to save you; He lives up in Heaven evermore to KEEP you saved. That means you ought to stay in contact with Him, too! When is the last time you had a chance to talk to Him? What did you tell Him? What did you ask for? How did the interview go? Did you ask that His will be done in your life concerning that problem or uncertainty? Did you tell Him that you love Him?

In our next safari report, we'll see the Table of Shewbread and the Golden Lamp Stand. They both speak of worship in the Holy place. Both are perfect

figures of Christ; full of deep meaning and high in spiritual value. We also see the Altar of Incense which speaks of prayer and of the fact that Christ is our Great Intercessor to Whom we are to go through and into the Throne Room of our Father in praise and worship. Christ is that door. I suggest you read the instructions for all of these items as we go along. No skim reading is allowed. It's pretty boring, I'll admit that. It's like looking at a blueprint when you don't know what page you're on. I, personally, happen to love blueprints. Our Spiritual Safari will try to lift out the great spiritual truths in this section of Scripture because it all speaks of Christ! I hope you can continue with us ~

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