

The Tabernacle

The Ark of the Covenant

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- Exodus 25:10-22
- Also called the Ark of the Testimony (25:22) and the Ark of God (I Samuel 3:3)
- Composed of two parts:
 - Ark/Chest
 - Made of gold plated *shittim* wood.
 - 2½ cubits (3¾ feet) long x 1½ cubits (2¼ feet) wide x 1½ cubits (2¼ feet) tall
 - A border along the top to hold the Mercy Seat in place.
 - Two staves for carrying the ark, which are either permanently attached or not removed (25:15)
 - Mercy Seat
 - The Hebrew word *kapporeth* (Strong's H3727) does not mean just a lid or covering, but the idea of a place where atonement is made (a *propitiatory*).
 - 2½ cubits (3¾ feet) long x 1½ cubits (2¼ feet) wide
 - Made of beaten gold, with figures of Cherubim on either side facing inward, their wings stretched out over the Mercy Seat.
- Contents of the Ark
 - God originally said to put the stone tables with the Ten Commandments in it (25:16), and so it was in Solomon's day (I Kings 8:9).
 - Hebrews 9:4 says it also contained a golden pot of manna and Aaron's rod that budded.
 - Rabbis say these set *beside* the Ark in Solomon's Temple, along with a jar of anointing oil.
- God's active presence was found "between the two cherubims" - 25:22, I Samuel 4:4, Psalm 80:1, Psalm 99:1
 - He would appear there – Leviticus 16:2
 - He spoke from here – Numbers 7:89
- It was only approached once a year by the High Priest on the Day of Atonement – Leviticus 16:2,14,15
 - When he did, it was obscured by clouds of incense – Leviticus 16:12

Truths from the Tabernacle

- The gold-plated wooden box is a picture of person and work of Christ.
 - McGee says its contents points to the three offices of Christ
 - Tables of the Law shows Christ as King.
 - Pot of manna shows Christ as Prophet (John 6:32-35)
 - Aaron's rod shows Christ as Priest.
 - It is also interesting to note the above three objects came as the result of man's sin...
 - The Law to define and disclose sin – Romans 3:20
 - The manna was given in response to their murmuring – Exodus 16:3
 - The rod because of Korah's rebellion – Numbers 16-17
 - ...yet they are taken on by Christ (placed in the Ark) and covered by the atonement (mercy seat).
- The Mercy Seat
 - Just as the box supports the Mercy Seat, Christ is the basis for atonement and communion with God.
 - Note that this is pure gold, no wood. God's mercy and salvation is fully divine, unadded by man. – Ephesians 2:8-9
 - Could we see parallels to the two cherubim in:
 - the cherubims guarding Eden? – Genesis 3:24
 - the two angels at the empty tomb? – Luke 24:4-6
 - the beasts around God's throne? – Revelation 4:6-8
- Approaching the Ark is a picture of any man coming to God. If we do not come to God on His terms, a death sentence is pronounced (Leviticus 16:2, Romans 6:23). But through the blood atonement we can have access to God (Hebrews 10:19).