

SIYON

House Of Prayer



ARK

What is an Ark?

A place of protection or security; refuge; asylum.

There are four "ARKS" mentioned in the Bible...

- (1) The ark of Noah. (Genesis 6)
- (2) The basket that Moses was put into by his mother and floated on the river. (Exodus 2:1-10)
- (3) The ark of wood that God told Moses to make to hold the 10 commandments when he brought them down from Mt. Sinai. (Exodus 32:19)
- (4) The Ark of the Covenant covered on all sides with gold that was in the Tabernacle of Moses. (Exodus 25:10)

Three of the arks were associated with Moses...

- Ark represents the holy presence of God...
- The Ark was a box that contained the 10 commandments. The Ark itself had no top lid but was covered with the Mercy Seat. The Mercy Seat was called "the propitiatory" and was the place the blood was sprinkled on the Day of Atonement. The Mercy Seat had two Cherubim made one piece with it. They stood with their wings spread over the Mercy Seat. God said He would meet with Moses and speak with him from between the two Cherubim, above the Mercy Seat above the Ark of the Covenant. The cloud of glory that covered Israel during their travels in the wilderness descended into the Tent of Meeting and stood above the Ark. The presence and the glory of God was associated with the Ark of the Covenant and the Most Holy Place. Exodus 25:10 "
- The Ark was made of acacia or shittim **wood**. It measured about 43 inches (1.1 meters) long, and about 27 inches (0.7 meter) both wide and high. It had 2 **gold** rings fastened on each side through which poles were inserted to carry it. The poles were to remain in the rings at all times. The lid on the top was called the atonement cover, or "mercy seat." On top of it were two carved cherubim, with their wings spread upward, overshadowing the cover (Exodus 25:10-22). It was housed in the Tabernacle.
- The Ten Commandments were written on two tablets of stone. There were actually two sets made (Exodus 34:1) - the first set was smashed by Moses (Exodus 32:19) when he found that Aaron had allowed the Israelites to worship a calf idol while he was away on Mount Sinai with The Lord (Exodus 32:1-35). The second set of tablets were eventually placed in what we have come to know as the Sacred Ark, a wooden chest made specifically to make the housing and moving of them dignified and convenient. The Ark may have also served indirectly to better protect the tablets.
- In King David's time the Ark was brought to Jerusalem (1 Chr. 15-16). His son, King Solomon, built the Temple of larger size, twice the original size (2 Chr. 3:4-13). The Ark was transferred from the tabernacle to the temple where it stayed for 400 years until the Temple was burned by the Babylonian invasion in 586 B.C. as described in 2 Kings 25. The Babylonians took whatever valuables they could find from the Temple. Forty years later Babylonia came under Persian rule, and the Persian ruler Cyrus, in his first year, issued an edict to rebuild the Temple and to return all the articles taken away by the Babylonian ruler. This was about 538 B.C. In the list of articles returned (Ezra 1:9-10) we do not read about the holy vessels in the Holy Place and of the Ark of the Covenant in the Most Holy Place. Apparently the Babylonians never got them.
- Ark is Jesus Christ because that is revealed in Revelation 11:19. Jesus Christ is our propitiation or mercy seat. ROMANS 3:25 whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed; 1JOHN 2:2 and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for the whole world. 1JOHN 4:10.

Where is the Ark now?

The last mention of it in The Bible is when it was in the first Temple. Many believe that it was either destroyed or carried off, as early as 925 B.C. during an Egyptian raid on Jerusalem, or as late as 586 B.C. by the Babylonians under King Nebuchadnezzar when they devastated Jerusalem prior to the Jewish captivity at that time.

The Apostle John was the last eyewitness to have indisputably seen the Ark. He saw it more than 600 years later when he himself was translated into the distant future of the end times (Revelation 11:19).

Where was it when he saw it? In Heaven.