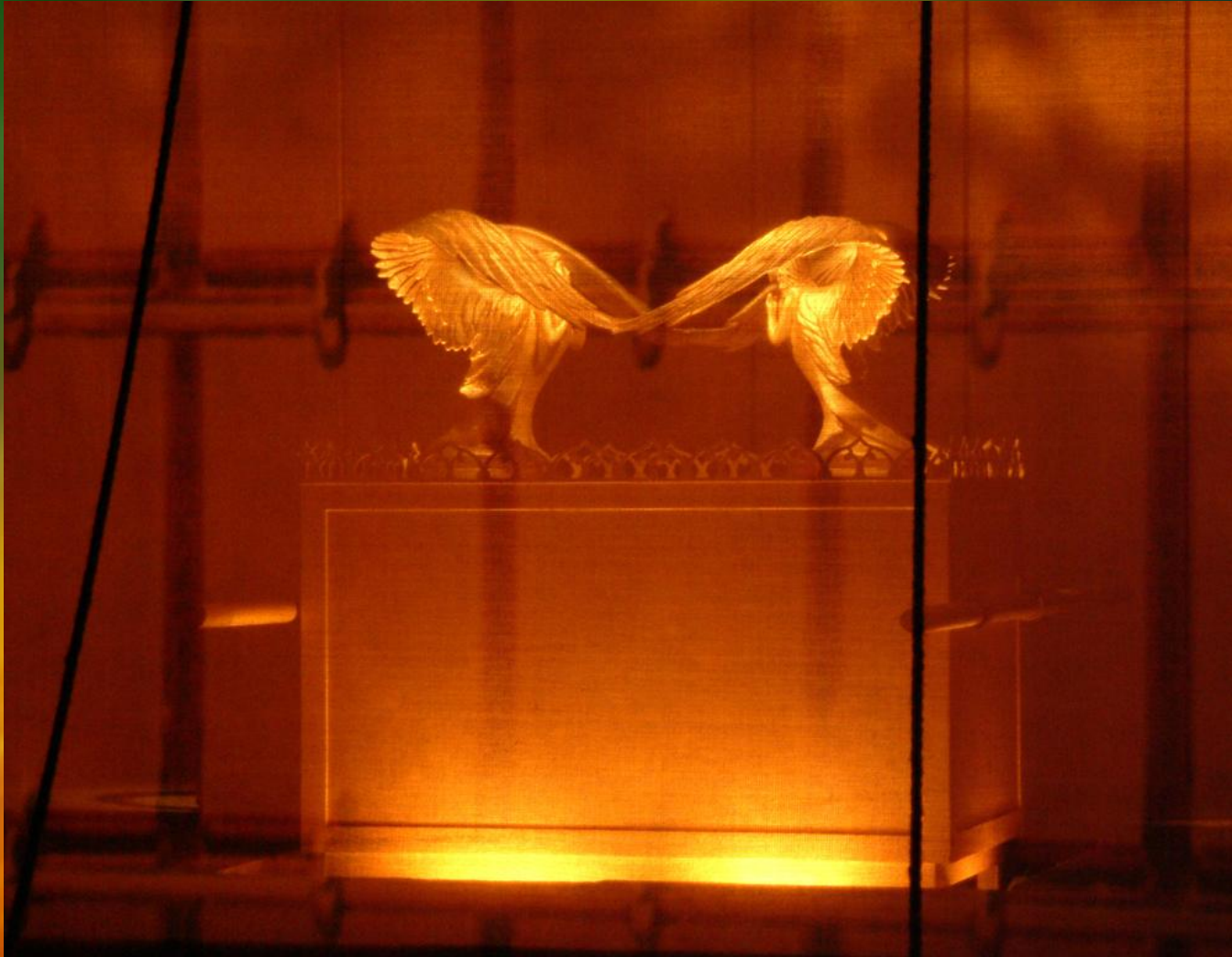


The Ark of The Covenant

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The Ark of The Covenant

The Ark of the Covenant is the most important object in Israel's history. In the garden, God walked with man in the cool of the day; but after Adam and Eve fell, this precious daily communion between God and man was lost. Except for rare godly men like Enoch and Noah, man lost his close daily communion with the Lord. Then, after the children of Israel were delivered from Egypt, God appeared to his chosen prophet Moses and told him He now desired to commune with man daily. (Exodus 25:8-11, 22) **God told Moses he would commune with him from between the two cherubim which are upon the Ark of the testimony.**

The Ark of The Covenant

Different Names of the Ark of the Covenant

The Ark of the Testimony (Exodus 25:22)

The Ark of the Covenant of the Lord (Numbers 10:33)

The Ark of the Lord God (I Kings 2:26)

The Ark of the Lord, the Lord of all the earth (Joshua 3:13)

The Ark of God (I Samuel 3:3)

The Holy Ark (2 Chronicles 35:3)

The Ark of thy Strength (Psalm 132:8)

The Ark of the Covenant of God (Judges 20:27)

The Ark of the Covenant (Joshua 3:6)

The Ark of the Lord (Joshua 4:11)

The Ark of God the God of Israel (I Samuel 5:7)

The Ark of Shittim Wood (Exodus 25:10)

The Ark of The Covenant

God's special Shekinah Glory attached itself to the Mercy Seat upon the Ark of the Covenant and guided and protected Israel.

It was upon the Mercy Seat on the Ark that the high priest sprinkled the atonement blood once a year.

The Ark of the Covenant represents:

- 1.) The throne of God in the earth.
- 2.) The presence of God in Christ, by the spirit, in the midst of His redeemed people.
- 3.) The glory of God revealed in divine order and worship.
- 4.) The fullness of the Godhead bodily revealed in **the Lord Jesus Christ.**

What the Ark was to Israel in the Old Testament, Jesus Christ is to His Church in the New Testament.

The Ark of The Covenant

Parallels of the Ark with Christ

1.) The Ark was made according to the pattern by the enablement of the Spirit of God in wisdom. (Exodus 35:31; 36:3)

Jesus Christ was made (Gal. 4:4) by the wisdom and the Spirit of God. (Luke 1:35)

2.) There were three coverings for the Ark in transit.

Jesus was the fullness of the Godhead bodily. (Col. 2:9)

3.) The Ark was never exposed to the eyes of the people in its wilderness walk. (Numbers 4:44-45)

Jesus as the Son of God was hidden from view in his earthly body.

The Ark of The Covenant

Parallels of the Ark with Christ

4.) The Ark of the Covenant was anointed. (Exodus 30:26)

Jesus was anointed. (Luke 4:18)

5.) The voice of God spoke to men from the Ark. (Exodus 25:22)

Christ spoke to men to bring them God's Word.

(John 5:24)

6.) The Israelites found the Ark of Strength. (Psalm 132:6-8)

Philip declared of Jesus Christ "*We have found Him.*"

(John 1:45)

The Ark of The Covenant

Parallels of the Ark with Christ

7.) The Philistines sought what they should do to the Ark. (I Sam. 6:2)

The Scribes and Pharisees sought what they might do to Jesus. (Luke 6:11)

8.) The cloud overshadowed the Ark in the tabernacle. (Ex. 40:34-38)

Jesus was overshadowed by the cloud on the Mount of Transfiguration. (Mark 9:2-8)

9.) With the Ark there was a visible manifestation of the glory of God. (Exodus 40:33-38)

The glory of God was manifested through Christ. (Matthew 17:2)

The Ark of The Covenant

Parallels of the Ark with Christ

10.) There was rejoicing and shouting before the Ark as it entered the city. (2 Samuel 6:12-18)

Jesus was heralded with rejoicing and shouting as He entered the city. (Matthew 21:8-9)

11.) Those who despised the coming of the Ark were smitten with physical barrenness. (2 Samuel 6:20-23)

Those who despised and rejected Christ were left in spiritual barrenness. (Luke 19:41-44)

12.) When the Ark was taken, Israel fled. (I Samuel 4:10)

**When Christ was taken, the disciples fled.
(Matthew 26:31, 56)**

The Ark of The Covenant

Parallels of the Ark with Christ

13.) The Ark of God was carried out of Jerusalem, across the brook Kidron with the rejected King David. (2 Samuel 15:23-24)

Christ crosses the brook Kidron with His disciples after the religious leaders rejected Him. (John 18:1)

14.) The Philistines wanted to know what they should do with the Ark. (I Samuel 5:8)

Pilate wanted to know what he should do with Christ. (Matthew 27:22)

15.) The Ark was placed on a new wooden cart. (I Samuel 6:7-13)

Christ was placed on a wooden cross. (Matthew 7:32)

The Ark of The Covenant

Parallels of the Ark with Christ

16.) The Ark experienced a journey of three days and three nights. (Numbers 10:33-36) In this time the tabernacle was taken down and the glory departed as they went to find rest; but the glory returned when it was once again set up.

Jesus experienced a journey of three days as His body (the tabernacle) was taken down and the glory departed as He died to give us rest. In the resurrection the glory returns and He is set up at the right hand of God the Father.

Parallels of the Ark with Christ

17.) The Ark led the way into the Jordan, the River of Judgment, 2000 cubits ahead of the others, then held back the waters for the others to get across. (Joshua 3:3-15)

Christ entered into the waters of death and for 2000 years has restrained its power until the Church will have passed. (Hebrews 12:1-2; Romans 6:3-4; Colossians 3:1-4)

18.) The Ark was positioned in the midst of the camp as they marched and as they were at rest. (Numbers 2:17; 10:14-28)

Christ is positioned in the midst of his Church. (Matthew 18:20; John 19:18; Revelation 1:13)

Parallels of the Ark with Christ

19.) The Ark was sprinkled in connection with atonement.
(Leviticus 16:14)

**By Jesus Christ we have now received the atonement.
(Romans 5:11)**

20.) Fighting without the Ark meant sure defeat. (Num. 14:44, 45)

**Attempting to stand against Satan without Christ
means sure defeat.**

21.) When the Ark was lost there was no victory or glory.
(I Samuel 4:3-22)

**When Christ is outside our camp there is no victory or
glory.**

Parallels of the Ark with Christ

22.) Israel shouted when the Ark came into the camp, (I Samuel 4:5-6) but it caused a trembling among the enemy. (vs. 8, 9)

When Christ comes to His Church, there is joy and rejoicing, but to the world there will be fear and trembling.

23.) The Ark meant judgment in the camp of the enemy, (I Sam. 5) and yet it was a great blessing to the people of God. (2 Samuel 6:11)

Christ and the things of God have a two-fold effect on people. (2 Corinthians 2:15-16)

24.) The Ark was the place for inquiring after the Lord concerning His will. (Judges 20:18-28)

Christ, our Ark, is our mediator. (I Timothy 2:5)

Parallels of the Ark with Christ

25.) King David instituted a continual ministry before the Ark with musical instruments. (I Chronicles 16:4, 37, 42)

**We are to continually minister before the Lord.
(Colossians 3:16; Ephesians 5:19)**

26.) No other God can stand before the Ark of the Living God.
(I Samuel 5:1-4)

**One day every knee will bow to the Lordship of Christ.
(Philippians 2:1-10; John 18:6)**

27.) The Ark was placed in the Holy of Holies. (Ex. 40:3-5; 20-21)

God has set Christ in Heaven's Holiest of all, within the veil. (Hebrews 6:18-20)

Parallels of the Ark with Christ

28.) Seven priests and seven trumpets preceded the Ark when Jericho collapsed. At the seventh time on the seventh day, at the sounding of the seventh trumpet there was a shout and the wall collapsed. The kingdom was possessed. (Joshua 6; Heb. 11:30)

In Revelation we see seven angels with seven trumpets (Revelation 8:2) before the Ark. (Revelation 11:15) There is a great shout that ushers in the end of the age and possession of the kingdom. (Revelation 11:15; I Thessalonians 4:16)

The Ark of The Covenant

Parallels of the Ark with Christ

29.) The Ark is placed in the midst of two companies, one on Mt. Ebal and the other on Mt. Gerizim. One company receives a blessing and the other receives a cursing. (Joshua 8:30-35; Deuteronomy 37:28)

The day is coming when Christ will be in the midst of two companies, those on the right, the sheep, and those on the left, the goats. One group receives blessings and the other cursing. (Matthew 25:32-46)

The Ark of The Covenant

Parallels of the Ark with Christ

30.) The Ark contained the law, the manna, and the budding rod within it. (Hebrews 9:4)

Jesus Christ fulfilled God's law, He was the Bread of life, and He was raised from death to life to become our High Priest. (Matthew 5:17; John 6:35; 1 Peter 1:3; Hebrews 3:1)

Other Facts Concerning the Ark

- Its measurements were: 2.5 cubits by 1.5 cubits by 1.5 cubits.
- It was the same height as the grate of the Brazen Altar in the Tabernacle (blood sacrifice), and the Table of Shewbread (Communion), and the Mercy Seat on the Ark of the Covenant (Atonement).
- It was made of acacia wood, a tree of the desert, (which speaks of His humanity. He was a root out of a dry ground); overlaid with gold (which speaks of Christ's divinity).
- The Ark was the only article from the Tabernacle of Moses that was placed in the Temple of Solomon.
- The Ark had a crown of gold on its top (speaks of Christ's kingship).

The Ark of The Covenant

Other Facts Concerning the Ark

- The Ark had four rings of gold, one at each corner, through which staves could be placed (made of acacia wood overlaid with gold) for transporting the Ark of the Covenant.
- The staves were never removed from the Ark of the Covenant until it was permanently placed in the temple.
- The covering of the lid of the Ark was the Mercy Seat and it had a cherub on each end facing each other with their wings extended and touching at the tips, all beaten out of one piece of pure gold.
- King David had wanted to build a house for the Ark, but was prevented by God because of his sins. God allowed his son, Solomon, to build the Temple to house the Ark of the Covenant.

Other Facts Concerning the Ark

- The Ark was the *first* article made and yet the *last* article placed in the temple (Christ is the *first* and the *last*, the beginning and the end, the Alpha and the Omega).
- The builder of the Ark was Bezaleel. (Exodus 37:1)
- The tribe of Levi was to bear the Ark. (Deuteronomy 10:8)
- The children of Israel were to follow the Ark. (Joshua 3:6)
- **When the sons of Eli (Hophni & Phinehas) sinned, the Ark was captured by the Philistines and 30,000 Israelites were slain. (I Samuel 4:11)**
- Eli died at the mention of the Ark being captured. (I Samuel 4:17-18)

The Ark of The Covenant

Other Facts Concerning the Ark

- **50,000 men of Beth-Shemesh died when they looked inside the Ark of the Covenant. (I Samuel 6:19)**
- **Uzzah touches the Ark of the Covenant and dies. (I Chronicles 13:9)**
- **After the ruthless reign of Manasseh, Josiah the king found the law of Moses and sacrificed 30,000 lambs, 3,000 bulls, 7,600 small cattle, and 800 oxen as repentance for the people turning away from the Lord. (2 Chronicles 34 & 35)**

Contents of the Ark

- In the early days of the Ark there were four articles contained in or near it; three of which were placed in the Ark, and one in the side of the Ark:
 - 1.) **The Tables of the Law.** (Exodus 25:16-17; Deut. 10:5; 31:26)
These were the two stone tablets containing the Ten Commandments written by the hand of God.
 - 2.) **The golden Pot of Manna.** (Exodus 16; Hebrews 9:4)
 - 3.) **The rod of Aaron that budded.** (Numbers 17:10; Hebrews 9:4)
 - 4.) **The Book of the Covenant.** (Deuteronomy 31:26; I Kings 22)
This was placed in the side of the Ark, though exactly how is not specifically stated.

Contents of the Ark

- **When the Ark was placed in the temple, the only contents were the two tables of the law of God. The golden pot of manna and the budding rod of Aaron had been removed. (2 Chronicles 5:10)**
 - Symbolically, as the manna was a wilderness food, and when the children of Israel reached the Promised Land with its fruits; they no longer needed the wilderness manna. When we reach the Promised Land of Heaven, we will feast on the fruits of the Tree of Life. (Revelation 22:1-4)
 - Symbolically, the budding rod was the confirming sign that Aaron was the high priest before God in the wilderness days; but once in Israel a new high priest, Eleazer, was confirmed. Today, Christ is our eternal high priest.

The Ark of The Covenant

Contents of the Ark

The final mention of the Ark of the Covenant is found in Jeremiah 3:16. There the Lord told Israel that the time was coming when they would remember the Ark no more, not talk about the Ark, nor would it even come into their mind. This was a remarkable prophecy considering the Ark was the most important article in the history of the nation!

The final mention of an Ark in the New Testament is found in Revelation 11:19. There John sees the heavenly temple opened and an Ark of God sending forth flashings of divine activity into the earth. This is the eternal Ark of the Throne of God.

The Ark of The Covenant

Chronology of Major Events of the Ark

The Exodus

- 1446 B.C. - Moses receives the pattern from God on Mt. Sinai. (Exodus 24:15-18; 25:8-25)
- Bezaleel constructs the Ark according to the pattern over a six month period. (Exodus 31:1-7; 38:1-9)
 - Moses inspects the Ark and it is anointed. (Exodus 30:26)
 - Ark is to be cared for by Kohathite Levites. (Numbers 3:31)
 - The Ark is installed in the tabernacle. (Exodus 26:34; 40:3, 20)
- 1446-1406 B.C. - The covered Ark travels throughout the wilderness with Levites in the midst of the Israelite tribes. (Numbers 4:5-6; 10:21)
- 1445 B.C. - The Ark travels three days ahead of the tribes seeking a place of settlement for their three-day, 100 mile journey to Kibhroth Ha-Taavah. (Numbers 10:33-36)

The Ark of The Covenant

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Chronology of Major Events of the Ark

The Exodus

- 1444 B.C. - Aaron's rod is placed before the Ark and sprouts blossoms in validation of the Aaronic priesthood. (Numbers 17:7-10)
- 1407 B.C. - The Ark goes out to war against the Midianites with Phinehas the priest. (Numbers 31:6-7)

The Ark of The Covenant

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Chronology of Major Events of the Ark

The Conquest Settlement

- 1406 B.C. - The Ark crosses the Jordan River ahead of the Israelites. The river divides, just as the Red Sea did. (Joshua 3:3-4; 11)
- The Ark leads the army of Israel during its march around the walls of Jericho. On the seventh day, the city was destroyed. (Jos. 6:4-20)
 - Joshua and the elders of Israel come before the Ark to seek divine guidance after the defeat at Ai. (Joshua 7:6-15)
- 1400 B.C. - The Ark is set between Mounts Ebal and Gerizim as the Israelite tribes, divided between the mountains, rehearse the conditional provisions of the Mosaic Covenant. (Joshua 8:33)
- 1399-1385 B.C. - The Ark is stationed with the tabernacle at Gilgal for 14 years, going out from there into battles with Joshua. (Joshua 5:10; 10:9-15)

The Ark of The Covenant

Chronology of Major Events of the Ark

The Conquest Settlement

1385-1371 B.C. - The Ark and tabernacle are moved to Shiloh.
(Joshua 18:1)

1371 B.C. - The Ark is temporarily brought to Shechem for a ceremony during which Israel reaffirms her commitment to the Abrahamic and Mosaic covenants. (Joshua 24:1-26)

1371-1370 B.C. - The Ark is temporarily housed at Bethel during the civil war between Israel and Benjamin. (Judges 20:18; 26-28; Joshua 22:13)

The Ark of The Covenant

Chronology of Major Events of the Ark

The Judges

1385-1050 B.C. - The Ark is housed with the tabernacle at Shiloh (I Samuel 3:3) for 369 years. The high priest Eli receives no word from God in the presence of the Ark during his 40-year judgeship. However, Samuel, as a boy, slept near the Ark and was given a revelation by God. (I Samuel 3:3-21) Shiloh was destroyed sometime after the battle at Aphek around 1050 B.C. (I Samuel 4; Jeremiah 7:14; 26:9) while the Ark was in the possession of the Philistines.

1050 B.C. - The Ark is captured by the Philistines and for seven months is moved around their territory bringing plagues wherever it went. (I Samuel 4:1-6:1)

The Ark of The Covenant

Chronology of Major Events of the Ark

The Judges

- 1049 B.C. - The Philistines return the Ark with a peace offering in the form of golden tumors, and the Ark is transported to Beth-Shemesh on a new wooden cart. (I Samuel 6:4-18)
- 50,000 men of Beth-Shemesh are struck dead after looking into the Ark. (I Samuel 6:19)
- 1048-1028 B.C. - The Ark is transferred to Kiriath-Jearim and the priestly family of Abinadab, where Eleazar the priest cares for it for 20 years during the judgeship of Samuel. (I Samuel 6:21; 7:1-2)

The Ark of The Covenant

Chronology of Major Events of the Ark

The Monarchy

1000 B.C. - The Ark, which was ignored by Saul, is moved by David without regard to the biblical way and Uzzah is struck dead for touching the Ark. (Exodus 25:14-15; Numbers 3:30-31; 4:15; 2 Samuel 6:1-7; I Chronicles 13:5-10)

- The Ark is transferred to the house of Obed-Edom for three months and God blesses his household. (2 Samuel 6:10-12; I Chronicles 13:13-14)

999 B.C. - David transfers the Ark to Jerusalem. (2 Samuel 6:1-23)

999-960 B.C. - David determines to build a temple in Jerusalem that will permanently house the Ark, but is only allowed to make preparation for building. (2 Sam. 7:1-7; I Chronicles 17:1-6; 22:1-23:1; 29:2-9)

The Ark of The Covenant

Chronology of Major Events of the Ark

The Monarchy

- 990 B.C. - David purchases the threshing floor of Araunah (Ornan) the Jebusite as the site for the Holy of Holies and the Ark. (2 Samuel 24:18-25; I Chronicles 21:18-26)
- 980 B.C. - David and Bathsheba commit adultery. Despite David's urgings, Bathsheba's husband, Uriah, will not stay at his own house because the Ark, Israel, and Judah were all in temporary shelters. (2 Samuel 11:4, 11)
- 970 B.C. - David flees Jerusalem for 9 months during Absalom's usurpation of the throne. The high priest, Zadok, and all the Levites follow David, bringing the Ark with them, but are commanded by David to return it to Jerusalem. (2 Samuel 15:24-29)

The Ark of The Covenant

Chronology of Major Events of the Ark

The Monarchy

- 965 B.C. - David gives Solomon the plans for the temple, the temple treasures, and the new vessels. The plans are based on the heavenly archetype. (2 Chronicles 28:11-19)
- 960 B.C. - Solomon abandons the high place at Gibeon and offers sacrifices before the Ark in Jerusalem. (I Kings 3:15)
- 957 B.C. - Solomon commissions the building of two 15-foot olive wood cherubim, overlaid with gold, under whose overspreading wings the Ark will be placed in the newly built Holy of Holies. (I Kings 6:19-28; 2 Chronicles 3:8-13)
- 950 B.C. - Solomon installs the Ark, tabernacle, and temple vessels in the first temple, and the Shekinah glory returns to the Ark within the Holy of Holies. (I Kings 8:4-11; 2 Chronicles 5:7-14)

Chronology of Major Events of the Ark

The Monarchy

- 926 B.C. - Pharaoh Shishak plunders the temple treasuries and the treasury of the king's house. (I Kings 15:26-28; 2 Chronicles 12:2-9)
- 752 B.C. - King Jehoash of Israel defeats King Amaziah of Judah and plunders the treasuries of the temple and the king's house, including those items stored with Obed-Edom.
(2 Kings 14:14; 2 Chronicles 25:24)
- 701 B.C. - King Hezekiah of Judah gives the wealth of the temple treasuries and the king's house to the Assyrians as tribute. (2 Kings 18:14)
King Hezekiah sets the letter from Assyrian Rabshakeh before the Ark and prays to the *“Lord, the God of Israel; Who art enthroned above the cherubim.”* (2 Kings 19:14-15; Isaiah 37:14-16)

The Ark of The Covenant

Chronology of Major Events of the Ark

The Monarchy

695-642 B.C. - King Manasseh of Judah places idols in the Holy of Holies.

The Ark was probably removed by the faithful priests.

(2 Kings 21:4-7; 2 Chronicles 33:7-9,15)

622 B.C. - King Josiah commands the Levites to return the Ark to the temple. (2 Chronicles 35:3)

After the death of the king, the priests returned the Ark to the subterranean hiding place in view of the impending invasion by the Babylonians. (2 Kings 23:29; 2 Chronicles 35:23-24)

605 B.C. - A.D. 1995 - According to Jewish tradition the Ark and other temple treasures are still hidden under the temple mount area until this day.

The Ark of The Covenant

Chronology of Major Events of the Ark

- 163 B.C. - The Dead Sea scrolls are written which include prophecies concerning the restoration of the temple and its artifacts. In particular the copper scrolls list the hiding places of some temple treasures. Discovered in 1952 in Qumran, they list 64 different locations of hidden temple treasures. They are now located in the Citadel Museum in Amman, Jordan.
- July, 1967 - Rabbi Goren presides over the newly captured temple mount area and has his army engineers map the sacred area. Rabbi Goren believes he has located the area in which the Ark is hidden below the site of the original Holy of Holies.
- 1968 - Vendyl Jones begins his search for the ashes of the Red Heifer and the lost Ark near Qumran.

The Ark of The Covenant

Chronology of Major Events of the Ark

- July, 1981-1982 - Rabbis Goren and Getz rediscover the Warren Gate entrance (which led into the temple) and begin a year and a half highly secret excavation in the direction of the Holy of Holies. The excavation was discovered and stopped by the Muslim authorities. The Rabbis believe they know exactly where to find the Ark.
- 1988 - The Temple Institute is founded by Rabbi Ariel and opened in the Jewish quarter of Jerusalem. Its purpose is to restore vessels of the temple in preparation for the building of the third temple. The institute says there is no need to make another Ark since the original is only meters away under the temple mount area.
- 1992 - Graham Hancock publishes his information on the Ark of the Covenant and makes the case that it is in Axum, Ethiopia.

The Ark of The Covenant

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Chronology of Major Events of the Ark

1994 - Dr. Salomon, founder and director of the temple mount and land of Israel faithful, announces on U.S. TV that he believes the third temple and the Ark of the Covenant will be seen by the world within his lifetime.

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