

*Morning Sermon October 31, 2021*

*“The Ark in Revelation, Revealed!”*

*Revelation 11:19*

<sup>19</sup> Then 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. Revelation 11:19 (NKJV)

- I. *The Temple is the dwelling place of God, this is not an earthly, but a Heavenly Temple, and it is “opened” -*

*What is the significance of the temple of God being open and the ark being “seen”? –*

1. *In Old Testament times the temple was NOT OPEN (at least not its central rooms) so anyone could see God’s ark, in fact, the ark itself was hidden from everyone! Once a year the high priest could go into the Holy of holies to offer an offering for the people, other than that once-a-year needed “seeing” of the ark (by one man) and the times we read of the ark travelling, or carried in battle, it was not seen!*

2. *The ark was symbolically the throne of God and that is why access to it was restricted:*

A. *Because God is holy and we are sinful, access to God is not allowed apart from a sacrifice for sin!*

B. *In fact, the Mercy Seat, the lid of the ark, was the place where the blood of the sacrifice was sprinkled, the once-a-year sacrifice symbolized and prefigured what Jesus Christ, as the Lamb of God – John 1:29 - would do to take away our sin –*

<sup>29</sup> The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! John 1:29 (NKJV)

C. *Yet, even before Jesus died on the cross, the physical ark, that had been in the holy of holies of both the tabernacle and the temple had been LOST, not to be found, not to be remade –*

<sup>15</sup> And I will give you shepherds according to My heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding. <sup>16</sup> “Then 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. Jeremiah 3:15-16 (NKJV)

3. *When our Lord Jesus Christ died on the cross, access to God was no longer limited –*

A. *The veil of the temple was torn –*

<sup>50</sup> And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. <sup>51</sup> Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split, <sup>52</sup> and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; <sup>53</sup> and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many. <sup>54</sup> So when the centurion and those with him, who were guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they feared greatly, saying, “Truly this was the Son of God!” Matthew 27:50-54 (NKJV)

B. *Now, we are invited to approach God’s throne –*

<sup>16</sup> Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV)

C. *Yet, the Ark of the reappears here in the Book of Revelation, in John’s Vision, in the temple, in heaven? WHY?*

II. *The Ark’s symbolism is what is important in Revelation 11:19 –*

1. *Seen in the temple, the temple is the church –*

<sup>12</sup> **He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name.** Revelation 3:12 (NKJV)

<sup>19</sup> Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, <sup>20</sup> having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, <sup>21</sup> in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, <sup>22</sup> in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit. Ephesians 2:19–22 (NKJV)

2. *The Ark is called the ark of His covenant - Here in Heaven, in the Book of Revelation, it must be symbolic of God's promises, which are all kept in Christ -*

<sup>18</sup> **But as God is faithful, our word to you was not Yes and No.** <sup>19</sup> **For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us—by me, Silvanus, and Timothy—was not Yes and No, but in Him was Yes.** <sup>20</sup> **For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.** 2 Corinthians 1:18–20 (NKJV)

3. *In Hebrews 9, we are told of the Old Testament Ark's:*

A. *Location - <sup>3</sup>and behind the second veil, the part of the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of All, ... the ark of the covenant.* Hebrews 9:3 (NKJV)

B. *Quality -*

**the ark of the covenant overlaid on all sides with gold,... Hebrews 9:4 A (NKJV)** *We, as the true church are clothed and covered with Christ's righteousness.*

C. *Content -*

**in which were the golden pot that had the manna, Aaron's rod that budded, and the tablets of the covenant; Hebrews 9:4 B (NKJV)**

D. *Its seeming keepers (guards) -*

<sup>5</sup> **and above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail.** Hebrews 9:5 (NKJV)

III. *Three things were inside the ark: Manna, Aaron's Rod and the Ten Commandments –*

1. *Manna symbolized God's gracious provision for us - in which were the golden pot that had the manna – Hebrews 9:4* *Manna was bread from Heaven. It was God's provision for the Israelites as they traveled through the wilderness.*

A. *God has promised to provide for us - Matthew 6:33 (NKJV)*

<sup>33</sup> **But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.** Matthew 6:33 (NKJV)

B. *Jesus Christ is our ultimate provision from God –*

<sup>35</sup> **And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.** John 6:35 (NKJV)

2. *Aaron's rod symbolized God's powerful (miraculous) protection of us –*

**Aaron's rod that budded – Hebrews 9:4** *It is the same rod that:*

A. *Became a serpent and swallowed Pharaoh's serpents – Exodus 7:9-12*

B. *Turned water into blood – Exodus 7:19-20*

C. *Brought armies of frogs – Exodus 8:5*

D. *Brought lice – Exodus 8:16-17*

E. *It distinguishes God's man from pretenders – Numbers 17:1-12*

F. *It brought water from the Rock – Numbers 20:8*

3. *The Ten Commandments represented God's perfect precepts to direct us –*

**and the tablets of the covenant; Hebrews 9:4 B (NKJV)**

A. *These are the Ten Commandments -*

B. *They represent all of God's Word –*

<sup>105</sup> **Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.** Psalm 119:105 (NKJV)

*The intelligent morality represented in the Ten Commandments, and in all of God's Word, presents a stark contrast to the Beast. Obedience to these shines in a dark world -*

<sup>7</sup> **When they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them.** Revelation 11:7 (NKJV)

<sup>12</sup> **Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; <sup>13</sup>for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure. <sup>14</sup>Do all things without complaining and disputing, <sup>15</sup>that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,** Philip-  
pians 2:12–15 (NKJV)

*Notice Philipians 2:12-15, follows Philipians 2:5-11*

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