

Carrying God's Heart

EXODUS 25:10-22

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God
Dwells
WITH US

I. The ark was at the _____ of God's design of the Tabernacle.

The ark _____ the heart of God so He could always be among His people.

"They shall make an ark of acacia wood. ... and in the ark you shall put the testimony that I shall give you." Exodus 25:10a, 21b

The ark _____ the heart of God to the people by covering people's sin.

"You shall make a mercy seat of pure gold. Two cubits and a half shall be its length, and a cubit and a half its breadth. And you shall make two cherubim of gold; of hammered work shall you make them, on the two ends of the mercy seat." Exodus 25:17-18

The ark _____ the heart of God to meet with His people.

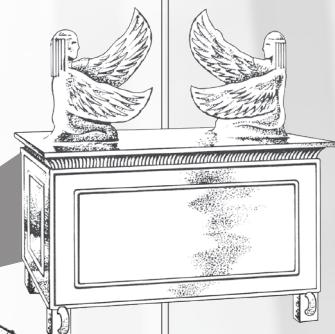
"And you shall put the mercy seat on the top of the ark, and in the ark you shall put the testimony that I shall give you. There I will meet with you, and from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim that are on the ark of the testimony, I will speak with you about all that I will give you in commandment for the people of Israel." Exodus 25:21-22

II. Jesus is the _____ where heaven met earth so we could dwell with God.

"And I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding. And when you have multiplied and been fruitful in the land, in those days, declares the Lord, they shall no more say, 'The ark of the covenant of the Lord.' It shall not come to mind or be remembered or missed; it shall not be made again." Jeremiah 3:15-16

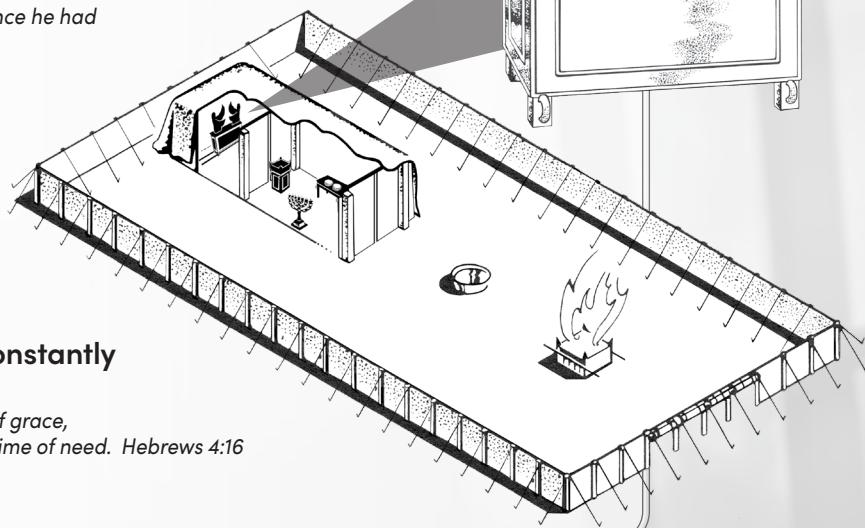
Align your _____ with the heart of God in the Ark that is Jesus.

"Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead." Acts 17:29-31



Receive God's mercy by _____ in the forgiveness found in Jesus.

"... for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. Romans 3:23-25



Submit to God, allowing Him to sit on the _____ of your heart.

"Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?" 1 Corinthians 3:16

Enjoy God's _____ as He constantly communicates His heart for you.

"Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:16

HOME GROUP Lesson + Devotional

Before you begin, ask the Holy Spirit to teach you and guide your study.

1. Read Exodus 25:10-22. What does the Ark of the Covenant represent, and what does it teach?

2. The atonement cover or mercy seat was the lid of the ark. What was the purpose of the mercy seat (see v. 22)?

3. What are we to learn about God from the mercy seat?

4. How does the description of the Tabernacle and its furnishings enrich your appreciation of what it means to be God's holy dwelling for His Spirit?

5. Why was beauty an essential element of God's worship? Where is the beauty in our worship today?

6. Is worship at the center of your life as the Tabernacle was in the center of Israel's encampment? How can you build worship into each day, and prepare yourself physically and spiritually for weekly corporate worship?

7. How would living daily in conscious awareness of God's heart and pursuit of you change your present lifestyle and habits?

8. How was this sermon particularly encouraging to you right now?

HELPFUL Quotes

God begins the instructions by describing a chest called the Ark of the Testimony (v. 22, or "covenant"). In Exodus the ark was important because it contained the "testimony" of the Ten Commandments on tablets of stone (v. 16). Secondly, the cover on top of the ark, under the protection of the cherubim, was the place where God would meet Moses and, through him, Israel (v. 22). Leviticus 16 more fully describes the atoning function of this meeting place. From this place, God would make known and demonstrate to Israel the forgiveness of sin, year after year. This means of grace would continue to make it possible for the people to live with the Lord in their midst.

- James Bruckner

The metals, woods and fabrics that the Israelites were to use in the construction of the tabernacle and its worship were the finest and rarest available. This reflected the fact that nothing but the best was appropriate for the worshipers' response to Yahweh. What was at the center of priestly concern was not a building or a ritual—but the LORD Himself, being present as a gift to His people. - Tom Constable

The ark also teaches us about Jesus Christ. It was made of wood, which speaks of His humanity, but was completely overlaid with gold, which speaks of His deity. According to Hebrews 9:4, within the ark were the tables of the law (Ex 25:16), a pot of manna (16:32-34), and Aaron's rod that had budded (Num 16-17). These objects tell us that the law of God was in Christ's heart and He perfectly obeyed and fulfilled it (Ps 40:6-8; Heb 10:5-9); He is the Bread of Life, who gives eternal life to all who receive Him (John 6:32); and He lives by the power of an endless life so we can be fruitful for God (Heb 7:16). - Warren Wiersbe

YOUR NEXT STEP AT Christ Chapel



Connect and Belong

New or returning, fill out a Connect Card and experience life together at Christ Chapel.

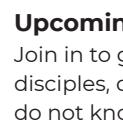
Together in Prayer

We want to pray with and for you this week as we go to God together.



Partner with Us by Giving

Be a part of what God is doing near and far by giving to local and global ministry partners.



Upcoming Events

Join in to grow your faith, make disciples, and reach those who do not know or walk with Jesus.



A WONDERFUL Offer

Being a Christian isn't based on membership in a local church or keeping a set of rules. It involves a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and an understanding of who He is and what He has done to provide man with a way to experience God's love for us. Here's how to know Jesus Christ as your personal Savior:

1. Admit that you're a sinner, separated from a holy and perfect God.
(Romans 3:23; Isaiah 53:6)
2. Understand that the penalty for your sin is death – eternal separation from God and all that is good.
(Romans 6:23; Hebrews 9:27)
3. Believe that Jesus Christ took the penalty for your sin by dying in your place and conquered death by rising from the dead.
(Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21)
4. Receive the free gift of salvation by trusting in Christ alone as your Savior from sin and death and your provider of true and eternal life.
(Romans 4:4-5; Ephesians 2:8-9)

You can use this prayer to express your decision to God:

Dear God, I know that I am a sinner. I believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross for me and rose from the dead. I trust in him alone as the only way to be reconciled to you. Thank you for the forgiveness of sins and the eternal life I now have. Amen.



We'd love to know about your decision. Scan the QR code to learn more about following Jesus!