

The Tabernacle, Christ, and the Church

-A study through the second half of the book of Exodus-

Lesson 3-The Ark of the Covenant (Exodus 25:10-22 & 37:1-9)

Description

The ark of the covenant was the most _____ element in the entire Tabernacle. It was a box made with wood that was then covered with gold. It was to be carried with poles that went through rings at its base. It had a lid that was made only of pure gold and on this lid where two golden angelic beings.

“The most important piece of furniture in the tabernacle, the ark of the covenant, was not saved for last; it was listed first. It got the prime place in the narrative...the tabernacle instruction narrative moves from the inside of the tabernacle to the outside and from the most important parts to the least important parts.”-Hyde

Purpose

-To house the _____. Inside of the ark was “the testimony” which is another name for the Law of God (Deuteronomy 10:1-5).

“The centrality of God’s word is clear in that the ark contained the tablets of stone, the words of the covenant that God established with His people.”-Beale

-To be the place where God would _____ from (Exodus 25:22). The ark was the symbol of God’s presence with His people.

“The fact that the ark was the place of the Lord’s presence among His people brought great assurance to the people of God. This high, lofty, majestic, and resplendent King dwelt among His grumbling, complaining, bickering, and sinful people. Does that sound familiar?”-Hyde

-To be the place where _____ was made for the sins of the people (Leviticus 16:15-16)

Christ foreshadowed

-_____ **seat**-There is a reason why the visible representation of the place of mercy was mentioned first. All of God’s mercy for poor sinners is found hidden in Christ. God met with the people at the seat of mercy. It is through Jesus Christ that God meets with poor sinners. Angel’s gaze and are focused on this mercy seat as the angels in heaven gaze in wonder upon the glorious gospel.

“When God describes the holy vessels, observe, this takes precedence. He first shows that which shows His Son most clearly. It is His will that Christ should be set forth without a cloud, in full-orb splendor.”-Law

-Propitiation-The ark of the covenant teaches us about the doctrine of the atonement. Propitiation is the _____ of sin so that there can be fellowship with God and man. The Law of God which shows our dreadful wickedness was covered by the mercy seat. This mercy seat was then sprinkled with the blood of the sacrifice for sin. So, the covering of sin must be accompanied with shed blood for there to be peace between God and man. Jesus Christ is our propitiation (our covering and the shed blood) to protect us from the wrath of God that our sins justly deserve.

“The ark is covered. A lid of solid gold is placed for especially this purpose, and with especial name. The purpose to hide the Law from every eye. This brings us to the glorious work of Christ.”-Law

-The Law-Just as the ark of the covenant contained the Law within it, so too, did Jesus Christ _____ contain the Law of God within His soul. His delight was in the Law of the Lord and on this Law He meditated day and night. In a similar, albeit very imperfect, way the saints also are the place on the earth where the Law of God resides (Jeremiah 31:33).

-God’s presence-The ark foreshadowed the _____ as Jesus Christ was the presence of God’s fulness amongst men (John 1:14).

Some other times the ark is mentioned and the theological significance

-The crossing of the Jordan River (Joshua 3-4). It is _____ through Christ that we have entrance into the land of God’s blessing. Christ must go before us as the first-born, our champion. If Christ does not lead us, then we could never enter into the blessings of God. All of God’s salvific blessings come to us through Christ. Christ provides safe passage across the river that separates us who are currently wandering in the desert from the land of milk and honey.

-The ark of the Covenant was central in the account of Jericho’s wall falling (Joshua 6). If Christ does not go with us the enemies of our soul could _____ be conquered. Our victory over our foes must be a miraculous one because it is impossible without divine deliverance.

“Since the ark represented the heavenly presence of God, its movement outside the Holy of Holies signaled the movement of God Himself breaking into the earthly realm to scatter His enemies.”-Beale

-The ark of the covenant was captured by the Philistines after the Israelites brought it into the war camp (1 Samuel 4-6). God’s presence is not to be superstitiously tied to _____. We walk by faith in God and His promises (i.e., His word), not by the reliance on modern day relics.

-Uzzah died before the Lord for touching the ark (2 Samuel 6). God is to be worshipped according to that which He has revealed in His _____.