

# INSIDE THE ARK OF THE COVENANT

## *Shadows of the Good Things to Come*

### Introduction

- 1) **Hebrews 9:1-5** – Review of the contents of the tabernacle under the Mosaic covenant
- 2) The *ark of the covenant* was the most important piece of furniture in the tabernacle/temple
  - a) Revealed by God through Moses (Ex. 25:10-22), and made by Bezaleel (Ex. 37:1-9)
- 3) Hebrews 9:4 reveals three items that were placed inside the ark of the covenant: 1) **Golden pot of manna**, 2) **Aaron's rod that budded**, 3) **Tablets of the covenant**
  - a) Not personal keepsakes of Moses and Aaron, nor earthly valuables for safe-keeping, nor secret documents filed away from public view
  - b) These three items were of immense importance to the *relationship* between Israel and God
- 4) These ancient “shadows” also pointed to the good things we enjoy today (Heb. 10:1; Rom. 15:4)

### I) **Golden Pot of Manna**

- A) **Exodus 16** – account of God beginning the provisions of manna in the wilderness
  - 1) God rained bread from heaven for the Israelites (vv. 4, 14-16)
  - 2) Command to put an omer of manna in a pot to be kept (vv. 31-34)
- B) Pot of manna to be laid up “before the Testimony” so that future generations could see God’s daily provisions for Israel – God lovingly provided for their daily bread (v. 32)
  - 1) Man must never forget that God will provide all that is needed for life and godliness
  - a) Israel was to understand that God’s word was their true source of life (Deut. 8:3)

### II) **Aaron’s Rod that Budded**

- A) **Numbers 17:1-11** – account of the budding of Aaron’s rod to answer Israel’s murmurings
  - 1) God dealt with the serious rebellion of Korah and the hostile murmuring of Israel (ch. 16)
    - a) Almost 15,000 rebellious Israelites were killed by God’s wrath
- B) Twelve rods placed to allow Lord to end Israel’s murmuring against His priesthood (17:1-11)
  - 1) God chooses Aaron’s rod by causing it to miraculously blossom and produce ripe almonds
  - 2) Commanded rod to be put “before the Testimony” as a sign against rebellion
  - 3) This emphasized the authority of God to be respected in *every* situation

### III) **Tablets of the Covenant**

- A) **Exodus 40:17-20; 25:16; 31:18; Deut. 10:1-5** – Moses put the tablets of Testimony in the ark
  - 1) This represented the covenant relationship for fellowship between God and Israel (Ex. 34:28)
- B) The covenant word of God is the faith, guide, pattern, and truth for man to hear and obey

### IV) **These Now Have a Greater Significance for Us in Christ**

- A) **Daily Provisions** – *The Bread of Eternal Life* (Jn. 6:26-69)
  - 1) Spiritual, heavenly bread (Christ) provides all we need unto eternal life (2 Pet. 1:3)
- B) **Divine Authority** – *the Son of God* (Lk. 9:35; Matt. 28:18; Col. 3:17)
  - 1) Christ is Prophet, King, and High Priest – God’s authority in Christ must be respected
- C) **New Covenant Relationship** – *Fellowship with God in Christ* (Heb. 8:1, 6; 10:9; Matt. 26:28)
  - 1) The Old covenant has passed away, along with the ark and its contents (1 Kgs. 8:9; Jer. 3:16)
  - 2) In the new covenant we find the full and complete remission of our sins (Heb. 10:14-18)

### Conclusion

We are now **priests of God** who can draw near to God through Christ who provided a “new and living way” through His sacrifice for sin (Heb. 10:19-22). In Him we find every provision of life, God’s full divine authority, and the exclusive relationship with God in His covenant. He will bring the faithful to heaven where we will find the “hidden manna” (Rev. 2:17) of God’s eternal care.